

To the attention of:

UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
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Switzerland

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Vienna, 7 April 2017

Subject: Contribution by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) to the call for written submissions to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation on Service regulation and human rights to water and sanitation

Dear Sir/Madam,

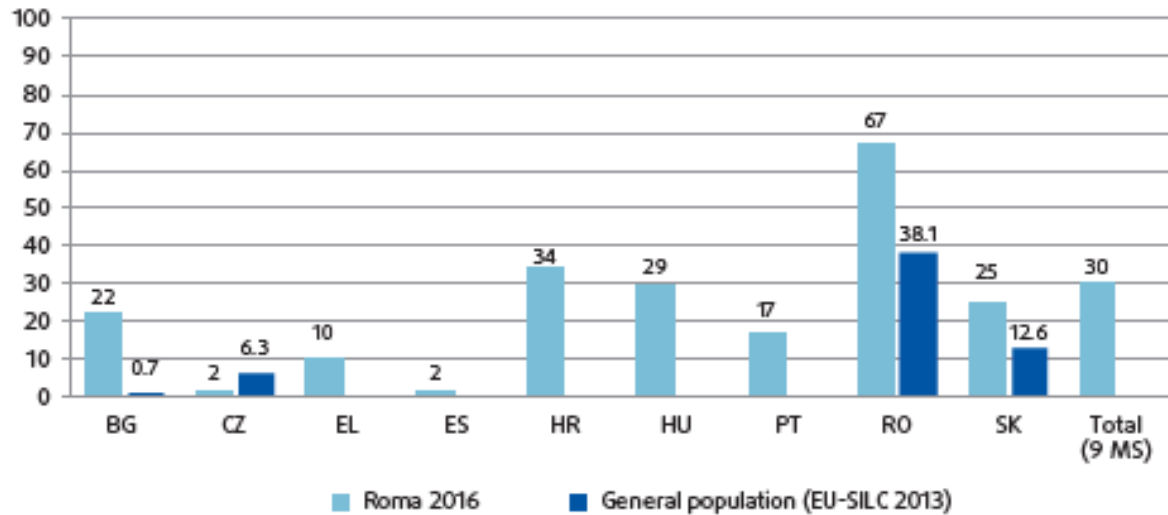
With reference to the above mentioned call for written submissions, FRA would like to stress two points from its relevant research.

A FRA's study from November 2016 report on Roma:

"The situation is worse with regard to access to clean drinking water through a connection to a water supply system with public access. EU-MIDIS II results show that, with the exception of the Czech Republic and Spain, the share of Roma living in households without tap water inside their dwelling is much higher than for the general population (Figure 17). For Roma, this ranges from 10 % in Greece to 67 % in Romania. Compared to results from the 2011 Roma survey, the situation seems to have improved in Slovakia, Bulgaria, Greece and Romania."



Figure 17: Roma living in households without tap water inside the dwelling, compared with general population, by EU Member State (%) ^{a,b,c}



Notes: ^a Out of all persons in Roma households (n=33,767); weighted results.
^b Based on the share of people living in Roma households without tap water inside the dwelling; for the general population, based on Eurostat, EU-SILC 2013 (latest available), "population connected to public water supply" [end_wat_pop], downloaded 8 September 2016.
^c Data for the general population are not available for all countries. A lack of available tap water is considered a rare phenomenon and relevant data are not published regularly in the EU.

Sources: FRA, EU-MIDIS II 2016, Roma; Eurostat, EU-SILC 2013, General population

<http://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2016/eumidis-ii-roma-selected-findings> (p.33)

In Rakytnik, Slovakia, a village with a population of 317, there is no municipal water supply, so the residents get water mainly from private wells which aren't regularly controlled. The entire region is rather deprived, suffering from high unemployment and mainly dependent on agriculture. FRA's project LERI ended up supporting the development of a micro-regional cooperation with 27 neighbouring villages so that they would be able to reach the minimum population size of 10,000 inhabitants in order to meet the programme criteria for applying to Rural development Programmes co-financed by the European Union's European Structural and Investment Funds. This didn't directly address the issue of lack of access to water, but it will hopefully address local development more broadly.

http://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/leri_community_summary_-_rakytnik_-_slovakia_-_en.pdf

Sincerely yours,

Jonas Grimheden
Senior Policy Manager
Freedoms and Justice Department

PS, you may also want to consider the recently published report by the European Roma Rights Centre, [*Thirsting for Justice: Europe's Roma Denied Access to Clean Water & Sanitation*](#)

