

**Austria**

FRANET National Focal Point

Social Thematic Study

The situation of Roma

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## Executive Summary

In Austria, data concerning Roma regarding specific sections of the areas covered in this report is not collected systematically by official and non-official institutions, which is due to various reasons.

Firstly, there is no legal obligation to collect data: according to various laws (e.g. relevant electoral laws<sup>1</sup>, the Federal Law on the Documentation in the Educational System (*Bundesgesetz über die Dokumentation im Bildungswesen*<sup>2</sup>), data disaggregated by ethnicity is not collected.

Secondly, members of the Roma community are hard to identify: according to §1 (3) and (4) of the Ethnic Groups Act (*Volksgruppengesetz*), persons are not obligated to indicate whether they are a member of an acknowledged ethnic group or not. Although large scale quantitative surveys would be legitimate according to this provision, the Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt, BKA*) raises concerns regarding such surveys and does not consider them to be necessary.

Finally, it is perceived as problematic that data on ethnicity (and on membership of an acknowledged ethnic group) may contribute to racially motivated political activities against persons as well as to polarisation amongst the population and thus having negative consequences for certain ethnic groups.<sup>3</sup> This problem has also been pointed out by several institutions which answered our information requests (particularly the Federal Ministries) and by interviewed experts (e.g. an employee of Romano Centro) who also assess the collection of persons' ethnicity as problematic due to the experiences during the Nazi regime. However, particularly members of Roma NGOs stress that the funding and supporting of surveys (even qualitative ones) that highlight the situation of Roma in Austria is not on the agenda of the Austrian government.

However, some empirical (mainly qualitative) research on topics which are relevant for some sections of this report has been conducted in Austria, e.g. in the Province of Burgenland or the “*Weinviertel*” in Lower Austria. Furthermore, there exist several master theses dealing with the situation of Roma in Austria in certain areas. Data and results of these studies are provided. In an attempt to compensate for the lacking (quantitative) data, interviews with experts were conducted for this study. However, data provided are only estimations.

### Education

In Austria, all persons have access to public schools; however, the educational system is perceived as being highly selective because pupils of early age are transferred into different school types after having completed primary school (usually at the age of 10). Some attempts to change this early selection have been made by introducing an integrated school system for 10-14 year-old pupils (pilot project “New Grammar School”, *Pilotprojekt “Neue Mittelschule”*). However, there are no schools in segregated areas, particular classes, or special needs schools predominantly attended by Roma children in Austria. Still, discrimination of Roma is perceived as playing a major role in the educational system.

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<sup>1</sup> Information received by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (*Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI*) on 22 August 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt, BKA*) (2010), p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), pp. 26-28.

Although the situation of Roma with migratory background is not well known, their educational achievements are estimated to be rather low. Thus, supporting measures are deemed necessary to prevent transferring them to special needs schools. According to the perception of an expert in the field of education, the educational situation of autochthonous Roma in Austria has been improved during the last 25 years. However, other experts in this field as well as representatives of Roma organisations share the opinion that the educational attainment of Roma children is still low. Since the 1980s, Roma children who have had difficulties following classes in the regular schooling system; have often been transferred to special needs schools; the situation improved during the last years for autochthonous Roma, who are now better integrated in the regular schooling system compared to non-autochthonous Roma children.

According to the results of a qualitative study, which has been conducted at several primary schools in Vienna from 2007 until 2009, teachers are not properly educated in dealing with heterogeneous classes, especially when Roma children are concerned. The most important factor influencing the educational attainment of Roma children in a negative way is the lack of German language skills. Furthermore, a lack of cooperation between teachers, parents and the school as well as a lack of support from parents of Roma pupils are identified as being problematic in this regard.

Measures to improve the educational situation of Roma have been implemented, e.g. additional care in the afternoon in compulsory schools and the implementation of the principle of “intercultural learning” as an educational goal in curricula of primary schools to respond to the cultural and linguistic diversity of pupils. Especially measures to improve the language skills have been implemented in kindergarten, pre-school and compulsory school. Furthermore, learning-aid programmes for Roma children are offered by several Roma organisations (e.g. Roma assistants). THARA offers counselling and preparation courses for career entry for Roma pupils and adults.

### **Housing/neighbourhood**

In general, most Roma with enduring residence in Austria are sedentary, travelling is a rare phenomenon and only practiced by a very limited number of Austrian Sinti families or by Roma from other countries (e. g. France and Germany) who visit Austria on a temporary basis. Furthermore, in Austria there are no segregated and marginalised Roma settlements to a similar extent to that of other Central and Eastern European countries. However, many Austrian Roma live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and districts with a higher density of people with low income. Such areas show a rather high variance of different social strata and ethnic backgrounds (including rather large shares of people without a migratory background). However such areas are not considered as real problem areas. Since the access to public and social housing was opened for non-citizens, the access of Roma with a migratory background to these facilities should be given. However, particularly in the field of private housing, racist discrimination is believed to exist—although it is difficult to prove.

The primary settlements of Roma are located in the Austrian provinces Burgenland, Vienna and Lower Austria. In the Burgenland’s district Oberwart there is a rather visible settlement of autochthonous Roma called “*Am Anger*”. In connection to a bomb attack in the 1990s, the bad housing conditions in this settlement came to public attention and subsequent attempts have been made to renovate it.

Qualitative data indicates that most of the Roma households are over-crowded: in many cases parents share a bedroom with their children, which is used as living room during the day. Furthermore, many

dwellings are in a bad condition: leaking roofs, living in condemned houses without electricity or water or at least substandard living (without sanitary installations inside).

There are only two halting sites for travelling Roma in Austria; both are located in the province Upper Austria. Besides space, these halting sites offer water, electricity and waste disposal services, but they are not cost-free. For a fee of €10 per day and per caravan, travelling Roma receive water, sanitary installations, waste disposal and electricity. The halting site in Braunau offers space for 20 caravans and the one in Linz for 25 caravans. Further halting sites are negotiated in the municipalities of Innsbruck, Wels and St. Pölten.

In general, regarding the readiness of the Austrian government to adopt measures to improve the housing situation of the Roma, it has to be stated that the disadvantage of Roma in the field of housing (which is assumed to be true for the migrant Roma only, not for the autochthonous group) is traced back to disadvantages in education. Therefore, the Austrian government prioritises affirmative action and assistance measures in the field of education.

### **Employment**

It is difficult to find precise data regarding the integration of the Roma in the labour market. It is only possible to collect a sample of data in a specific project or action/activity. If Roma are employed, most of them work in unskilled or semi-skilled positions, mainly in the sector of services. Also, male Roma are mainly employed in the sector of services. A high percentage of Roma hold more than one job.

Self-employment, especially different trading activities, still appears as an important source of income.

The rate of unemployment of Roma is very high, which is due to a variety of factors: low school education, migration status, as well as poor health condition are the most prominent ones. For some Roma, begging could be a form of survival. The prohibition of begging by most federal states in Austria affects Roma negatively as Roma form the majority of beggars in Austria.

Roma face various forms of discrimination regarding their integration or non-integration into the labour market.

Numerous projects for the integration of Roma into the labour market can be found. Good examples are the THARA projects from the NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*) as well as a project from the Vinzenz Community of Graz.

### **Health**

Most of the health problems of Roma are rather due to their socio-economic status than to their ethnicity. Low or no education, a vulnerable position on the labour market and bad housing conditions affect the health conditions of Roma. Most of them have been working for decades within the unqualified labour market (in assembly lines, in construction, as cleaners or cook maids). The poor working conditions in these fields affect the health status of the Roma particularly in old age. The main health problems are also due to unhealthy behaviour: particularly smoking and malnutrition, which leads to overweight. Especially among female Roma, a significant number of psychosomatic health issues due to excessive demands (in reconciling care work and paid employment) or fatigue are identified.

Particularly psychosomatic illnesses and mental illnesses are a problem among the Roma because they are a taboo within the communities. In general there is reluctance among Roma to look for help in case of health restrictions or afflictions. A particular health problem concerning Roma is the mental and psychosomatic illnesses, which are a late sequel from the Holocaust. They do not only concern the witnesses of the Holocaust but also their descendants and the treatment of those traumata is recognized as an unmet need in the area of health.

Concerning the number of medically uninsured Roma, there is no data available. However, there are specific groups among the Austrian Roma, which are assumed as risk-groups for being uninsured. These are (mainly male) young adults and adolescents without (completed) education, respectively early school leavers. This specific group is also a risk-group among other marginalised groups; therefore, it can be assumed that it is not a matter of ethnicity. Another risk-group consists of female migrants who moved to Austria within the framework of family reunion. Concerning their medical insurance, they are dependent on their husbands who might refuse to co-insure them. A third risk-group consists of Roma-migrants from Bulgaria, Serbia or Romania. If they do not have access to the labour market (which is usually the case, particularly in the beginning of their residence in Austria), they have no entitlements to allowances from social welfare and therefore, to medical insurance.

### **Poverty/economic situation**

No data is available on income poverty and deprivation of Roma in Austria. Due to the fact that most of the Roma work in unskilled or semi-skilled positions, their income tends to be very low. 75% of Roma working full-time earn €1,399 at a maximum. The financial situation of most Roma is precarious. Most of them are indebted and depend on social transfers. Some persons, mostly women and youths, have no income at all and depend on the assistance of their families. Also, lacking insurance could be a source for debts for Roma in case of illness. Only little evidence can be found that Roma suffer from hunger and material deprivation.

### **Active citizenship/rights awareness**

According to the assessment of an interviewed expert, Roma in Austria are quite aware that being discriminated against is illegitimate. Especially autochthonous Roma seem to be aware of their rights and tend to combat discrimination. However, not all cases of discrimination are perceived as such, e.g. structural discrimination in the educational system. Possibilities to combat discrimination are not well known and not often used because Roma fear negative consequences.

The Equal Treatment Commission (*Gleichbehandlungskommission, GBK*), the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment (*Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft, GAW*) and the “*Klagsverband*” are statutory bodies that record and process complaints of rights violations as well as racism and/or discrimination. In its statistics programme the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment does not systematically collect data on their clients’ ethnicity. Statistical evaluations are only possible regarding discrimination grounds and facts of the cases. Based on their experience in counselling, the Ombudsperson only receives a few requests from Roma. The Equal Treatment Commission does not collect data on discrimination disaggregated by ethnicity.

Furthermore, ZARA, an organisation that provides advice for persons who experience racist discrimination, documents cases of racism and racist discrimination. Only ZARA documented cases of the discriminatory usage of the term “gypsy” for the reference period. According to the European

Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*), the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, the Equal Treatment Commission and Romano Centro, Roma experience racist/ethnic discrimination in Austria in different areas of their lives.

Several NGOs and associations representing and/or working for or with Roma exist in Austria. According to the assessment of interviewed experts, it is difficult to determine whether Roma are aware of the existence of representative Roma organisations, although various Roma communities exist in Austria as well as various Roma organisations that offer a variety of programmes for different target groups. The autochthonous Roma, particularly those in Burgenland, seem to be rather aware of the existence of representative Roma organisations and other civil society organisations, at least of those located in Burgenland. The NGO Romano Centro seems to be known amongst Roma who immigrated from former Yugoslavia and are currently living in Vienna. Also, the association Roma-Service raises awareness with the Rom-Bus in rural areas in Burgenland and might thus be noticed.

According to the assessment of interviewed experts, Roma are represented in non-governmental organisations, e.g. the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma (*Kulturverein österreichischer Roma*), the project THARA of the NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*) and the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma (*Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Roma*). The exercise of their active electoral rights cannot be assessed. At least one Roma is employed at the department for integration and diversity in Vienna (*Magistratsabteilung 17 - Integration und Diversität, MA 17*) of the Viennese municipality and one Roma/Sinti-representative was elected to the Advisory Board for Migration and Integration (*Migrations- und Integrationsbeirat*) in Linz to strengthen the position of the acknowledged ethnic groups (*anerkannte Volksgruppen*) when dealing with questions of integration and diversity and to compensate a marginalisation in regular democratic processes. According to the assessment of an interviewed expert, Roma are thus underrepresented in politics.

# 1 Roma population

In 2001 it was estimated that between 10.000 and 20.000 Roma were living in Austria,<sup>4</sup> compared to at least 25.000 Roma in 2004.<sup>5</sup> There are no official statistics regarding the Roma population living in Austria. In 2001, the national census interviewed Austrian citizens on which colloquial language (*Umgangssprache*) they most often used. 4.348 Austrian citizens named Romanes as their colloquial language (*Umgangssprache*).<sup>6</sup>

The Roma are one of six officially acknowledged ethnic groups in Austria (the other groups are Slovenes, Croatians, Hungarians, Czechs and Slovaks.) The recognition as a “*Volksgruppe*” obliges the state to take action as to preserve the culture and language of the respective ethnic group through both social and financial means. According to §1 (2) of the Ethnic Groups Act (*Volksgruppengesetz*), prerequisites for recognition are: Austrian citizenship, a separate language and culture and a secluded settlement area. In 1993, the “ethnic group of Roma” (a generic term for all autochthonous subgroups living in Austria, which are Burgeland-Roma, Sinti, and most Lovara<sup>7</sup>) was recognised as a “*Volksgruppe*”.<sup>8</sup> According to the Regulation on Ethnic Groups Advisory Boards (*Verordnung über die Volksgruppenbeiräte*)<sup>9</sup>, an Advisory Board must be established for Roma issues. According to §7 of the Regulation, this Advisory Board is to be made up of eight members, four of them assigned by Roma associations as mentioned in the Ethnic Groups Act.<sup>10</sup> According to §4 of the Ethnic Groups Act, the members of the Advisory Boards which are installed to inform the Federal Government on issues regarding ethnic groups in Austria (§3 of the Ethnic Groups Act) are assigned by the Federal Government for four years. The Advisory Boards have to preserve the cultural, social and economic common interest of the ethnic group and are to be heard within a reasonable period of time before adopting legal norms and general plans in the area of funding. Currently an amendment to the Ethnic Groups Act is being discussed but not decided on yet.<sup>11</sup>

The Roma population in Austria is heterogeneous. The groups differ regarding socio-cultural background and current socio-political status, as is the norm for almost all minority ethnic groups in Austria.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Austria, Austrian Center for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*) (2007), p. 15.

<sup>5</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Statistik Austria (2001) *Volkszählung 2001 - Umgangssprache von Personen mit österreichischer Staatsbürgerschaft, einschließlich Kombination mit Deutsch*, Vienna, Statistik Austria.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 3.

<sup>8</sup> Polis (2010) *Soziale Ausgrenzung im Fokus: Roma in Österreich*, Vienna, Zentrum polis, available at: [www.politik-lernen.at/site/gratisshop/shop.item/105771.html](http://www.politik-lernen.at/site/gratisshop/shop.item/105771.html).

<sup>9</sup> Austria, Regulation on Ethnic Groups Advisory Boards (*Verordnung über die Volksgruppenbeiräte*), BGBl. Nr. 38/1977, last modified by BGBl. Nr. 895/1993.

<sup>10</sup> Austria, Ethnic Groups Act (*Bundesgesetz über die Rechtsstellung der Volksgruppen in Österreich – Volksgruppengesetz - VoGrG*), BGBl. Nr. 396/1976, last modified by BGBl. I Nr. 46/2011.

<sup>11</sup> Austria, Draft Amendment Act to the Ethnic Groups Act (*Entwurf eines Bundesgesetzes, mit dem das Volksgruppengesetz geändert wird*), available at [http://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/ME/ME\\_00371/fname\\_245271.pdf](http://www.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/XXIV/ME/ME_00371/fname_245271.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.6, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf).



Halwachs (2004) suggests that amongst all Roma living in Austria, five large groups can be distinguished but he does not provide any estimates on the size of these groups or Roma from western Balkans or other EU countries. The five large groups that could be distinguished are: the Roma in Burgenland, Sinti and Lovara as well as Vlach and Muslim Roma of the Balkans (e.g. Arlije).<sup>13</sup> Further identifiable Roma groups include Roma who emigrated from former communist countries of central and Eastern Europe in the 1980s, and Roma who emigrated from Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, etc.<sup>14</sup>

The Roma in Burgenland have the longest historical link with Austria, with communities dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Lovara and Sinti arrived in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the work-related migratory influx of the 1960ies, further groups of Roma emigrated from Ex-Yugoslavia.<sup>15</sup>

There is an estimated population of between 2.500 and 5.000 persons who are considered to belong to the Burgenland Roma group. Burgenland Roma who immigrated to Austria from Hungary are sedentary and are living in rural areas or small cities; the majority lives in Wart. They name their language “Roman”, which is currently only used in certain families. To revive the language, several projects have been organised, e.g. the Roman Language Bus (*Roma-Sprachbus*) and several language courses.<sup>16</sup>

The majority of the Sinti population in Austria came in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century from Germany and the Czech Republic. The Nazi genocide of the Roma people destroyed the Sinti social structures, as it happened with the other Roma subgroups.<sup>17</sup> The Sinti living in larger Austrian cities are not a marginalised group. “*As far as their economic situation goes, they hardly differ from the average Austrian citizen.*”<sup>18</sup>

The Lovara belong to the Vlach-Roma, who had been living in Romanic-Hungarian language regions for a considerable period of time. Consequently, their language has been strongly influenced by this regional setting. Austrian Lovara first arrived in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with a second phase of immigration during the Hungarian revolution in 1956.<sup>19</sup> They are mostly living in Vienna and other larger cities in Eastern Austria. They adapted their lifestyle to the majority society and are thus not a marginalised group.<sup>20</sup>

The Kalderas, Gurbet and Arlije came to Austria in the 1960s as immigrant workers from Serbia and Macedonia. Other Roma groups immigrated to Austria from the Balkan regions for the same reason

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<sup>13</sup> ROMBASE (2004) *Didactically edited information on Roma*, Graz, available at: <http://romani.uni-graz.at/rombase/>.

<sup>14</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.1, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, p. 2.

<sup>16</sup> Polis (2010) *Soziale Ausgrenzung im Fokus: Roma in Österreich*, Vienna, Zentrum polis, p. 17, available at: [www.politik-lernen.at/site/gratisshop/shop.item/105771.html](http://www.politik-lernen.at/site/gratisshop/shop.item/105771.html) and ROMBASE (2004) *Didactically edited information on Roma*, Graz, available at: <http://romani.uni-graz.at/rombase/>.

<sup>17</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.4, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.2, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> ROMBASE (2004) *Didactically edited information on Roma*, Graz, available at: <http://romani.uni-graz.at/rombase/>.

during the 1980s. Unlike Burgenland-Roma, Lovara and Sinti, they are perceived as foreigners by the Austrian population.<sup>21</sup>

In Austria, most Roma groups are considered to be sedentary. However, in this regard, no statistics are available.<sup>22</sup>

The religion of Roma groups living in Austria is dominated by their country of origin. Burgenland-Roma and Lovara are mostly Roman Catholic or Protestant; Vlax, Arlije and Muslim Roma are mostly Orthodox or Muslim, respectively.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.1-3, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> ROMBASE (2004) *Didactically edited information on Roma*, Graz, available at: <http://romani.uni-graz.at/rombase/>.

<sup>23</sup> Halwachs, D. W. (2004) *Roma and Romani in Austria*, Graz, p.1-2, available at: [http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling\\_rom\\_at\\_e.pdf](http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/download/files/ling_rom_at_e.pdf)

## 2 Education

### a. Pre-school/Kindergarten

Within the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (*EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020*), Austria aims at improving the educational situation of Roma. The strategy aims at improving the situation of underprivileged persons through fostering equal opportunities in pre-school.

In 2008 the educational model “early advancement 1+1” (*Frühe Förderung 1+1*) was implemented for all pupils in pre-school. Children with a lack of German language skills are especially supported in childcare facilities to improve their language skills before they enter compulsory school.<sup>24</sup>

Since September 2010, half-day kindergarten has been free of charge and obligatory for children (on at least four days a week) in all federal states in Austria during the last year before they enter compulsory schools. Kindergarten teachers are trained to improve the children’s language skills.<sup>25</sup> Especially Roma migrants benefit from this measure.<sup>26</sup> Furthermore, special educational measures are offered by child care facilities in Vienna, aiming at improving the language skills of children. In some Viennese kindergartens children who speak a foreign first language are supported by kindergarten teachers who speak their first language.<sup>27</sup>

The Austrian Educational Strategy (*Bildungsstrategie*) does not explicitly address Roma but also has an impact on this target group. A major goal of the strategy for pre-school is that 95% of children between the age of four and the age of school enrolment should attend pre-school until 2020.<sup>28</sup>

No special pre-school programmes for Roma-refugees are provided in Austria.<sup>29</sup> No further information on factors influencing the enrolment and attendance of Roma children in pre-school (e.g. family reasons, costs of education, need to work, dismissed from school, etc.) is available.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt, BKA*) (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p.12.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 12f.

<sup>26</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 11.

<sup>27</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 13.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>29</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 114.

<sup>30</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); information requests have been sent to The Association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*), the Ketani Association (*Verein Ketani*), the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma (*Kulturverein österreichischer Roma*), Romano Centro, Roma Service, the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma (*Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Roma*), NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*), Caritas Austria (*Caritas Österreich*), the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture (*Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur, BMUKK*), the department of statistics at the government in Burgenland (*Abteilung für Statistik der Landesregierung Burgenland*); all information requests have been answered.

## b. Compulsory school attendance

No statistical information on the compulsory school attendance of Roma is available.<sup>31</sup> The share of Roma children in certain Viennese primary schools is estimated to be rather high with a share between 7% and 10% and thus, it is not representative for primary schools in Vienna or Austria where the share of Roma children is estimated to be lower.<sup>32</sup>

During the last years, improvements in the area of education were achieved, such as additional care in the afternoon at schools, the introduction of full-time schools or the pilot project “New Grammar School” (*Schulversuch “Neue Mittelschule”*). Although these measures do not explicitly address Roma, they benefit from them.<sup>33</sup>

Since 1990 “intercultural learning” has been implemented as an educational goal in curricula of primary schools to respond to the cultural and linguistic diversity of pupils. “Intercultural learning” should be considered in all subjects taught and aims at fostering better knowledge and understanding of other cultures and the reduction of prejudices. Studies show that the implementation of the principle “intercultural learning” has still room for improvement, especially in the context of teachers’ trainings.<sup>34</sup>

An empirical qualitative study, conducted in several primary schools in Vienna from 2007 to 2009 to investigate the educational situation of Roma with migratory background and a study to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of learning-aid programmes for Roma children have been carried out. Interviews with ten teachers at compulsory schools, two principals of compulsory schools, six teachers at centres for special needs education and one head of a centre for special needs education, eight Roma children who attend compulsory schools, ten parents of Roma pupils, five learning assistants and seven heads of Roma-associations have been conducted. In addition, participant observation has been conducted in learning-aid groups for Roma children offered at compulsory schools or other institutions. The study shows that the principle of “intercultural learning” (see section a) is not properly implemented and thus, does not address the needs of Roma children. According to the perception of some interviewed teachers, they themselves are not properly educated to deal with heterogeneous classes, especially with Roma children.<sup>35</sup>

According to the interviewed teachers, the lack of cooperation between teachers, parents and the school is perceived as being problematic as is the lack of support from parents of Roma children. Most of the interviewed parents are little educated, do not have time to support their children in the

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<sup>31</sup> Response to an information request received by Statistics Austria on 1 August 2012, a response received from the National Contact Point at the Federal Chancellery on 13 August 2012, a response received from Caritas Austria on 2 August 2012, a response received from the NGO Public Aid on 3 August 2012, a response received from the department of statistics at the government in Burgenland and the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture.

<sup>32</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 110.

<sup>33</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 11.

<sup>34</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, pp. 111f.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 113.

afternoon and are often not familiar with the educational system in Austria. Thus, learning aid is of great importance for the educational attainment of their children (see section c).<sup>36</sup>

No further information on factors influencing the enrolment and attendance of Roma children in compulsory (and secondary) education (e.g. costs of education, need to work, etc.) is available.<sup>37</sup>

### c. Educational attainment

Drop-out rates of persons being between 18 and 24 years old who did not complete compulsory school lie at 9.6%, regarding persons with migratory background at 29.8% and regarding persons in the second or third generation of migrants at 15.6%.<sup>38</sup> According to an expert in the area of education who is employed at the University of Vienna and has conducted research on the educational situation of Roma in Austria, no informative statistics concerning the educational situation of Roma (e.g. attendance at schools, educational achievements, and higher educational qualifications) are available. This expert assumes that the educational situation of Roma living in Austria for a long time has improved during the last 25 years. They often graduate from compulsory school and sometimes achieve higher education. Roma children with migratory background often achieve rather low educational success and do not attain further education. Supporting measures are deemed necessary to improve their educational attainment and to prevent transferring them to special needs schools.<sup>39</sup> Other experts in the area of education and representatives of Roma organisations share the opinion that the educational attainment of Roma children is still low.<sup>40</sup>

Especially the educational situation of Roma with migratory background is not well known; a qualitative study in Austria is planned to be carried out in order to gain information about the educational situation of different Roma communities.<sup>41</sup>

The qualitative study, which is described in section a, shows that the support of parents is important for children's school achievements but is often missing in Roma families.<sup>42</sup> Parents of Roma pupils have low expectations concerning the educational attainment of their children.<sup>43</sup> Also, Roma children

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid., pp. 117f.

<sup>37</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); information requests have been sent to The Association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*), the Ketani Association, the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma, Romano Centro, Roma Service, the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma, NGO Public Aid, Caritas, the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the department of statistics at the government in; all information requests have been answered. Telephonic interviews have been conducted with two experts (one employee of Romano Centro and one employee of the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups).

<sup>38</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 14.

<sup>39</sup> Luciak, M. (2012), *Roma und Sinti in Österreich – auf dem Weg zu höherer Bildung*, in: Die Kupfzeitung (2012), p. 22.

<sup>40</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 360.

<sup>41</sup> Luciak, M. (2012), *Roma und Sinti in Österreich – auf dem Weg zu höherer Bildung*, in: Die Kupfzeitung (2012) p. 22.

<sup>42</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 114.

<sup>43</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by Romano Centro on 27 August 2012.

often do not complete their homework and relatively often miss classes. Children who grew up in a foreign country and came to Austria shortly before they started school or even during the school year have difficulties following classes due to their lack of German language skills, none or poor education they received in their country of origin, or traumatic experiences.<sup>44</sup>

Another reason for the rather low educational achievements of Roma children is the lack of German language skills. German as second language is foreseen in the regular schooling system (*Regelschulwesen*). Remedial education in German is provided either parallel to class, integrated in classes or in addition to classes. Classes in the pupils' mother tongue can be offered as non-obligatory classes.<sup>45</sup> During the school year 2007/2008 two teachers who offer classes in Romanes have been employed at public schools in Vienna.<sup>46</sup> With the exception of recent immigrants, Roma children with migratory background do not attend classes for German as a second language although they have problems in writing German.<sup>47</sup> Furthermore, it is pointed out that Roma sometimes do not assess education as being important or as improving the economic security or social integration. Even if they do, the income of the families is too low to make further education possible for their children (particularly the efforts for school boarding house, school materials and travel costs often exceed the family budget). Furthermore, Roma children often apprentice themselves to contribute to the family income earlier.<sup>48</sup> A qualitative study conducted in 2004 shows that most of the fourteen Roma interviewed in Lower Austria share the opinion that education is important.<sup>49</sup> No information concerning school accessibility (e.g. lack of public transport; Roma populations situated long distance from school, etc.) is available.<sup>50</sup>

The department MA 17 of the Viennese government, in cooperation with Roma associations in Austria, is developing measures to increase the participation of Roma in education and to improve educational attainment of Roma children. A platform, consisting of the department MA 17 of the Viennese government and six Roma associations, is currently working on further developing learning

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<sup>44</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, pp. 114- 117.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., p. 112.

<sup>46</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 11.

<sup>47</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 113.

<sup>48</sup> Response to an information request received from the association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*) on 10 September 2012.

<sup>49</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, pp. 362f.

<sup>50</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); information requests have been sent to The Association of Roma Oberwart, the Ketani Association, the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma, Romano Centro, Roma Service, the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma, NGO Public Aid, Caritas Austria, the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the department of statistics at the government in; all information requests have been answered. A telephonic interview has been conducted with an expert (an employee of the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups).

aid programmes for children between age 6 and 16 and supporting measures for parents. The project is carried out in Vienna.<sup>51</sup>

The Association Romano Centro focuses on education and culture of Roma. Since 1995, learning assistants have provided learning aid for children at children's homes, who attend compulsory school. In the school year 2011/2012, 25 learning assistants supported 132 Roma children in Vienna and close-by municipalities. Learning assistants were free of charge until 2008; since then, they cost three Euros per hour. Exceptions can be made in case parents cannot afford this amount.<sup>52</sup> Furthermore, Romano Centro has offered Roma assistants for Roma children since 2000. Roma assistants, who speak Romanes, have the responsibility to mediate between teachers, pupils and parents. They motivate children and accompany them in class, assist pupils when they are having difficulties in class and try to facilitate access to school for the parents. Furthermore, they arrange additional learning aid possibilities and accompany pupils on school trips.<sup>53</sup>

The “**RomBus**”, a project carried out by Roma-Service, aims at raising awareness of the importance of educational attainment and provides learning aid and counselling for the everyday-life at school in Roma's houses or flats.<sup>54</sup>

According to the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020, measures which aim at improving the attainment of educational career of Roma children are especially supported. Possibilities to improve and intensify the instrument of “Roma assistants” are currently examined. Also, additional measures regarding learning aid provided by private Roma organisations should be supported.<sup>55</sup>

According to an evaluation of learning aid provided by six Roma-associations and sponsored by the city of Vienna, which was conducted in 2008, learning aid fosters the improvement of educational attainment of Roma children and improves the involvement of their parents.<sup>56</sup>

No further information on factors influencing the educational attainment of Roma children (e.g. costs of education, need to work, etc.) is available.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, pp. 16f.

<sup>52</sup> Romano Centro, *Learning aid and work with parents*, available at: [www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3%3Alernhilfe&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de](http://www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3%3Alernhilfe&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de).

<sup>53</sup> Romano Centro, *Roma assistants at Viennese schools*, available at: [http://www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4%3ARoma-assistenten&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de](http://www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4%3ARoma-assistenten&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de).

<sup>54</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, pp. 13f.

<sup>55</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11f.

<sup>56</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p.119.

<sup>57</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); information requests have been sent to The Association of Roma Oberwart, the Ketani Association, the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma, Romano Centro, Roma Service, the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma; NGO Public Aid, Caritas Austria, the Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture, the department of statistics at the government in Burgenland; all information requests have been answered. Telephonic interviews have been conducted with two experts (one employee of Romano Centro and one employee of the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups).

#### **d. Vocational training/qualifications**

The “**Thara-house**”, a cooperation project between Roma and non-Roma organisations, is based in Vienna and offers counselling for Roma aged 13 to 65 years old in the areas of education and employment. For youths, who are between 13 and 24 years old, preparation courses for career entry are offered. Furthermore, the project tries to foster dialogue in the areas of employment (to build networks with Roma organisations), economy, politics and NGOs to gain contacts for Roma in the labour market on a national and international level. The project is well known amongst Roma communities.<sup>58</sup>

The project “**THARA.AMAROTRAJO**”, initiated by the NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*), aims at improving the occupational outlook for Roma. Counselling for Roma aged 13 to 40 years old in the area of employment and social issues is offered. Furthermore, vocational and educational preparation offers and assistance to find apprenticeship openings is provided as well as courses on the following topics: computer skills, internet, job applications and language skills. All offers are free of charge.<sup>59</sup>

In 2007, the Initiative for Minorities (*Initiative Minderheiten*) organised a conference on equal opportunities in the area of employment, education, social issues, law and politics. This conference was sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (*Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz, BMASK*).<sup>60</sup>

#### **e. Different types of schooling (home education, special schools, etc.)**

Since the 1980s<sup>61</sup>, Roma children who have difficulties following classes in the regular schooling system have often been transferred to special needs schools. A requirement for this transfer is the assessment that the child has a disability. This practice is perceived as being problematic, because attending special needs schools is associated with having a disability and is thus most likely influencing the pupil’s further educational career in a negative way.<sup>62</sup> The situation improved during the last years for autochthonous Roma, who are integrated in the regular school system.<sup>63</sup> Non-autochthonous Roma still attend special needs schools more often mostly due to their poor German language skills and/or unfavourable learning environment. First steps to improve the situation of non-autochthonous Roma children can be seen in the introduction of alternative school models instead of special need schools. In 2008, the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture (*Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur, BMUKK*) provided guidelines aiming at integrating Roma children with a foreign first language in the regular school system. If learning difficulties occur, factors that cause these difficulties have to be identified in the first step. Qualified personnel who speak the child’s native language have to be consulted. Poor language skills are no

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<sup>58</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), 3. *Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 31.

<sup>59</sup> NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*), THARA AMAROTRAJO, available at: <http://www.volkshilfe.at/1217,,,2.html>.

<sup>60</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 31.

<sup>61</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 77.

<sup>62</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, pp. 116f.

<sup>63</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, pp. 13f.; Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), 3. *Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 77.



reason to transfer children to special needs schools and assistance to improve the language skills should be provided.<sup>64</sup>

In Austria, no bilingual schools for Roma exist.<sup>65</sup> In the school year 2005/2006, classes in children's first language have been offered in several schools: 253 primary schools, 144 secondary modern schools (*Hauptschulen*), 30 special needs schools, five polytechnic schools and five grammar schools (in Vienna). Amongst 17 languages, Romanes has also been offered. The number of compulsory schools and secondary modern schools that offer classes in children's first language has decreased in Austria with the exception of Vienna during the last years (compulsory schools from 522 to 253, secondary modern schools from 270 to 144).<sup>66</sup> In the school year 2009/2010, 5 children learned Romanes at schools in Burgenland.<sup>67</sup>

#### **f. Issues of segregation and integration**

Learning aid programmes have been provided by Roma organisations for about 15 years and aim at raising awareness of educational attainment amongst Roma and thus improving the social and economic integration of Roma.<sup>68</sup>

No schools in segregated areas, classes or special need schools predominantly attended by Roma children exist in Austria. Roma children are mostly attending regular schools (*Regelschulen*).<sup>69</sup> (For information concerning the question of whether or not Roma children are directly or indirectly excluded and positioned in special needs schools, see section c, e and g.) In post-secondary education, Roma have the same rights and obligations as any other student.<sup>70</sup>

ZARA launched its workshop on discrimination, equal treatment and civil courage on 8 May 2012 in twelve schools in Vienna. Although the workshop does not explicitly focus on Roma, one can assume that it contributes to an improvement of the situation of Roma as well because it sensitises pupils with regard to other cultures and diversity and aims at reducing prejudices. In 2011, 15 workshops have been offered and 239 pupils participated.<sup>71</sup>

#### **g. Experiences and perceptions of discrimination**

Citizenship or migratory background does not have any influence on the access to public schools in Austria. According to §4 (1) of the School Organisation Act (*Schulorganisationsgesetz, SchOG*)

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<sup>64</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 78.

<sup>65</sup> Luciak, M. and Binder, S. (2010), *Informationen und Anregungen zur Umsetzung des Unterrichtsprinzips "Interkulturelles Lernen" – Ein Handbuch für den Bereich allgemeinbildende Pflichtschulen und allgemeinbildende höhere Schulen* Wien, pp. 6f.

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>67</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, pp. 92f.

<sup>68</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 13.

<sup>69</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p.114.

<sup>70</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011 Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 16.

<sup>71</sup> ZARA, *Zara macht Schule*, available at: [www.zara.or.at/index.php/projekte/aktuelles/zara-macht-schule](http://www.zara.or.at/index.php/projekte/aktuelles/zara-macht-schule).

public schools are accessible for all persons regardless of their place of birth, gender, “race”, status, class, language or religious denomination. For private schools, a selection of pupils according to the fulfilment of certain criteria, e.g. language, is foreseen in §4 (3) School Organisation Act.<sup>72</sup> In practice it can be observed that children with migratory background are often transferred to special needs schools (see also section e). In 2011 the system of special needs schools has been strongly criticised by the UN Human Rights Council. Pupils with migratory background are highly concentrated in special needs schools (27.8%). Persons with a foreign background (including students from other EU-states coming to Austria to pursue their academic studies) are represented above average at universities or technical colleges (34.9%). No statistical information on the share of Roma in the group of pupils or students with migratory background is available.<sup>73</sup>

The educational system in Austria is perceived as being highly selective because pupils are transferred to different school types after having completed primary school at the age of ten.<sup>74</sup> However, some attempts to change this early selection are made by introducing an integrated school system for 10 to 14 year old pupils (pilot project “New Grammar School”).<sup>75</sup>

Discrimination of Roma is perceived as playing a major role in the educational system.<sup>76</sup> One case of discrimination in the area of education has been reported in the journal of the association Memorial Service (*Gedenkdienst*). A Roma-child has been insulted and beaten on the head by a classmate. The parents called attention upon this case; the Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture and the school inspector of the federal state investigated the case. Attending on the commission, the teacher said that she/he did not see anything and the parents did not want to file a complaint at a court.<sup>77</sup>

## Major projects or initiatives

In general, the Roma culture and language are not part of teachers’ trainings.<sup>78</sup> It is planned to extend and improve classes in languages of officially acknowledged ethnic groups (*anerkannte Volksgruppen*) present in Austria. One example is the project “**QualiRom**”, which was initiated in 2009 and is being carried out by Venue of languages (*Treffpunkt Sprachen*) at the University of Graz and Romano Centro. Dealing with learning material for Roma and knowing about the European Language Portfolio should be part of the training of teachers, who speak Romanes as their first language.<sup>79</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p.13.

<sup>73</sup> ENARA (2012), *ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria*, p. 16

<sup>74</sup> Ibid, p. 16; Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p.115.

<sup>75</sup> ENARA (2012), *ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria*, p. 16

<sup>76</sup> Kälín Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 359.

<sup>77</sup> Memorial Service (n.n.), (n.n.), available at: <http://www.gedenkdienst.at/>

<sup>78</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 110.

<sup>79</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p.14.

The Private Teacher Training College Foundation Burgenland (*Private Pädagogische Hochschule (PH) Stiftung Burgenland*) implemented an obligatory class on Multilingualism and Intercultural Education for teachers at compulsory schools and special needs schools. The class aims at fostering teachers skills in everyday communication; they can choose Romanes amongst other languages.<sup>80</sup>

In general, not many school books or further learning material providing information on the history, culture and language of Roma are available. Since 2004, the project “**Rombase**” has provided material for teachers and Roma mediators. Furthermore, the Council of Europe provides material concerning the history, culture and language of Roma.<sup>81</sup> Learning material in the language of officially acknowledged ethnic groups is constantly being updated and extended. However, the preparation of these materials is perceived as being a challenge because school books which are used in other countries cannot be easily adapted for Austria; thus, a cooperation with experts, e.g. the department for linguistics of the University of Graz and Roma organisations, is necessary. The “Education Server Burgenland” (*Bildungsserver Burgenland*) provides learning material in languages of ethnic groups (*Volksgruppen*) which are located in Burgenland. The Croatian journal for children “*moj novi mini multi*” is translated in the language of Burgenland Roma and can also be used for school classes and other classes for Roma. The association “Exile” organises events and workshops with school classes to inform pupils about Roma and their culture.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Ibid., p.74.

<sup>81</sup> Luciak, M. (2011), *Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen*, in: Diehm, I./Panagiotopoulou (2011), *Bildungsbedingungen in europäischen Migrationsgesellschaften: Ergebnisse qualitativer Studien in Vor- und Grundschulen*, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, p. 122.

<sup>82</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, pp. 72-74.

### 3 Employment

#### a. Paid employment

In the Council of the European Union' conclusions from 19 May 2011, Member States were requested to facilitate access to employment and particularly a non-discriminatory access to the labour market as well as to turn attention towards an active labour market policy, labour market programmes, adult education, vocational training and support of self-employed persons. Relating to this Austria would pay specific attention to the ability of different actions to improve the social and economic situation of the Roma.<sup>83</sup>

Due to the current legal situation, and furthermore the norms of the Data Protection Act 2000 (*Datenschutzgesetz 2000, DSG 2000*) it is not allowed to label ethnic origin within the data of the Labour Market Service (*Arbeitsmarktservice, AMS*). Therefore no statement can be made on how many Roma have participated in actions related to professional qualification, employment and support financed by the AMS.<sup>84</sup>

There is no general data on the integration of Roma in the labour market available. Nonetheless sample data can be extracted from specific projects or actions.<sup>85</sup>

For example 90 telephone interviews were conducted by Riesenfelder et al. for the Chamber of Labour (*Arbeiterkammer, AK*) with Roma (36 male and 54 female) in 2011.<sup>86</sup> 83% of the interviewed Roma were employed (*unselbständig Beschäftigte*)<sup>87</sup> and 13 % of them held more than one job. Especially women were affected by this phenomenon as every fifth Roma woman interviewed held more than one job.<sup>88</sup> The interviewed Roma were primarily employed (90% of the interviewees) in the services sector (*Dienstleistungssektor*).<sup>89</sup> This high percentage could be explained by the fact that also men from the Roma community were employed mainly (83%) in the sector of services.<sup>90</sup> Roughly one third of Roma interviewees were employed in the areas of retail (*Handel*) and accommodation/gastronomy. Only 11% of the Roma were employed in constructions (*Bau*) and only 6% in the area of producing goods

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<sup>83</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 20.; see also: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0035+0+DOC+XML+V0//DE>.

<sup>84</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 30.

<sup>85</sup> Telephone interview with Usnija Buligovic, project coordinator of THARA projects, Volkshilfe, on 17 August 2012.

<sup>86</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf).

<sup>87</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 271.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid., p.272.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid., p.272.

which is very low compared to other groups of ethnic minorities (29%, resp. 12%). 19% of the Roma were employed in the sector of traffic/transport and storage (*Lagerei*).<sup>91</sup>

The interviewed Roma women were mainly (50%) employed in the sectors of accommodation/gastronomy (often as subsidiaries in the kitchen), retail (as shop assistants) and other services. Especially occupations in the areas of tourism, gastronomy and cleaning have high significance.<sup>92</sup>

80% of the interviewed Roma worked in small companies (with a maximum of 50 employees).<sup>93</sup> Especially Roma women (53% resp. 28% of Roma interviewed) were employed in small companies (with a maximum of ten employees).<sup>94</sup> 77% of the interviewed Roma worked as unskilled or semi-skilled (*angelernt*) workers, compared to 60% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority.<sup>95</sup>

14% of the interviewed Roma were only marginally employed (*geringfügig beschäftigt*), compared to only 4% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority, which could probably be connected with the relative high percentage of persons below 24 years of age (19% Roma compared to 15% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority) who were marginally employed in addition to a vocational training course or studying.<sup>96</sup>

The duration of employment at the last working place amounts to an average of 3.83 years for the Roma interviewed, compared to 4.74 years concerning migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority.<sup>97</sup> 41% Roma worked part time, compared to 26% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority.<sup>98</sup> 60% of the interviewed Roma worked on weekends and holidays on a regular basis compared to 42% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority.<sup>99</sup> 61% Roma worked overtime (55% migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority), and 14% of them did not get paid for it.<sup>100</sup>

Regarding the employment situation of Roma in the Oberwart district, a survey was conducted in 2004 in the framework of the EQUAL integration project “Mri Buti”. The interviews were conducted by a member of the Roma Community.<sup>101</sup> According to this study, Roma women worked in simple/unskilled job positions in textile, clothing, leather and electronic industries. Male Roma mainly

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<sup>91</sup> Ibid., p.272; see also: Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 21

<sup>92</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 272; see also: Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 21.

<sup>93</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 274.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid., p. 274.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid., p. 277; see also: Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 21.

<sup>96</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 278.

<sup>97</sup> Ibid., p. 278.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid, p. 279.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid, p. 280.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid., p. 282.

<sup>101</sup> Biffl, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, FN 8.

worked in the metal industry and in the area of constructions. The interviewed Roma mainly worked in large companies and indicated that they suffered less personal discrimination in larger companies compared to smaller ones.<sup>102</sup>

Through the dislocation of simple manufacturing activities into the East since the 1990s, the access for Roma to the labour market has declined.

#### **b. Self-employment**

Within special groups of Roma, like the Lovara and the Sinti, self-employment, especially different trading activities, still appears to be an important source of income. Women often trade textiles, whereas men are increasingly engaged in trading used cars. Furthermore, it appears that “new” professions within self-employment gain increased importance, e.g. in the area of web design and graphics.<sup>103</sup>

Very little is known about the living conditions of Roma with a migration background engaged in self-employment, who probably constitute a large group.<sup>104</sup>

As a service for work seekers, employees and companies, special yellow pages with a list of Roma employers is currently developed in framework of a “**THARA**” project.<sup>105</sup>

#### **c. Communal work and other forms of payment schemes**

Non-standard forms of employment like marginal part-time employment, so-called freelance contracts (*freie Dienstverträge*), and temporary agency work appear to play a rather important role for Roma, compared to other groups of the population.<sup>106</sup>

According to the study conducted by Riesenfelder et. al., the proportion of Roma working in the field of labour leasing is relatively high: 9% of the interviewed persons compared to 2% of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority. Men are more concerned than women: 18% of Roma are leased labourers.<sup>107</sup>

#### **d. Unemployment**

As there was no national strategy on Roma inclusion for a long time, Roma often did and still do not manage to enter the labour market successfully. As a result, they are a minority group that is,

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<sup>102</sup> Biffi, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 125.

<sup>103</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 20.

<sup>104</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>105</sup> Regarding THARA-projects see Projects/Initiatives and: [www.thara-biznis.at/](http://www.thara-biznis.at/).

<sup>106</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 21.

<sup>107</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 278.

especially due to language barriers, excluded from the official services for the unemployed. To earn a living, Roma have to find other ways of self-subsistence.<sup>108</sup>

According to the study conducted by Riesenfelder et. al., 13% Roma were unemployed. Men are more concerned than women: every fifth man was unemployed at the time of the study. Probably not only unemployment but especially long-time unemployment is a specific problem in this group.<sup>109</sup>

In the Oberwart district a high percentage of long-time unemployment of Roma was found<sup>110</sup>: the labour force participation rate (*Erwerbsquote*) for persons between 15 and 64 years old amounted to 63.9% in 2004, that was a little below the Austrian average of 69%. The rate of employment (*Beschäftigungsquote*) amounted to 20.8% and therefore lay clearly under the Austrian average of 65%. Also the rate of unemployment (*Arbeitslosenquote*) of 67.4% was much higher than the Austrian average (11%). The rate of unemployment of Roma women is a little lower than that of Roma men (63.2% compared to 70.4%).<sup>111</sup>

More detailed data and information regarding Burgenland Roma outside the area of Oberwart is not available, but it appears that many of those who left Burgenland towards the greater Vienna area are nowadays showing a labour market attachment comparable to the one of the majority population.<sup>112</sup>

Also some assessments from inside the Roma community seem to be credible in stating that young Roma do not present a higher percentage of unemployment compared to that of non-Roma.<sup>113</sup>

A variety of factors is responsible for the high rate of unemployment of Roma or the high rate of employment of Roma only in low wages sectors: low school education, migration status and poor health are the most important factors to be mentioned.<sup>114</sup> Other factors are the reduction of need for unskilled or semi-skilled workers, replacement of Roma through foreign workers as well as societal stigmatisation of Roma.<sup>115</sup> In a broader sense other factors come along like lacking assistance in child care or a lack of mobility.<sup>116</sup>

#### Low school education:

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<sup>108</sup> ENARA (2012), *ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria*, p. 36.

<sup>109</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 271.

<sup>110</sup> Biffi, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 125.

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 126.

<sup>112</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 20.

<sup>113</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 31.

<sup>114</sup> Biffi, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 125.

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 126.

<sup>116</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 358f.

The disadvantages Roma face in the labour market correlate with their low school education. Low interest in education and poor employment chances start a vicious circle which can hardly be broken.<sup>117</sup>

According to the study of Riesenfelder et. al. Roma show a significant low level of education. 52% of the interviewed Roma have enjoyed only compulsory education at a maximum, 19% have a university-entrance diploma (*Matura*) and only 4% have finished university, compared to 24% persons not belonging to an ethnic minority who have only enjoyed a compulsory education, 24% with an university-entrance diploma and 15% who finished university. Thus, the interviewed Roma show a significant substandard level of formal education.<sup>118</sup> Andrea Härle estimates that the rate of illiteracy among Roma women is higher than that of Roma men.<sup>119</sup>

Other estimations say that 90% of the Roma only hold a Certificate of Secondary Education (*Hauptschulabschluss*). Further education or vocational training is rare, especially in rural areas. A lot of young Roma women drop out of school to marry. Marrying and getting children at an early age affects Roma women as well as Roma men, but Roma women are affected by this in their attempt to access the labour market in a different way than Roma men.<sup>120</sup> Yet, it can be noted that parents tend to send their children to higher schools more often than in the past.<sup>121</sup>

In Oberwart 28.8% of the surveyed Roma over 15 years old do not finish compulsory education (*Pflichtschule*), 59.1% hold a Certificate of Secondary Education, 3% have finished a vocational training, 4.6% hold a Certificate of a vocational school (*berufsbildende mittlere Schule*) and 4,5% have finished higher education. Roma men tend to undergo vocational training while Roma women tend to go to secondary schools.<sup>122</sup> Under senior/older Roma the lack of education is still much higher: 37.5% have only finished a special school (*Sonderschule*) while 50% hold a Certificate of Compulsory School (*Pflichtschulabschluss*).<sup>123</sup>

A survey from 2008 showed that about 40% of persons between 25 and 64 years old with low qualifications do not participate in the labour market. It can be assumed that the percentage of Roma in this group is relatively high.<sup>124</sup>

#### Migration:

The fact that Roma are also often migrants correlates with low education levels and leads to unemployment or employment in low wages sectors.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>117</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), 3. *Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 29.

<sup>118</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 290.

<sup>119</sup> Telephone interview with Andrea Härle, Verein Romano Centro, on 27th August 2012.

<sup>120</sup> Telephone interview with Andrea Härle, Verein Romano Centro, on 27th August 2012.

<sup>121</sup> Aurora (2010) *MigrantInnen und Armut*, available at:

[www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/public/Dokumente/Projekte/AURORA/AURORApus/AuroraPlus\\_Bericht\\_MigrantInnen.pdf](http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user_upload/public/Dokumente/Projekte/AURORA/AURORApus/AuroraPlus_Bericht_MigrantInnen.pdf).

<sup>122</sup> Biffl, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 127.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Bock-Schappelwein, J./Falk, M. (2009), *Die Bedeutung von Bildung im Spannungsfeld zwischen Staat, Markt und Gesellschaft*, p. 9.



The family reunification policies (*Familienzusammenführung*) disadvantage women because of their residence permit status (*Aufenthaltsstatus*), as mostly it depends on the status of their husbands.<sup>126</sup> Another problem is the lack of information regarding the nostrification of qualifications which Roma achieved in their countries of origin. 20% of the interviewed Roma in the frame of the study of Riesenfelder et al. did not know about this possibility.<sup>127</sup>

#### Poor health:

Especially older Roma suffer from a weak health status. Overweight and abuse of nicotine are most common problems (see Chapter HEALTH)<sup>128</sup>. But also mental-health problems are widely spread.<sup>129</sup>

#### Begging:

Begging can be a way of living for people to ensure their survival, especially for women who are unemployed or have dropped out of their work places in times of economic crises. Most of the begging Roma in different Austrian cities come from Romania, Slovakia or Bulgaria. They do not want to stay in Austria on a permanent basis but come for several days or weeks. Begging is not connected with any capital expenditure except the travel costs to Austria (which could be very high for them). Begging does not lead to any deletion of social transfers in the countries of origin.<sup>130</sup>

### **e. Child labour**

No data or information is available regarding Roma child labour in Austria.<sup>131</sup> Child labour is prohibited in Austria. Child labour plays a role in some family enterprises and in farming but is not ethnicised.<sup>132</sup>

### **f. Old age pension**

No data or information is available regarding old age pension of Roma.<sup>133</sup>

### **g. Experiences and perceptions of discrimination**

According to the survey in the Oberwart district, the interviewed Roma faced many experiences of discrimination in small companies.<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 37.

<sup>126</sup> Telephone interview with Andrea Härle, Verein Romano Centro, on 27th August 2012.

<sup>127</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 294.

<sup>128</sup> Biffel, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 128.

<sup>129</sup> Interview with a former project assistant in the Mri Buti project, Oberwart; see: Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 94.

<sup>130</sup> Thuswald, M. (2008), *Betteln als Beruf? Wissensaneignung und Kompetenzerwerb von Bettlerinnen in Wien*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna.

<sup>131</sup> Email from Gilda Horvath, Verein Lovara, on 31 August 2012.

<sup>132</sup> Telephone interview with Andrea Härle on 27 August 2012.

<sup>133</sup> Email from Gilda Horvath, Verein Lovara, on 27 August 2012.

Also waiting for an asylum decision for years, which is connected with restricted working permissions, could be defined as a form of discrimination. In the Weinviertel some of the 14 interviewed Bosnian Roma are still waiting for this decision for over ten years.<sup>135</sup>

Begging Roma are often characterised by using problematic terms, and divided in two subgroups: criminal – mostly male – mafia bosses who exploit the other group – mainly women, children and persons with disabilities. This leads to a criminalisation of all begging Roma, racist or anti-ziganistic statements against them as well as to massive acts of displacement.<sup>136</sup>

### Prohibition of begging:

Begging is prohibited in Austrian provinces (*Bundesländer*) with the exception of Burgenland. This particularly affects Roma negatively as Roma from East-European countries form the majority of beggars in Austria.<sup>137</sup> In 2011 the province of Styria, for example, installed a prohibition of begging through the §3a amendment of the Styrian Security Act (*Landessicherheitsgesetz*). Therefore begging is prohibited in public places and is punished with an administrative fine (*Verwaltungsstrafe*) of up to €2.000. The communities can name zones of exception (*Ausnahmezonen*) where begging is allowed.<sup>138</sup> Some cities like the Styrian capital Graz have not named any zones of exception so far. In other provinces begging could lead to administrative fines of up to €1.000 (Niederösterreich)<sup>139</sup>, €720 (Oberösterreich)<sup>140</sup>, €700 (Kärnten<sup>141</sup>, Wien<sup>142</sup>), €500 (Salzburg)<sup>143</sup>, €400 (Vorarlberg)<sup>144</sup> or €360

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<sup>134</sup> Biffl, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 125.

<sup>135</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und -welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p.357.

<sup>136</sup> Thuswald, M. (2008), *Betteln als Beruf? Wissensaneignung und Kompetenzerwerb von Bettlerinnen in Wien*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna; ENARA (2010), *ENAR Shadow Report 2009/2010: Racism and Discrimination in Austria*, p. 15.

<sup>137</sup> ENAR (2010), *ENAR Shadow Report 2009/2010: Racism and Discrimination in Austria*; Thuswald, M. (2008), *Betteln als Beruf? Wissensaneignung und Kompetenzerwerb von Bettlerinnen in Wien*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 87; available at [http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/public/Dokumente/News/b\\_wie\\_betteln\\_Bettelverbote\\_in\\_Osterreich\\_HSchoibl.pdf](http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user_upload/public/Dokumente/News/b_wie_betteln_Bettelverbote_in_Osterreich_HSchoibl.pdf)

<sup>138</sup> Styria, *Gesetz vom 18. Jänner 2005, mit dem ein Steiermärkisches Landes Sicherheitsgesetz erlassen wird (StLSG)*, LGBl. Nr. 24/2005 last modified by LGBl. Nr. 37/2011, §3a Abs. 2.

<sup>139</sup> Austria, *Niederösterreichisches Polizeistrafgesetz*, LGBl 135/75 last amended by LBGL. 107/2012, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrNo/LRNI\\_2012107/LRNI\\_2012107.html](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrNo/LRNI_2012107/LRNI_2012107.html).

<sup>140</sup> Austria, *Oberösterreichisches Polizeistrafgesetz*. LGBl. 36/1979 last amended by LGBl. Nr. 36/2011, available at:

[www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrOO&Dokumentnummer=LOO40011184&ResultFunctionToken=fc0a4ba-24c5-4626-9e09-f156e7e1f183&Position=1&Kundmachungsorgan=&Index=&Titel=&Gesetzesnummer=&VonArtikel=&BisArtikel=&VonParagraf=&BisParagraf=&VonAnlage=&BisAnlage=&Typ=&Kundmachungsnummer=&Unterzeichnungsdatum=&FassungVom=08.10.2012&NormabschnittnummerKombination=Und&ImRisSeit=Undefined&ResultPageSize=100&Suchworte=bettelei](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrOO&Dokumentnummer=LOO40011184&ResultFunctionToken=fc0a4ba-24c5-4626-9e09-f156e7e1f183&Position=1&Kundmachungsorgan=&Index=&Titel=&Gesetzesnummer=&VonArtikel=&BisArtikel=&VonParagraf=&BisParagraf=&VonAnlage=&BisAnlage=&Typ=&Kundmachungsnummer=&Unterzeichnungsdatum=&FassungVom=08.10.2012&NormabschnittnummerKombination=Und&ImRisSeit=Undefined&ResultPageSize=100&Suchworte=bettelei).

<sup>141</sup> Austria, §27 *Kärntner Landessicherheitsgesetz*, LGBl. 74/1977, last amended by LGBl. 44/2011, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Dokumentnummer=LKT40006499&ResultFunctionToken=81b](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrK&Dokumentnummer=LKT40006499&ResultFunctionToken=81b)

(Tirol)<sup>145</sup>. The Austrian Constitutional Court (*Verfassungsgerichtshof, VfGH*) is currently judging on the constitutionality of these regulations.<sup>146</sup> The judgments of the VfGH regarding the prohibition of begging in Carinthia, Salzburg and Upper Austria were issued in June 2012: prohibitions of begging without any exception are unconstitutional. They constitute a violation of the Freedom of Expression (Art. 10 ECHR).<sup>147</sup> The decisions regarding the prohibition of begging in Graz and Vienna will be expected in autumn.

## Major projects or initiatives

Roma are, for example, employed by local authorities in Vienna or Oberwart, Burgenland. At least one Roma is employed in the department for integration and diversity in Vienna (*Magistratsabteilung 17 - Integration und Diversität*).<sup>148</sup>

In 2009 an advisory board for migration and integration (*Migrations- und Integrationsbeirat, MIB*) was set up in the city of Linz. One person from the Roma community was elected as member to bring in Roma concerns regarding questions of integration and diversity and to balance possible marginalisation.<sup>149</sup>

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<sup>142</sup> Austria, §2 Wiener Landessicherheitsgesetz, LGBl. 51/1993, last amended by LGBl. 25/2010, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrW/LRWI\\_I110\\_000/LRWI\\_I110\\_000.pdf](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokumente/LrW/LRWI_I110_000/LRWI_I110_000.pdf)

<sup>143</sup> Austria, §29 Salzburger Landessicherheitsgesetz, LGBl 57/2009 last amended by LBGl. 66/2012, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000632](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrSbg&Gesetzesnummer=20000632).

<sup>144</sup> Austria, Gesetz zur Regelung öffentlicher Sammlungen, LGBl. 48/1969 last amended by LGBl. 58/2001, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrVbg&Dokumentnummer=LRVB\\_2200\\_000\\_20020101\\_99999999&ResultFunctionToken=64f81f5a-ec1a-41a5-a0bc-4900fc5f7c42&Position=1&Titel=&Lgblnummer=&Typ=&Index=&FassungVom=08.10.2012&ImRisSeite=Undefined&ResultPageSize=50&Suchworte=sammlung](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/Dokument.wxe?Abfrage=LrVbg&Dokumentnummer=LRVB_2200_000_20020101_99999999&ResultFunctionToken=64f81f5a-ec1a-41a5-a0bc-4900fc5f7c42&Position=1&Titel=&Lgblnummer=&Typ=&Index=&FassungVom=08.10.2012&ImRisSeite=Undefined&ResultPageSize=50&Suchworte=sammlung).

<sup>145</sup> Austria, Tirol Landespolizeigesetz, LGBl. 60/1976 last amended by LGBl. Nr. 94/2012, available at: [www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrT&Gesetzesnummer=20000176](http://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=LrT&Gesetzesnummer=20000176).

<sup>146</sup> Der Standard (2011), 'Das Bettelverbot wurde in fünf Bundesländern angefochten', 14 December 2011.

<sup>147</sup> Constitutional Court case numbers G 132/11, G 155/10 and G 118/11 of 30 June 2012.

<sup>148</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 30.

<sup>149</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30.

New employment possibilities were found for former begging persons: they sell the magazines MEGAPHON or global player. In Graz, four Roma work in the pilot project “**Sauberes Uni-Viertel**” of the cleaning company Saubermacher as fully employed workers.<sup>150</sup>

According to information from the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (*Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und Konsumentenschutz, BMASK*) the actions of the Labour Market Service do not provide for any special projects for ethnic minorities or groups of migrants. People with specific problems regarding their access to the labour market will be supported primarily and sustainably.<sup>151</sup> Some of the listed projects for Roma were financed through the (then) Ministry of Economy and Labour and the BMASK.<sup>152</sup>

The project “**Mri Buti**” (2003-2004) in Oberwart, conducted by Caritas and financed through the European Social Fund and the (then) Ministry of Economy and Labour, was developed as part of the bigger EU co-financed project “**EQUAL/IdA**” (Integration through employment). The EQUAL programme (2000-2006) was part of the EU strategy to create more and better work places.<sup>153</sup> The project “**Mri Buti**” had three modules concerning employment, qualification and networking.<sup>154</sup> It was implemented between 2005 and 2008 and 86 Roma participated. The objective of this project was empowerment through actions of education and employment for the labour market. Around 30% of the participants were integrated in the first labour market, i.e. the labour market without state benefits compared to the subsidised second labour market.<sup>155</sup>

Since 2005 the “**THARA**” projects (Caritas) have conducted a series of actions for the integration of Roma in the labour market.<sup>156</sup> The projects include vocational counselling, counselling on education, intercultural coaching and training regarding the labour market. All Roma regardless of gender, origin, language, belonging to an association, etc. can participate in the THARA projects.<sup>157</sup>

“**THARA house**” (*Haus*) was an initiative in the framework of the EQUAL programme in the fifth district of Vienna which supported youth Roma regarding their access to education, social and cultural needs and the labour market.<sup>158</sup> 325 Roma participated in this project.

The project “**THARA Amarotraje**” in Vienna ran from 2007-2008.<sup>159</sup> It covered an information centre with an integrated pilot action for Roma between 13 and 40 years old. The target groups were unemployed persons, jobseekers as well as persons at risk of unemployment.<sup>160</sup>

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<sup>150</sup> Caritas (2011), Megaphon 10/2011; available at: <http://saubermacher.at/web/at/archiv-1547-die-roma-raeumen-auf>.

<sup>151</sup> Compare to this the conclusions of the Council of the European Union from 19th May 2011: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0035+0+DOC+XML+V0//DE>

<sup>152</sup> Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 55.

<sup>153</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 57.

<sup>154</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 92.

<sup>155</sup> See: ORF Burgenland (2007): <http://bglv1.orf.at/stories/264450>; see also APA (2005):

[http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS\\_20050919\\_OTS0170/roma-beschaefigungsprojekt-mri-buti-meine-arbeit-gesichert](http://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20050919_OTS0170/roma-beschaefigungsprojekt-mri-buti-meine-arbeit-gesichert).

<sup>156</sup> Volkshilfe Österreich, THARA Projekte, available at: <http://www.volkshilfe.at/THARA>.

<sup>157</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>158</sup> Volkshilfe Österreich, Projekt THARA Hause, available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1194,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1194,,,2.html); see also: Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), p. 31; Gneisz, E. (2010), p. 72.

<sup>159</sup> See: Volkshilfe Österreich, Endbericht THARA Amarotraje (2009), available at: <http://www.volkshilfe.at/1217,,,2.html>.

The project “**THARA – Roma in Transition**” ran from 2008 to 2009 and had two modules: Amarotrajó, an information centre regarding the labour market and Nevodrom; young Roma could participate in an 18 week course to prepare for accessing the labour market.<sup>161</sup>

The project “**THARA – counselling and dialogue**” (*Beratung und Dialog*) was the continuation of the prior THARA projects and ran from 2009 to 2011. 120 Roma participated in the action Amarotrajó and 16 youth Roma participated in the action Nevodrom.<sup>162</sup>

The project “**THARA – Romani Butji**” ran from 2011 to 2012.<sup>163</sup> It had 4 modules: sensitising (for multipliers), empowerment, community work and public relation. The target groups of this project were Roma who plan to establish their own business. One output of the project was the brochure “Romnja/Roma in the labour market”.

The project “**THARA – Novi Vidici**” is the continuation of THARA – Romani Butji and runs from 2012 to 2013.<sup>164</sup> Compared to its predecessor it covers the fifth module “counselling events” which means workshops with a musical programme. The development of yellow pages with a list of Roma employers is also part of the project.<sup>165</sup>

The information centre for Roma in Oberwart works in close connection with the local Labour Market Service. It offers counselling and information regarding possibilities of employment as well as support regarding and preparing job applications.<sup>166</sup>

The Vinzenz Community of Graz (*Vinzenzgemeinschaft*) organises some employment projects for Roma. The main target groups of these projects are Roma from the Rimavská Sobota district in Slovakia. In one of the projects Roma produce bike trailers. In another project, which is co-financed by the Lions Club, four Roma women completed a vocational training as healthcare assistants at the LKH Stolzalpe (*Pflegehelferinnen*).<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>160</sup> Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 72.

<sup>161</sup> See: Volkshilfe Österreich, Endbericht THARA – Roma in Transition, available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1235,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1235,,,2.html); see also: Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 75.

<sup>162</sup> Volkshilfe Österreich, Tätigkeitsbericht THARA – Beratung und Dialog (2010), p. 6.; available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1224,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1224,,,2.html); see also: [www.bmask.gv.at/cms/site/index\\_presseaussendung.html?doc=CMS1277713867186](http://www.bmask.gv.at/cms/site/index_presseaussendung.html?doc=CMS1277713867186).

<sup>163</sup> See: Volkshilfe Österreich, Endbericht THARA Romani Butji (2012), available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1430,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1430,,,2.html).

<sup>164</sup> Volkshilfe Österreich, THARA – Novi Vidici, available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1462,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1462,,,2.html).

<sup>165</sup> See: [www.thara-biznis.at/](http://www.thara-biznis.at/).

<sup>166</sup> Verein Roma Oberwart, Projekt Roma\_Beratungsstelle, available at: [www.verein-roma.at/html/projekte.htm](http://www.verein-roma.at/html/projekte.htm); see also: Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 21; Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 31.

<sup>167</sup> Caritas (2011), Megaphon 10/1011, available at: <http://saubermacher.at/web/at/archiv-1547-die-romaraeumen-auf/>; ORF Steiermark (2012), available at: <http://steiermark.orf.at/news/stories/2523274/>

## 4 Housing and Neighbourhood

### a. Quality and affordability of housing

The primary settlements of Roma are located in the Austrian provinces Burgenland, Vienna and Lower Austria. In Burgenland's district Oberwart there is a rather visible settlement of autochthonous Roma called "Am Anger". After a bomb attack in the 1990s (see part f), the bad housing conditions in this settlement came to public attention and subsequent attempts were made to renovate it. In spite of that, a considerable amount of former residents moved away, mostly to public or social housing in urban areas. Altogether the housing situation of Roma in Oberwart has improved since the 1990s although the settlement "Am Anger" still seems to represent a marginalised settlement.<sup>168</sup> Solely for the rural areas in Burgenland, a limited access to public utilities is stated (that is also due to lacking public transport) but not for those living in Vienna or other urban areas.<sup>169</sup>

Quantitative data on the housing conditions does not exist separately for Roma in Austria.<sup>170</sup> Data of a qualitative survey among autochthonous Roma living in the Weinviertel region in Lower Austria (14 interviewees aged between 19 and 68 participated in the survey) indicates that most of the households are over-crowded; in many cases parents share a bedroom with their children, which is used as a living room during the day. Furthermore, many dwellings are in poor condition: leaking roofs, living in condemned houses without electricity or water or at least substandard living (without sanitary installations inside). Most of the Roma who were interviewed for the survey state that they would change their living conditions if they had enough money. Particularly they would carry out renovation measures, buy new furniture, rent a larger dwelling or at least a dwelling for their own family.<sup>171</sup> According to an expert there are still small Roma settlements located in the south of Burgenland, where no electricity or water supply is available in some houses, and therefore water wells still exist.<sup>172</sup>

Concrete initiatives to improve the living conditions were carried out for the Roma-settlement in Oberwart only. According to an expert these included the bituminisation of the road that leads to the settlement, landscaping the environment of the settlement, rendering houses and completing renovation measures of the roofs on small houses.<sup>173</sup>

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<sup>168</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 14.

<sup>169</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Roma NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012 and response to an information request received from the association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*) on 10 September 2012.

<sup>170</sup> Response to an information request received from the Department of Statistics at the government in Burgenland (*Abteilung für Statistik der Burgenländischen Landesregierung*) on 16 August 2012.

<sup>171</sup> Kälín Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und -welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 355.

<sup>172</sup> Response to an information request received from the association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*) on 10 September 2012.

<sup>173</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*) on 30 August 2012.

## b. Access to social or private housing

In Vienna access to municipal housing was opened for people without Austrian citizenship in 2006. Beside social needs, the only remaining requirement for municipal housing is having had the main residence in Vienna for at least two years. Access to municipal housing or subsidies for house building (*Wohnbauförderung*) is also not restricted to Austrian citizens in other provinces.<sup>174</sup> However it is unclear to which degree immigrants of Roma origin have been benefiting from these reforms. There are no reports indicating that Roma would directly be discriminated against in accessing public housing in Vienna.<sup>175</sup>

A project called “**Equality in Housing**” was co-funded by the European Commission and national funders. It was collaborative work carried out by the Austrian NGOs Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*), the litigation association of NGOs against discrimination (*Klagsverband*) and the Federal Association for help for the homeless (*Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe*). The project is divided into three parts: the first is a survey assessing the access to public and social housing of disadvantaged groups, particularly migrants in Austria. The survey is divided into a legal part that examines the European and Austrian legal regulations concerning the allocation of public/social housing with a special interest regarding the implementation of the EU antidiscrimination directives. Furthermore the possibilities of complaints were investigated. Building on the findings, recommendations addressing legislative bodies were addressed. The social survey analyses the administrative practices in the allocation of public/social housing, with a specific interest in discrimination and disadvantages experienced by migrants in particular. The second part of the project consists of advanced training measures and expert workshops to identify good practices for an anti-discriminatory allocation of social housing. Finally the third part consists of policy counselling and public relations.<sup>176</sup>

Within the social survey, experts who are responsible for the allocation of public housing across Austria were interviewed. In general they emphasise that the allocation proceedings are free from discrimination and respectively exclusion of certain social groups. According to the experts’ perceptions, the allocation of public housing follows the public procurement regulations and therefore focuses on the relevant social aspects (i.e. the housing and living situation of the applicants such as income, urgency of housing supply, current living situation). Based on these indicators, a waiting list is prepared and issues of citizenship or ethnic origin do not play a role in the process, at least not officially. However, the interviewed NGO experts relativise this perception with reference to their clients. According to them, discrimination indeed plays a role in practice. They criticise the lack of transparency in the allocation of public housing, which entails the necessity of further counselling and sometimes also the need for interventions for the purpose of their clients. According to the interviewed NGO members, the allocation of public housing becomes even more complicated for those responsible if questions of co-existence, integration and ethnic conflicts arise within the residential environment.<sup>177</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (*Bundeskanzleramt, BKA*) (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, pp. 26ff.

<sup>175</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, pp. 21f.

<sup>176</sup> See: [www.volkshilfe.at/1351,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1351,,,2.html).

<sup>177</sup> Schoibl, H. (2011), *Equality in Housing*, pp. 8ff.

Regarding the Roma settlement “Am Anger”, the mayor of the Oberwart district stated in an interview that the municipality will not collect a rent for housing in the settlement. Until now, the inhabitants have to pay for electricity and gas only.<sup>178</sup>

However, concerning access to governmental homeless institutions by virtue of the city law on social welfare, persons who cannot prove more than five years of continuous residence in Austria and those without access to the Austrian labour market are excluded from the system of social assistance and therefore from access to homeless institutions. Although access to homeless institutions and social welfare is independent from citizenship, many migrants and members of ethnic minorities (particularly those of short-term residence) are confronted with various obstacles and complex regulations in this regard.<sup>179</sup> Yet, there is no data that explicitly deals with Roma.<sup>180</sup>

Regarding access to private housing there is evidence of discrimination. Furthermore, due to financial constraints Roma are largely forced to renting low standard dwellings (see section f).

### **c. Location and access to public utilities and infrastructure**

Commonly, most Roma with enduring residence in Austria are sedentary, travelling is a rare phenomenon and only practised by a very limited number of Austrian Sinti families or by Roma from other countries (e. g. France and Germany) who visit Austria on a temporary basis.<sup>181</sup>

Most of the Roma immigrants from the Balkans are residing in the greater Vienna area. The number of Roma in general decreases when going from the eastern to the western side of Austria. The greatest majority of the Burgenland Roma (which are mostly autochthonous Roma) resides in rural areas or in small towns. The Austrian Federal Chancellery acknowledges economic disadvantages and particularities due to the peripheral position of ethnic minorities in certain areas, particularly outside the settlements in rural regions in the Provinces Burgenland and Carinthia. For these, the Austrian government funds Roma NGOs to offer education and social meeting points.<sup>182</sup> However, the Austrian Federal Chancellery acknowledges that also members of the majority population live in these areas and therefore are affected by disadvantages too.<sup>183</sup>

Predominantly Roma who do not declare themselves as being Roma have migrated from Burgenland to eastern Austrian cities, in particular to Vienna. Today they are largely assimilated in the majority population.<sup>184</sup> Regarding Vienna, the Federal Chancellery does not suppose that there are separate settlements in certain neighbourhoods, therefore having access to public utilities and infrastructure should be given.<sup>185</sup>

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<sup>178</sup> Kaspar, R. (2009), *Die Burgenland-Roma Die Situation der jüngsten österreichischen Volksgruppe 15 Jahre nach ihrer Anerkennung*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 74 and p. 99.

<sup>179</sup> ENARA (2012), *ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria*, p. 14.

<sup>180</sup> Response to an information request received from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (*Bundesministerium für Arbeit, Soziales und KonsumentInnenenschutz, BMASK*) on 30 August 2012.

<sup>181</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, pp. 22f.

<sup>182</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 17.

<sup>183</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>184</sup> Halwachs, D.W. et al. (2004), *Roma and Romani in Austria*, p. 2.

<sup>185</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 83.



Apart from the initiatives to improve the Roma settlement in Burgenland which are completed by now, no other initiatives or projects are known. Such initiatives depend on the engagement of the respective municipalities.<sup>186</sup>

#### **d. Security of tenure (including forced evictions and expulsions)**

There is no specific regulation of security of tenure targeting explicitly Roma in Austria.<sup>187</sup>

There is no data available concerning forced evictions affecting Roma. In 2011, 5.253 forced evictions were executed by the district courts all over Austria.<sup>188</sup> There is no information available whether alternative accommodation has been provided, although there is no evidence that it has been offered or organised.<sup>189</sup>

There is no separate data available for Roma, but EU-SILC data indicates that migrants (in particular those at risk of poverty) live more often in private renting or social housing in large blocks of flats than in owned homes. One explanation for this is the restricted access to subsidies for house building (*Wohnbauförderung*) for migrants in Austria because the land acquisition permission (*Grunderwerbsgenehmigung*) is necessary. For migrants, it is a burden to receive the land acquisition permissions, therefore in practice they have to acquire Austrian citizenship in order to get access to government funded home ownership.<sup>190</sup>

According to an expert there are no support schemes for buying a house or apartment explicitly targeting Roma. However, Roma should also not be excluded from the general supporting schemes if they meet the requirements for the entitlements.<sup>191</sup>

Rented accommodation entails monthly fix costs and for poor persons they are high. The definition of costs for housing includes rent, overheads (*Betriebskosten*), electricity, home loan interests (*Hypothekarzinsbelastung*), maintenance and repair. 34% of persons without Austrian citizenship spend more than a quarter of their income for housing, among naturalised citizens it is 28%. Even if the objective burden of housing expenses is the same, the subjective perception of the material burden varies by education level as findings of the EU-SILC indicate that 18% of persons with compulsory school perceive a financial burden due to housing expenses but only 6% of the academics do so. Therefore, absolutely perceived, persons with a high income have more money available for consumption even if the share of housing-related expenses is the same when compared to that of persons belonging to marginalised groups.<sup>192</sup>

57% of the persons at risk of poverty stated that they live in over-crowded housing in urban areas. In larger cities, 14% of the persons at risk of poverty but only 3% of the persons not at risk of poverty are

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<sup>186</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Roma NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012, a response received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012, a response received from Roma-Association Lovara-Roma Austria (*Lovara-Roma Österreich*) on 31 August 2012 and a response received from the association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*) on 10 September 2012.

<sup>187</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012.

<sup>188</sup> See: [www.bawo.at/de/content/wohnungslosigkeit/delogierung.html](http://www.bawo.at/de/content/wohnungslosigkeit/delogierung.html).

<sup>189</sup> Schoibl, H. (2011), *Equality in Housing*, p. 7.

<sup>190</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 45f.

<sup>191</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012 and response to an information request received from the association of Roma Oberwart on 10 September 2012.

<sup>192</sup> Datler, G./Mahidi, M. (2009), *Armutgefährdung und Wohnsituation - Modul zur Wohnsituation in EU-SILC 2007*, p. 462.

unable to heat their flat in an adequate way. Particularly in rural areas persons at risk of poverty are disadvantaged in accessing the necessary facilities.<sup>193</sup>

#### e. Residential segregation

In Austria there are no segregated and marginalised Roma settlements to a similar extent to that of other Central and Eastern European countries. However, many Austrian Roma live in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and districts with a higher density of people with low income. Such areas show a rather high variance of different social strata and ethnic backgrounds (including rather large shares of people without a migration background). However, such areas are not considered real problem areas or social ghettos.<sup>194</sup>

According to an interviewed expert, residential segregation of Roma still exists. Particularly in Burgenland, there are so called Roma settlements located at the margins of other settlements. Mainly because of compensatory damages due to the NS regime, several Roma settlements were terminated. In general, Roma settlements are grown historically and not because of legal regulations, although currently there are no noticeable tendencies enforcing or initiating such segregation.<sup>195</sup>

There is neither official nor unofficial data available, however as travelling Sinti and Roma are often said to be rejected in normal campsites (see section f), therefore having “wild camping” as the only option. “Wild camping” is accompanied by a lack of access to water or electricity and it often entails problems with the neighbourhood and authorities.<sup>196</sup> One such situation occurred in Salzburg when a number of Roma caravans were parked for six days nearby a swimming bath in Flachgau. As it had happened in the previous years, there were massive complaints coming from the neighbourhood with regard to the dirt left behind. In order to avoid “wild camping” and the conflicts this entails, the NGO Ketani suggested funding a halting site for Roma in Salzburg and offered mediation and counselling service in case of further conflicts. However the local government of Salzburg is very reluctant in funding a halting site for Roma in Salzburg.<sup>197</sup>

An expert stated that although there is no evidence of unregulated encampments in Austria, like for instance in France, there are certain groups of travelling Roma families passing through Austria who usually rest for some days nearby official camping sites. As a result, there are always tensions with the neighbourhood, which call authorities for help in order to expel the Roma groups from the area. Meanwhile Roma mediators are consulted to avoid problems with the neighbourhood.<sup>198</sup>

There are only two halting sites for travelling Roma in Austria; both are located in the Province Upper Austria (*Oberösterreich*), one in Braunau (founded in 2001) and another one nearby Linz (founded in 2009). Apart from space, the halting sites offer water, electricity and waste disposal services, but they are not cost-free.<sup>199</sup> For a fee of € 10 per day and caravan, travelling Roma receive water, sanitary installations, waste disposal and electricity. The halting site in Braunau offers space for 20 caravans

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<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, pp. 21f.

<sup>195</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012 and response to an information request received from the association of Roma Oberwart on 10 September 2012.

<sup>196</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 22.

<sup>197</sup> Der Standard (2011), ‘Ein Campingplatz für die Unerwünschten’, 12 August 2011.

<sup>198</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012.

<sup>199</sup> See: [www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm](http://www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm).

and the one in Linz for 25 caravans. Further halting sites are negotiated in the municipalities of Innsbruck, Wels and St. Pölten.<sup>200</sup>

The NGO Ketani, which manages the two Austrian halting sites, also offers counselling services for municipalities and provides support in case they plan funding halting sites for Roma travellers. Furthermore, it volunteers for mediation and counselling in case of conflicts with travelling Roma groups; several Austrian municipalities have already made use of this service.<sup>201</sup>

#### **f. Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination**

In general, the housing situation of migrants in Austria has improved since the EU anti-discrimination directives and the EU directive concerning the status of third country nationals who are long-term residents (Directive 2003/109/EC) have been implemented in national law. The share of migrants and third-country nationals within the social and municipal housing market increased. However, there are still differences in housing supply between Austrian citizens and persons with a migratory background as migrants tend to live in worse housing conditions and are confronted with higher expenses for housing than Austrian citizens. Therefore it remains to assume that the access of migrants to public housing is still restricted.<sup>202</sup>

Within the survey mentioned in section b) those responsible for the allocation of public housing were asked for discrimination of migrants in access to housing.<sup>203</sup> They name among others the following reasons for discrimination or disadvantage of migrants:

##### Language barriers and lacking advice and counselling of migrant apartment seekers:

In private housing, migrants with entitlements to social welfare are more often offered dwellings in a poor condition because the social welfare department pays rent allowance even for dwellings in need of redevelopment.

Particularly in private housing the existence of racism plays a role as landlords refuse contracts with foreigners (however, experts mainly assume persons with darker skin are more affected than Roma) due to prejudices according to which foreigners would have many children, would be loud and/or unable to pay for the dwelling on time.<sup>204</sup>

Particularly racial or ethnic discrimination are very difficult to prove because landlords very seldom admit: “You will not get that dwelling because you are a Roma”. Instead they say: “Unfortunately the dwelling has already been rented out.”<sup>205</sup>

An information request to the Austrian Equal Treatment Commission (*Gleichbehandlungskommission, GBK*) shows that there was only one complaint that explicitly affected Roma in the field of housing and it concerned a sign placed at the reception of a camping site saying: “No place for gypsies” (*Kein*

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<sup>200</sup> Der Standard (2011), ‘Ein Campingplatz für die Unerwünschten’, 12 August 2011.

<sup>201</sup> See: [www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm](http://www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm).

<sup>202</sup> Schoibl, H. (2011), *Equality in Housing*, p. 23, available at: <http://www.volkshilfe.at/1351,,,2.html>.

<sup>203</sup> Ibid., p. 33.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid.

<sup>205</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Austrian Center of ethnic groups on 30 August 2012.

*Platz für Zigeuner*). This sign was reported by the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment (*Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft, GBA*) in August 2005.<sup>206</sup>

In 1995 there was a racist attack in the Roma settlement „Am Anger“ when an intentionally placed pipe bomb killed four young Roma men. It was acknowledged as the worst attack against Roma since the NS regime. However, at first the local authorities did not consider the possibility of an attack from outside the Roma community and subsequently – after obtaining a legal approval – executed a search warrant within the whole Roma settlement in Oberwart. After concluding this investigation without any results, the Federal Ministry of the Interior (*Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI*) considered the possibility of a (politically motivated) attack. The way in which the police and the public authorities proceeded clearly indicated a different treatment of Roma compared to the members of the majority population.<sup>207</sup> Particularly for the relatives of the victims, the suspicion and the search warrants were an additional burden to the bereavement, as some of them felt relegated to the NS regime. Although the self-esteem of the Roma was growing very slowly anyway, this treatment was a heavy setback.<sup>208</sup>

## Major projects or initiatives

The initiative “**help for the homeless**” which is located at the department for social affairs of the government of Upper Austria is planning measures explicitly targeting Roma in Upper Austria.<sup>209</sup>

In general, regarding the readiness of the Austrian government to provide measures to improve the housing situation of the Roma, one has to state that the disadvantage of Roma in the field of housing (which is assumed to be true for migrant Roma only, not for the autochthonous group) is traced back to disadvantages in education. Therefore, the Austrian government prioritises affirmative action and assistance measures in the field of education.<sup>210</sup>

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<sup>206</sup> Response to an information request received from the Austrian Equal Treatment Commission (*Gleichbehandlungskommission, GBK*) on 13 August 2012.

<sup>207</sup> Kaspar, R. (2009), *Die Burgenland-Roma Die Situation der jüngsten österreichischen Volksgruppe 15 Jahre nach ihrer Anerkennung*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, pp. 49f.

<sup>208</sup> Polis (2010), *Soziale Ausgrenzung Fokus: Roma in Österreich*, p. 9.

<sup>209</sup> Response to an information request received from the Caritas Linz on 4 September 2012.

<sup>210</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 29.

## 5 Health

### a. Health status/limitations in daily activities/disability

Leoni et al. conducted a survey among the Roma in Burgenland's district Oberwart. Although the authors focused on the employment situation, they also examined health problems of the Roma as an indicator of social exclusion.<sup>211</sup> Based on the fact that socio-economic factors are often correlated with health indicators, they identified health problems related to health-affecting behaviour, particularly overweight/obesity and smoking. Based on these data, it is estimated that the body-mass-index (BMI) mean value for male Roma in Oberwart is 30.9 (comparing to an average male Viennese mean value of 25.5 according to the Vienna health survey) and for Roma women 30.4 (Viennese women: 24.3). Additionally the share of smokers among the Roma in Oberwart lies significantly above the national average. While in Austria 30% of persons aged 16 and older are smokers, among the Roma this share is 72.7%. Moreover, among the Austrian population, about 50% have been smoking at one stage in life, while almost 90% of the interviewed Roma stated that they have been smoking at any point of their life. Additionally, the frequency of smoking is rather high among Roma: 80% of smoking men and 60% of smoking women reported to consume one pack (20 cigarettes) or more per day. The authors also investigated correlations between smoking rates and BMI among the Roma population in Oberwart. Thereby they identified an age-specific pattern: whereas younger Roma have a healthier body weight, they also have the highest share of smokers (this concerns particularly the group of Roma younger than 40). After the age of 40, obesity becomes an issue for a much larger share of the Roma population, while the number of smokers declines in older cohorts.<sup>212</sup> In general, health issues for the Roma population become more intense with increasing age.<sup>213</sup>

According to the results of the study, almost 41% of the interviewed Roma in Oberwart suffer from a chronic disease and more than three quarters go to the doctor frequently. Compared to that, the number of Roma who pay regular visits to the dentist is low: slightly more than 30% (compared to 54.3% Viennese men and 62.1% Viennese women who reported that they have seen the dentist at least five times over the past 5 years according to the Viennese health report from 2001). However, the share of Roma who regularly see the dentist is still low if Viennese data is controlled by socio-economic indicators like education: 42.5% of Viennese men and 46.7% of Viennese women with compulsory education state that they regularly see the dentist (among Viennese persons with higher education the share is 57.2% for men and 68.9% for women).<sup>214</sup>

However, in general the authors noted that Roma in Austria are not an exception compared to other marginalised social groups with similar characteristics, therefore health issues connected with bodyweight are not a feature that is unique to Roma; instead, it is shared to different degrees with other social groups as they can be associated with poverty, exclusion, low income and low education.<sup>215</sup> Although the authors did not provide an in-depth medical analysis, they concluded that health is a very serious issue for the Roma community. The poor health status of the Roma can be partly explained by their low educational level and their extremely precarious income situation.

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<sup>211</sup> Leoni, A. (2004), *The Labour Market Development of Oberwart and the Socio-Economic Situation of the Roma*, pp. 48ff.

<sup>212</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 50ff.

<sup>213</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 55.

<sup>214</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 51ff.

<sup>215</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 49.

However, the unhealthy behaviour of the Roma, acute health problems and the subjectively perceived health condition point out a malaise that goes beyond socio-economic factors and is assumed as the expression of social exclusion.<sup>216</sup>

There is no ethnic data collection in Austria, and therefore there is no data available on mortality rates specifically among Roma. However, data on causes of death in different regions of Austria indicate that the highest Austrian mortality rates are found in the east and southeast of Austria, particularly in the Burgenland district Oberwart where most of the autochthonous Roma population is resident. The death rates in this district (and in the Lower Austrian district Tulln) are 14% above the national mean. Oberwart, the district with the highest mortality in the 1998–2004 period, exhibits a mortality rate high above the Austrian average, which is due diseases of the circulatory system (+18%) and to deaths from other causes (+22%). Concerning the risk factor obesity, research indicates the highest percentages of overweight for men in Lower Austria and Burgenland and for women in Burgenland and Styria. In Burgenland obesity concerns 14.4% of inhabitants while only 5.4% of inhabitants in Salzburg and 6.7% in Tyrol. Accordingly in Burgenland, Vienna and in Lower Austria health-awareness actions are undertaken most seldom, in Salzburg and Carinthia most frequently. This regional pattern of behaviour also refers to individual health activities, like healthy diets, physical activity or taking public or private advice concerning health and illness-prevention issues.<sup>217</sup> However, also in this regard, data is not separately collected for the group of Roma.

In 1998 the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health in cooperation with the Austrian Provinces and the main association of the social insurance carriers (*Hauptverband der Sozialversicherungsträger*) founded a so-called vaccination concept. It offers all children up to the age of 15 living in Austria a cost-free access to initial immunisation and booster injections.<sup>218</sup> However specific data concerning the group of Roma does not exist.

According to an expert there is no data on infant mortality rates for Roma in Austria,<sup>219</sup> as, in general, there is no official or non-official data collected separately for ethnic groups.<sup>220</sup>

The head of an ambulance offering low-threshold healthcare services also for medically uninsured persons in the Province of Styria (*Ambulatorium Caritas Marienambulanz*) corroborate these findings. In general, the uninsured young patients are rather healthy but the health status of older patients is poor, particularly if they suffer from chronic illnesses (diabetes, hypertonic diseases). According to the expert, one reason for that is the lack of access to continuous medical healthcare services due to missing medical insurance and/or changes of residence. Furthermore, the dental health of the patients is very poor (tooth spaces, caries), which is traced to a lack of prophylaxis and missing treatment options. However, data is not collected for Roma separately.<sup>221</sup>

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<sup>216</sup> Ibid., p. 54.

<sup>217</sup> Statistics Austria (2007), *Österreichischer Todesursachenatlas 1998-2004*, pp. 38ff.

<sup>218</sup> Austria, Federal Ministry of Health (*Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, BMG*) (2012), *Impfkonzept*.

<sup>219</sup> Information requests were sent to: Federal Ministry of Health, Statistics Austria (*Statistik Austria*), Federal Chancellery, several Roma-NGOs.

<sup>220</sup> Response to an information request received from Roma-Association Lovara-Roma Austria on 31 August 2012.

<sup>221</sup> Response to an information request received from the outpatient department “Caritas Marienambulanz” (*Ambulatorium Caritas Marienambulanz*) on 4 September 2012.

## b. Unmet needs in the area of health

According to an expert many of the unmet needs in the area of health are not explicitly due to ethnic origin but due to the socio-economic status of Roma. Low or no education, a vulnerable position on the labour market and bad housing conditions (e.g. living in condemned houses without electricity or water; no separate rooms for family members; substandard living conditions) affect the health status of Roma. Furthermore psychosomatic and mental illnesses are a problem among the Roma particularly because these illnesses are tabooed within the communities. In general, there is reluctance to seek help in case of health restrictions or afflictions.<sup>222</sup>

Various particular health issues affecting Roma are due to the socio-economic status. Most Roma have been working for decades within the unqualified labour market (in assembly lines, construction, as cleaners or cook maids). The bad working conditions in these fields affect the health status of the Roma particularly in old age. Especially among female Roma, there are many reported psychosomatic health issues due to excessive demands (in reconciling care work and paid employment) or fatigue.<sup>223</sup>

In the Holocaust, over 90% of Roma (about 600.000 persons) were killed due to their ethnic or social origin in Austria. Therefore the survivors and their descendants are affected by late sequela. According to an expert, the treatment of traumata resulting from the Holocaust is an unmet need in the area of health explicitly affecting the Roma. Therefore more services in trauma therapy should be offered for Roma Holocaust survivors and their descendants in the second generation.<sup>224</sup>

Particularly in the Austrian province Burgenland where many autochthonous Roma reside, the accessibility of healthcare services is restricted due to large distances from health centres/hospitals and a lack of public transport. In urban areas this is not a problem but there are other barriers in accessing healthcare services, particularly a lack of information and mistrust in the Austrian medical system. Many (particularly migrant) Roma do not know where to go in case of afflictions. Furthermore there are language barriers and a lack of awareness particularly concerning mental and psychosomatic illnesses (see above). Another barrier derives from illiteracy: patients usually have to fill in numerous forms, which according to an expert discourages some Roma to see a doctor or visit a hospital even if medical insurance exists.<sup>225</sup>

There is one major project explicitly targeting Roma and concerning the issue of Holocaust-related traumata. In cooperation with the Jewish psycho-social centre ESRA (which is as a Jewish centre experienced in services provided to NS victims and their descendants) the Roma association Ketani (*Verein Ketani*) offers psychotherapy and psycho-social counselling services free of charge for Roma NS survivors and their descendants in the second and third generation in Upper Austria and Vienna. The aims of the therapy are to alleviate mental and physical suffering of the affected persons, to reinforce social contacts, to provide support in crises concerning personal relationships, and particularly to offer guidance in dealing with the burdening experiences.<sup>226</sup>

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<sup>222</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012.

<sup>223</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012.

<sup>224</sup> Response to an information request received from the Roma-Association Lovara-Roma Austria (*Lovara-Roma Österreich*) on 31 August 2012.

<sup>225</sup> Response to a telephonic information request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012.

<sup>226</sup> Verein Ketani, *Hilfe für die Seele – Schrei einer Minderheit*, available at: [www.sinti-roma.at/projekte.htm](http://www.sinti-roma.at/projekte.htm).

### c. Medical insurance coverage

According to the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health (*Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, BMG*), there is no separate collection of data for ethnic groups concerning social insurance, especially since there is neither a legal obligation nor a factual necessity to do so. Austrian citizenship is also not relevant for the existence of an insurance contract. Therefore it can be assumed that neither the Austrian social insurance carriers nor their umbrella organisation collect data particularly regarding Roma.<sup>227</sup>

Neither in the law on social insurance nor in medical law, the Roma group is adjusted separately. If the prerequisites for medical insurance prevail, access to medical care is basically equal. In Austria, the prerequisites for medical insurance are paid employment with a monthly income above € 374.26 or co-insurance with a family member (under certain prerequisites, particularly caring obligations or entitlement to maintenance) or entitlements to social welfare (main residence in Austria).

The government programme (*Regierungsprogramm*) for the period 2008–2013 puts an emphasis of health policies on the guarantee of qualitative medical care for all persons in Austria irrespective of income, age, ethnic origin, religion or gender. The programme encompasses an adaption of the range of public health care services to the needs of patients that belong to marginalised groups (particularly concerning dental medicine, psychotherapy and vaccination of children).<sup>228</sup> One improvement regarding medical insurance coverage was made in 2010/2011 through the introduction of the needs-oriented guaranteed minimum resources benefit system (*Bedarfsorientierte Mindestsicherung, BMS*). It replaces and harmonises the former social welfare income support (*Sozialhilfe*). The group of entitled persons was harmonised, foreigners (e.g. refugees, EU/EEA citizens and their relatives and persons who have resided in Austria for at least five years) are treated equally to Austrian citizens. Concerning healthcare, it is important to mention that the needs-oriented guaranteed minimum resources benefit system includes claimants without health insurance coverage into the legal medical insurance.<sup>229</sup> However, it is unclear to what degree Roma have been (or will be) benefiting from these reforms.

According to a member of the NGO Romano-Centro<sup>230</sup> there are specific groups among the Austrian Roma who are at risk of being medically uninsured. These are (mainly male) young adults and adolescents without (completed) education, respectively early school leavers. However, this specific group is also a risk-group among other marginalised groups, therefore it can be assumed that it is not a matter of ethnicity. Another risk-group for being medically uninsured consists of female migrants who moved to Austria within the framework of family reunification. Concerning their medical insurance, they are dependent on their husbands who might refuse to co-insure them. A third risk-group consists of Roma migrants and asylum seekers (moving from other EU member states) who are at high risk of being uninsured and therefore having no access to healthcare services.<sup>231</sup> Roma migrants from Bulgaria, Serbia or Romania are in a difficult position because if they do not have access to the labour

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<sup>227</sup> Response to an information request received from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health (*Bundesministerium für Gesundheit, BMG*) on 28 August 2012.

<sup>228</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt, BKA) (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 23.

<sup>229</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 24ff.

<sup>230</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO “Romano Centro” on 27 August 2012.

<sup>231</sup> Response to a telephonic information request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO “Romano Centro” on 27 August 2012.



market (which is usually the case, particularly in the beginning of their residence in Austria), they have no entitlements to allowances from social welfare and therefore to medical insurance.

According to the head of an ambulance that offers low-threshold healthcare services also for medically uninsured persons in Styria, about 50% of their patients are not insured. The ambulance collects information on the patient's nationality but not on their ethnic origin. Although there is no separate data concerning Roma; according to the ambulance's head it can be estimated that among the group of uninsured patients from Slovakia, Hungary or Romania there are many Roma.<sup>232</sup> According to the ambulance's annual report, in 2011 there were altogether 1.756 patients and among them 767 were uninsured. Among these 767 uninsured patients 353 patients had either a Romanian or a Slovakian nationality.<sup>233</sup>

#### **d. Circumstances around giving birth**

According to an expert, female Roma tend to be less aware of the necessity of health care services and the need of medical investigations in case of pregnancy and breastfeeding. Furthermore, there are only a few maternity wards for women without medical insurance in Austria (e.g. four for the entire Viennese area). This is particularly a problem for female migrants who move to Austria heavily pregnant in the hope that they will get health care services when giving birth. In general, medical care awareness is lacking among female Roma and additionally there is a lack of understanding and information about treatment options particularly among Roma with a migratory background.<sup>234</sup>

According to the head of an ambulance that offers low-threshold healthcare services in the Province of Styria, a problem among pregnant patients is syphilis and hepatitis B, which are diagnosed quite late, namely during the mother-child-pass-check-ups (*Mutter-Kind-Pass-Untersuchung*). This set of medical check-ups is provided for pregnant women, starting from pregnancy until the child's age of five. It is cost-free for insured women, and entitlements to childcare allowance are linked to the participation in the mother-child-pass-check-ups.<sup>235</sup>

#### **e. Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination**

According to an expert, there is no evidence of direct or indirect discrimination regarding access to and provision of health services affecting Roma. However, Roma may be indirectly disadvantaged due to cultural reasons as if a Roma person is hospitalised, usually the whole family is concerned and visits the patient. The medical staff and also the roommate patients are often challenged by these visits of many family members and therefore may feel disturbed.<sup>236</sup>

There is no data available concerning segregation of Roma patients by health care providers.<sup>237</sup> Interviewed experts stated that they were not aware of such evidence.<sup>238</sup>

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<sup>232</sup> Response to an information request received from the outpatient department "Caritas Marienambulanz" on 4 September 2012.

<sup>233</sup> Marienambulanz (2012), *Jahresbericht 2011*, p. 12.

<sup>234</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012.

<sup>235</sup> Response to an information request received from the outpatient department "Caritas Marienambulanz" on 4 September 2012.

<sup>236</sup> Response to an information request received from the Roma-Association Lovara-Roma Austria on 31 August 2012.

<sup>237</sup> Information requests were sent to: Federal Ministry of Health, Statistics Austria, Federal Chancellery, several Roma-NGOs.

## Major projects or initiatives

No significant projects or initiatives exist with regard to ensuring access to identity cards, birth certificates, and other official documents through provision of adequate information to Roma. However, based on the Austrian Ethnic Groups Act (*Volksgruppengesetz*), on 5 March 1996 the Constitutional Court ruled that all members of Austrian minorities are entitled to receive personal documents (birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates) also in their mother tongue. Prior to this verdict, local authorities acknowledged this entitlement only for the inhabitants of legally recognised bilingual municipalities. Because a majority of children were born in hospitals outside the bilingual area and consequently many people died in hospitals outside the bilingual area, members of ethnic minorities received their personal documents in their mother tongue very seldom.<sup>239</sup>

There are no projects for training and employing Roma health mediators known in Austria.<sup>240</sup> However, an interviewed expert assessed the importance of Roma health mediators as being high, particularly in facilitating access to maternal healthcare for Roma women. However, until now, Roma mediators have only been appointed in the field of education.<sup>241</sup>

The impartation of a fundamental attitude to honour the dignity and the fundamental rights of all persons irrespective of nationality, ethnic origin, religion, skin colour, age, gender, mother tongue, political affiliation or attitude and socio-economic status is an objective enshrined by the training rules for health professionals enacted by provinces. All health professionals' trainings encompass these issues within the obligatory subject "professional ethics". Furthermore, the training rules for health professionals at a college level particularly integrate addressing cultural and religious needs, lifestyle and value systems into their competence profile.<sup>242</sup>

The Project "**PROMO**"<sup>243</sup> (duration from September 2007 to August 2010) is co-funded by the EU Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Affairs. Its aims are promoting mental health and preventing mental illness among socially marginalised persons, consolidating the knowledge in this field and identifying best practices. Among others, one target group are Roma (travelling communities). Using the example of two Viennese districts, the Austrian project partner, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Social Psychiatry from Vienna, investigates the efforts of social

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<sup>238</sup> Response to an information request received from Gilda Horvath, chairwomen of the Roma-Association Lovara-Roma Austria on 31 August 2012.

<sup>239</sup> Council of the Slovene Minority in Carinthia (*Rat der Kärntner Slowenen*) (2006), *Zur Lage der Kärntner Slowenen 2006 im Jahr der EU-Präsidentschaft der Republik Österreich* p. 12.

<sup>240</sup> Information requests were sent out to: Federal Ministry of Health, Statistics Austria, Federal Chancellery, several Roma-NGOs.

<sup>241</sup> Response to a telephonic request received from the Viennese Roma-NGO "Romano Centro" on 27 August 2012.

<sup>242</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2011), *EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen*, p. 25.

<sup>243</sup> See: [www.promostudy.org/](http://www.promostudy.org/).

and medical organisations regarding mental health promotion services for marginalised groups. According to the project's website PROMO has the following specific objectives:

- To review policies and legislations related to promoting mental health and preventing mental-ill health among socially marginalised individuals;
- To develop tools to assess programmes and systems of services in the participating states that aim at promoting mental health in the socially marginalised through describing services in terms of their organisational characteristics, type of clients, components of care, and funding arrangements, and how these services interconnect to form systems; the assessment will refer to the distinction between the three levels of health care suggested by the WHO;
- To define the best inter-sectoral practice to promote mental health and prevent mental-ill health among the socially marginalised, identify barriers to implementing it, and suggest ways to overcome the barriers;
- To disseminate the findings, including guidelines on best practice, widely among all relevant stakeholder groups; and
- To formulate policy recommendations based on the best inter-sectoral practices identified.

In Vienna there is a pilot project called **“I look out for myself”** (*Ich schaue auf mich*), which offers cost-free mammographic screening for all women aged between 50 and 69 years, living in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> districts (these are districts with a high density of people with low income and/or migrants). Women receive a personal invitation per post to a mammographic screening at the participating hospitals. Participation is voluntary, cost-free and independent from being medically insured and/or having a referral. Invitations are sent in German, English, Turkish and Bosnian, and an information folder about mammographic screening is attached to the invitation. The project is conducted in cooperation with all Viennese medical insurance carriers. If a biopsy is necessary the Viennese breast cancer centre of the Viennese Hanusch-Hospital or the oncologic centre of the Viennese Wilhelminen hospital is available.<sup>245</sup>

The project **“Mri Buti”** (meaning „my work“) was funded by the European Social Fonds (ESF) within the framework of the EQUAL-Programme and was implemented from May 2003 to 2007. Although it focuses on the occupation and qualification of Roma in view of labour market integration, it also offers health and nutrition counselling and activities for the target group. However, based on the fact that many participants in this project were overweight, the project leader assumes that obesity is not only a factor of restricted mobility and resilience, but also an obstacle to find paid employment. Therefore the integration of nutrition counselling and motivation for exercise into the project **“Mri Buti”** should improve the self-confidence of the participants and therefore reduce anxiety regarding the labour market. The health programme was integrated within the qualification programme and was offered twice a week. It included walking, gymnastics, dance and nutrition, apart from EDV and basic education. The qualification programme was implemented from September 2005 to February 2008; the objective was to achieve 70 participants; however, only 52 Roma took part. A project worker associated this with a lack of stamina or endurance among the participants. Although the interest in

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<sup>245</sup> See: [www.ich-schau-auf-mich.at](http://www.ich-schau-auf-mich.at) (Viennese medical insurance in cooperation with the Viennese program for women's health, project: mammographic-screening „I look at myself“)-

<sup>245</sup> See: [www.ich-schau-auf-mich.at](http://www.ich-schau-auf-mich.at) (Viennese medical insurance in cooperation with the Viennese program for women's health, project: mammographic-screening „I look at myself“)-

this programme was measured before the start and it was high, the willingness to take part in it was low.<sup>246</sup>

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<sup>246</sup> Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, pp. 98f.

## 6 Poverty/Economic situation

### a. Households at risk-of-poverty

No data is available on income poverty and deprivation of Roma in Austria. The respective situation is likely to be very heterogeneous.<sup>247</sup>

According to the 2008 poverty report of Austria, the poverty endangering quote (*Armutgefährdungsquote*) of single mothers is situated at 27%, thus very high when compared to the 12.7% average in Austria.<sup>248</sup> According to the study conducted by Riesenfelder et al. for the Chamber of Labour (*Arbeiterkammer, AK*), 17% of the interviewed Roma women are single mothers.<sup>249</sup>

### b. Income/Expenditure

According to the study of Riesenfelder et al. for the Chamber of Labour, 15% of the interviewed Roma working full-time earn €899 at a maximum, 60% earn between €900 and €1.399, 19% have an income up to €1.899, 4% up to €2.399 and 2% have an income beyond €2.400. The income of the interviewed Roma is much lower compared to that of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority which is 6% (earning maximum €899), 52% (earning between €900 and €1.399), 28% (earning up to €1.899), 9% (earning up to €2.399) and 5% (earning beyond €2.400).<sup>250</sup>

38 % of the interviewed Roma working part-time have an income of maximum €399, 41% earn between €400 and €899 and 21% have an income up to €1.399. No interviewed Roma from this group had an income above this amount. Once again, the income of the interviewed Roma is low compared to that of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority, which is 10%, 53% and 29% each. 5 % of migrants not belonging to an ethnic minority working part-time have an income between €1.400 and €1.899 and 2% have an income up to €2.399.<sup>251</sup>

### c. Financial situation/social transfers/debts/borrowing

According to the estimation of experts, the financial situation of Roma in Austria is better compared to that of Roma in East-European countries but it is not satisfying.<sup>252</sup> In the Oberwart district where the long odds of being unemployed lead to a precarious income status, most of the surveyed families live in difficult financial situations.<sup>253</sup> Due to a combination of poverty, racism and exclusion regarding

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<sup>247</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 17; see also email from Gilda Horvath, Verein Lovara, from 31th August 2012.

<sup>248</sup> Österreichische Gesellschaft für Politikberatung und Politikentwicklung (OGPP) (2008), *2. Armuts- und Reichtumsbericht für Österreich*, p. 125.

<sup>249</sup> Riesenfelder, A. et. al. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf), p. 315.

<sup>250</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 289.

<sup>251</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 289.

<sup>252</sup> Aurora (2010) *MigrantInnen und Armut*, available at: [www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/public/Dokumente/Projekte/AURORA/AURORAplus/AuroraPlus\\_Bericht\\_MigrantInnen.pdf](http://www.bawo.at/fileadmin/user_upload/public/Dokumente/Projekte/AURORA/AURORAplus/AuroraPlus_Bericht_MigrantInnen.pdf).

<sup>253</sup> Biffel, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 126; Kasper, R. (2009), *Die Burgenland-Roma*

economy and society, a high percentage of Roma depends on social transfers to save their survival.<sup>254</sup> Many surveyed Roma from the Oberwart district live on benefits, mostly on help provided in state of emergency (*Notstandshilfe*), as well as on social welfare (*Sozialhilfe*). Some of the surveyed persons, mostly women and youths without any right to unemployment benefits (*Arbeitslosengeld*) have no income at all and depend on assistance from their families.<sup>255</sup>

Experts from inside the Roma community criticize that the pay-out of social transfers is connected to only little obligations in Austria. It is possible to live (modestly) depending on these transfers in combination with a small additional income. Therefore, the motivation for looking for a job or aiming at receiving better qualifications decreases. While the dependency of many Roma on social transfers increases, the chance of being placed in the labour market decreases.<sup>256</sup>

The low income and the instability of employment add to the fact that Roma are in debt at a high percentage. 78.8% of the surveyed Roma from the Oberwart district have debts, especially bank and mail order business (*Versandhaus*) debts. All age groups are affected by this situation, but Roma between 41 and 55 years old seem to be most affected (90.9% of respondents were in debt).<sup>257</sup>

The study on the poverty situation of Bosnian Roma in the Weinviertel, revealed that almost all of the interviewed Roma have debts. Unpaid credits as well as unpaid bills for mobile phones and electricity are widely spread. One family has to pay a very high amount to a hospital because they do not have health insurance and their baby had been hospitalised for several times.<sup>258</sup>

#### **d. Malnutrition/hunger**

Only indications could be found whether hunger is a (widespread) phenomenon within the Roma communities:

In the Oberwart district, many of the local Roma families accept the offer of a free lunch for their children at school. Most of these families are in a difficult financial situation due to unemployment.<sup>259</sup> Also begging Roma often receive food from public authorities or churches such as soup kitchens. Others are begging for food in front of supermarkets.<sup>260</sup>

Many Roma suffer from the consequences of bad alimentation, i.e. overweight is widely spread.<sup>261</sup>

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*Die Situation der jüngsten österreichischen Volksgruppe 15 Jahre nach ihrer Anerkennung*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 74.

<sup>254</sup> Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 61.

<sup>255</sup> Biffel, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 126.

<sup>256</sup> Gneisz, E. (2010), *Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 49; Sarközi, R. (2008), *ROMA, Österreichische Volksgruppe. Von der Verfolgung bis zur Anerkennung*.

<sup>257</sup> Biffel, G. et. al. (2005), *Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart*, p. 126.

<sup>258</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 354f.

<sup>259</sup> Kaspar, R. (2009), *Die Burgenland-Roma Die Situation der jüngsten österreichischen Volksgruppe 15 Jahre nach ihrer Anerkennung*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna, p. 74.

<sup>260</sup> Thuswald, M. (2008), *Betteln als Beruf? Wissensaneignung und Kompetenzerwerb von Bettlerinnen in Wien*, Diploma Thesis at the University of Vienna.

<sup>261</sup> See Chapter Health.

#### e. Material deprivation and/or other non-income poverty indicators

The data of EU-SILC 2009 does not provide enough information on severe material deprivation for an assessment of the specific situation of Roma in Austria. According to EU-SILC 2009 about 3.7% of all Austrian citizens recently faced severe material deprivation in Austria. The respective number for EU-27 citizens (without Austrian citizens) is 3.3%, while it is 17% for citizens of other countries (which is higher than the respective number at average of all countries of EU-27, amounting to 15.4%). Roma who immigrated recently from Kosovo, Serbia or Macedonia could be concerned by this at a high degree.<sup>262</sup>

Describing their life, most of the interviewed Bosnian Roma in the Weinviertel said they have to live a life without any luxury and that they manage to survive somehow. A few of them did not know how to fill their fridge in the middle of the month.<sup>263</sup>

#### Major projects or initiatives:

Local initiatives or projects aiming at improving the situation of Roma either in Austria or at their primary place of residence (if Roma travel to Austria to work and do not have a permanent place of residence in Austria) exist.

In 2008, a local initiative in Vienna started the production of cucumbers in Hostice/Slovakia. The costs of production were carried by the Viennese association “Direct Aid Roma” (*Direkthilfe Roma*) and the cucumbers were then sold in Austria. As of 2011 seven families participated in this project and 12.000 glasses of cucumbers could be produced and 1.000 glasses of cabbage.<sup>264</sup>

The Vinzenz-Association (*Vinzenzgemeinschaft*) based in Graz, Styria, conducts a number of projects directed at migrants including Roma. For instance, they offer an emergency sleeping camp (Vinzinest for men, Vinzischutz for women)<sup>265</sup> for all people in urgent need for a sleeping opportunity. Furthermore, the Vinzenzgemeinschaft initiated a project in Hostice/Slovakia called “**Vinzipasta**”. Women in Hostice produce noodles following the motto “work instead of begging” and receive over 50% of the purchase price. This pasta is now available in smaller stores and even one supermarket chain all over Austria.<sup>266</sup>

After implementing the begging prohibition in Graz, Styria, the city together with other partners started a project called “**Bio Garlic Romanes**” (*Bioknoblauch Romanes*) conducted by the association European Neighbours to offer an alternative to persons affected by the prohibition of begging. The city

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<sup>262</sup> Fink, M. (2011), *Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion*, p. 18.

<sup>263</sup> Kälin Schreiblehner, I. and Schinnerl, H. (2011), „... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.“ *Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel*, in: Rosecker, M. (Ed.), *Armut und Reichtum. Ungleiche Lebenslagen, -chancen, -stile und –welten in Österreich*, Vienna: Verein Alltag Verlag, p. 354f.

<sup>264</sup> Direkthilfe Roma, *Gib der Armut ein Gurkerl*, available at: [www.direkthilferoma.at/verein/gurken](http://www.direkthilferoma.at/verein/gurken).

<sup>265</sup> Vinzinest, available at: [www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html](http://www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html); Vinzischutz, available at: [www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html](http://www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html).

<sup>266</sup> Vinzipasta, available at: [www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html](http://www.vinzi.at/vinzenz/frames.html).

and the region of Styria paid around €25.000 for this initiative. Roma in five countries produce garlic which is sold in Austria.<sup>267</sup> This project was criticised as being full of clichés regarding Roma.<sup>268</sup>

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<sup>267</sup> European Neighbours, available at: [www.european-neighbours.net/cms/](http://www.european-neighbours.net/cms/).

<sup>268</sup> Der Standard (2011), 'Knoblauchanbau daheim statt Betteln in Graz', 27 December 2011.



## 7 Active citizenship/Rights awareness

### a. Awareness of the existence of representative Roma organisations, other civil society organisations, anti-discrimination legislation and equality bodies

Several Roma organisations and other organisations in Austria offer various projects and provide material or workshops for Roma, for example in the areas of education, culture and history of Roma (see also section c). Reports and information materials provided by these organisations indicate that their offers are accepted by their target groups.<sup>269</sup> However, an assessment of the awareness of the existence of representative Roma associations or their offers is not possible based on desk research.

According to the opinion of employees of one representative Roma organisation (Romano Centro) and another civil society organisation (Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*)), it is difficult to assess whether Roma are aware of the existence of representative Roma organisations because various Roma communities exist in Austria as well as various Roma organisations that offer a variety of programmes for different target groups.

According to the assessment of the interviewed experts, autochthonous Roma seem to be aware of the existence of representative Roma organisations and other civil society organisations. Burgenland Roma seem to be aware of the existence of representative Roma organisations in Burgenland because they are present in discussions. Also, the association Roma-Service raises awareness with the Rom-Bus and might thus be noticed. Furthermore, the association Romano Centro seems to be known amongst Roma who immigrated from former Yugoslavia and currently live in Vienna.<sup>270</sup>

According to the assessment of one interviewed expert, Roma in Austria are aware that being discriminated against is illegitimate. Especially autochthonous Roma seem to be aware of their rights and tend to combat discrimination. However, not all cases of discrimination are perceived as such, e.g. structural discrimination in the educational system. Possibilities to combat discrimination are not well known. Even if anti-discrimination law and equality bodies are known, Roma often are not confident enough in combating discrimination because they fear negative consequences.<sup>271</sup>

In 2011, the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment (*Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft, GAW*) organised a discussion in Vienna on this topic. According to the assessment of an employee of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, it is important to further raise awareness amongst Roma and to inform (potentially) affected persons of the Equal Treatment Act (*Gleichbehandlungsgesetz, GIBG*), their options and institutions they can turn to when they experience discrimination.<sup>272</sup> No other projects or

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<sup>269</sup> Romano Centro, See for example, *Lernhilfe und Elternarbeit*, available at: [www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=3%3Alernhilfe&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de](http://www.romano-centro.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3%3Alernhilfe&catid=12%3Aprojekte&Itemid=4&lang=de); Roma Service, available at: [www.roma-service.at/dromablog/?p=20023](http://www.roma-service.at/dromablog/?p=20023); Association Ketani for Roma and Sinti, available at: [www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm](http://www.sinti-roma.at/lagerplatz.htm); Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*) (2009), *Thara, Romnija and Roma in transition – Endbericht*, available at: [http://www.volkshilfe.at/folder/84/Thara\\_Transition\\_ENDBERICHT\\_2009\\_09\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.volkshilfe.at/folder/84/Thara_Transition_ENDBERICHT_2009_09_FINAL.pdf); Public Aid, *Zara macht Schule*, available at: [www.volkshilfe.at/1430,,,2.html](http://www.volkshilfe.at/1430,,,2.html).

<sup>270</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by Romano Centro on 27. August 2012 and a response to a telephonic request received by the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*) on 30 August 2012.

<sup>271</sup> Ibid.

<sup>272</sup> Response to an information request received from the Ombud for Equal Treatment (*Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft, GAW*) on 14 August 2012.

initiatives, campaigns, media campaigns, training schemes undertaken by national or regional institutions for raising awareness among the Roma community on the national legislation that prohibits discrimination on ethnic or racial grounds are available.<sup>273</sup>

#### **b. Participation in elections and political representation**

According to Austrian legislation, data concerning the participation of Roma in elections is not being collected, on the national and the regional levels, by the Federal Ministry of the Interior (*Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI*). Data on the participation of Roma in elections in Austria can thus not be provided.<sup>274</sup>

An Advisory Board must be established for Roma issues according to the Regulation on Ethnic Groups Advisory Boards (*Verordnung über die Volksgruppenbeiräte*)<sup>275</sup>. According to §7 of the Regulation, this Advisory Board is to be made up of eight members, four of them assigned by Roma associations as mentioned in the Ethnic Groups Act.<sup>276</sup> According to §4 of the Ethnic Groups Act, the members of the Advisory Boards, which are installed to inform the Federal Government on issues regarding ethnic groups in Austria (§3 of the Ethnic Groups Act), are assigned by the Federal Government for four years. The Advisory Boards have to preserve the cultural, social and economic common interest of the ethnic group and are to be heard within a reasonable period of time before adopting legal norms and general plans in the area of funding. Currently an amendment to the Ethnic Groups Act is being discussed, but was not yet decided on.<sup>277</sup>

In 2009, an Advisory Board for Migration and Integration (*Migrations- und Integrationsbeirat*) was established in Linz and in which one Roma/Sinti-representative was elected to strengthen the position of the acknowledged ethnic groups (*anerkannte Volksgruppen*) when dealing with questions of integration and diversity and to compensate marginalisation in regular democratic processes.<sup>278</sup>

Vienna aims at recruiting persons with migratory background in the Viennese administration. Roma are currently employed at the municipality of Vienna and Oberwart. At least one Roma is employed at the department for integration and diversity in Vienna (*Magistratsabteilung 17 - Integration und Diversität, MA 17*) of the Viennese government.<sup>279</sup>

According to the assessment of an interviewed expert, Roma are currently underrepresented in politics.<sup>280</sup> However, according to the perception of a different interviewed expert, Roma seem to be increasingly interested in politics. The exercise of their active electoral rights cannot be assessed.<sup>281</sup>

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<sup>273</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); one interview has been conducted with an expert (an employee of Romano Centro).

<sup>274</sup> Response to an information request received from the Federal Ministry of the Interior (*Bundesministerium für Inneres, BMI*) on 22 August 2012.

<sup>275</sup> Austria, Regulation on Ethnic Groups Advisory Boards (*Verordnung über die Volksgruppenbeiräte*), BGBl. Nr. 38/1977, last modified by BGBl. Nr. 895/1993.

<sup>276</sup> Austria, Ethnic Groups Act (*Bundesgesetz über die Rechtsstellung der Volksgruppen in Österreich – Volksgruppengesetz - VoGrG*), BGBl. Nr. 396/1976, last modified by BGBl. I Nr. 46/2011.

<sup>277</sup> Austria, Draft Amendment Act to the Ethnic Groups Act (*Entwurf eines Bundesgesetzes, mit dem das Volksgruppengesetz geändert wird*).

<sup>278</sup> Austria, Federal Chancellery (2010), *3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten*, p. 30.

<sup>279</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30; no further information given by the Federal Ministry of the Interior – information request on 24 August 2012 remained unanswered.

<sup>280</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups on 30 August 2012.

<sup>281</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by Romano Centro on 27 August 2012.

No projects or initiatives for raising awareness of or to encourage civil/voting registration are available.<sup>282</sup>

### **c. Participation and representation in non-governmental organisations**

Several NGOs and associations representing and/or working for and with Roma exist in Austria (The Association of Roma Oberwart (*Verein Roma Oberwart*), the Ketani Association (*Verein Ketani*), the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma (*Kulturverein österreichischer Roma*), the Association Romano Centro, the Association Roma Service, the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland-Roma (*Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Roma*) and the Association Baro Ilo). In addition, other NGOs and associations provide offers for Roma, e.g. the NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*).

According to the assessment of interviewed experts, Roma are represented in non-governmental organisations. According to another employee working at the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma (*Kulturverein österreichischer Roma*), between five and six Roma are represented in the board of this association. Furthermore, Roma are for example represented in the THARA project of the NGO Public Aid (*Volkshilfe*) and the Adult Education Centre of Burgenland Roma (*Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Roma*). Further information or data concerning the representation or participation of Roma in non-governmental organisations have not been provided.<sup>283</sup>

### **d. Awareness and use of complaints procedures**

The Equal Treatment Commission, the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, the “Klagsverband” are statutory bodies that record and process complaints of rights violations as well as racism and/or discrimination. Furthermore, the association “Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work” (*Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit, ZARA*) provides advice for persons who experience racism and racist discrimination, and documents cases of discrimination.

In the database of ZARA data concerning the discrimination of Roma or the discriminatory use of the term “gypsy” is being collected (see Annex 2).<sup>284</sup>

The Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment did not provide data on persons’ ethnicity, origin or citizenship. In its statistics, the Ombudsperson does not systematically collect data on their clients’ ethnicity. Statistical evaluations are only possible regarding discrimination grounds and facts of the cases. Based on their experience in counselling, the Ombudsperson only receives a few requests from Roma.<sup>285</sup> The Equal Treatment Commission (*Gleichbehandlungskommission, GBK*) does not collect data on discrimination disaggregated by ethnicity. No further information on awareness or use of complaint procedures by Roma was provided by the Equal Treatment Commission.<sup>286</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> All relevant sources have been searched (websites of Roma organisations who provide offers for Roma, other official institutions and ministries); one interview has been conducted with an expert (an employee of the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups).

<sup>283</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by Romano Centro on 27 August 2012, a response received by the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups on 30 August 2012 and a response received by the Cultural Association of Austrian Roma (*Kulturverein österreichischer Roma*) on 4 September 2012.

<sup>284</sup> Response to an information request received from ZARA on 21 August 2012.

<sup>285</sup> Response to an information request received from the Ombud for Equal Treatment (*Gleichbehandlungsanwaltschaft*) on 14 August 2012.

<sup>286</sup> Response to an information request received from the Equal Treatment Commission (*Gleichbehandlungskommission, GBK*) on 13 August 2012.

The “Klagsverband”, a litigation association of NGOs against discrimination, did not receive any requests from Romano Centro, which is a member of the “Klagsverband”.<sup>287</sup>

#### **e. Experiences and perceptions of racial/ethnic discrimination**

According to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Roma, amongst others, have often been exposed to racism and discrimination in Austria. “Roma continue to suffer from unequal treatment in the socio-economic sphere largely because of the negative prejudices towards them from the mainstream media and some public figures.”<sup>288</sup> According to the anti-racism reports published by ZARA, Roma experience racial and ethnic discrimination in different areas, e.g. media and politics<sup>289</sup>, police<sup>290</sup>, work<sup>291</sup> and access to establishments.<sup>292</sup>

The Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*) reported that Roma have repeatedly been denied access to a discotheque in Oberwart in January 2007. According to the owner of the discotheque, Roma are not welcome in this establishment. The police was informed by the affected Roma, but did not intervene.<sup>293</sup>

In 2005, the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment received a complaint because Roma had been denied access to a camping site where a “No room for gypsies” sign was placed. According to the assessment of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, the denial of access and the use of the term “gypsy” qualify as discrimination because a group of persons are denied access to services [*Dienstleistungen*] based on their ethnicity; furthermore, the term “gypsy” is perceived as being offensive and addresses persons’ ethnicity in a discriminatory way. Acting upon a request of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment, the third senate of the Equal Treatment Commission wrote an expert opinion on 21 April 2006 confirming the assessment of the Ombudsperson for Equal Treatment. Furthermore, the Equal Treatment Commission points out that the term “gypsy” is associated with negative individual, political and legal consequences by Roma and thus perceived as being stigmatising.<sup>294</sup>

As already outlined (see section a), Roma are not always aware of being discriminated against. According to an interviewed expert who is working at the association Romano Centro, insults are a common form of discrimination against Roma, for example using the term “gypsy”. In general, antiziganism is perceived as being a form of racism that is increasing and Romano Centro intends to publish a report on this issue.<sup>295</sup>

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<sup>287</sup> Response to an information request received from the „Klagsverband“ on 30 August 2012.

<sup>288</sup> ENARA (2012), *ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria*, p. 8.

<sup>289</sup> ZARA (2012), *Rassismus Report 2011. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich*, Wien, p. 29.

<sup>290</sup> ZARA (2009), *Rassismus Report 2008. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich*, Wien, p. 37.

<sup>291</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 45.

<sup>292</sup> ZARA (2008), *Rassismus Report 2007. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich*, p. 57.

<sup>293</sup> Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (*Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum*) 2007, p. 158.

<sup>294</sup> Expert opinion provided by the Equal Treatment Commission on 13 August 2012 (response to an information request), pp. 1-5.

<sup>295</sup> Response to a telephonic request received by Romano Centro on 27 August 2012.

# ANNEXES

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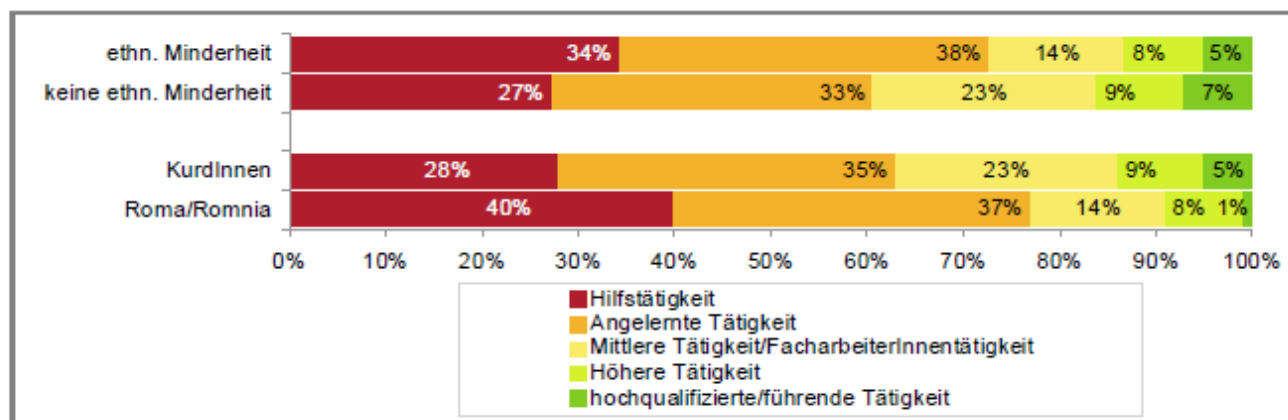
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## 2. Statistical Tables

Table 1: Occupation level and ethnic minorities

Abbildung 117: Tätigkeitsniveau, nach Zugehörigkeit zu einer ethnischen Minderheit

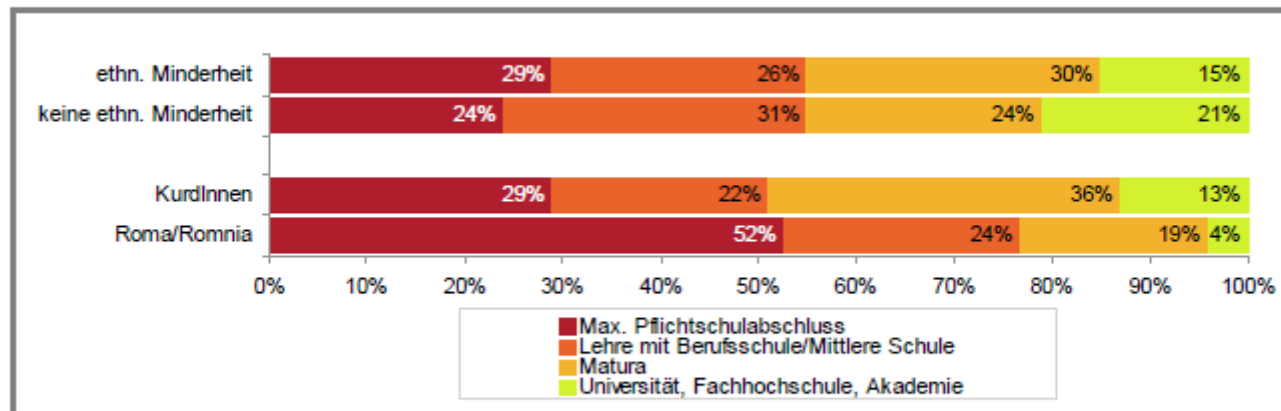


Quelle: L&R Datafile 'MigrantInnen am AM in Wien', 2010; Interviews n gesamt = 1983 (exkl. Lehrlinge), n miss = 56; L&R Datafile 'Ethnische Minderheitenzugehörigkeit', 2011; Interviews n gesamt = 175

Source: Austria, Riesenfelder, A., Schelepa, S. and Wetzels, P. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, p. 277, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf)

**Table 2: Highest attained education and ethnic minorities**

**Abbildung 126: Höchste abgeschlossene Schulausbildung, nach Zugehörigkeit zu einer ethnischen Minderheit**

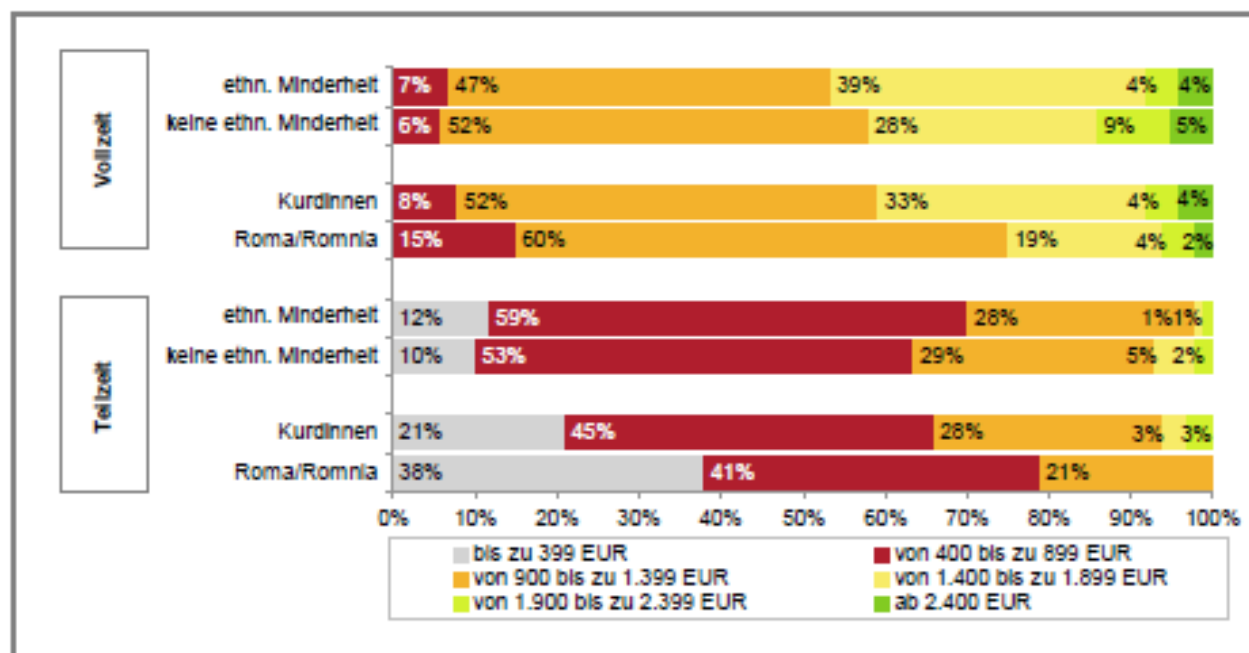


Quelle: L&R Datafile 'MigrantInnen am AM in Wien', 2010; Interviews n gesamt = 2001, n miss = 52, L&R Datafile 'Ethnische Minderheitenzugehörigkeit', 2011, n = 180

Source: Austria, Riesenfelder, A., Schelepa, S. and Wetzal, P. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, p. 290, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf)

**Table 3: Earned income per month (net) and ethnic minorities**

**Abbildung 125: Persönliches Erwerbseinkommen pro Monat (netto), Vollzeit-Teilzeiterwerbstätige (bis/ab 35 Wochenstunden), nach Zugehörigkeit zu einer ethnischen Minderheit**



Quelle: L&R Datafile 'MigrantInnen am AM in Wien', 2010; Interviews n gesamt Vollzeit = 1324, n miss = 147; Interviews n gesamt Teilzeit = 529, n miss = 25; L&R Datafile 'Ethnische Minderheitenzugehörigkeit', 2011; Interviews n gesamt Vollzeit = 103, n miss = 3; Interviews n gesamt Teilzeit = 77, n miss = 1

Source: Austria, Riesenfelder, A., Schelepa, S. and Wetzels, P. (2011), *Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht*, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, p. 289, available at: [www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie\\_MigrantInnen\\_2012.pdf](http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf)

### 3. Table of complaints

**Table 1: Discrimination of Roma and discriminatory usage of the term “gypsy”**

Year	Number Cases
2006	7
2007	4
2008	13
2009	8
2010	9
2011	17
2012 (including August)	8

In the database of the Austrian association “Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work” (*Zivilcourage und Anti-Rassismus-Arbeit, ZARA*) data concerning discrimination of Roma and the discriminatory usage of the term “gypsy” is being collected.

Source: Response to an information request received from ZARA on 21 August 2012.

#### 4. Table of sources (reports and studies on Roma)

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Baumgartner, Gerhard und Freund, Florian (2007), Roma Politik in Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, socio-historical report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the history of Roma in Austria and on the political initiatives and measures targeting Roma explicitly.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Generally for Roma in Austria
	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Biffl, Gudrun (2005), Verschärfung der Arbeitsmarktprobleme von Randgruppen in Grenzregionen im Gefolge der Ostöffnung – Das Beispiel der Roma in Oberwart</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>The mat</b>	<i>Education</i>	



	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	Sample size: 99 Roma
	<b>Location</b>	Oberwart
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Oberwart
	<b>Key findings</b>	<p>The study provides information on the employment situation in the district of Oberwart in general and the socio-economic situation of the Roma in particular.</p> <p>The unemployment rate of members of the Roma community is much higher than that of the major population, which is due to a variety of factors: low school education, migratory background as well as poor health status are the most important ones.</p>
	<b>Methodology</b>	Qualitative face-to-face interviews
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Representative for Roma in the district of Oberwart

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria,</b> <b>Bundeskantleramt (2010), 3. Bericht der Republik Österreich gemäß Artikel 25 Abs. 2 des Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	

	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	National Minorities
	<b>Key findings</b>	New developments regarding the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities are presented by the Federal Chancellery.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Generally for National Minorities in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Bundeskanzleramt (2011), EU-Rahmen für nationale Strategien zur Integration der Roma bis 2020. Politische und rechtliche Maßnahmen</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	This report summarises major goals as well as legal and political measures on a national level to improve the integration of Roma

		by 2020 according to the conclusions of the Council of Europe on 19 May 2012. The measures concern the fields of education, employment, health and housing. Furthermore, general information on Roma in Austria and information on rights of minorities and research activities is provided.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria,</b> <b>Caritas Marienambulanz (2012),</b> <b>Jahresbericht 2011</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	n. a.
	<b>Location</b>	Province of Styria
	<b>Target population</b>	Socially marginalised people in need of health care services
	<b>Key findings</b>	Annual Report of the Caritas Marienambulanz which offers low-threshold healthcare services also for medically uninsured persons
	<b>Methodology</b>	Quantitative survey (frequency of visits, frequency of services offered and descriptive analysis of the visitors)
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Only regional (Province of Styria)

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Datler, Georg und Mahidi, Margareta (2009), Armutgefährdung und Wohnsituation – Modul zur Wohnsituation in EU-SILC 2007</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	EU-SILC data 2007
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Persons at risk of poverty
	<b>Key findings</b>	The research objective was to identify correlations between housing conditions and risk of poverty, affecting certain groups among the Austrian population. In general, persons at risk of poverty are more likely to live in large dwellings in urban areas; their efforts for housing are rather high compared to their income, the floor space of their dwellings is rather small, and particularly in urban areas the problem of adequate heating arises. In rural areas there is a lacking access to public utilities and infrastructure for persons at risk of poverty.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Quantitative: secondary analysis of EU-SILC data
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Austria
	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, ENARA (2012), ENAR SHADOW REPORT. Racism and Related Discriminatory Practices in Austria</b>

	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (findings are based on legal research and anecdotal information gathered from civil society organisations and NGOs)
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Migrants in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	<p>The ENAR Shadow Report provides information on racism and related discriminatory practices in Austria, covering the period from March 2010 to March 2011.</p> <p>Concerning housing one main finding is that although access to homeless institutions and social welfare is independent form citizenship, many migrants and members of ethnic minorities (particularly those of short-term residence) are confronted with various obstacles in the access to public housing and even to homeless institutions.</p> <p>One main finding in the area of employment is that Roma as a minority group did and do not manage to access the labour market successfully. But they are also excluded from the official service for the unemployed. To earn a living, they have to find ways of self-subsistence.</p> <p>In the area of education, the transfer of pupils with migratory background to special needs schools and the lack of diversity in the education curricula are criticised.</p>
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Migrants in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Federal Ministry of Health, (2012) Impfkonzzept</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	n. a.
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Austrian children
	<b>Key findings</b>	Vaccination plan of Austria that includes all cost-free vaccinations for children up to the age of 15 in Austria.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Generally for Roma in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Fink, Marcel (2011), Austria. Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma. A Study of National Policies. Report to the European Commission via Network of Independent Experts in Social Inclusion</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, political
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓

	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (desk research)
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	A study of national policies targeting respectively affecting the situation of Roma in Austria. The report highlights structural and specific problems and challenges, which should be addressed in the Austrian national integration strategy for Roma and gives recommendations for politics and stakeholders.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Desk research (literature overview, legal analysis)
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Gneisz, Elisabeth (2010), Arbeitsmarktpolitische Projekte für Romnja und Roma in Österreich Eine sozialanthropologische Untersuchung der Projekte „Thara.Amarotraro“ und „Mri Buti“</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Master thesis
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	Female and male Roma and non-Roma experts; Female and male participants in Roma-projects;  Politically engaged Roma and non-Roma Sample-size: 16

	<b>Location</b>	Eastern Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna/Burgenland/Upper Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Roma are still discriminated and disadvantaged on the labour market; furthermore, according to media reports, Roma are described as “problem group” and therefore seem to be self-blamed for their situation.</p> <p>Labour-market policy projects and initiatives targeting Roma are meaningful, however if they are short-term funded, rather than used for long-term labour market policies or unlimited labour contracts for Roma, their impact is restricted. The author suggests the long-term integration of Roma projects into NGOs and consequently encouraging Roma to find employment and to secure their livelihood through their own initiative.</p>
	<b>Methodology</b>	<p>Qualitative guideline-based interviews with experts and employees in projects for Roma; one focus group with experts.</p> <p>Qualitative semi- and unstructured interviews with Roma and non-Roma who are politically engaged for the concerns of Roma in Vienna.</p> <p>Number of interviewees:</p> <p>Roma participating in Roma-projects: 8</p> <p>Non-Roma experts: 1 and one focus group with 4 participants</p> <p>Roma experts: 3</p>
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Only local: for Roma in eastern Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Halwachs Dieter W., (2004) Roma and Romani in Austria</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	



	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	Various locations of Roma population in Austria, e.g. Vienna, Burgenland.
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in eastern Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides an in-depth analysis of the history of Roma in Austria and deals with linguistic questions regarding Romani languages and issues regarding education and schools.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Particularly eastern Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria,</b> <b>Kälin Schreiblehner, Schinnerl, Ines und Herwig (2011), »... damit meine Kinder nicht dasselbe durchmachen müssen wie ich.« Armutslagen der bosnischen Roma im niederösterreichischen Weinviertel</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	14 Roma aged between 19 and 68 who belong to an officially acknowledged ethnic group (anerkannte Volksgruppe)
	<b>Location</b>	Region in Lower Austria (Weinviertel)

	<b>Target population</b>	Autochthonous Roma living in the region Weinviertel in Lower Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	<p>Based on the qualitative data collected by Caritas Vienna within the project “Missing Link”, the authors focus on several issues that are related to poverty.</p> <p>In the area of education, the transfer of Roma children to special needs schools and several factors that influence school attainment of Roma children, e.g. lack of parents’ support and poor education of parents are addressed. According to the perception of interviewed Roma, education is important for them.</p> <p>In the area of housing, the findings indicate poor living conditions (over-crowding and substandard dwellings).</p> <p>One main finding in the area of employment is that various factors are responsible for unemployment or employment in low wages sectors. Lacking assistance in child care or a lack of mobility plays a role.</p>
	<b>Methodology</b>	Qualitative interviews
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative (only a few cases, only local)

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<p><b>Austria,</b></p> <p><b>Kaspar, Ruth (2009),</b></p> <p><b>Die Burgenland-Roma.</b></p> <p><b>Die Situation der jüngsten österreichischen Volksgruppe 15 Jahre nach ihrer Anerkennung</b></p>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Master Thesis
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	

	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	Sample size: 24 (consisting of 19 Roma of two generations and 5 non-Roma)
	<b>Location</b>	Province of Burgenland: Oberwart and surroundings
	<b>Target population</b>	Autochthonous Roma (particularly those living in Oberwart and surroundings)
	<b>Key findings</b>	Intergenerational developments have been identified: the education and housing situation improved for the Roma of the second generation, which is also due to the political engagement of individual Roma and Roma NGOs. However, Roma are still affected by discrimination and disadvantage.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Qualitative guided interviews with autochthonous Roma and experts, working in Roma-organisations, schools or municipalities.
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Only regional: Roma in Oberwart

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Leoni, T. (2004), The Labour Market Development of Oberwart and the Socio-Economic Situation of the Roma</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	

	<b>Sample</b>	99 male and female members of the Roma population in the Oberwart settlement „Am Anger“
	<b>Location</b>	Province of Burgenland, municipalities Oberwart and Unterwart
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Oberwart and Unterwart
	<b>Key findings</b>	The author analyses the situation of the Roma in Oberwart and Unterwart in connection with the economic and structural developments in this region. He identifies similarities and differences concerning the situation of the Roma in Oberwart and Unterwart compared to the rest of the Austrian population. Concerning education and employment the Roma are placed far below the national average. Particularly older Roma are in a weak socio-economic position: very few among them are employed, their health situation is poor. While the younger Roma benefit from the regional educational improvement the older ones do not. However young males without completed education and mid-aged women without regular employment are still disadvantaged groups among the Roma population in Burgenland.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Face-to-face Interviews among the population in the Roma settlement
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Only regional: for the Roma in Oberwart and Unterwart

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Luciak, Mikael (2011), Roma mit Migrationshintergrund an österreichischen Volksschulen</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	Interviews with 10 teachers at compulsory schools, two principals of compulsory schools, six teachers at centres for special needs

		education, one head of a centre for special needs education, eight Roma-children who attend compulsory school, 10 parents of Roma-pupils, five learning assistants, seven heads of Roma-associations
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna; for further information on institutions involved, see „sample“
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma migrants (relevant actors have been interviewed to analyse the educational situation of Roma-migrants; for further information on the target group, see “sample”)
	<b>Key findings</b>	<p>The situation of Roma pupils with migratory background is not well known. The study aims at investigating this topic and presents several factors that influence the school attainment of Roma children, e.g. lack of German language skills, problematic family situations or lack of parents’ support. Learning aid programmes are of great importance for the educational attainment of Roma children.</p> <p>Furthermore, the principle of “intercultural learning” is not properly implemented at selected Viennese primary schools and thus does not address the needs of Roma children. Only a few classes in the mother tongue of Roma are offered in Vienna.</p>
	<b>Methodology</b>	Qualitative research (interviews)
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative (only a few cases, only local)

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Luciak, Mikael und Binder, Susanne (2010), Informationen und Anregungen zur Umsetzung des Unterrichtsprinzips “INTERKULTURELLES LERNEN”. Ein Handbuch für den Bereich der allgemeinbildenden Pflichtschulen und allgemeinbildenden höheren Schulen</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	

	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma pupils in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	The handbook provides information on the principle of “intercultural learning”. In the first chapter of the handbook general information on pupils with migratory background, pupils who are part of minorities or acknowledged ethnic groups (anerkannte Volksgruppen) is presented. The remaining chapters of the handbook focus for example on the principle of “intercultural learning” from a didactical point of view and present possible strategies to implement the principle in practice.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted (literature review, supplemented by the analysis of two cases of Roma pupils)
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Österreichische Gesellschaft für Politikberatung und Politikentwicklung (2008), 2. Armuts- und Reichtumsbericht für Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	

	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Austrian population
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the poverty and wealth situation in Austria. Main findings: 12-13% of the Austrian population lives in households at or under the poverty endangering quote. Especially single mothers and migrants are at risk.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Representative for the situation in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum (2007), 2. Bericht zur Durchführung des Europäischen Rahmenübereinkommens zum Schutz nationaler Minderheiten in der Republik Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	n.a.
	<b>Key findings</b>	In addition to the second state report regarding the implementation

		of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, an NGO report on the topic has been published. Besides general information about acknowledged ethnic groups (anerkannte Volksgruppen), relevant legal aspects and other issues a critical evaluation of certain constitutional regulations concerning the rights of minorities is carried out. Amongst others the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum) reported that Roma have repeatedly been denied access to a discotheque in Oberwart in January 2007.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Polis (Hrsg.) (2010), Soziale Ausgrenzung Fokus: Roma in Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non- governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	n. a.
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Austria
	<b>Key findings</b>	On occasion of the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion (2009) this report analyses the history and the current situation of Roma in Austria.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted



	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Austria
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	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Riesenfelder, A., Schelepa, S. und Wetzl, P. (2011), Beschäftigungssituation von Personen mit Migrationshintergrund in Wien – Endbericht, Study commissioned by the Chamber of Labour, available at: <a href="http://www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf">www.arbeiterkammer.at/bilder/d164/Studie_MigrantInnen_2012.pdf</a></b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	99 Roma, male and female
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna
	<b>Key findings</b>	Roma are highly disadvantaged in the employment sector, particularly male Roma are more likely to be unemployed than female Roma or non-Roma. Compared to non-Roma there is a higher percentage of Roma employed part time. Particularly among female Roma there is a high share of multiple employments.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Qualitative telephone interviews
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Generally for Roma in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Der Rat der Kärntner Slowenen (Hrsg.) (2006), Zur Lage der Kärntner Slowenen 2006 im Jahr der EU Präsidentschaft der Republik Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report, political
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	
	<b>Location</b>	Province of Carinthia
	<b>Target population</b>	Slovene Minority in the Province of Carinthia
	<b>Key findings</b>	This report provides information about the situation of the Slovene Minority in the Province of Carinthia in reference to the Austrian Ethnic Groups Act (Volksgruppengesetz).
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Only regional and for the specific group of the Slovene Minority in the Province of Carinthia

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Schoibl, Heinz (2011), Equality in Housing</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	✓
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	✓

	<i>Migration</i>	✓
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	300 experts, responsible for the allocation of public housing (employees of housing offices, welfare departments, other clerks, housing managements), NGO-experts and equality bodies
	<b>Location</b>	Vorarlberg, Upper Austria, Lower Austria, Tyrol, Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Applicants for public, social or private housing (particularly third-country-nationals)
	<b>Key findings</b>	Third-country nationals are still disadvantaged in the access to public and private housing, although the public housing market has been opened for non-citizens. The burden of housing efforts is much higher for migrants than for Austrian citizens. Migrants live in smaller dwellings than Austrian citizens. Mostly affected by residential segregation in urban areas are migrants from Africa, Asia and Turkey.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Quantitative: 300 questionnaires and qualitative case studies in model regions
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Statistics Austria (ed.) (2007), Atlas of Mortality in Austria by causes of Death</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental, social
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	✓
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	

	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	Empirical basis of the study: Official death records and the results of the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 population census
	<b>Location</b>	Austria
	<b>Target population</b>	Austrian population
	<b>Key findings</b>	In Austria, mortality shows an east-west divide, with a higher mortality risk in the east than in the west.  In general, when distinguishing urban and rural areas, the overall mortality risk is higher in the urban communes than in the rural ones. However, large cities (excluding Vienna) as well as communes with very high agriculture quota register the lowest mortality rates, while Vienna and small towns (2,000 to 10,000 inhabitants) show the highest.
	<b>Methodology</b>	Quantitative survey (secondary data analysis)
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Generally for Roma in Austria

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Verein Gedenkdienst (o.J.), 03/01 Roma und Sinti (des)integriert</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	✓
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.

	<b>Target population</b>	Roma
	<b>Key findings</b>	One case of discrimination in the area of education has been reported: a Roma child was insulted and beaten on the head by his classmate.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Volkshilfe Österreich (2009), Endbericht THARA Amaroctraro</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non- governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (project report)
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the conducted project THARA Amaroctraro.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Volkshilfe Österreich (2009), Endbericht THARA Roma in Transition</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non- governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (project report)
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the conducted project THARA Roma in Transition.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Volkshilfe Österreich (2011), Tätigkeitsbericht THARA – Beratung und Dialog</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non- governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	

	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (project report)
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna
	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the conducted project THARA Beratung und Dialog, which is a follow-up project to the above named project THARA Roma in Transition.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, Volkshilfe Österreich (2012), Endbericht THARA – Romani Butji</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non- governmental
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	✓
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	
	<b>Sample</b>	No empirical research conducted (project report)
	<b>Location</b>	Vienna
	<b>Target population</b>	Roma in Vienna

	<b>Key findings</b>	The report provides information on the conducted project THARA Romani Butji.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not representative

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, ZARA (2008), Rassismus Report 2007. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	n.a.
	<b>Key findings</b>	ZARA annually publishes its report providing statistical information on the complaints received disaggregated by area (e.g. employment, police) and other information related to racism, e.g. experiences of racist/ethnic discrimination in different areas, projects to raise awareness in this regard, etc.  Discrimination cases involving Roma were in the areas of police and housing. One discrimination case involving Roma was reported: entrance into a discotheque was denied.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of</b>	Not applicable



	<b>findings</b>	
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	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, ZARA (2009), Rassismus Report 2008. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report
<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	n.a.
	<b>Key findings</b>	ZARA annually publishes its report providing statistical information on the complaints received disaggregated by area of discrimination (e.g. employment, police) and other information related to racism, e.g. experiences of racist/ethnic discrimination in different areas, projects to raise awareness in this regard, etc. One discrimination case involving Roma was reported in the area of police.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

	<b>Title, author, source</b>	<b>Austria, ZARA (2012), Rassismus Report 2011. Einzelfall-Bericht über rassistische Übergriffe und Strukturen in Österreich</b>
	<b>Source and type</b>	Non-governmental report

<b>Thematic area</b>	<i>Education</i>	
	<i>Housing</i>	
	<i>Employment</i>	
	<i>Health</i>	
	<i>Poverty</i>	
	<i>Migration</i>	
	<i>Active citizenship</i>	✓
	<b>Sample</b>	n.a.
	<b>Location</b>	n.a.
	<b>Target population</b>	n.a.
	<b>Key findings</b>	ZARA annually publishes its report providing statistical information on the complaints received disaggregated by area (e.g. employment, police) and other information related to racism, e.g. experiences of racist/ethnic discrimination in different areas, projects to raise awareness in this regard, etc. One discrimination case involving Roma was reported: it was a Roma discriminating statement, made by an actor in a TV show.
	<b>Methodology</b>	No empirical research conducted
	<b>Representativeness, transferability of findings</b>	Not applicable

## 5. Roma networks

Type of Associations, Organisations, NGOs	Name of Organisation	Email/Website	Roma involvement	Main area of expertise
<b>Association</b>	Association of Roma Oberwart ( <i>Verein Roma Oberwart</i> )	<a href="mailto:office@verein-roma.at">office@verein-roma.at</a> , <a href="http://www.verein-roma.at/">http://www.verein-roma.at/</a>	Association of Roma Oberwart aims at improving the living situation of Roma in Austria. The association established an information center to support members of “Volksgruppen” in social, economic, societal and cultural matters.	Education Employment Culture Discrimination Awareness-Raising
<b>Association</b>	Ketani Association ( <i>Verein Ketani</i> )	<a href="mailto:verein.ketani@aon.at">verein.ketani@aon.at</a> , <a href="http://www.sinti-roma.at/">http://www.sinti-roma.at/</a>	The Ketani Association is active in the field of protection and maintenance of Romani culture and language, and aims at improving the social, economic and legal status of Roma and Sinti in Austria.	Education Culture and Language History of Roma in Austria Housing
<b>Association</b>	Cultural Association of Austrian Roma ( <i>Kulturverreich österreichischer Roma</i> )	<a href="mailto:office@kv-roma.at">office@kv-roma.at</a> , <a href="http://www.kv-roma.at/">http://www.kv-roma.at/</a>	The Cultural Association of Austrian Roma hosts a permanent exhibition on history and travels of Roma, and publishes the	Culture and Language History of Roma Improving social and political

			newspaper "Romano Kipo".	status of Roma
<b>Association</b>	Romano Centro	<a href="mailto:office@romano-centro.org">office@romano-centro.org</a> , <a href="http://www.romano-centro.org/NEW/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=12&amp;Itemid=2&amp;lang=de">http://www.romano-centro.org/NEW/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=12&amp;Itemid=2&amp;lang=de</a>	Romano Centro is concerned with education and culture; it publishes the newspaper "Romano Centro".	Education Culture Housing
Association	Roma Service	<a href="mailto:office@roma-service.at">office@roma-service.at</a> , <a href="http://www.roma-service.at/">http://www.roma-service.at/</a>	The association is concerned with preserving, documenting and promoting the culture of Burgenland-Roma and is active in the area of education.	Culture Language Education
Part of an association	Adult Education Centre for Burgenland-Roma ( <i>Volkshochschule der burgenländischen Roma</i> )	<a href="mailto:office@vs-roma.eu">office@vs-roma.eu</a> , <a href="http://www.vhs-roma.eu/">http://www.vhs-roma.eu/</a>	The Adult Education Centre for Burgenland-Roma offers education programmes for persons who are interested in the culture and language of Roma.	Culture and Language
Association	Baro Ilo	<a href="mailto:office@baroilo.at">office@baroilo.at</a> , <a href="http://www.baroilo.at/">http://www.baroilo.at/</a>	Baro Ilo aims at fostering culture and language of Roma in Vienna.	Culture and Language
Member of the Bishop-Conference ( <i>Bischofskonferenz</i> )	Roma-Pastoral	<a href="mailto:romapastoral@gmx.at">romapastoral@gmx.at</a> , <a href="http://www.martinus.at/fmi/xsl/martinuspro/allgemein/Allgemein/browse/browserecord.xsl?lay=WEB_Seite&amp;WEB_BEREIC H:: kp_BereichID=1432112200">http://www.martinus.at/fmi/xsl/martinuspro/allgemein/Allgemein/browse/browserecord.xsl?lay=WEB_Seite&amp;WEB_BEREIC H:: kp_BereichID=1432112200</a>	The Roma-Pastoral has caritative and social duties (e.g. pastoral care, pilgrimage, support of cultural identity, support in difficult or emergency situations).	Culture and Tradition Support in difficult or emergency situations

		<a href="#">7205529&amp;-sortfield.1=Reihenfolge&amp;-sortfield.2=ref_Sortierung_Aktuell&amp;-sortfield.3=ref_Sortierung_Termin&amp;-sortorder.1=ascend&amp;-sortorder.2=descend&amp;-sortorder.3=ascend&amp;-max=1&amp;-find</a>		
Association	Public Aid ( <i>Volkshilfe</i> )	<a href="mailto:office@volkshilfe.at">office@volkshilfe.at</a> , <a href="http://www.volkshilfe.at/1428...2.html">http://www.volkshilfe.at/1428...2.html</a>	<i>Volkshilfe</i> realised several projects for Roma, in particular in the area of employment.	Employment