Outcomes and projects of the surveys on Roma people and homeless in Italy

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Outline

- Roma people in Italy, the project agreed by Istat and UNAR
- The main results of the first module of the project
- The design of the second module
- Homeless in Italy: Istat experiences in the past
- The statistical project on homeless within the framework of the population Census
- Concluding remarks
Roma people in Italy, the project agreed by Istat and UNAR

- Since 2017 Istat is coordinating an information and statistical working group as one of the measures settled to implement Italy’s 2012-2020 national Roma inclusion strategy (EU Framework for National Roma integration strategies), with the aim to achieve a shared perspective on scopes and methods of data collection (a new strategy 2021-2030 has been released by UNAR).

- The working group is composed by institutions (ministries and local government) and associations and stakeholders. Members are:
  - Istat (National Statistical Institute), Public administrations (Ministries of Health, Education, Justice etc.)
  - UNAR (National Anti-Racial Discrimination Office), NGOs / Academia / other stakeholders
  - National Roma Associations Platform established at Unar
Roma people in Italy, the project agreed by Istat and UNAR

- In 2018 Istat and UNAR signed a new agreement.
- The aim of the agreement is to improve the statistical knowledge towards Roma people and develop a system of indicators to monitor inclusion policies, with a special focus on housing.
- The project is made of three modules
Roma people in Italy, the project agreed by Istat and UNAR

- First module:
  - Map all housing inclusion projects carried out by or in cooperation with municipalities and/or regions targeting housing exclusion and with the objective to overcome formal and informal settlements
  - A background web survey (involving UNAR and Roma Associations) was launched in October 2019, in order to assess all housing inclusion projects carried out by municipalities (all municipalities over 15,000 inhabitants; 745 municipalities) and regions
  - Roma Associations (endorsed by Unar) have filled out a questionnaire to investigate the projects carried out in which they have been involved or of which they are familiar.
  - The survey was finished at the beginning of 2020 and the results disseminated at the beginning of 2021

- The second module will consist of interviewing Roma people who left the settlements and those still living in formal and informal settlements (on the field at the end of 2022)

- The third module aims at comparing the degree of inclusion of Roma people that left settlements and live in houses (on one hand) and of those still living in the settlements (on the other hand).
The main results of the first module of the project

Table 1 Roma people background survey. Data from the municipalities with inhabitants equal to or greater than 15,000 – response rate Year 2019 (absolute values and percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main questionnaire status</th>
<th>No. of Municipalities</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>85.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially Completed</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Access to the Questionnaire</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>745</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Istat, Survey on Housing Transition Projects in favour of Roma people*
The main results of the first module of the project

### Table 2 - Housing transition projects in favour of Roma people in the period 2012-2020, beneficiaries and individuals transitioned to permanent housing, by geographical area - Year 2019 (absolute values and percentage)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographical distribution</th>
<th>Municipalities with at least 1 project</th>
<th>Total projects</th>
<th>Beneficiary households</th>
<th>Transitioned individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>absolute value</td>
<td>absolute value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast (b)</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITALY</td>
<td><strong>42</strong></td>
<td><strong>96</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,342</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,104</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Istat, Survey on Housing Transition Projects in favour of Rsc people

(a) The data on beneficiary households and transitioned individuals refer to the responses received in the detailed project files, of which 89 out of 96 projects were completed.

(b) In the Northeast, the housing transition projects included six projects aimed at seven individual beneficiaries, which were added to the total number of beneficiaries.
The main results of the first module of the project

Figure 1 - Housing transition projects by type of settlements of origin of the beneficiaries
Year 2019 (absolute values)
The main results of the first module of the project

Figure 2 - Housing transition projects by type of destination - Year 2019 (absolute values)
The main results of the first module of the project

Figure 3 - Eligibility criteria for participation in housing transition projects - Year 2019 (absolute values)
The main results of the first module of the project

Figure 4 - Accompanying measures - Year 2019 (absolute values)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accompaniment to housing autonomy</th>
<th>79</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support for the regularisation of legal status</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention and management of conflicts with neighbours</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-time economic contribution</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic contribution for payment of rent</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for repatriation or transfer in another EU country</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main results of the first module of the project

Figure 5 - Problems in the operational management of the project - Year 2019 (absolute values)

- Difficulty of the beneficiaries to afford housing costs: 55
- Difficulty in finding housing: 52
- Objection and episodes of protest from the local citizens: 20
- Problems of management by the municipality: 11
- Problems of coexistence with the neighbours: 31
- Other problem: 13
The main results of the first module of the project

**Table 3 - Housing transition projects for Roma people and Roma settlements by region - Year 2019 (absolute values)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regions</th>
<th>municipalities with projects since 2012</th>
<th>projects</th>
<th>municipalities with settlements</th>
<th>Rsc settlements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>373</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Istat, Survey on Housing Transition Projects in favour of Rsc people
The main results of the first module of the project

- The solution of the issues related to the first axis of the strategy (housing) for the inclusion of Roma people is going ahead very slowly

- No less than 73 percent of the total declared settlements have existed for more than 10 years, and almost 17 percent have existed for 5-10 years. The percentage of most recent settlements was lower: 13 settlements have been on the territory for 2-5 years, ten settlements for one or two years, and only four have existed for less than a year

- According to the data collected, almost half of the settlements were unauthorized or spontaneous

- Over 14,000 people were present in 222 settlements

- Moreover, this datum is to be considered incomplete, because not all municipalities were in possession of updated or complete information on the population in the settlements. Moreover, the data on informal settlements, even if they are long-term, are extremely variable over time
The main results of the first module of the project

- The high number of long-term settlements highlights how the institutionalization of housing situations initially considered as emergencies, involves a further element of difficulty in planning more inclusive and long-term housing policies.

- In many cases, the settlement has represented a housing possibility for Roma households, with regard to both spontaneous settlements and to formal ones. However, the history of long-term settlements, especially where there are tolerated settlements, represents the inadequacy of alternative solutions made available by the administrations.

- The stabilization of emergency situations makes the process of moving beyond the settlements more complicated over time, and sometimes coincides with the eradication of communities from the territory.

- This process must go hand in hand with actions that intervene on the social, economic, educational and work aspects.

- How was this situation affected by the pandemic?
The design of the second and third module of the survey on Roma people

- The second module of the Roma people Istat/Unar survey: design and administration of a questionnaire addressed to Roma households who have left the settlements following the activities planned and carried out as part of the housing transition projects.

- These interviews will make possible to obtain information on the main socio-demographic variables (sex, age, citizenship, etc.) and acquire elements aimed at measuring the possible effects of housing inclusion following the new housing trajectory undertaken.

- Moreover, interviews will be carried out with the Roma people who still live in the settlements in the same territories where the transition projects have been implemented, to compare the information collected for the people who moved to permanent housing to those collected for the people who continue to live in the settlements.

- The final goal of the project is to create indicators capable of measuring the inclusion gap between the Roma population in the settlements and that in stable housing.

- By the end of the year, this second module will be on the field.
In 2011 and 2014, Istat conducted two surveys on the condition of persons living in extreme poverty.

The surveys aimed at estimating the unknown size and some demographic and social characteristics of this population.

The sample strategy for the surveys refers to the theory of indirect sampling, based on the use of a sampling frame indirectly related to the target population.

Following the indirect sampling approach, the estimation is performed through the “weight share method”, based on the links connecting the frame of services with the population of homeless.

The sampling base was represented by the benefits provided (meals served and beds) at the types of services taken into consideration (soup kitchens and night shelters). During the survey month (21 November-20 December 2014), 639 centres were visited: 174 soup kitchens at lunch, 89 soup kitchens at supper, and 376 night shelters.
Homeless in Italy: Istat experiences in the past

- It was estimated that 50,724 homeless persons, in the months of November and December 2014, used at least one soup kitchen or night shelter in the 158 Italian municipalities where the survey was carried out.

- This amount corresponds to 2.43 per thousand of the population regularly registered with the municipalities taken into consideration by the survey, a value higher than three years earlier, when it was 2.31 per thousand (47,648 persons).

- However, the population observed by the survey also included individuals not entered in the civil registry, or residing in municipalities other than those where they gravitated.

- About two thirds of homeless people (68.7%) declared they were in the civil register of an Italian municipality – a figure that fell to 48.1% among foreign people and reached 97.2% among Italians.
Homeless in Italy: Istat experiences in the past

- It was estimated that Homeless people were (in 2014):
  - 86% men;
  - foreigners (58%);
  - they are less than 54 years old (76%), on average 44 years old;
  - they have at most the lower secondary school certificate (65%);
  - they live in the North of Italy (56%);
  - they live alone (77%);
  - they are not married (51%)
The statistical project on homeless within the framework of the population Census

- A new strategy was adopted by Istat to make periodical (every 3 years) the survey on the homeless people within the framework of the population Census.

- A system of surveys was designed within the framework of the population Census by making recourse to the Civil Registry that are carefully updated to include homeless people who are registered in the registry at fictitious addresses or at a real address (e.g. that of associations operating in support).

- The population Census will count homeless people and 2 surveys will take the detailed picture of them.
The statistical project on homeless within the framework of the population Census

✓ A survey on the services for the homeless that will re-produce the design adopted in 2011 and 2014 (in about 160 municipalities chosen looking at the size and at the location close to metropolitan areas)

✓ A Point in Time survey of the people present in the street, the so-called street homeless, with the help of street units or trained data collectors. Possible administration of a limited number of questionnaires to homeless people in metropolitan cities to create a matching with the ICSSD survey. In 14 metropolitan areas

- Census data on homeless population will be made available soon, the 2 surveys will be conducted in the last quarter of 2023
The enlargement of the knowledge of the living conditions of the “hidden side of the moon” is in progress

The traditional surveys on the households based on sample regularly selected from Civil Registries will be complemented by other statistical surveys to sketch a more complete and exhaustive picture of the poverty and of the inclusion in Italy

The crucial role of the Census to provide a framework and stable funding to the statistical project on homeless people (and also on people living in settlements)

The new strategy (2021-2030) for the inclusion of Roma people a challenge also for the official statistics

Concluding remarks
Thank you

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