
Maja
ŠTAMBUK

METHODOLOGICAL REMARKS

Empirical investigation of the Roma, especially that which is based on a representative sample is problematic. This is not only because of their dispersion and the non-existence of precise data on the Romani population but also due to some of their lifestyle features according to which they differ from their social and culture surroundings. Two of the most important are:

1. Many adult Roma are involved in activities that keep them away from home for longer periods (e.g., collection of scrap materials, medicinal herbs, etc.) or seasonal work (sale at fairs, in tourist places and similar) so they are less accessible;
2. The Romani way of life characteristically exists in isolation from the non-Romani population, which results in distrust towards encroachment into their family and social life. Thus, it is only possible to go into their settlements and get permission to talk with them through a contact person who explains the purpose of research.

The survey was conducted in two phases:

1. A pilot study was conducted in July 2004 in Zagreb and the County of Međimurje.
2. The field study was conducted in October, November and December 2004 in the other planned areas.

The field study included a survey among the Romani population in counties in which there are a larger number of Roma and where the Roma are concentrated in particular settlements of a rural or urban type (Census 2001). The sample, according to the demands of the Ministry that requested this research was adapted based on the aims of the study. In short, this included an insight into the social and technical infrastructure of Romani settlements, level of equipment and facilities in Romani households based on elementary standards as well as the aspirations of the Romani population with regard to quality of housing and settlement.

It was planned that the sample would include between 900 and 1,000 respondents preferably with heads of the

household over 18 years of age. Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (Census 2001) as well as data collected by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction through their county offices was used for the purposes of this study. As there are a small number of Roma in some counties or there are no separate settlements where the Roma live in larger numbers, the sample only includes counties where representation of the Roma is larger and where settlements/localities have a concentration of the Romani population that is large enough for research to be conducted. In these counties, the participation of 100 respondents was planned (200 in the County of Međimurje) so that the processing of the data, analysis and interpretation would be *lege artis*.

Figure 1
 Settlements included in this study



97% of the planned sample was realised: a total of 969 surveys were conducted with respondents. Data on the number of Roma is unreliable; this number varies from

9,600 (Census 2001) to 30,000 (National Programme for the Roma). Despite this, the sample can be considered as adequately representative of the Romani population in Croatia. In addition, the obtained sample data in all “prominent” counties facilitates correct interpretations.

Counties	Towns/municipalities	Locations of settled Roma
County of Zagreb	Velika Gorica/Lukavec	Lukavec
County of Sisak-Moslavina	Sisak Kutina	Palanjak Capraške Poljane Kutina/Radićeva st.
County of Karlovac	Ogulin Josipdol	Puškarići Oštarije
County of Varaždin	Petrijanec/Cestica Sveti Đurd Ludbreg	Strmec Podravski Karlovac Ludbreški Ludbreg (former abattoir)
County of Koprivnica-Križevci	Đurđevac	Stiska
County of Primorje-Gorski kotar	Rijeka	Rijeka-Škurinje Rijeka-Rujevica
County of Slavonski Brod-Posavina	Slavonski Brod	Slavonski Brod Settlement “J. Rimac”
County of Osijek-Baranja	Belišće Osijek Bolman Darda Tordinci	Bistrinci Tenja Bolman Darda Tordinci
County of Međimurje	Kotoriba Goričan Donja Dubrava Čakovec Podturen Mala Subotica	Kotoriba Goričan Donja Dubrava Kuršanec Lončarevo Piškorovec
County of Istria	Pula Vodnjan	a few locations in the town Vodnjan
City of Zagreb		Kozari Bok Borongaj Ferenščica Plinarsko naselje Struge Sopot Savica Petruševec Požarinje Dubec

Counties and settlements
included in the study

Besides the survey, an inventory of the settlement was also taken in the localities included in the sample. Namely, during this study, additional data on the state of the settlement was collected through an interview with a competent person as well as observation of localities where this research was conducted.