



Collection and use of equality data based on ethnic origin - Roma

Ursula Till-Tentschert
Andrey Ivanov
23 July 2021

Overview

- Principles to collect ethnic data
- Portfolio of indicators
- Populating indicators: Addressing the challenges

Principles to collect ethnic data

- EU principle of non-discrimination
- the Council Directive 2000/43/EC of 29 June 2000 implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin ('Racial Equality Directive'),
- 2013 Council Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in the Member States
- European Court of Auditors –2016 special report EU policy initiatives and financial support for Roma integration
- Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- EU anti-racism action plan 2020 – 2025
- New EU Roma strategic framework

Does the GDPR preclude the collection data based on racial and ethnic origin?

Very short answer: No!

Does the GDPR preclude the collection data based on racial and ethnic origin?

There are some conditions to be fulfilled:

- Explicit consent to the processing of personal data for one or more specified purposes
- Substantial public interest, on the basis of Union or Member State law
- Principles of data protection apply to information concerning an identified or identifiable natural person
- Not applicable to anonymous information or to personal data rendered anonymised
- Processing for statistical purposes requires appropriate safeguards
 - against possible abuse of data
 - guarantee rights of the data subject

- Population censuses
- Administrative registers
- Household and individual surveys
- Discrimination testing
- Diversity monitoring by employers and service providers
- Qualitative research – case studies, in-depth and expert interviews
- Criminal justice system (including police, prosecution, and sentencing data, when the ethnic or racial origin of the victim is registered; these can include various types of crimes, including those motivated by bias (hate crimes)).
- Complaints data
- Data collections on online hate speech

Concept of racial or ethnic origin

- Racial, ethnic and national origins are mutable grounds
- Comprises nationality, colour, descent, minority religion, minority language, minority culture and traditions
- Attribution or ascription, othering, grouping and stereotyping create, institute or impose racial or ethnic origins
- Ethnic identity might differ from the assumption and perception of a third party
- Identity is fluid and may change over time



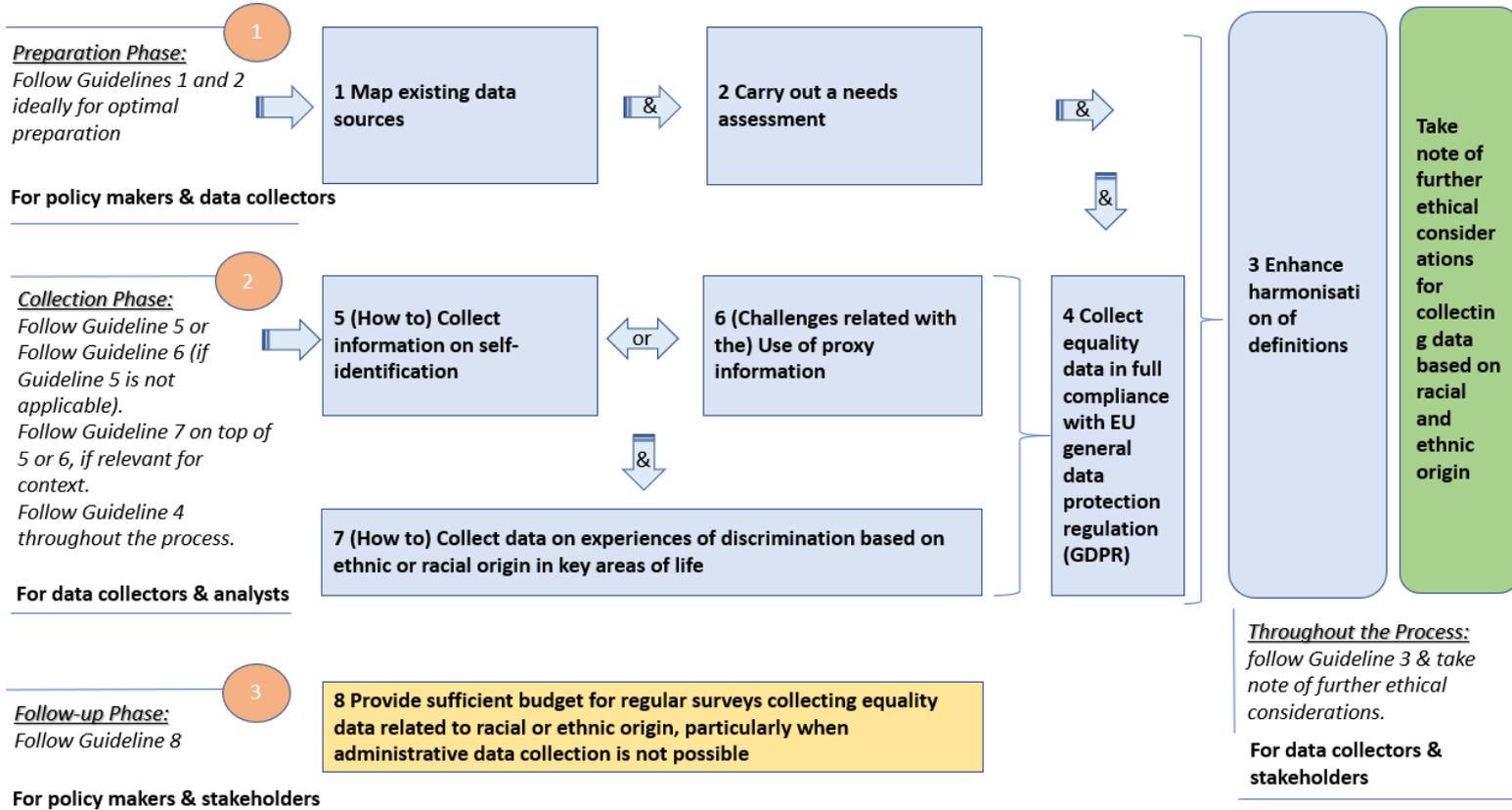
A human rights based approach to data

OHCHR principles for data collection:

- Participation
- Disaggregation
- Self-identification
- Transparency
- Privacy
- Accountability



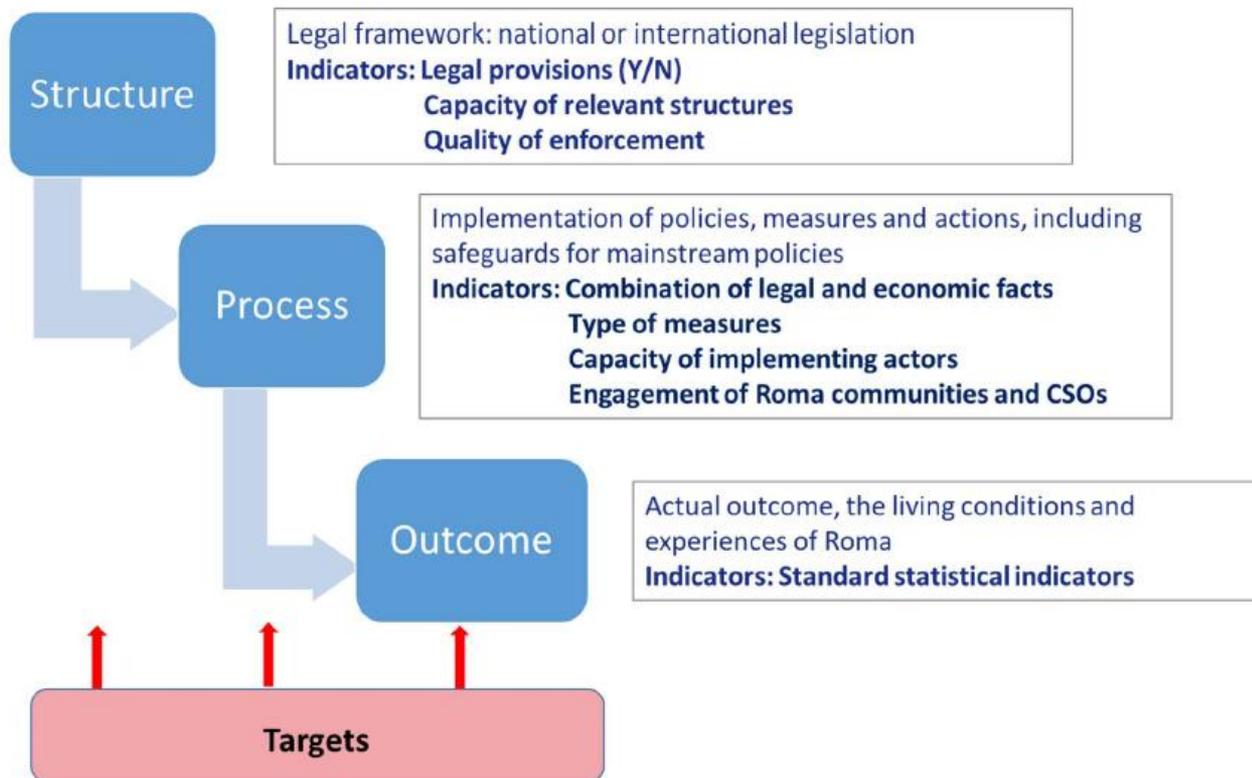
Guiding principles for equality data collection*



Portfolio of indicators

Methodological and political challenge

Figure 2: Structure–process–outcome indicators framework



Key characteristics – outcome indicators

- To monitor progress against the objectives and targets of the EU Roma strategic framework through outcome indicators (17 headline and 27 optional indicators)
- Horizontal objectives:
 - Fight and prevent antigypsyism and discrimination
 - Reduce poverty and social exclusion
 - Promote participation by empowerment, building cooperation and trust
- Sectoral objectives:
 - Increase effective equal access to quality inclusive mainstream **education**
 - Increase effective equal access to paid quality and sustainable **employment**
 - Improve Roma **health** and increase effective equal access to quality healthcare and social services
 - Increase effective equal access to adequate desegregated **housing** and essential services

Key characteristics – process indicators

- Three dimensions
 - Institutional set-up
 - Particular measures and actions
 - Quality of decision making
- Still areas of development:
 - E.g. in the area of health, participation and empowerment, environmental justice and digital inclusion
 - To cover the diversity of groups, such as mobile EU citizens
- Alignment with other policy files, e.g. in education – completion rate of upper secondary education vs early school leavers
- Clear outcome targets in a new framework put higher demand on effective monitoring

Populating the indicators

Addressing the data challenge

General considerations

- For calculating indicators we need quantitative data. Qualitative methods help understand the message an indicator conveys but cannot substitute it
- Different indicators require different types of data that can come from different tools
 - Poverty: EU SILC
 - Employment: LFS
 - Health: Demographic and Health Surveys
 - Housing: housing stock and conditions surveys
 - ...
- Compromises between breadth and depth are inevitable
- Ideally, the National Statistical Institute should collect data and calculate indicators

Field work approaches for hard to reach groups

To consider all aspects. Is the target population....

- Hard to identify?
- Hard to sample?
- Hard to find or to contact?
- Hard to persuade to take part?
- Hard to interview?

Targeted surveys

- Fully representative surveys:
 - Based on random probability sample
 - FRA's (and similar) surveys are currently the key source of data for populating indicators for monitoring the EU Roma Strategic Framework
- Limited representativity
 - Non-random probability sample (quota, location, etc.)
- In both cases
 - Indicators can be populated albeit with different degree of representativity
 - Sampling is critical (sampling frames not always reliable)
 - The 'universe of study' ("Roma") is difficult to define

Administrative data sources

- Data bases relevant for Roma inclusion:
 - Revenue agencies (formal incomes)
 - National Health Insurers (having personal doctor, health insurance status)
 - Social assistance agencies (social assistance by type of assistance)
 - Social insurance agencies (formal employment status)
 - Labour offices (registered unemployment)
 - Population statistics (births/deaths registries, life expectancy, child mortality, maternal respondents/individuals)
 - School inspectorates (enrolment)
- “All” you need is a question on ethnic identity based on self-identification (ideally multiple ethnic identities to be allowed) – some registers allow a person to express their ethnic identity, but none allows for multiple ethnic identities ...
- Census can provide if a direct question about multiple ethnicity or proxies are asked. Then the registers could be linked with Census to get respective breakdowns
 - Anonymization procedure is critical

Methods to include hard to reach groups in surveys

- Tailor it to the specificities of the groups
- Create trust ↔ Participation is key!
 - Get consent from the communities
 - Work with mediators and peer interviewers
 - Prepare fieldwork materials with the Roma and Travellers (terminology!)
 - Introduce cultural awareness training
 - Research with the communities not about the communities
- Include question on self- and multiple identification
- Use proxy information, eg. settlements, country of birth, minority language etc.

FRA surveys covering Roma

	EU-MIDIS I	Roma pilot	EU-MIDIS II	Roma and Travellers Survey	Roma survey 2020
Year:	2008	2011	2016	2019	2020
Belgium				X	
Bulgaria	X	X	X		*
Croatia			X		X
Czech Republic	X	X	X		X
France		X		X	
Greece	X	X	X		X
Hungary	X	X	X		X
Ireland				X	
Italy		X			X
Netherlands				X	
Poland	X	X			
Portugal		X	X		X
Romania	X	X	X		X
Slovakia	X	X	X		*
Spain		X	X		X
Sweden				X	
United Kingdom				X	
Serbia					X
North Macedonia					X

Data on Roma in Latvia: open questions

- Census has a question on ethnicity and a sampling frame exists
 - But the number of Roma is small (allowing for multiple identities or combination with language (see Hungary, Czechia) or targeted campaigns before Census (e.g. Serbia 2011) could provide more realistic numbers)
- A survey envisaged for 2023
 - But how to avoid interviewing the same households?
 - Or maybe go for longitudinal survey?
- Various institutions (e.g. Ministry of Education) collect data on Roma
 - But applying unclear methodology (external identification?). How to bring in line with the human rights based approach to data?
- Administrative data sources
 - How to use information on ethnicity from census to generate thematic profiles by ethnicity?
 - What normative preconditions are/should be in place?



Thank you!

romaworkingparty@fra.europa.eu

fra.europa.eu