



R_oW-P_oWER

Enhancing support for Roma women victims of GBV



Newsletter 2 RoW-Power

December 2024

Enhancing Support for Roma Women Victims of GBV

Project Progress

The RoW-Power project is focused on increasing collaboration between Roma Mediators and GBV professionals to provide more inclusive, culturally sensitive support for Roma women at risk of or experiencing gender-based violence (GBV).

Since our last newsletter, partner organisations have hosted workshops and focus groups with Roma Mediators and GBV professionals, addressing key challenges like cultural misunderstandings and communication barriers. Insights from these sessions have informed a transnational report that will guide the development of a capacity-building training programme.

Focus Groups & Co-operation Workshops

Each partner country held two **focus groups**, one with Roma Mediators and one with GBV professionals, to explore learning needs and strategies for supporting Roma women facing GBV. Discussions focused on cultural awareness, confidentiality, consent, and mapping support services, while highlighting how mediators can collaborate with professionals to help Roma women access these services.

In addition, **co-operation workshops** brought together 15 participants in each country, combining mediators and professionals to share best practices, clarify roles, and address knowledge gaps. These sessions examined GBV case procedures, mediator involvement, and areas for capacity-building, paving the way for a co-operation protocol to strengthen partnerships and improve support for Roma women.



Workshops in Ireland and Germany

Our Findings

The focus groups and co-operation workshops revealed an urgent need for closer collaboration between Roma Mediators and GBV professionals to address shared challenges like cultural misunderstandings, stigma, and systemic barriers.

Participants consistently stated the importance of cultural competence and the role of mediators in bridging gaps. In all countries GBV professionals admitted a lack of training and experience specific to working with Roma communities. In Germany, professionals highlighted that effective support goes beyond basic communication, with one stating, *"It's not the same if we speak directly or mediators support us in the process. Trust is crucial in Roma culture"*. Roma mediators similarly called for capacity-building, particularly in legal knowledge and GBV protocols, to better assist women navigating complex social and systemic issues. The findings also highlighted the diversity within Roma communities, underlining the need for tailored approaches that respect these variations.

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