

European Academic Network on Romani Studies

A European Union / Council of Europe Joint Programme (since June 2011)

1. *Membership demography*

In the present (September 2013) there are 326 validated members of the network: 191 full members (58.6%) and 135 associated members (41.4%). The membership is widely distributed geographically, gender balanced, composed of an increasing number of young and dynamic, highly qualified academics, who are rather dispersed in term of institutional affiliation (there are few institutional centres in Europe hosting 2 or more members of the network).

- a) **Geographic distribution:** members of the Network reside in 37 countries. There are members in almost all EU Member States (for exceptions see the list annexed). The large majority of the CoE countries are also represented. Countries with the highest number of members are: UK, Romania, Hungary, France, Spain, Bulgaria, Italy, USA, Germany, and the Czech Republic.
- b) **Sex ratio:** there is gender balance among the members, there are 170 female (52.1%) and 156 male (47.9%) members.
- c) **Academic degrees:** all members have academic advanced degrees or are candidates for a degree: 194 members (59.5%) hold doctoral degree, 87 members (26.6%) are doctoral candidates, 38 members have been awarded a Masters degree, and 7 members have other qualifications.
- d) **Age:** If academic maturity is measured by the date of the doctoral degree awarded (PhD), the network membership is relatively young. 144 members have been awarded their doctorate after the year 2000 (74% of the 194 PhDs). In terms of the recent decades: 10 members have their degrees from the 1970's, 14 from the 1980's, 26 from the 1990's, 104 from the 2000's, and 40 members received their degrees after 2010.
- e) **Academic disciplines:** There are more than 50 disciplines and sub-disciplines represented in the network. Highest numbers of members come from: Anthropology, Sociology, History, Ethnology, Political Science, Linguistics, and Legal Studies / Human Rights, but the range of disciplines encompasses most of the Humanities and Social Sciences.
- f) **Institutional affiliations:** The membership is dispersed in more than 250 institutions; there are only 24 institutions which have 2 or more network members. This means that the network has developed into an important communication infrastructure connecting researchers in this domain.

2. *Areas of interests and expertise*

- a) **The regional interest** of the members covers the countries of Central and Eastern Europe where the highest proportion of Roma live (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria), and also countries in Southern and Western Europe (Italy, France, Spain, UK), or more broadly the EU and its neighbouring regions.
- b) **Language competencies:** There is high number of languages spoken by the members of the network and the majority of the members speak three or more languages.

- c) **Thematic expertise:** The keywords describing the academic interest of the members are very varied and cover a wide area of expertise and academic knowledge including the cultural, linguistic, social and historical research in European Roma communities.
- d) **Policy work:** In addition to the academic research experience many members have previous involvement in evaluation and consultancy work in domains including, but not limited to, education, language and cultural rights, human rights, cultural policy, housing, and local development.

3. *Network Experience in providing training and policy expertise*

- a) **Higher education and training;** a summer school was organised in Budapest (20 teachers and more than 50 participants (June–July 2012) in two modules: one for PhD candidates and the second for policy practitioners; to mainstream the Roma related knowledge in academic forums and beyond the Academia,
- b) **Consultancy for research methodology and policy monitoring;** during the spring of 2012 members of the network has been involved in preparatory seminars organised by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) aiming to provide advice on *qualitative research methodologies and participatory action research* in evaluating development policies.
- c) **Policy advise and reviewing policy documents;** for example generating commentaries on the progress of national strategies - as a response to an invitation from the European Commission, DG Justice – during February 2013; aiming to improve the implementation of the National Strategies for Roma Inclusion in the EU Member States.
- d) **Anti-discrimination measures and positive action for Supporting Roma in Academia;** 3 Romani interns at the ECMI - European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg (D), and 4 seminars in European research centres in Chisinau (Md), Cluj-Napoca (Ro), Budapest (Hu), and Liverpool (UK), involving more than 16 professors and approx. 40 young scholars of Romani background from all over Europe and the postsoviet countries.

4. *Potentials and challenges for the future*

- a) to make the **policy advisory orientation of the network a priority** by further work with the policy making community and the relevant international (CoE, EU, FRA, etc.) and national bodies (Equality Bodies, National Roma Contact Points etc.);
- b) to **valorise the monitoring and policy evaluation expertise** embodied by the network membership by taking up further documents for analysis and evaluating implemented policies;
- c) offer **advice on research methodology** in order to support the development and implementation of evidence based policies in Europe in the domain of Roma inclusion,
- d) to **offer training sessions to policy practitioners and officials** working on Roma related issues in order to enhance the understanding of Romani culture, society and the challenges Roma face
- e) continuing to **promote dialog, foster social inclusion, and fight discrimination** by supporting Roma in Academia;

For more details contact: rsnet.secretary@gmail.com and visit the website: <http://romanistudies.eu/>.

Country of residence of the members

	Frequency	Percent
UK	46	14.1
Romania	35	10.7
Hungary	35	10.7
Spain	21	6.4
France	20	6.1
Bulgaria	20	6.1
Italy	17	5.2
USA	17	5.2
Germany	15	4.6
Czech Republic	12	3.7
Belgium	8	2.7
Austria	7	2.1
Slovakia	7	2.1
Netherlands	7	2.1
Ukraine	6	1.8
Canada	5	1.7
Portugal	5	1.7
Poland	5	1.7
Serbia	5	1.7
Sweden	5	1.7
Macedonia	4	1.3
Finland	3	1.0
Russia	3	1.0
Slovenia	2	0.7
Turkey	2	0.7
Ireland	2	0.7
Greece	2	0.7
Lithuania	2	0.7
Switzerland	1	0.3
Moldova	1	0.3
Australia	1	0.3
Brazil	1	0.3
Norway	1	0.3
Croatia	1	0.3
Mexico	1	0.3
Belarus	1	0.3
Luxembourg	1	0.3
Total	326	100.0

There are no members yet from the following EU states:

- Cyprus,
- Estonia,
- Denmark.
- Latvia,
- Malta.

There are no members yet from the following CoE states:

- Albania,
- Andorra,
- Armenia,
- Azerbaijan,
- Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- Georgia,
- Iceland,
- Latvia,
- Liechtenstein,
- Lithuania,
- Monaco,
- Montenegro,
- San Marino.

Members from countries outside of the EU:

- Australia,
- Belarus,
- Brazil,
- Canada,
- Macedonia,
- Mexico,
- Moldova,
- Norway,
- Russia,
- Serbia,
- Switzerland,
- Turkey,
- Ukraine,
- USA.