

Strategies for working with Roma Youth



Phiren Amenca



Atanas Stoyanov, Phiren Amenca International Network

So Keres Europa?!



”The young generation needs to unite and
and resist for their freedom”

Raymond Gurême



**DIKH
HE
BISTER**
PAPA
GENOCIDE
REMEMBRANCE
2023



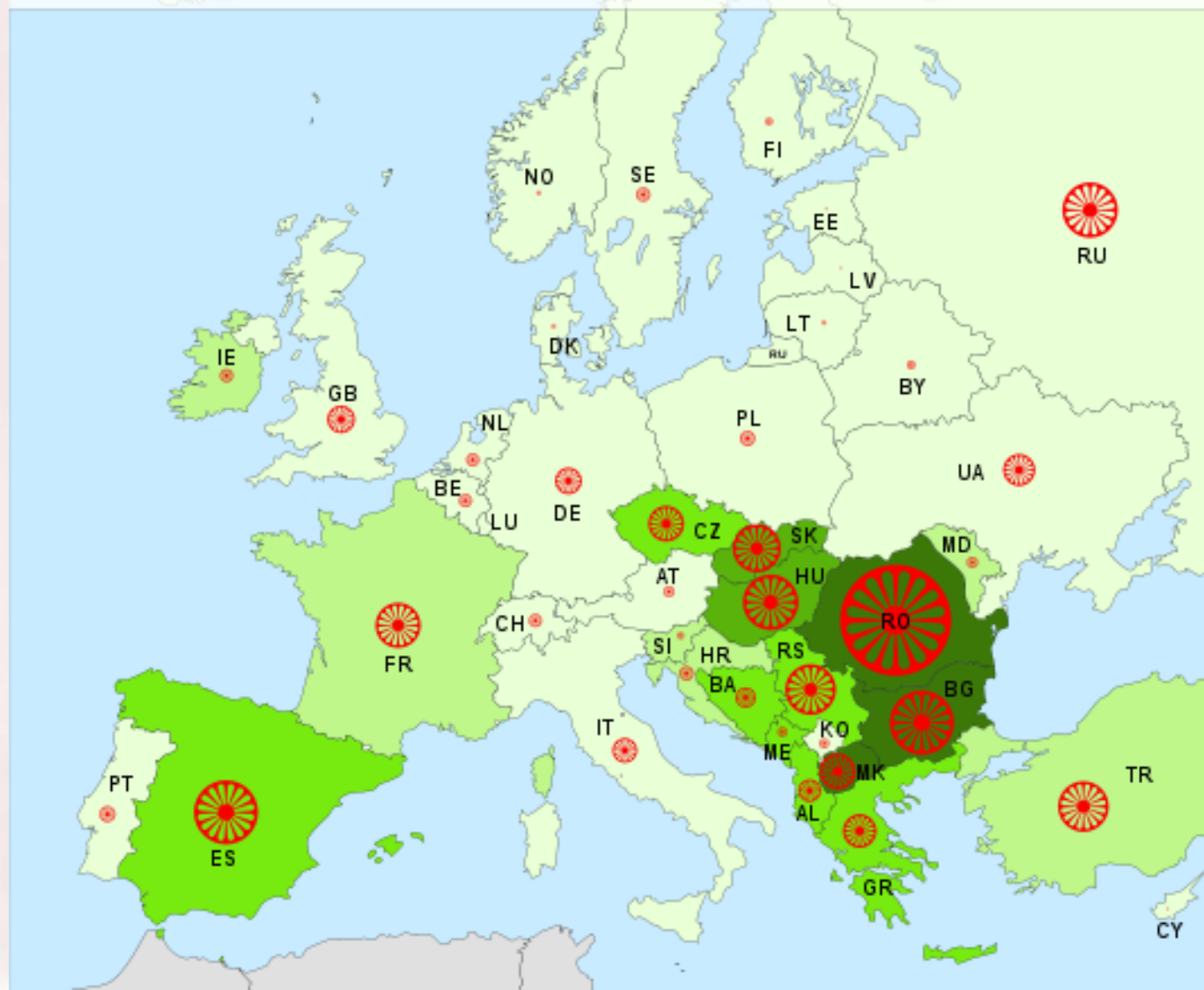
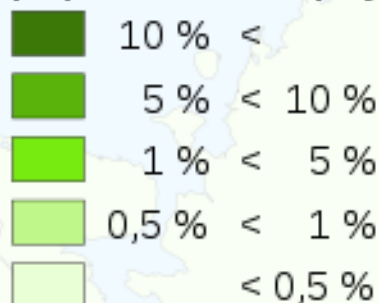
Les Roms en Europe en 2007

Estimation haute
Total : 9 175 000

Nombre de Roms par pays (en milliers)



Part des Roms dans la population des pays



AL	Albanie	100 000
AT	Autriche	25 000
BA	Bosnie-Herzégovine	80 000
BE	Belgique	35 000
BG	Bulgarie	800 000
BY	Biélorussie	15 000
CH	Suisse	35 000
CY	Chypre	1 500
CZ	Tchéquie	250 000
DE	Allemagne	140 000
DK	Danemark	4 000
EE	Estonie	1 500
ES	Espagne	800 000
FI	Finlande	12 000
FR	France	400 000
GB	Royaume-Uni	150 000
GR	Grèce	220 000
HR	Croatie	40 000
HU	Hongrie	600 000
IE	Irlande	35 000
IT	Italie	120 000
KO	Kosovo	20 000
LT	Lituanie	4 000
LU	Luxembourg	150
LV	Lettonie	8 000
MD	Moldavie	25 000
ME	Monténégro	20 000
MK	Macédoine	250 000
NL	Pays-Bas	35 000
NO	Norvège	4 000
PL	Pologne	45 000
PT	Portugal	50 000
RO	Roumanie	2 400 000
RS	Serbie	500 000
RU	Russie	600 000
SE	Suède	40 000
SI	Slovénie	10 000
SK	Slovaquie	450 000
TR	Turquie	500 000
UA	Ukraine	200 000

WHICH COUNTRY IN THE WORLD HAS
THE LARGEST ROMA POPULATION?



ESTIMATES FOR BETWEEN 2.5 AND 5 MILLION

WHICH EUROPEAN HAS THE
LARGEST ROMA POPULATION?



ESTIMATES FOR 2 MILLION

WHICH COUNTRY HAS THE LARGEST
PERCENTAGE OF ROMA POPULATION
COMPARED TO THE MAJORITY
POPULATION?



ESTIMATES FOR 1 MILLION, MEANING 1 OUT
OF 6.5 PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY IS ROMA

How Roma people call themselves?

Historical distribution of the Romani people:

- Roma
- Sinti
- Manush
- Romanichal
- Romanisæl
- Welsh Kale
- Finnish Kale
- Iberian Kale



How the others call Roma?

The endonyms of 'Roma' across the EU28 (2016)

BG циганин	ES	gitano	MT	zingara	SK	cigán
CZ cikán	FR	gitan	NL	zigeuner	FI	mustalainen
DK sigøjner	HR	ciganin	AT	zigeuner	SE	zigenare
DE zigeuner	IT	zingaro	PL	cygan	UK	gypsy
EE mustlane	LV	čigāns	PT	cigano	BE	zigeuner, gitan
IE gíofógach	LT	čigonas	RO	țigan	CY	τσιγγάνος, çingene
EL τσιγγάνος	HU	cigány	SI	cigan	LU	gitan, zigeuner

Romani Culture and Challenges



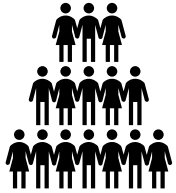


ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN EUROPE
CHALLENGES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ROMA YOUTH PERSPECTIVES

A report prepared within the Roma Youth Voices project
2020

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE SIZE: 290 individual responses from young Roma

AGE COVERAGE: 15-35 (38% between 19-24 years old)



TYPE OF SURVEY: Online survey: multiple choice questionnaire, available in English, Hungarian, Spanish, Slovak, Romanian, French, German, Bulgarian, Czech



GEOGRAPHICAL COVEREGE: European Union Member States (most responses from project partner countries: 87 Romania, 72 Hungary, 41 Bulgaria, 41 Slovakia, 20 Spain)



PERIOD: November 2019 – April 2020

DEFINING ROMA YOUTH



DEFINING YOUTH:

Member states own definitions

Erasmus+: age between 13 – 30

Phiren Amenca: age between 16/18 – 30/35



CHALLENGES DEFINING ROMA YOUTH:

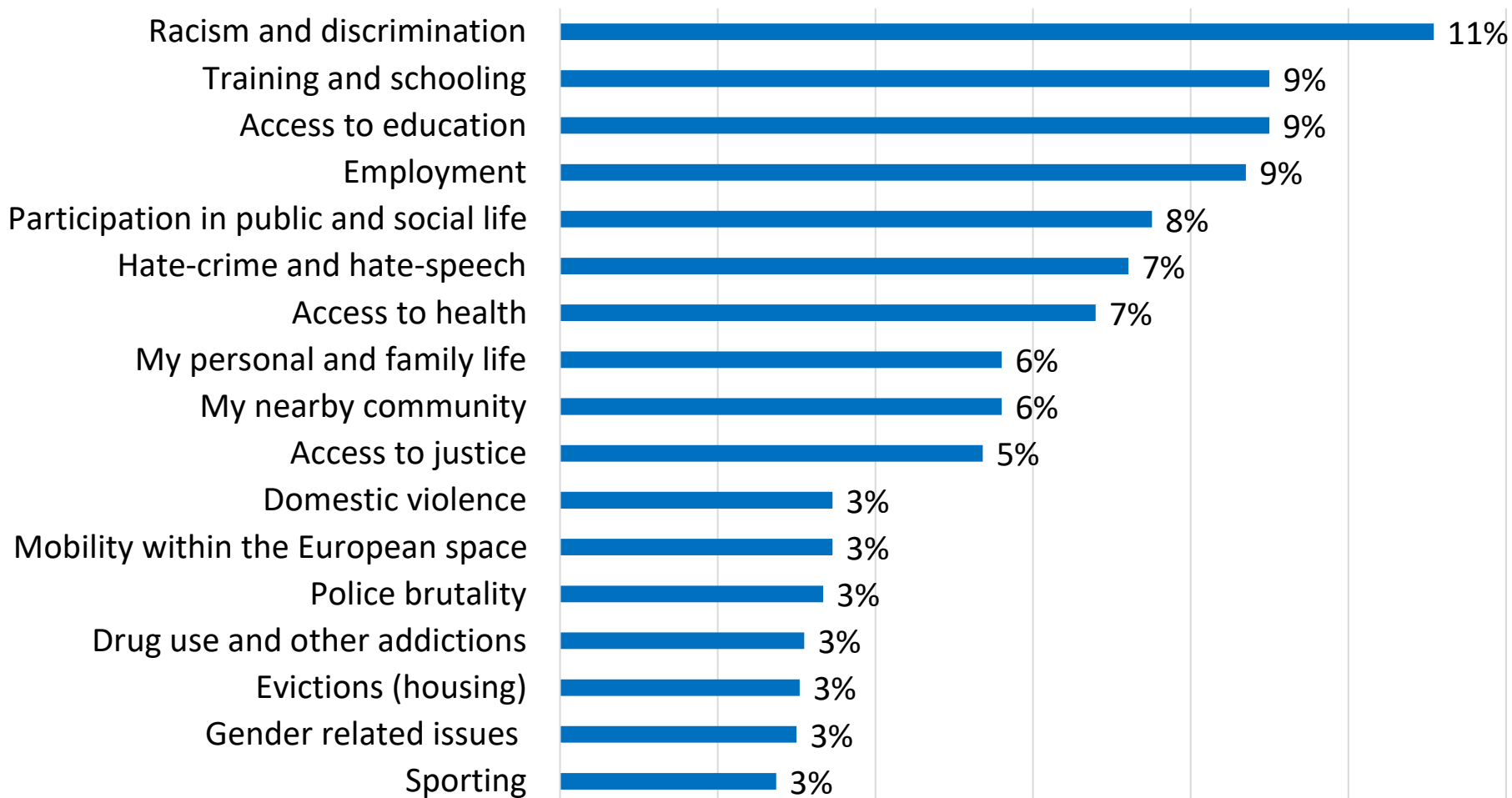
Marital status and household

Demographic aspects: Roma population is increasing

Roma youth are heterogeneous

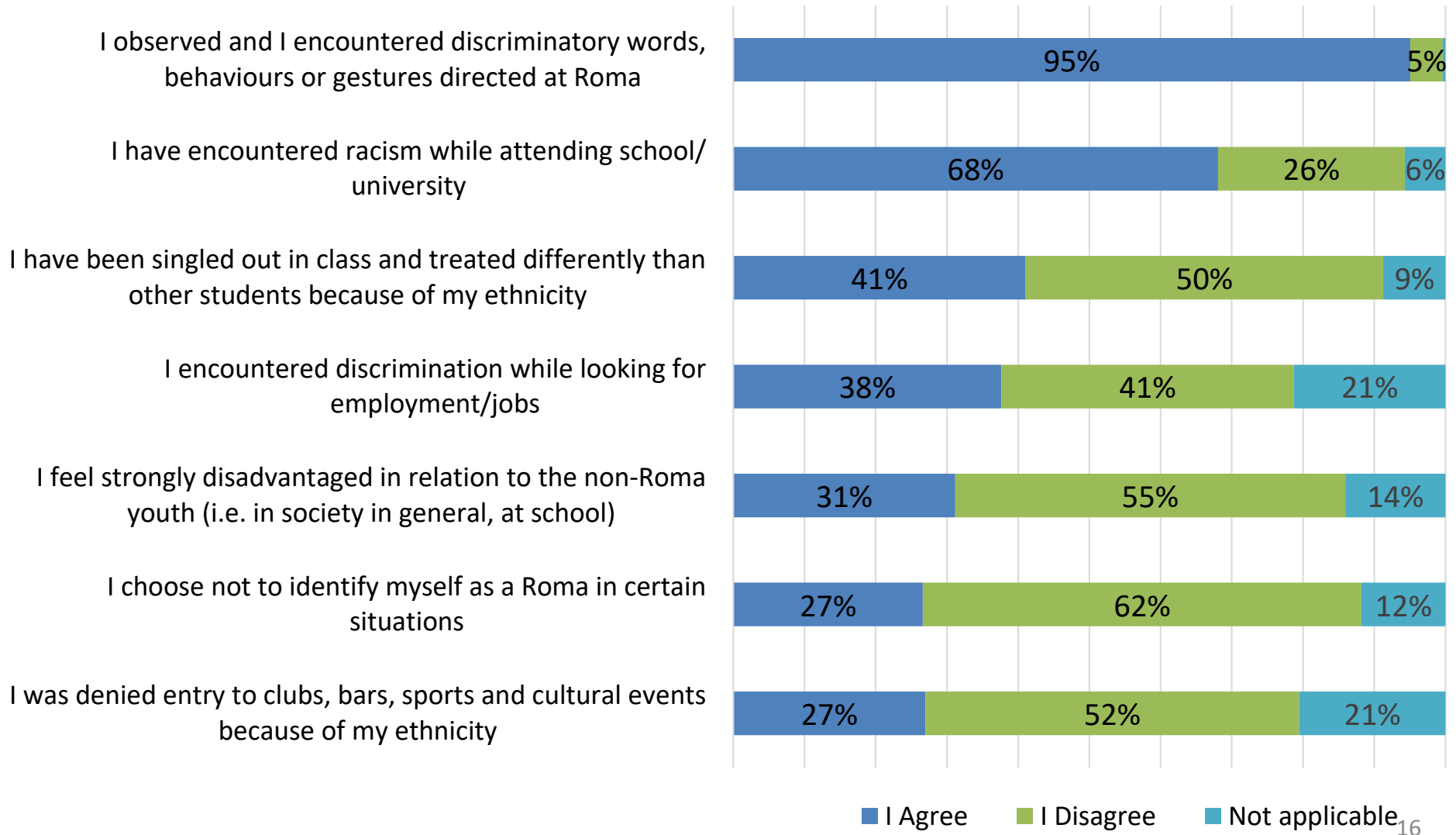
WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES ROMA YOUTH FACE

The main most frequent concerns for Roma youth are related to **RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**



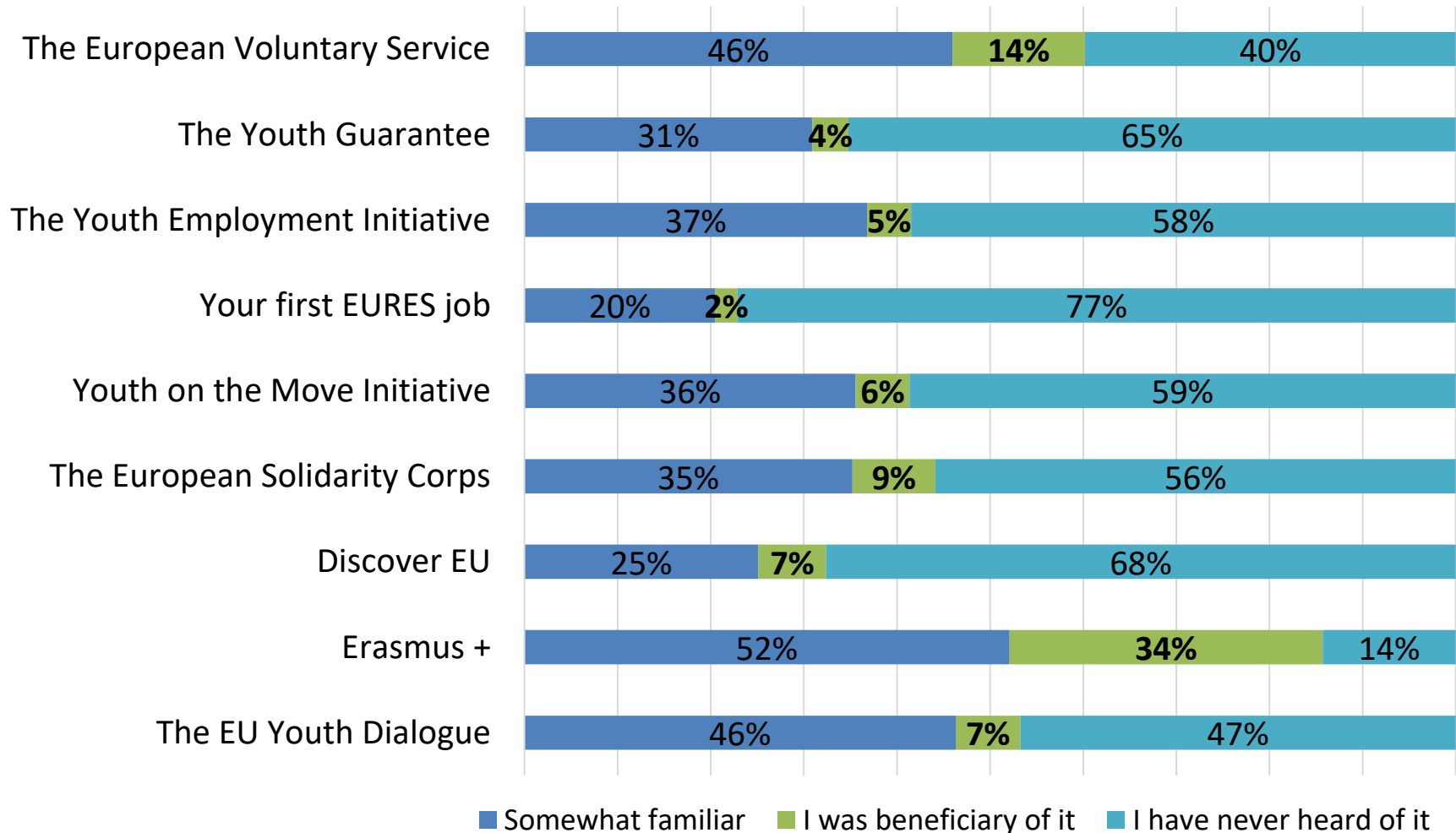
EXPERIENCES OF ANTIGYPSYISM

Young Roma are heavily **EXPOSED TO ANTIGYPSYIST** attitudes and **PRACTICES**.



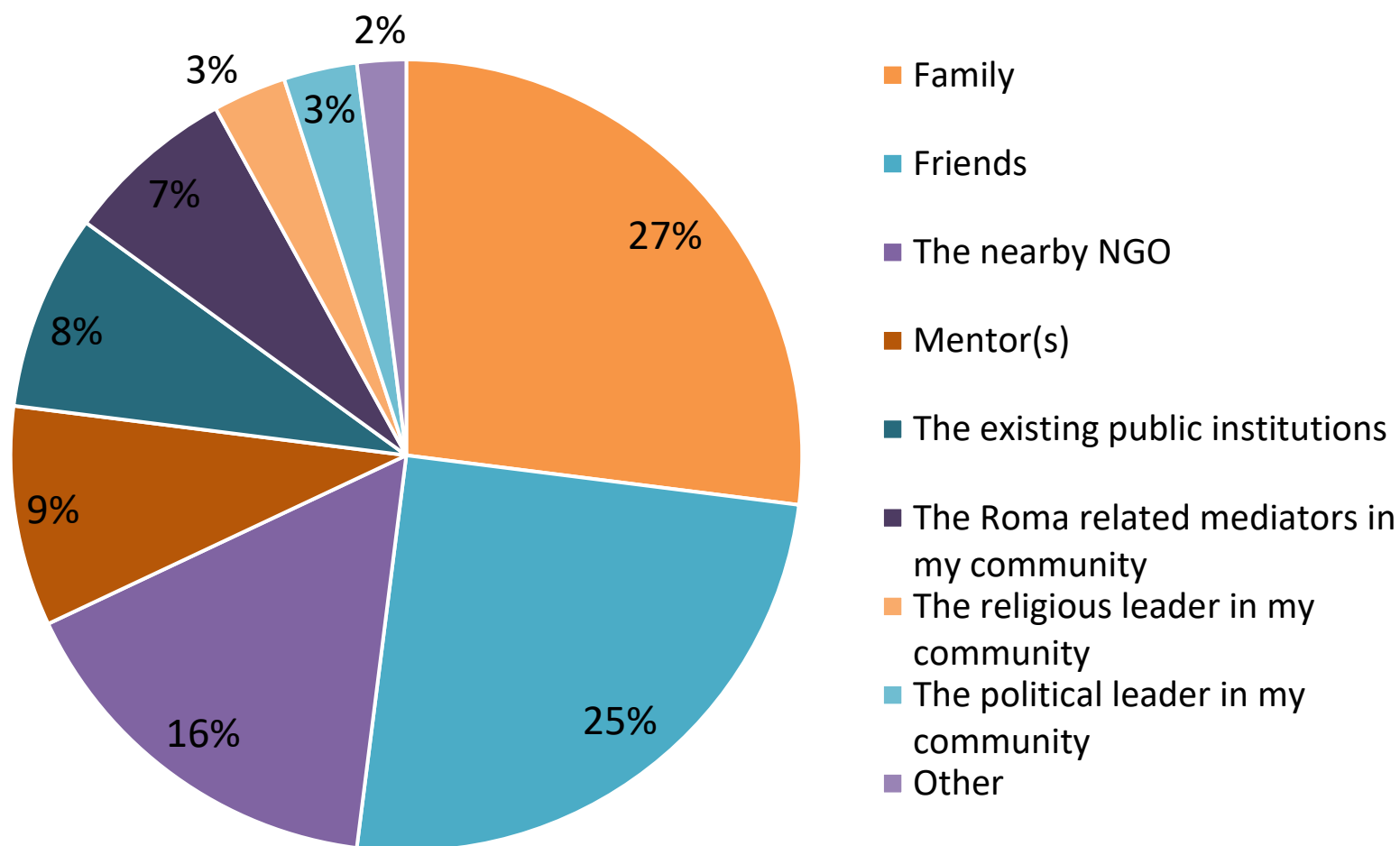
ROMA YOUTH AND EU YOUTH PROGRAMS

Roma youth **DO NOT BENEFIT FROM THE EU PROGRAMS** targeting youth.



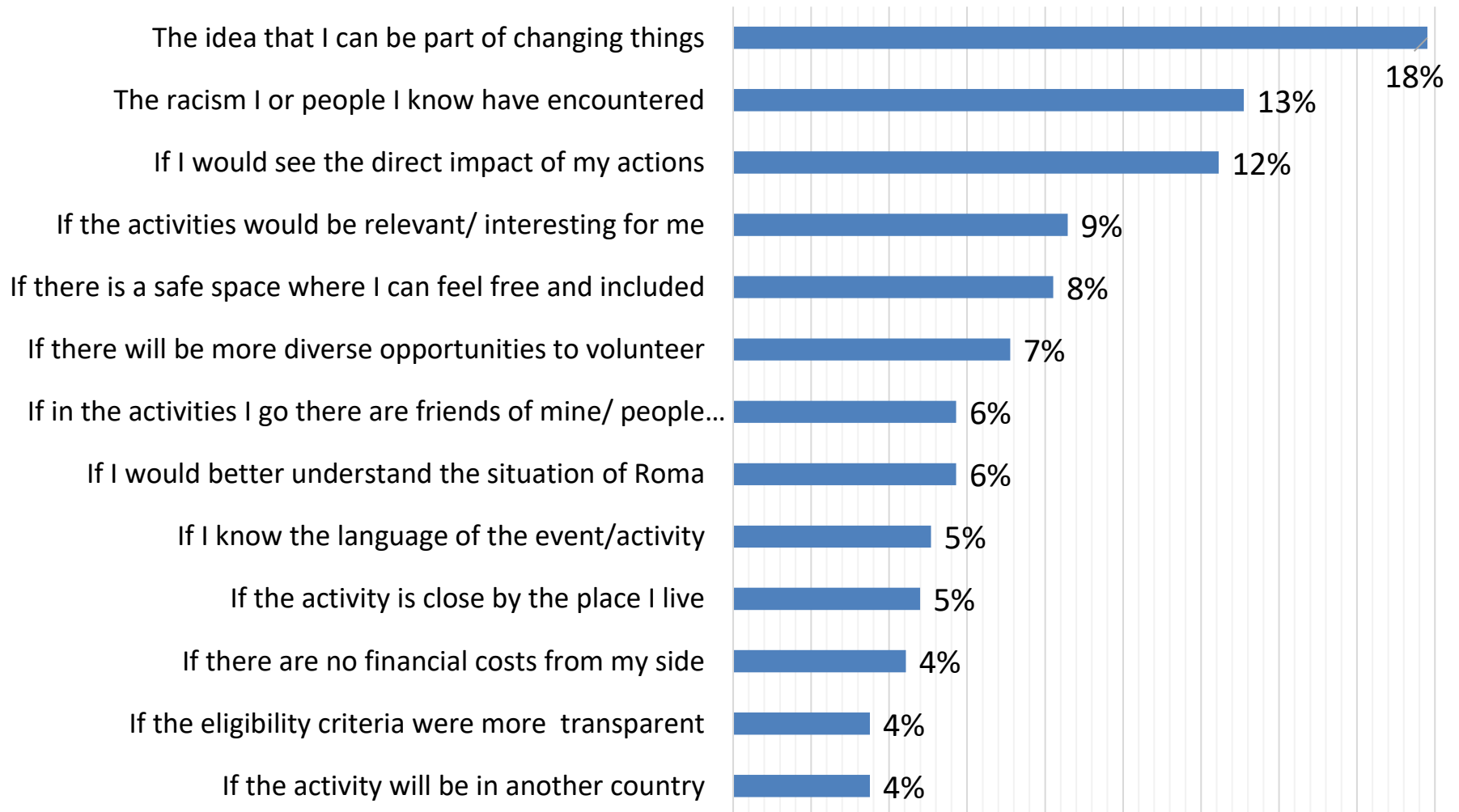
WHO DO ROMA YOUTH TURN TO FOR SUPPORT

Young Roma are turning to their **FAMILIES**, **FRIENDS** and the nearby **NGOs** for support.



WHAT MOTIVATES ROMA YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC LIFE

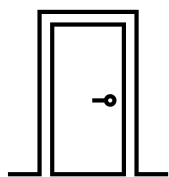
Most young Roma participate to be part of **CHANGING THINGS** and to **FIGHT AGAINST THE RACISM** they or people they know have encountered.



FORMS OF ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Roma youth are **ACTIVE** citizens who are **HIGHLY INVOLVED** in the civic and political lives of their communities.





WHAT OBSTRUCTS ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION

THE LACK OF SPACE FOR ROMA YOUTH IN MAINSTREAM YOUTH STRUCTURES

THE LACK OF TRUST BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN STATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

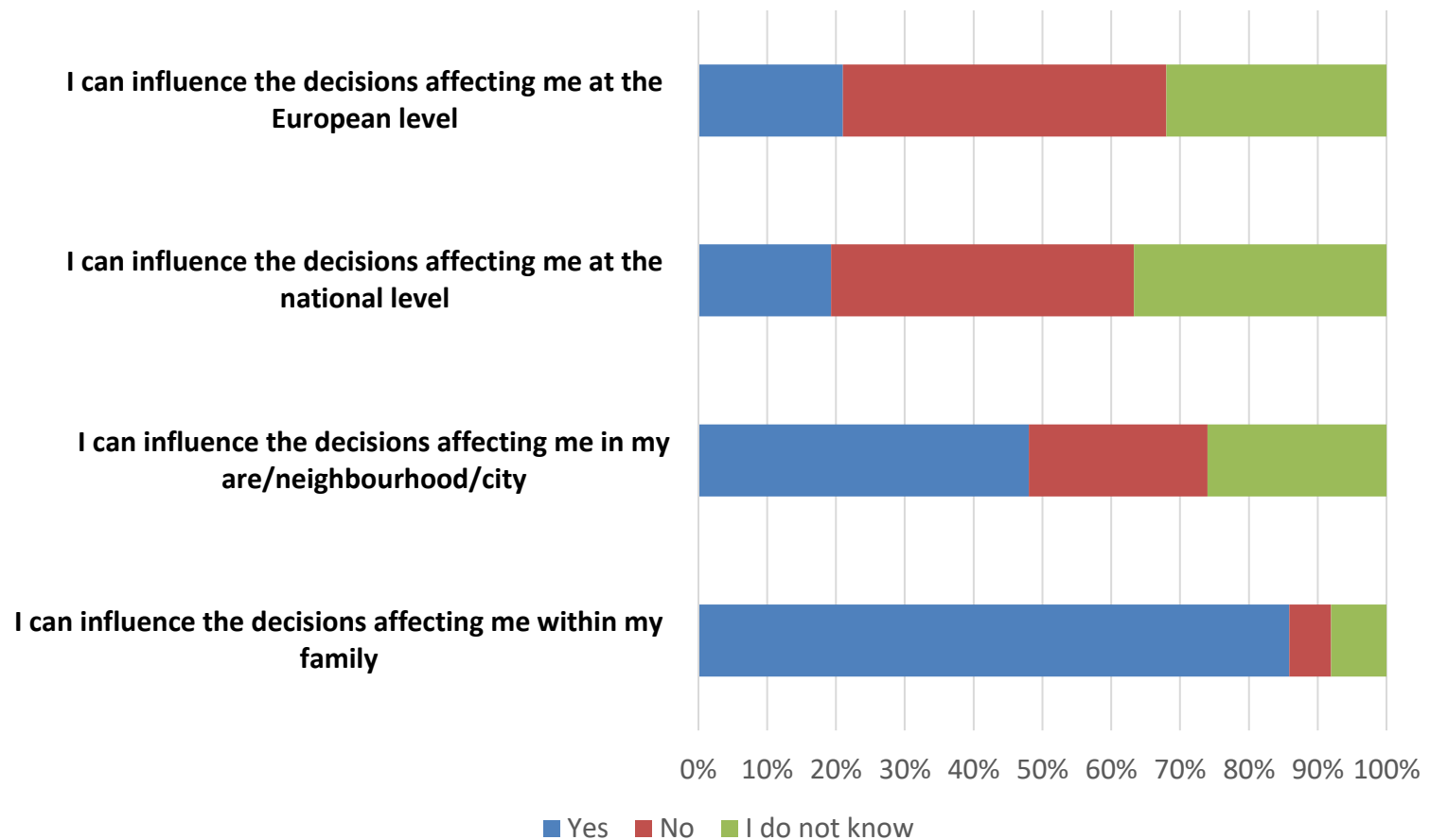
NEGATIVE SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS YOUNG PEOPLE IN GENERAL

INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES

THE MINIMAL POWER GIVEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE TO INITIATE CHANGE

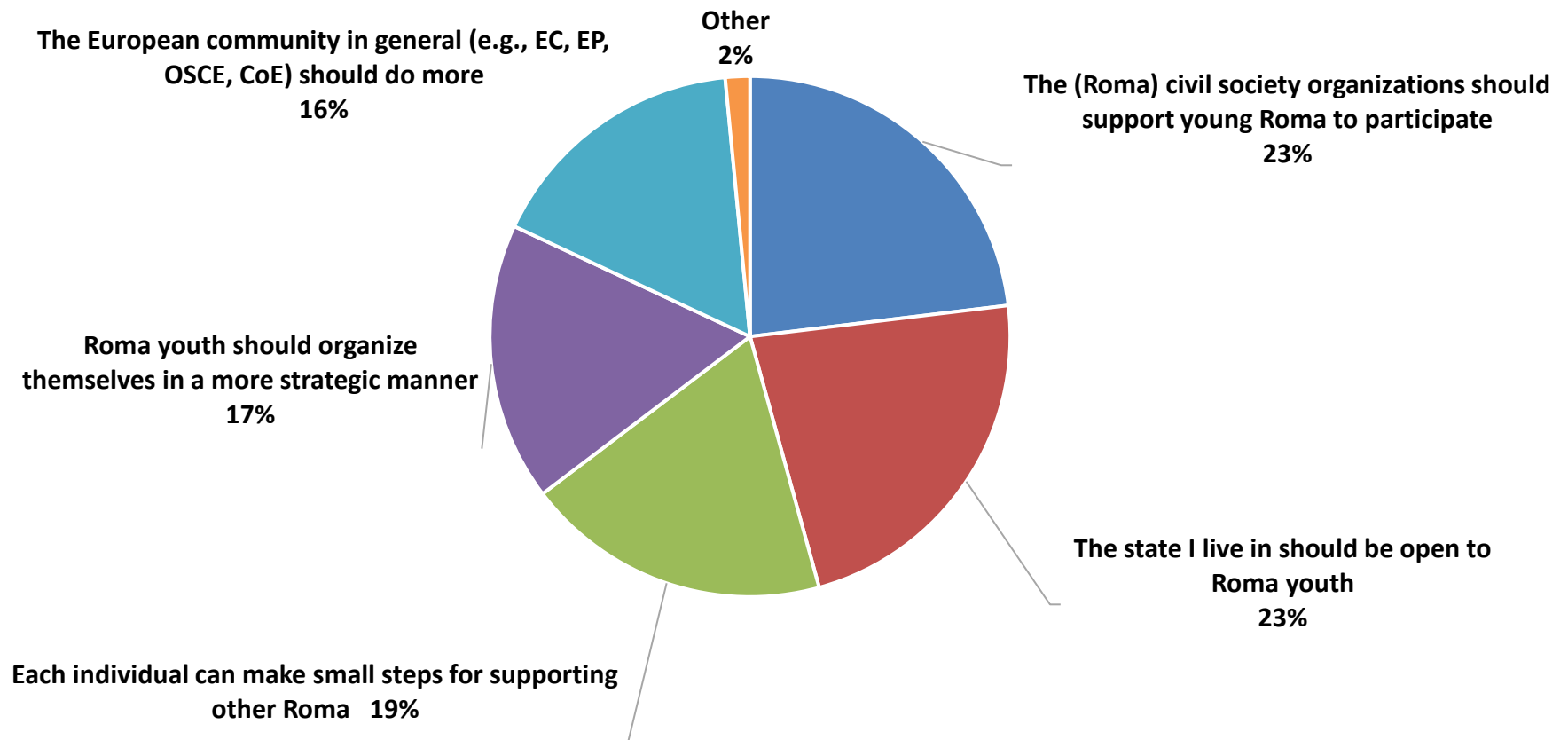
ROMA YOUTH PERCEPTION OF THEIR INFLUENCING POWER

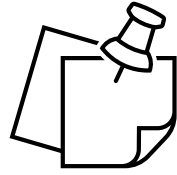
Young Roma people feel that they **CAN INFLUENCE** the decisions that affect them personally, but they feel **DISTANCED** from decisions that affect them at **NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL.**



WHO SHOULD BE DOING WHAT TO HELP YOUTH GET PUBLICLY ENGAGED

Most young Roma people expect **CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS** and their **NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS** to support young Roma.





CONCLUSIONS

Roma youth as a target group has **NOT** been systematically **CONSIDERED** in international, European, and national strategies and frameworks.

The limited Roma politics and mainstream **YOUTH POLICIES HAVE FAILED** to address the voice, presences, needs and concerns of Roma youth. Young Roma are excluded from transnational and national youth structures (e.g., from National Youth Councils) and are not adequately represented and involved in Roma structures and civil society organizations.

There are **LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES** and awareness raising, learning and training, employment/traineeship and funding for young Roma.

ANTIGYPSYISM has a long-term impact in diminishing Roma youth confidence, and in setting higher aspirations by Roma youth for themselves, but it can also determine the **SELF-EXCLUSION** of Roma youth from society.



Phiren Amenca

Youth Against Antigypsyism: Roma youth participation in mainstream youth structures

2023

Research context: YAG project & YFJ Resolution on Roma youth 2020



- 2020-2023 YFJ Strategic Plan includes priorities such as the inclusion and diversity of marginalised and vulnerable communities



- 2020 YFJ Resolution on combating antigypsyism and the inclusion and equal participation of Roma youth resolves to address participation of young Roma i.e., to ensure and support that Roma youth is addressed in both European and national mainstream youth policies, and that the equal participation of Roma youth organisations is strengthened

The **Youth Against Antigypsyism (YAG)** project aims to develop the capacity of young Roma and non-Roma individuals and NGOs on combating antigypsyism and promoting Roma youth participation in mainstream structures, youth policies and strategies relevant to Roma on the national and international levels.

Research question and methodology

Research question:

- *What are the barriers of Roma youth and Roma youth organization for participating in National Youth Councils and International Youth Organizations (within the scope of the YFJ Membership)?*

Research design: interviews and surveys

- Does your organization count among its members, affiliates, or observers, organizations representing or working with Roma young people?
- Have you implemented any Roma youth-related project or activity? Please briefly describe.
- What are the requirements for becoming a member of your NYC/INGYO?
- Does your national youth council have an inclusion and diversity & recruitment strategy?
- Do Roma young people participate in the design and implementation of policies and projects for Roma communities/people in your country/region?
- What are the main obstacles to equal participation of Roma young people in youth and Roma policy measures and programs in your country/region?

Key findings

11

NYCs

took part in our survey and interviews

6

INGYOs

took part in our survey

9

Roma youth organizations

provided their views and inputs

International non-gov. youth organizations - Key findings (1)



2 out of 6



- have Roma youth as members and are working on Roma youth issues
- have Roma youth individuals as part of their structures and interest on focusing more on Roma youth
- have no Roma youth members nor work on Roma youth



the profile of the INGYOs and the key issues they focus on (i.e., minorities) increase the likelihood to have Roma youth members or Roma youth related activities or projects

National Youth Councils - Key findings (1)



**7 out
of 11 NYCs**

have Roma (youth)
organizations as their
members



1 out of 9

Roma (youth) NGOs are
part of a NYC



**4 out
of 7 NYCs**

have a focus on Roma
youth



NYCs

have a Diversity and
Inclusion Strategy

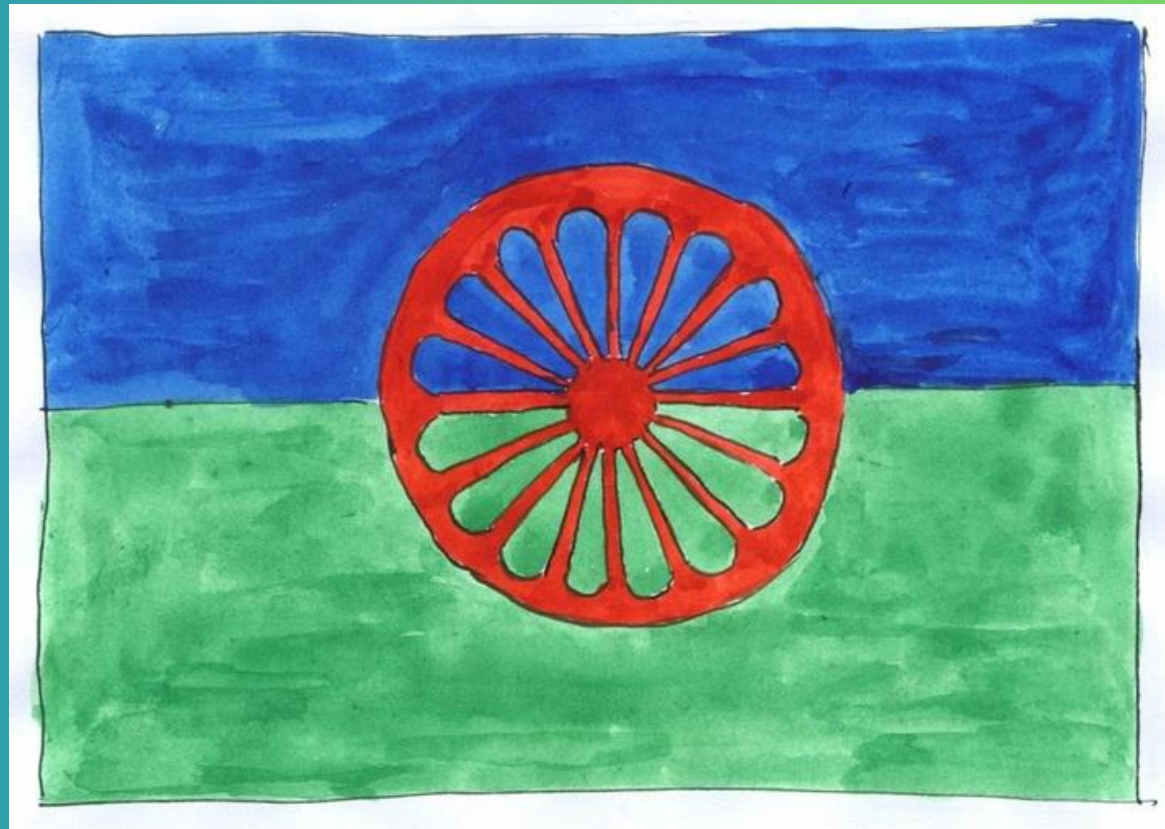
National Youth Councils - Key findings (2)

Key barriers for Roma youth participation

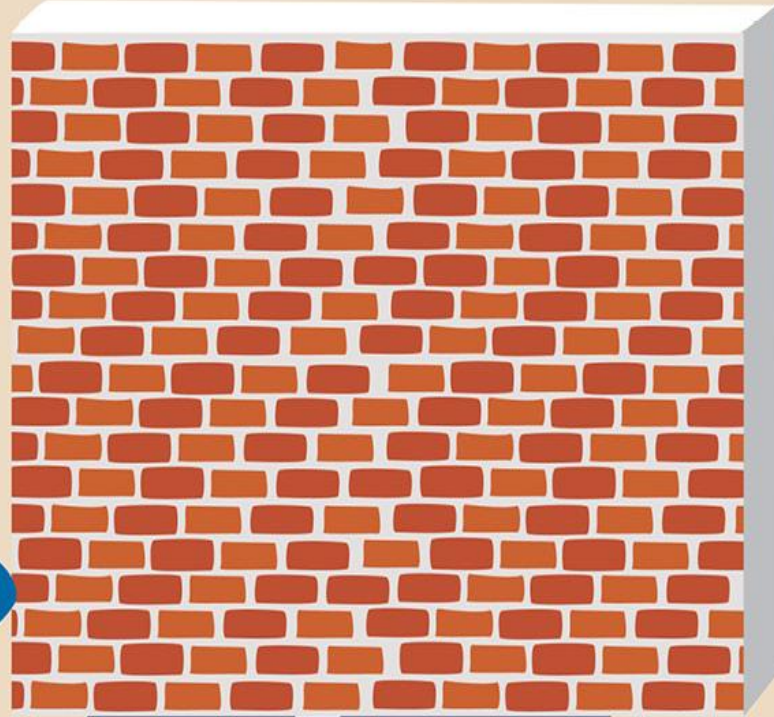
- 1** lack of information on opportunities for participation
- 2** systemic discrimination
- 3** the visibility of Roma youth structures
- 4** not fulfilling the criteria for membership
- 5** lack of strategies for reaching out to Roma youth

Work in groups:

Solving issues for
Roma Youth



Barriers
to
including



Young
Road





How to address the
barriers for Roma youth
in your work?

Roma Youth Challenges Report





THANK YOU!

**NAISARAV
TUMENGE!**