



*Presidency of the Council of Ministers*  
*Department for Equal Opportunities*

Office for the promotion of equal treatment  
 and elimination of discrimination based on  
 race or ethnic origin



## 2012 HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

### WORKING SESSIONS 6/7

#### ROMA/SINTI AND, IN PARTICULAR, EMPOWERMENT OF ROMA WOMEN

Italy, Department of Equal Opportunities, UNAR

### GENDER AND ETHNICITY: THE CASE OF ROMA WOMEN IN ITALY

(Mr. President, ) Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to participate to this important meeting on behalf of the Italian National Office against racial discrimination (UNAR) and the Department for Equal Opportunities (DPO) of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, to talk about Roma women in Italy.

These women experience more vulnerability to social exclusion and poverty than women of the native population or Roma men. They are more likely to suffer from multiple discrimination due to social and cultural differences and to gender discrimination.

This prevents them to achieve integration in society and creates multiple barriers to the inclusion of their children.

We are aware of the importance to adopt a **gender mainstreaming approach** in building policies targeting social inclusion.

An evident result of tailoring these gender-oriented social policies would be the rise of their capacity building.

It is also crucial to consider, while enhancing the level of gender-sensitive policies, the main role Roma women have as mothers and the positive influence of their empowerment on the future Roma generations, which would lead to long-term inclusion effects.

In this context Italian Government adopted its “National Strategy” with a gender-oriented approach.

The gender-based approach entails the following activities: gender based disaggregated data; identification of discriminatory factors between men and women; analysis of such disparities; formulation of specific objectives to overcome disparities; definition of indicators to measure the reduction of disparities; identification of necessary resources; development of specific strategies;

The above list indicates a road-map, which has already taken its course with regard to various relevant areas, such as:

### ***1. TRAINING AND PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT***

Increasing training opportunities, with particular reference to the female world and promoting the effective participation of Roma women through certified paths of learning and training;

training female mediators and accompanying Roma women to employment centers.

### ***2. EDUCATION***

preventing discrimination in access to nursery schools and promoting the attendance of Roma children, ensuring access to quality education;

reducing the number of school drop-outs in first and second degree schools, with particular reference to young mothers;

### ***3. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES***

Monitoring living conditions, factors and levels of morbidity and risky behaviors; promoting better access to preventive medicine, with particular reference to sexual health, reproductive and maternal-child-health; promoting the active participation of the female population to social services in view of a use of intercultural mediators.

### ***4. HOUSING SOLUTIONS AND ACCESS TO HOUSE***

Building micro-centers, which meet the specific needs of sedentary Roma families; providing non-discriminatory access to housing, including public housing; ensuring an integrated approach to housing policy, through local inter-institutional cooperation;

Thank you for your attention.