



Public Consultation on the Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020

OPC Report

26 January 2018

Document Control

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose and scope of the open public consultation

This Open Public Consultation (OPC) was designed to collect the views of stakeholders on the implementation period of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) up to 2020. In particular, the OPC aimed to gather the opinions of stakeholders on the achievements and the challenges faced during the years 2011-2016 and to identify areas where action needs to be taken in the remaining implementation period. Moreover, the OPC takes stock of the European/national policy, legal and funding instruments that have been mobilised to fight discrimination and promote the inclusion of Roma.

These objectives were emphasised by the Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Vera Jourová, who pointed out that very concrete and effective steps to improve the situation of the Roma people are needed at EU and national level.

The on-line consultation ran between 19 July and 25 October 2017 on the website of the European Commission¹. It included questions on how European and national policies have contributed to a better integration of Roma in society. It also assessed the effectiveness of legal and funding instruments that have been put in place to support Roma inclusion half way into their implementation.

The questionnaire², composed of 16 questions³, was structured as follows:

- The first section contained introductory questions on the respondents' background;
- The second section consisted in general questions not requiring knowledge of European/national instruments and efforts for Roma integration. Questions covered: causes of social exclusion and discrimination, ways of addressing them and expectations for the future priority areas for action at European and national levels.
- The third section included more specialised questions on European and national efforts for Roma integration. Questions were centred around: policy developments and results on the ground; achievements and challenges of the EU Framework and National Roma Integration Strategies; measures taken and change in the situation of Roma in the following key areas: education, employment, healthcare, housing, fighting discrimination and antigypsyism.

The questionnaire was developed on the basis of a first input from civil society organisations active in the process of Roma integration at the European level. The latter were asked to respond to a short open questionnaire regarding the midterm review of the EU Framework focusing on the key achievements and challenges experienced during the implementation of the EU Framework in the 2011-2016 period, as well as priorities for future implementation. Their responses, received by March 2017, helped to identify clear response categories for the OPC.

Contributions to the OPC from all citizens, organisations, businesses and institutions interested in Roma integration were welcome.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-evaluation-eu-framework-national-roma-integration-strategies-2020_en#objective

² An online consultation form was available at the EU Survey page: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EvaluationEUFrameworkforNRIS>

³ All questions were optional except the self-identification ones.

The OPC aimed to gather knowledge, views and experiences from the following stakeholder groups:

- Organisations representing national, local, regional and municipal authorities, and other public or mixed entities;
- National Roma Contact Points
- Managing authorities of European Funds at Member State level
- EU umbrella non-governmental organisations (Roma and pro-Roma), including their networks, active in EU countries and/or enlargement countries, national, regional and local non-governmental organisations (Roma and pro-Roma);
- International organisations, institutions active in the area of Roma integration in EU countries and/or enlargement countries;
- Research institutions and academia;
- Organisations representing churches and religious communities;
- Employers, business, trade and professional associations and individuals in general, who have stated interest in the policy.

This summary, compiled by ICF for the European Commission (DG Justice), presents a selection of the results of the public consultation. The full results of the public consultation and all replies are available from the EU Survey web platform and Annex A1.1.2.

1.2 Structure of the report

This report is structured into three main Sections in line with the structure of the OPC questionnaire:

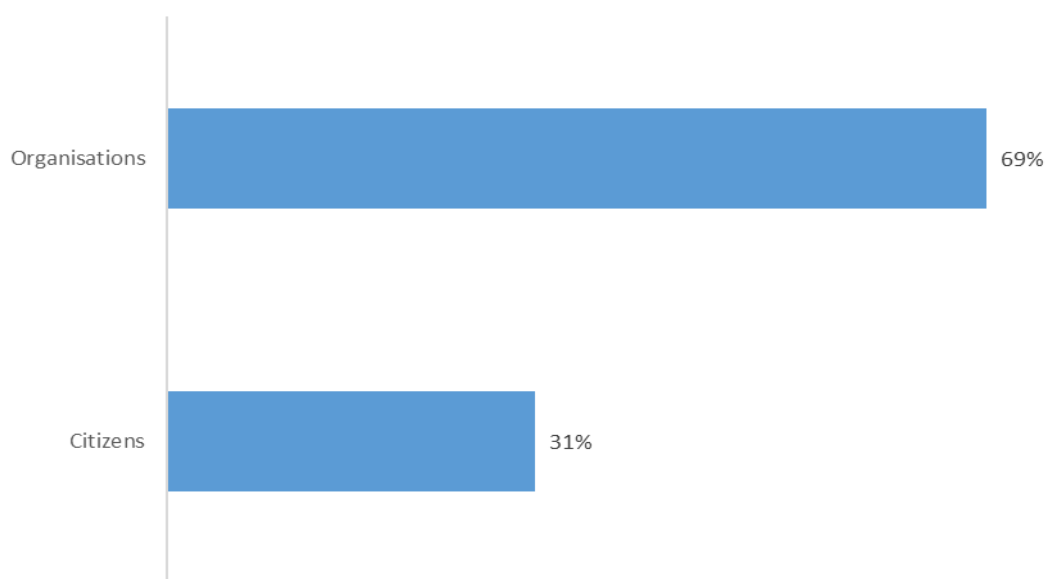
- Section 2 provides an overview of the responses to the OPC and a detailed picture of the number and distribution of the replies received. These are broken down by stakeholder groups and geographical location;
- Section 3 presents the response trends to the general questions on Roma inclusion broken down by stakeholder groups and geographical location (Questions 1 to 8);
- Section 4 presents the response trends to the specialised questions relating to Roma inclusion policies in the countries where respondents indicated having best knowledge of them (Questions 9 to 16);
- Section 5 provides a detailed overview of responses to general and specialised questions provided by respondents in the five countries with highest Roma population (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania);
- Section 6 presents the key conclusions based on the analysis of the survey responses.
- Annex 1.1.1: provides an overview of the position papers submitted by stakeholders replying to the OPC.

2 Overview of responses to the open public consultation

2.1 Number and distribution of replies received

A total of 242 responses were received to the survey: 167 were from organisations while 75 were from individual respondents, hereinafter defined as citizens. The categorization is based on the respondents' selection of a specific category⁴ when filling in the survey⁵.

Figure 2.1 Share of respondents of behalf of an organisation and of individuals (i.e. citizens)



N=242

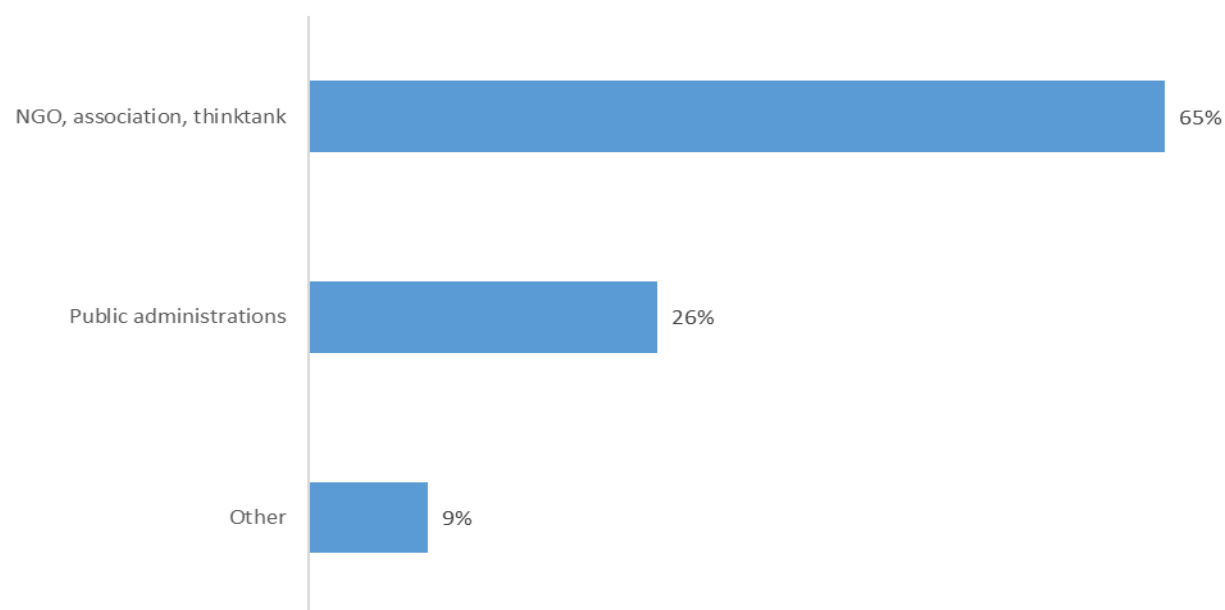
2.2 Distribution by type of responding organisation

Of the 167 responding organisations, 108 answered on behalf of an NGO/think-tank, 44 answered on behalf of a public administration, and 15 answered on behalf of other organisation types (e.g. equality bodies).

⁴ The categories were: non-governmental organization, public, administrations, business, employer organization, trade union, association, academia/research/think tank and other.

⁵ It must be noted in some cases that differences between categories might not be entirely clear. For example, persons working in non-governmental organisations have responded in the capacity of citizens even though they provided their institutional affiliation.

Figure 2.2 Share of responding organisations by type



N=242

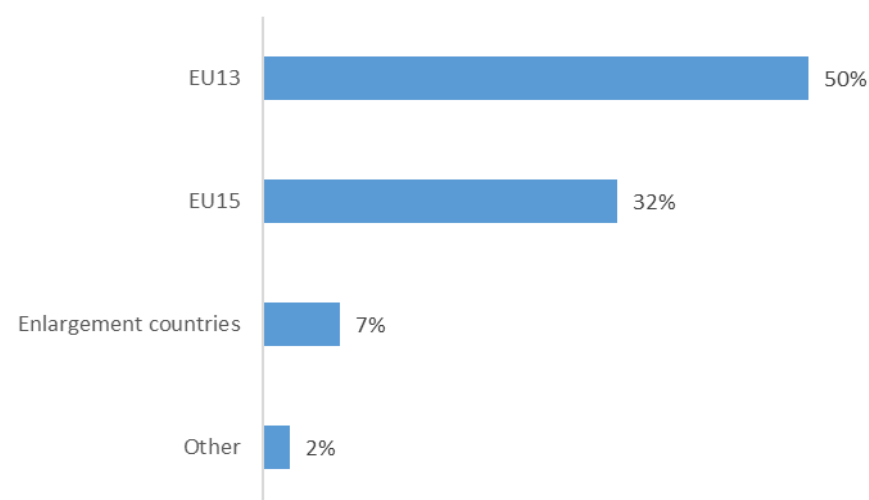
Only two responses came from European-level public institutions and two more came from international public institutions.

2.3 Distribution by geographical location of respondents

Several questions require the respondents to provide an answer based on the country they know best about in relation to the situation of Roma. Of the 242 respondents:

- 120 declared having best knowledge of the Roma situation and Roma inclusion policies in an EU13 country
- 78 declared having such knowledge in an EU15 country
- 17 declared having such knowledge in an Enlargement country
- 6 declared having such knowledge in a third country other than an Enlargement one

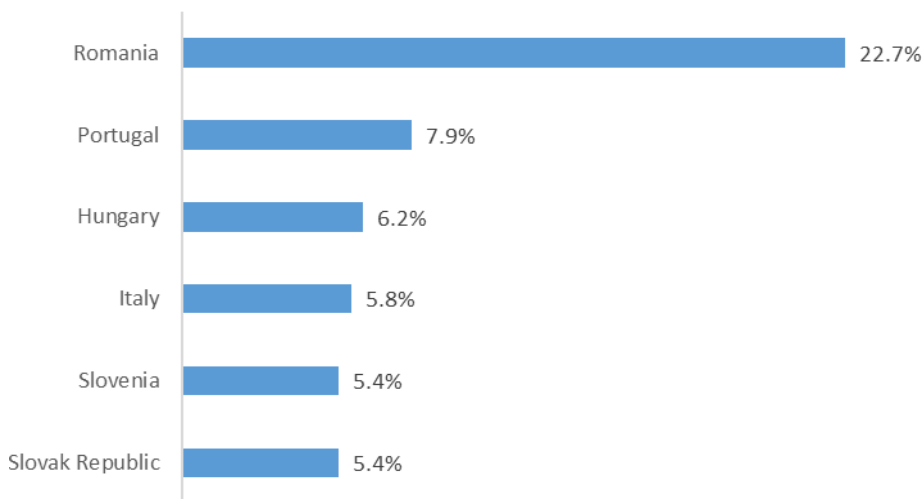
Figure 2.3 Share of respondents who indicated having best knowledge of Roma inclusion in an EU15 country, an EU13 country, an Enlargement country, a third country



N=242

Of the 242 respondents, 55 declared having best knowledge of the Roma situation and Roma inclusion policies in Romania. The other countries which respondents frequently indicated having best knowledge of were Portugal (19 respondents), Hungary (15), Italy (14), Slovenia (13) and Slovakia (13).

Figure 2.4 Top five countries which respondents indicated having best knowledge of in relation to Roma inclusion

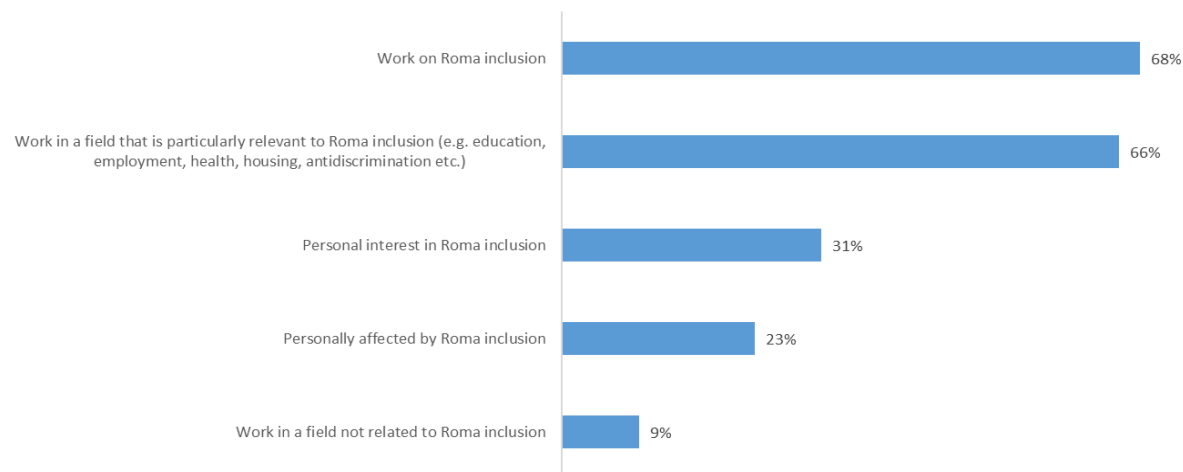


N=242

2.4 Distribution by specialisation on the issue

Around two-thirds of the survey respondents worked directly on the issue of Roma inclusion or in fields relevant to Roma inclusion. Nearly a third of the respondents had a personal interest in Roma inclusion while just under a quarter declared being personally affected by Roma inclusion.

Figure 2.5 Relation to the topic of Roma inclusion



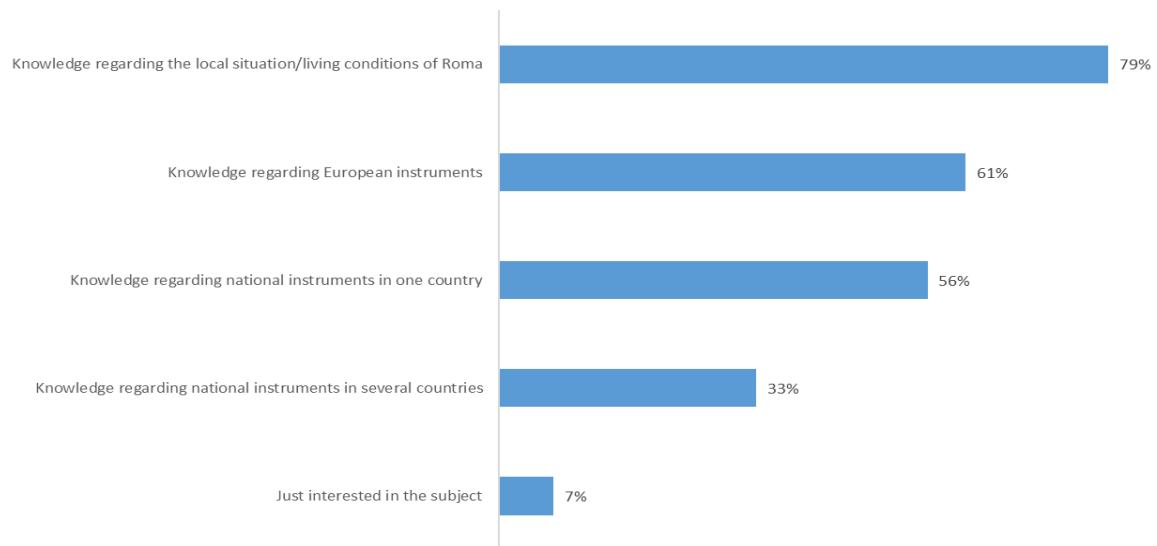
N=475, several answers possible

While most of the respondents indicated having a relation to the issue of Roma inclusion, 202 of the 242 respondents specified their ethnicity: 91 identified themselves as Roma and 111 as non-Roma.

A significant majority of the survey respondents declared having knowledge of the living conditions of the Roma community in their local environment. Just over 60% of the respondents stated

having knowledge of EU instruments for Roma inclusion while 56% indicated having knowledge of Roma inclusion policies in one country. A third of the respondents indicated having such knowledge in several countries.

Figure 2.6 Knowledge of Roma inclusion and related policies



N=572, several answers possible

3 General questions

The survey results are presented based on the structure of the questionnaire (see Section 1):

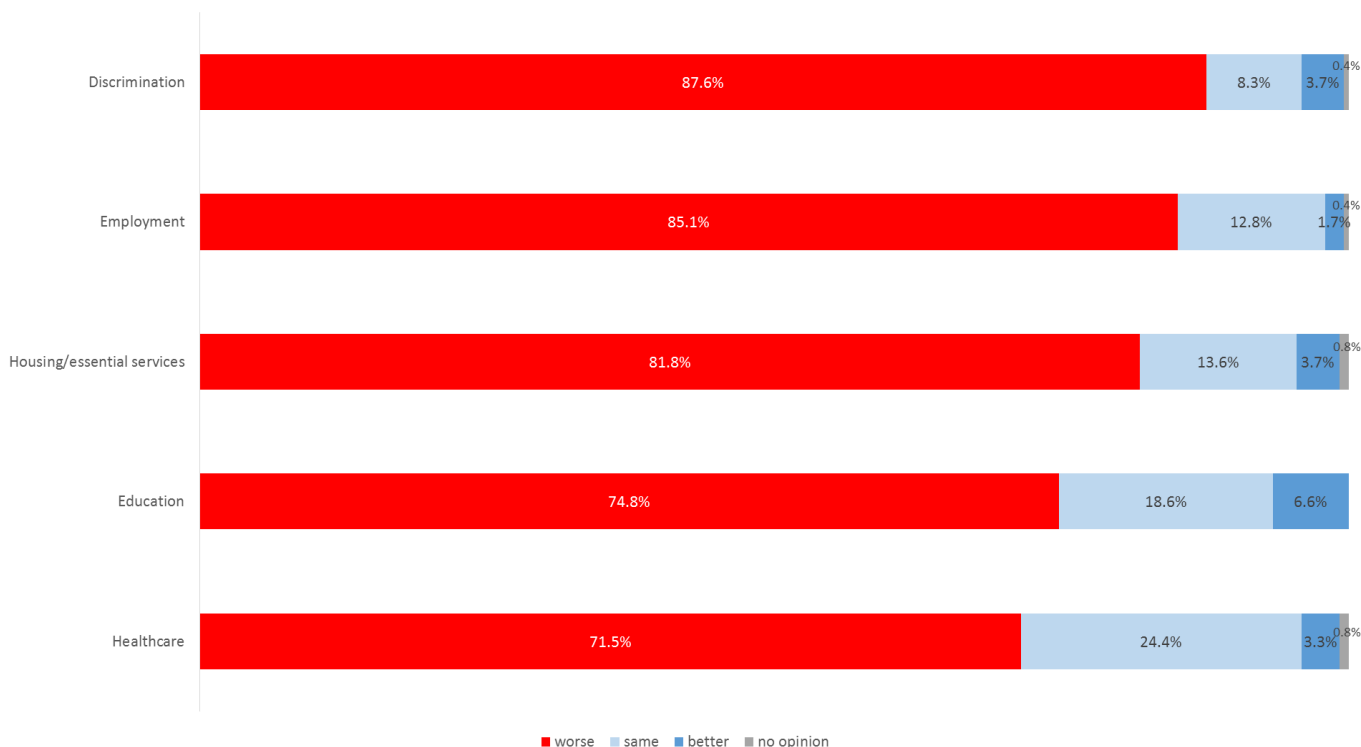
- Section 3 presents answers to general questions by all respondents in relation to the causes of Roma exclusion, the role and effect of policies addressing them, and the priorities for policy action at EU and national level;
- Section 4 provides an overview of answers to specialised questions assessing policy developments since 2011, the effects of National Roma Integration Strategies, across the five main areas of action: education, employment, health, housing and fighting discrimination and anti-gypsyism.

3.1 Causes of exclusion and discrimination of Roma and role of European and national level institutions in addressing them

3.1.1 Causes of exclusion and role of policy in addressing them

A vast majority of survey respondents indicated that Roma communities continue to be disadvantaged in society in general and that this situation has become more severe.

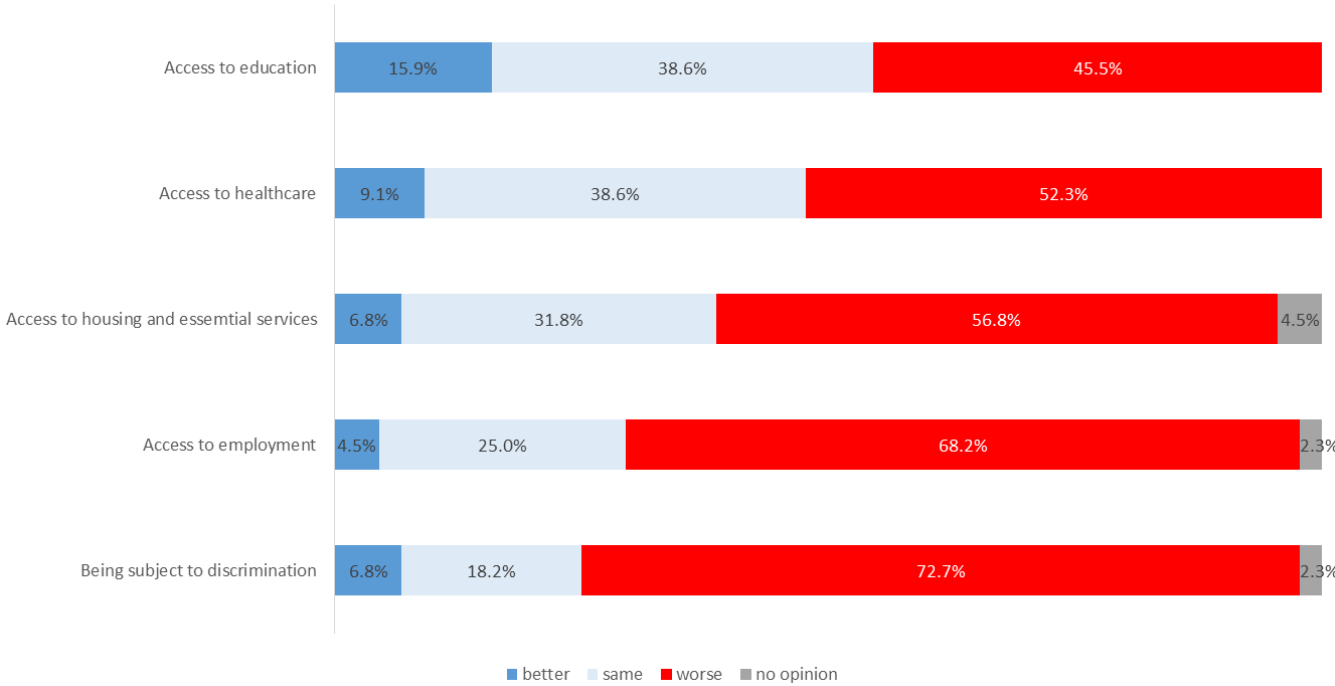
Figure 3.1 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields?



N=242

However, this trend was least strong with respondents from public institutions, where in comparison to NGOs/Academia and Citizens, a higher proportion of respondents felt that the situation of Roma was at least the same or even better (40% for public institutions vs.14% for NGOs/think tanks and citizens).

Figure 3.2 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? – Public Institution respondents

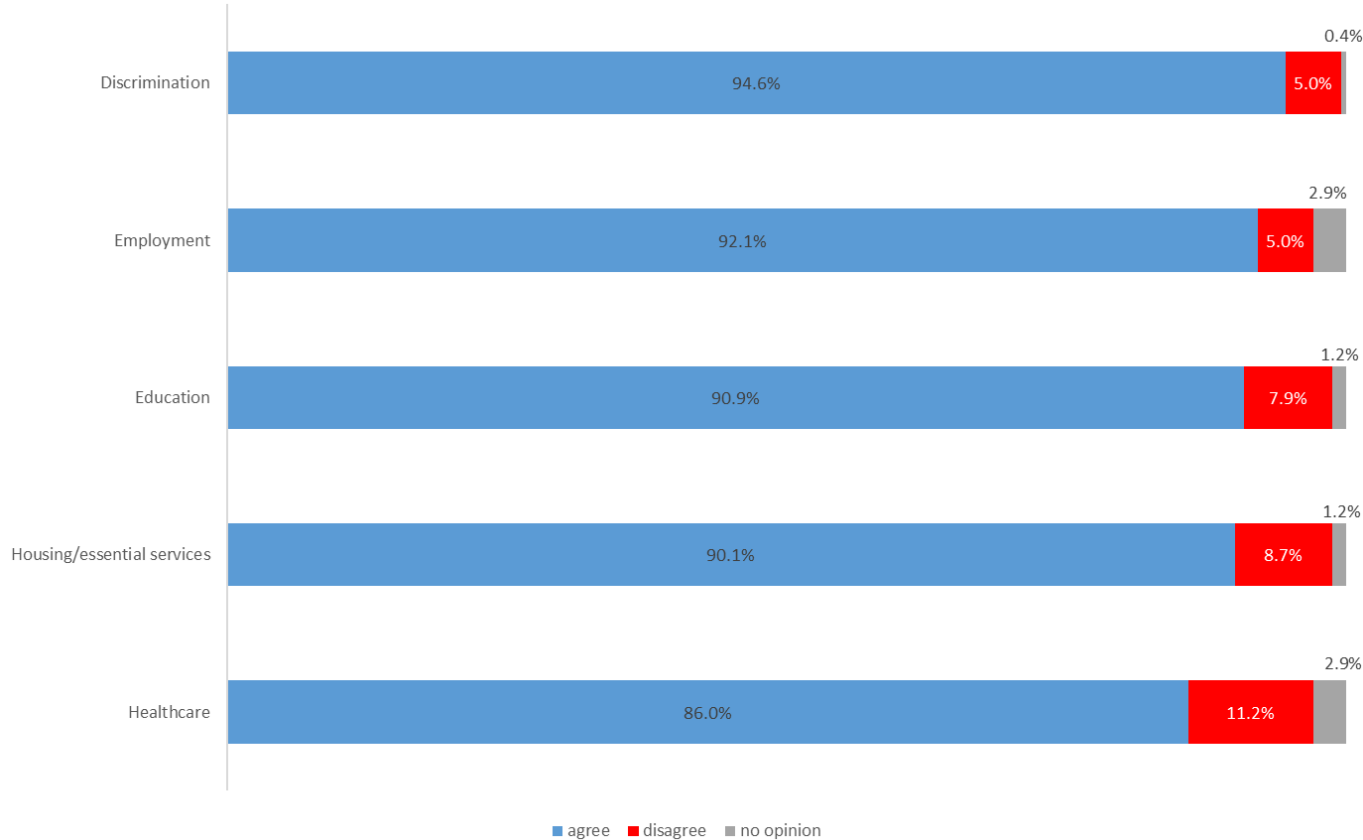


N=44

In light of this trend, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents agree that targeted public interventions are needed in the fields of education, employment, healthcare, housing and anti-discrimination to improve the situation of Roma in European societies.

Figure 3.3 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields?

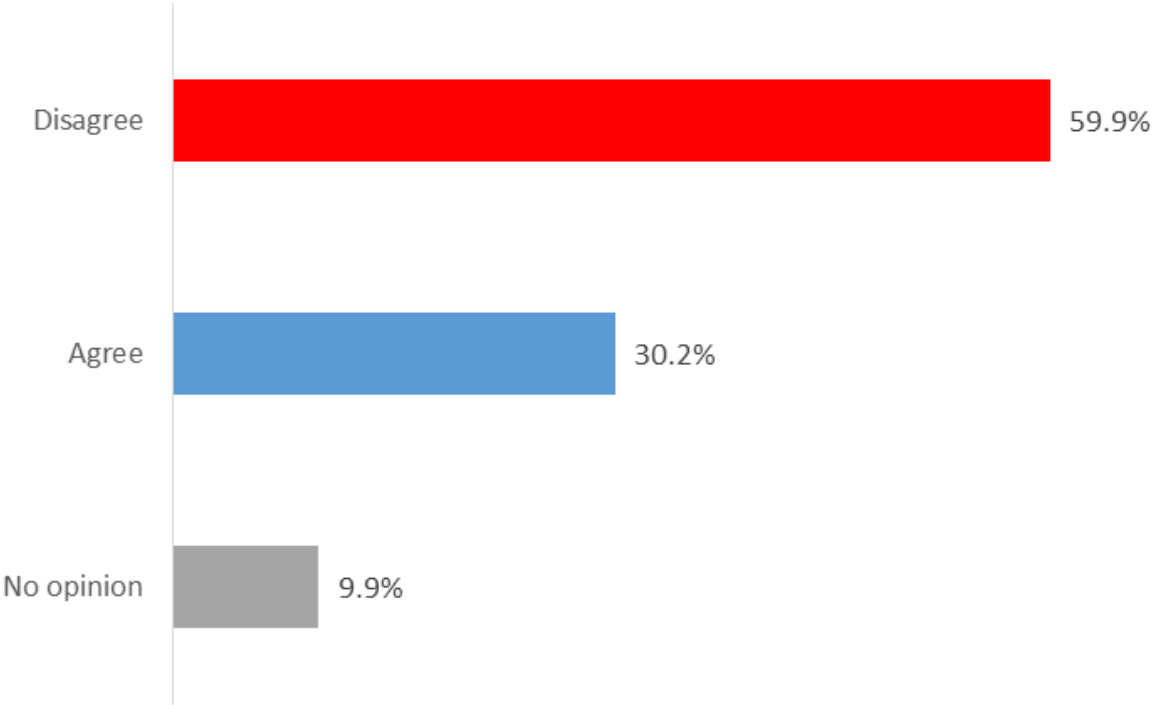
Public Consultation on the Evaluation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020



N=242

For a majority of the respondents, it appears that the EU has a major role to play in supporting national, regional and local authorities to design and implement public policies aimed at improving the situation of Roma.

Figure 3.4 Q3.1: Do you think that Member States (national, regional and local authorities) alone, without EU support, can effectively improve the situation of Roma?

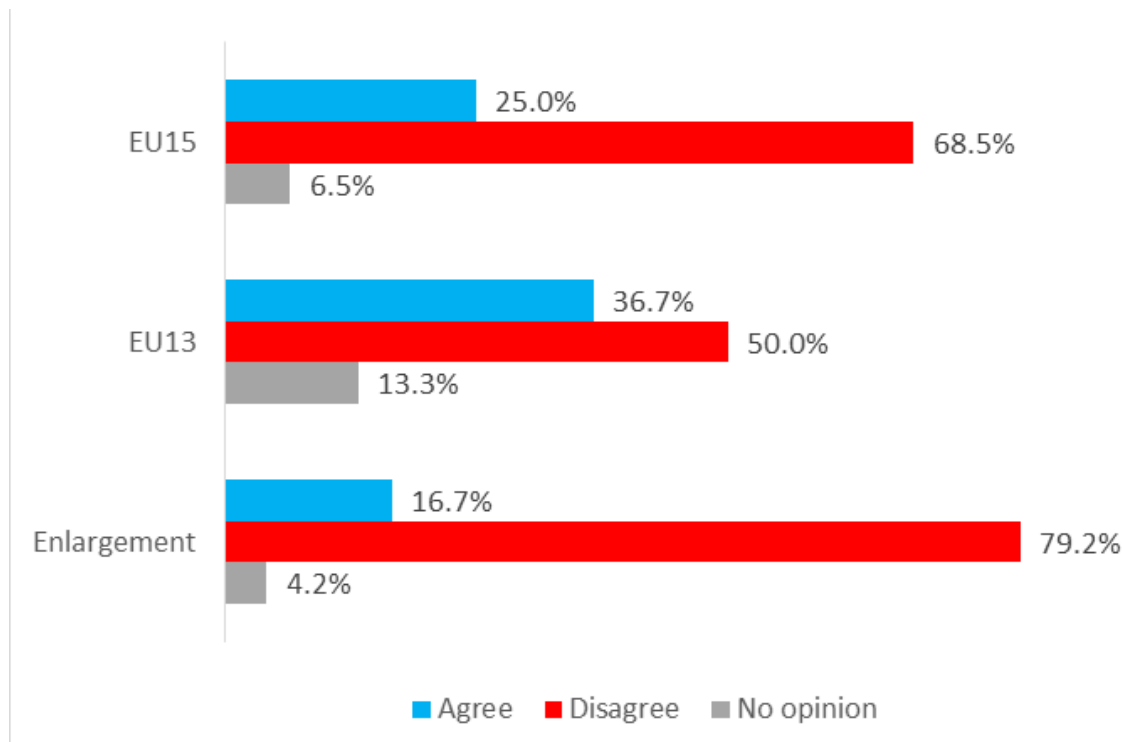


N=242

Almost 60% of the respondents thought that the situation of Roma could not be effectively improved without EU policy support, this was equally the case among the responding public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks and citizens. The main reason given is that EU funding programmes and initiatives, including in terms of monitoring the situation, are critical to drive reform and secure political commitment at the national level⁶.

⁶ Most frequent response to Q3.2 "Please explain your choice" (i.e. answer to Q3.1)

Figure 3.5 Q3.1: Do you think that Member States (national, regional and local authorities) alone, without EU support, can effectively improve the situation of Roma? Broken down by EU15 / EU13 / Enlargement countries.

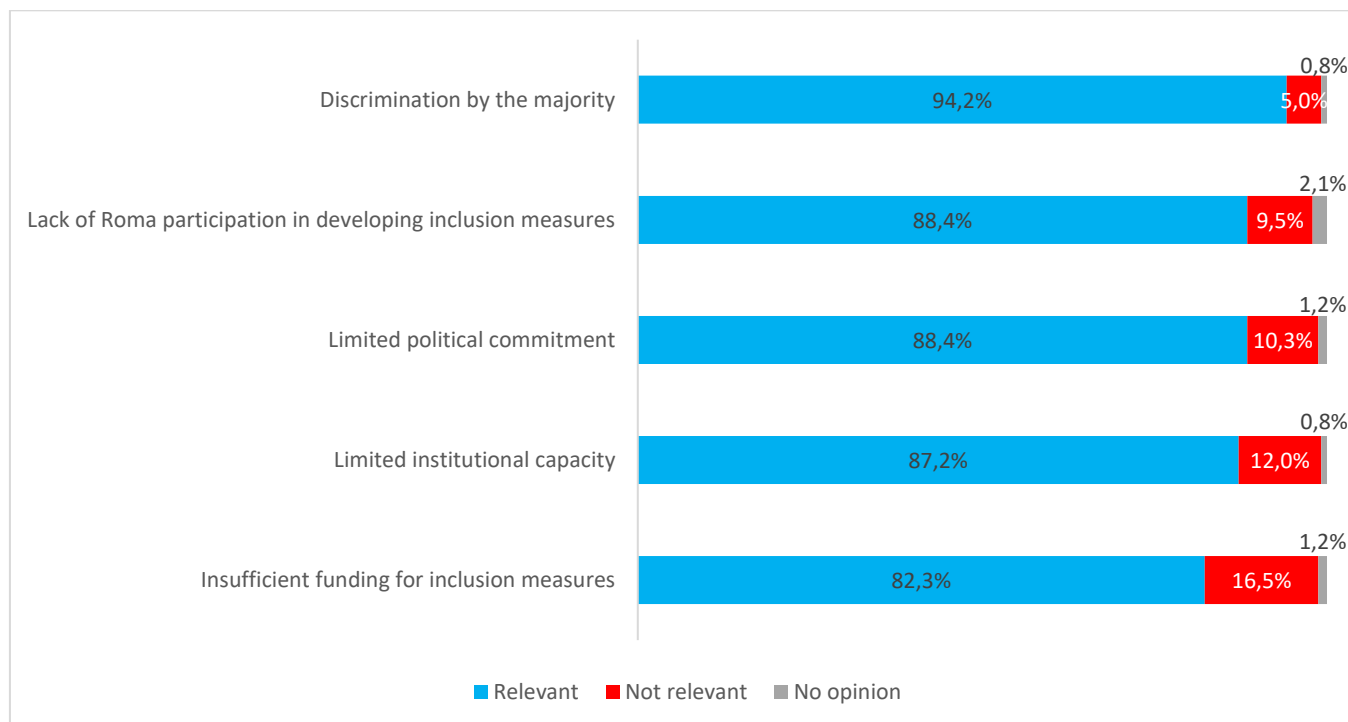


EU15 N=92, EU13 N=120, Enlargement N=24

However, there was significant variation in the patterns of response between the different country clusters. Amongst the respondents from the EU15 group, the vast majority (68.5%) agreed that Member States alone can effectively improve the situation of Roma. The results from respondents in the EU13 group were more balanced, with half disagreeing that Member States alone can effectively improve the situation of Roma without the support of the EU. From the respondents in the Enlargement countries, there was a much more pronounced level of disagreement at almost 80%, contrasting markedly with the results of the EU15 respondents where most stated that they agreed.

Another difference was observed in responses provided by individuals who identified themselves as Roma and individuals who identified themselves as non-Roma. While 43% of “Roma” respondents believed that Member States could improve the situation of Roma without EU support, only 23% of “non-Roma” respondents shared the same view.

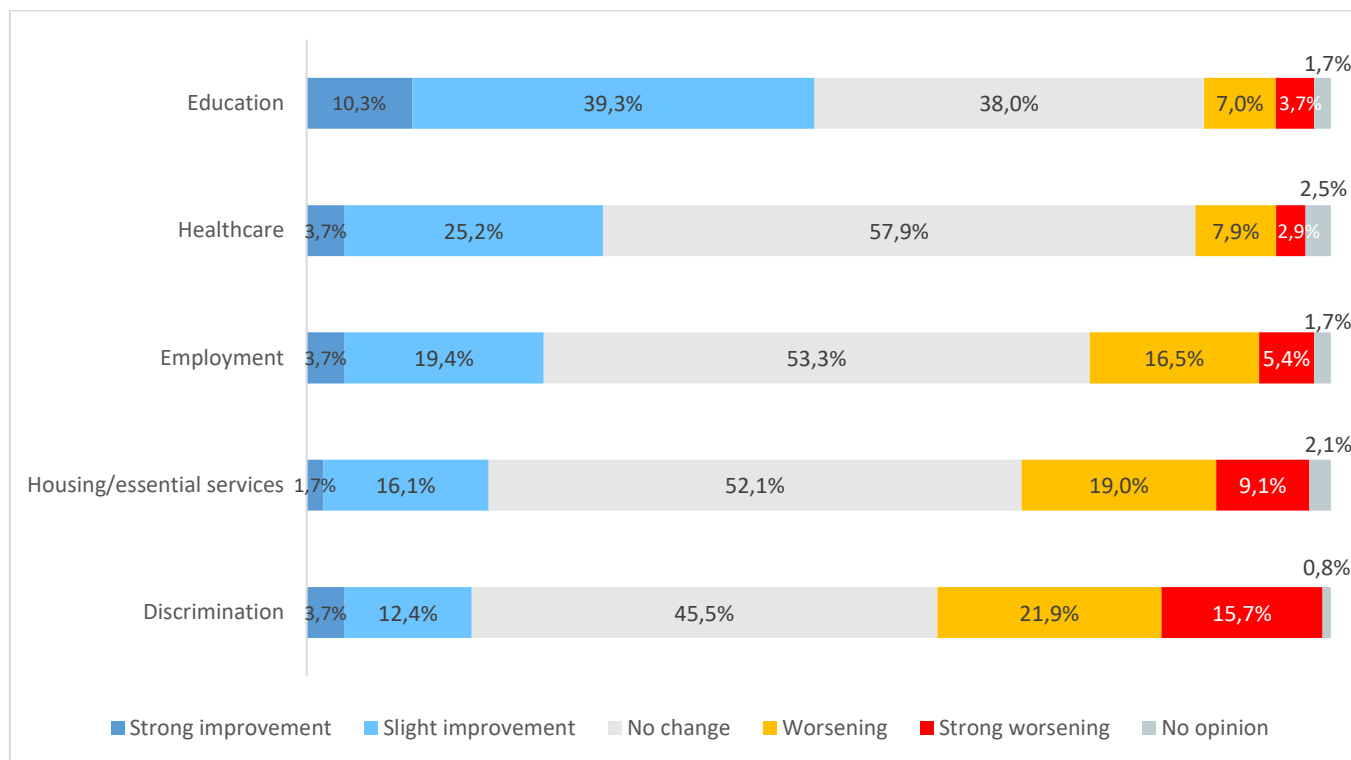
Figure 3.6 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion?



N=242

The survey results show that the causes of Roma exclusion are multiple. An overwhelming majority of the respondents agreed that discrimination of Roma by the majority, Roma communities’ lack of participation in developing inclusion measures, limited political commitment institutional capacity as well as insufficient funding for Roma inclusion measures are all factors which cause the social exclusion of Roma. There were no significant differences in the responses given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement).

Figure 3.7 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011?



N=242

A mixed picture emerges regarding respondents’ views on the evolution of Roma communities’ situation in society since 2011. Of the five areas of Roma integration, the most visible improvements appear to have taken place in education for almost half of the respondents (49.6%). For a majority of the respondents, there have been no major changes in terms of access to health, employment and housing and other essential services.

Respondents were more likely to indicate that the situation has improved rather than deteriorated regarding access to healthcare and employment. On the other hand, they were more likely to indicate that the situation has worsened rather than improved in terms of access to housing and other essential services and discrimination against Roma.

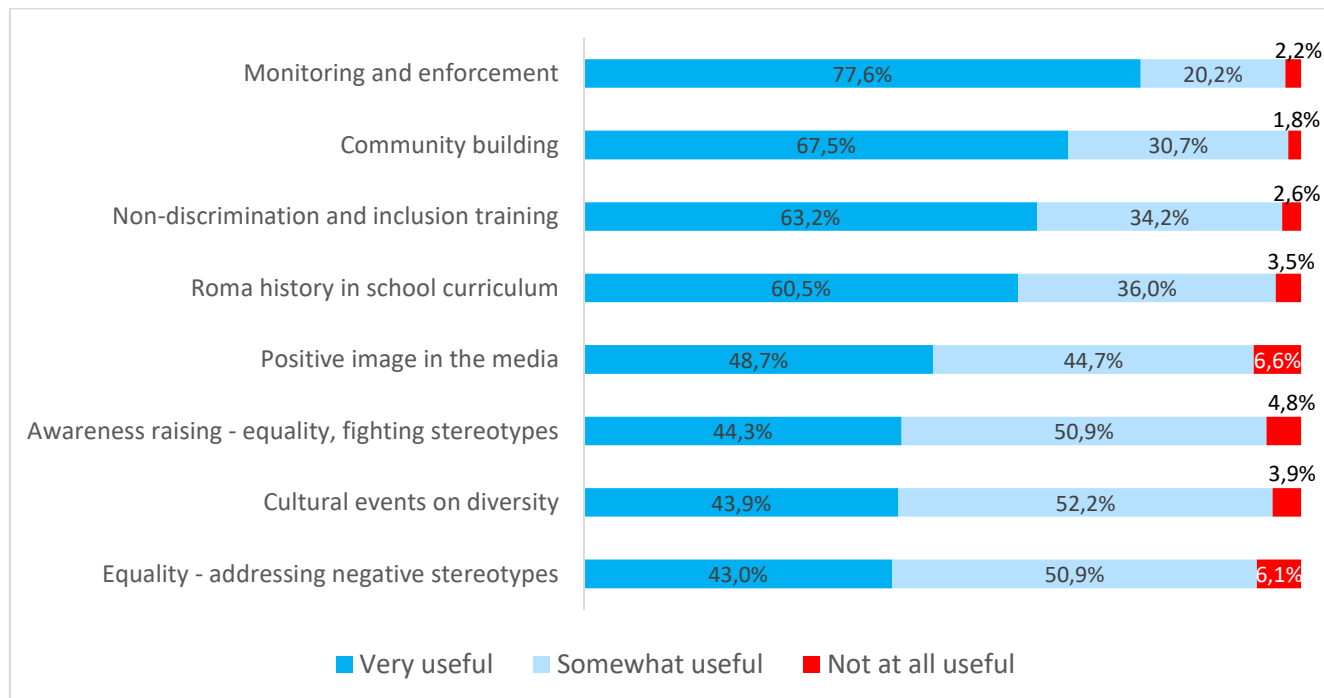
On discrimination, respondents more frequently declared that there has been no change since 2011. However, more than a third of the respondents (37.6%) believed that the situation has deteriorated and one in six respondents thought that anti-Roma discrimination in society has become much worse since 2011.

There were no significant differences in the responses given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGO/think-tanks, citizens) or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement).

There were certain differences in the responses provided by “Roma” and “non-Roma” individuals. According to almost 60% of “non-Roma” respondents, Roma access to education has generally improved since 2011 whereas less than 40% of “Roma” respondents shared the same view. In relation access to employment, “Roma” respondents were more likely than “non-Roma” respondents to think that no significant improvements have taken place since 2011 while “non-Roma” more frequently indicated that improvements have taken place.

Respondents were asked to make a judgement on the usefulness of various possible measures to address causes of Roma exclusion, as well as to build institutional and financial capacity and to secure political commitment and Roma involvement to tackle issues around Roma inclusion.

Figure 3.8 Q6.1.1: Addressing the causes of Roma exclusion listed in the question 4 above can happen through various measures. Please indicate in the tables below: How useful you find the suggested measures in addressing the specific cause of Roma exclusion?



N=228

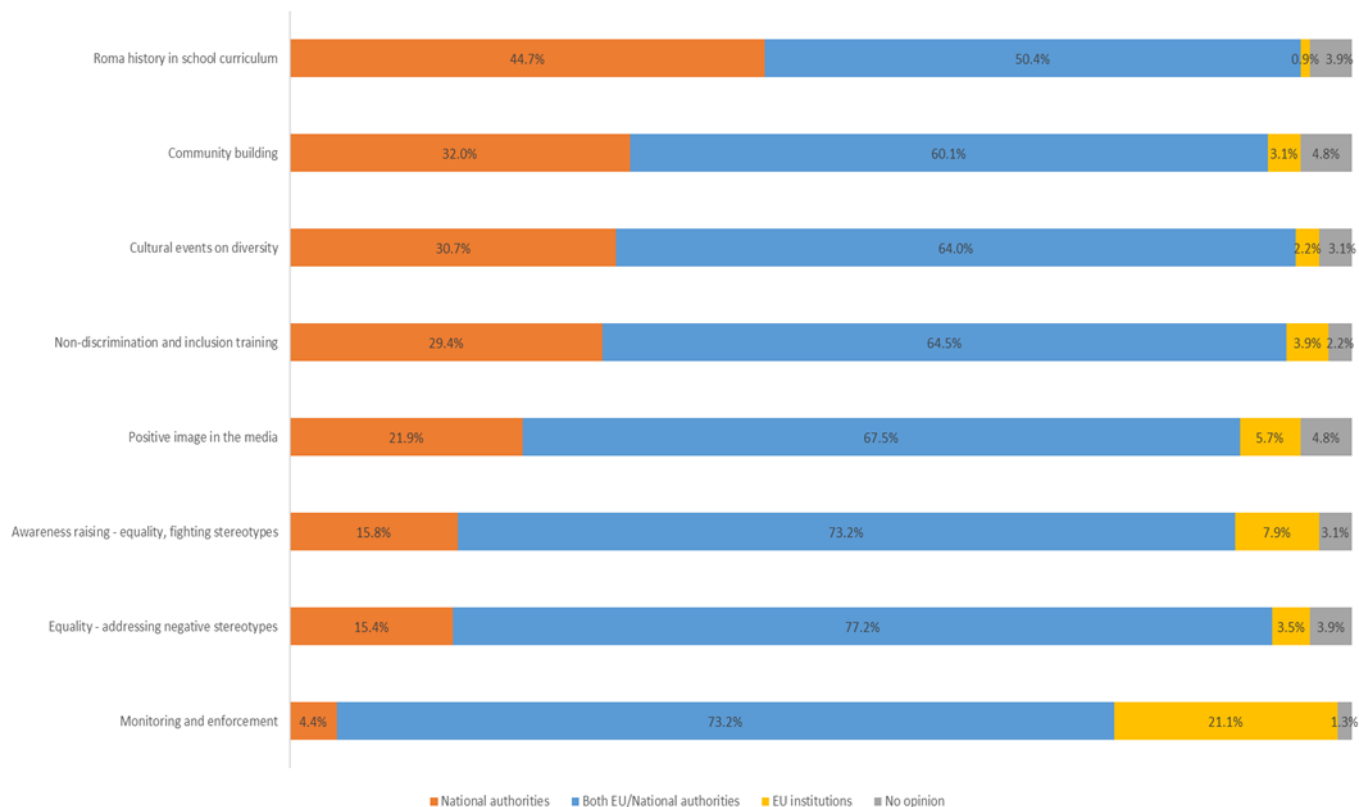
An overwhelming majority of the respondents declared that all of the possible measures proposed to fight discrimination against Roma were useful. The measures most frequently considered as being very useful relate to:

- the monitoring and enforcement of European anti-discrimination laws
- community building between Roma and non-Roma communities
- non-discrimination and inclusion training for public officials, and
- making Roma history and culture part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools.

The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were consistent with each other and with the overall trends as presented in Figure 3.8. However, “Roma” respondents were more likely than “non-Roma” respondents to indicate that the proposed range of possible measures to fight discrimination against Roma would be very useful.

Figure 3.9

Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?



N=228

The majority of respondents have consistently stated that both EU institutions and national authorities should work together to develop all the above proposed measures to fight anti-Roma discrimination. This is particularly the case for awareness raising activities such as organising:

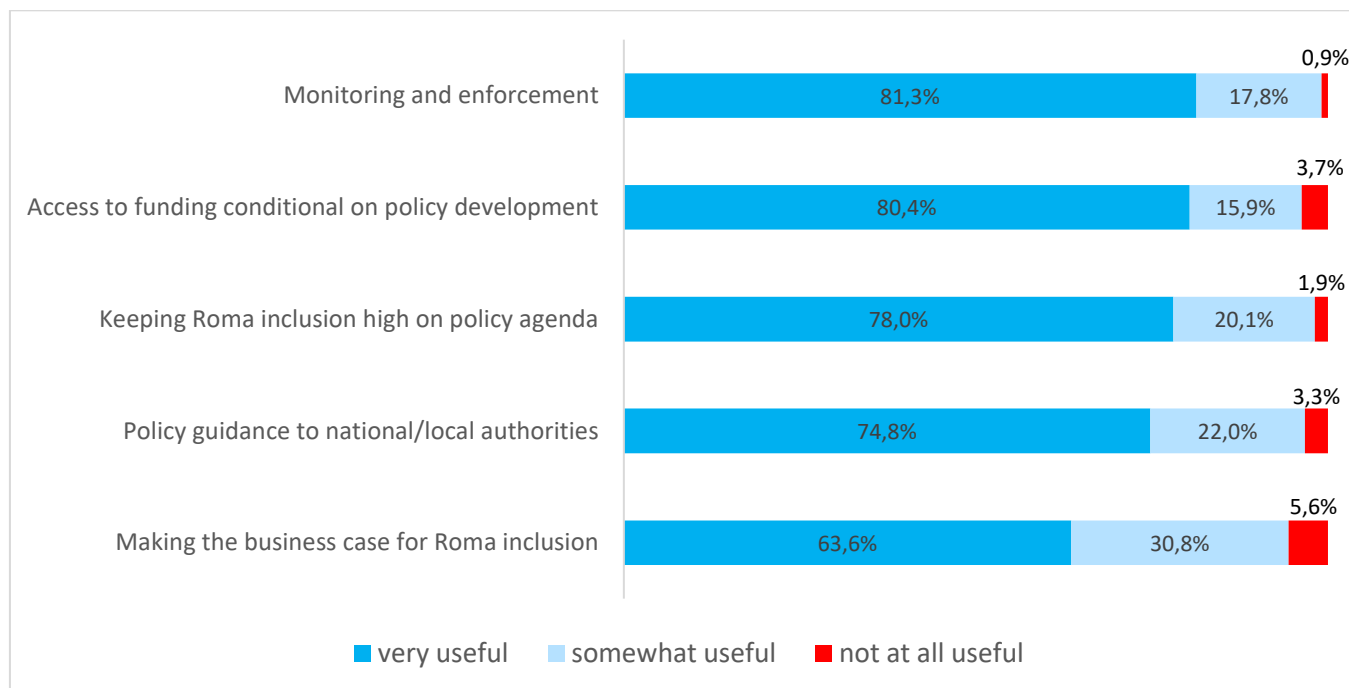
- campaigns to promote equality by addressing negative stereotypes
- events on Roma history and Holocaust

Almost three-quarters of the respondents also indicated that the EU and the Members States should join their efforts in terms of monitoring and enforcing EU anti-discrimination legislation. At the same time, one in five respondents believe that this should be the prerogative of EU institutions.

A significant share of the respondents (44.7%) indicated that measures to include Roma history in the curriculum of primary and secondary schools and to encourage community building between Roma and non-Roma should be the responsibility of national authorities.

There were no significant differences in the responses given when broken down by respondent type, except that public institutions and NGOs/think-tanks were more likely than citizens to highlight that national authorities should work with the EU to launch awareness raising campaigns promoting equality by addressing negative Roma stereotypes (80-85% among public institutions and NGOs/things tanks vs. 66% among citizens). The response trends broken down by country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) overall reflect the general trends as shown in Figure 3.9.

Figure 3.10 Q6.2.1 Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion.



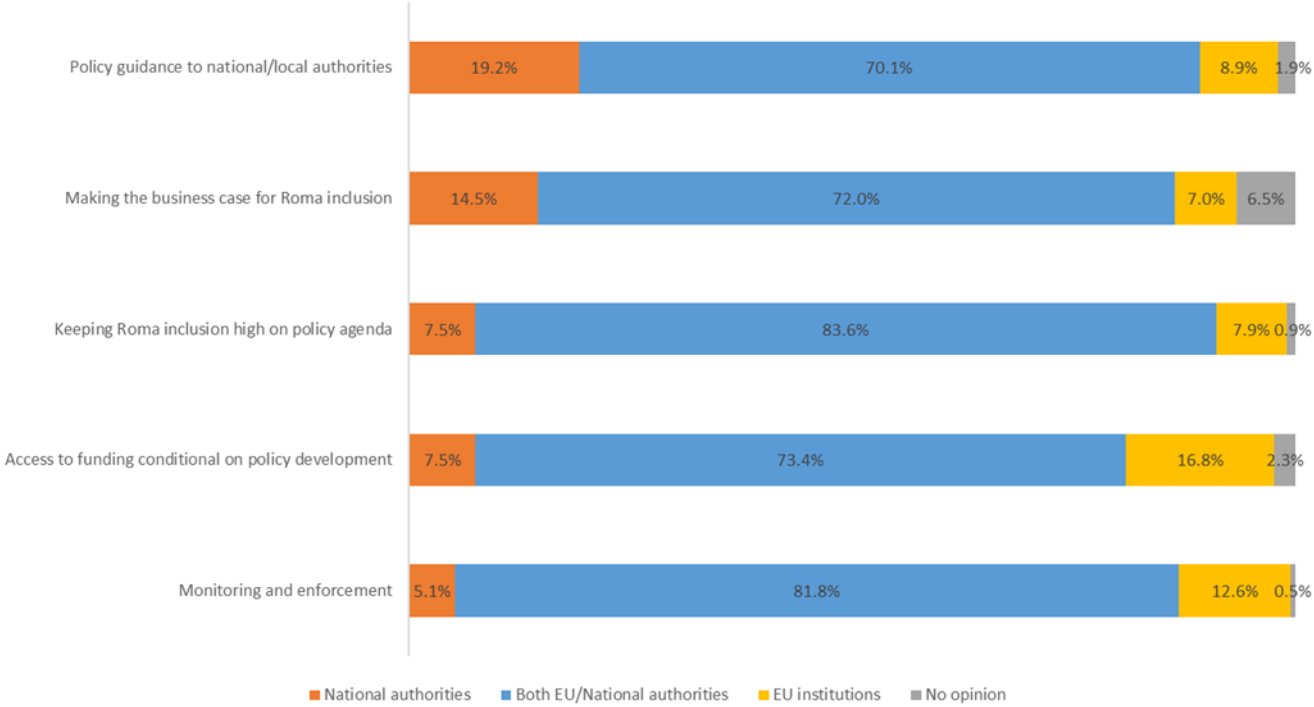
N=214

An overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that all of the possible measures proposed to improve political commitment and deliver ambitious policies for Roma inclusion were useful.

Once again, measures relating to the monitoring and enforcement of EU anti-discrimination laws were most frequently seen as very useful. A significant majority of the respondents (80.4%) stated that making access to funding conditional on the development of Roma inclusion policies at the national regional and local level would be very useful to improve the political commitment to the issue of Roma inclusion.

There were no significant differences in the responses given when broken down by respondent type, except that public institutions and NGOs/think-tanks were much more likely than citizens to believe that “making the business case” for Roma inclusion would be very useful (84% among public institutions and 74% among NGOs/think-tanks vs. 52% among citizens). The response trends broken down by respondent type or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) overall reflect the general trends as shown in Figure 3.10. However, “Roma” respondents were overall more likely than “non-Roma” respondents to indicate that the proposed range of possible measures to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion would be very useful (75-80% among “Roma” vs. 55-60% among “non-Roma”).

Figure 3.11 Q6.2.2: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion?



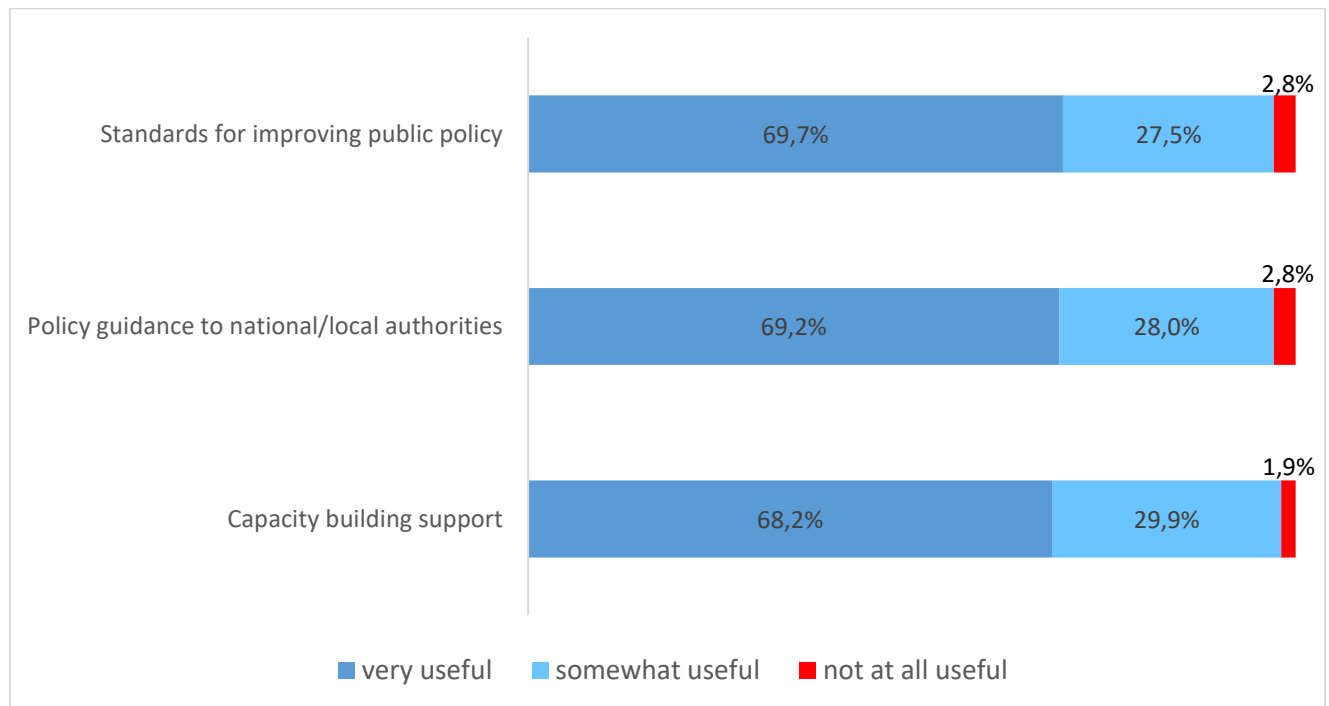
N=214

A clear majority of the respondents have consistently indicated that both EU institutions and national authorities should work together to develop all the above proposed measures to improve political commitment to deliver ambitious public policy for Roma inclusion. In particular, 83.6% of the respondents thought that both the EU and national authorities should join their efforts in keeping Roma inclusion high on the policy agenda.

While making access to funding conditional on the development of Roma inclusion policies at the national, regional and local level was regarded as a useful measure, one in five respondents indicated that such a measure should be enforced by EU institutions.

Citizens were overall more likely than public institutions and NGOs/think-tanks to think that national authorities should take measures to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion (16% among citizens vs. 7-8% among public institutions and NGOs/think-tanks). The response trends broken down by or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) overall reflect the general trends as shown in Figure 3.11.

Figure 3.12 Q6.3.1: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies.



N=211

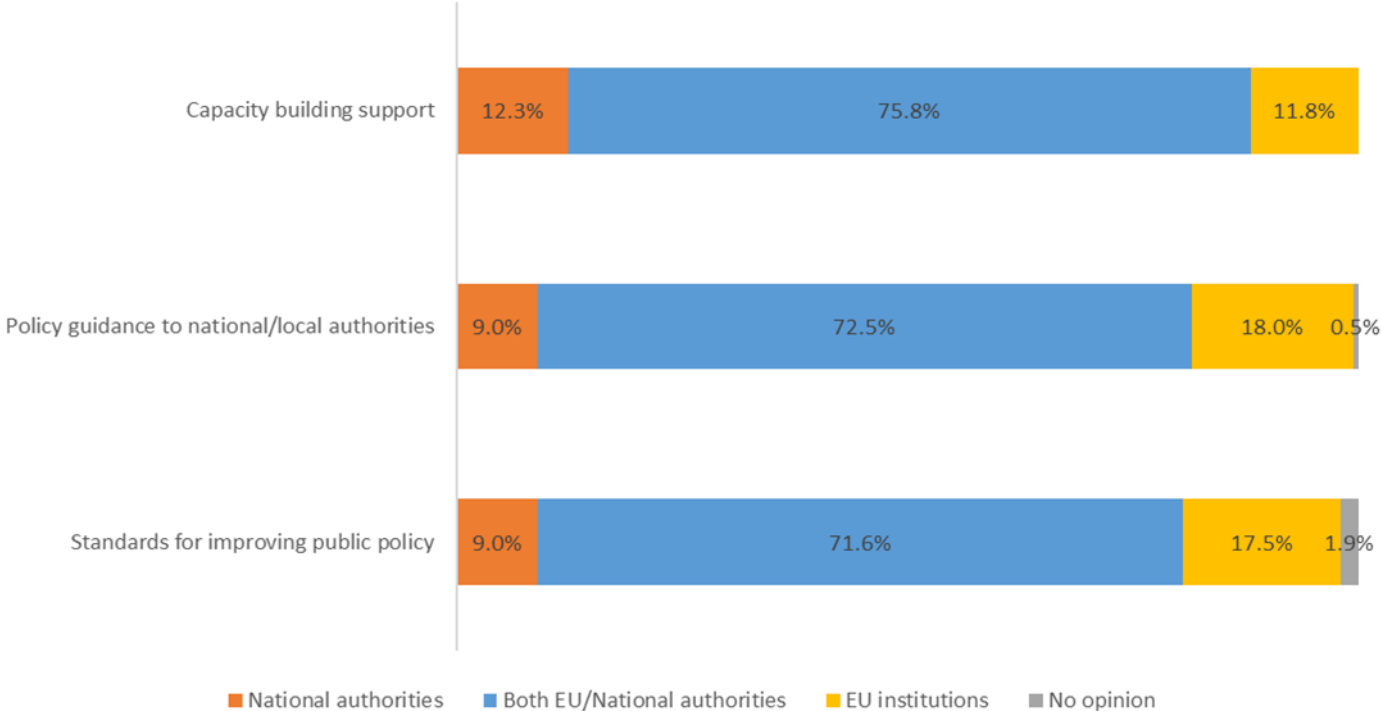
An overwhelming majority of the respondents thought that all of the possible measures proposed to improve institutional capacity to develop, implement and monitor effective Roma inclusion policies were useful. Setting standards for improving Roma inclusion policies, producing policy guidance for national and local authorities, and providing capacity building support (e.g. exchange of best practices, peer learning) to authorities and civil society organisations involved in Roma inclusion were all equally seen as very useful by just under 70% of the respondents.

Several noteworthy additional measures were also put forward by some respondents in this respect, such as:

- Earmarking funding for Roma inclusion
- Supporting research institutions to produce empirical evidence on Roma inclusion
- Involving Roma civil society organisations in the policymaking process

The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) are consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.12. The share of respondents from the Enlargement countries believing that standards are needed for improving the development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies was higher than that of EU15 and EU13 respondents (83% for Enlargement countries vs. 65% for EU15 and 70% for EU13).

Figure 3.13 Q6.3.2: Who should take possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies?

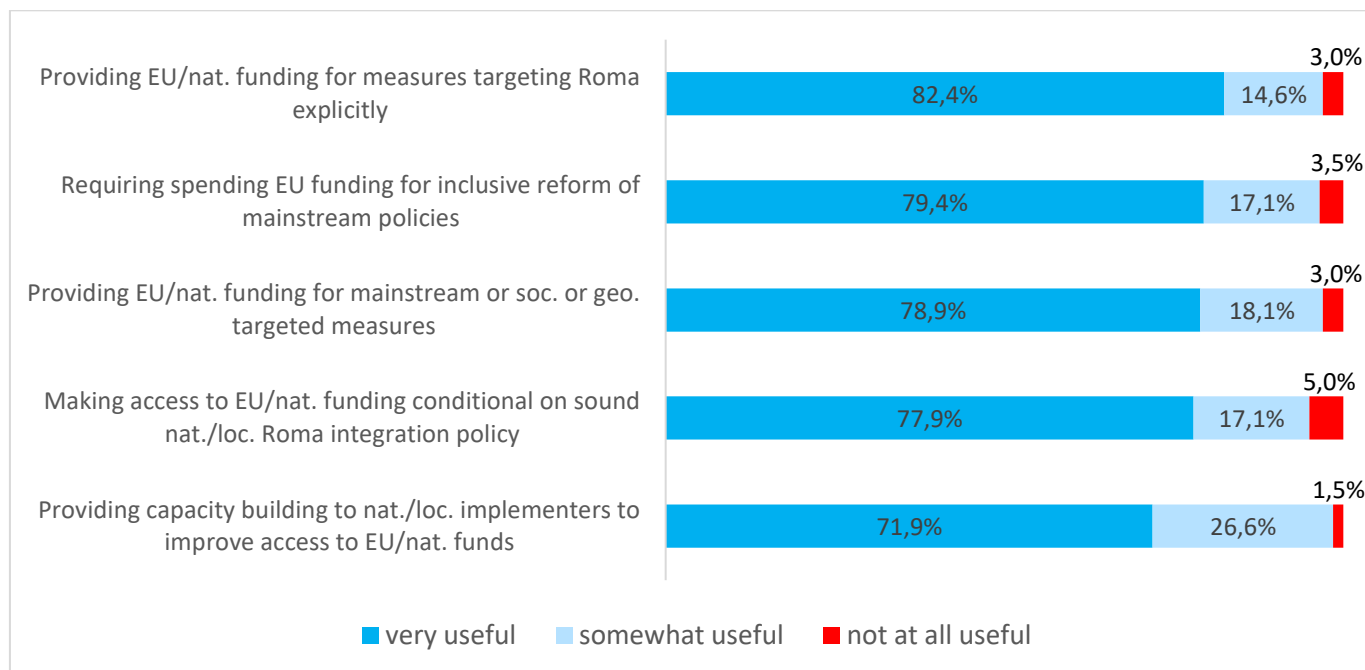


N=211

Between 70 and 75% of the respondents have indicated that both EU institutions and national authorities should work together to develop all the above proposed measures to improve the capacity of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective policies on Roma inclusion.

NGOs/think-tanks were on average more likely to hold the view that the EU should work with national authorities to improve institutional capacity building compared to public institutions and citizens (75-80% of NGOs/think tanks vs. 70-75% of public institutions and just under 70% of citizens). The response trends broken down by or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) overall reflect the general trends as shown in Figure 3.13.

Figure 3.14 Q6.4.1: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion.



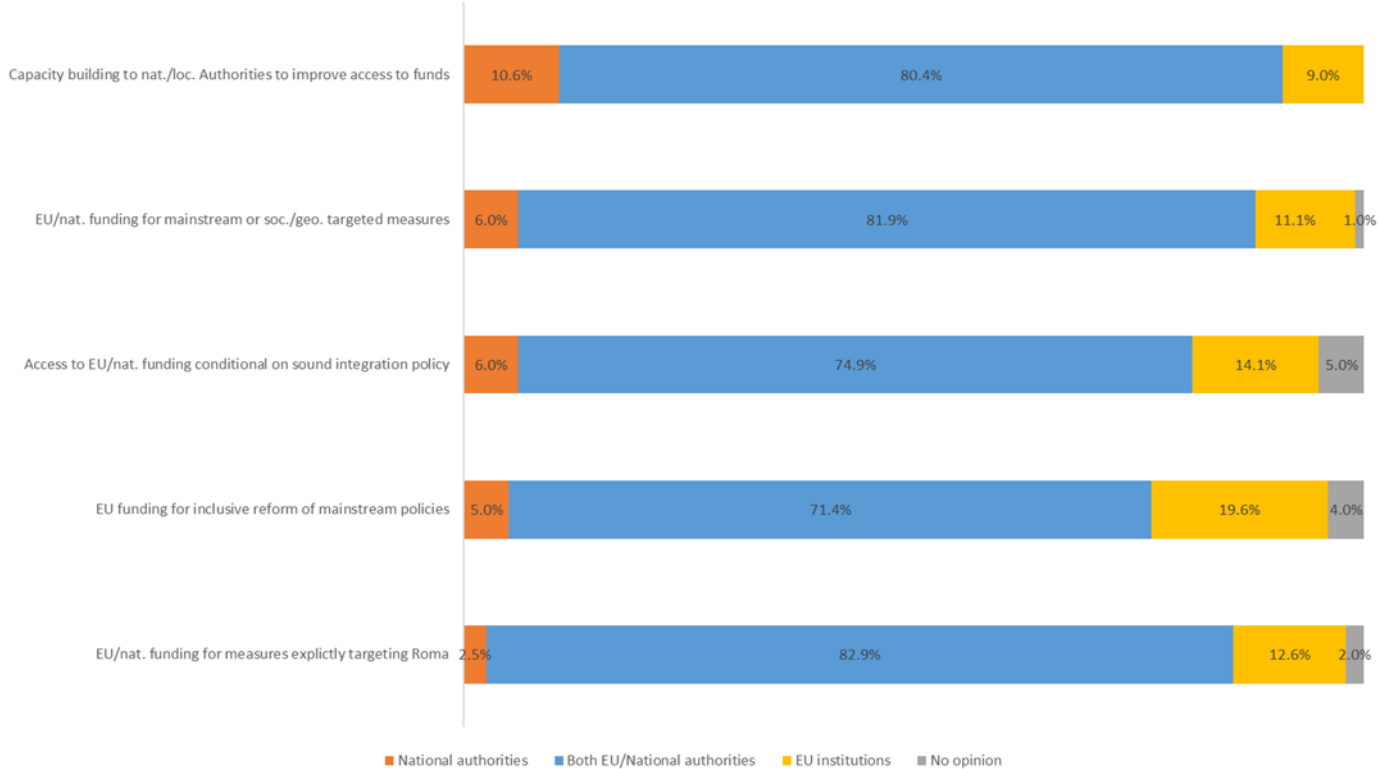
N=199

An overwhelming majority of the respondents indicated that all of the possible measures proposed to improve the funding of Roma inclusion policies were useful. In particular, 82.4% of the respondents thought that EU and national funding dedicated to measures explicitly targeting Roma are very useful. Marginally fewer respondents indicated EU funding to make national mainstream policies more inclusive and EU or national funding for mainstream, socially or geographically targeted measures as very useful.

Some respondents suggested in addition that targeting funding to policy areas or geographical areas where Roma inclusion was lacking would be a useful measure.

The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.14.

Figure 3.15 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion?

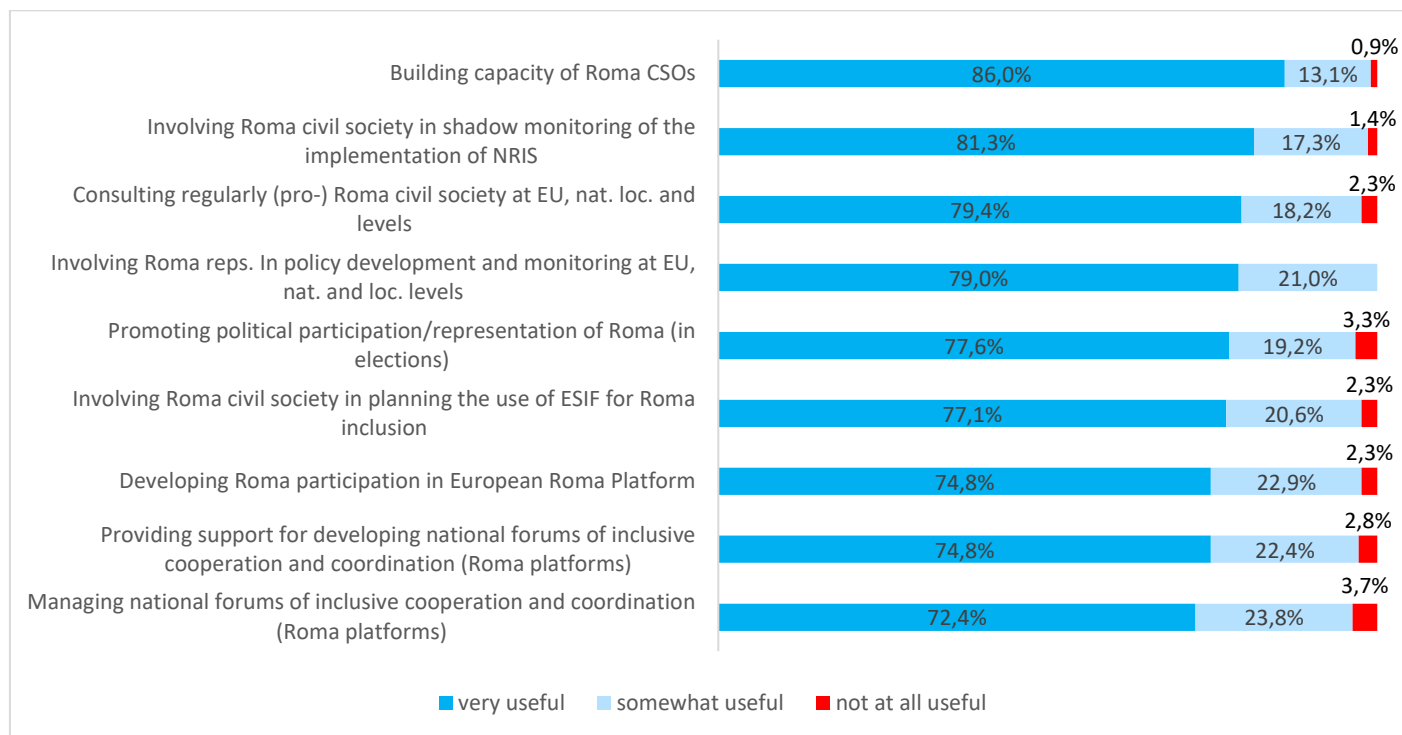


N=199

According to a significant majority of the respondents both EU institutions and national authorities should join their efforts to improve funding for Roma inclusion measures. Once again, respondents more frequently indicated that the EU and national authorities should collaborate to allocate more funding to measures explicitly targeting Roma.

The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.15.

Figure 3.16 Q6.5.1: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies.



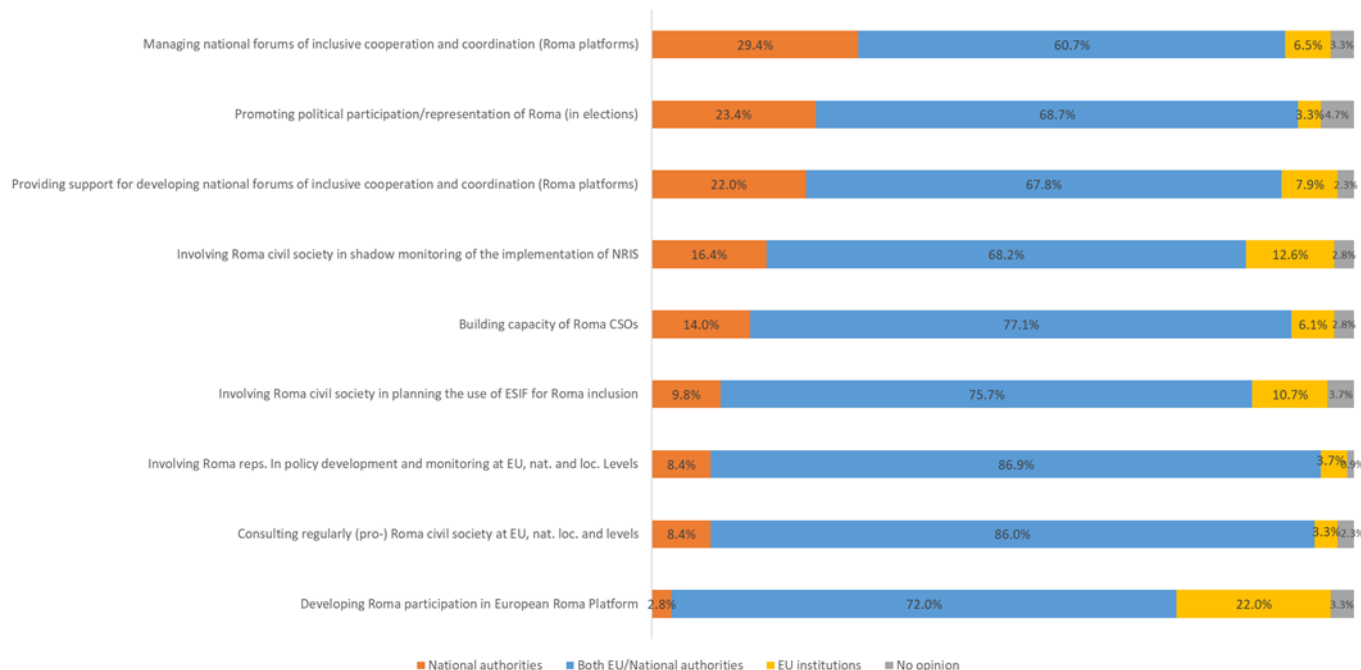
N=214

An overwhelming majority of the respondents found that all of the possible measures proposed to involve Roma in the development of inclusion policies for their community would be very useful. In particular, 86% of the respondents indicated that measures focusing on the capacity building of Roma civil society organisations are very useful. More than 80% of the respondents also believed that it would be very useful to ensure that Roma civil society organisations are directly involved in shadow monitoring of the implementation of national Roma integration strategies.

Several respondents have additionally pointed out it is important to recognise and involve in policymaking the vast array of Roma organisations and Roma social workers and mediators who are often Roma themselves.

The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.16. However, “Roma” respondents were more likely than “non-Roma” respondents to indicate that the proposed range of possible measures to address Roma communities’ lack of participation in developing inclusion policies would be very useful (around 70% among Roma vs. around 55% among non-Roma).

Figure 3.17 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies?



N=214

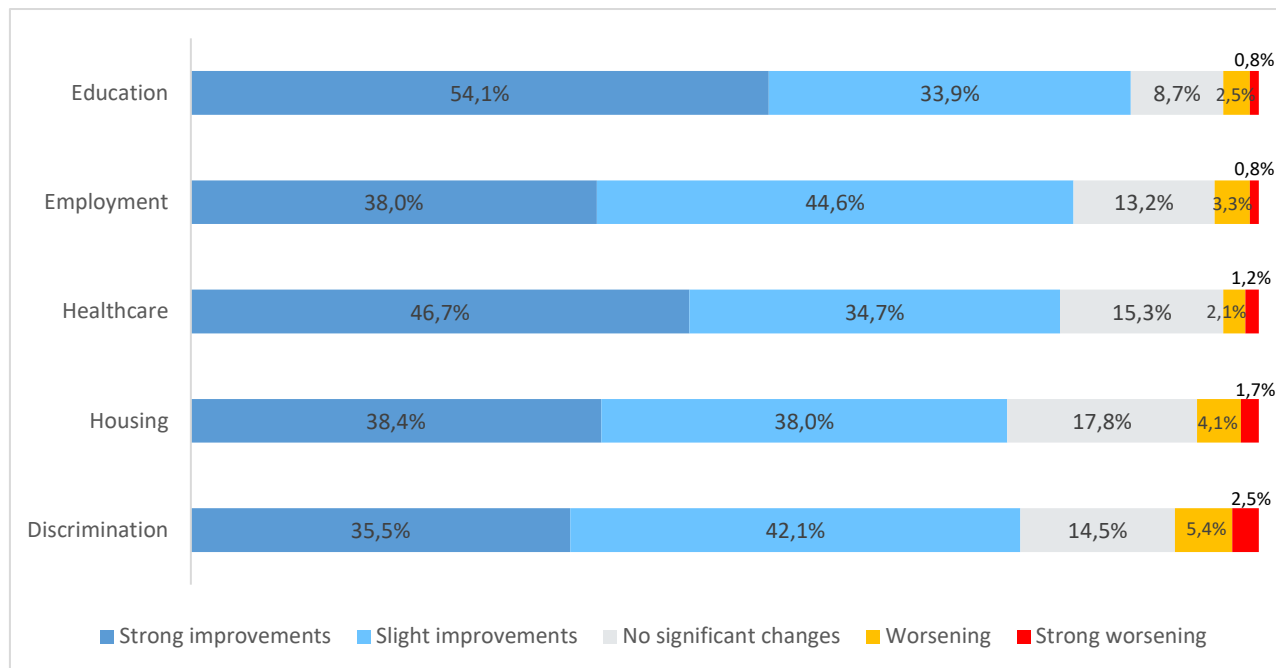
The majority of respondents have consistently indicated that both EU institutions and national authorities should work together to develop all the above proposed measures to improve Roma participation in policymaking on inclusion.

According to a relatively sizeable share of the respondents (29.4%), managing national Roma platforms for inclusive cooperation should be the responsibility of national authorities. Likewise, a relatively sizeable share of the respondents (22%) believed that developing Roma participation in the European Roma Platform is a responsibility that should lie with EU institutions.

The response trends given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.17.

The respondents were asked to assess whether the implementation of the proposed measures to address the causes of Roma exclusion, as well as to build institutional and financial capacity and to secure political commitment and Roma involvement to tackle issues around Roma inclusion would contribute to improving the situation of Roma communities over the next ten years.

Figure 3.18 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)?



N=214

A significant majority of the respondents highlighted that the implementation of measures which comprehensively tackle the causes of Roma exclusion would improve the situation of Roma in European society in ten years' time. While it appears that significant improvements are already happening in the areas of education and health (see Figure 3.7), the respondents more frequently indicated that comprehensive measures would build on this momentum and lead to even further progress by 2027.

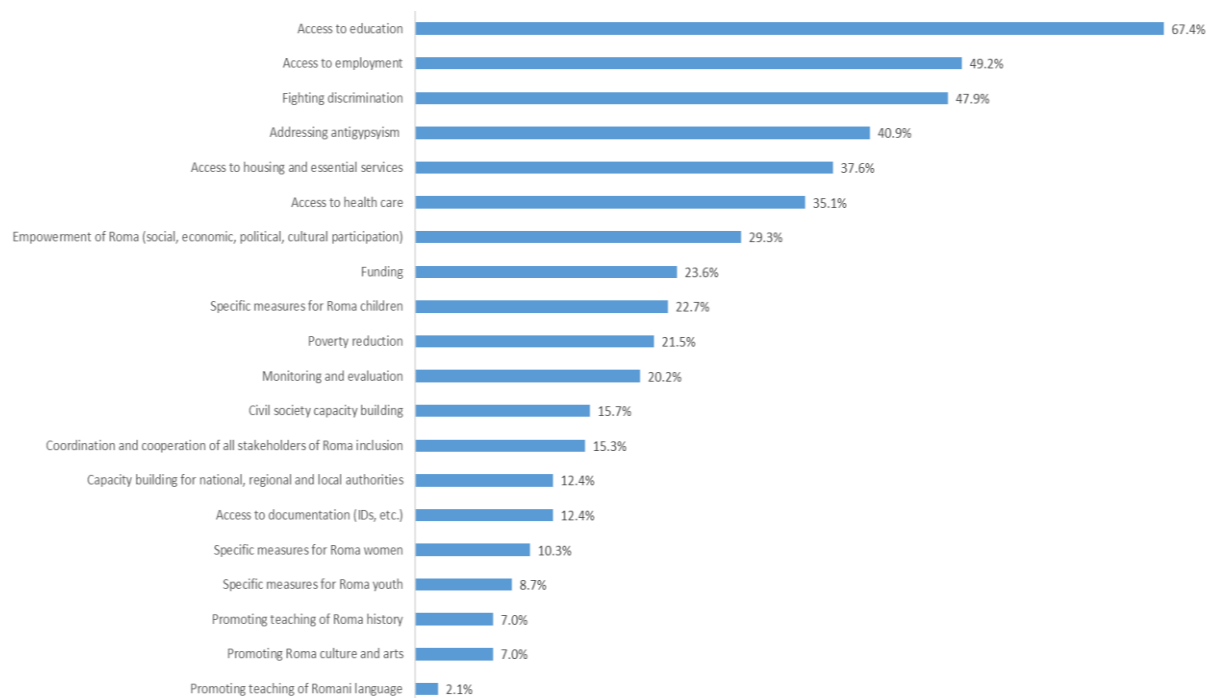
Among the five areas of Roma inclusion, measures to combat discrimination were most frequently seen as potentially aggravating the exclusion of Roma communities in ten years' time. However, this view was shared by only 7.9% of the respondents.

The response trends given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 3.18.

3.2 Priority areas for action at European and national levels

The survey informed the respondents that there is already broad consensus that Roma inclusion can be promoted with an integrated approach (i.e. thematic and horizontal/structural measures implemented in a coordinated manner). On that basis, they were asked to identify the most important areas to prioritise at EU level as part of an integrated policy approach to Roma inclusion.

Figure 3.19 Q8.1: Please let us know which fields should in your opinion become key priorities to which extra effort in form of e.g. human capacities, policy discussions, funds, etc. should be attributed at EUROPEAN level



N=1177, Several answers possible

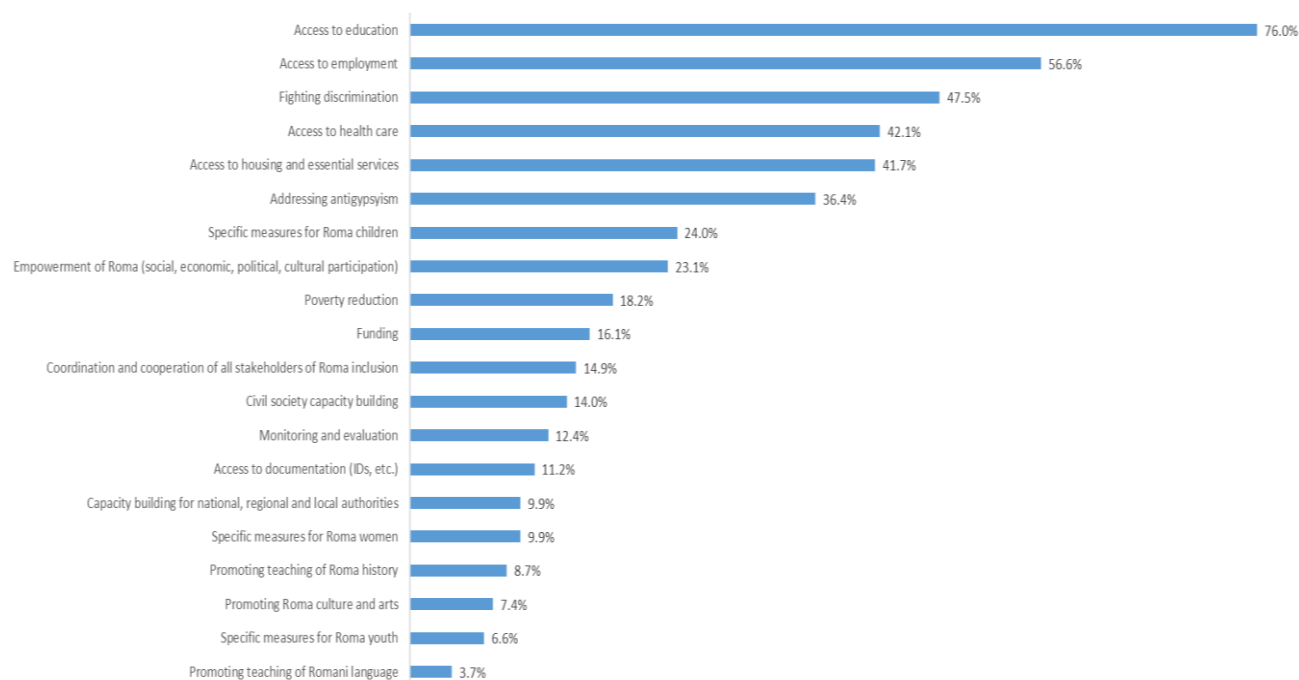
Just over two-thirds of the respondents identified access to education as a key priority in the development of an integrated policy approach to Roma inclusion at EU level.

The other priorities frequently cited by the respondents include:

- Access to employment (49.2%)
- Fighting discrimination (47.9%)
- Addressing antigypsyism (40.9%)
- Access to housing and essential services (37.6%) and
- Access to healthcare (35.3%)

The survey respondents were also asked to identify the most important areas to prioritise at the national level as part of an integrated policy approach to Roma inclusion.

Figure 3.20 Q8.2: Please let us know which fields should in your opinion become key priorities to which extra effort in form of e.g. human capacities, policy discussions, funds, etc. should be attributed at NATIONAL level



N=1153, several answers possible

The most frequently cited priorities for developing an integrated policy approach at the national level were in most cases similar to those most frequently cited at the EU level.

The five key strategic areas of Roma inclusion – i.e. access to education, employment, fighting discrimination, access to healthcare, housing and essential services – feature as the five most frequently cited priority areas for integrated policy action at the national level.

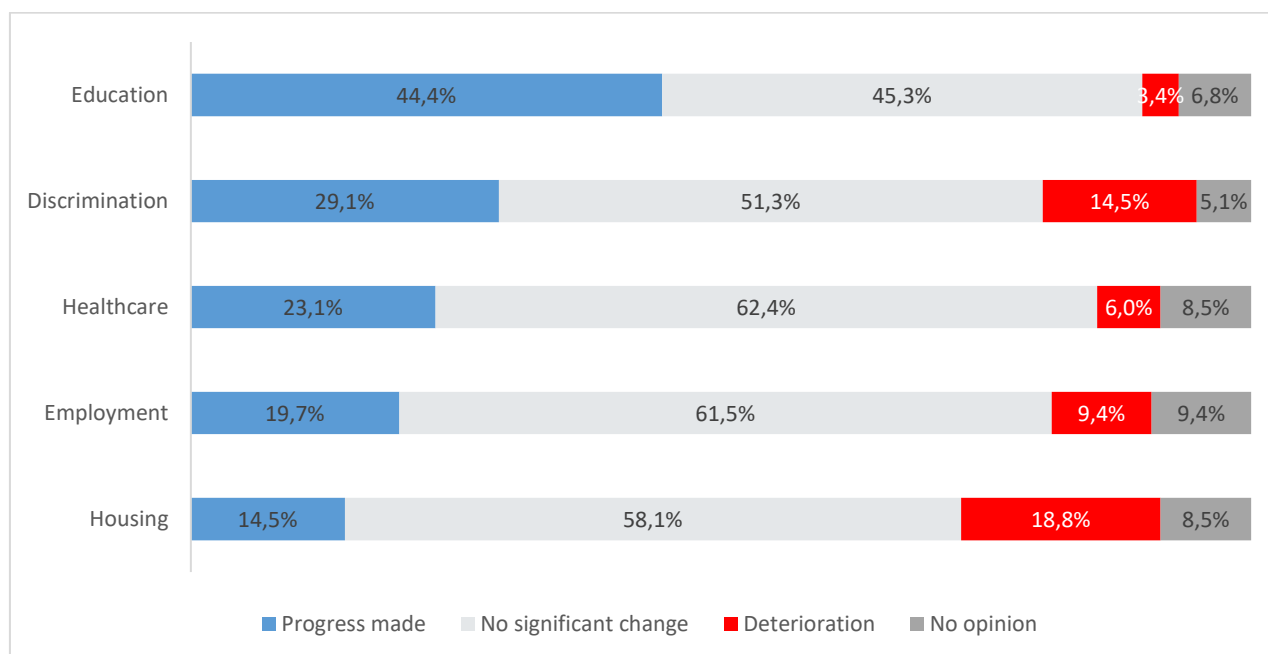
4 Specialised questions

Of the 242 respondents who took part in the survey, 117 (48%) answered specialised questions requiring policy knowledge about Roma inclusion.

4.1 Policy developments and results

The respondents were asked to assess the progress made at EU level in the 2011-2016 period on Roma inclusion policy development. This includes the introduction of new Roma-targeted policy initiatives (e.g. campaigns, programmes or support to policy exchange) or important reforms of mainstream public policies (such as inclusive reform of education, e.g. school desegregation).

Figure 4.1 Q9.1.1: Please assess first the progress made (in the 2011-2016 period) in terms of policy development. This includes the introduction of new Roma-targeted policy initiatives (e.g. campaigns, programmes or support to policy exchange) or important reforms of mainstream public policies (such as inclusive reform of education, e.g. school desegregation) at EUROPEAN level.



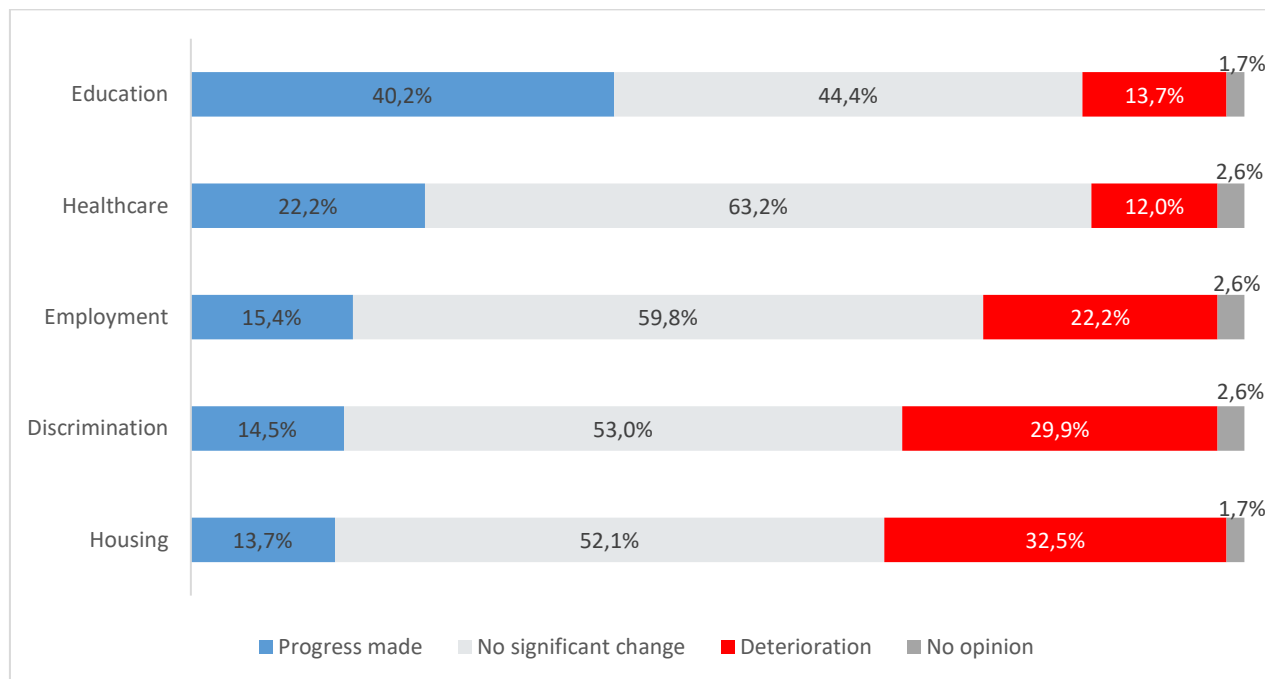
N=117

Across the five key strategic areas for Roma integration, respondents more frequently indicated that no significant change had taken place at EU level in terms of policy development in the 2011-2016 period. However, the share of respondents believing that progress took place over the period was the highest in the area of education. Elsewhere the majority of the respondents held the view that no significant change took place between 2011 and 2016 in employment, healthcare, access to housing and essential services, and the fight against discrimination.

Of the five key strategic areas, respondents most frequently pointed out that the situation deteriorated between 2011 and 2016 in terms of Roma access to housing and other essential services. On access to housing, the respondents more frequently thought that the situation between 2011 and 2016 worsened rather than improved.

The respondents were also asked to assess progress made over the 2011-2016 period at EU level in terms of actual results across the five key strategic areas for Roma integration.

Figure 4.2 Q9.1.2: Please assess first the progress made (in the 2011-2016 period) in terms of policy development. This includes the introduction of new Roma-targeted policy initiatives (e.g. campaigns, programmes or support to policy exchange) or important reforms of mainstream public policies (such as inclusive reform of education, e.g. school desegregation) at NATIONAL level. When referring to the national level, please think about the country you know the best (in relation to the situation of Roma), that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire..



N=177

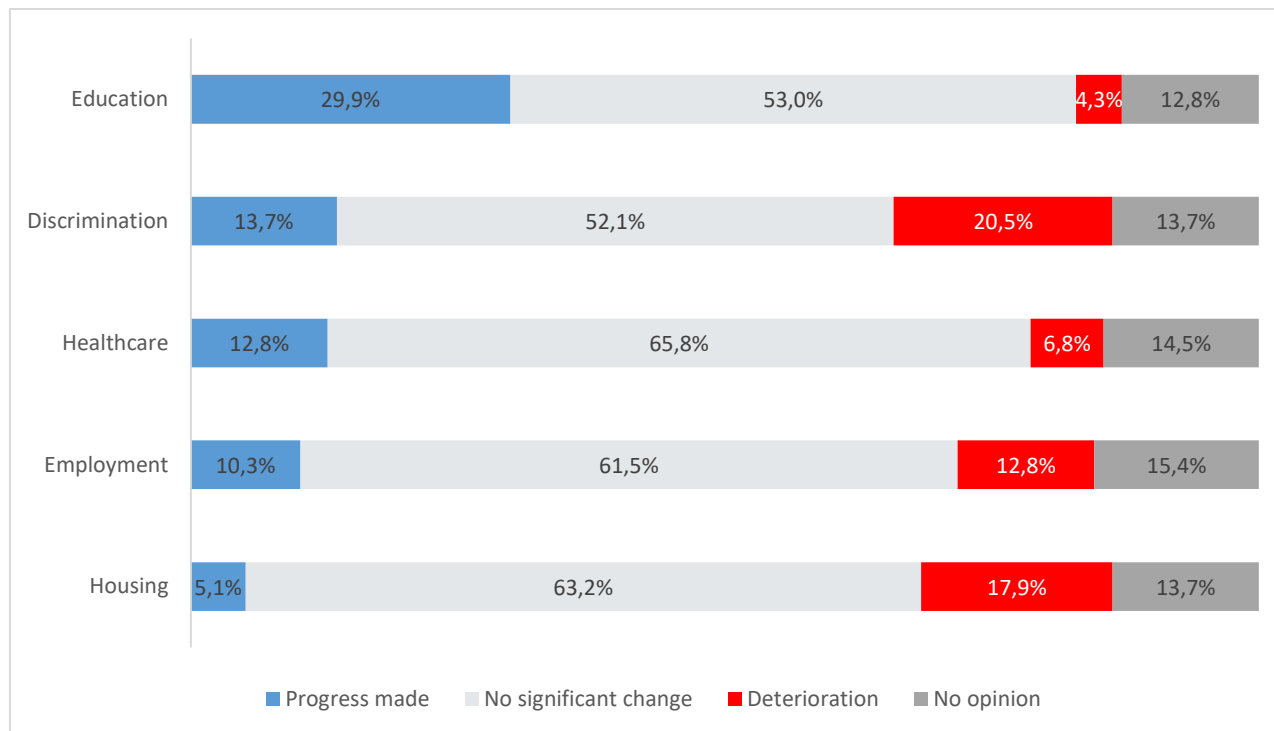
Respondents were overall less positive about progress made in terms of policy development at the national level⁷. Respondents more frequently believed that progress was made between 2011 and 2016 in the area of education in their respective country of knowledge. For the other key areas of Roma integration, the majority of the respondents thought that no significant change took place between 2011 and 2016.

With the exception of education and healthcare, respondents more frequently thought that the situation with regard to national policymaking had deteriorated instead of improving between 2011 and 2016 in the areas of employment, access to housing and essential services, and discrimination. A sizeable share of the respondents indicated that the situation of Roma had deteriorated between 2011 and 2016 regarding access to housing and essential services (32.5%) and discrimination (29.9%).

The respondents were then asked to assess progress made over the 2011-2016 period at the European and national levels in terms of actual results across the five key strategic areas for Roma integration.

⁷ With reference to the country they best knew about

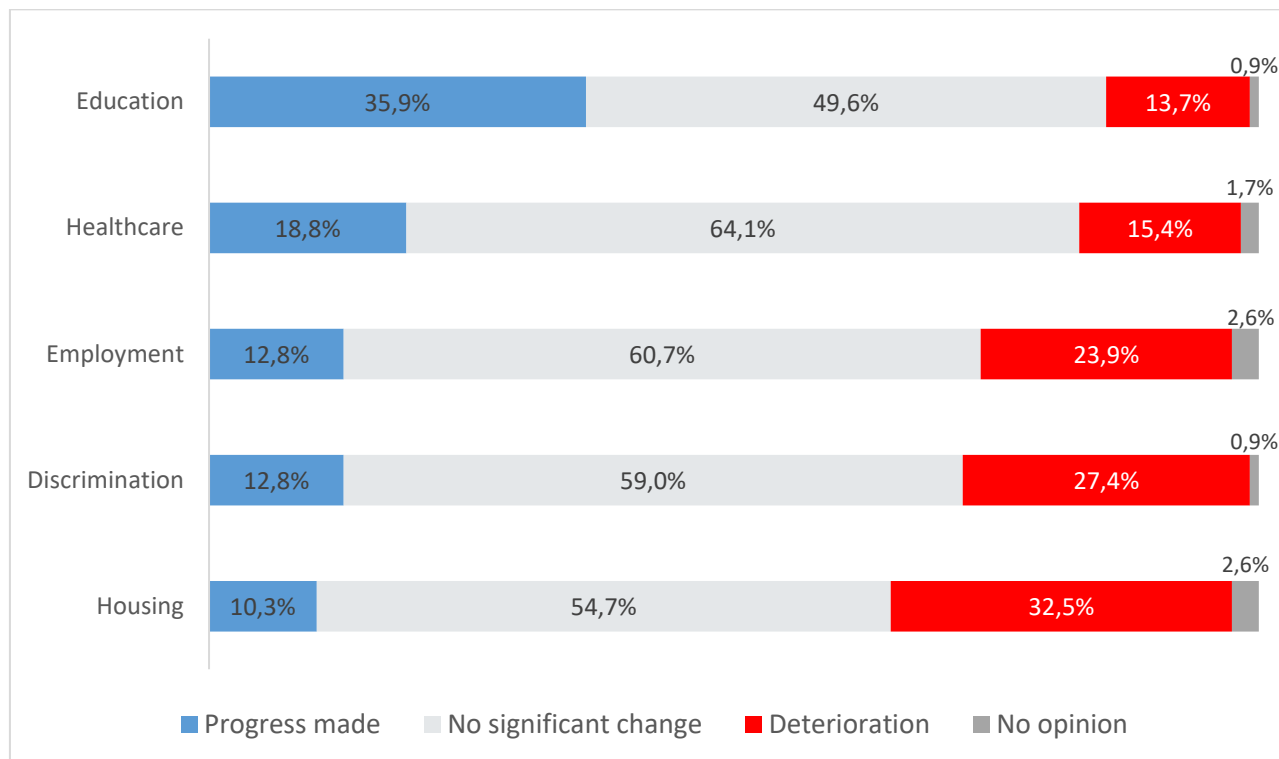
Figure 4.3 Q9.2.1: Please assess now the progress made (in the 2011-2016 period) in terms of actual results. Has the socio-economic situation of Roma in the respective areas tangibly changed on average at the European level.



N=177

The majority of respondents consistently indicated that no significant change took place in terms of 'actual results' at the European level across the five key areas of Roma integration. At the same time, almost a third of the respondents thought that there was visible progress at European level in terms of Roma integration in education. The response trends given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 4.3.

Figure 4.4 Q9.2.2: Please assess now the progress made (in the 2011-2016 period) in terms of actual results. Has the socio-economic situation of Roma in the respective areas tangibly changed on average at the national level? When referring to the national level, please think about the country you know the best (in relation to the situation of Roma), that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire.



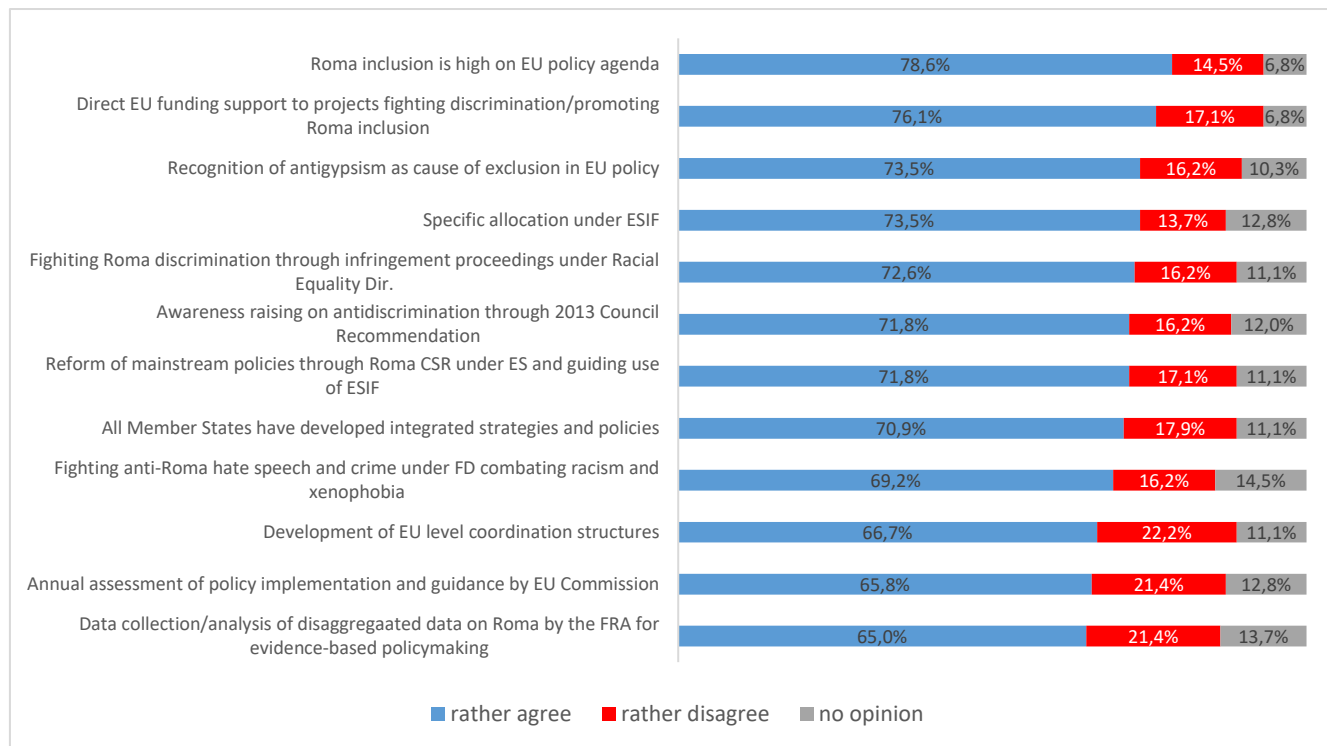
N=177

Similar response patterns can be observed on progress made in terms of actual results at the national level and at the EU level. However, respondents believed that less progress was made at EU level between 2011 and 2016 than in their respective country across the five strategic areas for Roma inclusion. According to more than a third of the respondents, progress had been made in their country in the area of education between 2011 and 2016. With the exception of education, the majority of the respondents thought that no significant progress took place between 2011 and 2016 in all key areas for Roma integration. Nearly a third of the respondents believed that the situation had deteriorated in their country over the same period with regard to Roma access to housing and other essential services.

4.2 Concrete achievements and challenges of the EU Framework and NRIS

The respondents were asked to identify the main achievements of the EU Framework for Roma integration between 2011 and 2016.

Figure 4.5 Q10.1: What, do you think have been the main achievements (in the 2011-2016 period) at European level? Please indicate, whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with each statement.

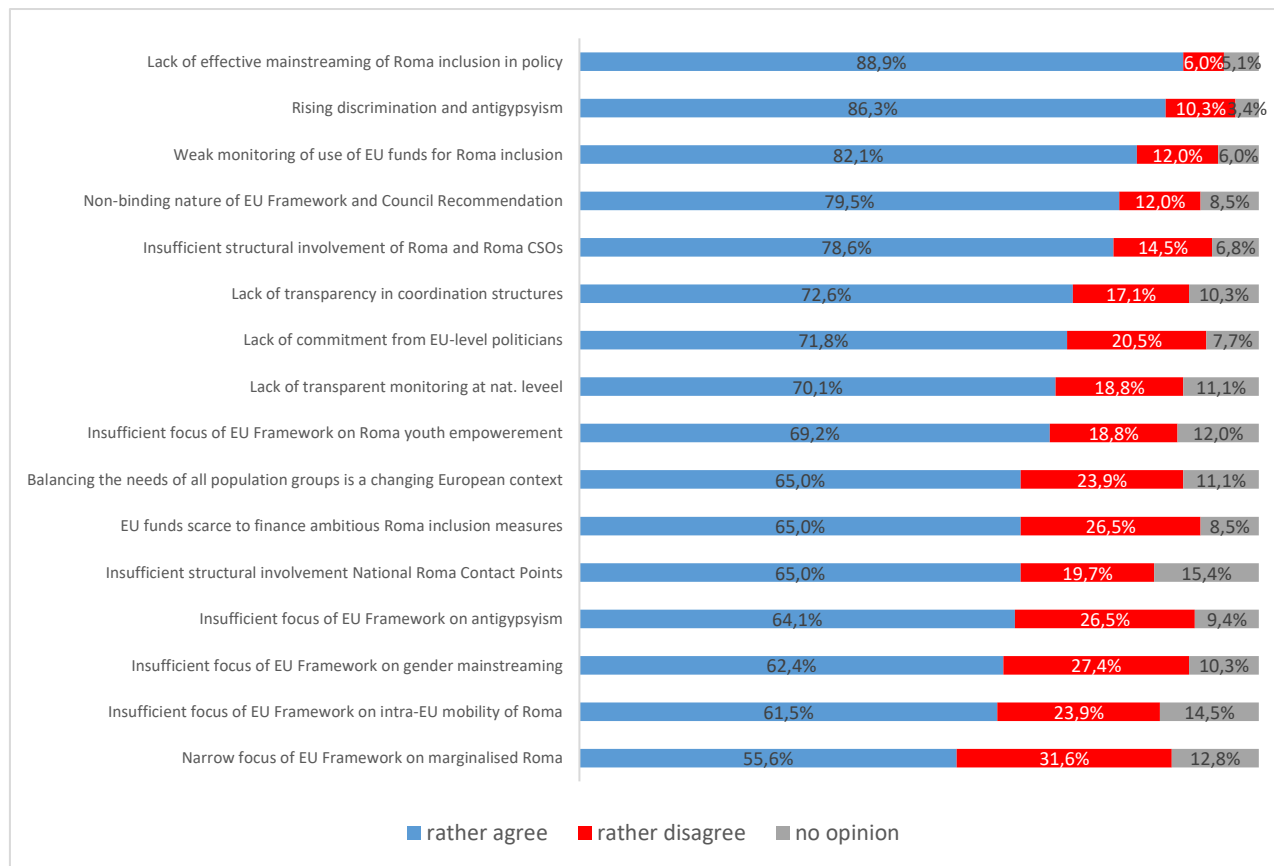


N=117

A significant majority of the respondents agreed that the EU Framework resulted in a series of achievements between 2011 and 2016. In particular, more than three-quarter of the respondents recognised that Roma inclusion became high on the EU policy agenda and that more funding was earmarked for projects promoting Roma inclusion over the 2011-2016 period.

The response trends given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 4.5.

Figure 4.6 Q11.1: What do you think, have been the main challenges (in the 2011-2016 period) in respect of Roma inclusion at the European level? Please indicate, whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with each statement?

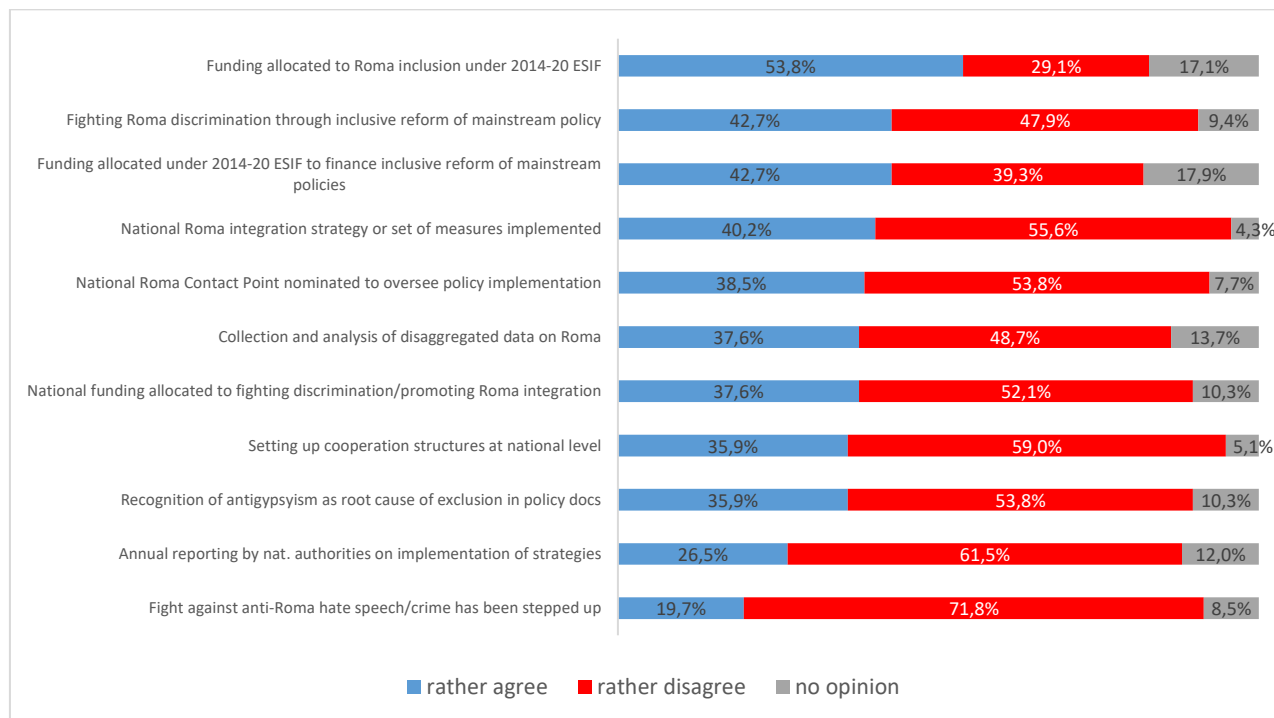


N=117

The respondents were then asked to identify the main challenges to Roma inclusion at EU level between 2011 and 2016. The large majority of respondents agreed that, among others, the key challenges were: a lack of effective mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in policy (88.9%); rising discrimination and antigypsyism (86.3%); a weak monitoring of use of EU funds (82.1%) and the non-binding nature of the EU Framework (79.5%). Moreover, 31.6% of respondents disagreed that the narrow focus of the EU Framework on marginalised Roma represented a challenge.

The respondents were then asked to identify the main challenges to the achievement of Roma inclusion in their respective country.

Figure 4.7 Q10.2: What, do you think, have been the main achievements (in the 2011-2016 period) at national level? Please indicate, whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with each statement. When referring to the national level, please think about the country you know the best (in relation to the situation of Roma), that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire.?



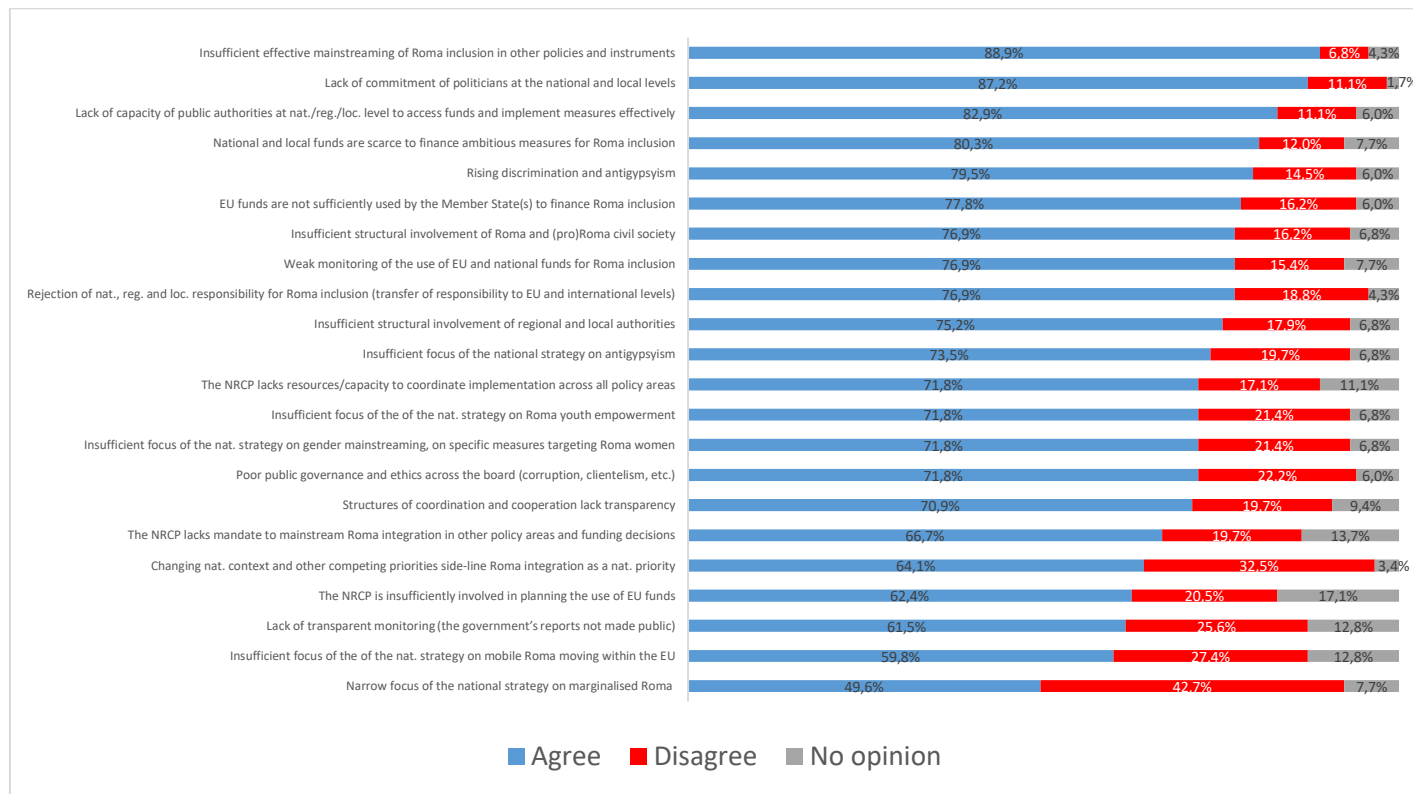
N=117

Just over half of the respondents indicated that the NRIS in their respective country had influenced positively the level of funding allocated to Roma inclusion under ESIF 2014-2020. Similarly, more respondents agreed than disagreed that the NRIS in their respective country had positively influenced the level of funding allocated under ESIF 2014-2020 to finance mainstream policy reform around inclusiveness. The response trends broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs/think-tanks, citizens) or and country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement) were overall consistent with the overall response trends as shown in Figure 4.7.

A significant majority of the respondents (71.8%) disagreed that the NRIS in their respective country had resulted in the stepping up efforts to fight anti-Roma hate speech and hate crime between 2011 and 2016.

The respondents were then asked to identify the main challenges to the achievement of Roma inclusion in their respective country.

Figure 4.8 Q11.2: What do you think, have been the main challenges (in the 2011-2016 period) in respect of Roma inclusion at the national level?



N=117

The results show that an overwhelming majority of the respondents (88.9%) believe that the insufficient effective mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in national policies was and still is a major challenge to achieving Roma inclusion. From a national perspective, 87.2% of the respondents agreed that the lack of commitment from politicians at national and local levels is a major challenge to Roma inclusion. More than 80% of the respondents also thought that the lack of capacity of national, regional and local level authorities and issues around the financing of ambitious policies were also major challenges to Roma inclusion at the national level. Less than half of the respondents however indicated that the narrow focus of national strategies on marginalised Roma was a major challenge to Roma inclusion. Similar results were observable across the country clusters (EU15, EU13, Enlargement countries).

4.3 Evaluation of the thematic policy areas

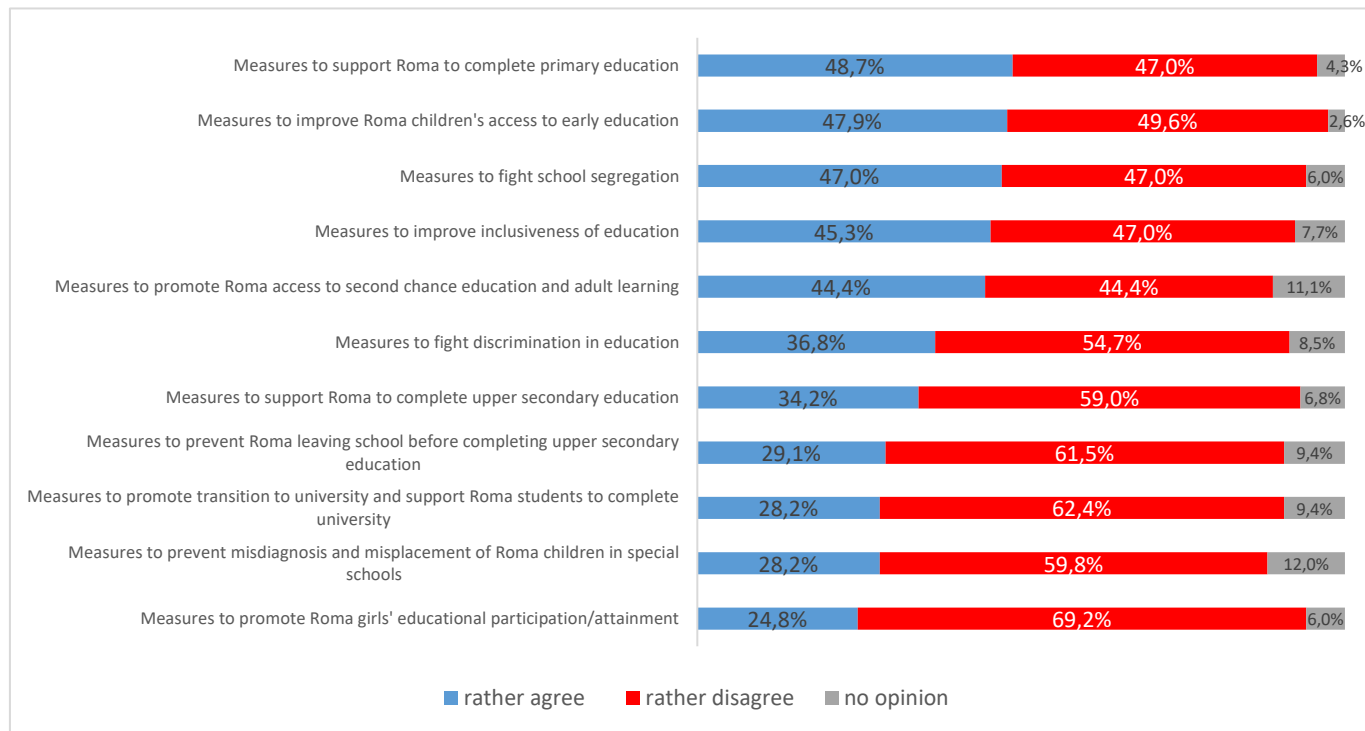
The respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that various specific measures relevant to each of the key strategic areas for Roma integration (i.e. education, employment, healthcare, access to housing and essential services, and anti-discrimination) were implemented during the 2011-2016 period in their respective countries.

They were then asked to assess whether the current situation of Roma in their respective countries has either improved or worsened since 2011 in relation to key aspects of integration.

4.3.1.1 Education

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures on Roma integration were adopted in the area of education over the period 2011-2016.

Figure 4.9 Q12.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EDUCATION since 2011 in the country you live or work or know best, that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire



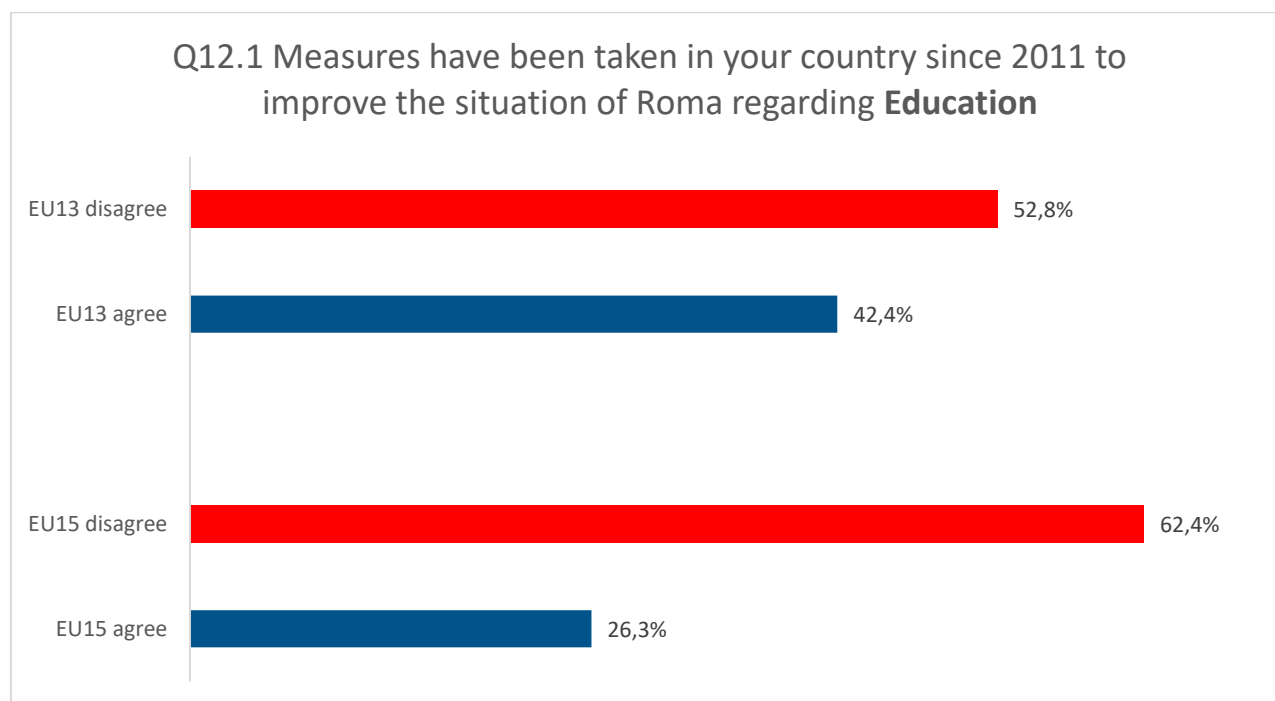
N=117

Apart from measures to support Roma to complete primary education and to fight school segregation, respondents most frequently disagreed that the abovementioned measures in the field of education have been taken in their respective country since 2011 to improve the integration of Roma.

More than half of all the respondents disagreed that measures were implemented in their respective country to fight discrimination in education, to support Roma to complete upper secondary education while preventing dropouts, to promote transition to university, to prevent the misplacement of Roma in special needs schools.

More than two-thirds of the respondents disagreed about the fact that efforts were made in their country to promote Roma girls' participation in education and to support their educational attainment.

Figure 4.10 Perceived progress in the adoption of measures to improve the situation of Roma regarding education in EU15 and EU13 overall⁸

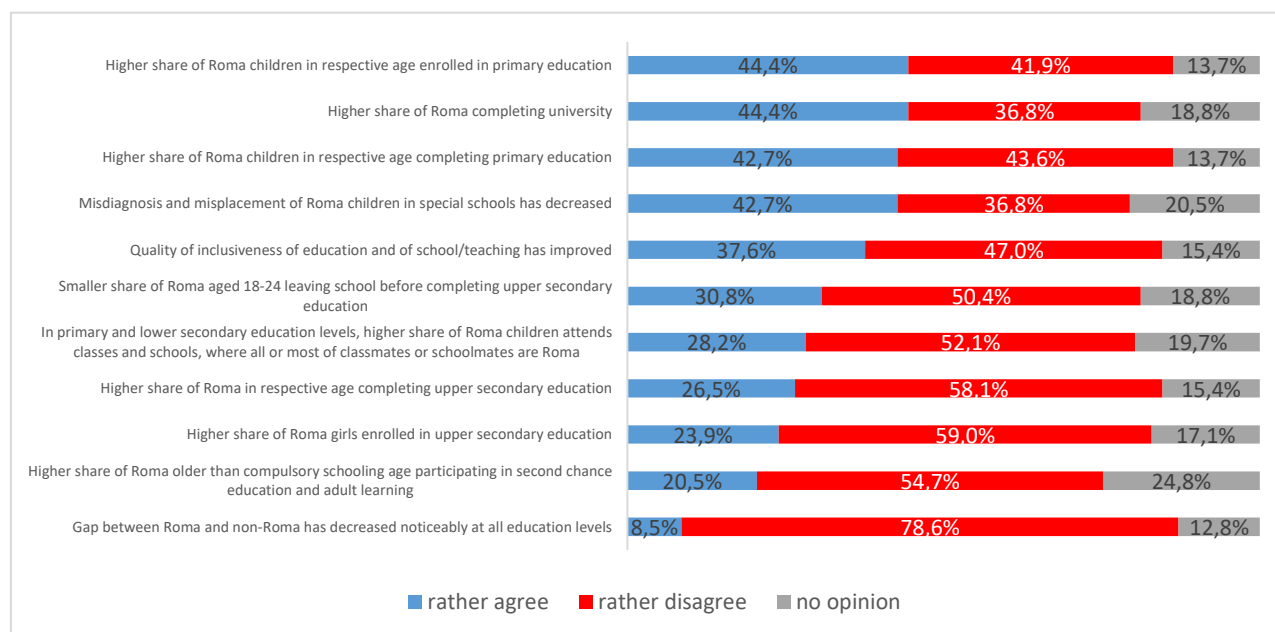


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53

A majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 believed that no measures have been taken in their respective countries to improve the situation of Roma in education. Only 26.3% of the respondents from EU15 agreed that measures have been adopted in education since 2011 in their respective countries to improve the situation of Roma compared to 42.8% of respondents from EU13 holding the same view.

⁸ Original question 12.1. Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EDUCATION since 2011 in the country you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.11 Q12.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma children in EDUCATION to the situation that prevailed in education 2011 in your country?⁹



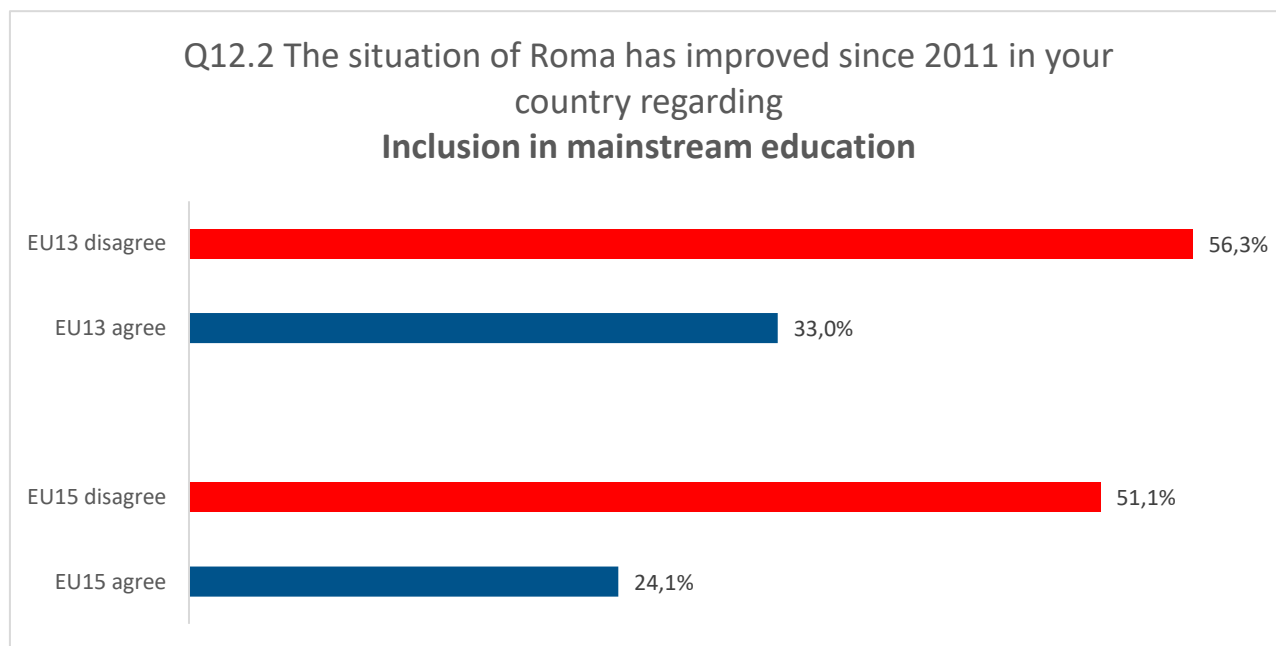
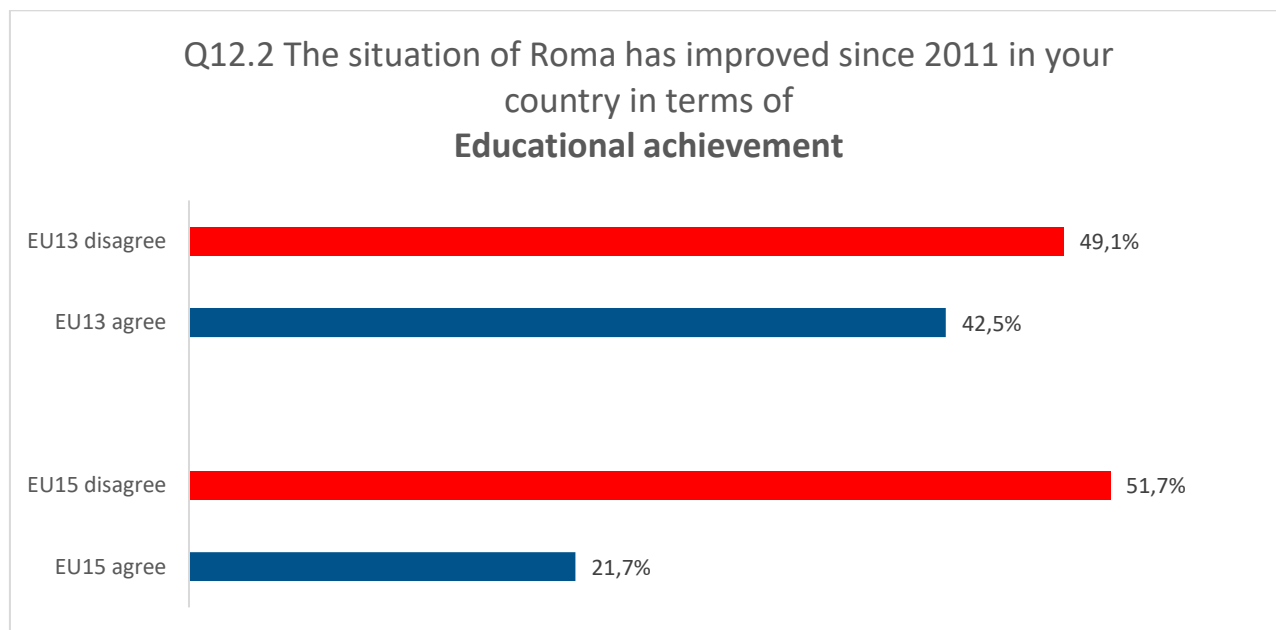
N=117

Survey results as to whether the situation of Roma in education has improved at the national level since 2011 show a mixed picture. Respondents more frequently agreed that the measures had successfully led to a higher share of Roma children enrolled in primary education and a reduction in misplacement of Roma school children in special schools.

However, for all the other abovementioned statements, the respondents more frequently mentioned that the current situation is no better now than it was in 2011 in their respective country. In particular, more than three-quarters of the respondents indicated that there has not been a reduction of the gap in educational participation between Roma and non-Roma since 2011.

⁹ Original OPC question 12.2. Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma children in education to the situation that prevailed in 2011, in the country you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.12 Perceived progress regarding the situation of Roma since 2011 in terms of inclusion in mainstream education and educational achievement^{10 11}



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

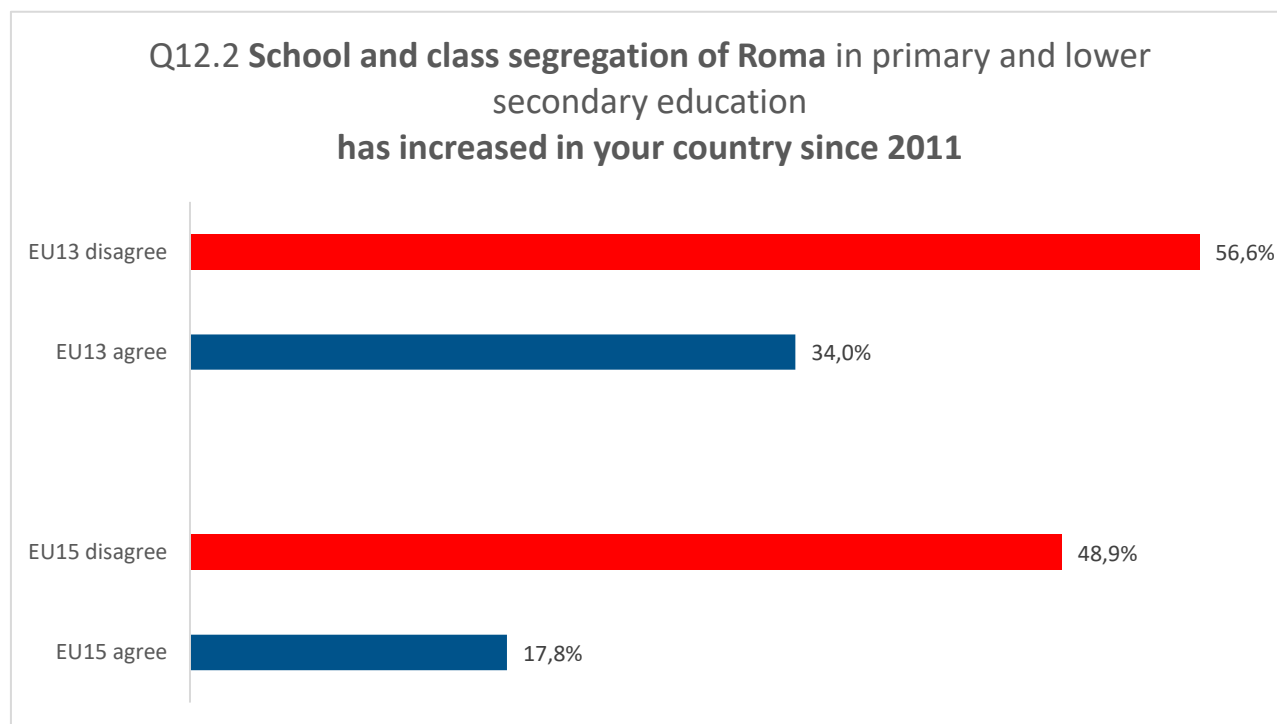
¹⁰ "Situation of Roma has improved in terms of educational attainment": Variables (answer options): Gap between Roma and non-Roma has decreased noticeably at all education levels; Higher share of Roma completing university; Higher share of Roma in respective age completing upper secondary education; Smaller share of Roma aged 18-24 leaving school before completing upper secondary education; Higher share of Roma children in respective age completing primary education

¹¹ "Situation of Roma has improved in terms of inclusion in mainstream education": Variables (answer options): Quality of inclusiveness of education and of school/teaching has improved; Misdiagnosis and misplacement of Roma children in special schools has decreased; Higher share of Roma older than compulsory schooling age participating in second chance education and adult learning; Higher share of Roma girls enrolled in upper secondary education; Higher share of Roma children in respective age enrolled in primary education

Regarding the inclusion of Roma in mainstream education, respondents from EU15 and EU13 were more likely to disagree that the situation has not improved since 2011. The share of respondents who held this view was highest in EU13 countries (56.3%) compared to EU15 (51.1%).

Similarly, EU15 and EU13 respondents were more likely to disagree that Roma's educational attainment levels have improved in their respective countries since 2011 (51.7% and 49.1% respectively).

Figure 4.13 Perceived increase in school and class segregation of Roma children since 2011 in EU15 and EU13¹²



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

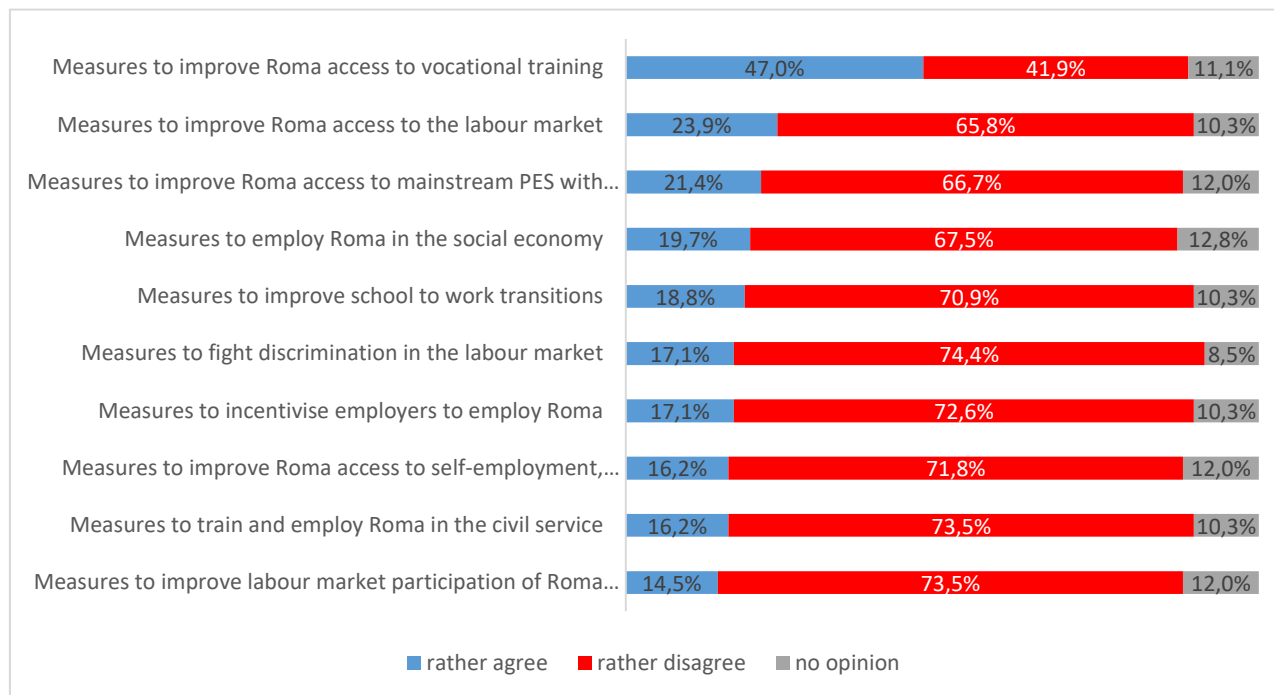
Respondents from EU15 and EU13 were more likely to hold the view that school and class segregation of Roma children has either not increased or decreased in their respective country since 2011.

¹² Variable (answer option): In primary and lower secondary education levels, higher share of Roma children attends classes and schools, where all or most of classmates or schoolmates are Roma

4.3.1.2 Employment

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures had been adopted in the field of employment over the years 2011-2016.

Figure 4.14 Q13.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EMPLOYMENT since 2011 in the country you live or work or know best, that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire.



N=117

It appears that little progress has been made since 2011 across the various countries covered in relation to the adoption of measures to better integrate Roma into the labour market. Respondents more frequently indicated that measures to improve Roma access to vocational training have been taken since 2011. For all the other potentially relevant measures to improve the labour market integration of Roma, more than two-thirds of the respondents stated that no progress has been made in adopting and implementing them since in their respective country.

Figure 4.15 Perceived progress in the adoption of measures to improve the situation of Roma regarding employment in EU15 and EU13 overall¹³

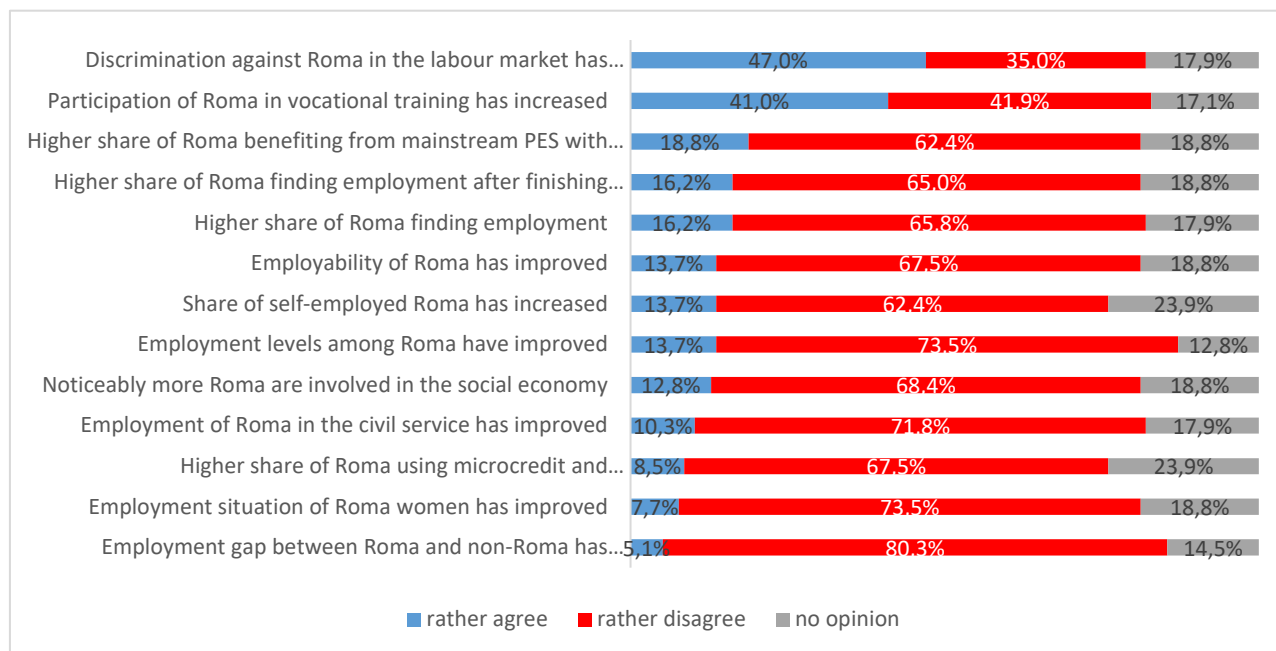


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

A majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed that progress has been made in their respective country in the adoption of measures to improve Roma’s access to employment and their labour market integration. Almost three-quarters of EU15 respondents and more than two-thirds of EU13 respondents held this view.

¹³ Original question 13.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EMPLOYMENT since 2011 in the country you live or work or know best, that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.16 Q13.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in EMPLOYMENT to the situation that prevailed 2011 in your country?¹⁴



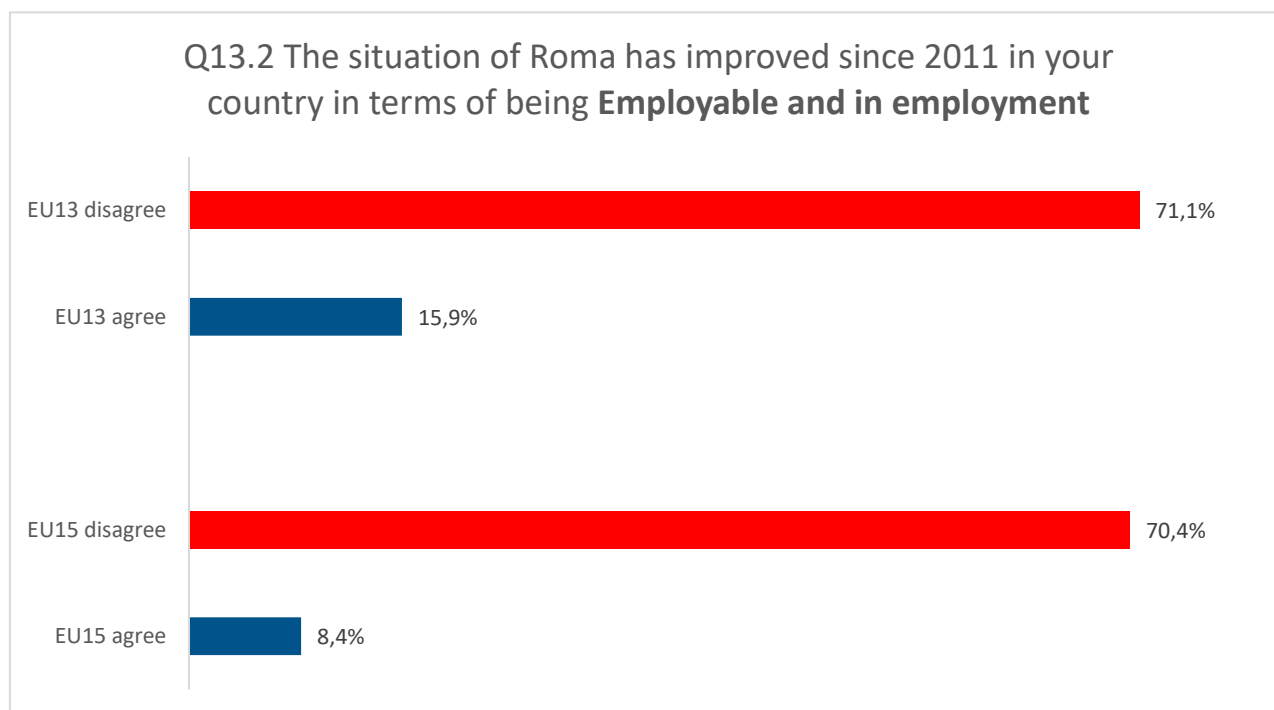
N=117

Similarly, no great progress has been made in terms of the labour market integration of Roma since 2011 across the countries covered. On the other hand, 47% of the respondents indicated that discrimination against Roma in the labour market is worse today than it was in 2011, compared to only 35% according to whom the situation today is better than in 2011 in this respect.

The employment gap between Roma and non-Roma in the different countries continues to be as significant (if not worse) today as it was in 2011 for 80.3% of the respondents.

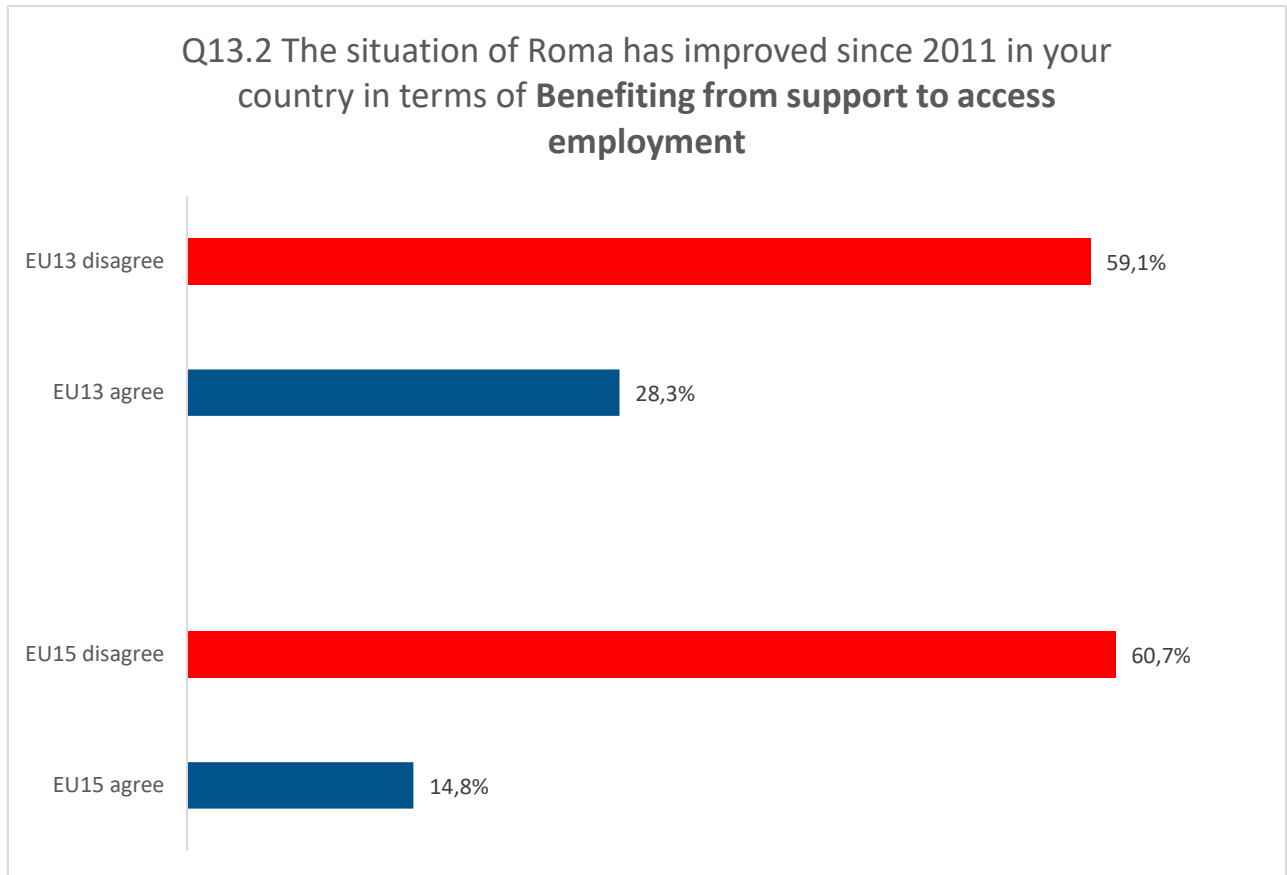
¹⁴ Original OPC question 13.2 Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in the field of EMPLOYMENT to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.17 Perceived progress regarding the situation of Roma since 2011 in terms of inclusion in terms of labour market inclusion and access to labour market support measures in EU15 and EU13^{15 16}



¹⁵ "Situation of Roma improved in terms of being employable and in employment": Variables (answer options): Employment gap between Roma and non-Roma has decreased noticeably; Noticeably more Roma are involved in the social economy; Employment of Roma in the civil service has improved; Employment levels among Roma have improved; Employment situation of Roma women has improved; Share of self-employed Roma has increased; Higher share of Roma finding employment; Higher share of Roma finding employment after finishing education; Employability of Roma has improved.

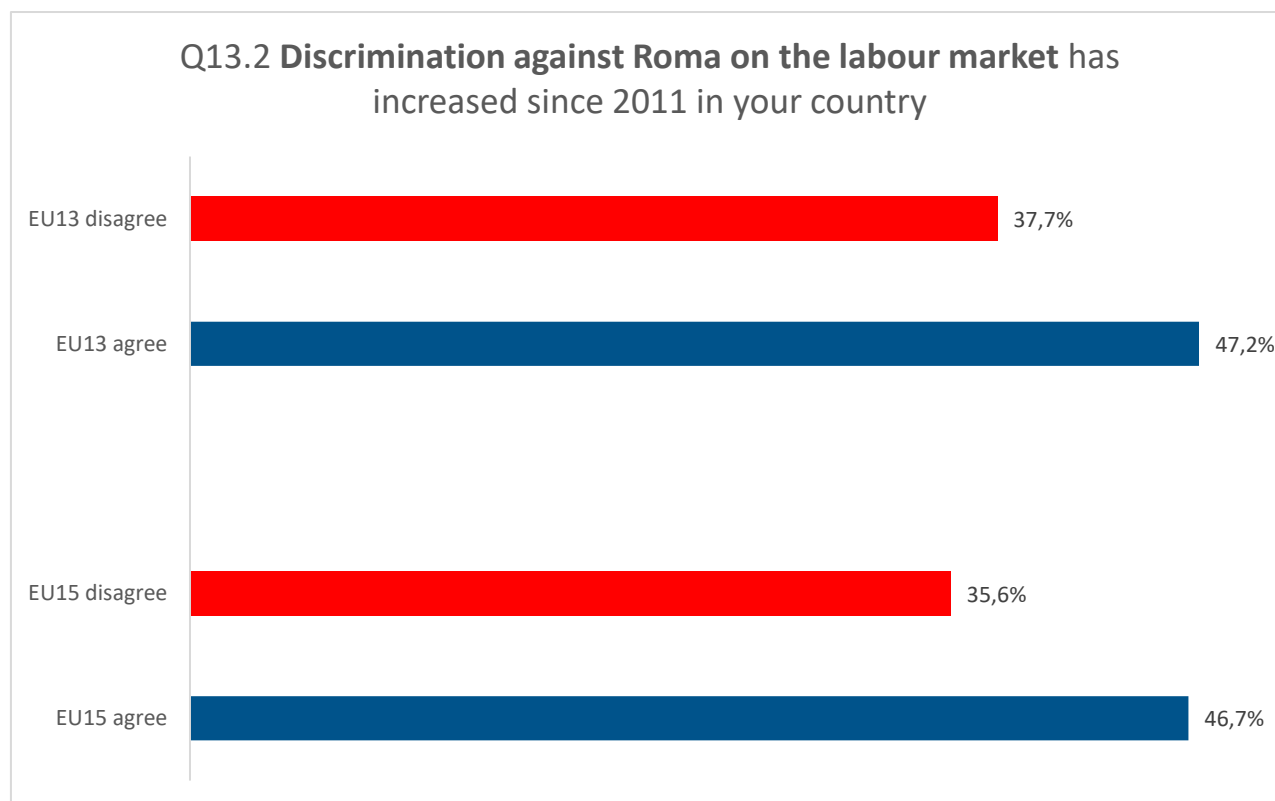
¹⁶ "Situation of Roma has improved in terms of benefiting from support to access employment": Variables (answer options): Higher share of Roma benefiting from mainstream PES with individualised support; Higher share of Roma using microcredit and entrepreneurship support; Participation of Roma in vocational training has increased.



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

A vast majority of respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed that improvements have been made since 2011 in the labour market integration of Roma. Similarly, respondents from both country clusters were more likely to disagree about the fact that Roma benefit more from support to access to employment today compared to 2011.

Figure 4.18 Perceived increase in discrimination against Roma on the labour market segregation in EU15 and EU13¹⁷



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

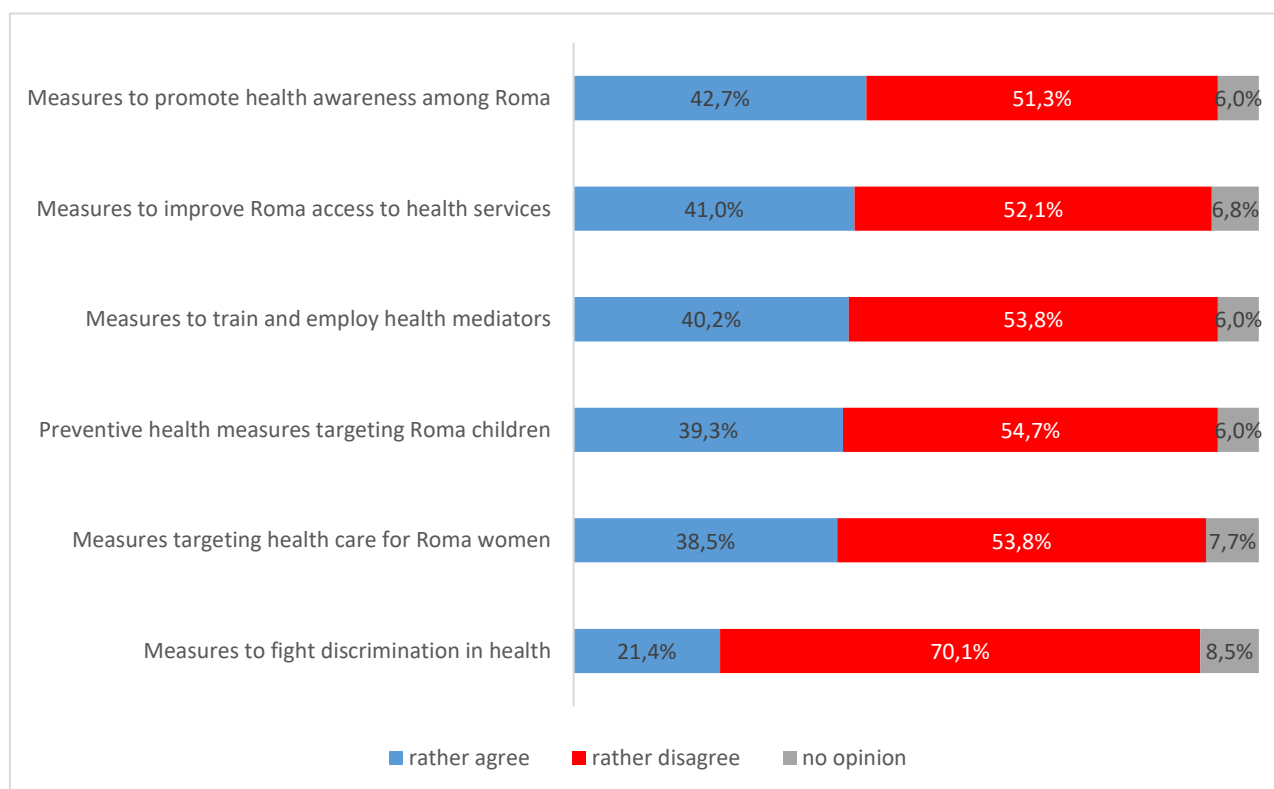
Respondents from EU15 and EU13 were consistently more likely to admit that discrimination of Roma on the labour market has increased since 2011.

¹⁷ Variable (answer option): Discrimination against Roma on the labour market has increased.

4.3.1.3 Healthcare

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures had been adopted in the area of healthcare over the years 2011-2016.

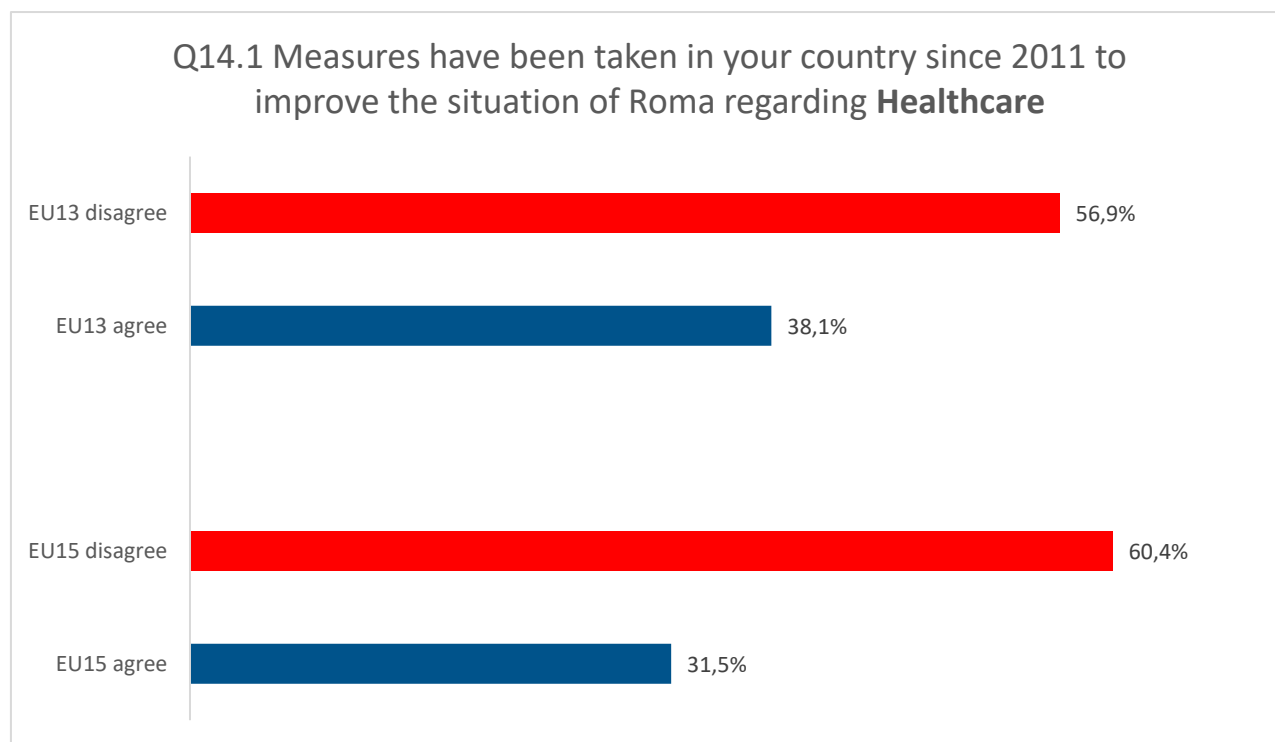
Figure 4.19 Q14.1: Please mark you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HEALTH since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire



N=117

In relation to the abovementioned measures to improve Roma’s health and access to healthcare, the majority of respondents indicated that these had not been adopted or implemented in their respective countries during the period 2011-2016. More than 70% of the respondents highlighted that no progress was made over the period in their respective countries in relation to the implementation of measures to fight discrimination in access to healthcare.

Figure 4.20 Perceived progress in the adoption of measures to improve the situation of Roma regarding healthcare in EU15 and EU13 overall¹⁸

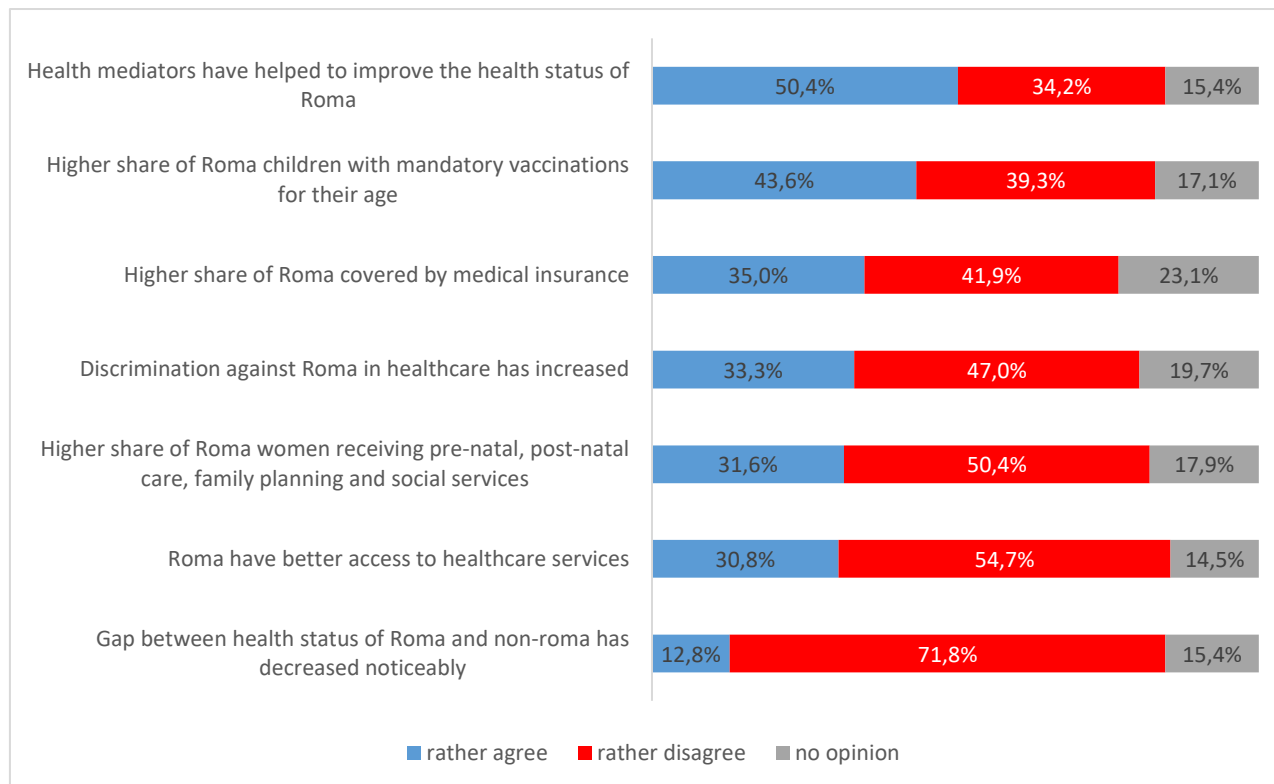


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

The majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed with the statement that progress has been made in Roma health and access to healthcare since 2011.

¹⁸ Original OPC question 14.1: please mark you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HEALTH since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.21 Q14.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in healthcare to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in your country?¹⁹

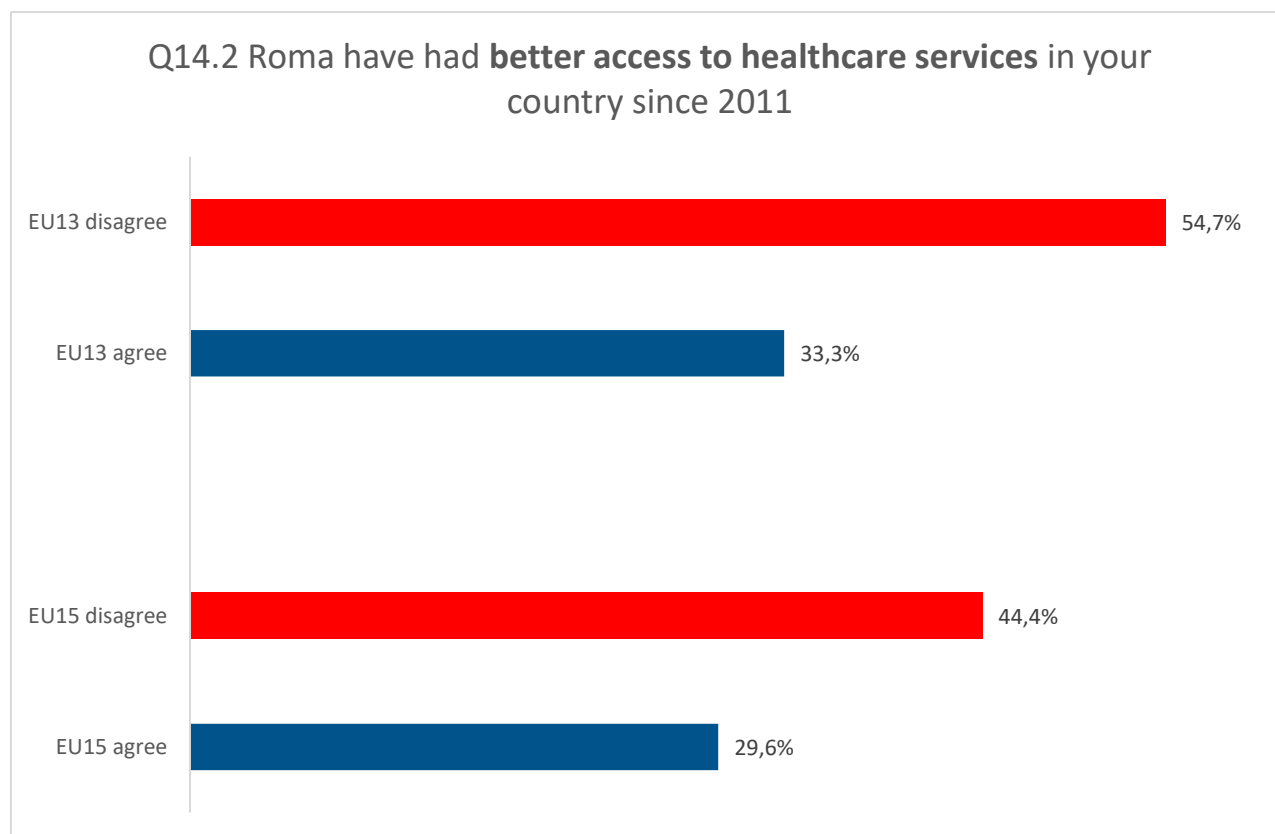


N=117

The situation of Roma regarding health and access to healthcare does not appear to have improved since 2011 according to the overall survey results. However, a majority of the respondents (50.4%) recognised that the work of health mediators has contributed to improving the health status of Roma since 2011. On the other hand, 54.7% of the respondents stated that Roma do not have better access to healthcare today compared to 2011. For more than 70% of the respondents, the gap between the health status of Roma and non-Roma has not closed since 2011.

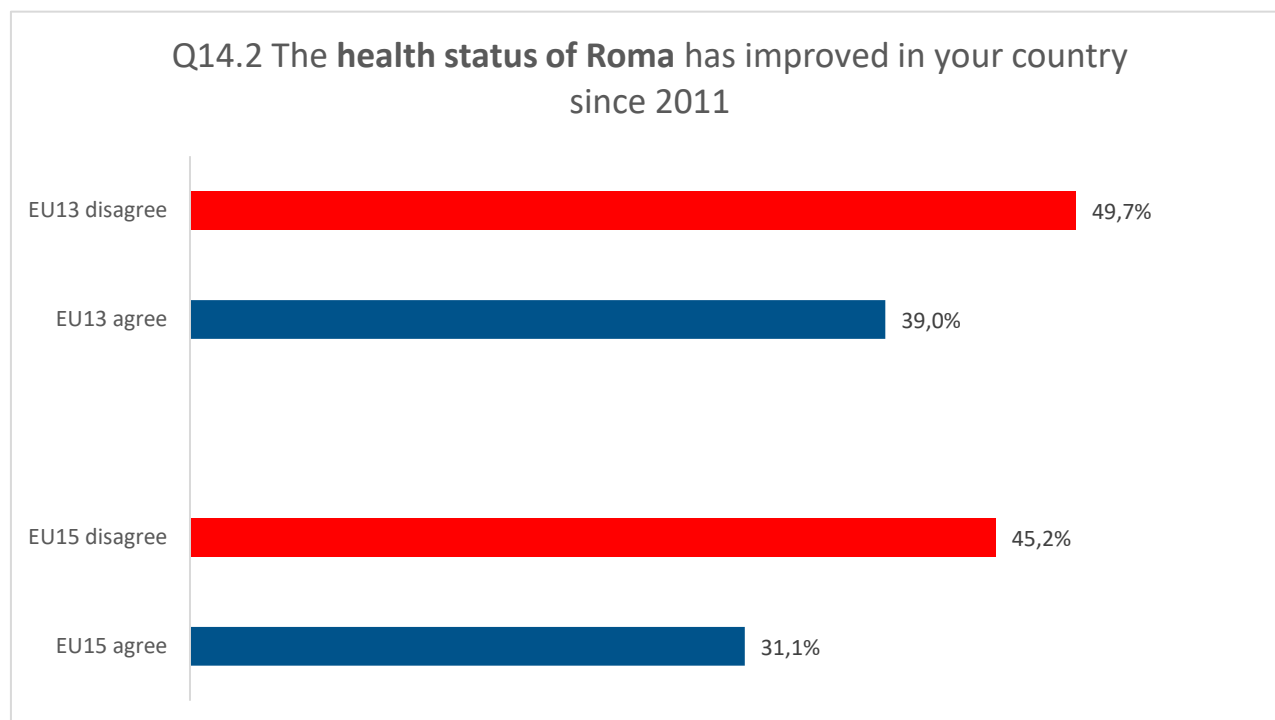
¹⁹ Original OPC question 14.2: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in the field of HEALTH to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.22 Perceived progress regarding the situation of Roma since 2011 in terms of inclusion in terms of access to healthcare and health status in EU15 and EU13^{20 21}



²⁰ "Roma have had better access to healthcare services": Variables (answer options) Higher share of Roma covered by medical insurance; Higher share of Roma women receiving pre-natal, post-natal care, family planning and social services; Roma have better access to healthcare services.

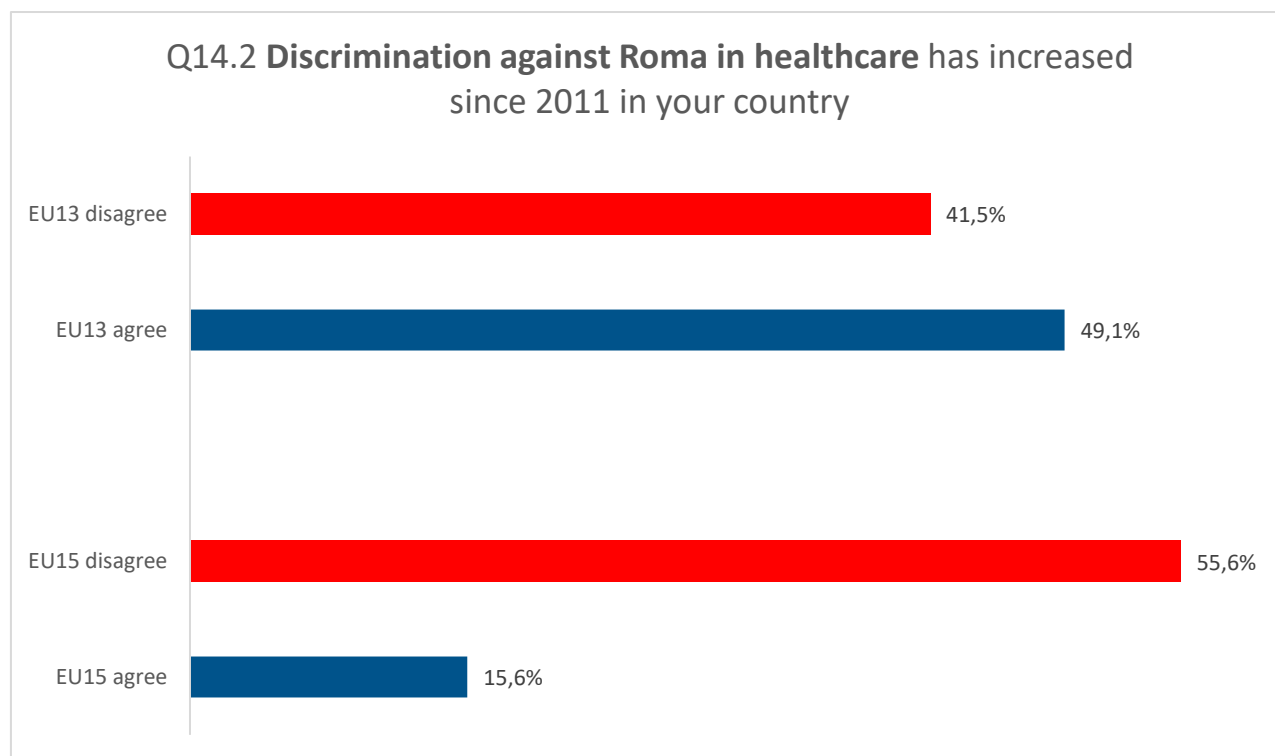
²¹ "The health status of Roma has improved": Variables (answer options): Gap between health status of Roma and non-Roma has decreased noticeably; Health mediators have helped to improve the health status of Roma; Higher share of Roma children with mandatory vaccinations for their age.



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

Respondents from EU15 and EU13 were more likely to disagree that the health status of Roma has improved since 2011. More than half of the respondents from EU13 indicated that Roma's access to healthcare services in their respective countries has not improved since 2011. Respondents from EU15 were also more likely to share this view than not.

Figure 4.23 Perceived increase in discrimination against Roma in healthcare 2011 in EU15 and EU13²²



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

Respondents from EU13 were more likely to agree that discrimination of Roma in healthcare has increased in their respective countries since 2011. Only 15.6% of EU15 respondents shared the same view.

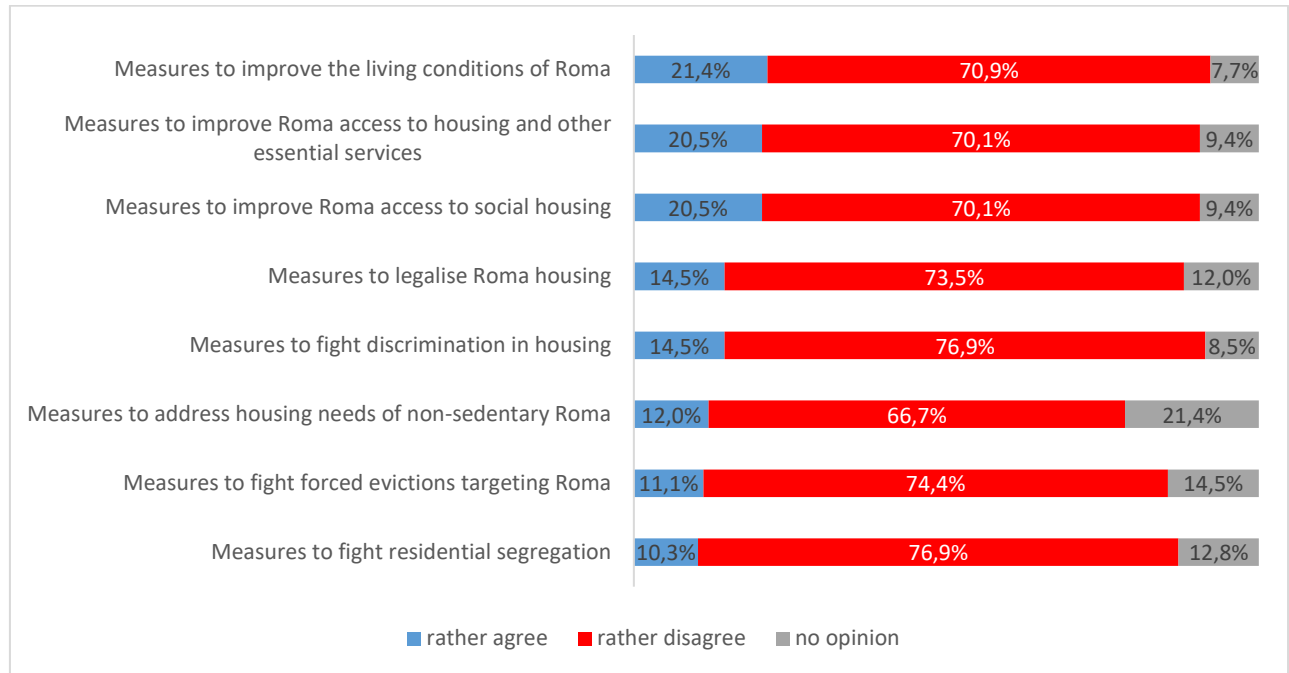
On the other hand, 55.6% of EU15 respondents believed that Roma discrimination in healthcare has not increased since 2011 in their respective countries.

4.3.1.4 Housing

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures had been adopted in the area of housing over the years 2011-2016.

²² Variable (answer option): Discrimination against Roma has increased.

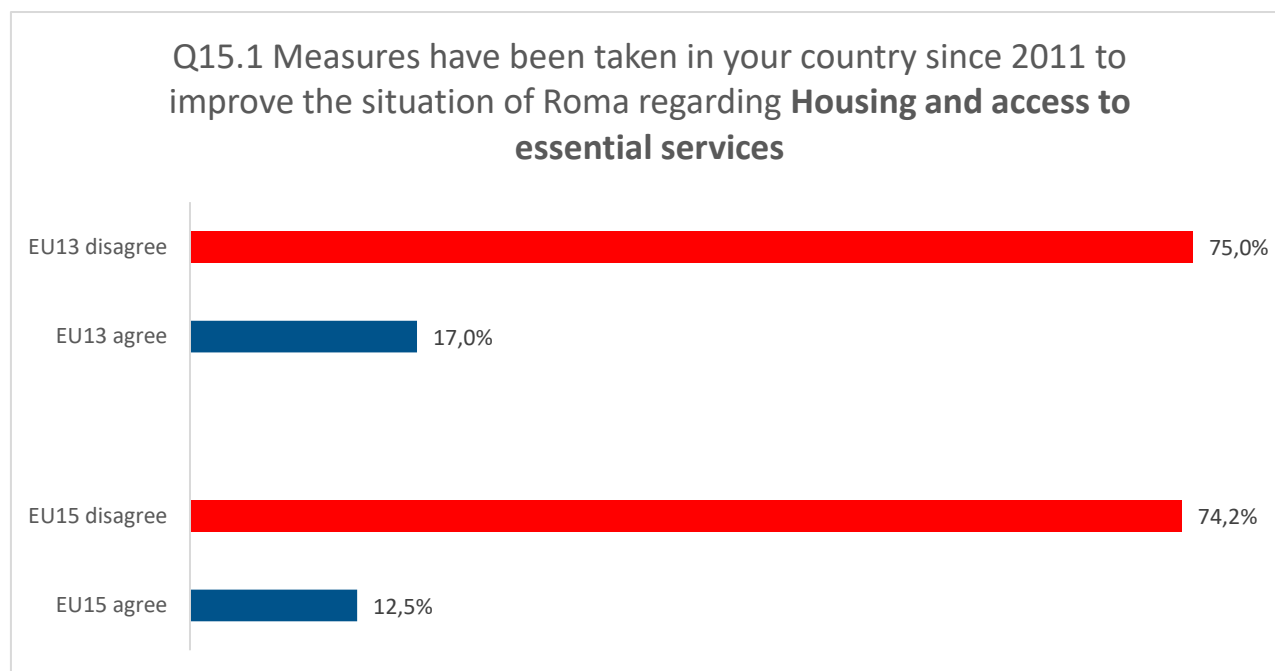
Figure 4.24 Q15.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HOUSING since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire



N=117

The above results show that according to 70 to 75% of the respondents, no progress was made in the 2011-2016 period in terms of adopting measures to improve Roma access to housing and social services in the countries covered.

Figure 4.25 Perceived progress in the adoption of measures to improve the situation of Roma regarding housing in EU15 and EU13 overall²³

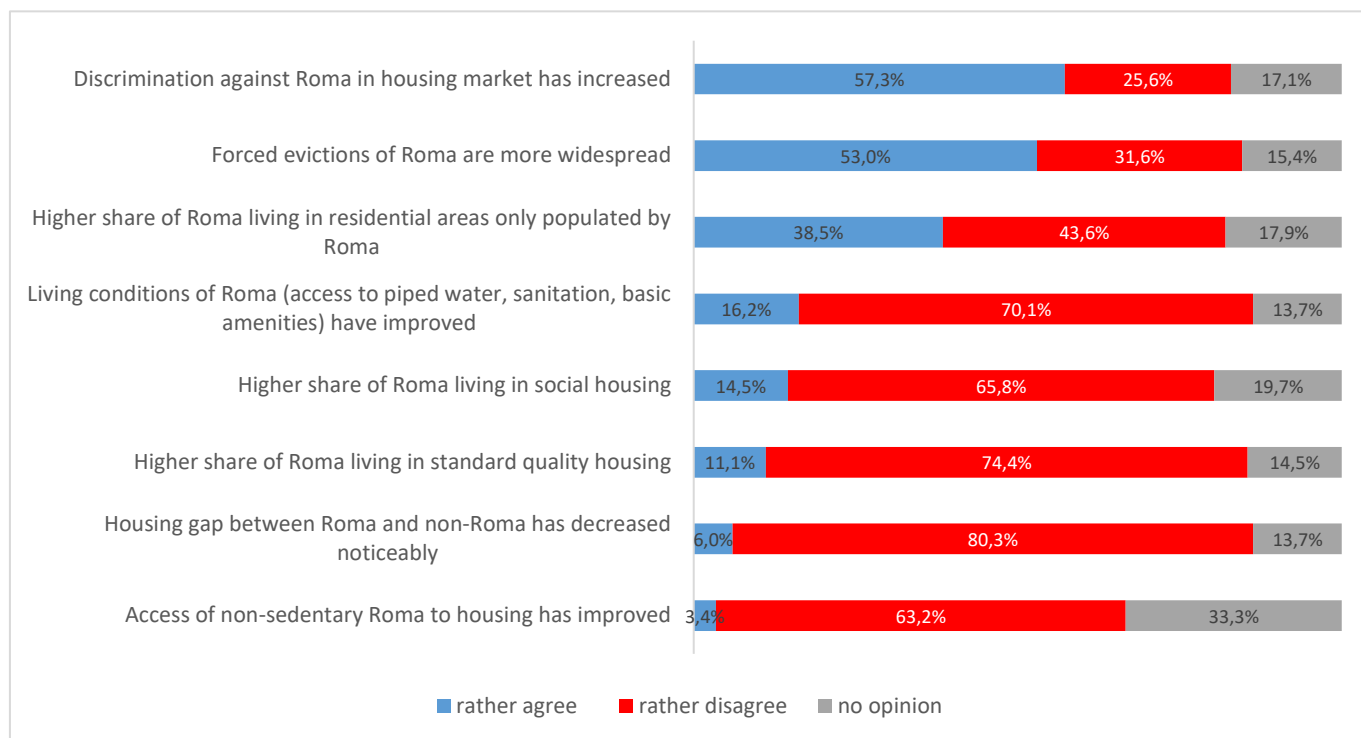


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

A significant majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed that progress has been made in their respective country in the adoption of measures to improve Roma's housing and living conditions. Around three-quarters of the respondents from both EU15 and EU13 held this view, which was also shared by 60.2% of respondents in the Enlargement countries.

²³ Original OPC question 15.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HOUSING since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

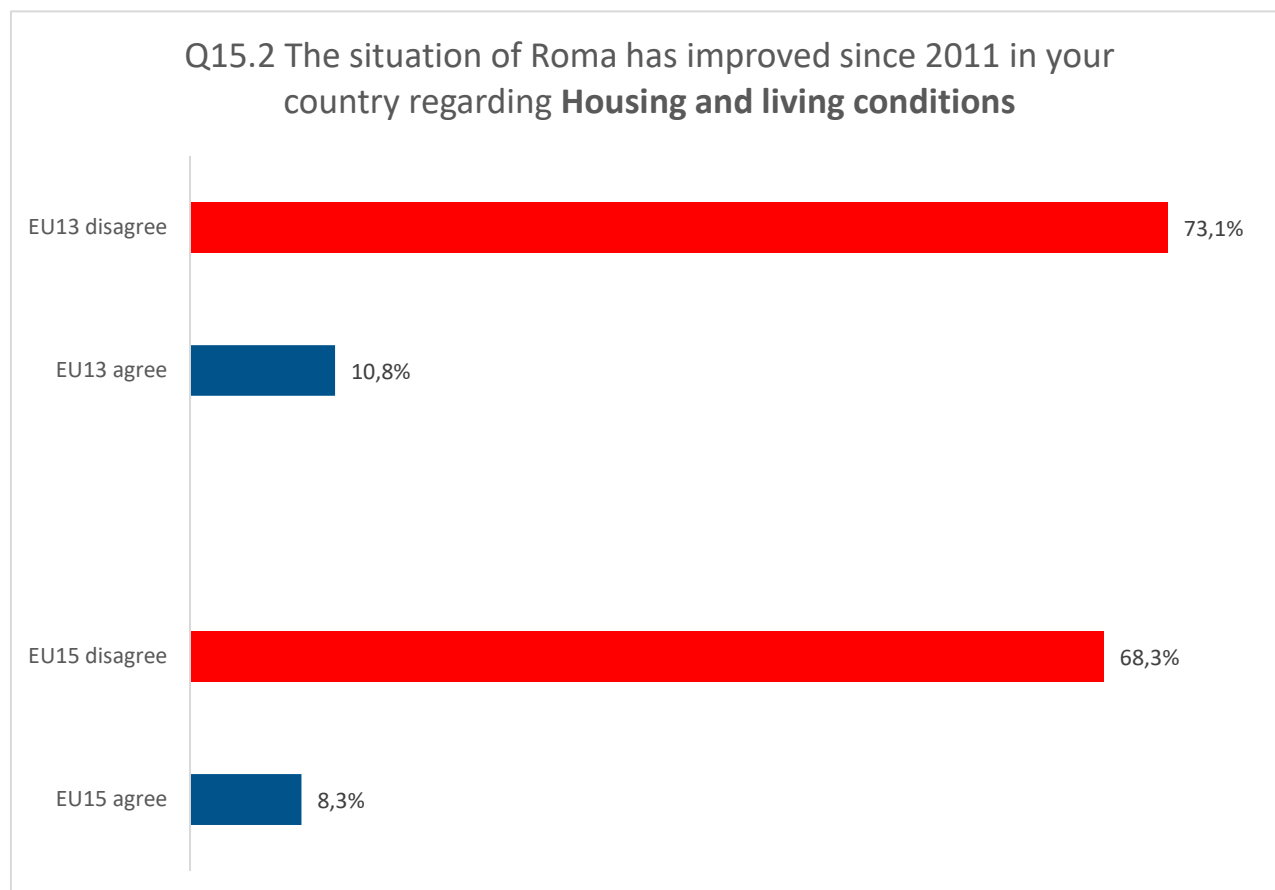
Figure 4.26 Q15.2: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in the field of HOUSING to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire.



N=117

For the majority of respondents, there is more discrimination against Roma in the housing market and more forced evictions of Roma today than there was in 2011 in their respective countries. Between 70 and 80% of the respondents indicated that the living conditions of Roma overall have not improved since 2011.

Figure 4.27 Perceived progress in the situation of Roma regarding housing and living conditions since 2011 in EU15 and EU13²⁴

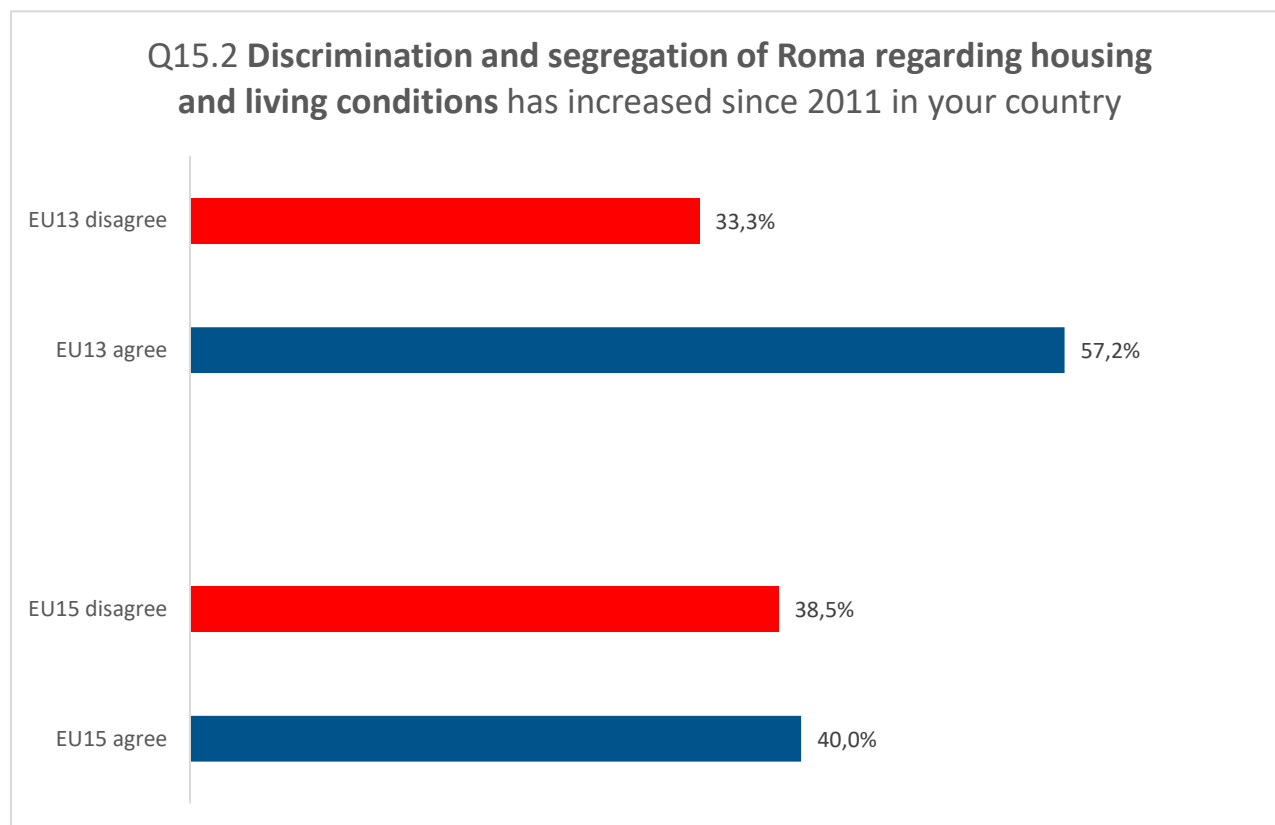


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

A clear majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed that the situation of Roma has improved in their respective countries since 2011 in terms of access to housing and living conditions.

²⁴ Variables (answer options): Housing gap between Roma and non-Roma has decreased noticeably; Living conditions of Roma (access to piped water, sanitation, basic amenities) have improved; Access of non-sedentary Roma to housing has improved; Higher share of Roma living in social housing

Figure 4.28 Perceived increase in Roma discrimination and segregation in terms of housing and living conditions, as well as forced evictions since 2011 in EU15 and EU13²⁵



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

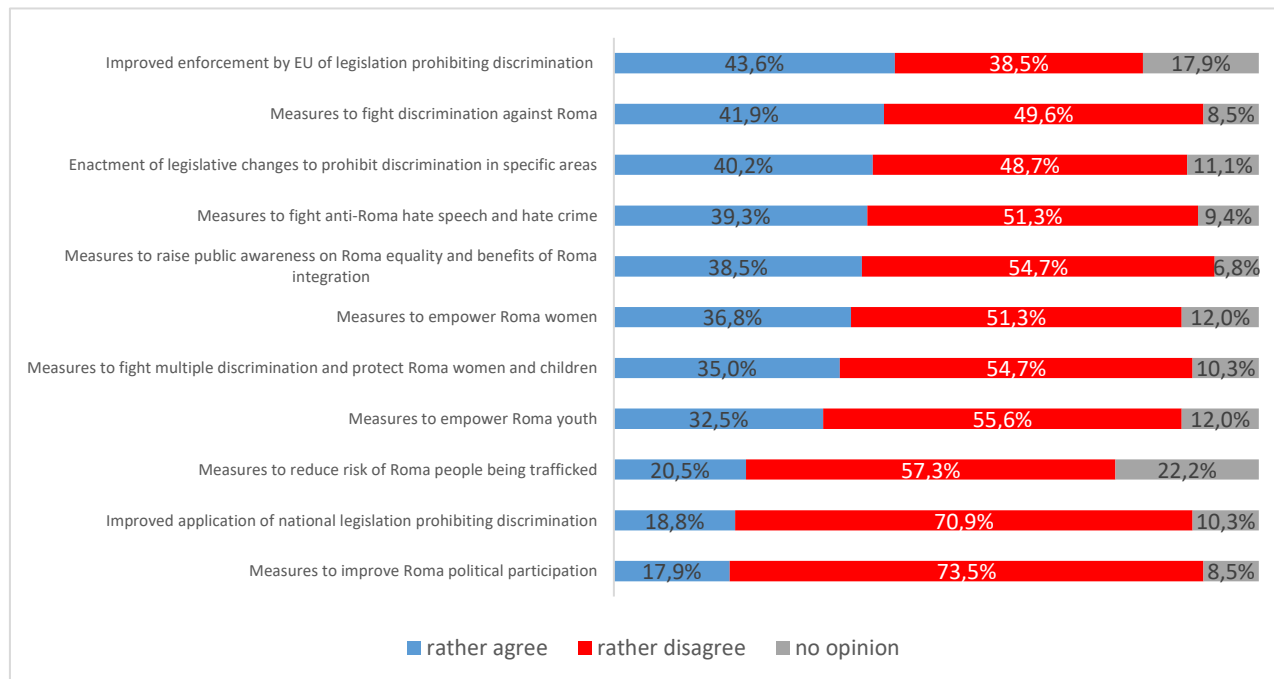
More than half of the respondents from EU13 held the view that Roma segregation regarding housing and living conditions has increased since 2011 in their respective country. Among EU15 respondents, only 40% shared this opinion while 38.5% believed that there has been no rise in the discrimination and housing segregation of Roma since 2011 in their respective country.

²⁵ Variables (answer options): Discrimination against Roma in housing market has increased; Higher share of Roma living in residential areas only populated by Roma; Forced evictions of Roma are more widespread

4.3.1.5 Anti-discrimination

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures had been adopted in the area of anti-discrimination over the years 2011-2016.

Figure 4.29 Q16.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken to fight DISCRIMINATION AND ANTIGIPSYISM since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire.

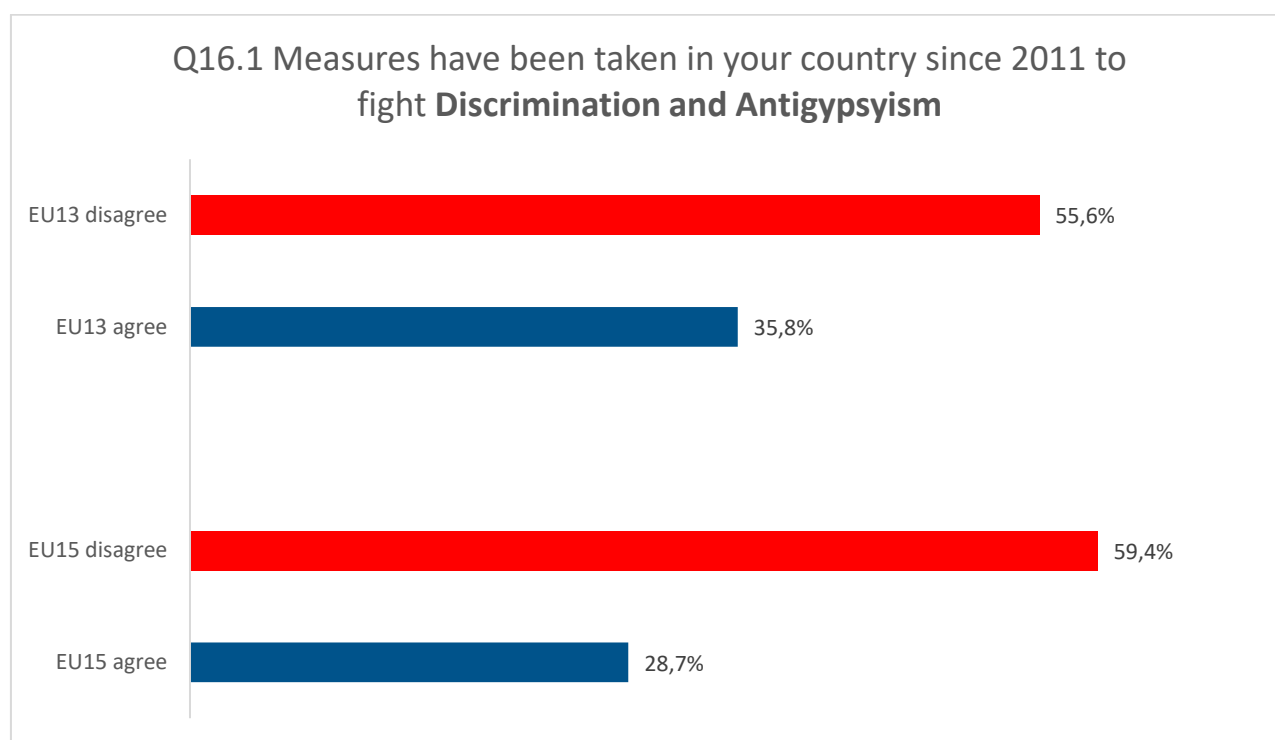


N=117

The above survey results show that respondents were marginally more likely to agree that the enforcement of EU legislation prohibiting discrimination against Roma improved between 2011 and 2016. By contrast 70.9% of the respondents believed that there was no improved enforcement of national anti-discrimination legislation in their respective countries over the same period.

Respondents were consistently more likely to disagree that progress was made in the adoption of other relevant measures to fight anti-Roma discrimination and to protect Roma communities between 2011 and 2016. Almost three-quarters of the respondents indicated that no measures to improve the political participation of Roma have been adopted since 2011 in their respective country.

Figure 4.30 Perceived progress in the adoption of measures to fight discrimination and antigypsyism EU15 and EU13²⁶

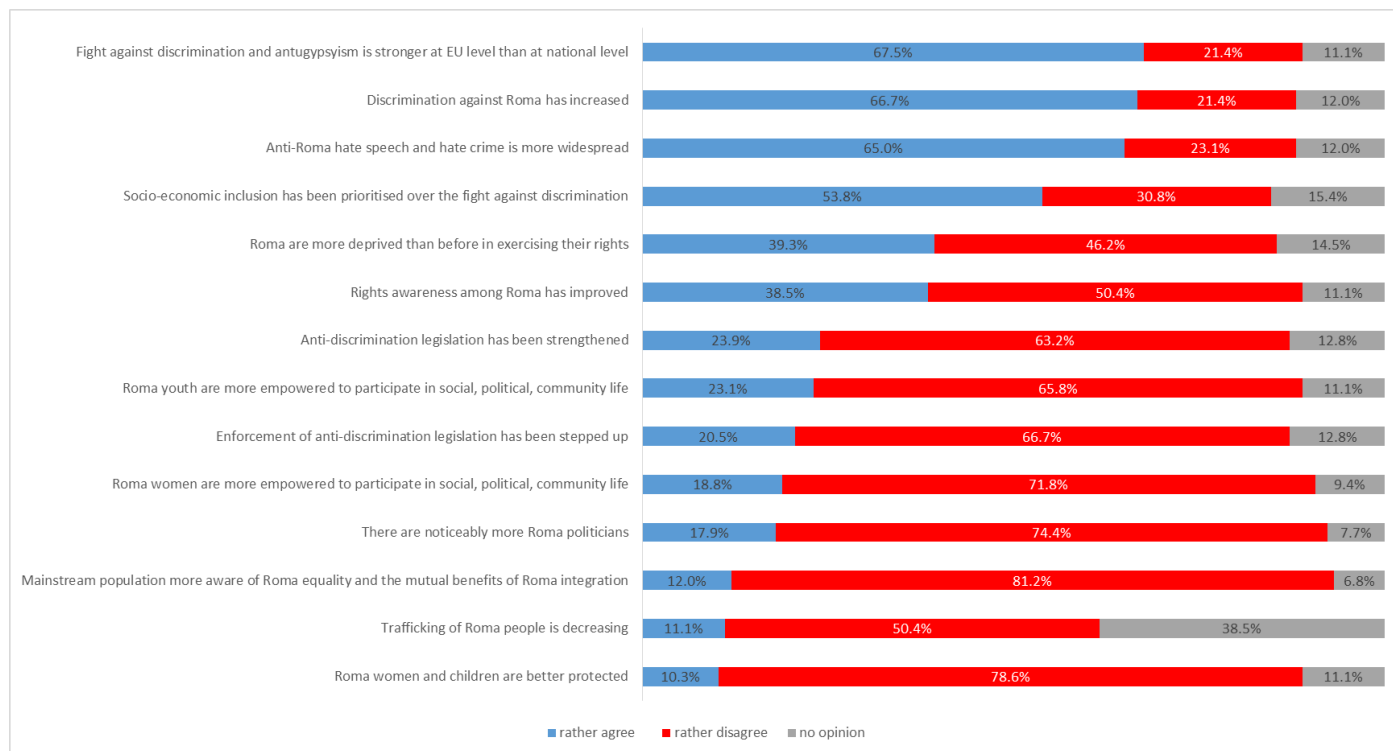


EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

Respondents from EU15 and EU13 were consistently more likely to disagree that progress has been made in their respective countries in the adoption of measures to fight discrimination against Roma. A clear majority of respondents from EU15 and EU13 shared this view (59.4% and 55.6% respectively).

²⁶ Original OPC question 16.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken to fight DISCRIMINATION AND ANTIGIPSYISM since 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.31 Q16.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma regarding ANTIDISCRIMINATION to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in your country?²⁷



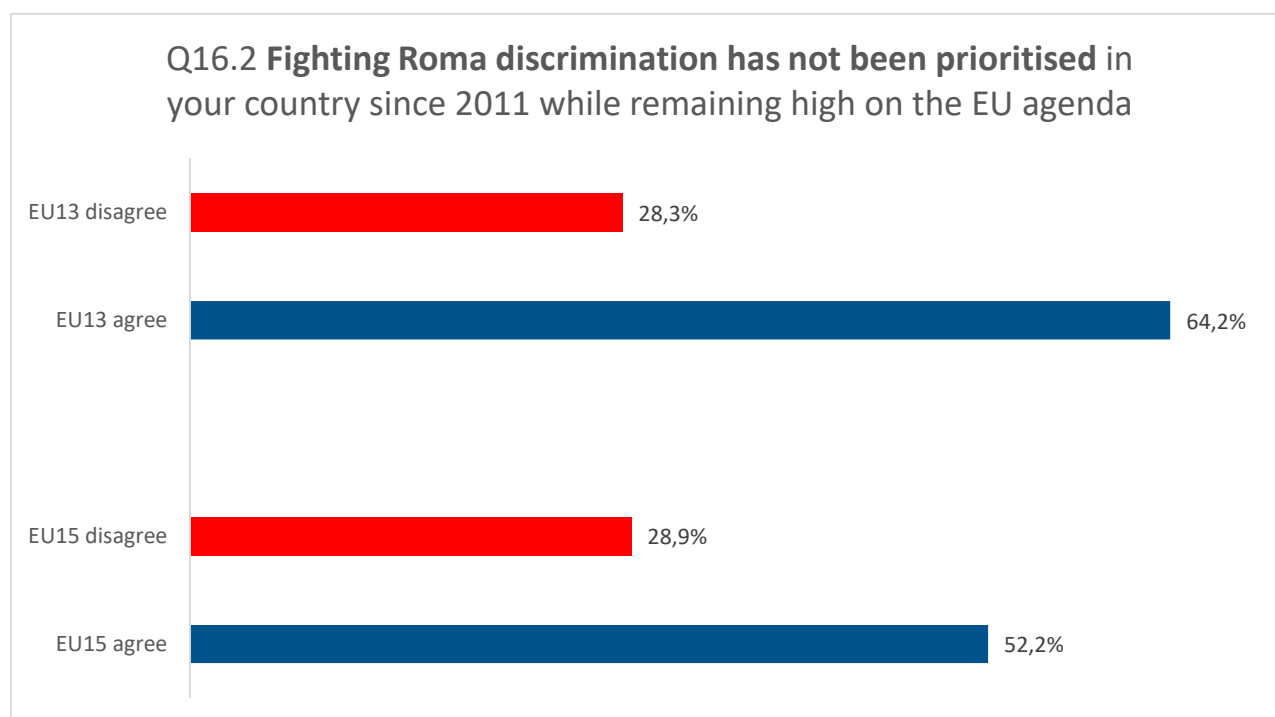
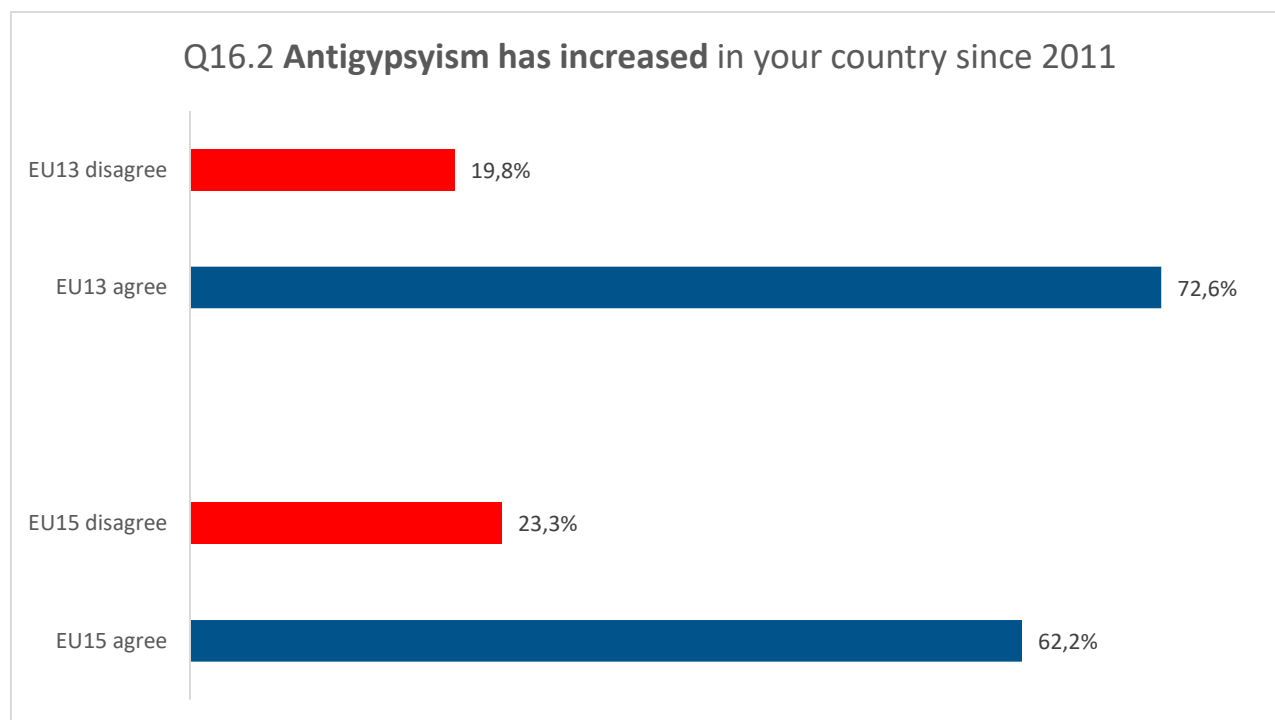
N=117

In terms of combating discrimination against Roma in the countries covered, the majority of respondents once again indicated that the situation is no better today than it was in 2011. In fact, it appears that the situation has worsened: for around two-thirds of the respondents, discrimination against and hate towards Roma is more serious today in their respective country than it was in 2011. For more than 80% of the respondents, there continues to be little awareness among the majority about the Roma equality and the mutual benefits of Roma integration.

At the same time, just over two-thirds of the respondents agreed that the fight against antigypsyism is today stronger at EU level than in their respective country.

²⁷ Original OPC question 16.2: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma REGARDING DISCRIMINATION AND ANTYPGIPSYISM, to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in the country where you live or work or know best, that you selected at the beginning of the questionnaire

Figure 4.32 Perceived increase in antigypsyism and progress regarding the political prioritisation of this issue since 2011 in EU15 and EU13^{28 29}



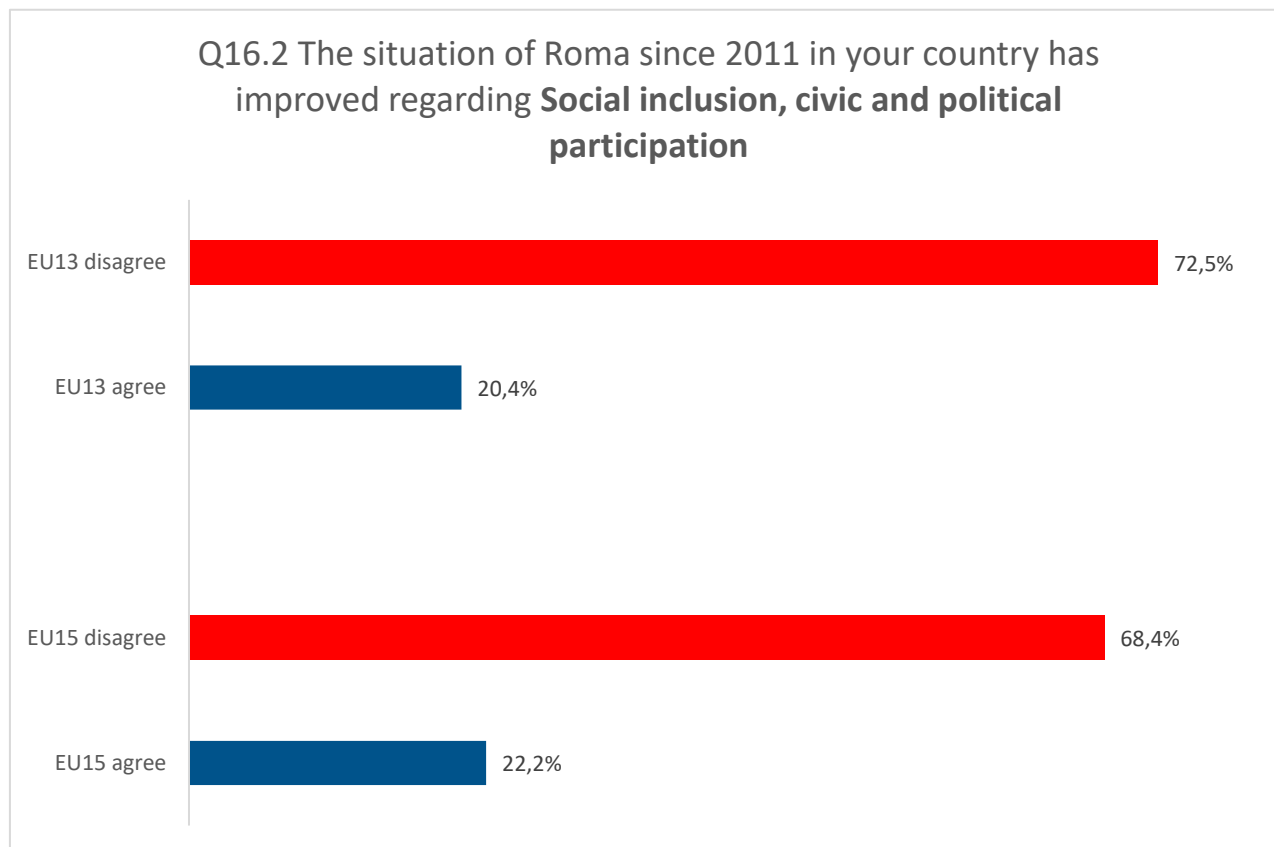
²⁸ "Antigypsyism has increased": Variables (answer options): Anti-Roma hate speech and hate crime is more widespread; Discrimination against Roma has increased.

²⁹ "Fighting Roma discrimination has not been prioritised": Variables (answer options): Fight against discrimination and antigypsyism is stronger at EU level than at national level; Socio-economic inclusion has been prioritised over the fight against discrimination.

EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

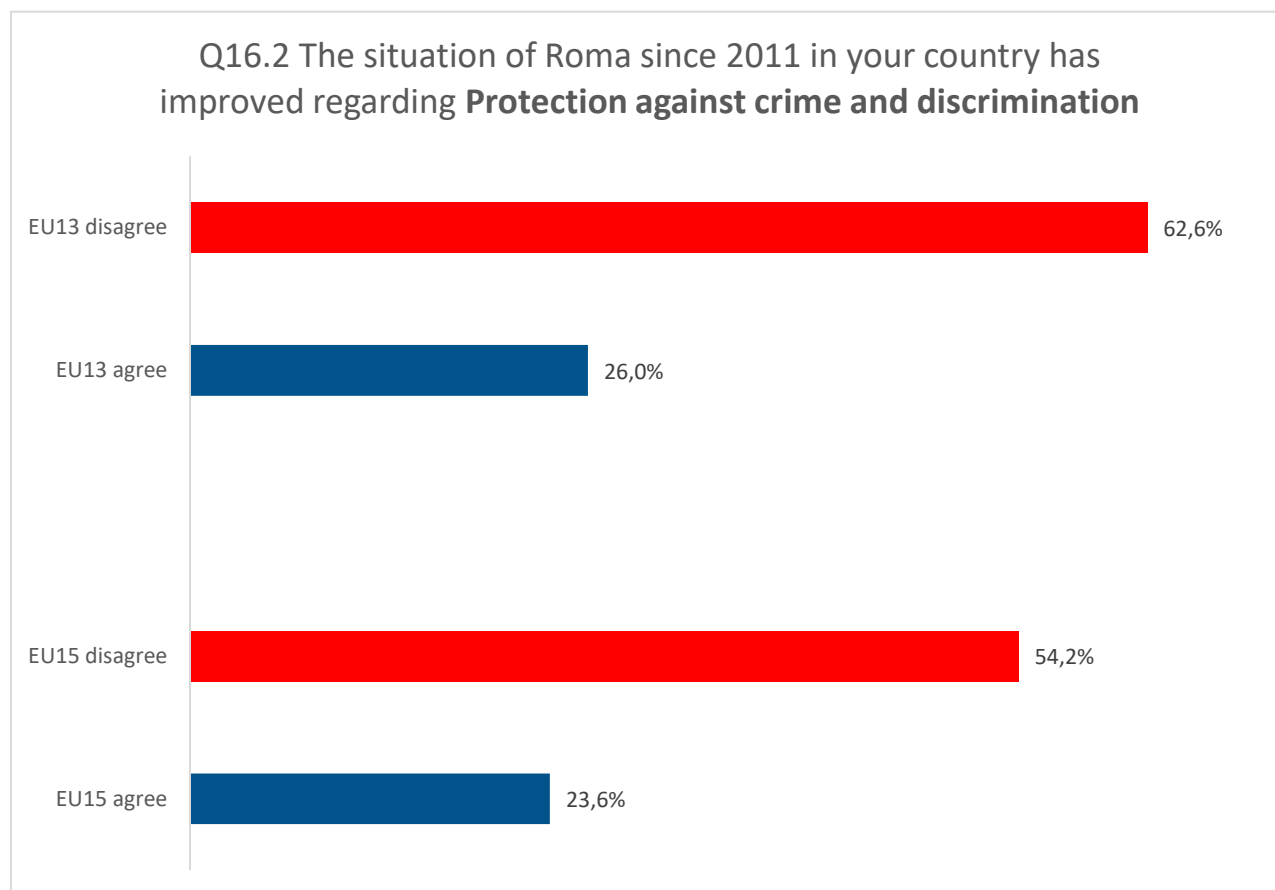
Across EU15 and EU13, a clear majority of the respondents believed that antigypsyism is more severe today than it was in 2011 and that no policy progress has been made in tackling this issue at the national level. Almost three-quarters of the respondents from EU13 held the view that antigypsyism has been on the rise in recent years.

Figure 4.33 Perceived progress in the civic and political participation of Roma and in the protection of Roma against crime and discrimination since 2011 in EU15 and EU13³⁰
³¹



³⁰ "The situation of Roma has improved regarding social inclusion, civic and political participation": Variables (answer options): There are noticeably more Roma politicians; Roma youth are more empowered to participate in political, civic, community life; Roma women are more empowered to participate in political, civic, community life; Rights awareness among Roma has improved; Mainstream population more aware of Roma equality and the mutual benefits of Roma integration.

³¹ "The situation has improved regarding the protection of Roma against crime and discrimination": Variables (answer options): Trafficking of Roma people is decreasing; Roma women and children are better protected; Fight against discrimination and antigypsyism is stronger at EU level than at national level; Enforcement of anti-discrimination legislation has been stepped up Anti-discrimination legislation has been strengthened.



EU15: N=45; EU13: N=53;

A clear majority of the respondents from EU15 and EU13 disagreed about the fact that Roma communities are better represented politically and in civil society today than they were in 2011 in their respective countries. Regarding the protection of Roma against crime (including human trafficking) and discrimination, 62.5% of EU13 respondents and 54.2% of EU15 respondents believed that no real progress has been made since 2011.

5 Overview of responses in five Member States

This section of the report provides a detailed overview of the 98 responses received from the Member States with highest Roma population: Bulgaria: (10 responses), Czech Republic (5), Hungary (15), Romania (55) and Slovakia (13).

In line with the structure of the questionnaire, two sub-sections are presented:

- Section on general questions which do not require knowledge of European/national instruments and efforts for Roma integration;
- Section on specialised questions on European and national efforts for Roma integration.

5.1 General questions: Causes of exclusion and discrimination of Roma and role of European and national level institutions in addressing them

5.1.1 Causes of exclusion and role of policy in addressing them

Overall, respondents from the country cluster mentioned above believe that the situation of Roma today is worse than that of non-Roma in relation to the different social aspects. The responses are consistent with the general results of the OPC.

Data suggest that the worst situation is in Bulgaria and Hungary. Significantly, all of Bulgarian respondents indicated that the situation of Roma is worse than that of non-Roma regarding access to education, employment, housing and essential services as well as being subject to discrimination.

Similarly, all of Hungarian respondents also indicated that the situation of Roma is more severe in relation to accessing employment, healthcare, housing and essential services and being subject to discrimination.

A difference of opinion can be observed in the responses from Czech Republic where approximately half of respondents believe that the situation of Roma is worse than that of non-Roma and the other half said that it was the same.

Respondents from Romania and Slovakia have provided similar responses by stating that the majority indicating that the situation of Roma is worse than that of non-Roma.

The figures below provide a detailed overview of the responses received.

Figure 5.1 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? **Access to education**

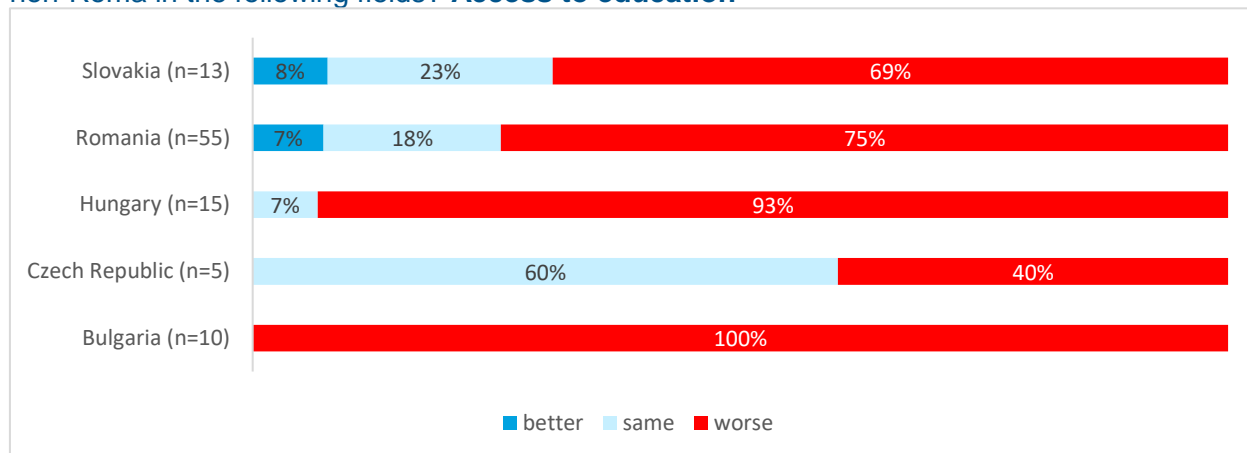


Figure 5.2 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? **Access to employment**

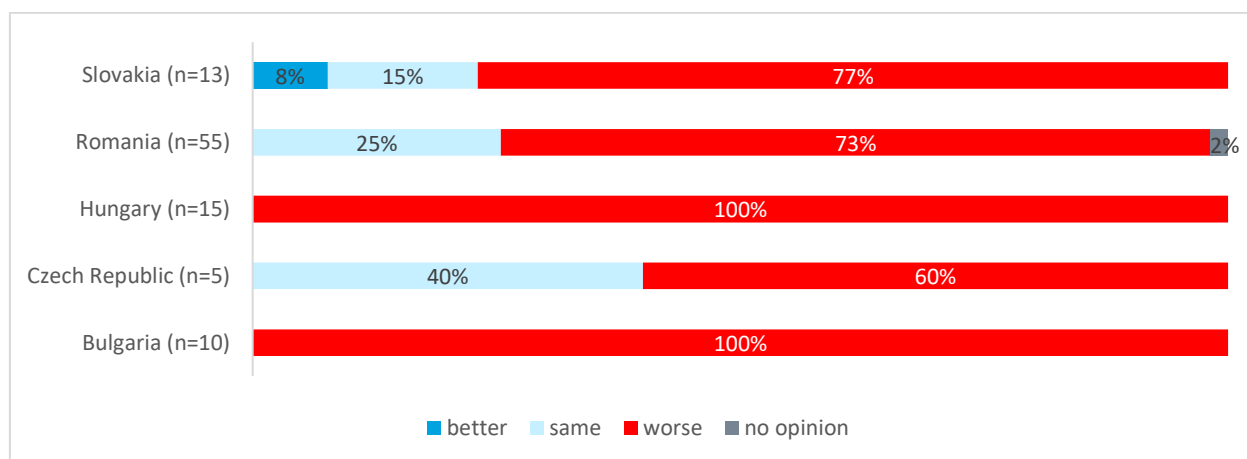


Figure 5.3 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? **Access to healthcare**

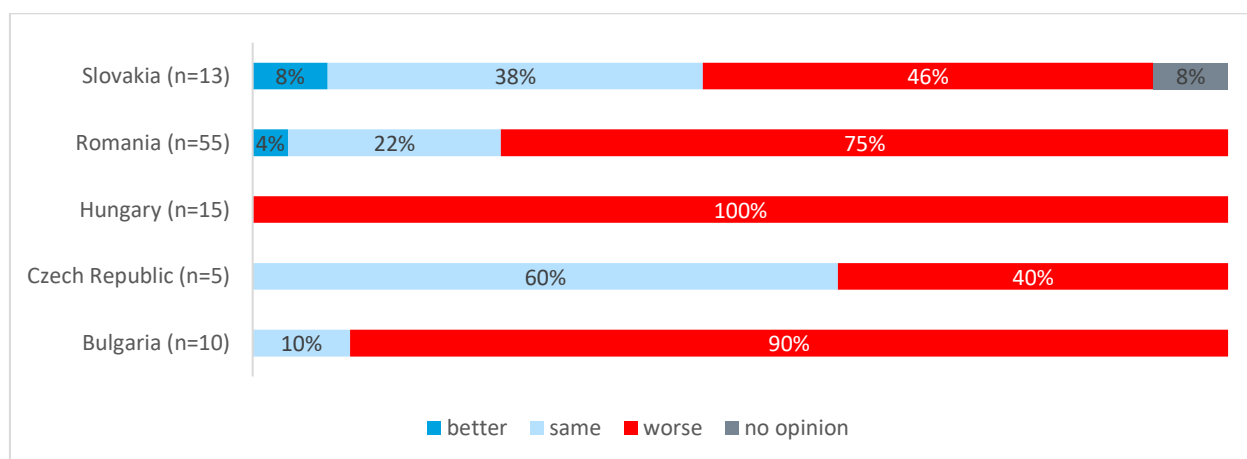


Figure 5.4 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? **Access to housing and essential services**

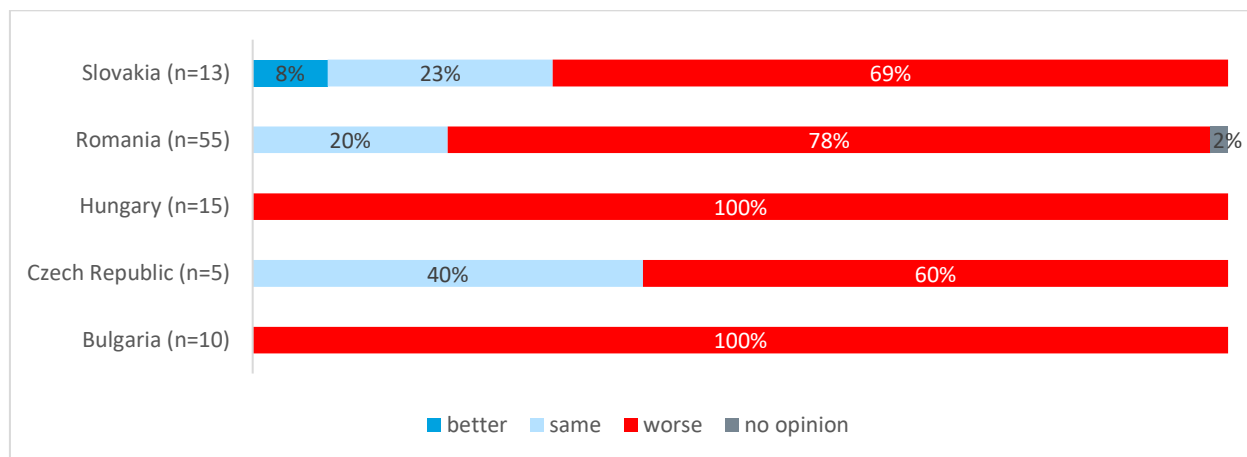
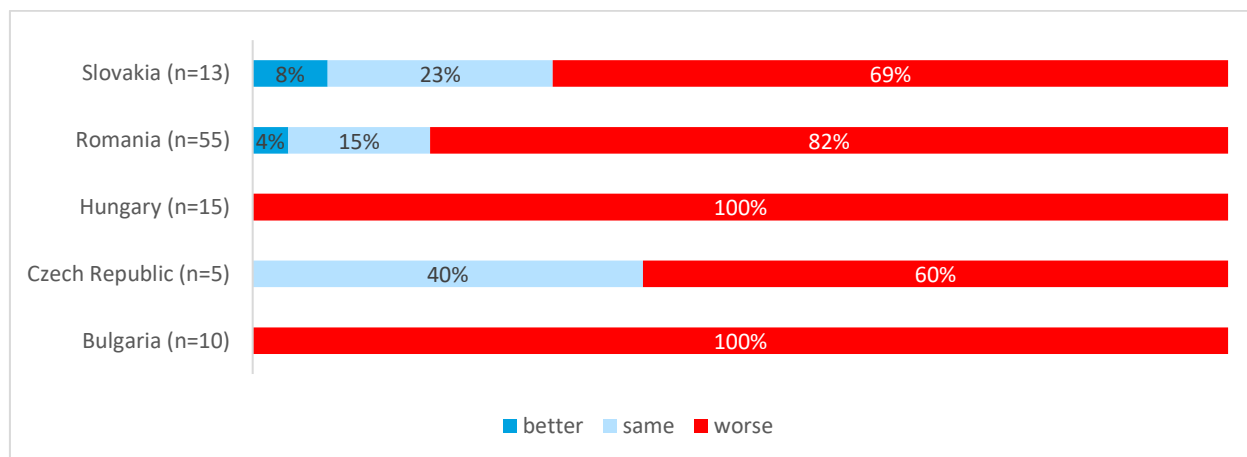


Figure 5.5 Q1: Do you think that the situation of Roma today in general is worse than that of non-Roma in the following fields? **Being subject to discrimination**



Similar to the overall results of the OPC, over 90% of respondents across the five countries believe that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in different fields.

All respondents from Hungary indicated that interventions were needed in all fields (education, employment, health care, housing and essential services and fighting discrimination).

Similarly, all of respondents from Bulgaria stated the same about accessing education, housing and essential services and fighting discrimination.

Likewise, all of Czech respondents mentioned that the public interventions are needed in terms of accessing employment and housing and essential services.

A detailed overview of responses from each of the five countries is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.6 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields? **Access to education**

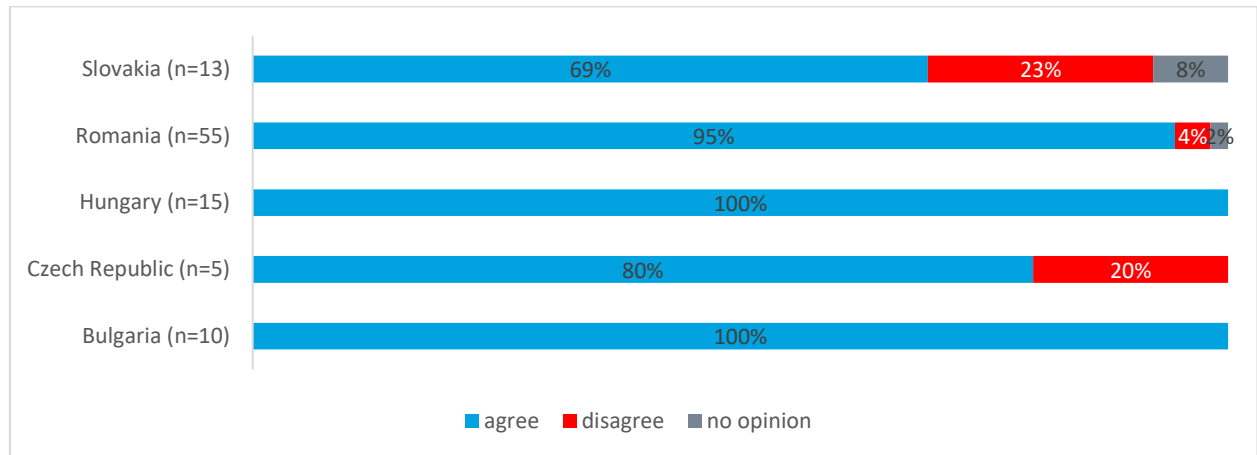


Figure 5.7 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields? **Access to employment**

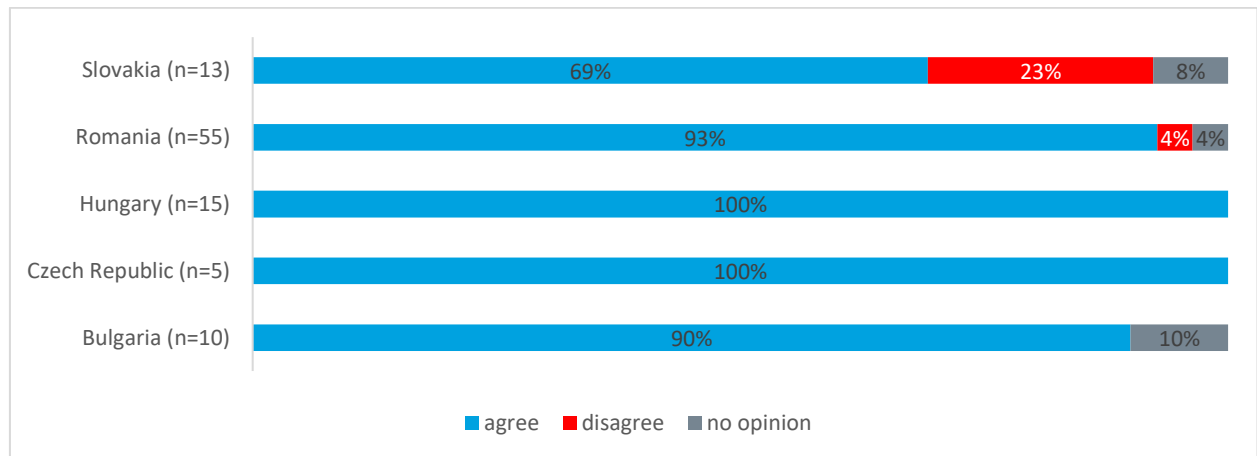


Figure 5.8 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields? **Access to healthcare**

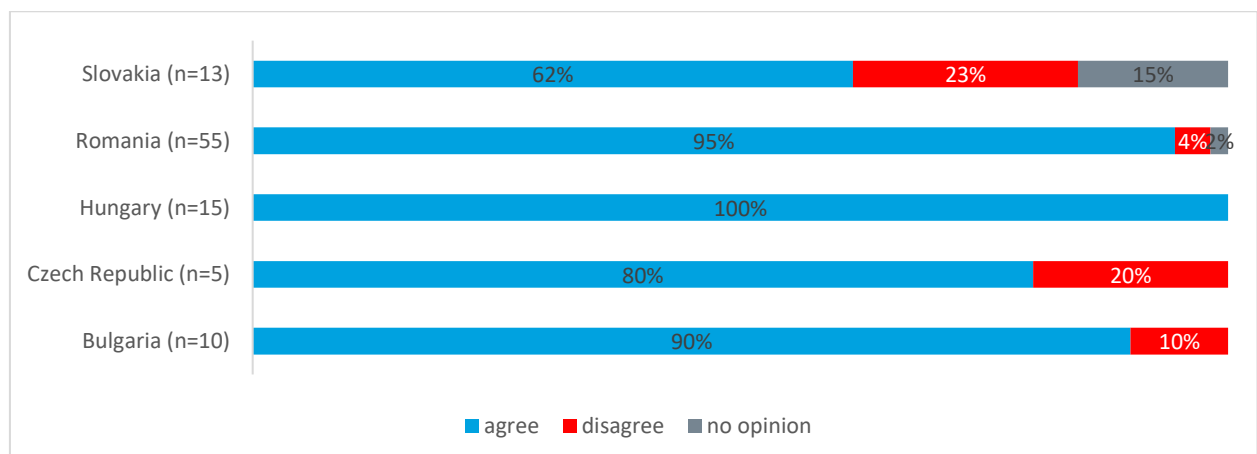


Figure 5.9 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields? **Access to housing and essential services**

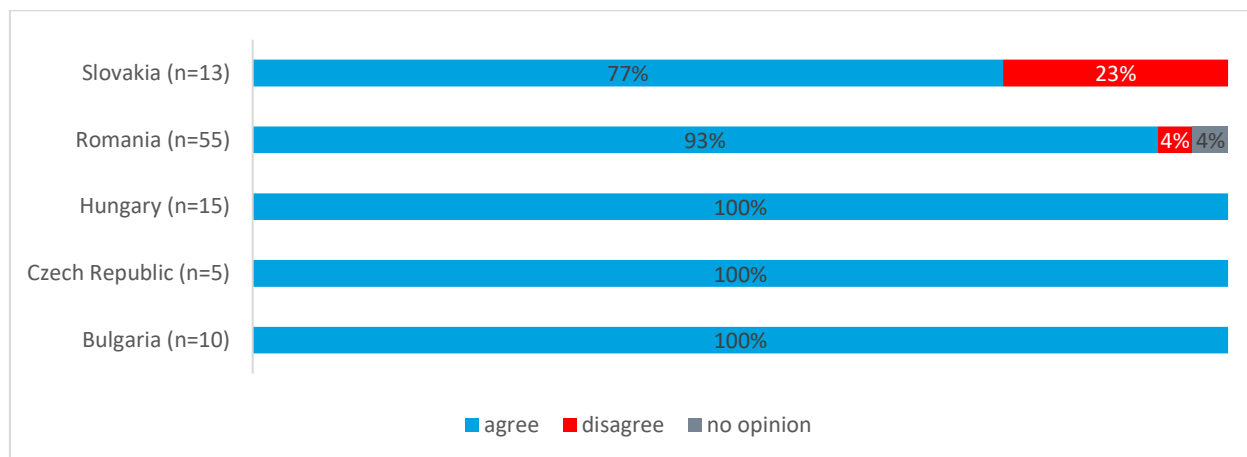
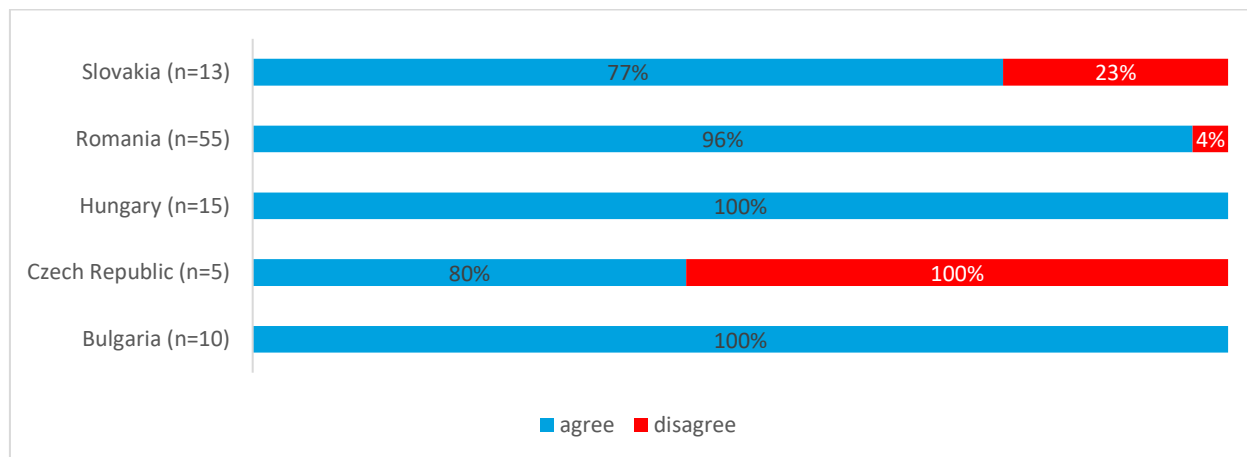


Figure 5.10 Q2: Do you think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in the following fields? **Fighting discrimination**



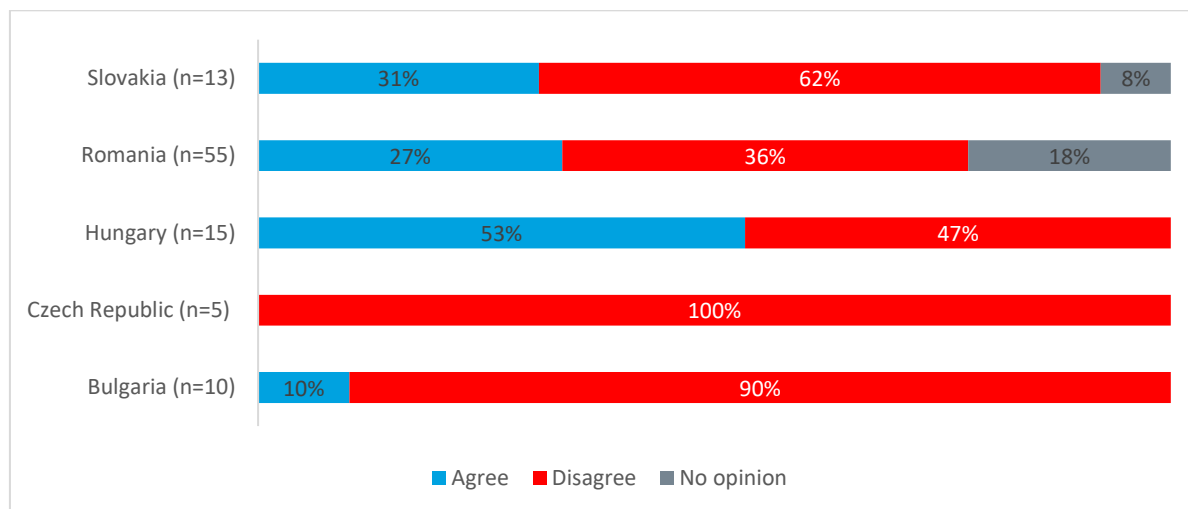
Respondents were also asked to specify whether they agreed or disagreed that Member States (national, regional and local authorities) alone, without EU support, can effectively improve the situation of Roma.

Overall, across the country cluster, half of respondents disagree with this statement, suggesting a difference of 10 percentage points compared to the general results of the OPC³².

Data suggests differences of opinion amongst the five Member States. While a very large share of respondents from Czech Republic (100%) and Bulgaria (90%) disagree with this statement, only 62% of respondents from Slovakia declared the same. A lower share of respondents from Hungary (47%) and Romania (36%) indicated that they disagreed with the statement.

³² 60% of all respondents to the OPC indicated that they disagreed that Member States (national, regional and local authorities) alone, without EU support, can effectively improve the situation of Roma.

Figure 5.11 Q3: Do you think that Member States (national, regional and local authorities) alone, without EU support, can effectively improve the situation of Roma?



Respondents were also asked to indicate the extent to which they consider that different phenomena are relevant causes of Roma exclusion.

Similar to the overall results of the OPC, the responses from the five countries showed that discrimination, limited political commitment, limited capacities of institutions, insufficient funding and lack of Roma participation are (rather) relevant factors contributing to Roma exclusion.

A slight difference of opinion regarding the statement that insufficient funding to finance measures for Roma inclusion is a cause for exclusion, can be noticed from respondents from Czech Republic and Slovakia, where over 20% do not agree that it is relevant factor.

A detailed overview of the responses received is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.12 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion? **Discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies**

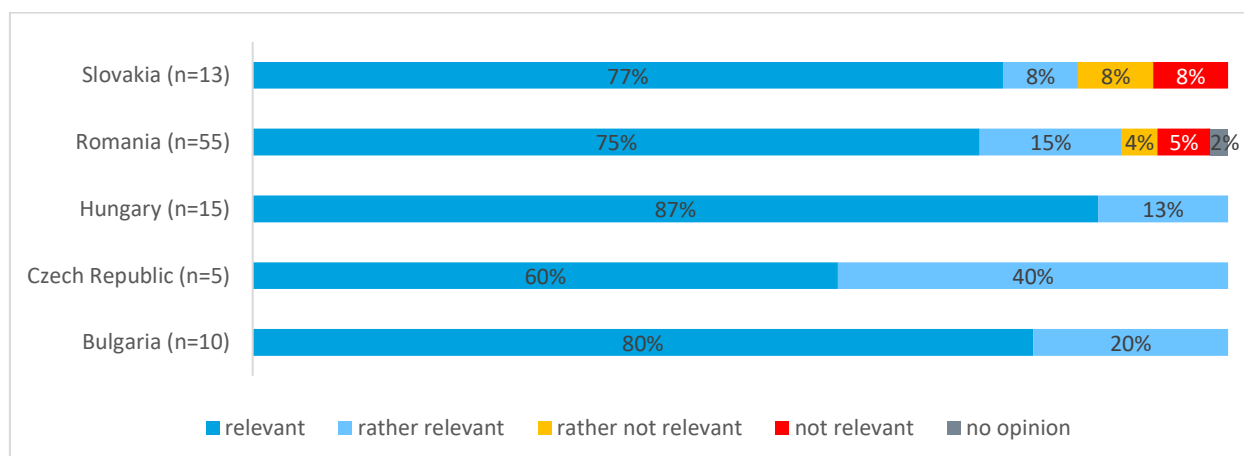


Figure 5.13 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion? **Limited political commitment to ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion**

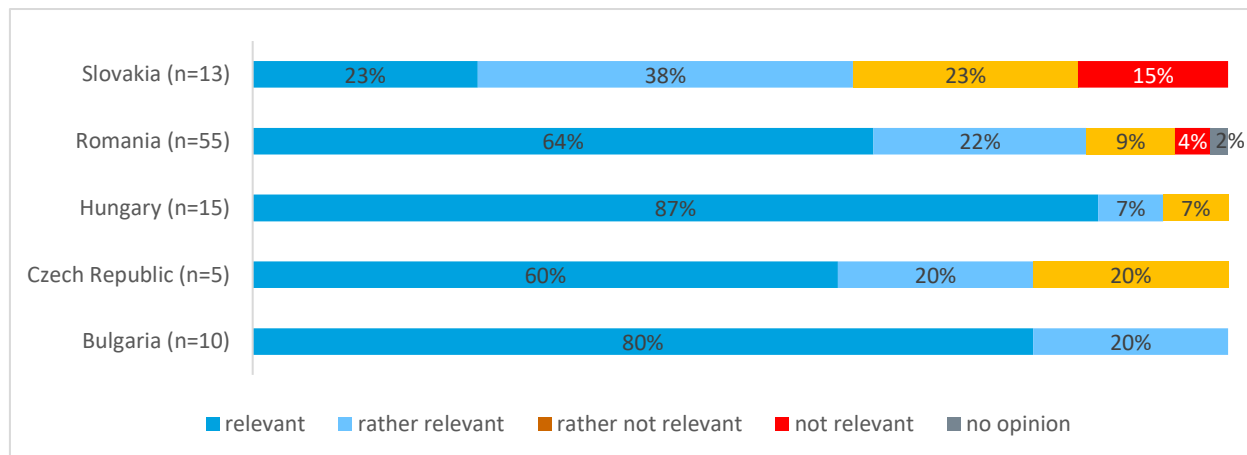


Figure 5.14 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion? **Limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies**

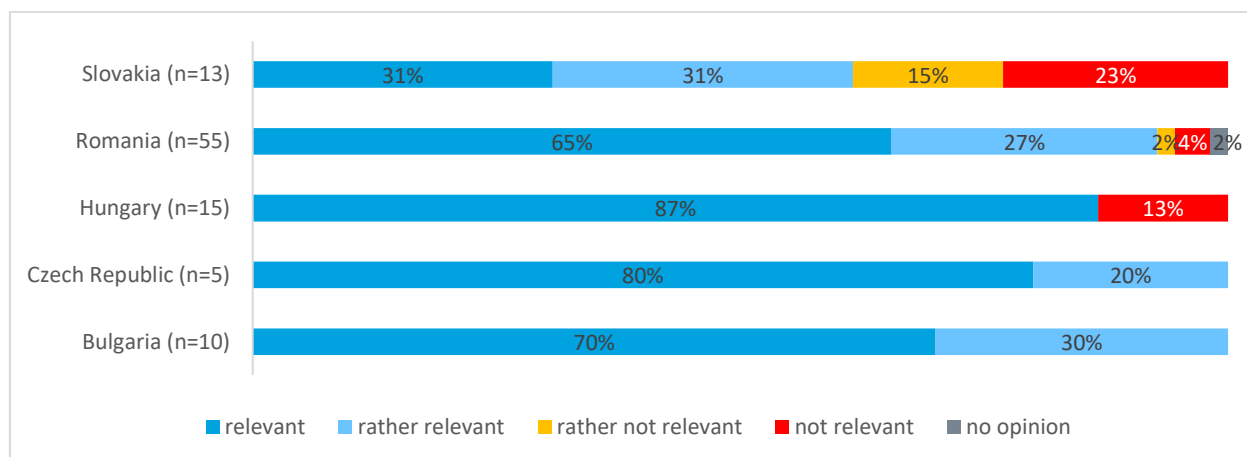


Figure 5.15 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion? **Insufficient funding to finance measures for Roma inclusion**

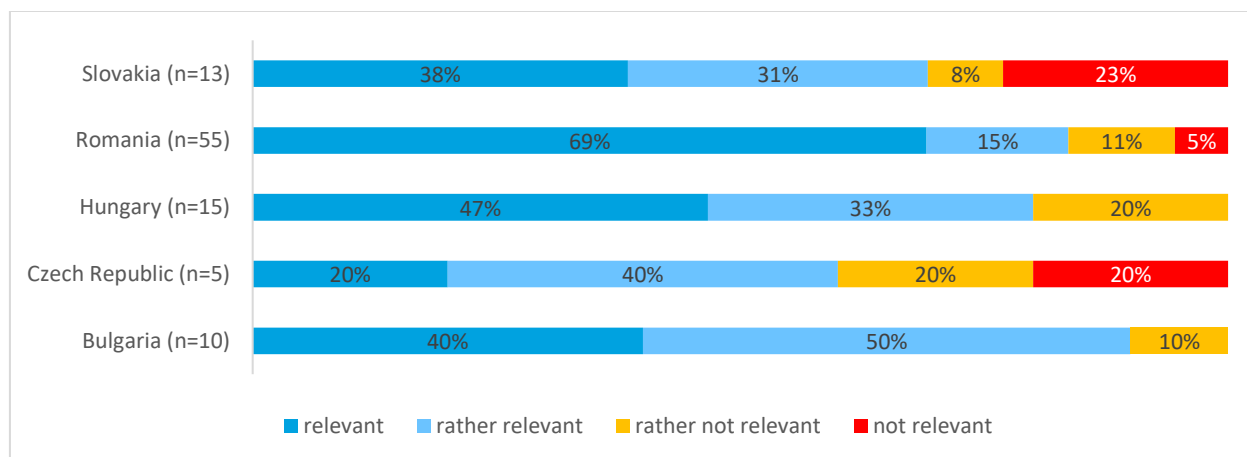
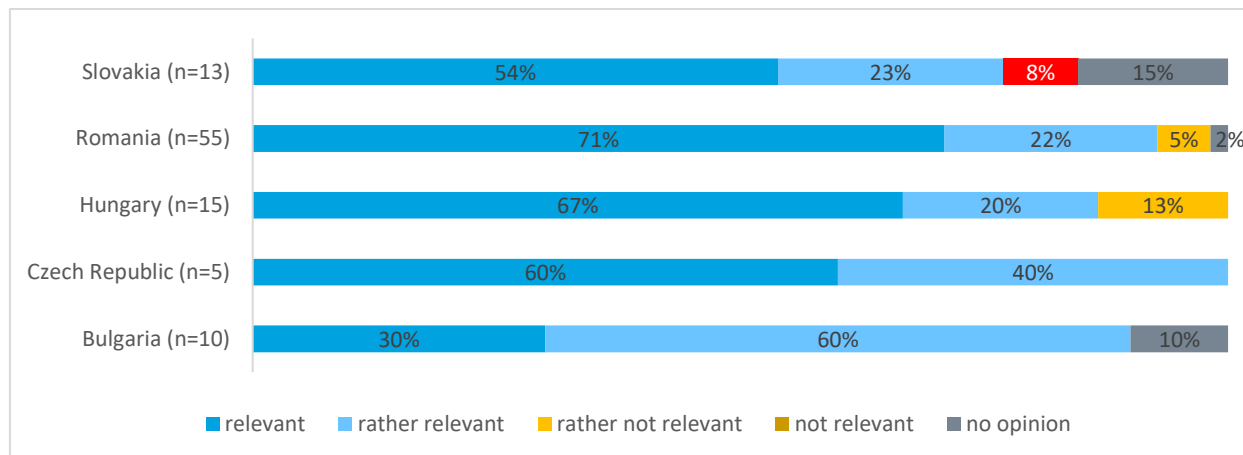


Figure 5.16 Q4: To which extent do you consider the following phenomena as a relevant cause of Roma exclusion? **Lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies**



Respondents were also asked to point out how they saw the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011.

Regarding access to **education**, almost half of respondents from Hungary, Romania and Slovakia believe that there have been no significant changes. However, a considerable share of 26% of Hungarian respondents indicated that the situation was (strong) worsening. Over half of the respondents from Czech Republic and Bulgaria suggested that there have been (strong/slight) improvements in this field.

In relation to access to **employment**, 70% of Bulgarian respondents also tend to believe that there have been no significant changes, followed by 62% from Romania, 54% from Slovakia, 53% from Hungary and 40% from Czech Republic who suggested the same. Noticeably, 40% of respondents from Czech Republic and 27% from Hungary indicated that the situation was (strong) worsening.

Concerning **health care**, Romanian and Slovakian respondents provided similar responses, approximately 30% indicating that there have been (strong/slight) improvements, followed by Bulgaria and Czech Republic, where some 20% suggested the same. A lower share of respondents from Hungary (7)% mentioned improvements whereas the large majority (80%) highlighted that there haven't been any significant changes.

Approximately 20% or respondents from Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia believe that there have been (strong/slight) improvements in relation to **access to housing and essential services**. However, a considerable share of Bulgarian respondents (70%) stated that this factor has been worsening.

Regarding the **discrimination of Roma**, some differences of opinion can be observed between the five countries. While approximately 20% of respondents from Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia indicated that there have been (strong/slight) improvements, none of the respondents from Bulgaria and Hungary stated the same. 80% of Bulgarian respondents believe that the situation was (strong) worsening and almost half of respondents from Hungary suggested the same.

A detailed overview of the responses received is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.17 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011? **Access to education**

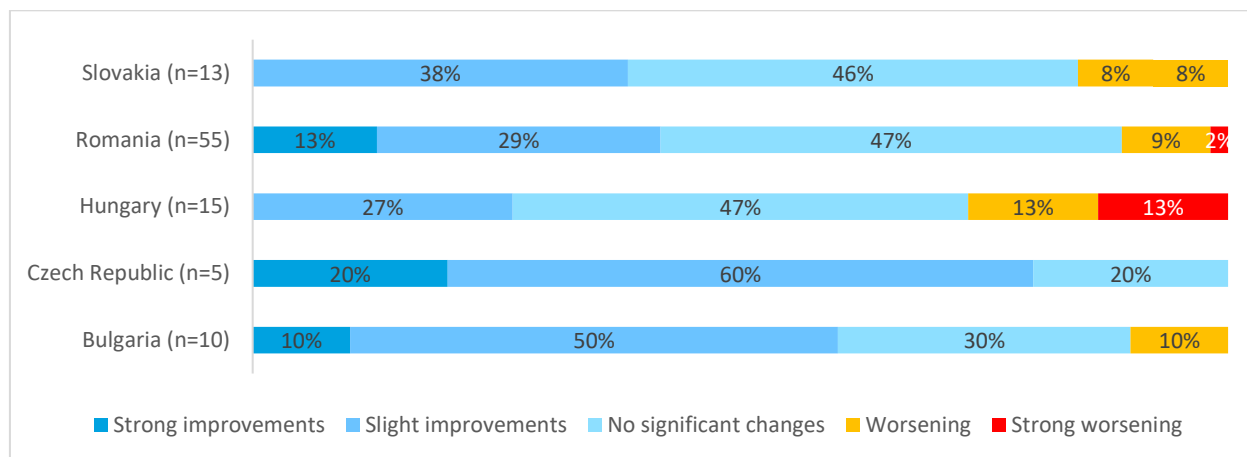


Figure 5.18 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011? **Access to employment**

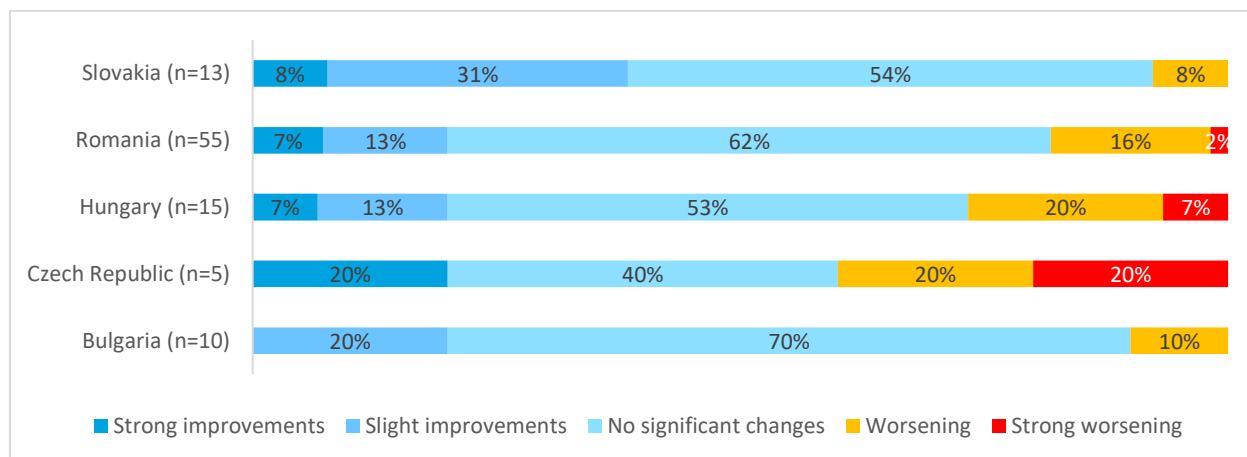


Figure 5.19 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011? **Access to healthcare**

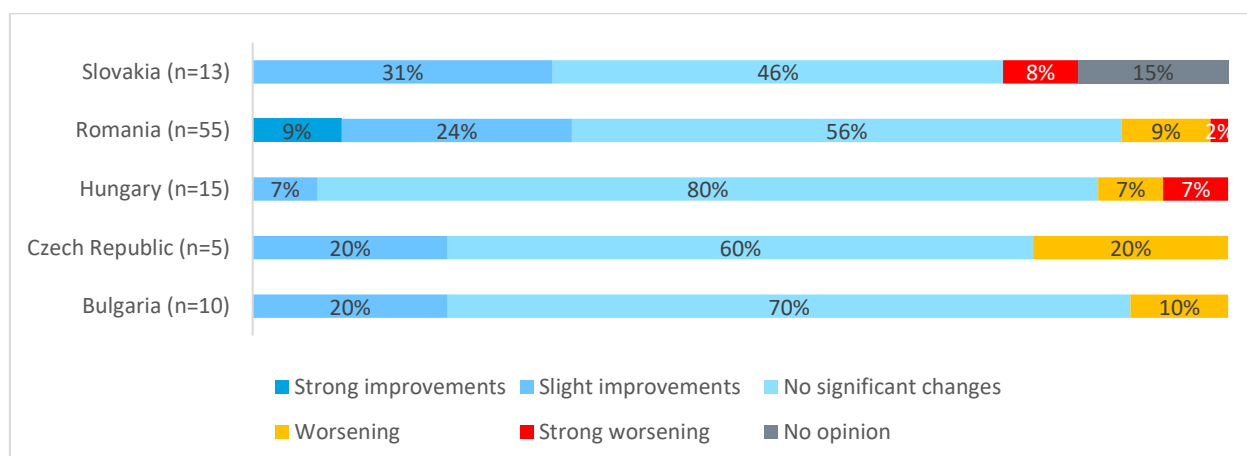


Figure 5.20 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011? **Access to housing and essential services**

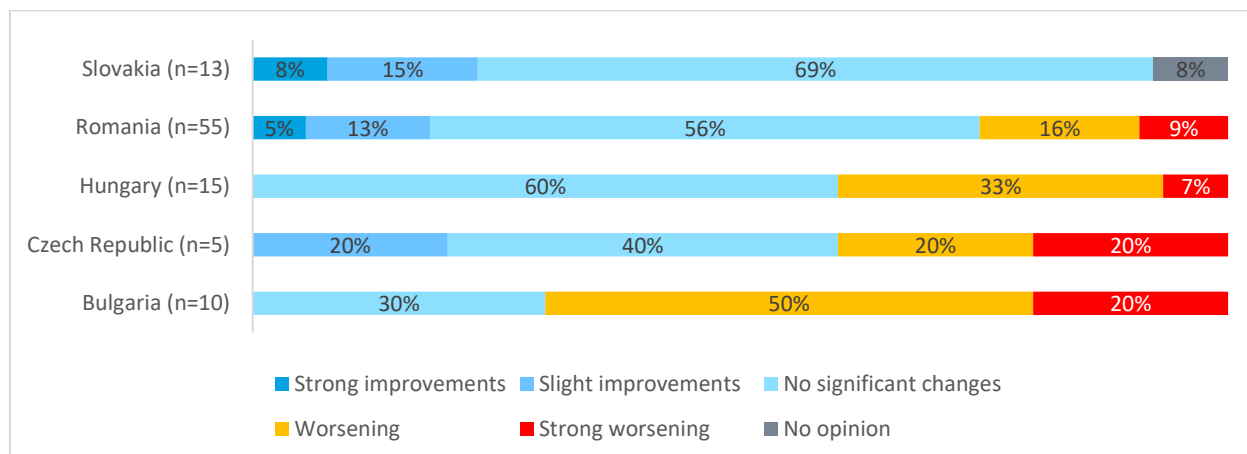
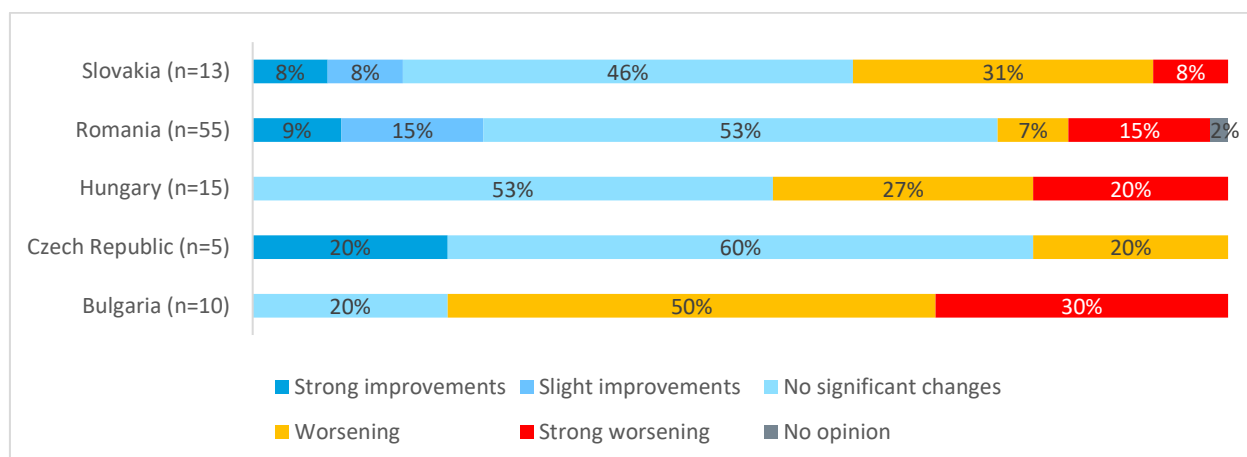


Figure 5.21 Q5: How do you see the direction of change in the situation of Roma when compared to 2011? **Discrimination against Roma**



Respondents were also asked to assess the usefulness of possible measures to combat discrimination.

Overall, the very large majority (over 90%) of respondents from the five countries cluster indicated that the different measures are (somewhat/very) useful in the fight against discrimination. The responses are consistent with the general results of the OPC.

However, a noticeable difference of opinions can be observed in the responses from Slovakia, where 27% of respondents believe that organising cultural events to promote diversity is not at all useful. Further 20% of respondents from Czech Republic declared the same about awareness raising events on Roma history and Holocaust. Similarly, 18% of Slovakian respondents suggested that supporting films, TV programmes promoting a positive image of Roma and that making Roma history and culture part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools were not useful ways to fighting discrimination.

A detailed overview of the responses received is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.22 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Awareness raising campaigns to promote equality by addressing negative stereotypes**

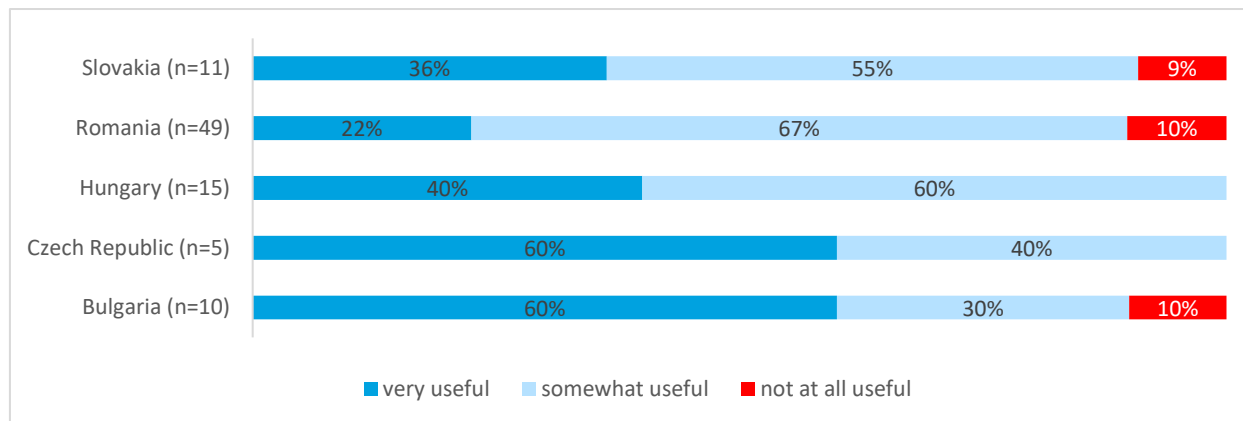


Figure 5.23 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Supporting films, TV programmes promoting a positive image of Roma**

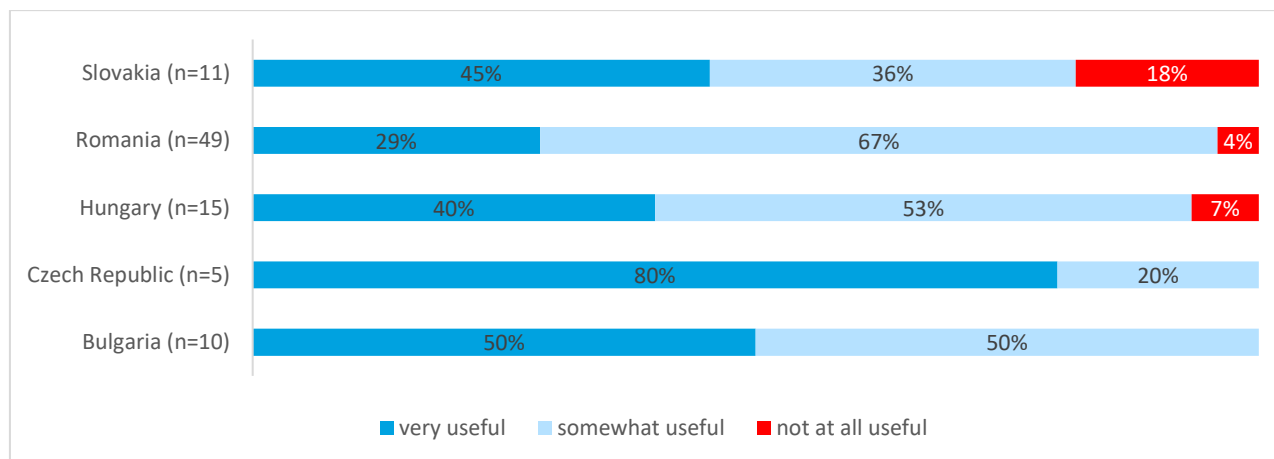


Figure 5.24 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Awareness raising events on Roma history and Holocaust**

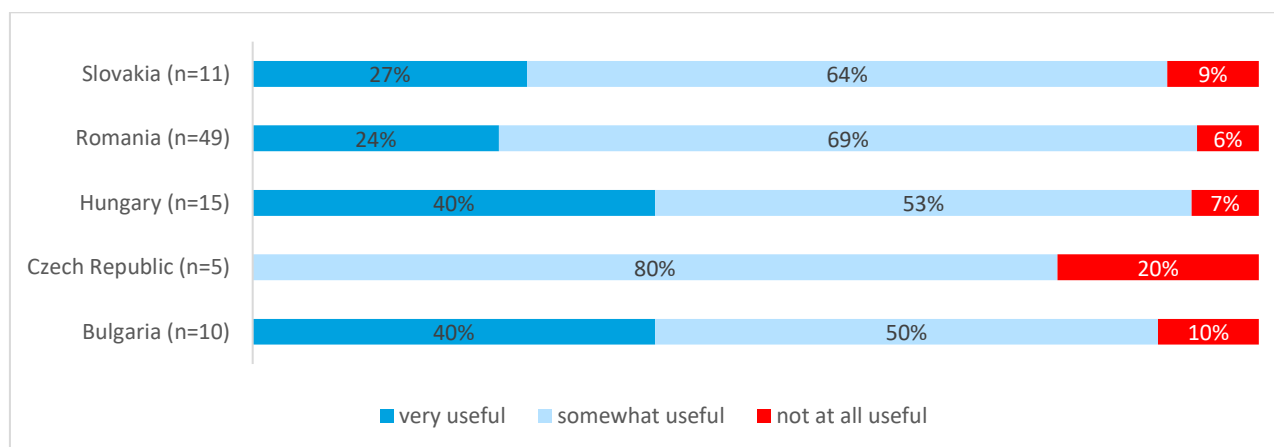


Figure 5.25 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Organising cultural events to promote diversity**

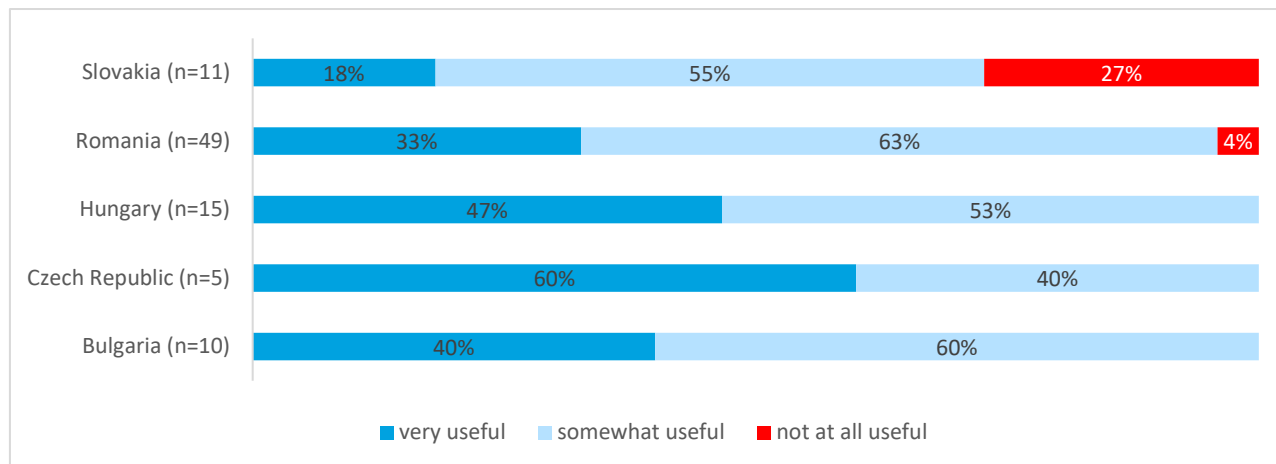


Figure 5.26 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Making Roma history and culture part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools**

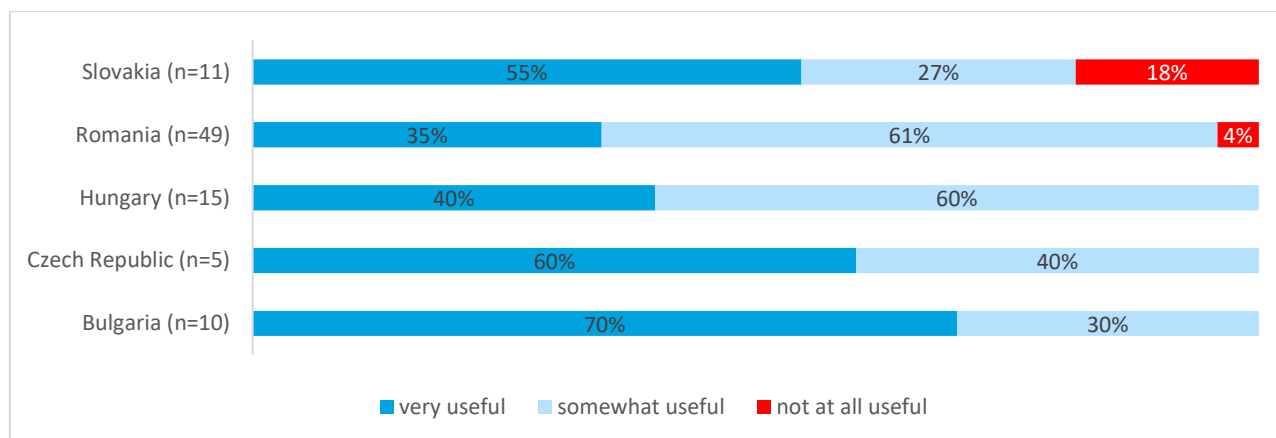


Figure 5.27 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Community building between Roma and non-Roma**

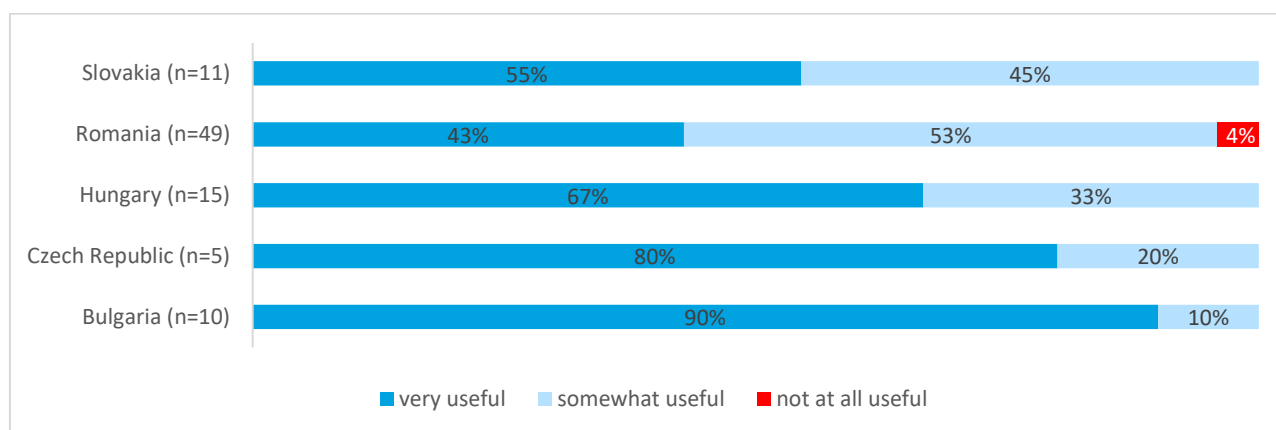


Figure 5.28 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Non-discrimination and Roma inclusion training for public officials**

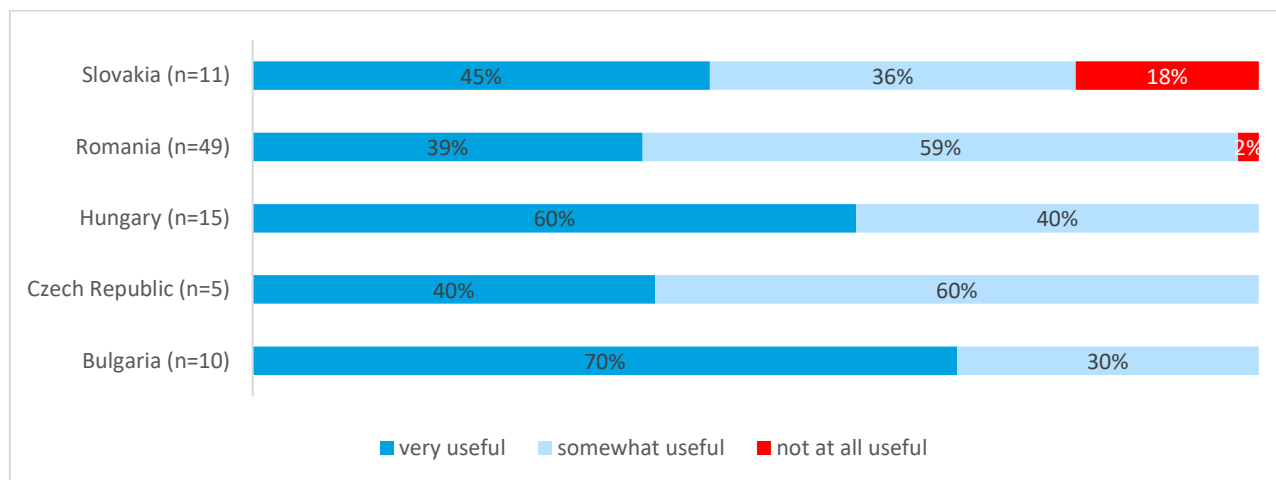
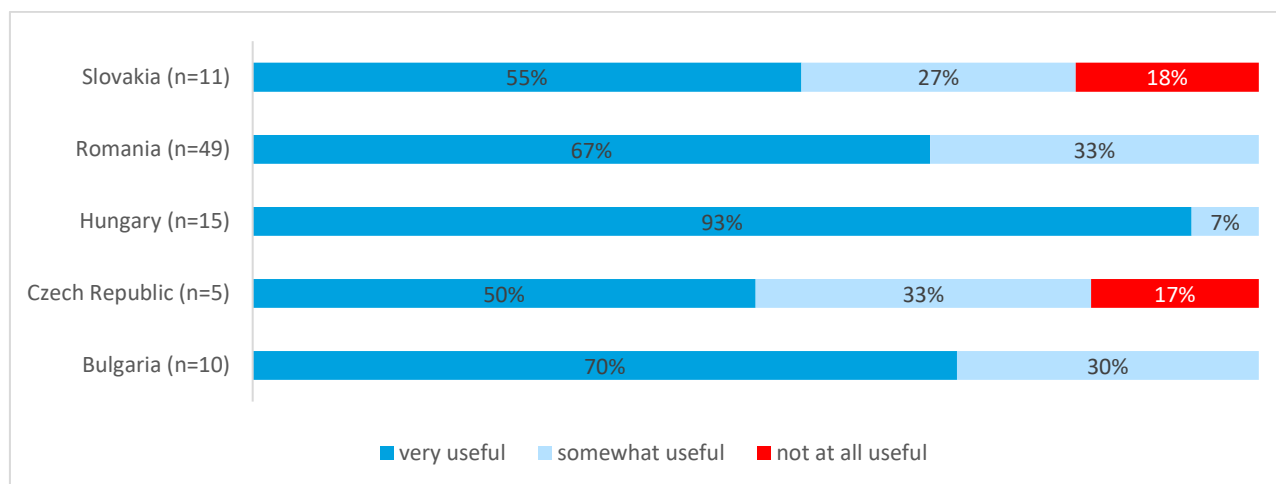


Figure 5.29 Q6: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to fight discrimination (negative attitudes to Roma) by majority societies. **Monitoring and enforcing application of European non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation**



In general, respondents from the five countries cluster believe that both national and EU institutions should take measures to fight discrimination, which is consistent with the overall results of the OPC.

However, the results show some differences of opinion between the five countries in relation to some of the fields.

Regarding **awareness raising campaigns to promote equality by addressing negative stereotypes**, more than 80% of respondents from Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania pointed out that both national and EU institutions should take measures to fight discrimination. Nevertheless, 60% of respondents from Czech Republic believe that this should be addressed at national level. Furthermore, 18% of Slovakian respondents also think that it should be addressed at national level and another 18% believe it should be addressed by EU institutions.

Data also shows differences of opinion in relation to **supporting films, TV programmes promoting a positive image of Roma**. While over 70% of respondents from Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania stated that these measures should be taken by both national and EU institutions,

80% of Slovakian respondents believe they should be adopted by national institutions. Further 36% of the Slovakian respondents also think that these measures should be taken by national institutions and another 9% mentioned that it should be taken by EU institutions.

In relation to **awareness raising events on Roma history and Holocaust**, the large majority (over 80%) of respondents from Bulgaria and Hungary agree that these measures should be adopted by both national and EU institutions. Approximately 20% of respondents from Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia indicated that these measures should be taken by national organisations. Furthermore, over 20% of respondents from Czech Republic and Slovakia stated that these measures should be taken by EU institutions.

Responses amongst the five countries are more consistent about **making Roma history and culture part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools**. Over half of the respondents from Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Slovakia mentioned that this should be addressed at national level. A lower share of respondents from Romania (27%) believe the same, the majority of 67% indicating that it should be addressed at both national and EU level.

Community building between Roma and non-Roma is another measure that could be taken to fight discrimination. 80% of Romanian respondents believe that the measure should be adopted by both national and EU institutions. Further 60% of respondents from Czech Republic shared the same view. However, over 40% of respondents from Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia suggested that it should be taken at national level.

73% of Romanian and Hungarian respondents indicated that **supporting non-discrimination and Roma inclusion training for public officials** is a measure to fight discrimination that should be taken at both national and EU level. Similarly, 60% of respondents from Bulgaria and Czech Republic suggested the same. Fewer respondents from Slovakia (36%) agreed with this statement.

Another measure to combat discrimination is **monitoring and enforcing application of European non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation**. While the majority of respondents believe that this should be addressed at both national and EU institutions, 40% of respondents from Czech Republic think this measure should be taken by EU institutions, followed by 27% from Slovakia 20% and 16% from Romania.

A detailed overview of the responses received to these questions is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.30 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Awareness raising campaigns to promote equality by addressing negative stereotypes

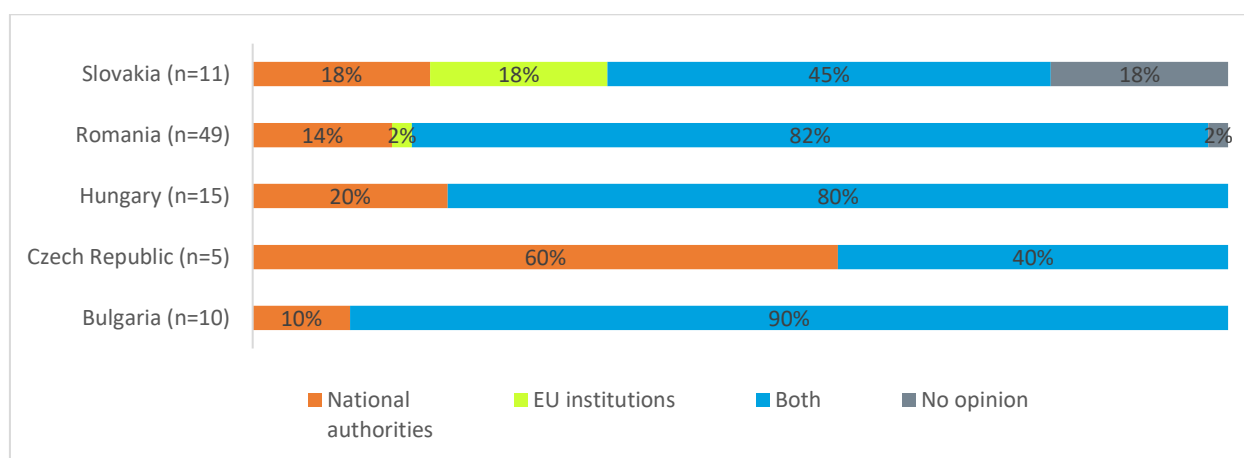


Figure 5.31 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Supporting films, TV programmes promoting a positive image of Roma

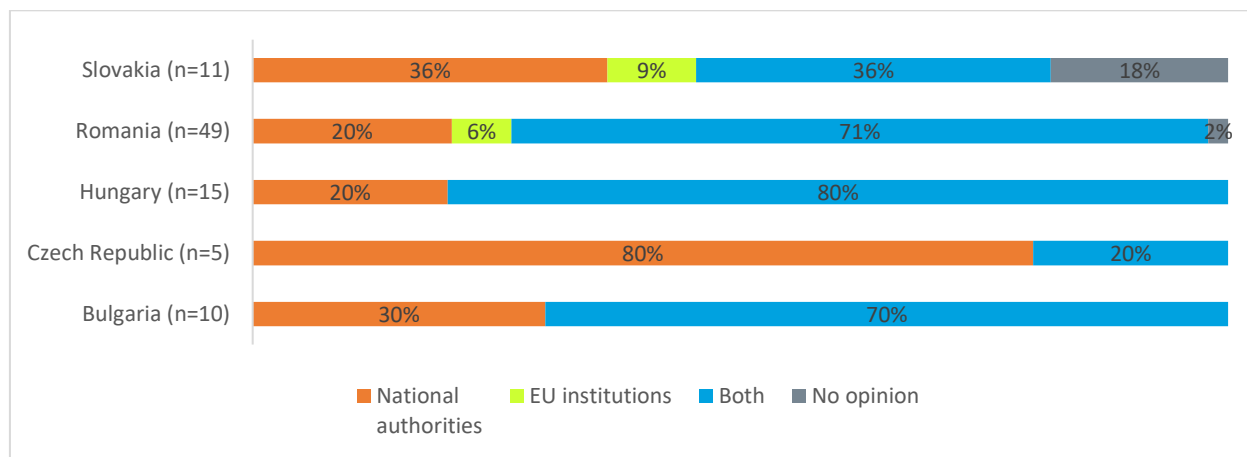


Figure 5.32 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Awareness raising events on Roma history and Holocaust

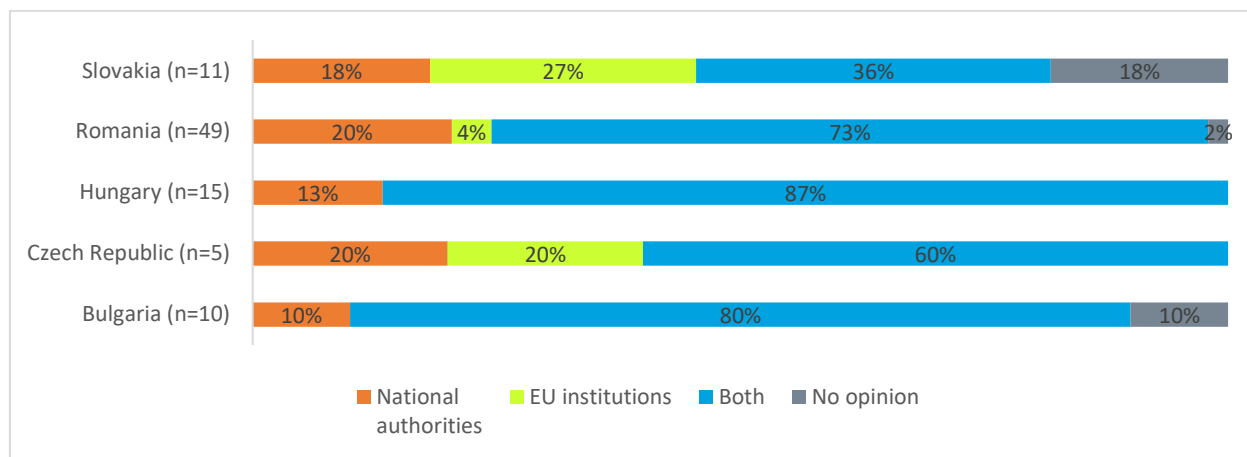


Figure 5.33 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Organising cultural events to promote diversity

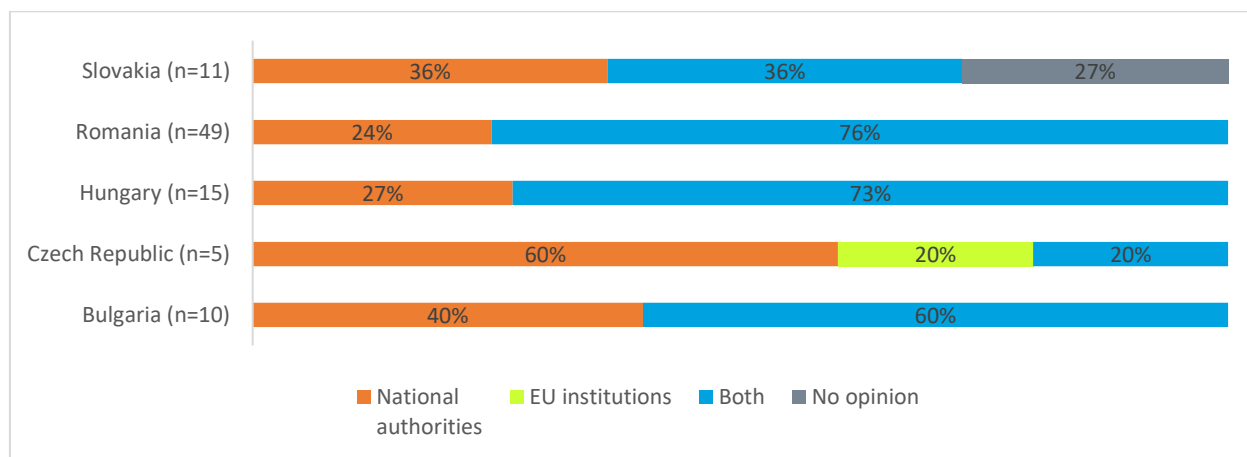


Figure 5.34 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Making Roma history and culture part of the curriculum in primary and secondary schools

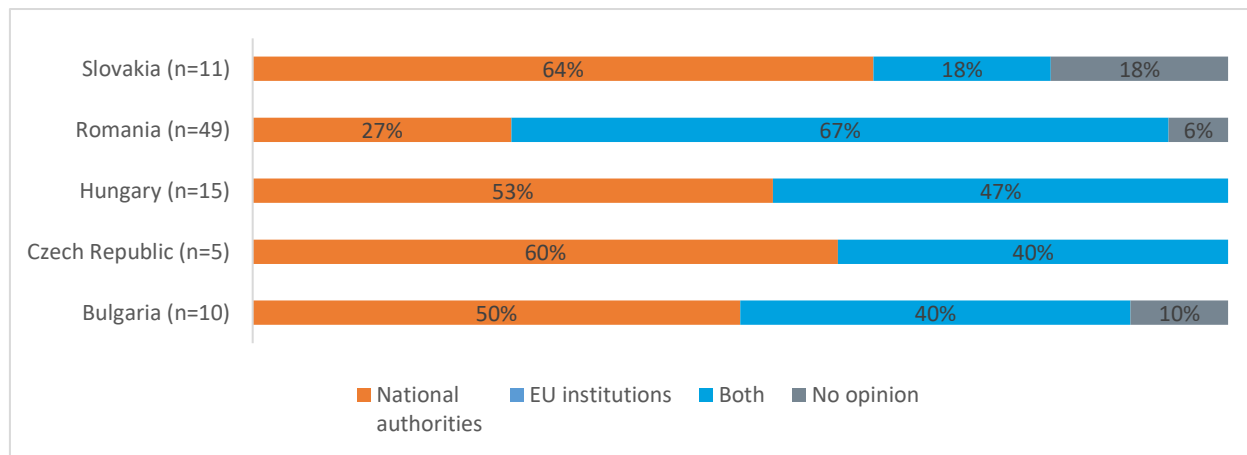


Figure 5.35 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Community building between Roma and non-Roma

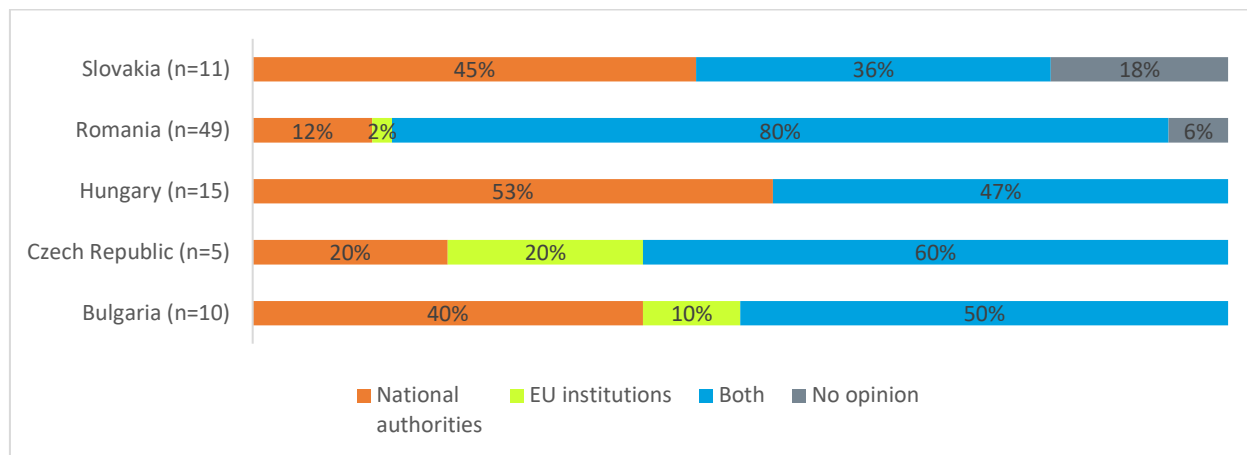


Figure 5.36 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields?
Supporting non-discrimination and Roma inclusion training for public officials

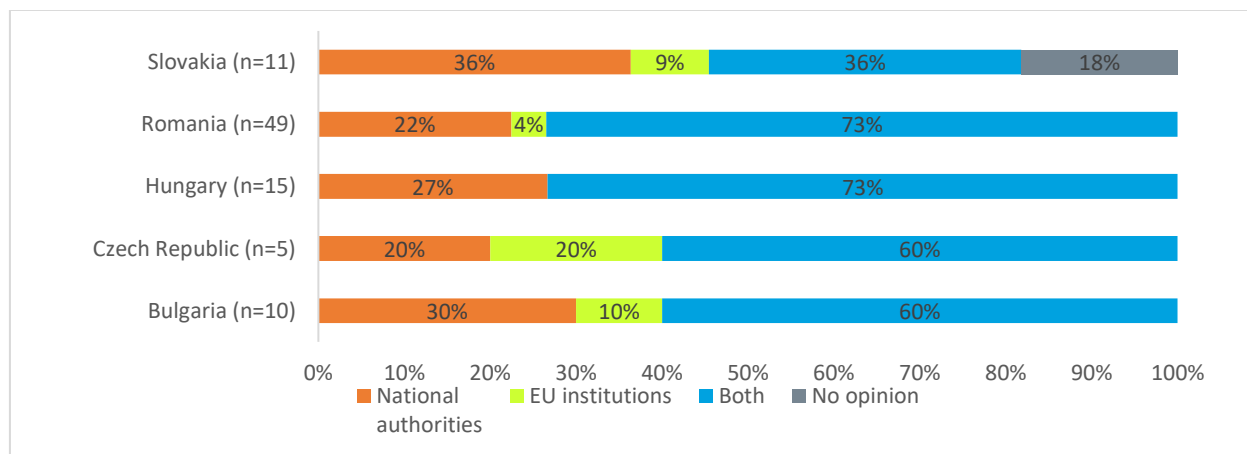
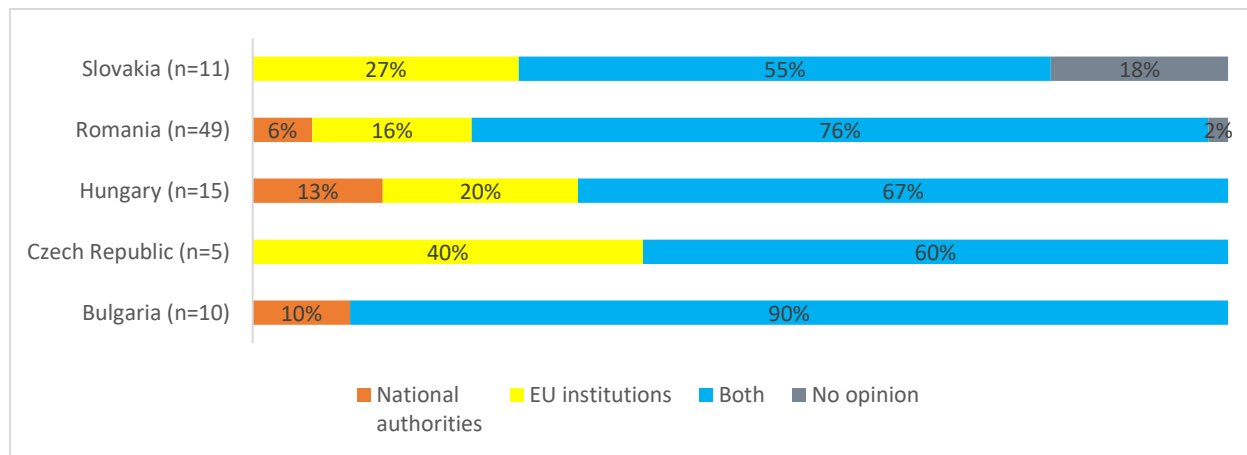


Figure 5.37 Q6.1.2: Who should take measures to fight discrimination in the following fields? **Monitoring and enforcing application of European non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation**



Respondents assessed the usefulness of possible measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion. The very large majority (over 90%) of respondents indicated that: keeping Roma inclusion high on the political agenda, providing policy guidance to national, local authorities (on Roma inclusion, inclusive reform of mainstream policies, use of EU funds, etc.), making access to funding conditional to developing and implementing ambitious national/local policies for Roma inclusion, promoting the business case (demonstrating the macroeconomic benefits of) Roma inclusion and monitoring and enforcing application of non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation were (somewhat/very) useful measures. Responses were consistent across the five countries cluster.

Overall, respondents agree that these measures should be taken by both national and EU institutions. However, between 9% and 25% of respondents indicated that making access to funding conditional to developing and implementing ambitious national/local policies for Roma inclusion is a measure that should be taken by EU institutions. Similarly, between 95 and 29% of respondents think that monitoring and enforcing application of non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation should be addressed by EU institutions.

A detailed overview of the responses received to these questions is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.38 Q6.2.1: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion? **Keeping Roma inclusion high on the political agenda**

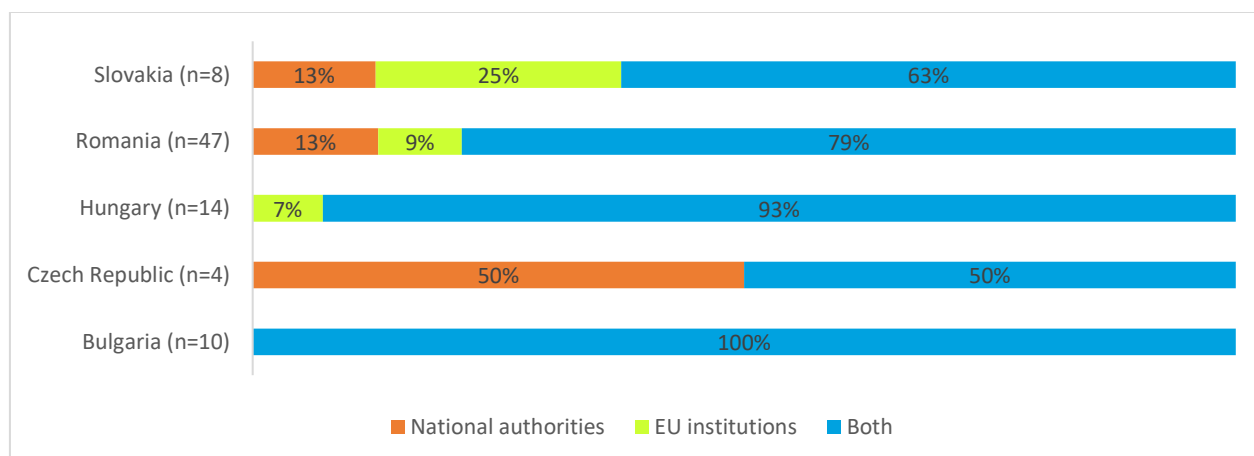


Figure 5.39 Q6.2.1: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion? **Providing policy guidance to national, local authorities (on Roma inclusion, inclusive reform of mainstream policies, use of EU funds, etc.)**

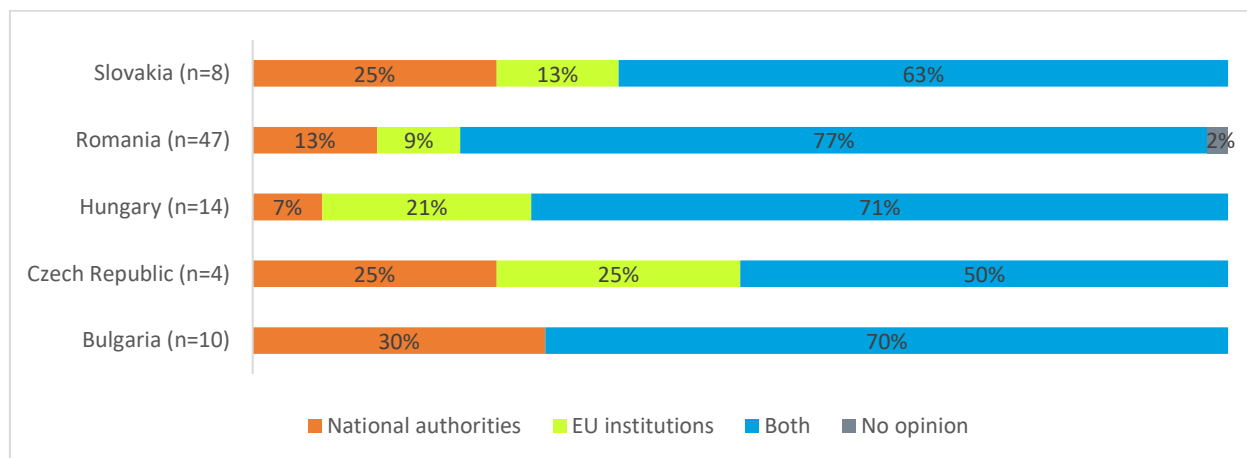


Figure 5.40 Q6.2.1: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion? **Making access to funding conditional to developing and implementing ambitious national/local policies for Roma inclusion**

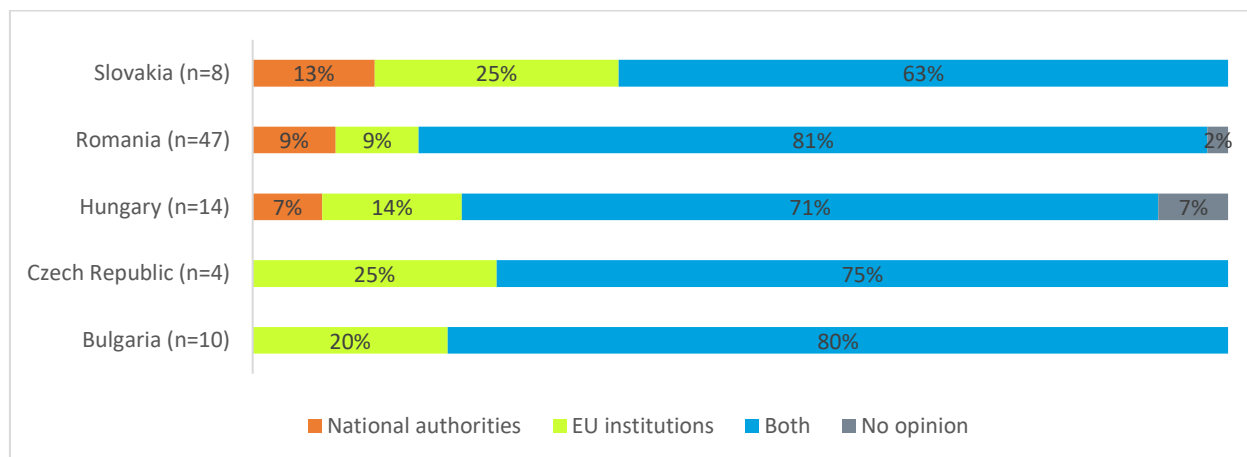


Figure 5.41 Q6.2.1: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion? **Promoting the business case (demonstrating the macroeconomic benefits of) Roma inclusion**

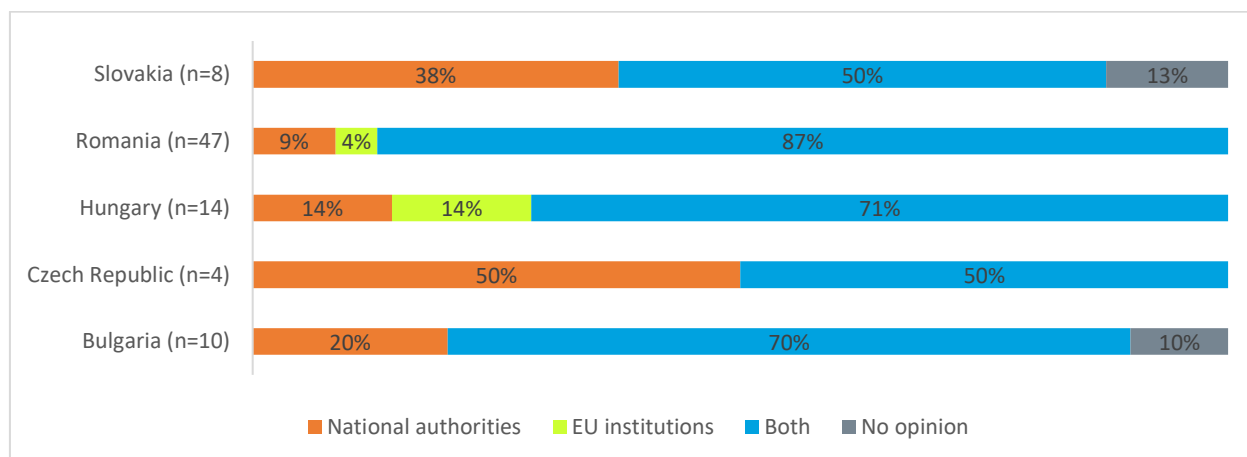


Figure 5.42 Q6.2.1: Who should take measures to fight limited political commitment to deliver ambitious public policies for Roma inclusion? **Monitoring and enforcing application of non-discrimination and anti-racism legislation**

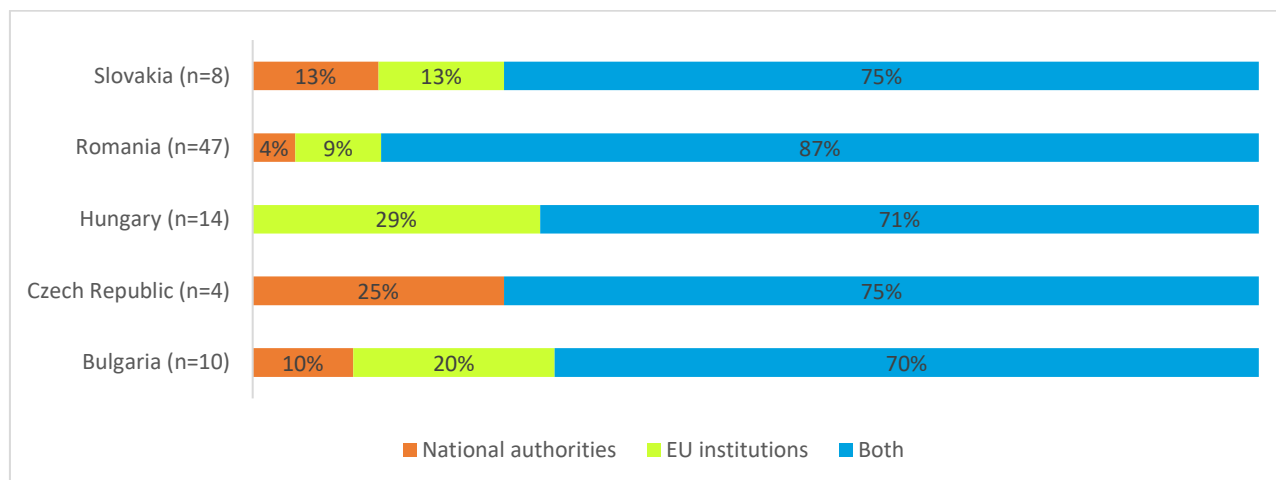
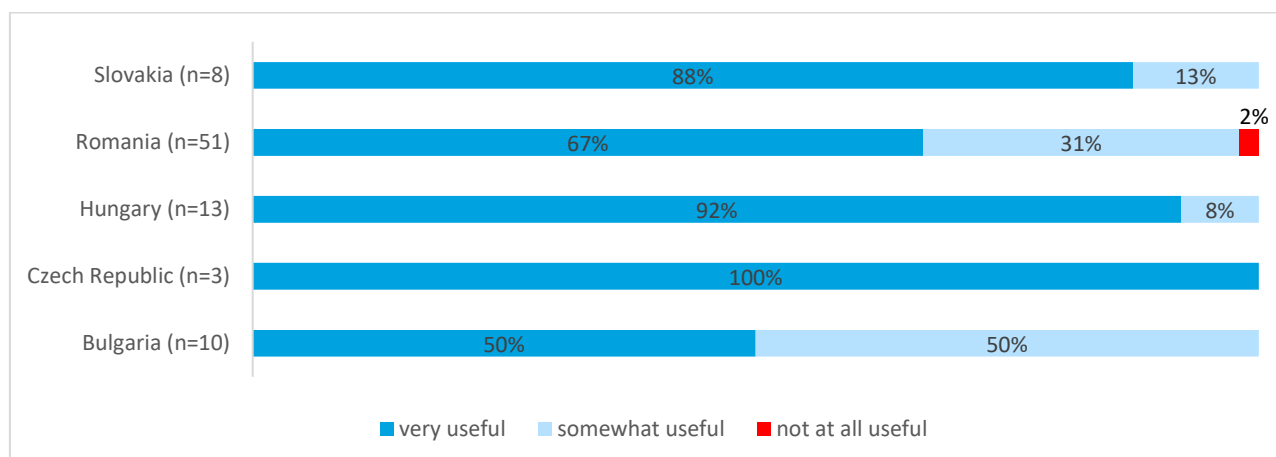


Figure 5.43 Q6.3.1: Please assess the usefulness of possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies: **Providing capacity building services and support (e.g. training, exchange of good practices, peer learning) for national, local authorities and civil society**



Respondents also assessed the usefulness of possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies.

Almost 100% of respondents from the five countries³³ suggested that providing capacity building services and support (e.g. training, exchange of good practices, peer learning) for national, local authorities and civil society developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policies, providing policy guidance to national, local authorities (on Roma inclusion, inclusive reform of mainstream policies, use of EU funds, etc.) and providing standards for improved development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies are (somewhat/very) useful possible measure.

Overall, the majority of respondents from each of the five countries indicated that both national and EU institutions should take possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to

³³ Except one respondent from Romania who indicated that providing capacity building services and support (e.g. training, exchange of good practices, peer learning) for national, local authorities and civil society developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating public policies was not at all useful.

develop, implement and monitor effective public policies. However, there are some differences of opinion in relation to each measure. The figures below provide a detailed overview of the responses received to these questions.

Figure 5.44 Q6.3.2: Who should take possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies? Providing capacity building services and support (e.g. training, exchange of good practices, peer learning) for national, local authorities and civil society

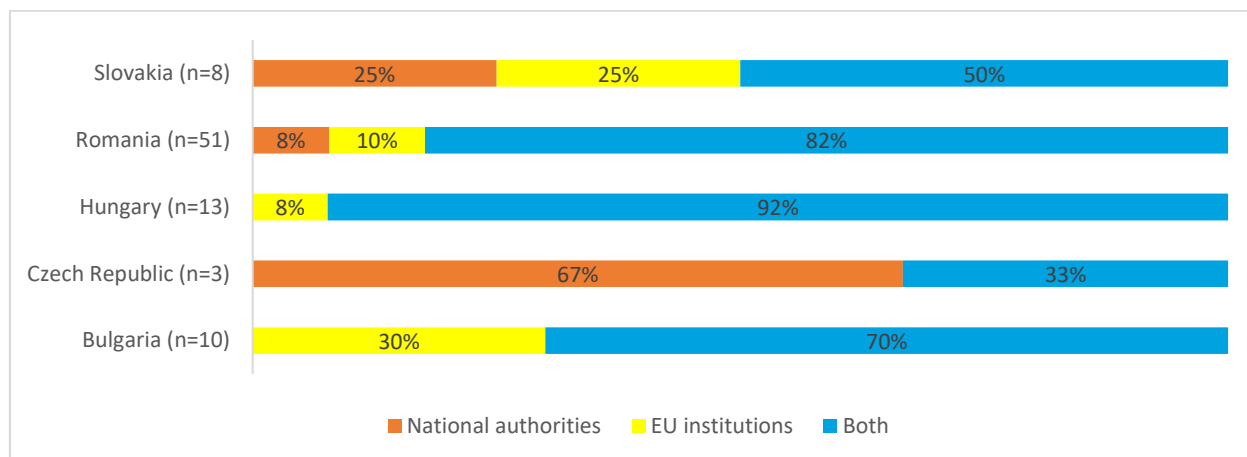


Figure 5.45 Q6.3.2: Who should take possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies? Providing policy guidance to national, local authorities (on Roma inclusion, inclusive reform of mainstream policies, use of EU funds, etc.)

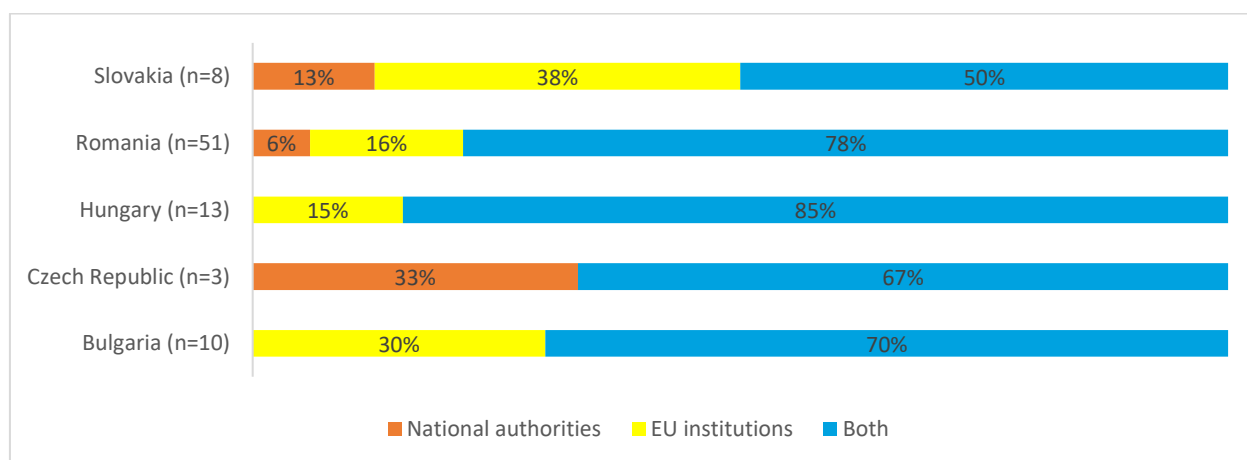
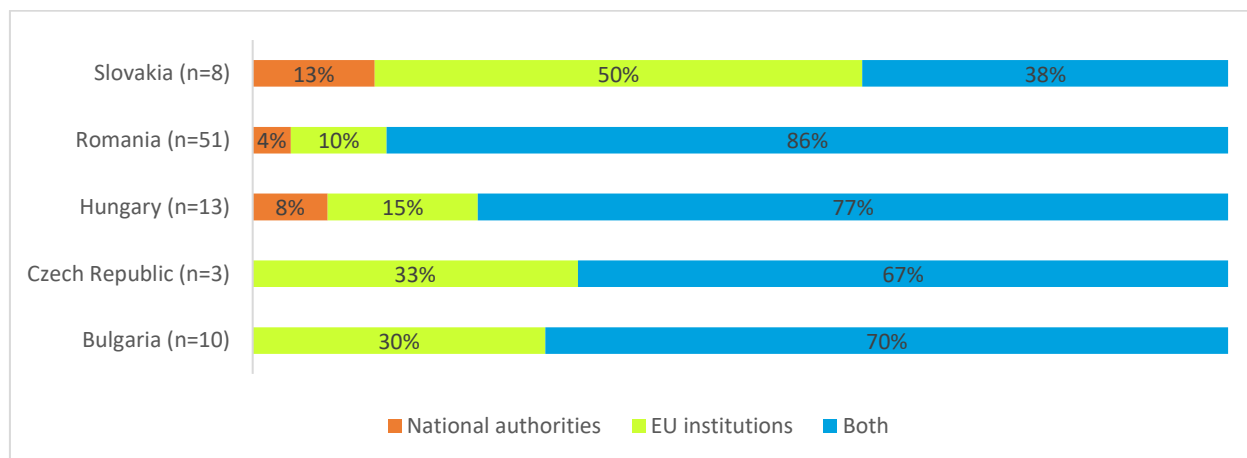


Figure 5.46 Q6.3.2: Who should take possible measures to address limited capacities of institutions to develop, implement and monitor effective public policies? **Providing standards for improved development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies**



Respondents were also asked to assess the usefulness of possible measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion. Significant shares (between 99%-100%) of respondents from the five countries cluster indicated that providing EU/national funding for measures targeting Roma explicitly, providing EU/national funding for mainstream (education, employment, etc.), socially or geographically targeted measures, providing capacity building to potential national/local implementers to improve their ability to access EU/national funds, making access to EU/national funding conditional to having a sound national/local Roma integration policy in place and requiring spending EU funding for inclusive structural reform of mainstream (education, employment, etc.) policies are (somewhat/very) useful measures.

In general, the majority of respondents believe that that these measures should be taken by both national and EU institutions. However, some respondents suggested that they should be taken by EU institutions. A detailed overview of the responses received is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.47 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion? **Providing EU/national funding for measures targeting Roma explicitly**

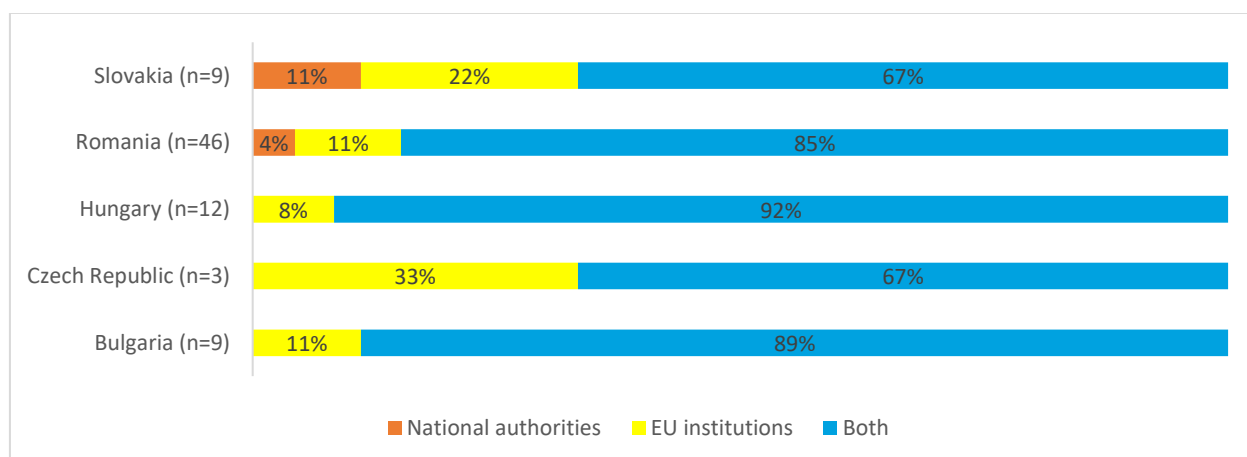


Figure 5.48 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion? **Providing EU/national funding for mainstream (education, employment, etc.), socially or geographically targeted measures**

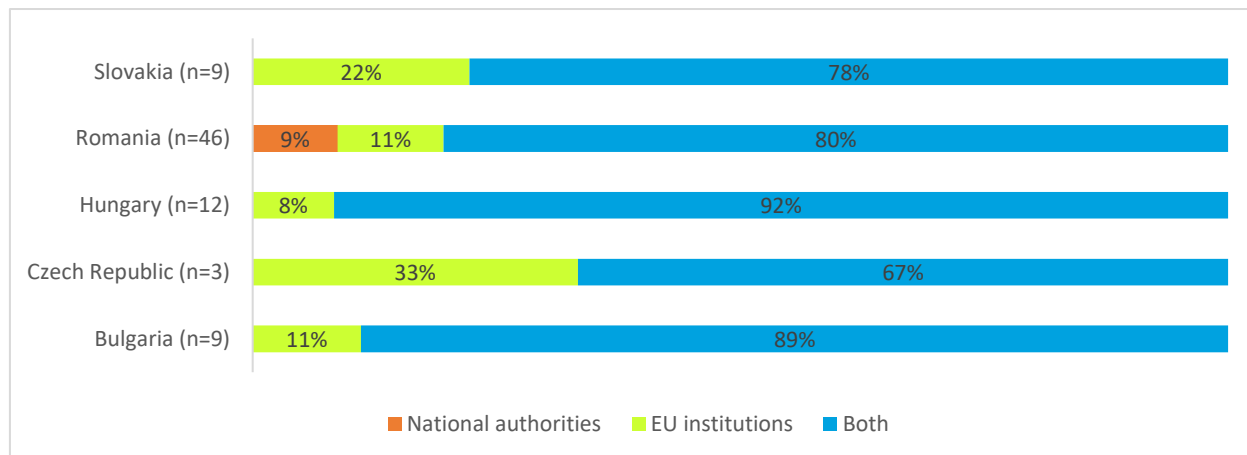


Figure 5.49 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion? **Providing capacity building to potential national/local implementers to improve their ability to access EU/national funds**

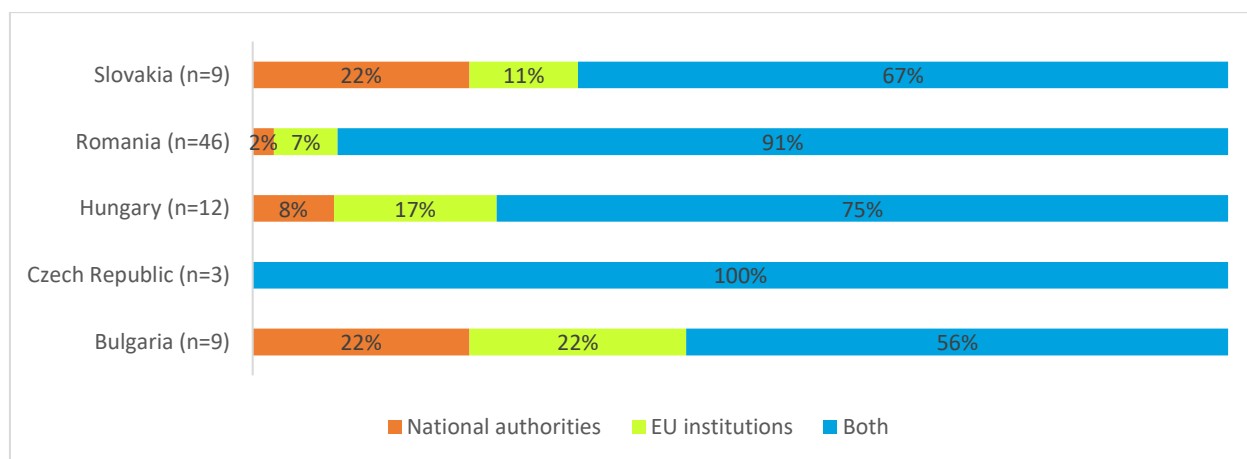


Figure 5.50 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion? **Making access to EU/national funding conditional to having a sound national/local Roma integration policy in place**

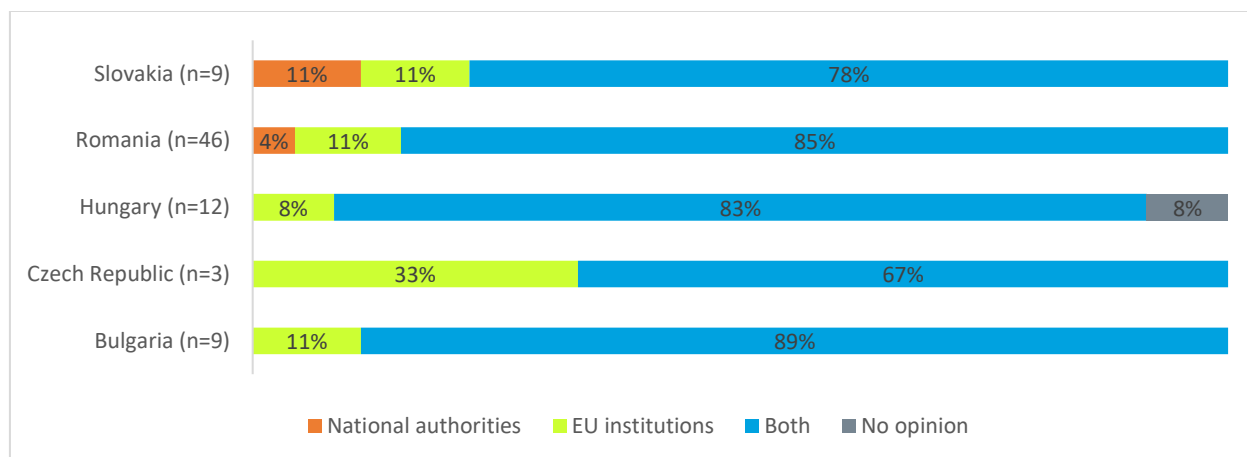
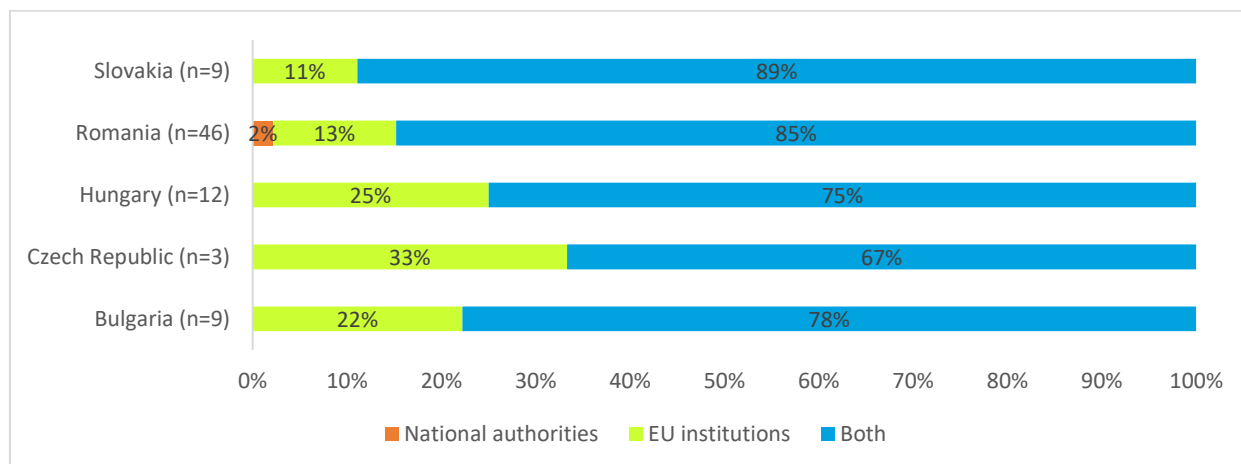


Figure 5.51 Q6.4.2: Who should take measures to address insufficient funding for measures for Roma inclusion? **Requiring spending EU funding for inclusive structural reform of mainstream (education, employment, etc.) policies**



Respondents also assessed the usefulness of possible measures to address the lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies. Responses from the five countries are consistent.

Overall, the very large majority of respondents (over 97%³⁴) from the five countries cluster indicated the following as somewhat/very) useful measures: involving Roma representatives in policy development and monitoring at European/national and local levels; involving Roma civil society in planning the use of European and Structural Investment Funds for Roma inclusion; developing Roma participation in the European Roma Platform; providing support for developing national forums of cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms); managing national forums of inclusive cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms); regularly consulting Roma (and pro-Roma) civil society active at the European/national and local levels; involving Roma civil society in shadow monitoring of the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies; promoting the political participation/representation of Roma (participation in elections); and building the capacity of Roma civil society organisations.

A slight difference of opinions can be observed in relation to providing support for developing national forums of cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms), where approximately 10% of respondents from Bulgaria and Slovakia indicated that this measure was not at all useful. Similarly, 10% of Slovakia respondents from think that managing national forums of inclusive cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms) is not at all useful either.

Overall, the majority of respondents believe that these measures should be taken by both national and EU institutions. However, some respondents think that certain measures should be taken either at national or EU level. The figures below provide an overview of the responses received.

³⁴Share of combined number of responses from the five countries cluster

Figure 5.52 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Involving Roma representatives in policy development and monitoring at European/national and local levels**

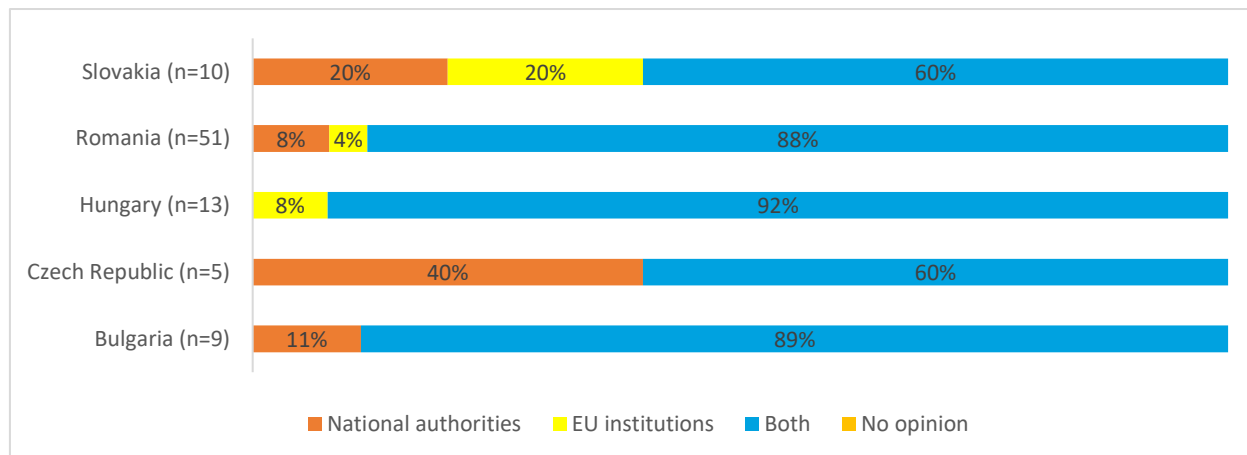


Figure 5.53 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Involving Roma civil society in planning the use of European and Structural Investment Funds for Roma inclusion**

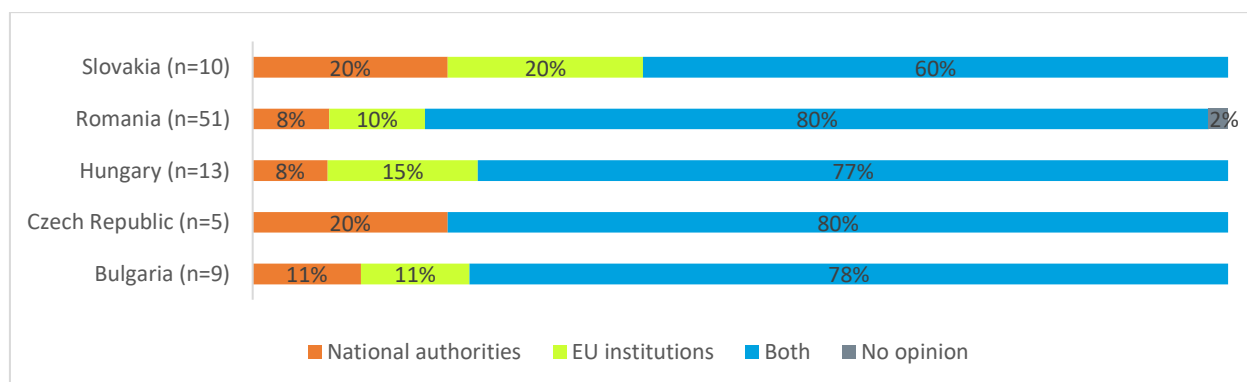


Figure 5.54 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Developing Roma participation in the European Roma Platform**

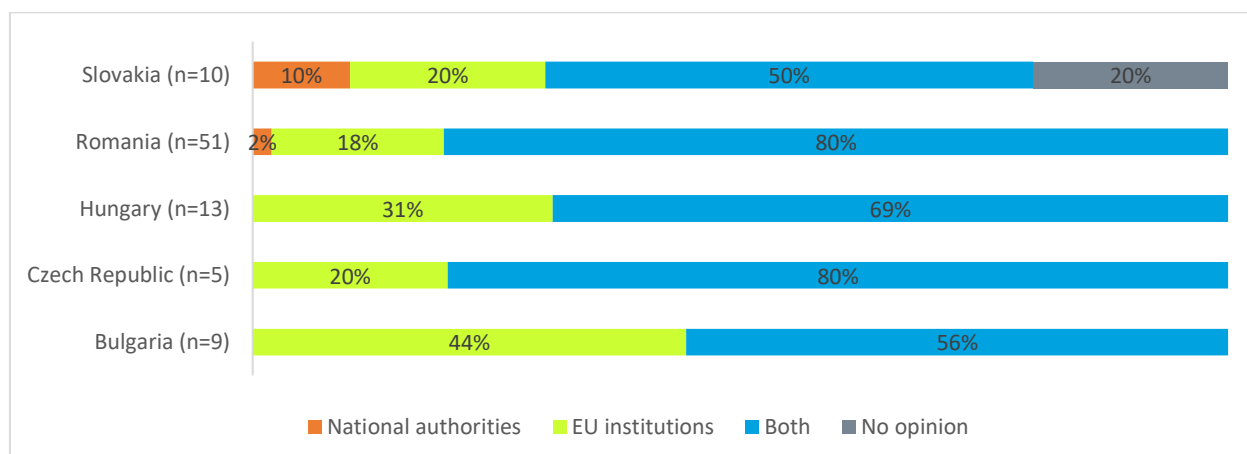


Figure 5.55 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Providing support for developing national forums of cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms)**

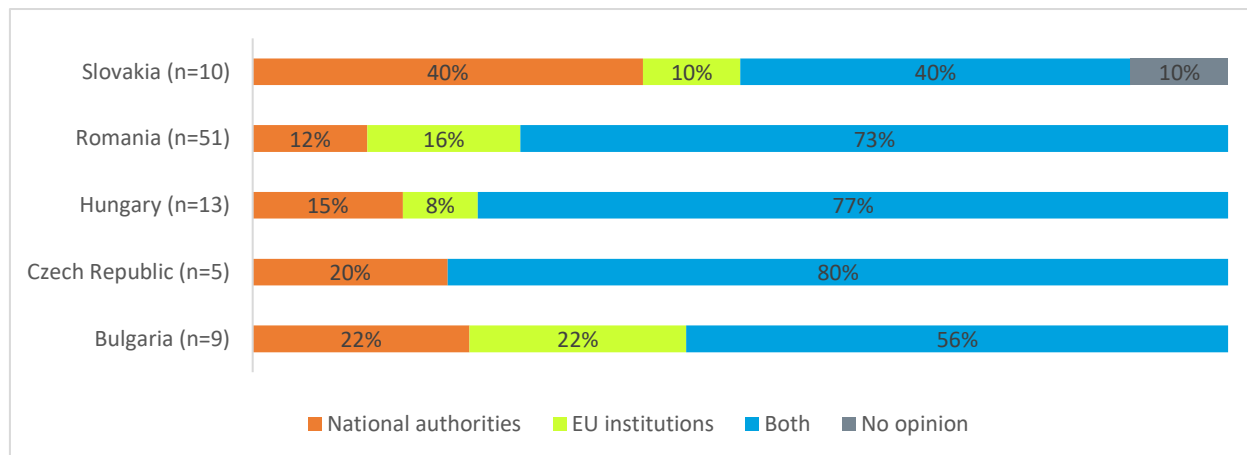


Figure 5.56 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Managing national forums of inclusive cooperation and coordination (National Roma Platforms)**

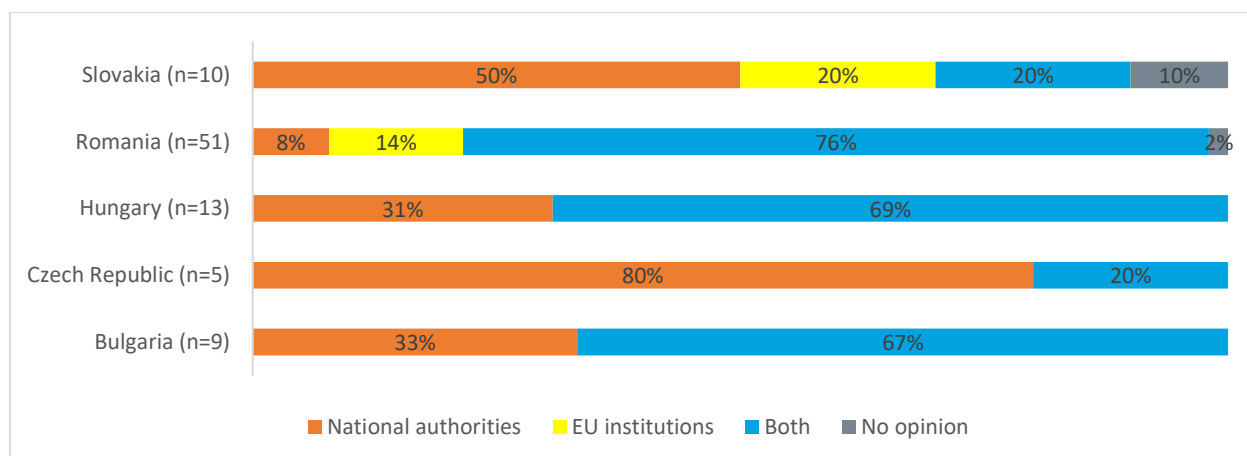


Figure 5.57 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Regularly consulting Roma (and pro-Roma) civil society active at the European/national and local levels**

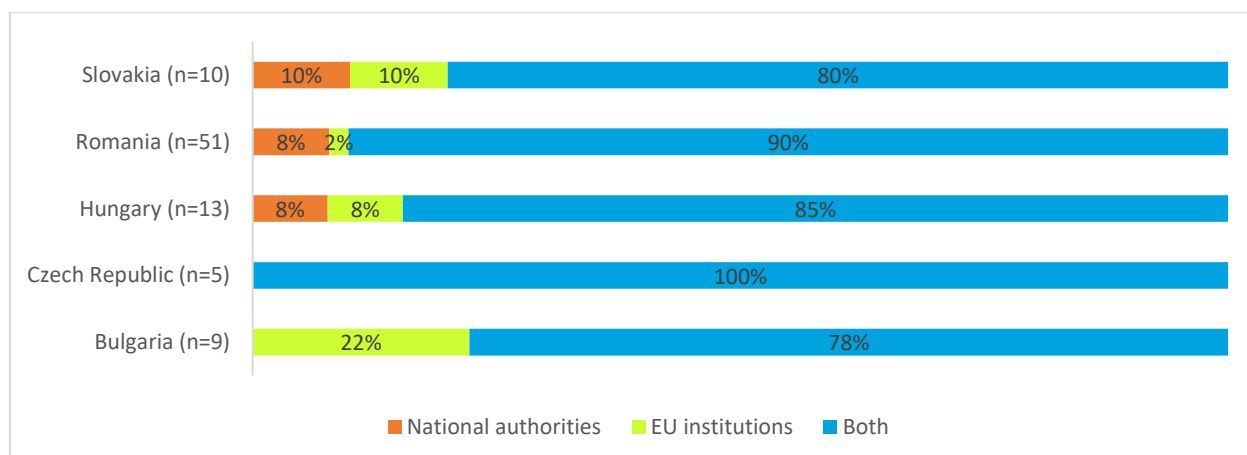


Figure 5.58 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Involving Roma civil society in shadow monitoring of the implementation of National Roma Integration Strategies**

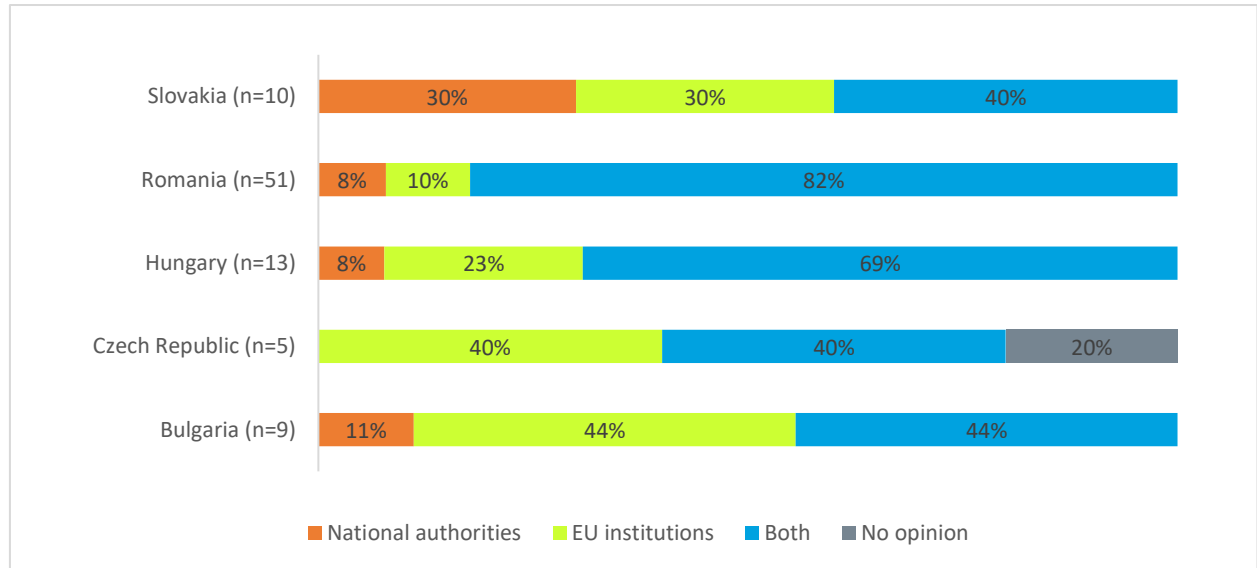


Figure 5.59 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Promoting the political participation/representation of Roma (participation in elections)**

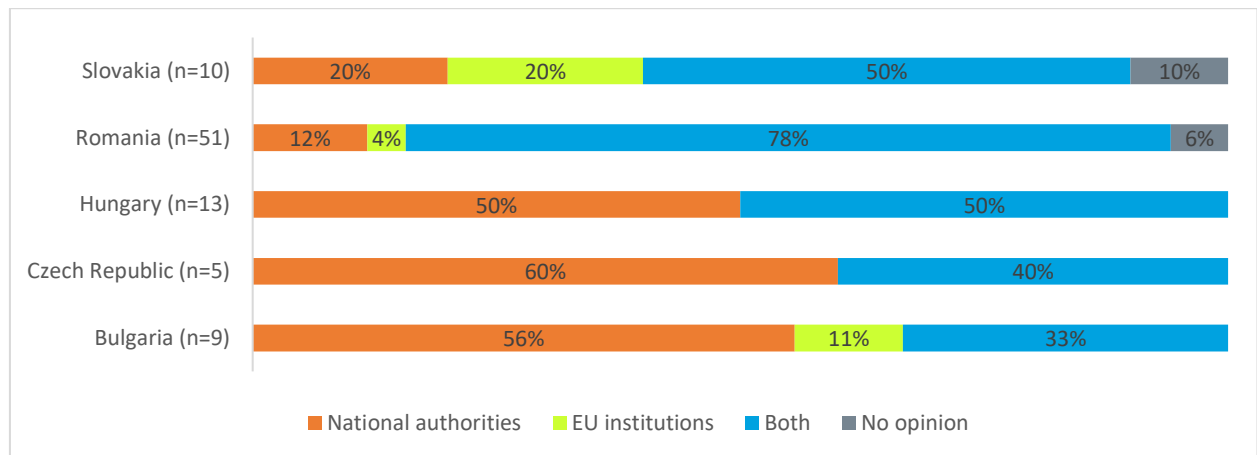
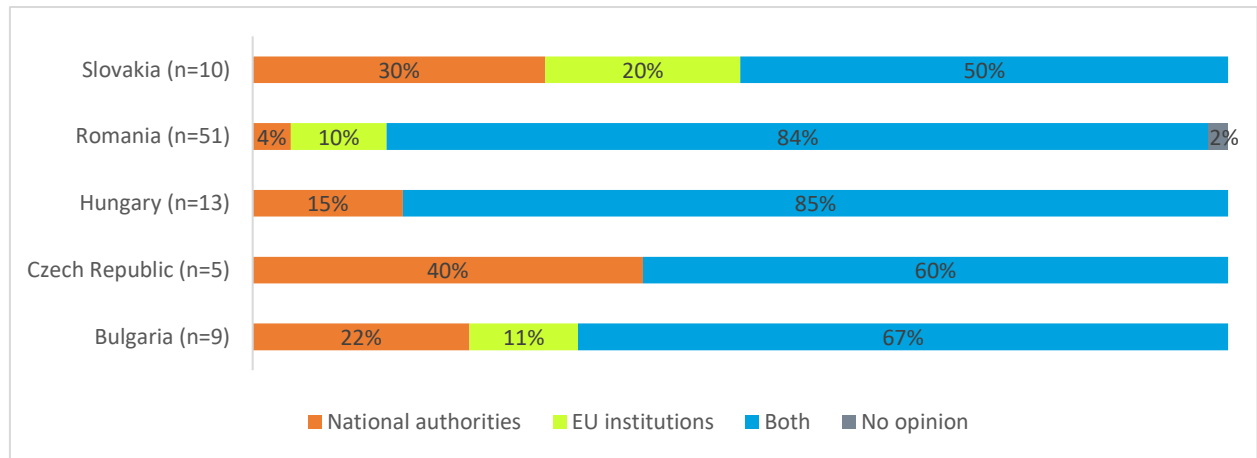


Figure 5.60 Q6.5.2: Who should take measures to address lack of Roma participation in developing Roma inclusion policies? **Building the capacity of Roma civil society organisations**



Respondents were informed that the objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. They were asked to indicate the way they saw the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027), assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement them.

The combined responses from the countries cluster are consistent with the overall results of the OPC. However, slight differences of opinion between the countries in relation to the different fields can be observed.

Regarding **access to education and employment**, the very large majority (between 77% and 100%) from each country see (strong/slight) improvements.

Concerning **access to healthcare**, while over 80% of respondents from Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Hungary think that there will be (strong/slight) improvements, 38% of Slovakian respondents believe that there will be no significant changes.

Similarly, 46% of Slovakian respondents also mentioned that there will be no changes regarding **access to housing and essential services**. On the other hand, 100% of respondents from Bulgaria believe that there will be (strong/slight) improvements.

Concerning **discrimination against Roma**, 100% of Bulgarian respondents see (strong/slight) improvements. Furthermore, the majority of respondents from Romania and Hungary (75% and 73% respectively) indicated the same. A lower share of respondents from Czech Republic and Slovakia (62% and 60% respectively) also stated that there will be (strong/slight) improvements.

A detailed overview of the responses received is provided in the figures below.

Figure 5.61 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)?
Access to education

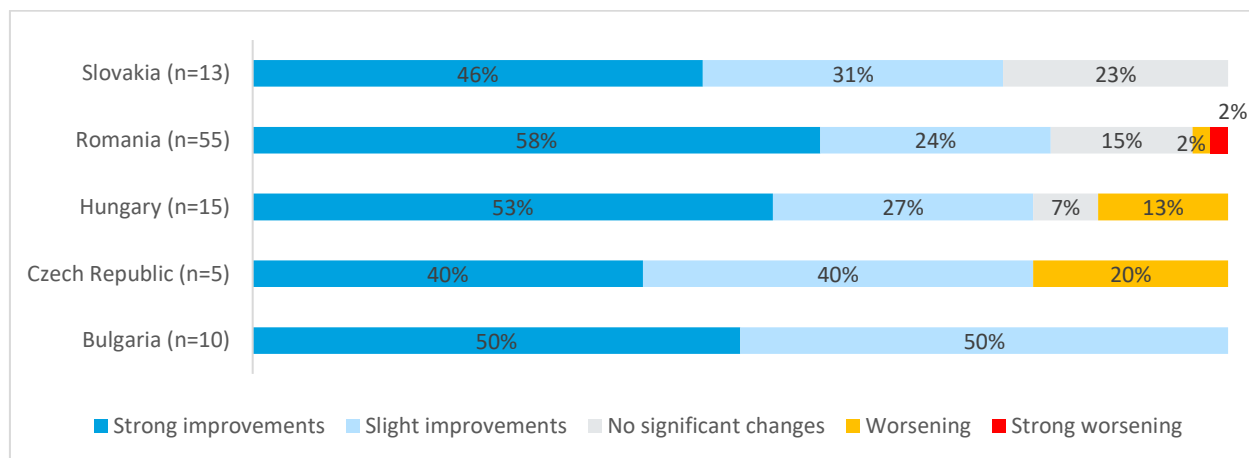


Figure 5.62 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)?
Access to employment

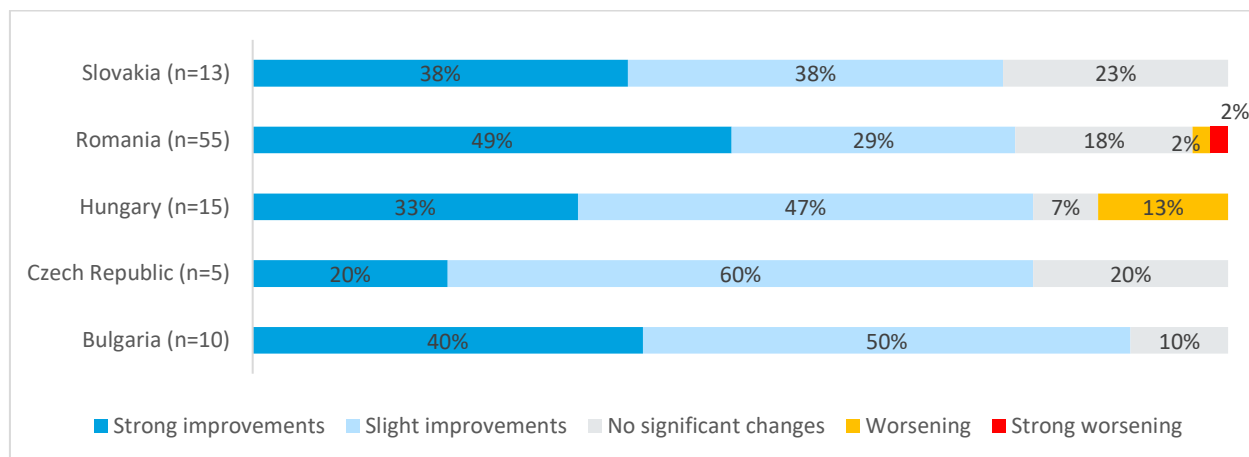


Figure 5.63 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)?
Access to healthcare

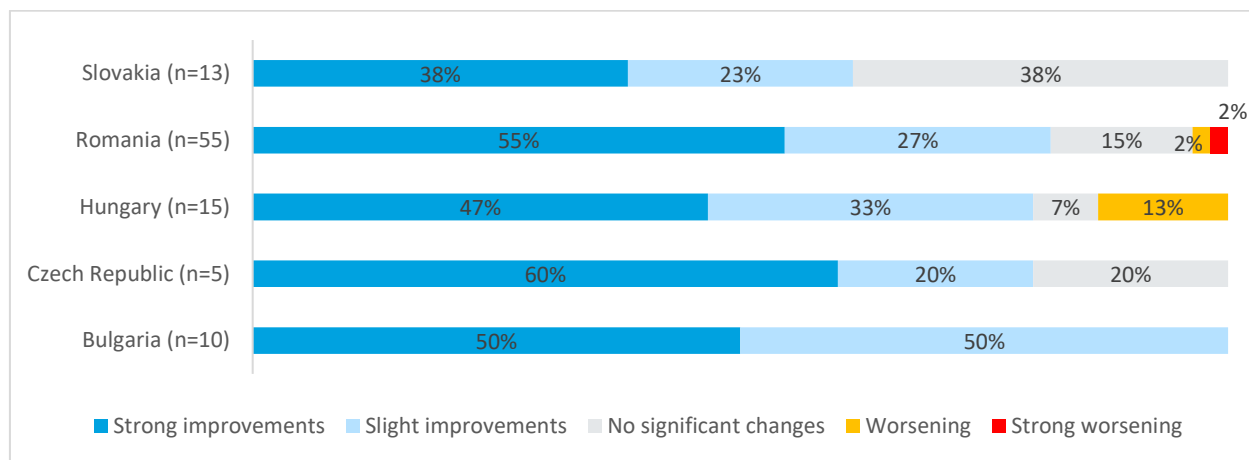


Figure 5.64 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)?
Access to housing and essential services

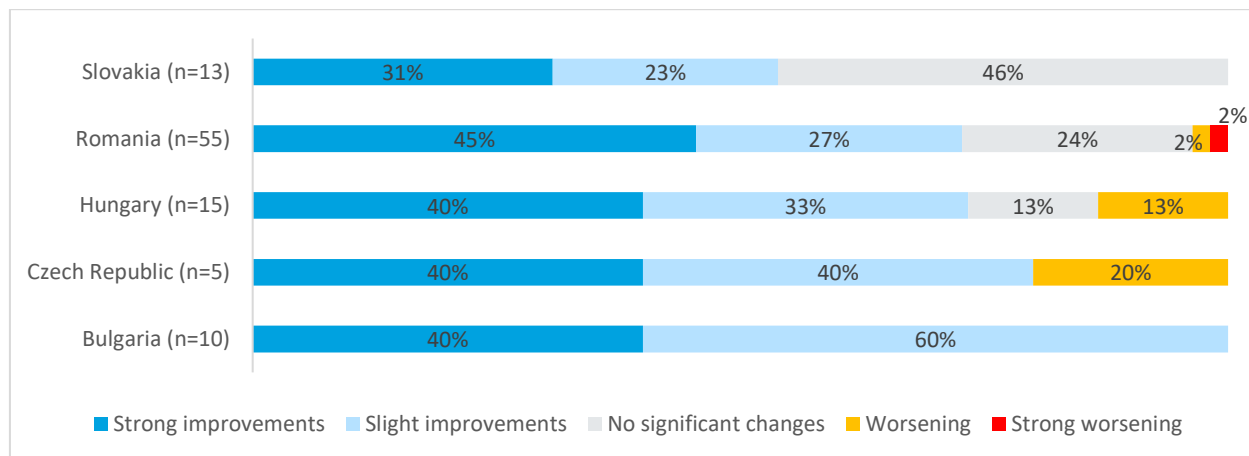
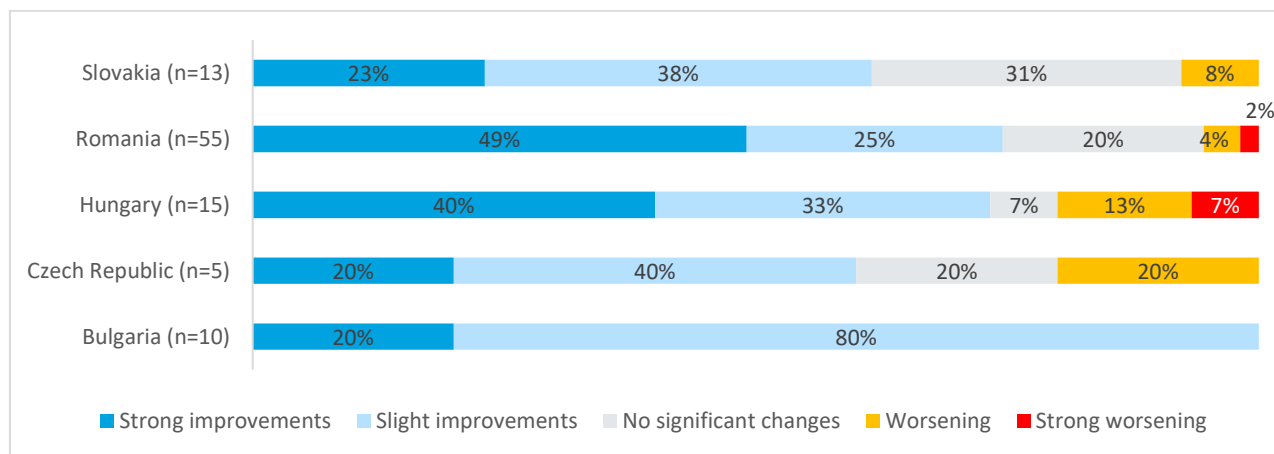


Figure 5.65 Q7: The objective of the above suggested measures is making Roma integration reality. Assuming that the EU institutions, national and local authorities implement these, how do you see the situation of Roma in our society in 10 years (2027)? **Discrimination against Roma**



5.1.2 Priority areas for action at European and national levels

Respondents were asked to mention which fields should, in their opinion, become key priorities to which extra effort should be attributed at **European level**. Respondents from the five countries cluster provided similar responses, as follows:

- **Bulgaria:** (i) addressing antigypsyism (8 responses); (ii) access to education (7); (iii) empowerment of Roma (social, economic, political, cultural participation) (4); (iv) fighting discrimination (4); and (v) specific measures for Roma children (4). (N=10, multiple answers possible).
- **Czech Republic:** (i) access to employment (3); (ii) access to housing and essential services (3); and (iii) civil society capacity building (3). (N=5, multiple answers possible).
- **Hungary:** (i) access to education (11); (ii) access to health care (8); (iii) access to employment (7); (iv) addressing antigypsyism (6); (v) coordination and cooperation of all stakeholders of Roma inclusion (6); and (vi) fighting discrimination (6). (N=15, multiple answers possible).
- **Romania:** (i) access to education (43); (ii) access to health care (37); (iii) fighting discrimination (31); (iv) access to employment (24); (v) addressing antigypsyism (24); and (vi) specific measures for Roma children (20). (N=55, multiple answers possible).
- **Slovakia:** (i) access to education (8); (ii) access to employment (5); (iii) specific measures for Roma children (5); and (iv) specific measures for Roma youth (5). (N=13, multiple answers possible).

Respondents were asked to mention which fields should, in their opinion, become key priorities to which extra effort should be attributed at **National level**. Respondents from the five countries cluster provided similar responses, as follows:

- **Bulgaria:** (i) Access to education (9 responses); (ii) addressing antigypsyism (6); (iii) access to housing and essential services (5); and (iv) fighting discrimination (5). (n=10, multiple answers possible).
- **Czech Republic:** (i) access to education (4); (ii) access to employment (4); (iii) access to housing and essential services (4); and (iv) access to health care. (N=5, multiple answers possible).

- **Hungary:** (i) access to education (15); (ii) access to health care (11); (iii) addressing antigypsyism (10); (v) access to employment (9). (N=15, multiple answers possible).
- **Romania:** (i) access to education (46); (ii) access to health care (37); (iii) fighting discrimination (32); (iv) specific measures for Roma children (22); (v) access to employment (21); and (vi) addressing antigypsyism (21). (N=55, multiple answers possible).
- **Slovakia:** (i) access to education (9); (ii) access to employment (8); (iii) fighting discrimination (7); and (iv) specific measures for Roma children (6). (N=13, multiple answers possible).

5.2 Specialised questions

This section of the report provides an overview of the 49 responses received from: Bulgaria (7 respondents), Czech Republic (4), Hungary (10), Romania (22) and Slovakia (6).

5.2.1 Policy developments and results

Respondents were asked to assess the progress made in the 2011-2016 period in terms of policy development. This includes the introduction of new Roma-targeted policy initiatives (e.g. campaigns, programmes or support to policy exchange) or important reforms of mainstream public policies (such as inclusive reform of education, e.g. school desegregation) at the **European** and **national** level.

Responses from the five countries cluster are consistent with the results of the OPC.

- **At European level:** In relation to access to: **employment, health care** and **housing and essential services**, the majority of respondents from the five countries cluster (69%) mentioned that there haven't been any significant changes. Furthermore, 57% also believe that there haven't been any changes in **fighting discrimination**. Approximately half of respondents also stated that there haven't been any changes in relation to **access to education**, while the other half think that some progress has been made.³⁵
- **At national level:** Concerning **access to health care**, 67% of the respondents indicated that there haven't been significant changes. Similarly, 63% of respondents believe that there haven't been any significant changes about **access to employment**, while 18% think that progress has been made and another 18% indicated that the situation deteriorated. Similarly, 59% stated that there haven't been any changes about access to **housing and essential services**. Regarding **fighting discrimination**, 55% of the respondents pointed out that there haven't been any changes and a significant share of 29% mentioned that the situation was deteriorating. Some 37% suggested that progress was made regarding **access to education**.³⁶

Respondents also assessed the progress made in the 2011-2016 period in terms of actual results. They were asked to indicate if the socio-economic situation of Roma in the respective areas tangibly changed on average at the **European** and **national** level.

- **At European level:** Over 70% of respondents indicated that there have been no significant change in relation to access to **employment, health care**, and **housing and essential services**. Further 63% of respondents share the same view about **fighting discrimination**

³⁵ Combined results of responses from the five countries cluster.

³⁶ Combined results of responses from the five countries cluster.

and 55% about **access to education**. However, a considerable share of 41% suggested that some progress was made concerning **accessing education**.³⁷

- **At national level:** Similarly, the majority of respondents indicated that there haven't been any significant changes in relation to access to **health care** (73%), **housing and essential services** (67%), **fighting discrimination** (63%), access to **employment** (61%) and **education** (53%).³⁸

Respondents were also asked to highlight the main achievements (in the 2011-2016 period) at **European** and **national** level.

- **At European level:** overall, across the five countries, over 80% of respondents rather agree that the following constitute main achievements: the EU Framework put Roma inclusion high on the European agenda; the fact that all Member States/enlargement countries developed strategies or integrated sets of policy measures; recognition of antigypsyism as root cause of exclusion in European policy documents; triggering inclusive reform of mainstream policies through country specific recommendations on Roma under the European Semester and guiding the use of European Structural and Investment Funds; specific allocation under the European Structural and Investment Funds and related ex ante conditionality; specific allocation under the European Structural and Investment Funds and related ex ante conditionality, Direct European financial support to projects and programmes fighting discrimination and promoting Roma inclusion are main achievements.

Similarly, over 69% suggested the same about: the annual assessment of implementation and guidance by the European Commission; the 2013 Council Recommendation increased attention on areas such as antidiscrimination, protection of Roma children and women, including from falling victim of trafficking in human beings, empowerment, coordination between stakeholders, etc.; the development of structures of coordination and cooperation at the European level; collection and analysis of ethnically disaggregated data on Roma by the Fundamental Rights Agency helps evidence based policy making (targeting and monitoring); fighting discrimination against Roma by launching infringement proceedings under the Racial Equality Directive; and fighting anti-Roma hate speech and hate crime under the Council Framework Decision on combatting Racism and Xenophobia (ex. By the Commission, Member States, IT companies, NGOs)

- **At national level:** a lower share of respondents tend to agree that the different elements have been main achievements. Over 60% of respondents from the five countries **rather disagree** that the following constitute main achievements: National Roma Contact Point has been nominated to oversee policy implementation; annual reporting by national authorities on implementation of strategies; setting up structures of cooperation and coordination at national level; and the fight against anti-Roma hate speech and hate crime has been stepped up through legislative change or policy initiatives are achievements. Similarly, over 40% of respondents also **rather disagree** that: national Roma Integration Strategy or integrated set of policy measures has been developed/implemented and national funding has been allocated to fighting discrimination and promoting Roma integration are main achievements.

On the other hand, over half of respondents **rather agree** that collection and analysis of ethnically disaggregated data on Roma; fighting discrimination against Roma by initiating inclusive reform of mainstream policies; specific/targeted funding has been allocated to Roma inclusion under the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds; funding has been allocated under the 2014-2020 European Structural and Investment Funds to finance inclusive reform of mainstream policies..

³⁷ Combined results of responses from the five countries cluster.

³⁸ Combined results of responses from the five countries cluster.

Respondents also indicated the main challenges (in the 2011-2016 period) in respect of Roma inclusion at the European and national level. Opinions are consistent among the respondents from the five countries cluster as well as among the total number of respondents to the OPC.

- **At European level:** the large majority of respondents (between 82% and 90%) **rather agree** that the following issues represent the main challenges: rising discrimination and antigypsyism; insufficient structural involvement of Roma and (pro)Roma civil society; insufficient effective mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in other policies and instruments; the non-binding nature of the EU Framework and the Council Recommendation; weak monitoring of the use of EU funds for Roma inclusion; structures of coordination and cooperation lack transparency and lack of transparent monitoring. Similarly, between 63% and 73% of respondents identified the following as the main challenges: lack of commitment of politicians at the European level; balancing the needs of all population groups in a changing European context; narrow focus of the EU-framework on marginalised Roma (instead of covering also educated/middle class Roma; insufficient focus of the EU Frameworks on; antigypsyism, gender mainstreaming, Roma youth empowerment and mobile Roma moving within the EU; European funds being scarce to finance ambitious measures for Roma inclusion and insufficient structural involvement of National Roma Contact Points .

29% of respondents **rather disagree** that insufficient focus of the EU Frameworks on antigypsyism and on gender mainstreaming were main challenges in relation to Roma inclusion.

Figure 5.66 Q11.1: What do you think, have been the main challenges (in the 2011-2016 period) in respect of Roma inclusion at the European level? Please indicate, whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with each statement.



N=49

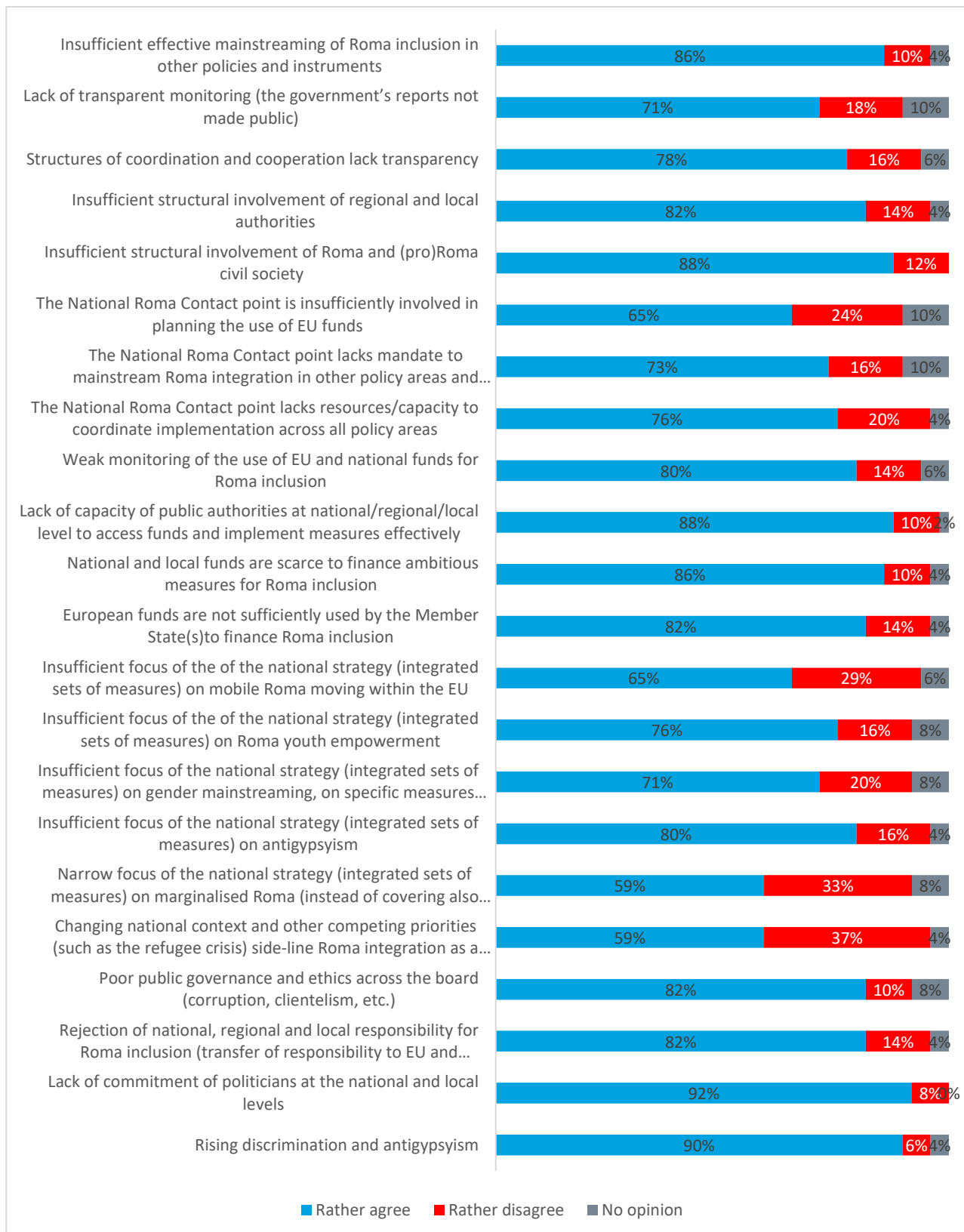
- At national level:** between 80% and 92% of respondents identified the following issues as the main challenges to Roma inclusion: rising discrimination and antigypsyism; lack of commitment of politicians at the national and local levels; rejection of national, regional and local responsibility for Roma inclusion (transfer of responsibility to EU and international levels); poor public governance and ethics across the board; insufficient focus of the national strategy on antigypsyism, European funds are not sufficiently used by the Member State(s) to finance Roma inclusion, national and local funds are scarce to finance ambitious measures for Roma inclusion; lack of capacity of public authorities at national/regional/local level to access funds and implement measures effectively; weak monitoring of the use of EU and national funds for Roma inclusion; insufficient structural involvement of Roma and (pro)Roma civil society and of regional and local authorities and insufficient effective mainstreaming of Roma inclusion in other policies and instruments.

Between 65% and 75% rather agree that: lack of transparent monitoring; insufficient focus of the national strategies on gender mainstreaming, Roma youth empowerment and on mobile Roma moving within the EU are challenges. Furthermore, the same share of respondents said the same about the National Roma Contact point being insufficiently involved in planning the

use of EU funds and lacking mandate to mainstream Roma integration in other policy areas and funding decisions.

A lower share of respondents (59%) believe that changing national context and other competing priorities (such as the refugee crisis) and the narrow focus of the national strategy on marginalised Roma are challenges hindering Roma inclusion.

Figure 5.67 Q11.1: What do you think, have been the main challenges (in the 2011-2016 period) in respect of Roma inclusion at the European level? Please indicate, whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with each statement.



N=49

5.2.2 Evaluation of the thematic policy areas

The respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed that various specific measures relevant to each of the key strategic areas for Roma integration (i.e. education, employment, healthcare, access to housing and essential services, and anti-discrimination) were implemented during the 2011-2016 period in their respective countries.

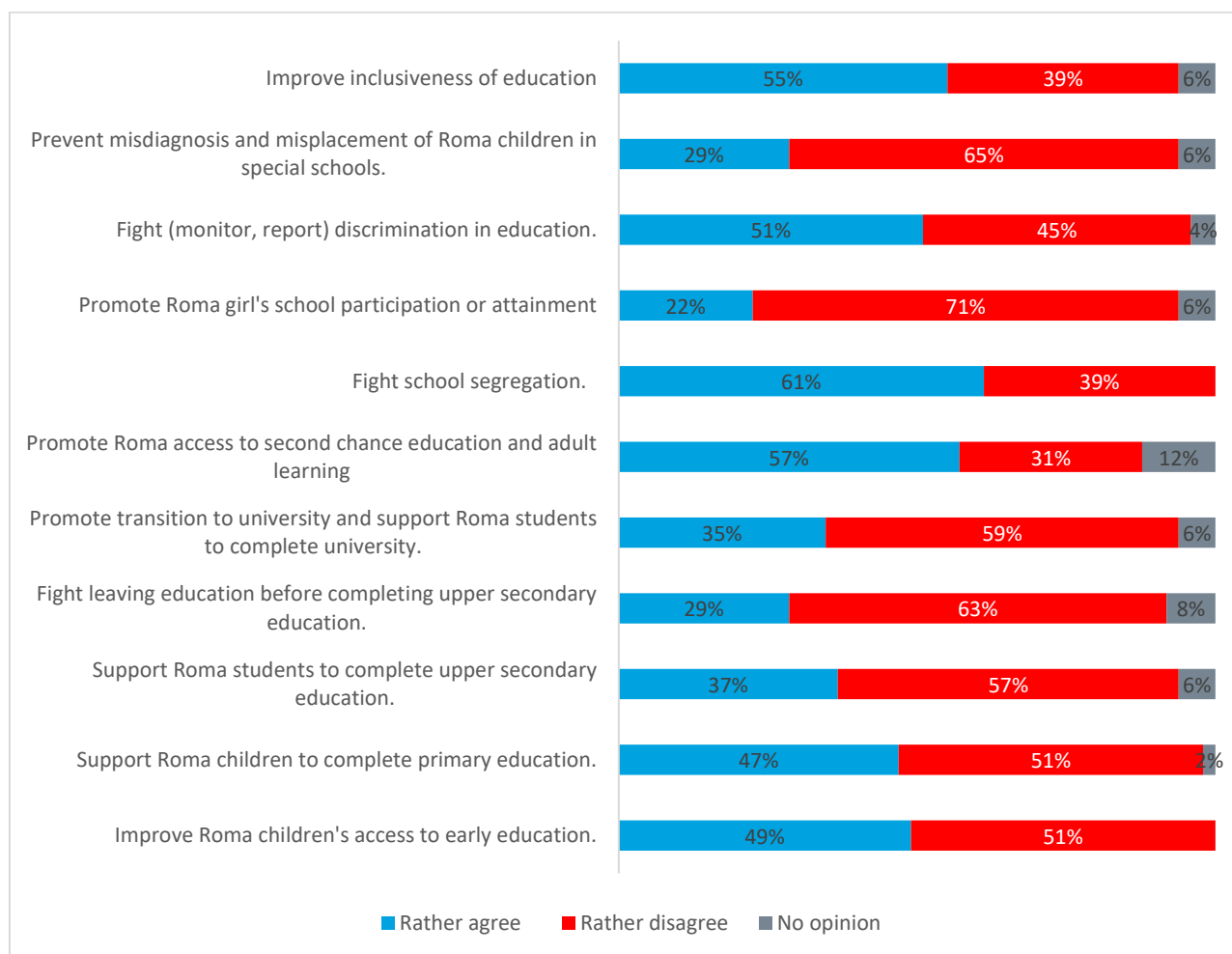
They were then asked to assess whether the current situation of Roma in their respective countries has either improved or worsened since 2011 in relation to key aspects of integration.

The responses from the respondents of the five countries under consideration are consistent with the overall results of the OPC. The figures below provide a detailed overview of the responses received.

5.2.2.1 Education

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures adopted in the years 2011-2016 in the field of education had contributed to improve the situation of Roma.

Figure 5.68 Q12.1: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EDUCATION (in the 2011-2016 period) in your country?

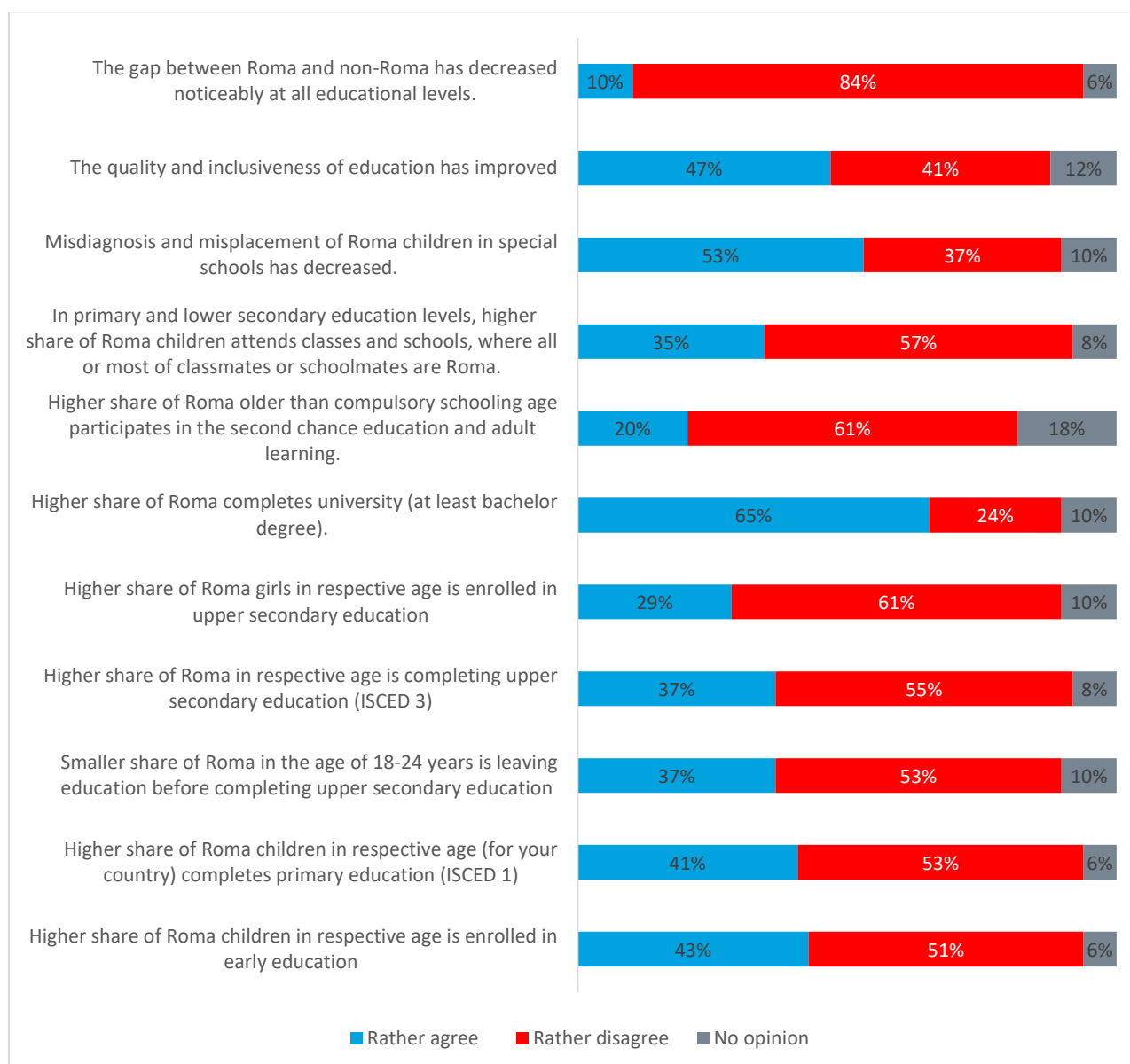


N=49

The majority of respondents agreed that the measures adopted in the area of education had contributed to: fight school segregation (61%); promote Roma access to second chance education (57%) and improve the inclusiveness of education (55%). On the other hand, the vast majority of respondents disagreed that these measures had contributed to promote Roma girl’s school participation (71%); prevent misdiagnosis and misplacement of Roma children (65%); promote transition to university (59%).

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with a list of statements comparing the current situation of Roma children in education with the situation of 2011.

Figure 5.69 Q12.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma children in EDUCATION to the situation that prevailed in education 2011 in your country?



N=49

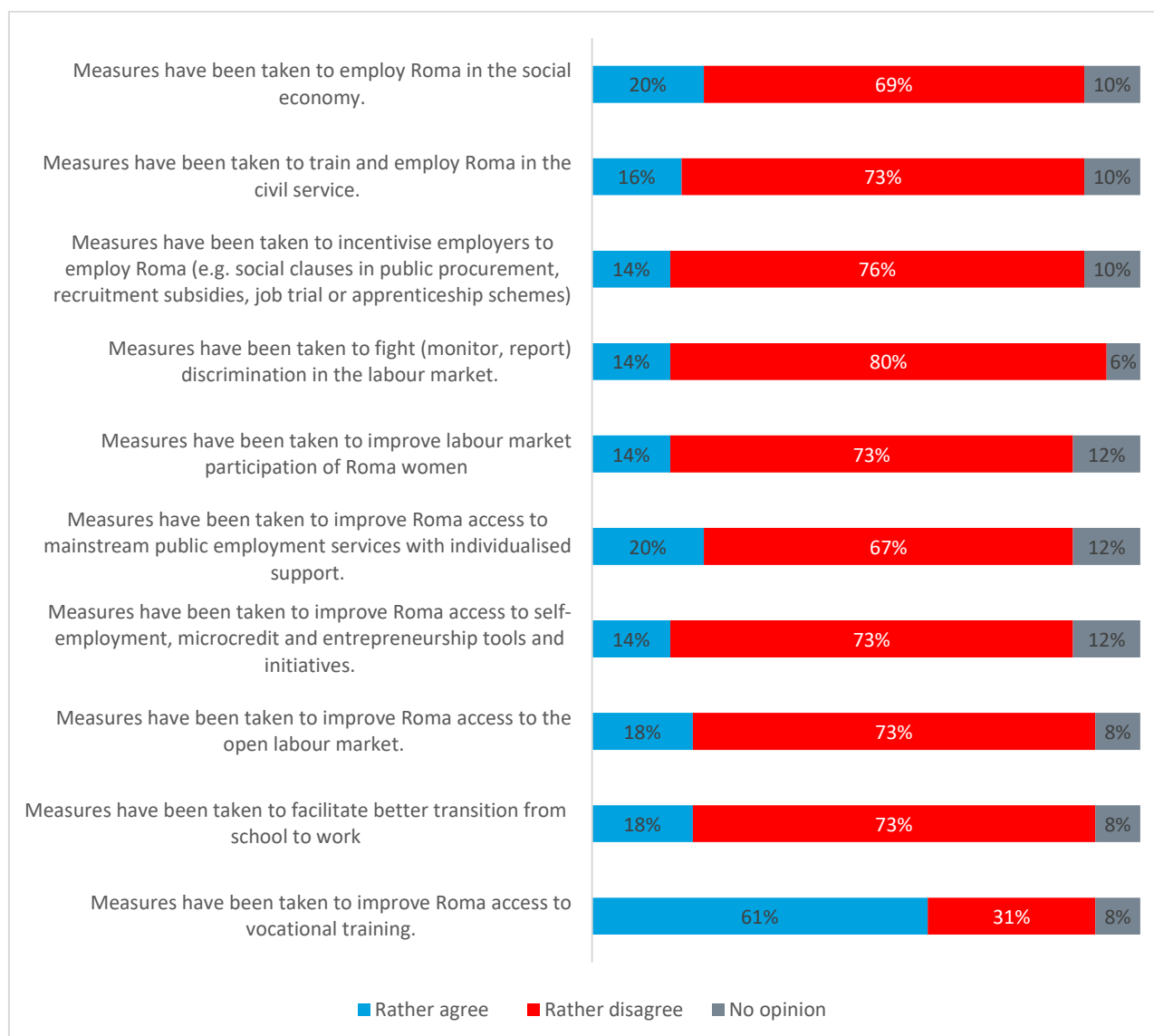
The majority of respondents agreed that the current situation had improved with regard to: the higher share of Roma completing university (65%); misdiagnosis and misplacement of Roma children in special schools (53%); the quality and inclusiveness of education (47%).

The vast majority of respondents disagreed that the situation had improved in relation to: the decrease in the gap between Roma and non-Roma at all educational levels (84%); higher share of Roma girls’ enrolment in upper secondary school (61%) and higher share of Roma older than compulsory schooling age participating in second chance education (61%).

5.2.2.2 Employment

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures in the field of employment had taken place since 2011.

Figure 5.70 Q13.1: Please mark whether you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of EMPLOYMENT since 2011 in the country you live or work or know best



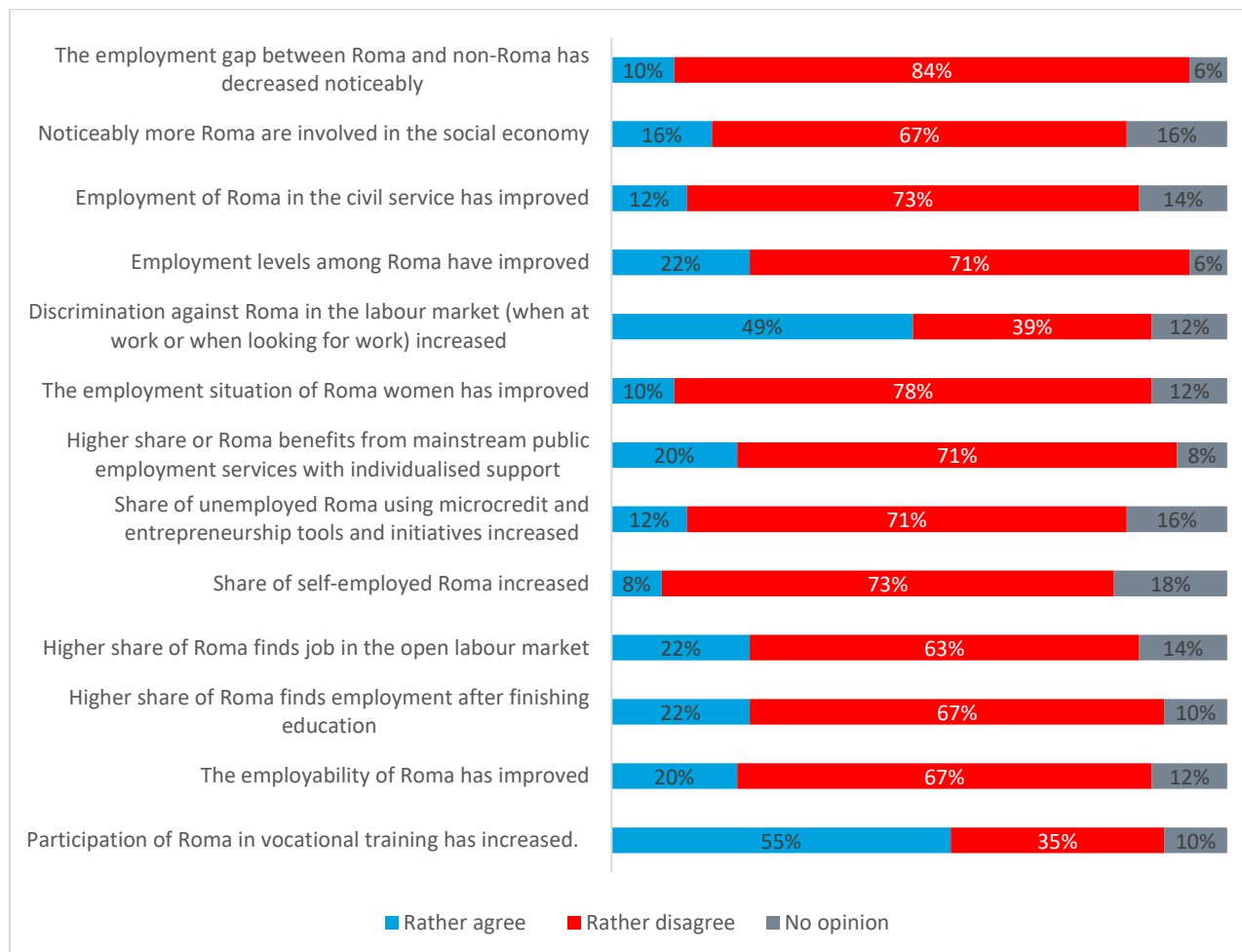
N=49

The majority of respondents agreed that measures on Roma access to vocational training had been adopted (61%). Conversely, only a minority of respondents agreed that the following measures had been taken: measures to improve Roma access to mainstream public employment services (20%); measures to facilitate better transition from school to work (18%); measures to improve Roma access to the open labour market (18%).

As the figure above shows, the vast majority of respondents disagreed that measures had been adopted to fight discrimination in the labour market (80%); to incentivise employers to employ Roma (76%); to improve the labour market participation of Roma women (73%) etc.

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed with a range of statements comparing the situation of Roma in employment in 2011 with the current situation.

Figure 5.71 Q13.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in EMPLOYMENT to the situation that prevailed 2011 in your country?



N=49

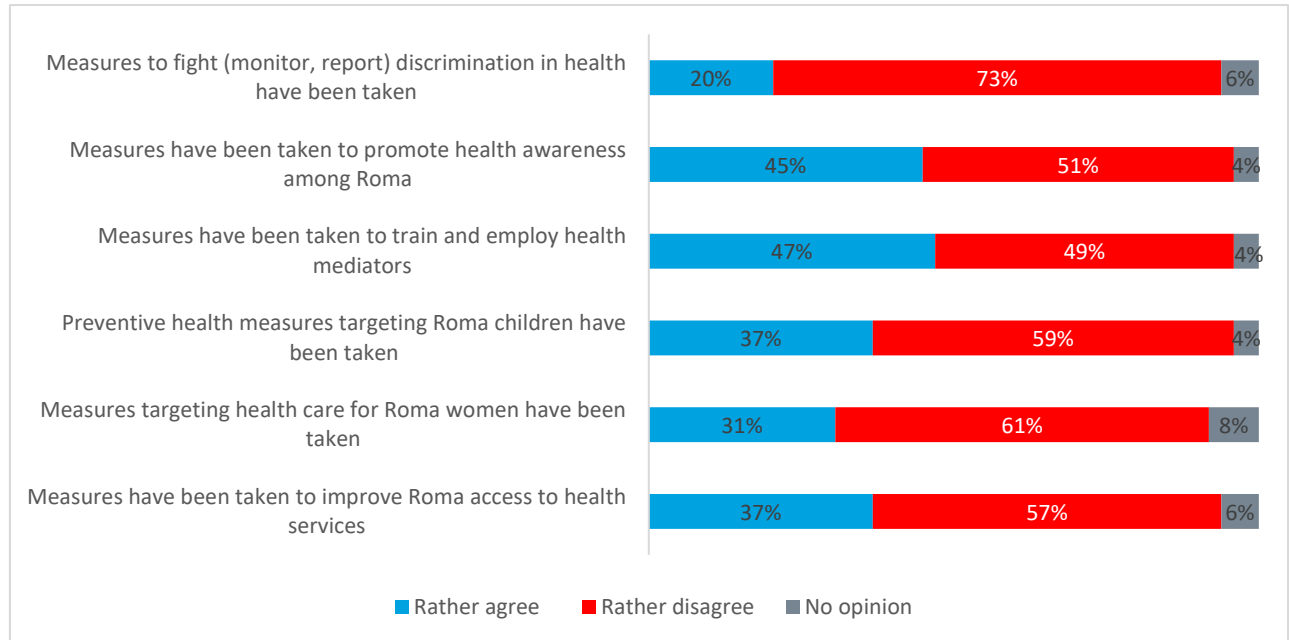
The majority of respondents agreed that the current situation has improved compared to the situation in 2011 with regard to: participation of Roma in vocational training (55%); discrimination against Roma in the labour market (49%). Only a minority of respondents think that there has been improvement in relation to: the share of Roma using microcredit (12%); employment of Roma in the civil service (12%).

The majority of respondents tended to disagree on whether there has been any improvement with regard to: the employment gap between Roma and non-Roma (84%); the employment situation of Roma women (78%) and the employment of Roma in the civil service (73%).

5.2.2.3 Healthcare

Respondents were asked to indicate if they agreed or disagreed on whether a range of measures had been adopted in the area of health in the years 2011-2016.

Figure 5.72 Q14.1: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HEALTHCARE (in the 2011-2016 period) in your country?

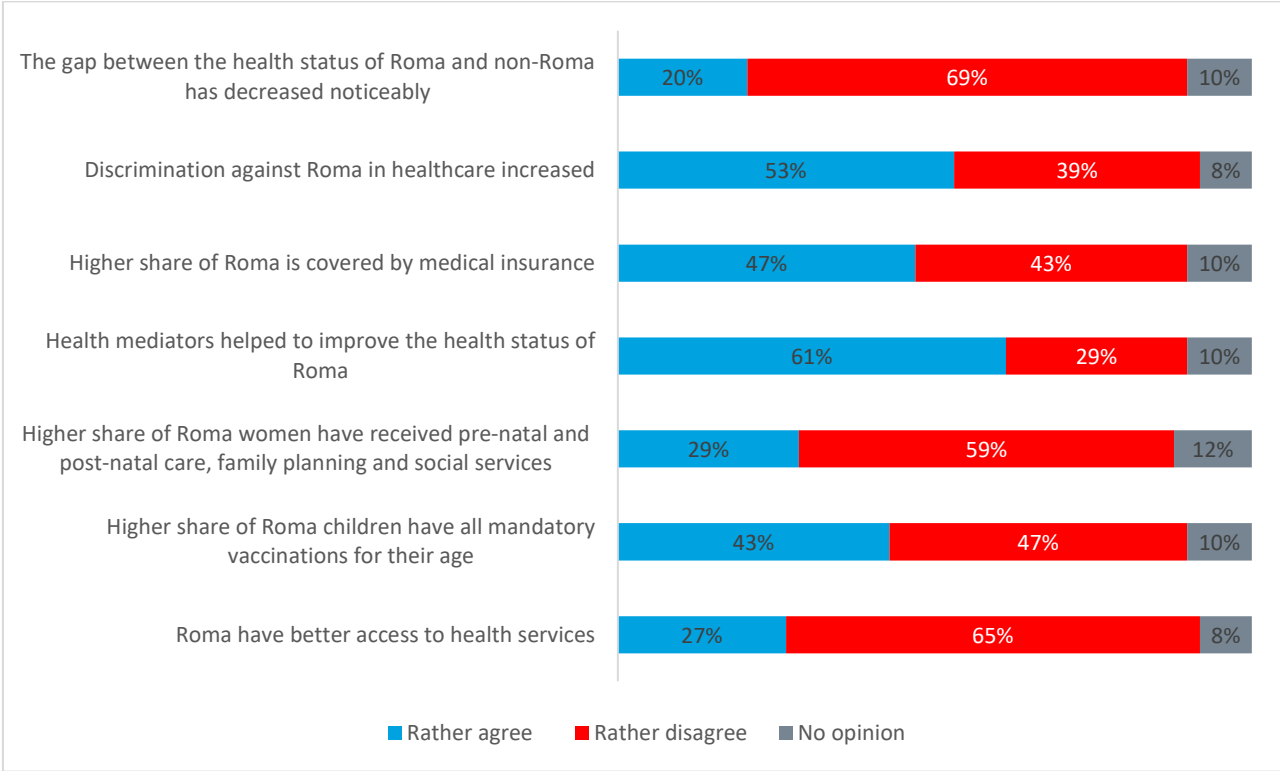


N=49

The majority of respondents agreed that the following measures had been adopted: measures to train and employ health mediators (47%); measures to promote health awareness among Roma (45%); health measures targeting children (37%). On the other hand the majority of respondents disagreed that measures to fight discrimination in health had been taken (73%).

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a list of statements comparing the current situation of Roma in the area of healthcare to the situation of 2011 in their own country.

Figure 5.73 Q14.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma in HEALTHCARE to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in your country?



N=49

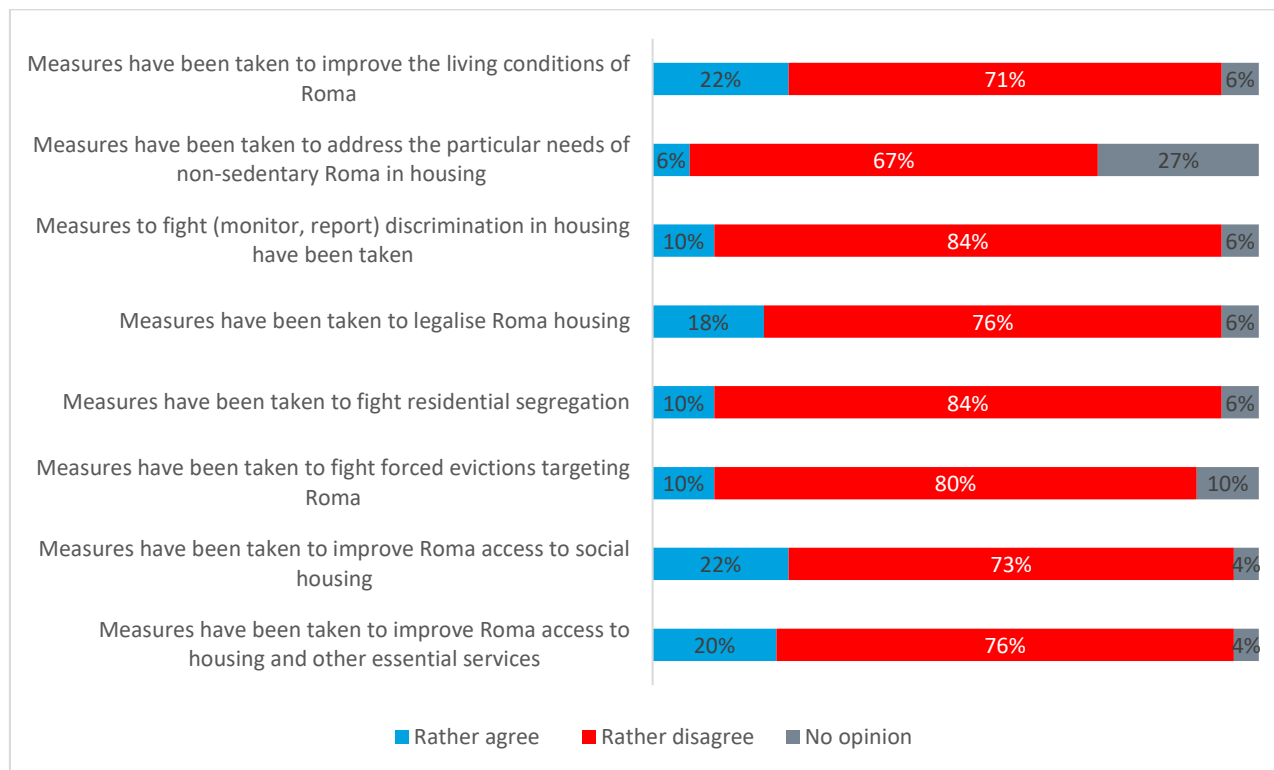
The majority of respondents agreed that health mediators helped to improve the health status of Roma (61%) and there had been an increase in discrimination of Roma in healthcare (53%).

Conversely, the majority of respondents disagreed that Roma have better access to health services (65%) and that higher share of Roma women have received pre-natal and post-natal care, family planning and social services (59%).

5.2.2.4 Housing

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or disagreed with a list of statements concerning measures taken in the area of housing in the years 2011-2016.

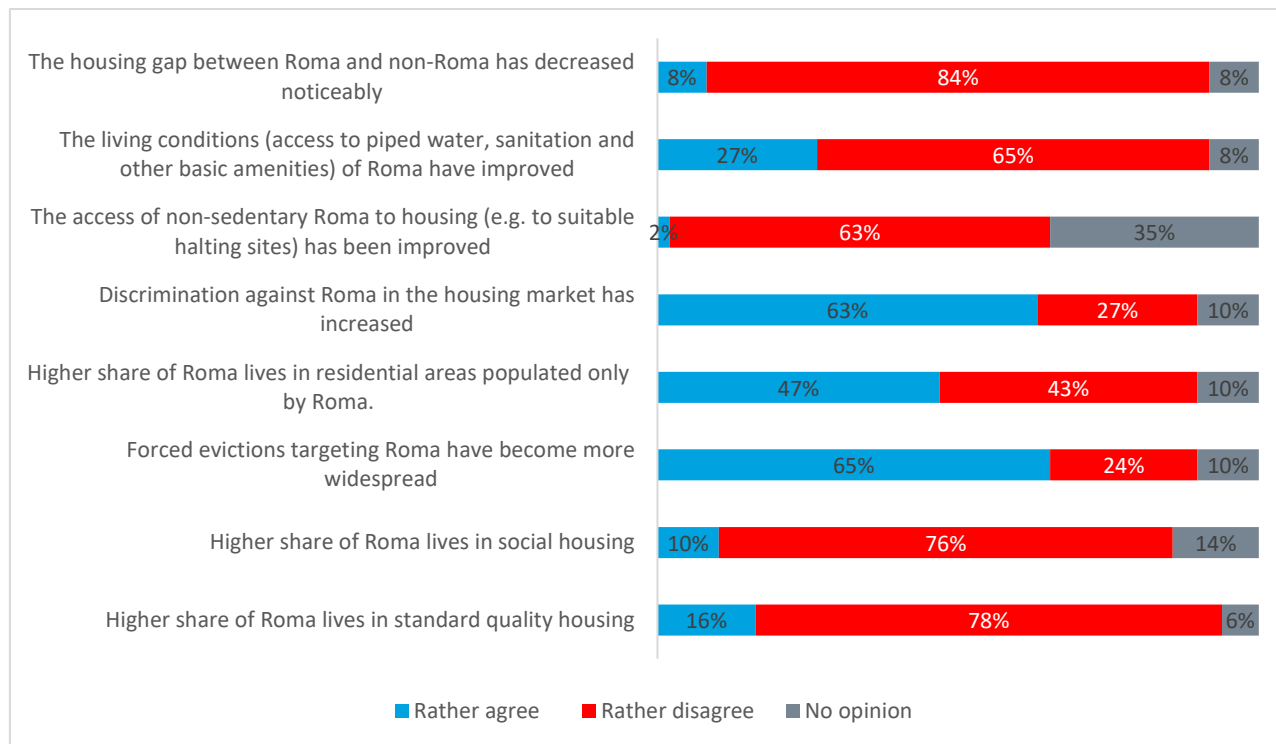
Figure 5.74 Q15.1: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of HOUSING (in the 2011-2016 period) in your country



N=49

A small group of respondents agreed that measures had been taken to improve Roma access to social housing (22%); Roma access to housing (20%) and measures to legalise Roma housing (18%). The vast majority disagreed that measures had been adopted to fight residential segregation (84%).

Figure 5.75 Q15.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma children in HOUSING to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in your country?

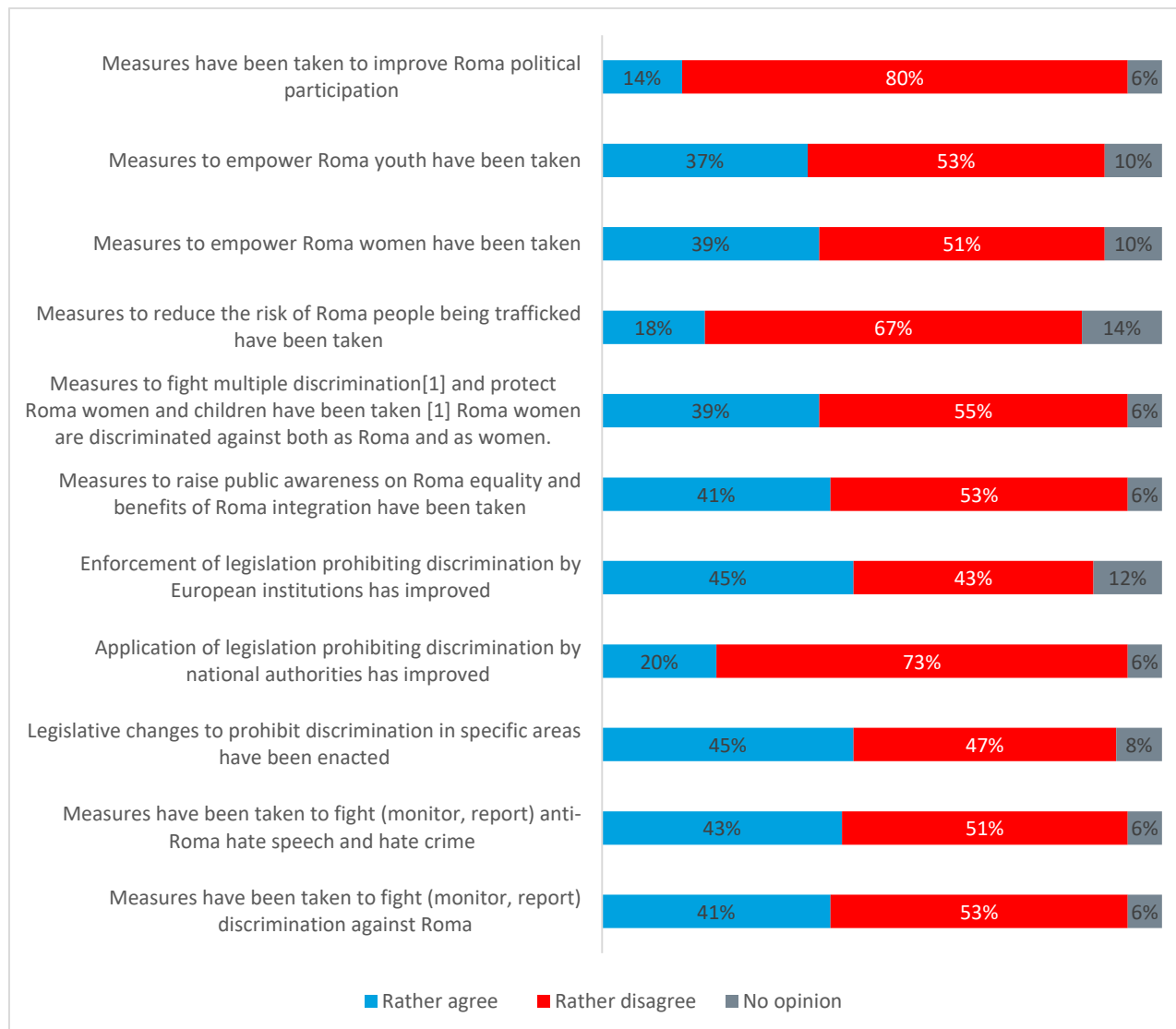


N=49

The majority of respondents agreed that compared to 2011, forced evictions targeting Roma have become widespread (65%). On the other hand, the majority disagreed that the housing gap between Roma and non-Roma has decreased (84%).

5.2.3 Anti-discrimination

Figure 5.76 Q16.1: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to measures taken in the field of ANTI-DISCRIMINATION (in the 2011-2016 period) in your country?

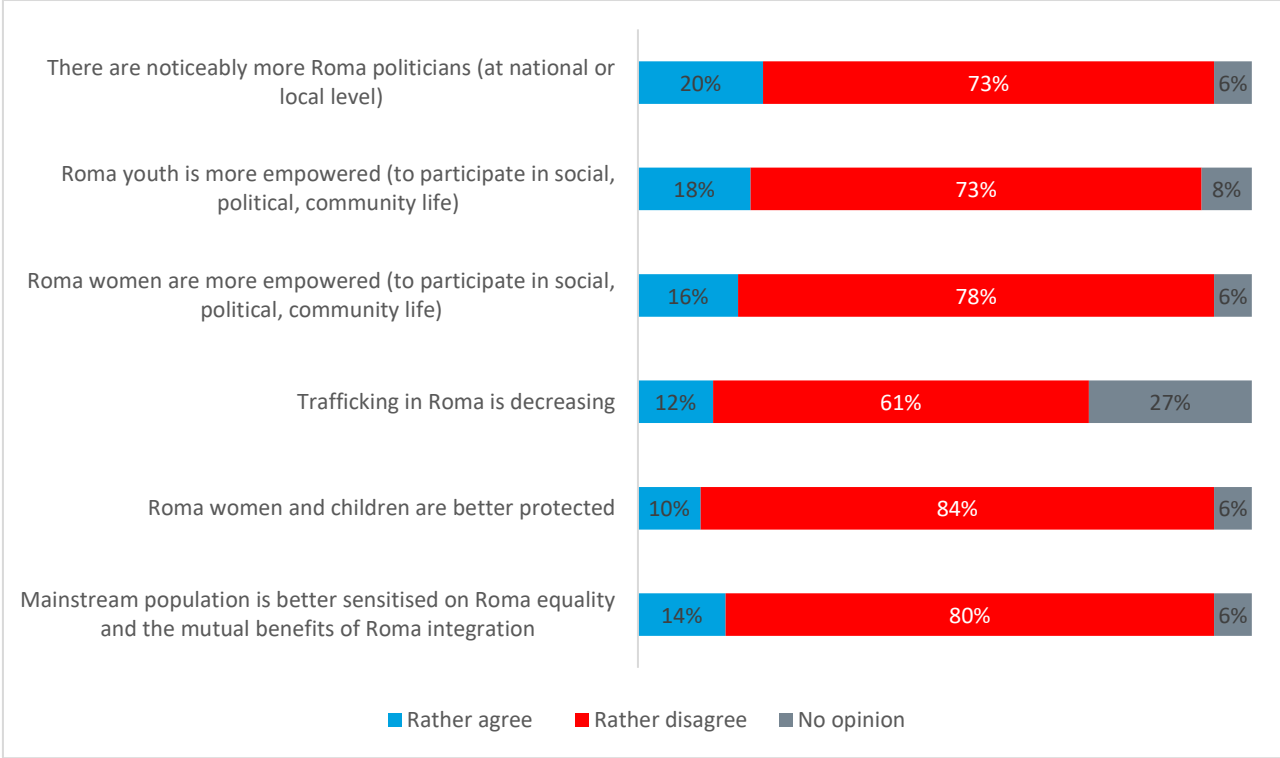


N=49

The majority of respondents agreed that the following measures in the field of anti-discrimination had been taken: legislative changes to prohibit discrimination (45%); enforcement of legislation prohibiting discrimination (45%).

The vast majority of respondents tended to disagree that measures to improve Roma political engagement had been adopted (80%).

Figure 5.77 Q16.2: Do you rather agree, or rather disagree with the following statements referring to the comparison of the current situation of Roma regarding ANTIDISCRIMINATION to the situation that prevailed in 2011 in your country?



N=49

The minority of respondents agreed that the current situation had improved compared to the situation of 2011 with regard to: more Roma politicians (20%); Roma youth more empowered (18%); Roma women more empowered (16%).

The vast majority of respondents tended to disagree with the statement that Roma women and children are better protected now that they were on 2011 (84%).

6 Conclusions

6.1 Overview of responses to the OPC

The OPC generated 242 responses in total: just over two thirds came from organisations while the remaining ones came from private citizens. Of the responding organisations, two-thirds were NGOs or academic think-tanks, and a quarter were public institutions.

More than one in five respondents indicated having best knowledge of Roma inclusion in Romania. More than two-thirds of the respondents either worked directly on Roma inclusion or a field of relevance to Roma inclusion (education, employment, health, housing, anti-discrimination).

More than three-quarters of the respondents declared having knowledge of the living conditions and inclusion of Roma communities at a local level. More than 60% had knowledge of European instruments and policies for Roma inclusion.

6.2 The causes of Roma exclusion, their evolution, and the policies to address them

Overall, a clear majority of the respondents consistently indicated that **Roma communities continue to be excluded socially and in relation to education, employment, health, housing and other essential services.**

When comparing the Roma situation today to that in 2011, a majority of the respondents indicated that there has been no major change regarding employment, health and access to healthcare, as well as access housing and other essential services. On the other hand, almost half of the respondents believed that the situation has improved since 2011 with regard to education. According to respondents, the discrimination against Roma has worsened rather than improved since 2011.

The survey results confirm that the causes of Roma exclusion are multiple. An overwhelming majority of the respondents agreed that the lack of attention to Roma inclusion in policy, the lack of Roma involvement in policymaking and prejudice are all factors which cause the social exclusion of Roma.

On average, about 90% of all respondents highlighted that targeted public interventions are needed to improve the situation of Roma regarding education, employment, health, housing and anti-discrimination. According to almost 60% of the respondents, the EU has a major role to play in this regard and national-level interventions alone do not suffice.

The majority of respondents have consistently indicated that both EU institutions and national authorities should work together to deliver measures to improve Roma inclusion around a series of different themes (institutional capacity, Roma political participation etc.). There were no significant differences in the responses given when broken down by respondent type (public institutions, NGOs and academia, citizens) or country cluster (EU15, EU13, Enlargement).

A significant majority of the respondents stated that the implementation of measures which comprehensively tackle the causes of Roma exclusion would improve the situation of Roma in European society in ten years' time.

Overall, the three most frequently cited priority areas for action at the EU and national level were access to **education**, followed by **access to employment**, and **fighting discrimination**.

6.3 Policy developments and results at the EU and national level across key areas of Roma inclusion

Across the five key strategic areas for Roma integration, respondents more frequently indicated that **no significant change had taken place at EU level in terms of policy development in the 2011-2016 period**. The majority of the respondents held the view that this was the case with regard to employment, healthcare, access to housing and essential services, and the fight against discrimination.

Respondents were overall more positive about progress made in terms of policy developments on Roma inclusion at the EU level than about the implementation of policies and their direct impact on Roma inclusion. A majority of the respondents pointed out that no significant change had taken place between 2011 and 2016, except for education where respondents' views were more positive. Similar patterns could be observed in terms of progress made at the national level. Response patterns were overall similar among EU15, EU13 and Enlargement country respondents.

A significant majority of the respondents agreed that the EU Framework on Roma Integration resulted in a series of achievements between 2011 and 2016, by recognising that Roma inclusion has become high on the EU policy agenda and Roma inclusion projects have received more funding in recent years. Just over half of the respondents indicated that the NRIS in their respective country had influenced positively the level of funding allocated to Roma inclusion under ESIF 2014-2020. Response patterns were overall similar among EU15, EU13 and Enlargement country respondents.

On education, respondents overall were more likely to indicate that efforts have been made to prevent segregation at school but were otherwise less positive in judging efforts to implement measures facilitating Roma access to education and success in education. Respondents from the Enlargement countries were however more positive about the policy efforts made at national level to improve Roma access to education and educational outcomes compared to the respondents from EU13, and particularly EU15 respondents. In terms of results, the respondents more frequently mentioned that the current situation is no better now than it was in 2011 in their respective country. Again, Enlargement country respondents were more likely to say that the situation has improved since 2011 compared to EU15 and EU13 respondents.

On employment, overall survey results suggest that little progress has been made since 2011 across the various countries covered in relation to the adoption of measures to better integrate Roma into the labour market. Across EU15, EU13 and the Enlargement countries, a majority of the respondents shared this view. In terms of results, it is also the status quo since 2011 for a majority of the respondents. At the same time, respondents were more likely to indicate the discrimination against Roma on the labour market has worsened rather than improved since 2011.

On healthcare, more than 70% of the respondents overall highlighted that no progress was made over the 2011-2016 period in their respective countries in terms of implementing measures to improve the Roma situation. Respondents from EU15, EU13 and the Enlargement countries were more likely to disagree that the health status of Roma has improved since 2011. Conversely, the majority of respondents from the Enlargement countries indicated that policy progress was made in this respect.

On housing and access to essential services, according to almost three-quarters of the respondents, no progress was made in the 2011-2016 period in terms of adopting measures to improve Roma communities' situation. In terms of results, between 70 and 80% of the respondents overall indicated that the living conditions of Roma overall have not improved since 2011. A clear majority of respondents from EU15, EU13 and Enlargement countries consistently shared these views.

On anti-discrimination, respondents overall were marginally more likely to agree that the enforcement of relevant EU legislation improved between 2011 and 2016. By contrast, just over 70% of the respondents believed that there was no improved enforcement of national anti-discrimination legislation in their respective countries over the same period; this observation was consistent among respondents from EU15, EU13 and Enlargement countries. For around two-thirds of the respondents overall, discrimination against and hate towards Roma is more serious today in their respective country than it was in 2011.

6.4 Overview of responses in five countries

Overall, the answers from the respondents from the country cluster (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania) are in line with the results of the OPC. In this regard, the majority believe that the situation of Roma today is worse than that of non-Roma in relation to the different social aspects. Moreover, over 90% of respondents across the five countries think that targeted public interventions are needed in order to improve the situation of Roma in different fields.

Discrimination, limited political commitment, limited capacities of institutions, insufficient funding and lack of Roma participation are considered relevant factors contributing to Roma exclusion.

With regard to the various policy areas covered by the OPC (health, housing, employment and education), while three out of the five countries mentioned education as an area where additional efforts should be made at **EU level**, all five Member States indicated education as a key priority at **national level**.

A1.1 Annexes

A1.1.1 Position papers submitted by stakeholders

In total 28 position papers were received as part of the OPC. The majority of them were from NGOs, although UN Agencies (UNICEF, UN OHCHR), universities, World Health Organisation, as well as the Berlin's House of Representatives also had submissions. Some of the submissions were tailored responses to the OPC, while others were research or advocacy papers going back as far as 2010.

Achievements on Roma integration over the years

Respondents from UNICEF sharing their views and documentation UNICEF have highlighted the key role played by EU policy and its framework on Roma inclusion in terms of securing political will and paving the way for the establishment of monitoring systems³⁹. The EU brings additional political leverage to the issue of Roma inclusion, additional funding, and a strengthened human-rights based approach to Roma inclusion.

At the national level, the documentation shared by Equinet respondents highlights that equality bodies have developed fruitful relationships with Roma communities and their organisations, giving them access to first-hand information essential to develop, implement and monitor National Roma Integration Strategies successfully⁴⁰. Equinet also points out that thanks to equality bodies, general anti-discrimination legislation is an important legal instrument for combating direct and indirect discrimination experienced by the Roma⁴¹.

The Regional Office for Europe of the United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR) recalls the progress made on Roma inclusion under the European Union's Framework for national Roma integration strategies. The UN OHCHR highlights that there is sufficient awareness of the scope and nature of the types of human rights abuses to which Roma have been exposed to in order to design policies aiming to end such abuses. The UN OHCHR also points out that these insights must be built into European policies going forward, with a view to ending these practices once and for all, including through strict application of other relevant Commission guidelines in this area⁴².

The House of Representatives of Berlin (Germany) notes that progress is also being made at regional and local level, when looking at the new Roma integration strategy in Germany which takes into account the need for a targeted approach across various policy areas, such as education and health, to successfully achieve the inclusion of Roma from South-eastern Europe⁴³.

Challenges that remain to be addressed

A key challenge that has been repeatedly highlighted by several organisations, including UNICEF, the lack of disaggregated and comparable data on Roma integration at the EU level to inform policymaking⁴⁴. A UNICEF paper highlights that the lack of information on Roma communities

³⁹ OPC respondent on behalf of UNICEF

⁴⁰ Equinet: Factsheet for the rights of Roma people

⁴¹ Equinet: Making equality legislation work for Roma and Travellers:

⁴² OHCHR: Views in the Context of Mid-Term Review of Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies 2012 2020

⁴³ Berliner Aktionsplan zur Einbeziehung ausländischer Roma

⁴⁴ OPC respondent on behalf of UNICEF; UNICEF: Child rights in Central and Eastern Europe and central Asia (issue 2, 2014)

(especially children young people and women) in certain countries hinders the development of effective social inclusion policies⁴⁵. A EUROCITIES report points out the need to map the situation of Roma inclusion at local level and examines the challenges that Roma face in cities with regards to their access to employment, housing, healthcare, education and basic services and the response of local authorities based on the information available – the report clearly emphasises the importance of monitoring for an effective policy response⁴⁶. For instance, the IN-Gent NGO in Flanders (Belgium) mentions the issues caused by the lack of a uniform registration system at the regional level on education which means that only imprecise data on Roma and itinerants is available which complicates effective decision making on educational provision at the regional level⁴⁷.

Breaking the cycle of disadvantage is also one of the main challenges highlighted by international and pan-European organisations. A key aspect of Eurochild’s position is to ensure that Roma inclusion strategies embed a strong child-centred approach whereby public services should ensure and facilitate Roma children’s development while preserving their cultural identity rights⁴⁸. UNICEF mentions the need for focus on children’s social protection to address systemic child rights violations (e.g. institutionalisation, child marriage, violence)⁴⁹.

A paper submitted by PEER (Policy Paper on supporting Roma children’s participation) highlights that despite the proliferation of policies and strategies in recent years on Roma inclusion both at transnational and national level, the potential role of Roma youth and children in initiating change is still insufficiently explored⁵⁰.

While the establishment of equality bodies at the national level have had a positive impact on the integration of Roma overall, there is still insufficient engagement of Roma communities in the policy process. In its various papers, Equinet highlights that national equality bodies should, together with Roma, seek to contribute to the National Roma Integration Strategies in the planning as well as in the implementation and the monitoring phases⁵¹.

Talking about the example of Poland, a contribution submitted by a Roma activist explains that (the lack of) public funding remains a key challenge and barrier to Roma inclusion; there is the need for direct forms of financing of Roma NGOs or Roma organizations going beyond EU structural funds and national funds, which guarantees greater independence of action and better policy implementation⁵².

A report by the United Nation’s Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Gaps found that that gaps in achievement in terms of Roma inclusion relate to the specific ways human rights framework and policies on inclusion have been deployed across Europe. It goes on to state that “Going forward, European Roma policy should be set on a human rights basis, including on the core pillars of participation, accountability, transparency and non-discrimination”⁵³.

Overview per policy area: education, health, employment and housing

⁴⁵ UNICEF: Child rights in Central and Eastern Europe and central Asia (issue 2, 2014)

⁴⁶ EUROCITIES: Mapping of the situation of Roma in cities in Europe, August 2017

⁴⁷ IN-Gent: The Right to Regular Schooling for Itinerants’ Children in Ghent, Flanders

⁴⁸ EUROCHILD position paper

⁴⁹ OPC respondent on behalf of UNICEF; UNICEF: Child rights in Central and Eastern Europe and central Asia (issue 2, 2014)

⁵⁰ PEER: Policy Paper on supporting Roma children’s participation – Bálint Ábel Bereményi (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), Cath Larkins (University of Central Lancashire) & Maria Roth (Babeş-Bolyai University).

⁵¹ Equinet: Factsheet for the rights of Roma people

⁵² Stanowisko MS – translated from Polish

⁵³ United Nations Human Rights (Office of the High Commissioner) Views in the Context of Mid-Term Review of Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies 2012 2020

Various organisations taking part in the survey and contributing position papers (e.g. the European Roma Rights Centre⁵⁴, Equinet⁵⁵, the Inter Ethnic Initiative for Human Rights Foundation⁵⁶, the United Nations Human Rights Office⁵⁷) have highlighted that Roma communities continue to face multiple disadvantage in education, employment, health and access to housing⁵⁸.

Equinet papers repeatedly pointed out that Roma continue to be the most vulnerable to discrimination in employment, access to goods and services, health care and social protection, education and housing⁵⁹.

Education

The Inter-Ethnic Initiative for Human Rights (IEI) Foundation on Roma inclusion highlight the issues around the failure of Bulgarian educational authorities and municipalities to end the segregation of Roma children pre-school and primary schools, especially in smaller towns⁶⁰. A UN briefing on Roma inclusion in Serbia⁶¹ points out that despite a drop in the percentage of Roma children placed in schools or classes for disabled children, the segregation of Roma children in substandard urban primary schools has dramatically worsened recently. The Serbian Ministry is currently working on new guidance to combat segregation.

The French NGO CNDH Romeurope⁶², representing 45 organisations, points out issues relating to Roma children's access to education in France whereby mayors illegally keep on refusing access to their school for children living in precarious conditions.

Eurochild's position paper highlights that an effective deinstitutionalisation strategy in the area of education must go together with an effective Roma inclusion strategy. It is critical that the broader Roma inclusion strategy embeds a strong child-centred approach which respects the child's right to full development as well as their right to retain their specific social and cultural identity.

Belgian NGO, IN-Gent draws attention to the plight of the itinerants' community, which are very specific and at the same time a culturally very diverse group within the general Roma- target group⁶³. They call for an EU-wide approach, and EU virtual schooling registration and follow up system for teachers in order to address the needs of itinerant children.

Employment

Serbia has not yet adopted modalities for engaging large- and medium-size employers to ensure diversity in the workforce. Although the State remains a massive employer, Romani employment in state institutions remains the exception⁶⁴.

⁵⁴ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for consideration at its 92nd Session (24 April - 12 May 2017)

⁵⁵ Equinet: Fighting Discrimination on the Ground of Race and Ethnic Origin

⁵⁶ Overview of the answers to a questionnaire from March 2017 by the Inter Ethnic Initiative for Human Rights (IEI) Foundation

⁵⁷ OHCHR: Views in the Context of Mid-Term Review of Implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies 2012 2020

⁵⁸ Equinet: Fighting Discrimination on the Ground of Race and Ethnic Origin

⁵⁹ Equinet: Equality Bodies Combating Discrimination on the Ground of Racial or Ethnic Origin

⁶⁰ Inter-Ethnic Initiative for Human Rights (IEI) Foundation: Achievements, weaknesses and gaps of the EU Roma framework Answers to a Questionnaire, March 2017

⁶¹ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Briefing document on Roma inclusion in Serbia, July 2017

⁶² Collectif National des Droits de l'Homme RomEurope 25 October 2017

⁶³ IN-Gent: The Right to Regular Schooling for Itinerants' Children in Ghent, Flanders

⁶⁴ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Briefing document on Roma inclusion in Serbia, July 2017

The French NGO CNDH Romeurope reports in its position paper that while Romanian and Bulgarian nations have free access to employment in France since 2014, Roma communities living in precarious conditions and 'illegal camps' often do not have access to these programmes and continue to perform undeclared work or illegal activities as a result.

There has been no visible reduction in the employment gap between Roma and non-Roma according to EUROCITIES. Its position paper highlights that the large majority of Roma people living in cities are unemployed and that the employment rate among Roma is even lower than that of migrant or other vulnerable groups. Cities also reported a big gender gap in employment rates of Roma women⁶⁵.

Housing

The European Roma Rights Centre mentions that both forced evictions and the de facto segregation of Roma communities in housing and access to healthcare are still rife in areas and countries where Roma communities are relatively sizeable; the example of Bulgaria was given where local authorities have multiplied forced evictions and where housing exclusion has worsened⁶⁶. Due to the issue of discrimination of Roma in relation to housing, especially illegal evictions, Equinet's Operational Platform for Roma Equality calls on governments and competent regional and local authorities to ensure evictions only take place with due regard to human rights⁶⁷.

Recent relocations of Roma in Belgrade have resulted in heightened segregation. Emphasis should be placed on avoiding relocation, and instead legalizing informal settlements and improving housing and infrastructure in situ. Social housing development has not yet made use of positive models to integrate Roma⁶⁸.

A contribution by a Portuguese-based activist⁶⁹ reporting on the Beja locality in Portugal states that cooperation within public administration across the local, regional, and national levels as well as with activists and mediators remains too weak to achieve effective regenerative and integrative housing and urban strategies.

A report by a Roma activist from Moldova reports a rise of discrimination and xenophobia against Roma in Moldova, including in terms of societal perceptions and media reporting on Roma topics. Moldova's 2011-2015 Action Plan failed to address human rights and discrimination issues but did address disadvantage in education, health care, and public administration⁷⁰. Moldova's 2016-2020 Roma Action Plan covers the same themes but activists were concerned about the lack of funding to effectively implement it and the lack of coverage on anti-discrimination.

Health

The European Public Health Alliance's recommendation reports on *Roma Health and Early Childhood Development*⁷¹ for five countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and

⁶⁵ EUROCITIES: Mapping of the situation of Roma in cities in Europe, August 2017

⁶⁶ Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, for consideration at its 92nd Session (24 April - 12 May 2017)

⁶⁷ Equinet: Fighting Discrimination on the Ground of Race and Ethnic Origin

⁶⁸ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): Briefing document on Roma inclusion in Serbia, July 2017

⁶⁹ Internship Program in the Central Public Administration (PEPAC) Housing Characterization of the Gypsy Communities of Serpa, Vidigueira and Moura (2013-14)

⁷⁰ Roma activist Natalia Duminica: ROMA IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

⁷¹ From Rhetoric to Action: Bringing the Voice of Bulgarian Roma Communities to Europe, EPHA Recommendations: Bulgaria, October 2017; From Rhetoric to Action: Bringing the Voice of Romanian Roma Communities to Europe, EPHA Recommendations: Romania, October 2017 From Rhetoric to Action: Bringing the Voice of Hungarian Roma Communities to Europe, EPHA Recommendations: Hungary, October 2017 From Rhetoric to Action: Bringing the Voice of Slovak Roma Communities to Europe, EPHA Recommendations: Slovakia, October 2017; From Rhetoric to Action:

Macedonia) identify a pattern of issues related to Roma integration having to do with health. The recommendations draw on surveys in each the five countries of local Roma or pro-Roma NGOs and experts, as well Roma population⁷². Among the common challenges we can see lack of insurance of Roma, as well as lack of general knowledge as to their rights in the health sector – who to turn to, what documentation is needed, which medical practices are beneficial. Another common issue mentioned is lack of political will to implement the NRIS at a regional or local level, as well as lack of financing linked to the NRIS. Romani people and NGOs' involvement in NRIS implementation is not easily accepted (if at all). Not many Roma are trained to become medical professionals, and there is an institutionalized discrimination towards the few that try to. The lack of proper health infrastructure and poor living conditions are highlighted as further reasons to back the claim that the implementation of the Strategies.

Further the EPHA reports emphasize that post- and antenatal care and the early childhood development provisions are listed as important goals for all NRIS, yet are hindered by similar reasons as the overall health status: children do not get vaccinated; not enough money or staffing (in this case health mediators), to provide support; lack of information among Roma parents (especially women) regarding bringing up children and proper nutrition; poverty and difficult access to the proper infrastructure; difficulty in access to affordable municipal childcare services.

The **PÉCS Declaration on Healthy Ageing of Roma Communities**⁷³ highlight the fact that Roma life expectancy is significantly shorter than that of non-Roma population, and argues that this is due to the fact that Roma's lower quality of life, their difficult access to health care, inequity and social exclusion. The supporters of the declaration give several recommendations for essential actions which could better the quality of life and the life expectancy of Roma in vulnerable groups: combatting discrimination, removing socio-economic barriers to access to health care, promote health literacy and social inclusion, as well as support for Roma NGOs working in this sector. They believe that Roma health is an intersectoral problem and solutions for it should be looked for beyond the health system.

UNICEF⁷⁴ paper summarizes data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys⁷⁵ undertaken in Roma communities and provides valuable insights as to the health issues of two highly disadvantaged and vulnerable Roma groups.

Registration at birth is what secures basic right for Roma children, yet in the three countries surveyed 2-4% of all Roma children are not registered, there is a widespread practice of delaying registration, and around 20% (Bosnia) and 35% (Macedonia) of households cannot provide a birth certificate despite claiming to have registered the child. This is a common occurrence in poorer households where the mother has a low to none level of education.

Not many Roma children participate in early childhood education, they have limited access to books and limited interaction with their parents (particularly fathers). While they are in good physical shape, this way of bringing up Roma children hinders their literacy and numeracy learning

Bringing the Voice of FYRO Macedonian Roma Communities to Europe, EPHA Recommendations: FYRO Macedonia, October 2017;

⁷² Bulgaria – 17 respondents; Romania – 67 NGOs respondents and 648 Roma community survey respondents; Slovakia: 10 respondents; Hungary – 10 respondents; Macedonia – 15 respondents and 140 Roma community survey respondents.

⁷³ The declaration is support by 12 universities, NGOs, health research centres, and the Regional Office for Europe of the World Health Organisation.

⁷⁴ UNICER (2014) 'Realizing the rights of Roma children and women in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia' (Issue 2, 2014)

⁷⁵ UNICEF has also provided a more detailed account of the results of the MICS in Serbia, highlighting the of persisting issues with the health of the Roma, despite the positive changes seen between 2010 and 2014 in terms of reduced infant mortality rates, or stunted height for age of Roma children; The survey highlights the significant disproportion of vaccination rates between general population (70.5%) and Roma children (12.7%).

opportunities. They usually score lower on the Early Childhood Development Index (ECDI) than non-Roma.

When it comes to health, the report highlights the disadvantaged position of Roma women when it comes to reproductive health, contraception and pregnancy issues – around 15% of Roma women in these countries are likely to be married before the age of 15, which also introduces the issue of early childbearing which in itself poses a higher threat of pregnancy-related death to young girls. Roma women find it harder to access post- and antenatal care and HIV counselling and testing, in fact HIV awareness is generally low in the Roma communities, especially in the poorer households. Related to this is the use of contraception, which again is scarce in poorer families. The only aspect with regard to reproductive health where Roma women do not fall short to Non-Roma is that nearly all births take place in hospitals under professional care.

Roma children are more likely to be born with low birth weight, as well as to remain underweighted and become stunted which is in direct correlation with the lack of financial resources in poor families to provide the nutrition needed. Mortality rate of Roma children is double the rate of Non-Roma ones. Roma women, however, are more likely to breastfeed their children, and do it over a longer period. Roma children are less likely to be receiving the minimum number of recommended meals per day, and there also happens to be a gender inequality in this statistic – Roma girls are even more disadvantaged in this regard.

Immunization is an important issue, as most Roma children do not get the necessary vaccinations and that contributes to their worsened health state. The rate is alarming, at only 4% of Roma children having received the full immunization cycle in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Further factors that create disadvantages for Roma women and children are their access to education and the rate of completing different levels of education, the low literacy rates, the segregation of Roma children in “special” schools where they are discriminated against and put into vulnerable positions by the negative stereotypes and low expectations, and the unfavourable living conditions of poorer Roma households.

UNICEF proposes several insights as to tackling the aforementioned issues:

- Addressing malnutrition of Roma children and investing in nutritional supplements will improve their overall health status. This way they will have less need for healthcare costs, the rate of chronic disease hindering their work productivity will lessen and that would allow them to earn regular incomes
- Childhood development and quality inclusive early childhood education and learning provides both better social integration and health to children, and time and opportunity for parents to pursue work or education in their free time.
- Pay specific attention to Roma girls in primary and secondary education, as their knowledge and literacy rates correlating with their preparedness for motherhood is the most critical determinant of child deprivations documented in this study
- Provide access to quality inclusive health care services and information regarding reproductive health, pregnancy and contraception
- Improve living standards and address income poverty of Roma households, in particular of Roma women, as the study shows significant gender disparities.

A1.1.2 OPC Results

Provided separately in an Excel spreadsheet.