

ROMA AND EGYPTIANS IN ALBANIA: A SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC AND ECONOMIC PROFILE BASED ON THE 2011 CENSUS

APRIL, 2015



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with Emira Galanxhi and Olgeta Dhono

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Tirana, April 2015

Prepared by: Patrick Simon with Emira Galanxhi and Olgeta Dhono



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been tendered in the context of the United Nations Support to Social Inclusion in Albania Programme (UNSSIA) in support of the Albanian government to foster social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. It seeks at delivering an in-depth analysis of the situation of Roma and Egyptians groups in the demographics, social, economic, health and cultural areas. For this purpose, and to add to the previous studies already done, the report is providing an original analysis of the 2011 census, complemented by the UNDP-World Bank survey on Roma and Egyptians in Albania of 2011 (Ivanov A., Kling J. & Kagin J., 2011). It covers the socio-demographic profile of the Roma and Egyptian populations, their educational attainment, situation in employment, housing, health and other dimensions of their living conditions.


The figures of those who self-identify as Roma or Egyptians in the 2011 census are in the low mark compared to other estimates: 8301 self-declared Roma and 3368 self-declared Egyptians were found. Although it is likely that an unknown proportion of those who may have a Roma ancestry, or would have been considered as Roma by their neighbors did not declare this ethnicity in the census, we will consider that the profile of those who have reported their Roma ethnicity in the census are representative of all the others who have not been reached or made the choice not to report their ethnicity.

The demographic profiles of the two communities contrast with the Albanian population. The age structure reflects the high level of fertility and the higher mortality rates of these two groups: the mean age of Roma is 26 years old, 29 years old for the Egyptians and 35,5 years old for the Albanians. The Roma population is younger than the other groups, with 34% in the age groups younger than 15 years old (27% for Egyptians and 20% for Albanians). Unlike the case of the Albanian population, emigration among young adults seems quite limited and does not impact the profile of the pyramid.

The Roma population tends to live in specific areas in Albania. Predominantly in Urban areas (76,5%, to be compared with 53,5% for the general population), Roma families are highly concentrated in some districts and neighborhoods: 50% of the Roma population lives in the 25 most concentrated enumeration areas (EA). In these EA, the Roma population make up at least 32% of the total population, which corresponds to a fairly high level of concentration considering that the average representation of the group is below 0,5%. In some EA in Shkoder, Levan, Tirana or Fier, to name examples, Roma people make more than 60% of the population.

The demographic specificities of the Roma and Egyptians populations are remarkable in the family formation process. Early marriage and thus early parenthood are frequent: at 20 years old, 60% of Roma women are already married (two times more than the Albanian women) and 43% of women aged 18 years old have already gave birth to a child. This fertility behavior is an exception compared to the Albanian women who are delaying their births at a later stage. However, fertility is declining for the youngest generations. The structure of the households and their size are also characterized by more cohabitation between generation and a higher number of members.

Specific patterns are also observed in education where Roma and Egyptians meet several barriers to achieve their curriculum. Lower school attendance and early drop out result in low level of educational attainment, and more concretely widespread illiteracy among the two communities. A very significant indicator is the proportion of children who are not attending compulsory school. According to the census data, most of the Albanian (97%) and Egyptian (93%) children aged 6 to 9 years old are attending to primary schools, but this is the case for only 55% of Roma children. These very low figures come mainly from children who have never been enrolled. Drop out is rather rare before 10 years old (less than 3 %, and mainly for girls than for boys), but it is more significant at the beginning of lower secondary school. Drop out of enrolled Roma pupils between 10 and 16 years old reach 30% for the boys and 44,6% for the girls. At 16 years old, 96% of the girls and only 68% of the boys have dropped out from school. There is here a serious concern for the social inclusion agenda to be able to enroll more Roma children in schools, but also to be able to keep them in education until 16 years old when they have begun to attend.



The barriers to access to education encountered by Roma families have direct consequences in terms of educational attainment. If 96% of Albanians have at least completed a full primary education, and 80% achieved at least a lower secondary level, this is the case for only 43% of Roma people (40% of women and 46% of men) who have a full primary education and 21% who achieved a lower secondary level (18% of women and 23% of men). Egyptians are in between the two other groups with respectively 80% and 49%. The access to upper secondary school is a major challenge for Roma pupils.

This critical situation in education leads to an even more critical situation on the labor market. The gross employment and unemployment rates highlight the very low level of activity of the Roma and the Egyptians, and thus the lack of financial resources they will suffer from. Less than a quarter of each group is employed, and the gender inequality is impressive: only 15% of the Roma women and 13% of the Egyptian women are employed. The low level of employment can be explained by a retreat from the labor market, especially for women, but also from a very high unemployment. Half of the active Roma and two third of the Egyptians who are on the labor market are looking for a job, to be compared to 29% of Albanians. Unemployment rate of the Roma women is rocketing at 58% and even 73% for Egyptian women. For the Roma who are employed, the poor quality of their jobs reflect that most of them are not participating to the mainstream economy, but find activities in the informal sector.

There are different explanations for these gaps in employment. The most obvious one is the low level of educational attainment and thus the difficulties for Roma and Egyptians to fulfil the requirements on the market economy. There is a clear correlation between the level of education and unemployment. However, educated Roma tend to be more unemployed than Albanians with similar diploma. The “residual gaps”, i.e the difference that remains when age, education and gender are controlled for, can be interpreted as evidence of ethnic discrimination. A direct question on the experience of discrimination shows indeed that 46% of Roma declare having been discriminated in the last five years when looking for a job, and 24% at the work place.

The vulnerability in employment is mirroring a stunning precariousness in housing. Not only Roma are segregated, but they have very poor housing conditions. According to the 2011 census, 15% of the Roma households live in a non-conventional dwelling. Non conventional dwelling may refer to shelters, tents, shacks, barracks, or any type of precarious constructions. The precariousness of the housing is not reflected by the tenure status: most Roma households declare to own their house (74%) -as do the Albanians-, although a significant minority is occupying their place without paying a rent (16%). The poor conditions of the housing infrastructures can be seen in the lower proportion of dwellings providing piped water (42% to be compared to 66% in Albania) or toilets (41%, compared to 77%). Fear of being evicted and financial difficulties to pay for the mortgage, the rent or the utilities are too common among Roma households.

The report is also providing information about the health status and the living conditions of Roma and Egyptians. The overall picture of the situation of Roma and Egyptians in Albania tells a story of deprivation and social exclusion whose roots have to be analyzed further. Voluntary actions to reduce poverty and enhance opportunities by investing in education and housing for these two minorities are requested since the dynamic of deprivation of Roma and Egyptians seems embedded deeply into the Albanian's social structure.



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The authors of this report are grateful for the careful guidance and constant support of the UNDP team in Tirana, and especially of Mrs Anduena Shkurti. They have benefited from the technical assistance of INSTAT specialists. In the course of the documentation about the Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania, we have been instructed by Mrs Klara Simoni, director of the FBSH community center in Kinostudio, Tirana. Learning about its activities with Roma families and children have brought an invaluable human dimension to the cold statistics that we have analyzed throughout this report.

ACRONYMS

CESS	Centre for Economic and Social Studies
EA	Enumeration Areas
EC	European Commission
ECRI	European Commission against Racism and Intolerance
EU	European Union
FBSH	Fëmijët e Botës dhe të Shqipërisë
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Survey
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSF	Open Society Foundation
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNSSIA	United Nations Support to Social Inclusion Programme
WB	World Bank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	5
ACRONYMS	6
INTRODUCTION	9
The focus: Roma and Egyptians	9
Roma undercounts?	9
Data	10
1. DEMOGRAPHICS	11
Population structure	11
Geographical distribution and spatial concentration	13
Family formation	16
Marital status	19
Household composition	20
Intermarriage	21
2. EDUCATION	23
3. LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND RELIGION	27
Language	27
Religion	28
4. EMPLOYMENT	31
Participation to the labor market	31
Employment and education	33
Type of employment	34
Occupation and sectors of activity	35
Unemployment	36
Discrimination into the labor market	37
5. HOUSING	39
6. LIVING CONDITIONS	43
7. HEALTH	47
REFERENCES	49
ANNEX: Estimation of the Roma population in different European countries by the Council of Europe	51

List of Tables

Table 1: Dependency rates by ethnicity	13
Table 2: Numbers of EA I a selection of districts	13
Table 3: Ever married by age and gender, Roma population (%)	20
Table 4: Ever married by age and gender, Roma and Egyptian population (%)	27
Table 5: Proportion of women with at least one ever-born alive child by age and ethnicity	28
Table 6: Marital status by age and gender, Roma population	20
Table 7: Household composition by ethnicity	20
Table 8: Type of family among households with a nucleus	20
Table 9: Inter-marriage by ethnicity (couples)	21
Table 10: Inter-marriage by religion (couples)	22
Table 11: Preschool attendance, by ethnicity and gender	23
Table 12: School enrollment by age and ethnicity	23
Table 13: Proportion of persons having attended school in their life by generation and ethnicity	25
Table 14: Educational attainment by ethnicity	25
Table 15: Achieving at least a lower secondary school level, by age and ethnicity	26
Table 16: Mother tongue by ethnicity	27
Table 17: Mother tongue by years of schooling, Roma population	28
Table 18: Religion declared by ethnicity	28
Table 19: Attendance to religious service by gender, Roma/Egyptian population	29
Table 20: Attendance to religious service by gender, Albanian population	29
Table 21: Employment rate by ethnicity and gender (15-64)	31
Table 22: Unemployment rate by ethnicity and gender (15-64)	31
Table 23: Proportions of persons who have never worked by ethnicity and gender	32
Table 24: Employment rate by gender and years of schooling, Roma population	33
Table 25: Logistic regression on the probability of being employed, Roma population	34
Table 26: Type of employment by ethnicity and gender	34
Table 27: Type of employment by gender, Roma population	35
Table 28: Occupation by ethnicity	35
Table 29: Sectors of activity by ethnicity	36
Table 30: Duration of unemployment, Roma and Egyptian population	36
Table 31: Distribution of unemployed and unemployment rates by occupation, Roma and Egyptian population	37
Table 32: Logistic regression on the probability of being unemployed	37
Table 33: Self-reported experience of discrimination in the last 5 years, Roma population	38
Table 34: Type of building by ethnicity	39
Table 35: Type of building (short list) by ethnicity and concentration at the EA	40
Table 36: Tenure status of the household by ethnicity	40
Table 37: Tenure status by type of building, Roma households	41
Table 38: Indicators of the norms of occupation of the dwellings by ethnicity	41
Table 39: Water supply by type of building, Roma households	41
Table 40: Toilets by type of building, Roma households	42
Table 41: Source of income by ethnicity	43
Table 42: Source of income by level of concentration, Roma population	43
Table 43: Source of income by level of concentration, Egyptian population	44
Table 44: Household equipment by ethnicity	44
Table 45: Incidence of selected diseases by ethnicity	47
Table 46: Proportion of limitations (inability and severe difficulties) by ethnicity	47
Table 47: Indicators of health coverage and unmet needs, by ethnicity	48

List of Figures

Figure 1: Population distribution by gender and age, Albanians	11
Figure 2: Population distribution by gender and age, Roma	12
Figure 3: Population distribution by gender and age, Egyptians	12
Figure 4: Ever married women by age and ethnicity (in %)	16
Figure 5: Proportion of ever married persons by age and gender, Roma (in %)	17
Figure 6: Average number of children ever born by woman by age and ethnicity	18
Figure 7: Cumulative distribution by age at first birth of women living in a nucleus with their own children, by ethnicity	19
Figure 8: School attendance by age and gender (in 2011), Roma population	24
Figure 9: School drop out rate by age and gender, Roma population	24
Figure 10: Employment rate by age group, gender and ethnicity	32
Figure 11: Individuals with at least one difficulty of the degree 3 or 4, by ethnicity and gender	48



INTRODUCTION

According to the 2011 census, Albania is a predominantly ethnic homogeneous country: 83% of the population self-identify as Albanians, and 14% preferred not to answer. Self-identified belonging to an ethnic minority concerned less than 2% of the population. Among these minorities, the Roma population counts 8301 individuals and the Egyptians 3368 individuals—less than 0,5% of the 2,8 millions of inhabitants of the country. Even with a significant undercount of ethnic minorities, these figures tell that Albania is an exception compared to the neighboring countries of the Balkans where ethnic minorities make up a higher share of the population. However, the size of the communities does not tell the whole story and the relative situation of the Roma in Albania tends to be quite similar than in the neighboring countries: extreme poverty, low education attainment, scarce participation to the formal labor market and lack of economic resources, housing conditions far below the norm of dignity, marginalization in the society. With some differences, the Egyptians share these poor living conditions.

Roma population, and to a lesser extent the Egyptians, have lived a dramatic change of their social and economic situation in the post-socialist times and the transition to a market economy. They thus moved from a relative integration into the mainstream society to a marginalization in extreme poverty. This evolution has been documented in several reports using different surveys, such as the “Roma Mapping” undertaken by CESS for the UNICEF in 2011 (Geddeshi and Jorgoni, 2011), which has then served for the encompassing *Needs Assessment Study on Roma and Egyptians Communities in Albania* (Geddeshi and Miluka, 2012) or the survey of the Open Society Institute in November 2012. Social exclusion of Roma population is a major concern of the Albanian government which became a full member of the Decade of Roma Inclusion in July 2008. A National Action Plan for Integration of Roma and Egyptians, has been drafted for the period 2015-2020, and identified 6 priorities areas, namely Civil registration, Education and promoting intercultural dialogue, Employment and vocational education and training (VET), Healthcare, Housing and urban integration, and Social protection.

This report has been tendered in the context of the United Nations Support to Social Inclusion in Albania Programme (UNSSIA) in support of the Albanian government to foster social inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups. It seeks at delivering an in-depth analysis of the situation of Roma and Egyptians groups in the demographics, social, economic, health and cultural areas. For this purpose, and to add to the previous studies already done, the report is providing an original analysis of the 2011 census, complemented by the UNDP-World Bank survey on Roma and Egyptians in Albania of 2011. It covers the socio-demographic profile of the Roma and Egyptian populations, their educational attainment, situation in employment, housing, health and other dimensions of their living conditions.

The focus: Roma and Egyptians

Among the different vulnerable groups in Albania, Roma and Egyptians are the most deprived and stigmatized. Treating them in the same report may be disputable since they are distinct to each other. Sharing a common origin back in history, so far that their roots can be reconstituted, they have diverged in culture, language and intermarriage between groups seem to have been limited. Egyptians have a sense of identity completely distinct from the Roma, and reciprocally. However, the perceptions from the mainstream Albanians are more blurred and Roma and Egyptians are seen as the most deprived communities in the society. The question on ethnic affiliation in the census collects separate self-identification and thus permits to identify Roma and Egyptians, whereas the UNDP-World Bank surveys has lumped together the two groups. Most the tables and analyses in this report treat separately Roma and Egyptians when they are based on the census, and conflate them when the UNDP-WB data are used.

Roma undercounts?

The main quantitative information used in this report comes from the Albanian census done in 2011. The dataset has been analyzed by INSTAT in its premises. The capacity of national censuses to account for ethnic minorities has been challenged in all Central and Eastern countries, where undercounts are deemed to reach a very high level¹. The estimates of the size of the Roma population in Albania varies from more than 100 000 from Roma organizations to

¹ See Council of Europe estimates in annex, and for example the report No data-No progress by OSI in 2010. <http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/reports/no-data-no-progress-country-findings>

13702 persons (including Egyptians though) in the 2011 UNICEF/CESS survey. The figures of those who self-identify as Roma or Egyptians in the 2011 are in the low mark of these estimates: a total of 11 669 persons, broken down in 8301 self-declared Roma and 3368 self-declared Egyptians. Although it is likely that an unknown proportion of those who may have a Roma ancestry, or would have been considered as Roma by their neighbors did not declare this ethnicity in the census, we will consider that the profile of those who have reported their Roma ethnicity in the census are representative of all the others who have not been reached or made the choice not to report their ethnicity. According to the recommendations of the UN for censuses and housing surveys and the position of the main international human rights bodies (OHCHR of the UN or the ECRI at the Council of Europe), ethnicity is a subjective dimension which relies primarily on self-identification. For this reason, declaring or not a specific ethnicity is first and foremost a decision of the respondent.

Different reasons may account for the undercounts:

- Roma people live at the periphery of cities, in remote areas which are not completely urbanized and lack of streets and buildings to be clearly identified by census takers. They could also feel unsecure to canvass in these areas and avoid doing so. Even if INSTAT has trained specifically Roma interviewers to participate in the census, there could be some Roma settlements that have been incompletely covered by the enumeration;
- Roma people may have refused to answer to the census, or made it complicated to collect the forms, or by fear of stigmatization and misuse of the information by discriminatory purpose, distrust towards the state, or skepticism of the benefit they will receive from their participation to the census;
- A selection bias may also occur if those who do not consider themselves as Roma but may be perceived as such have specific socio-demographic characteristics.

Data

Considering that several surveys have been analyzed so far, the request for this report was to use original datasets able to deliver accurate, reliable and informed data on the demographic, social and economic situation of the Roma population. The census is obviously a major source of information since it covers the entire population over the whole territory of Albania. Its coverage and the quality of data collection insured by the INSTAT provide a decisive advantage when it comes to deliver sounding population statistics. One advantage compared to targeted survey is the capacity of the census to cover all the territory and thus to reach isolated Roma who would not be found in surveys sampling concentrated areas. One caveat about the census is the limited number of questions which are not tailor made to describe the specific situation of deprivation encountered by vulnerable groups.

This is the reason why in its tender UNDP suggested to complement the census with two surveys that provide key information on the social inclusion of Roma population, namely the Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS) and the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Unfortunately, these surveys have a limited sample of self-identified Roma which does not allow sounding analysis on this population group. In LSMS 2012, the un-weight case of the Roma people are 228 persons. Restricted to the age of economic activity, this means that 74 Roma men and 90 Roma women have been surveyed. The same holds for the LFS: only 218 Roma respondents have been interviewed in the three pooled years of 2009, 2010 and 2011. Instead of analyzing these datasets, we have eventually decided to combine the findings of the census with an original analysis of the UNDP-World Bank-EC survey conducted in 2011 on the situation of Roma people in Europe, both in EU and non EU countries. UNDP and the World Bank have been responsible for the survey in the EU Member States of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and the non-EU Member States of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR of Macedonia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova and Serbia. The fieldwork has been undertaken in Albania in May-July 2011 and 775 questionnaires with Roma households and 361 questionnaires with Albanians households have been collected. The information about all members of the household has been asked on a large part of questionnaire, which resulted in 3507 Roma household members and 1390 Albanians.

1. DEMOGRAPHICS

Population structure

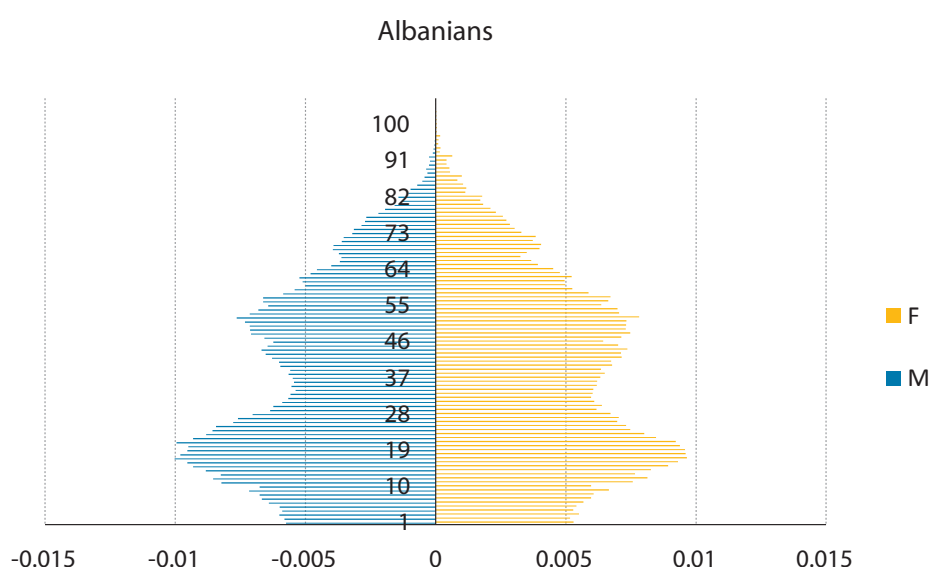
The Population and Housing Census of 2011 shows that the Albanian resident population decreased with 8.8 percent since the previous census in 2001, and even with 12.0 percent since the 1989 census. This decrease in the number of the population has come mainly due to emigration, which continued to be considerably present from 1990 and onward. The number of births has experienced a considerable decrease, from 82,000 in 1990, 53,000 in 2001 to 36,000 in 2013, a reduction by 32 per cent. From 2001, the Total Fertility Rate has steadily decreased. In 2001, the TFR was above the substitution level, at 2.31 children for one woman in reproductive age. The number of deaths is relatively stable around 20,000 per year. The decrease in the natural growth is attributed mainly to the decrease of the number of births.

Whereas the declines in fertility and mortality are processes spanning various decades, international migration only occurs since the early 1990s. Emigration, according to calculations using indirect methods, during the period 2001-2011 (the period between the two latest censuses) was estimated to be around 480,000 persons. Referring to the indirect estimations for the number of emigrants (emigrant's pyramid 2001-2011), men still are more likely to emigrate than women, but gender differences have decreased considerably if we compare the data of two last censuses (1989-2001 and 2001-2011). This phenomenon reflects the reunion of families during the second decade of the transition period in Albania.

This phenomenon in the Albanian population is reflected in the population pyramid (figure 1). The base of the pyramid shows the decrease in the number of births and in fertility rates. The gap in the pyramid reflects the emigration of mainly young adults of the population.

Below are shown the population pyramids of the Albanians, Roma and Egyptians.

Figure 1: Population distribution by gender and age, Albanians

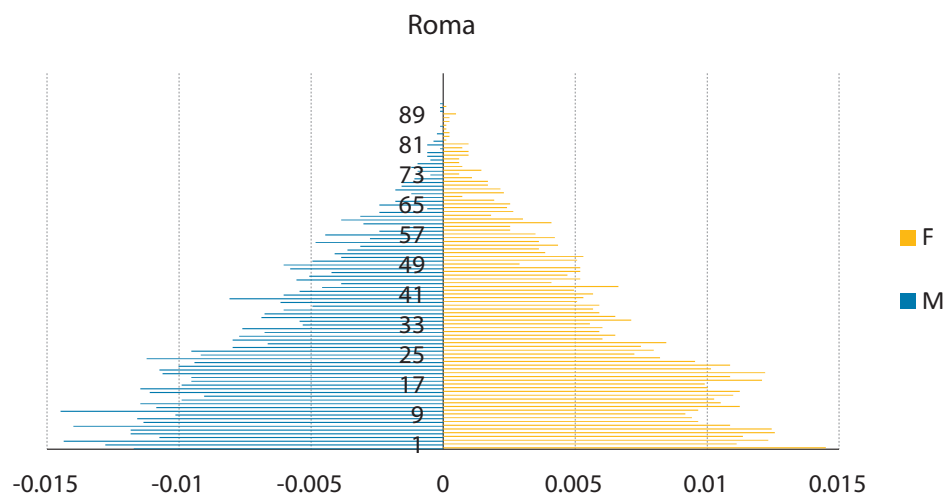


Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

Comparing the population structure with the Egyptian and Roma population, we can notice clear differences. The age distribution of Egyptians and Roma population shows an age heaping, by peaks at round ages and not a smoothed curve of the graph. It is a typical deformation of age pyramids of a population where official registration remains uneven and administrative information can be fuzzy. The Roma population pyramid reflects the high level of fertility (large base linked to a higher number of births) and a narrow top due to a lower life expectancy and higher mortality rates which result in a limited aging of the population. The pyramid is typically the structure of a developing country, with high fertility, high mortality, low level of education and enduring poverty.

Unlike the case of the Albanian population, emigration among young adults seems quite limited and does not impact the profile of the pyramid. The demographic dynamic of the Roma population is thus ensured by its natural growth and, considering that the replacement level is more than completed, one can predict that it will still increase over time. However, the evolution of the Roma population is not only dependent on demographic parameters, but also on the self-identification to this ethnicity by those who have a Roma ancestry. How would the young generation will define itself in a near future may modify the size and profile of the population group.

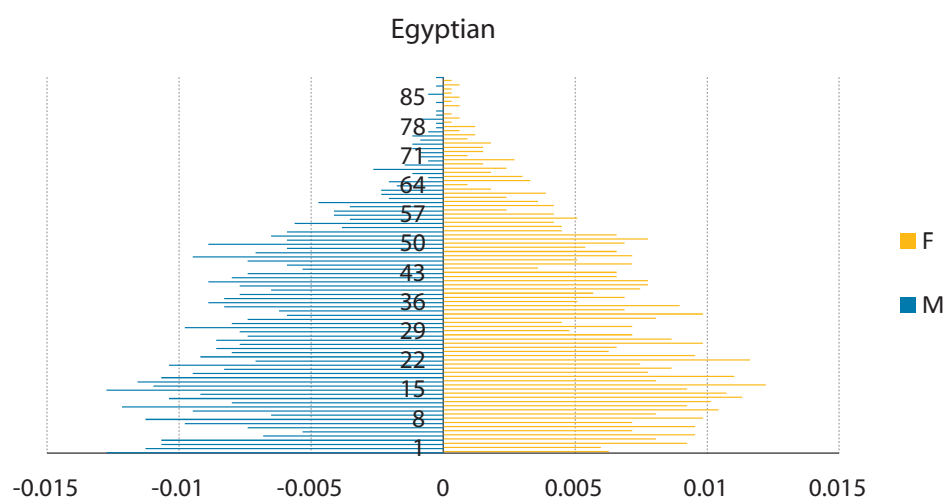
Figure 2: Population distribution by gender and age, Roma



Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

The age structure of the Egyptian population presents the same concentration on round age than for the Roma, but the general profile is different. Strangely enough, the base of the pyramid uncovers a huge imbalance between boys and girls. Normally, there are 104 boys for 100 girls, but here the children below 5 years old count 134 boys for 100 girls. It seems that there is a sex selection at birth, reflecting a preference for males. This should be investigated further to find explanations for this unexpected disparity. As for the Roma population, the pyramid does not provide evidence of a significant out-migration at the working ages. The general profile is in-between the Albanian and the Roma populations, indicating that the Egyptian population has entered in a demographic transition phase when it comes to the level of fertility, but is still facing high mortality rate for the elderly since the group of the 60 years old and plus remain quite small (8% of the group, to be compared with 16% for the Albanian population).

Figure 3: Population distribution by gender and age, Egyptians



Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

This table shows the dependency ratios of the Albanian, Egyptian and Roma population. The youth dependency ratio peak respectively at 55% and 40% in Roma and Egyptian populations, showing a young population in these communities. On the other hand the aging Dependency Ratio is more than half the one of the Albanian population. With more than a third (Roma) and a quarter (Egyptians) of their population below 15 years old, the two groups will have a large population in the active age in the years to come, which means that education for today is crucial to insure a better socio-economic inclusion for tomorrow.

Table 1: Dependency rates by ethnicity

	Population	Population 0-14	Population 15-64	Population 65+	Dependency Ratio 0-14	Dependency Ratio 65+
Albanian	2312356	471587	1578406	262363	30%	17%
	100%	20,4%	68,3%	11,3%		
Roma	8301	2834	5109	358	55%	7%
	100%	34,1%	61,5%	4,4%		
Egyptian	3368	923	2286	159	40%	7%
	100%	27,4%	67,9%	4,7%		

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

The youth of the Egyptian and Roma population groups can also be represented by the mean age calculated below:

	Mean age
Albanian	35.5
Roma	26
Egyptian	29.3

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

Geographical distribution and spatial concentration

The Roma population tends to live in specific areas in Albania. Predominantly in Urban areas (76,5%, to be compared with 53,5% for the general population in Albania), Roma families are highly concentrated. Simple figures reflect the level of concentration: on the 11.698 enumeration areas (EA) in the census, only 348 count at least one Roma person. Moreover, the 25 most concentrated enumeration areas group 50% of the Roma population. In these EA, the Roma population make up at least 32% of the total population, which corresponds to a fairly high level of concentration considering that the average representation of the group is below 0,5%. In some EA in Shkoder, Levan, Tirana or Fier, to name examples, Roma people make more than 60% of the population.

The table 2 shows the number of EA in Shkoder, Levan, Tirana and Fier and also the number of EA with at least one Roma person.

Table 2: Numbers of EA I a selection of districts

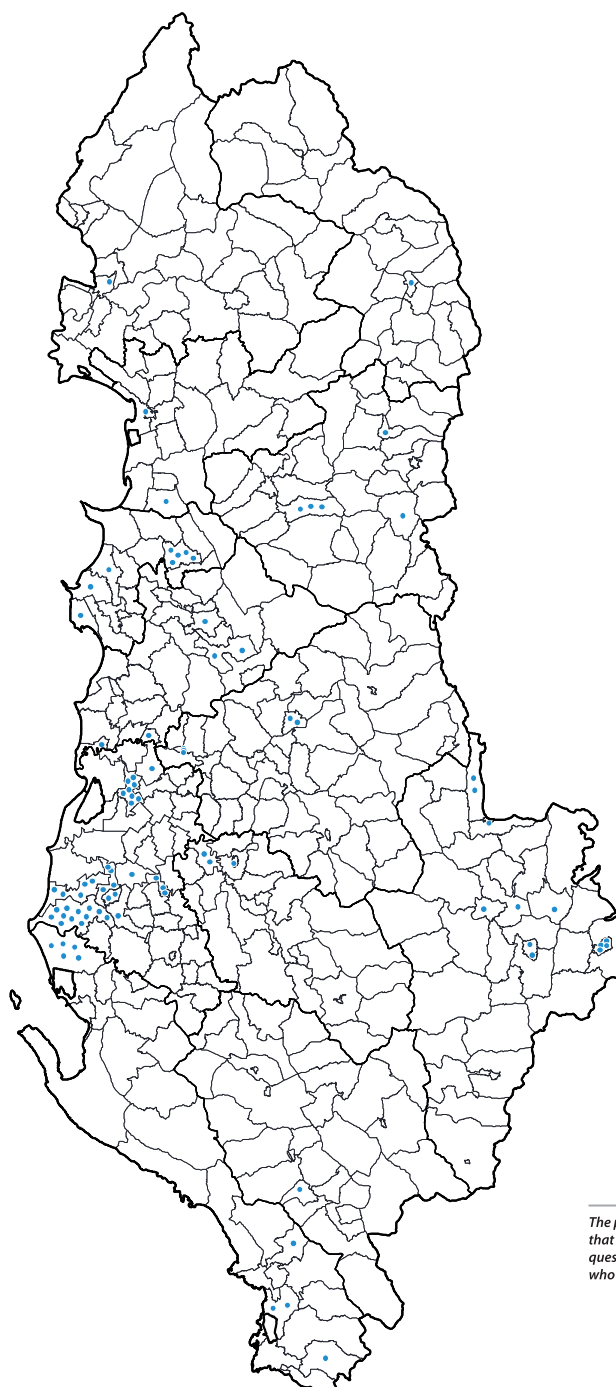
Name of Commune/Municipality	Number of EA	Number of EA with at least one Roma people
Shkoder	670	1
Levan	47	3
Tirana	2202	100
Fier	709	23

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

We have then built an indicator of concentration in three positions according to the proportion of Roma in the EA: "High concentration" where 32% and more of the population is Roma, "Medium" where 5,8% to 32% (excluded) of the population is Roma, "Low" where less than 5,8% of the population is Roma.

Ethno-cultural groups: Roma

2011



The percentages are approximate values, taking into consideration that 14.0% of the total population preferred not to answer to the question on ethno-cultural affiliation, and that for 1.6% of the persons who answered, the information provided was not relevant or stated.

50 km

Communes and Municipalities

1 dot = 0.5 %

• Roma

Ratio of the number of persons who declared themselves as belonging to the ethno-cultural groups of Roma, to the total population, in %. Dots are placed randomly within polygons representing communes or municipalities.

Source: 2011 Population and Housing Census of Albania

The boundaries of communes and municipalities have been designed for statistical purposes and may not reflect exactly the territory of the local units.

Ethno-cultural groups: Egyptian

2011



The percentages are approximate values, taking into consideration that 14.0% of the total population preferred not to answer to the question on ethno-cultural affiliation, and that for 1.6% of the persons who answered, the information provided was not relevant or stated.

50 km

Communes and Municipalities

1 dot = 0.5 %

• Egyptian

Ratio of the number of persons who declared themselves as belonging to the ethno-cultural groups of Egyptians, to the total population, in %. Dots are placed randomly within polygons representing communes or municipalities.

Source: 2011 Population and Housing Census of Albania

The boundaries of communes and municipalities have been designed for statistical purposes and may not reflect exactly the territory of the local units.

Family formation

Roma women are reputed to marry at an early age compare to the Albanian population. It is even said that the age at first marriage had diminished during the post-socialist transition (Gedeshi and Miluka, 2013:22). The census is confirming these observations with 19% of Roma women being married in the age group 13 to 17 years old (table 3). The gender gap is pronounced at this early age: if almost half of the Roma women aged 18 were already married, this was the case of only a quarter of the Roma men. The comparison with the Albanian population shows that the norms regarding marriage differ widely. Among the Albanian population, early marriage is an exception, with less than 10 % of the 15-19 years old women being married. At 20-24 years old, 40% of Albanian women are then married, whereas 70% of Roma women are already in couple at this time.

Table 3: Ever married by age and gender, Roma population (%)

	13-17 years	18-20 years	21-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and more
Men	6,1	29,3	61,2	83,4	95	97,1	99,5
Women	18,9	60,1	74,1	89	97,2	97,6	99,1

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

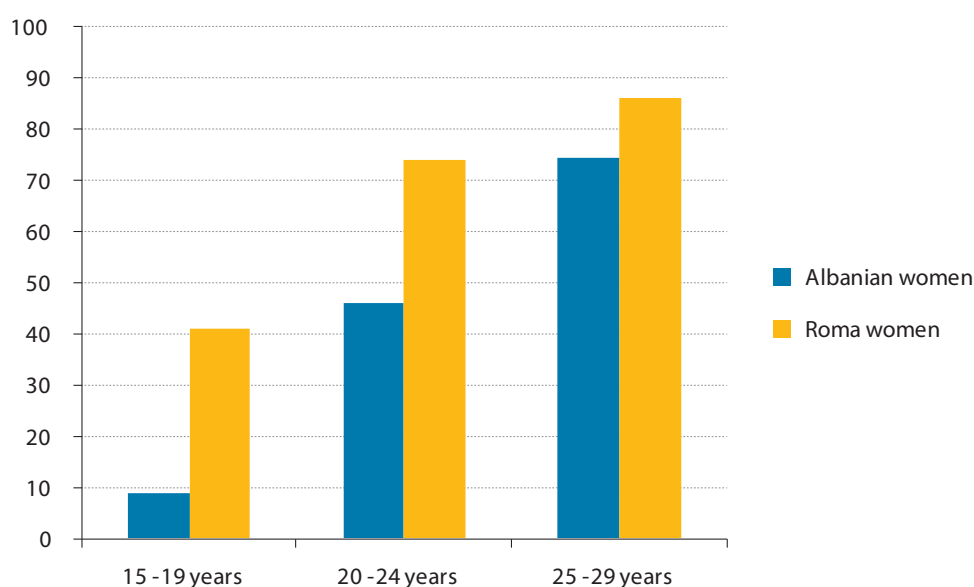
The data collected in the census can be compared to the UNDP – World Bank survey of 2011 to compare if marriage at young age has been under reported by suspicion of governmental control. The proportion of married teenagers is higher in the census than in the more focus survey of the UNDP, indicating that the declarations of potentially stigmatized practices are reliable in the census. The CESS survey “Roma mapping” done for UNICEF in 2011 and analyzed in the Needs assessment report (2012) found that 31% of Roma women of age group 13-17 years old were married, which is almost two times more than the census. One explanation for these disparities could be the focus of the CESS survey on the more deprived communities, whereas the census would have reached more integrated Roma.

Table 4: Ever married by age and gender, Roma and Egyptian population (%)

	13-17 years	18-20 years	21-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55 years and more
Men	2,1	22,9	51,6	81,8	97,4	97,4	99,4
Women	13,8	57,5	72,6	90,4	97,8	98,2	98,8

Source: UNDP/WB, survey 2011

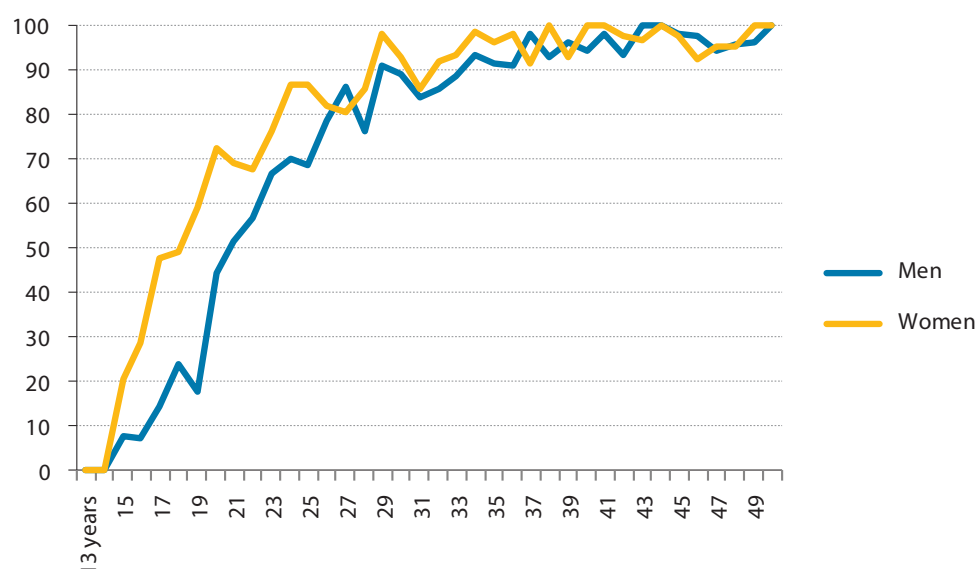
Figure 4: Ever married women by age and ethnicity (in %)



Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

A gender gap at the age at marriage is often observed in population with early marriage, and this is the case for the Roma in Albania as the figure shows. Roma men tend to marry later with younger women: at 18 years old, 50% of women are married, this step being reached almost at 21 years old for the men. However, the differences of age between spouses remain quite limited.

Figure 5: Proportion of ever married persons by age and gender, Roma (in %)



Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

The precocity of partnership and marriage results in a corresponding early family formation. The census do not record maternity before the age of 15 and it is not possible to assess directly the intensity of teenage pregnancy, but the importance of early age at birth can be seen in the fact that 34% of women aged 15-19 years old who have already at least one child ever-born alive. At 18 years old, 43% of Roma women had already given birth. This fertility behavior is an exception compared to the Albanian women who are delaying their births at a later stage. As a typical population which has gone through a demographic transition, it is pretty rare to give birth before the age of 19 and it is even still frequent not to have a child at 24 years old.

Table 5: Proportion of women with at least one ever-born alive child by age and ethnicity

	Albanians	Roma
15-19	2,9	33,9
20-24	24,9	68,0
25-29	59,4	83,8
30-34	79,9	89,9
35-39	89,0	91,7
40-44	92,1	93,7

Source: INSTAT, census 2011

The average number of children by woman aged 15 and more reflects this distribution: there are 2,8 children by Roma women and 2,3 for the Albanians and the Egyptians.

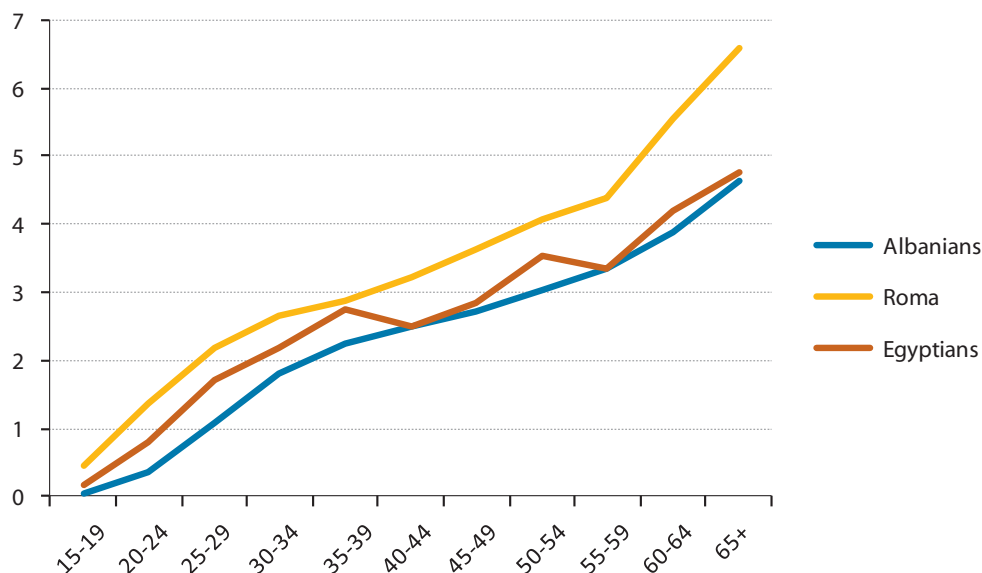
The age structure explains the difference in the average numbers (see figure 6). Roma women begin their fertility life much earlier than the Albanians, and the older generations who have completed their fertility life (by convention after 50 years old) had a larger family than in the two other groups. These differences can be explained by the age at marriage, the household structure, the economic background and the level of education of the Roma women.

The level of fertility has decreased sharply for the generations born before 1956 in the three groups. For the Albanians and Egyptians the number of children declined from 4,7 in the generations born before 1946 to 3 (3,5 for the Egyptians)

in the generations 1956-1961. The Roma have been through an even more dramatic decline, with an average number by woman of 6,7 for the generations born before 1946 to 4,1 in the generations 1956-1961.

Considering the profile of the younger generations, one can see that the fertility decline is still going on for the Roma, while the Albanians and Egyptians may have reached a stabilization slightly under 2,5 children by woman. The change of reproductive behavior among the younger generation -if any- will be confirmed when they will reach the age of the reproductive age.

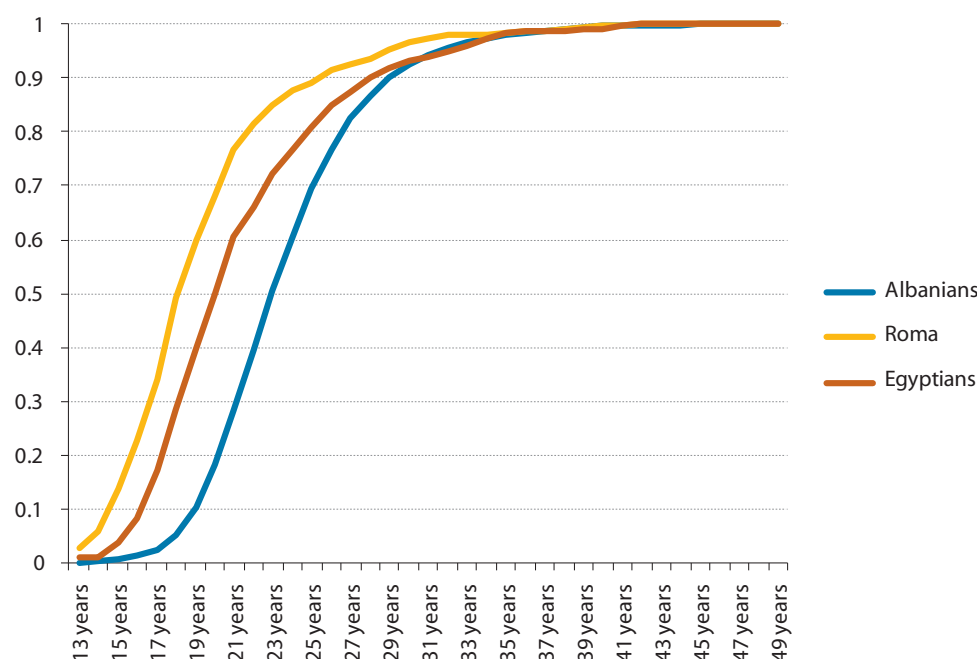
Figure 6: Average number of children ever born by woman by age and ethnicity



Source: INSTAT, census 2011

Even if the census does not ask for the age at birth of mothers, it is possible to estimate the age at first birth by linking together mother and children at the household level. To reduce the uncertainty of the family linkage which is not always obvious in the census, we have restricted the analysis to the nucleus where mothers can be strictly identified. We have then attributed an age at first birth to all mothers by checking the date of birth of their older child still living at home. There is an obvious bias for older women whose first child has a higher probability to have left the household, but this can be controlled by comparing the numbers of children ever born to those living in the household. The figure below gives the profile of the age at first birth according to ethnicity. The median age at first birth is close to 18 years old for the Roma women, 20 years for the Egyptians and 23 years for the Albanians. The important information is the level of teenage maternity, i.e. between 13 and 17 years old. This very early motherhood concerns 34% of Roma female teenagers, 13% of Egyptians and 2,5% of Albanians.

Figure 7: Cumulative distribution by age at first birth of women living in a nucleus with their own children, by ethnicity



Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

In all countries of the world, fertility is correlated with education and this is also the more true for the Roma women. The average level of education is minimal, with 55% of women aged more than 15 years old who have never attended school and only 18% who have at least a level of the lower secondary school. As it could have been expected, the fertility of women who have never attended school is much higher than the one of the most educated women in the community: if only 11% of women with the lowest education do not have children, this is the case of 33% of women with more than 10 years of education. The former have an average number of births of 3,5 and the latter 1,9. The higher average number of children for Roma women derives clearly from their low level of education. If an effort in access to family planning can change fertility behavior among Roma women, the improvement in school enrollment and the access to education of Roma women will be also a very efficient leverage to reduce the size of the Roma families. Reversely, delaying the age at family formation (marriage and first birth) among Roma women will give them more options to stay in education rather than beginning an adult life at teen age.

One consequence among others of having children at a very young age is the phenomenon of children without official registration, or “forgotten children”. This is an issue raised by NGOs supporting Roma families to enroll their children at school: the first step is to declare them to the civil registration. The UNDP survey provides an estimate of these “forgotten children” by asking about the declaration in birth registers: an average of 8% of children under 10 are not declared, this situation being marginal after this age (less than 2 % until 15, and less than 1% further on).

Marital status

The UNDP survey collects detailed information about the type of marriage that has been concluded, making a distinction between traditional and official marriage. At each age, half of the married Roma have concluded a traditional marriage rather than an official one at the municipality office. This offers another sign of the distance to the official registration. Divorce and separation is also more frequent for Roma women than usually observed among Albanian women (9% compared to 1%). These figures do not account for successive unions which are not unusual for Roma women according to the information given by NGOs. The higher mortality rates result in a significant proportion of widows after 55 years old, both for men and women. Cohabitation remains an exception.

Table 6: Marital status by age and gender, Roma population

	13-17	18-20	21-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 +	Total
Male								
Married traditionally	1,0	11,4	22,2	33,9	40,3	42,9	37,8	31
Married officially	0,5	6,7	25,4	39,4	47,6	51,3	44,4	35,6
Divorced and separated	0,0	0,0	1,6	5,8	4,2	2,0	4,5	3,3
Widowed	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,7	1,6	0,7	12,8	2,6
Cohabitation	0,5	4,8	2,4	1,8	3,7	0,7	0,0	1,9
Never married	98,0	77,1	48,4	18,3	2,6	2,6	0,6	26,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100
Female								
Married traditionally	7,6	23,3	27,4	33,1	34,3	37,2	32,7	30,8
Married officially	3,6	24,2	31,1	40,9	44,8	43,3	34,6	35,7
Divorced and separated	0,9	7,5	9,6	13,2	9,9	9,2	6,2	9,2
Widowed	0,0	0,0	0,7	1,4	6,6	7,9	24,7	6,2
Cohabitation	1,8	2,5	3,7	1,8	2,2	0,6	0,6	2
Never married	86,2	42,5	27,4	9,6	2,2	1,8	1,2	16,2
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100

Source: UNDP-World Bank survey, 2011

Household composition

The main type of households in Albania is composed of one nucleus family, sometimes with the presence of isolated ascendants or relatives. Few households are made of a single member or cohabitation of persons who do not form a nucleus. This means that when young adults leave parental home, most of them form directly a family or shortly after decohabitation. The other specificity is the multi nucleus cohabitation in the same household. It is widespread among Roma (23%), but this is not a particularity of this ethnic group since Egyptians and Albanians follow more or less the same pattern. The average size of the households with nucleus is higher for Roma (4,28) than for Egyptians (4,15) and Albanians (3,83). The number of children by families account for these differences, but it should be noted that the average size of families remain moderate across the three groups, even if 20% of the Roma households count 6 and more members. The cohabitation of nuclei may also reflect the fact that grown up children do stay with their parents when they get married, and some households comprised large families.

Table 7: Household composition by ethnicity

	Albanians	Roma	Egyptians
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0
Households with no family nucleus	3,1	2,3	3,7
Households with one family nucleus	80,1	71,3	75,2
Households with two or more family nuclei	15,3	22,6	18,2
Households with non-valid nucleus	1,6	3,8	2,9

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

Note: % at household level (Roma n=1933; Egyptians n=833; Albanians n= 603483)

The composition of the nucleus families confirm that the Roma families do not differ much from the profile of the Albanians or Egyptians. Nuclear family is the norm, but cohabitation of a couple and children with other persons is not insignificant since 12% to 15% of households in nucleus are in this situation. Single parenting is slightly more frequent

among the Roma (12,4% of households) and Egyptian (13,1%) populations, by comparison with the Albanians. This is echoing the higher proportion of separations recorded in the marital status section.

Table 8: Type of family among households with a nucleus

	Roma	Albanians	Egyptians
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0
Married or cohabiting couple without children and without other persons	12,0	17,7	11,0
Married or cohabiting couple without children and with other persons	4,2	3,3	3,3
Married or cohabiting couple with children and without other persons	58,3	56,5	60,6
Married or cohabiting couple with children and with other persons	13,0	14,9	12,0
Lone mother with at least one child and without other persons	6,7	5,6	7,9
Lone mother with at least one child with other persons	2,0	1,0	2,5
Lone father with at least one child and without other persons	2,7	0,9	1,5
Lone father with at least one child with other persons	1,0	0,3	1,2

Source: INSTAT, Census 2011

Note: % at Nucleus level (n=1469)

Intermarriage

Intermarriage across ethnic groups is often seen as an important indicator of the blurring of boundaries, and when it involves a member of an ethnic minority with a member of the majority, intermarriage is interpreted as a sign of assimilation. Choosing a partner out of the primary group of belonging is also dependent on the size of the groups: minorities tend to intermarry more often than the majority whose members have structurally less opportunities to meet a partner out of the group. Of course, these practical issues are balanced by the propensity to reach out partners with the same or different social, ethnic or religious backgrounds. Homogamy often prevails as a rule of thumb when it comes to mate, especially when family formation is involved. How does it work in Albania for the two minorities?

The level of intermarriage is higher for Egyptians (13% of couples comprised an Egyptian partner and an Albanian or Roma partner) than for Roma (8%). These relatively low levels of intermarriage highlight the mechanism by which the ethnic minorities reproduce themselves over generation. They also demonstrate that ethnic boundaries are still salient. Another explanation for these limited exchanges between ethnic groups could be that partners in mixed couples self-identify with the majority group, or refused to answer to the ethnicity question.

Table 9: Intermarriage by ethnicity (couples)

	Roma		Egyptians		Albanians	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	1819	100,0	755	100,0	557801	100,0
Same ethnicity	1679	92,3	656	86,9	545043	97,7
Mixed Roma/Albanian or Egyptian/Albanian	62	3,4	50	6,6	26	0
Mixed Roma/Egyptian	20	1,1	17	2,3	14	0
Other mixed	14	0,8	4	0,5	2255	0,4
Not stated or refused to answer(both), missing	44	2,4	28	3,7	10463	1,9

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Another criteria that constrains intermarriage even more than ethnicity is religion. In some societies, religious boundaries are brighter than ethnic ones: intermarriage may occur between ethnic groups so far that they share the same religion. The situation in Albania follows this general pattern: most of the couples bring together partners with the same religious affiliation (or lack of). Mixed couples count for less than 5% for the Roma and Egyptians, and 6% for the Albanians. There may be more cases of mixity if we consider that those who do not report their religion may have mixed affiliation.

Table 10: Intermarriage by religion (couples)

	Roma		Egyptians		Albanians	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	1819	100,0	755	100,0	557801	100,0
Both without religion (a)	213	11,7	65	8,6	37620	6,7
Same religion	1298	71,4	625	82,8	430282	77,1
Religion/without religion	41	2,3	18	2,4	11990	2,1
Other mixed	17	0,9	8	1,1	20169	3,6
Not stated or refused to answer(both), missing	250	13,7	39	5,2	57740	10,4

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

(a) *atheist and believers without denomination*

Roma and Egyptians have an open mind on intermarriage: 72% of the respondents of the UNDP survey stated that they consider marrying a partner from another ethnic group as acceptable (fully and somewhat), at the same level than Albanians. Changing of religion is more an issue: 41% think that it is not acceptable (36% for Albanians).

2. EDUCATION

Lack of education and illiteracy were the dominant feature among Roma and Egyptians communities before the Second World War. Access to schools was seldom because of the nomadic traditions and lack of coverage of schools in Albania then. Their situation has improved during the socialist time when the education system has been expanded and more universal. However, they benefit from a basic education without achieving to access the upper levels of tertiary education. It is believed that the post-socialist transition marked a decline in school enrollment and thus deterioration in educational attainment of Roma and Egyptians.

Inequalities at school begin with early childhood education since attending to preschool mirrors the social capital of families, and at the same time pre-school attendance may compensate socio-economic disadvantages for families of low social status. Access to pre-school is far from universal in Albania, even if a steep increase has been recorded since 1992: in 2011-12, 53,1% of children aged 5 to 6 years old were enrolled in Kindergarten in Urban areas.

Preschool attendance is not informed in the census where school enrolment is registered for children aged 6 and over. The UNDP-World Bank survey give estimates on small samples, especially for the Albanian population, but it gives an idea of the very low level of attendance for Roma children aged 5 and 6 years old (table 11). If we retain a rate of attendance to kindergarten of 53,1% in Urban areas, the situation of Roma children with 45% of enrolment is a bit below, but not that far, of the average. If we compare to the data from the UNDP survey, they are far behind the 82% of enrolment for the Albanian children. One interesting finding is the lack of gender inequality in pre-school attendance.

Table 11: Preschool attendance, by ethnicity and gender

	total	boys	girls	
Roma	44,4	44,7	43,9	n=142
Albanians	82			n=33

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

Children aged 5 and 6 years

The main reasons given by Roma parents for their children not attending kindergarten are twofold: it is too expensive (49%) and children should better stay with the family (25%). This latter justification is mainly given for boys rather for girls. In all cases, attending kindergarten is tied to the availability of schools in the neighborhood and the will to do so.

There are several barriers to access education which result in lower school attendance, early drop out, low level of educational attainment and more concretely widespread illiteracy among the two minorities. The first very significant indicator is the proportion of children who are not attending compulsory school. According to the census data, most of the Albanian (97%) and Egyptian (93%) children aged 6 to 9 years old are attending to primary schools (table 12). This is not the case for Roma children who are not attending schools for 55% of them. These very low figures come mainly from children who have never been enrolled, rather than have dropped out. Drop out is rather rare before 10 years old (less than 3 %, and mainly for girls than for boys), but it is more significant at the beginning of lower secondary school. Drop out of enrolled Roma pupils between 10 and 16 years old reach 30% for the boys and 44,6% for the girls.

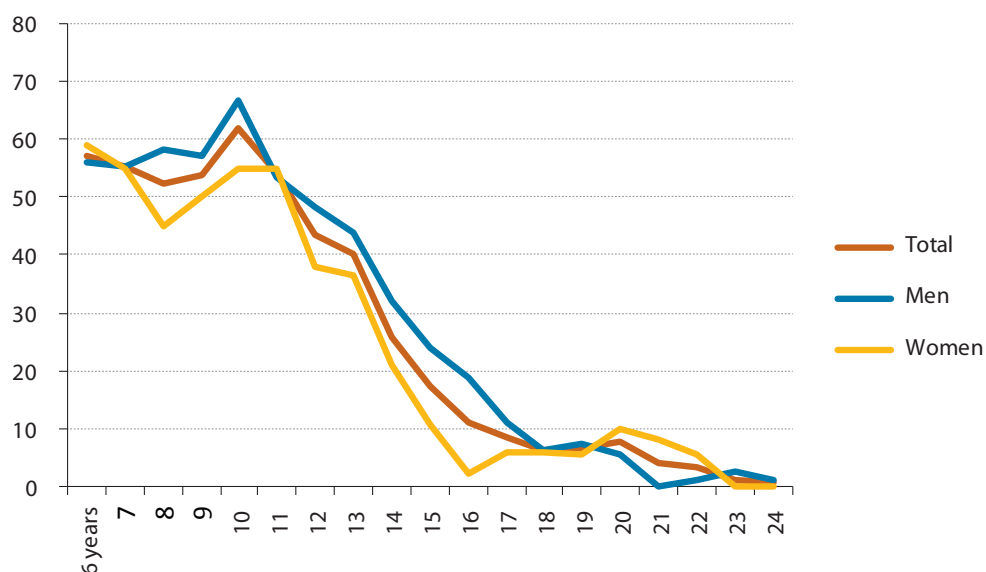
Table 12: School enrollment by age and ethnicity

	Children who have never attended school		Children currently not attending school	
	6-9 years	10-14 years	6-9 years	10-14 years
Albanians	2,1	0,6	2,8	4,5
Egyptians	6	9,7	6,8	27,6
Roma	44,4	39,5	45,2	54,1

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

The gender gap increases during the teen age, which is reflecting the early marriage and motherhood of Roma girls. Not only school attendance remains far below the average for the Roma youth –reaching only 60% of those aged between 6 and 10 years old– but school dropout begins quite early, around 12 years old. The decline in participation to education is fast between 10 and 16 years old, the theoretical end of compulsory school: less than 10% of girls are still attending school at the age of 15, for 24% of the boys (figure 8).

Figure 8: School attendance by age and gender (in 2011), Roma population

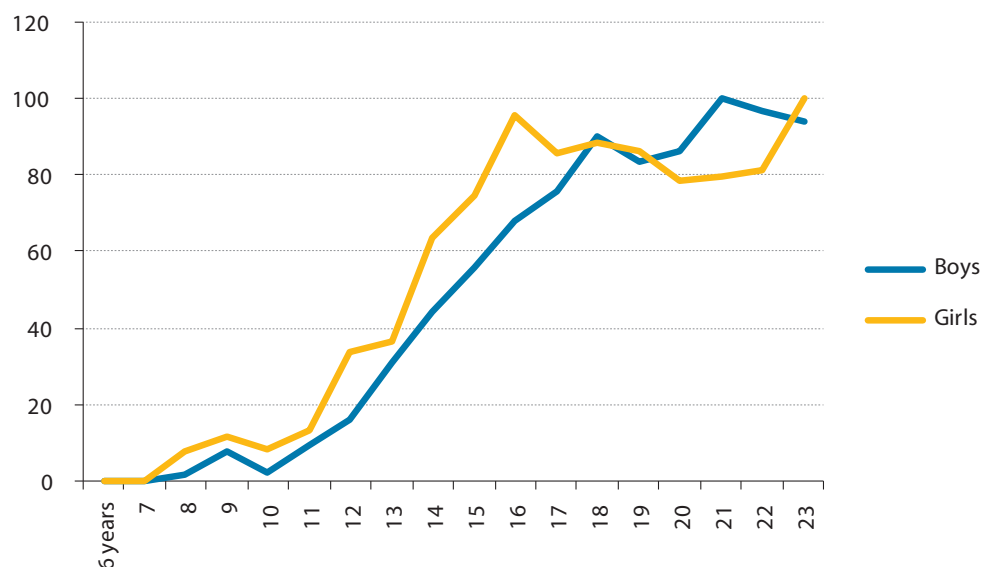


Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 6 to 24 years

To represent more concretely the calendar of dropping out, we have considered only the children who have attended school at least once and then reported those who left to this denominator. The school drop out rates can be seen in the figure below. The rates are based on the cross-sectional data of the census and thus are not longitudinal data as they should be. However, they show a trend in the dynamic of dropping out (a longitudinal curb would have the same profile if all children who behaved the same during the 18 years of observation). Those who enrolled in primary school stayed at least during two years, but the first drops out begin already at the age of 8, but drops out really starts after 10 years old. At 16 years old, 96% of the girls but only 68% of the boys have dropped out from school. There is here a serious concern for the social inclusion agenda to be able to enroll more Roma children in schools, but also to be able to keep them in education until 16 years old when they have begun to attend.

Figure 9: School drop out rate by age and gender, Roma population



Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 6 to 24 years

Note: School drop out rates are calculated by dividing those who are not enrolled by attended school in the past to the population of those who are or have had attending school.

When considering all ages together, the general level of school attendance in Albania is almost universal: less than 3% of Albanians have never attended to school. The coverage is less universal for Egyptians (15% never attended) and as we have seen incomplete for Roma (49% never attended). We can try to identify the change overtime of school attendance by computing rate of school enrolment by generation (table 13). The variations across generations among Albanians are quite limited. For Roma and Egyptians, school attendance reaches its lowest peak for the generations born between 1996 and 1977, i.e those who accessed to education during the post-socialist transition. The consequence of the transition is remarkable for the Roma who have lost 15 points of school attendance compared to the older generations born in 1962 to 1976. The gap has been caught up only for the most recent generations born after 1997. It seems though that the investments in education are rewarded for the Roma children, but there is still a huge gap to fill in.

Table 13: Proportion of persons having attended school in their life by generation and ethnicity

	2005-1997	1996-1987	1986-1977	1976-1962	Before 1962
Albanians	98,8	99,1	98,5	99,0	93,7
Roma	58,7	45,1	42,4	57,3	51,5
Egyptians	91,8	83,6	79,5	86,7	83,1

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

The barriers to access to education encountered by Roma families have direct consequences in terms of educational attainment. If 96% of Albanians have at least completed a full primary education, and 80% achieved at least a lower secondary level, this is the case for only 43% of Roma people (40% of women and 46% of men) who have a full primary education and 21% who achieved a lower secondary level (18% of women and 23% of men). Egyptians are in between the two other groups with respectively 80% and 49%. The access to upper secondary school is a major challenge for Roma pupils. In this context, achieving a tertiary education is more than an exception. It is however possible that high achievers with a Roma background tend to identify as Albanians, or refused to report their ethnicity in the census. If so, the educational upward mobility may be invisible, but the data suggest that if such mobility exists, only a small minority of Roma by ancestry would have been through it. The situation of the Egyptian families in education is not as critical as the one of the Roma, but it is worrying. It seems that their living conditions offer opportunities to enroll their children, but then the curriculum is shorter than for the Albanians, the lower secondary level being the highest that they could reached for now.

Table 14: Educational attainment by ethnicity

		No schooling	No diploma	Primary	Lower secondary	Upper secondary	Tertiary	Total
Roma	<i>Men</i>	49,0	5,4	22,7	20,2	2,4	0,5	100
	<i>Women</i>	54,6	5,8	21,6	15,6	2,0	0,4	100
	<i>Total</i>	51,8	5,6	22,1	17,9	2,2	0,5	100
Egyptians		15,7	4,5	30,7	39,7	8,0	1,4	100
Albanians		2,8	1,2	15,7	40,7	28,8	10,8	100

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 10 years and more

The variation of educational attainment –the criteria here being having attained at least a lower secondary level- by age group allows seeing if progress have been made in the last decade. For Albanians, this level has been achieved already for the oldest generations and the progress occurred for the generation with 55 years old and more. The post-socialist area has not affected the educational attainment at this level for the group. The deterioration of conditions of education is more sensible for the minorities. Roma aged 35 to 50 has a higher level of educational attainment than the younger generations. The generation who had 10-14 years during the transition (in 1991 and after) had the lowest educational attainment. Egyptians, Roma and vulnerable communities have not recovered yet the level they had 30 years before.

Table 15: Achieving at least a lower secondary school level, by age and ethnicity

	Roma	Egyptians	Albanians
Total	21	49	80
15-19	22	55	94
20-24	20	50	97
25-29	15	48	96
30-34	23	59	96
35-39	34	61	96
40-44	38	73	97
45-49	37	59	97
50-54	26	60	95
55+	21	40	66

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 years and more

These poor level of educational attainments for Roma and Egyptians have a crucial impact on their employment prospects. Most of the jobs in the tertiary economy require at least a upper secondary education, and a minimum set of skills are requested to participate in industrial sector, agriculture or in retail, sales and trades. The proportion of illiterate persons is a good indicator for evaluating the kind of employment participation that will be accessible. On average, 2 % of the Albanians declare to be illiterate, 15% of the Egyptians and 48% of the Roma (46% for men and 53% for women). The proportion of illiteracy has followed the same trends as the one observed in educational attainment. The correlation between illiteracy and school attendance is absolute: 99% of illiterate Roma people never attended to school. A small proportion of those who did not attend achieved to learn to read and write.

The UNDP survey provides more information about the type of schools in which Roma children are enrolled: 67% of the children attend schools which are located in a Roma settlement; 38% of the children attend schools composed only with Roma pupils and 47% which can be described as non-segregated schools. However, class is mainly given in Albanian language (for 75% of the children). There is an overall feeling that Roma children are welcome at school, which echoes the fact that exclusion and discrimination are not claimed as a reason for not enrolling children in schools. These findings are contradicting the experiences reported in the *Needs Assessment* report, where among different barriers to education, discrimination and stigmatization caused by poverty are identified as important drivers for school avoidance. Institutional barriers are also an important dimension where public authorities could act to ease the access for Roma families. There is a clear need for a voluntary program dedicated to school enrollment of Roma children and support to keep them in school during the 9 years of compulsory education. Last but not least, the poverty of the families creates more incentives for the children to work, i.e. to participate to the informal economic activities of the family, than to attend school. Being asked if they find acceptable that a boy or a girl at primary school age work instead of going to school, 55% of Roma respondents answered positively, for 25% of the Albanian respondents.

3. LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND RELIGION

Ethnicity is defined as a subjective feeling of belonging which may involve a common culture, language, religion, sense of history, a territory, but sometimes none of these traits are shared and a sense of ethnicity may be expressed. The assumption behind the self-identification as Roma, Egyptian or Albanian is that there will be a strong coherency between ethnicity and the other dimension of cultural identity. The preservation of Roma ethnic groups which have not been assimilated in none of the societies in Eastern and Central Europe, and the single existence of an Egyptian group in Albania, tell clearly that the memory and the culture of the group constitute a reference for identification.

Language

It is well known that the Egyptians speak Albanian and that their distinctiveness does not lie in their language. A small number (1,5%) of the self-identified Egyptians declare another language than Albanian. The Albanians themselves are also very homogeneous. The majority of the self-identified Roma are surprisingly reporting Albanian as mother tongue (62%) and only 36% of them have spoken a Romani language at home when they were a child.

The UNDP survey approached the question on language differently, asking first for the language used “most at home”, and then adding “and which other languages do you use at home”, recording the second and possibly third most used languages. Here 55% of Roma said that they spoke mostly Romani at home, but among the 45% who declared speaking mostly Albanian, 47% added that they spoke Romani as a second language. Altogether, 76% of Roma did speak Romani as an exclusive language or combined with Albanian. The remainder (24%) spoke only Albanian and can be considered as Roma without a practice of the Romani language (and may be also its knowledge but this is not exactly what is asked in the census or the UNDP survey). Reversely, almost all the self-identified Roma speak Albanian at home as most or second language and only 4% of Roma declare not using at all Albanian at home.

Table 16: Mother tongue by ethnicity

	Albanians		Egyptians		Roma	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
Albanian	2307632	99,80	3322	98,63	5150	62,04
Greek	478	0,02	-		1	0,01
Macedonian	269	0,01	-		-	
Romanes	818	0,04	14	0,42	3022	36,41
Aromanian	503	0,02	-		74	0,89
Turkish	20	0,00	-		1	0,01
Italian	34	0,00	-		-	
Montenegriins	4	0,00	-		-	
Not relevant/not stated	2386	0,10	14	0,42	51	0,61
Others	212	0,01	18	0,53	2	0,02

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

To understand the drivers for language maintenance or shift to Albanian, we develop specific analyses here on the case of the Roma group. There is no relation between age and the language spoken by the Roma people, each age group having more or less the same divide between Albanian and Romani. Conversely, there is a relation between the language declared in the census and the educational attainment. The use of Albanian is more frequent among literate Roma people than among the illiterate: 69% of the former and 55% of the latter.

Correlation between language and years of schooling is also more obvious, even though the distribution is not polarized as it could be expected. If the declaration of Romani is higher among those who have never attended school and lower among those who have more than 10 years of education, there are still Romani speakers who achieve higher level of education. In the rather small Roma elite of high achievers at school (who reached the upper secondary or tertiary level), about a quarter are Romani speakers. Being raised in a predominant Romani language environment does not really prevent in itself the success at school.

Table 17 : Mother tongue by years of schooling, Roma population

	Albanian	Romanes	Other	Total
0	55,3	43,5	1,2	100,0
less than 5	67,5	31,3	1,2	100,0
5 to 9	71,5	27,3	1,3	100,0
10 and +	70,6	28,1	1,4	100,0

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 10 years and more

Religion

Unlike Roma populations in most countries in Central and Eastern Europe who are Christians, Roma and Egyptians in Albania have converted to Islam during the Ottoman Empire and have kept this affiliation since then. The religious landscape in Albania is relatively diverse, with a dominance of Islam, Catholicism and those who are atheists or do not chose a specific religious affiliation. It should be noted however that the questions in the census related to ethnicity and religion were not mandatory and an explicit "Prefer not to answer" option was offered in the questionnaire. As a consequence, there is a large share of non response to these questions (14% in both cases).

The variations of religious denomination between ethnic groups depend mostly of the proportion of the non response. The Albanians present a higher share of Catholics (11%) compared to the Roma and Egyptians who favor slightly more a faith without denomination.² However, these data do not reflect the extent to which religion is an important dimension of the values or behaviors of the believers.

Table 18: Religion declared by ethnicity

	Roma		Egyptians		Albanians	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
Muslims	5720	69	2789	83	1464458	63
Bektashi	32	0	-	0	55884	2
Catholics	92	1	31	1	259210	11
Orthodox	247	3	18	1	140179	6
Evangelists	32	0	33	1	3244	0
Other Christians	3	0	12	0	1635	0
Believers without denomination	791	10	273	8	123767	5
Atheists	342	4	60	2	60590	3
Prefer not to answer	966	12	124	4	177738	8
Not relevant/not stated	71	1	28	1	25192	1
Others	5	0	-	0	459	0

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

The UNDP survey collects a question on religious service attendance which shows that religiosity measured by this indicator is rather low in the two groups. Regular attendance is an exception and the level of practice is not only similar across ethic groups, but also between genders.

² In the UNDP-World Bank survey, 93% of the Roma are Muslims and only a few (less than 0.5%) declared not having a religion.

Table 19: Attendance to religious service by gender, Roma/Egyptian population

	Once a week or more	Once a month	On special holy days	Once a year and less	Almost never	NR
Male	6,9	2,2	15,7	25,6	46,4	3,3
Female	6,9	2,4	20,2	20,2	47,3	3,0
Total	6,9	2,3	18,6	22,1	47,0	3,1

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

Table 20: Attendance to religious service by gender, Albanian population

	Once a week or more	Once a month	On special holy days	Once a year and less	Almost never	NR
Male	3,6	4,5	22,5	22,5	46,9	0,0
Female	8,0	4,8	25,3	20,5	39,8	1,6
Total	6,7	4,7	24,4	21,1	41,9	1,1

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011



4. EMPLOYMENT

Employment is a crucial dimension for social inclusion, but the situation of the labor market in Albania is difficult. Emigration for economic reasons has been a major trend in the post-socialist transition. Employment rate remains relatively low compare to Western European countries. In this context, one can expect that Roma and Egyptians will not experiment better conditions than the majority population.

The post-socialist transition had led to a dramatic loss of economic opportunities for Roma and Egyptians. They benefited of public jobs in the socialist economy and have lost them during the transition. They are now struggling to recover the position they had before: low paid jobs, but providing enough income to escape from poverty and securing a status in society. The market economy does not offer the same kind of jobs and Roma and Egyptians are kept at the fringe of the formal economy. When looking at the type of economic activity in which Roma are engaged, the very notion of employment is disputable since most of the employed Roma do not have employment contracts and the type of activity they have consists mainly in buying and selling second-hand clothes and collection of scrap metals and cans (*Needs Assessment*, p.41).

Participation to the labor market

The findings on the participation to the labor market differ between the census and the UNDP survey. We have thus adopted the strategy to use in priority the census for the structural dimension of employment and to analyze the UNDP survey for the more detailed information on the type of employment and income.

The gross employment and unemployment rates highlight the low level of activity in Albania and the critical situation of the Roma and the Egyptians. Less than a quarter of each group is employed, and the gender inequality is impressive: only 15% of the Roma women and 13% of the Egyptian women are employed. These inequalities are also very large in the Albanian group. The low level of employment can be explained by a retreat from the labor market, especially for women, but also from a very high unemployment. Half of the active Roma and two third of the Egyptians who are on the labor market are looking for a job, to be compared to 29% of Albanians. Unemployment rate of the Roma women is rocketing at 58% and even 73% for Egyptian women. The fact that between half and three fourth of women who intend to work cannot find a job tells a lot on the lack of appropriate qualifications on one hand, but also on the mismatch between their skills and expectations of the labor market. The hypothesis of ethnic discrimination against Roma and Egyptians should also be anticipated here. This hypothesis is supported by different accounts coming from qualitative research.

Table 21: Employment rate by ethnicity and gender (15-64)

	Roma	Albanians	Egyptians
Total	22,5	35,1	18,8
Men	35,2	44,8	23,8
Women	15,5	25,5	13,4

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 to 64 years

Table 22: Unemployment rate by ethnicity and gender (15 -64)

	Roma	Albanians	Egyptians
Total	49,7	29,4	67,5
Men	44,8	28,2	63,3
Women	58,3	31,4	73,5

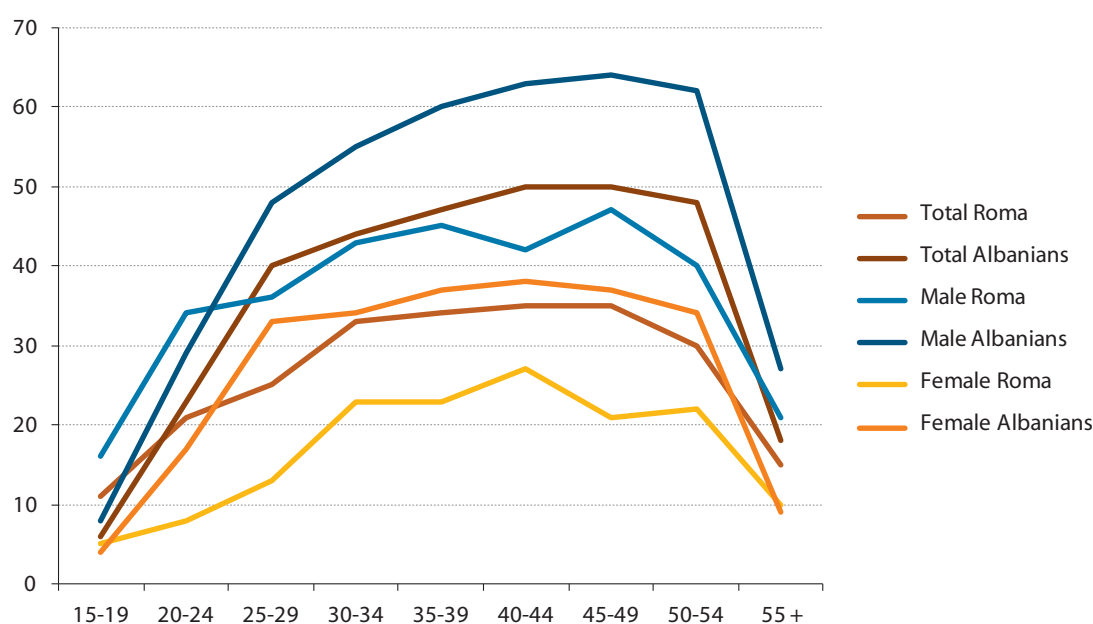
Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 to 64 years

The evolution of the employment rate by age group confirms the lower probability for Roma people to find a job on the labor market. Before 25 years old, Roma men have the highest employment rate because of their early drop out from school, whereas Albanians are still in education. After 25, the trend stops for the Roma men and the employment rate stagnates around 45%, while it continues for Albanian men and peaks at 45 years old at 64%. For both group, the gender gap is large. The Albanian women drop out from employment just before 30 years old when most of them have their first child. Their employment rate will then stay below not only the rates of the Albanian men, but also the Roma men. The Roma women live the worst situation on the labor market. Conversely to the Roma men, their early drop out from school does not bring them on the labor market. The fact that they begin their family life in the teen age prevents them to find jobs. They reach the peak of employment in their 40s at 27%.

The explanations for this very low participation to the labor market combine traditional gender roles, lack of education and discrimination on the labor market.

Figure 10: Employment rate by age group, gender and ethnicity



Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 to 64 years

The distance to the labor market can be evaluated by the proportion of persons who have never worked. According to the UNDP survey, 38% of the Roma population aged 15 to 64 years and not studying have never worked and 24% of the Albanians. Here again, the gender gap is wide: 52% of Roma and Egyptians women have never worked compared to 24% of men. Almost half of the Roma and Egyptians women who have never worked would not be ready to start to work in the next two weeks, which means that a quarter of the total female population has never worked and is not intending to do so.

Table 23: Proportions of persons who have never worked by ethnicity and gender

	Total	Men	Women
Roma/Egyptians	38	24	52
Albanians	24	14	33

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

Population aged 15-64 not in school

Employment and education

It seems obvious that the low level of education of the Roma population is the most important barrier to access to the labor market. We have seen that the educational attainment remains very limited, but that the small group of upward mobile Roma achieved an upper secondary education or a tertiary education (3% of the population aged 10 years and more). Approximately the same proportion have completed at least 10 years in school. One could expect that these relative higher achievers would have better prospects on the labor market. As it can be seen in descriptive statistics, even though the employment rates improve with the number of years of schooling, the returns of education remain limited for Roma men and women. Developing the education among the Roma community will thus bring more resources to enter in better conditions on the labor market, but this will not be sufficient to overcome the other barriers among which distance to the labor market, lack of networks and discriminations seem to play an important role.

Table 24: Employment rate by gender and years of schooling, Roma population

	Total	Men	Women
No schooling	21,8	32,1	12,6
Less than 5 years	23,4	33,5	13,3
5 to 9 years	27,6	34,4	19,1
10 and more	30,5	38,3	20,4

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 to 64 years

To sort out the specific impact of gender on the probability of being employed, we have computed a logistic regression controlling for sex, age, language and educational attainment. Will the difference in employment between Roma men and Roma women be explained by the differences in education or by the role of gender? The findings in table below show that being a woman has a significant negative impact on the chance of being employed, with the same level of education, age and language than men. The odds ratio which estimates the magnitude of the difference due to the gender is 0,331, which means that a Roma woman has 3 times less chance to be employed with the same characteristics of age and education than a man.

The regression gives other interesting information. First, against all odds and confirming the descriptive statistics above, the level of education is only increasing the likelihood to be employed when a upper secondary level is achieved when age and gender are controlled for. Secondly, the disadvantage that was visible for the youngest age groups in the descriptive statistics is also visible here: 30 years old seems to be the tipping point before which it is less likely to be employed. Thirdly the language spoken in the childhood at home does not make a difference on the labor market.

Table 25: Logistic regression on the probability of being employed, Roma population

		Coefficient	Pr > Khi-2
Intercept		-0.2400	0.0357
Sex	<i>Women</i>	-1.1026	<.0001
	<i>Men</i>	ref	
Educational attainment	<i>No schooling</i>	ref	
	<i>primary</i>	-0.0129	0.8883
	<i>low secondary</i>	0.1395	0.1029
	<i>Upper secondary and tertiary</i>	0.5835	0.0026
Age	<i>15-19</i>	-1.3668	<.0001
	<i>20-24</i>	-0.6372	<.0001
	<i>25-29</i>	-0.4354	0.0009
	<i>30-34</i>	ref	
	<i>35-39</i>	0.0463	0.7358
	<i>40-44</i>	0.0351	0.8025
	<i>45-49</i>	0.0114	0.9371
	<i>50-64</i>	-0.3427	0.0064
Language	<i>Albanian</i>	ref	
	<i>Romanes</i>	-0.0140	0.8467

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 to 64 years and who are not studying

Type of employment

For those who are employed, the type of employment differs across ethnic groups and gender. Women are more often employees or family workers than men. Albanians and Egyptians are mainly employees when Roma are self-employed. The notion of self-employment in their case refers mainly to activities in the informal economy where they occupy low qualified jobs.

Table 26: Type of employment by ethnicity and gender

	Roma			Egyptians			Albanians		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Employee	29	27	34	63	57	76	54	50	62
Self-employed	62	65	55	32	40	18	35	41	25
<i>With employees</i>	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	2
<i>Without employees</i>	60	63	53	30	38	16	31	36	23
Family workers	9	8	12	5	3	7	10	9	13

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 years and more

The UNDP survey provides more details about the type of employment by distinguishing informal activities. Collecting scraps and working on an hourly base as unskill worker are very common and concern 37% of the employed Roma, to be compared to the 16% of Albanians. Men are more frequently engaged in these activities, while women are comparatively to men more involved as public employees or family workers. If we consider that the self-employed are very often working in the shadow economy as well, the regular employment rate is much lower than declared.

The quality of jobs can be evaluated with different indicators. In most cases, the jobs occupied by Roma do not provide pensions and health care (in 84% of cases). These social contributions can be found mainly in public jobs, which make a minority of positions. In addition, a large proportion of the jobs are occupied on non permanent basis (56%), as a temporary (27%), seasonal (11%) or periodical (17%) type of activity. Permanent and stable employment in positions that could be considered as secured is rather an exception (15% of employment).

Table 27: Type of employment by gender, Roma population

	Total	Men	Women
Employee private	23,3	23,1	23,5
Employee public	8,7	6,9	13,0
Self-employed	19,2	18,6	20,7
Employer with employees	1,1	0,9	1,4
Family worker	6,1	4,0	10,9
Collect scraps	16,2	18,7	10,5
Unskill/hourly worker	20,7	23,0	15,4
Trader	2,2	2,0	2,8
Other	2,6	2,9	1,8

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

Employed population aged 15-64

Occupation and sectors of activity

The distribution of occupations of the Albanians is marked by the importance of the workers in skilled activities in agriculture, forestry and fishery, professionals and service and sales and craft and related trades workers. These 4 occupations make up 71% of the activities of the employed Albanians. Roma and Egyptians display a rather different occupational distribution with a dual polarization as service and sales workers and in elementary occupations. Elementary occupations are typically the kind of unskilled activities with no real status. Compared to Roma who are concentrated in the lowest occupations, Egyptians present stratification with some intermediate status, like craft and trades workers and a small number of professionals and technicians.

The under representation of Egyptians and Roma in agriculture is also visible in the sectors where they have their activities. If a quarter of the employed Albanians work in agriculture, only 5% of Egyptians and 8% of Roma are employed in this sector. Egyptians are more often working in the sector of manufacturing and mining, while Roma are essentially in the wholesale and retail trade.

Table 28: Occupation by ethnicity

	Albanians	Egyptians	Roma
Legislators, senior officials and managers	4	1	1
Professionals	15	4	3
Technicians and associate professionals	7	4	1
Clerical support workers	2	1	0
Service and sales workers	17	30	40
Skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers	25	3	5
Craft and related trades workers	14	17	7
Plant and machine operators and assemblers	7	6	2
Elementary occupations	5	30	36
Armed forces	1	0	0
Not stated	3	3	5

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Employed population aged 15 years and more

Table 29: Sectors of activity by ethnicity

	Albanians	Egyptians	Roma
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	27	5	8
Manufacturing, mining and quarrying and other industry	12	30	10
Construction	8	9	5
Wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food service activities	21	35	64
Information and communication	2	0	0
Financial and insurance activities	1	0	0
Real estate activities	0	2	0
Professional, scientific, technical, administration and support service activities	2	8	3
Public administration, defence, education, human health and social work activities	20	7	4
Other services	3	4	6

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Employed population aged 15-64

Unemployment

The experience of unemployment is very common among Roma: according to the census 25% of the working age population is looking for work. The UNDP survey collects more details about the situation of the unemployed population. Only 66% of unemployed Roma are registered in an employment agency, and this is more often the case for women than for men. Among those who are looking for a job, 58% had never worked and 12% have worked for the last time more than 10 years ago.

Table 30: Duration of unemployment, Roma and Egyptian population

	%
Never worked	58
less than 5 years	24
5 to 10 years	6
More than 10 years	12
Total	100

Source: UNDP-WB survey, 2011

Unemployed population aged 15-64

The occupational profile of the unemployed population, based on their previous occupation, is mirroring the one of the employed. However, it is surprising to see that the unemployment rates of the skilled and professionals are higher than those of the semi-skilled and unskilled groups. It seems that a high level of education or a high status in occupation are not a protection against unemployment for Roma and Egyptians. The small group of educated Roma is thus under-employed for reasons that are related to discrimination.

Table 31: Distribution of unemployed and unemployment rates by occupation, Roma and Egyptian population

	Unemployed	% Unemployed
Self-employed	1	1,4
Professional and Skilled	5	14,9
Semi-Skilled	7	10,8
Unskilled	23	12,4
Farmer	3	11
Never worked	58	Nuk dihet
Other	3	Nuk dihet

Source: UNDP-WB survey, 2011

Population aged 15-64

Discrimination into the labor market

A logistic regression on the probability to be unemployed (for persons who are not in education) confirms that the higher the educational attainment is, the lower the likelihood to be unemployed and that the access to the labor market is critical for the youth. Before 25 years old, the probability to be unemployed is significantly higher than for the other age groups. But the important finding here is that being a Roma is in itself a penalty when looking for a job. With the same level of education, age and sex than an Albanian reference, a Roma person is significantly more unemployed. Of course, there are unobserved variables that may reduce the penalty attached to the Roma ethnicity, but the assumption that Roma are discriminated on the labor market is supported by these findings.

Table 32: Logistic regression on the probability of being unemployed

		Estimate	Pr > ChiSq
Intercept		-0.5070	<.0001
Gender	Male	Ref	
	Female	0.3282	<.0001
Age	13-17	34.566	<.0001
	18-20	0.8260	<.0001
	21-24	0.5903	<.0001
	25-34	Ref	
	35-44	-0.4166	<.0001
	45-54	-0.5866	<.0001
	55-64	-0.6355	<.0001
Education attainment	No education	Ref	
	Lower Basic	-0.0971	0.0004
	Upper basic	-0.2873	<.0001
	Secondary and More	-0.7926	<.0001
Ethnicity	Roma	0.4091	<.0001
	Albanian	Ref.	

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15-64 not in school

There is another way to measure discrimination through self-reported experience of discrimination. The UNDP-World Bank survey did record directly the experience of discrimination on different grounds (sex, ethnicity, age and disability) and in various situations (table 33). The Roma declared a relatively high frequency of 40% of experience of discrimination because of their ethnicity (to be compared to the 7% declared by the Albanians). These discriminations occur mainly when looking for a job (46%) or when using health care services (43%). Comparatively discrimination at the work place seems to be more limited (24%). One explanation for the discrepancy between the feeling of discrimination and the seemingly limited level of ethnic penalty into the labor market may come from the fact that the most discriminated Roma simply stop looking for jobs or have declared to work a few hours, and thus are not identified as unemployed.

Table 33: Self-reported experience of discrimination in the last 5 years, Roma population

Discrimination in the last 5 years	40,4
Looking for job	46,1
At work	23,6
In housing	32,6
In health	42,8
In education	31,5

Source: UNDP-WB survey, 2011

Population aged 15-64

Note: for education, discrimination as a student or as a parent

5. HOUSING

During the last inter-census period (2001-2011), the housing infrastructure has improved in Albania, despite an enduring urban/rural gap. The quality of housing and the amenities and goods that the households have access to have also increased. In this general context, the situation of Roma, and to a lesser extent of Egyptians, can be considered as more critical. The two communities are clearly diverging when it comes to housing conditions. Like in all Central and Southeast European countries, Roma populations encounter very poor housing conditions, far from any accepted standard. In a comparative assessment based on the UNDP-World Bank survey, Jaroslav Kling found that on average more than 30% of Roma lived in the ruined houses or slums, as evaluated by enumerators (Kling, 2011). Roma in Albania were among the worst cases with 36% of them living in dilapidated housing or slums, close to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (36%) and slightly better off than in Serbia (38%) or Montenegro (42%). They also had the lowest surface of housing per household member (11,58 sq meters, to be compared to 21,07 for Albanians).

According to the 2011 census, 15% of the Roma households live in a non-conventional dwelling. Non conventional dwelling may refer to shelters, tents, shacks, barracks, or any type of precarious constructions. Too often, Roma settlements can be found in remote areas where barracks form impressive shanty towns. This situation does not have any equivalent for other ethnic groups in Albania as the distribution by type of building shows (table): 4% of Egyptian households and 0,5% of Albanian households share these extreme deprivation in housing. Apart from this non conventional type of housing, houses from different types represent the main type of building inhabited in Albania. Due to their primary location in cities, Egyptians live more often in apartments and in semi-detached or row houses.

Table 34: Type of building by ethnicity

	Roma	Egyptians	Albanians
Total	100	100	100
Detached house	51,0	32,5	55,5
Semi-detached house	8,6	14,3	9,2
Row (or terraced) house	5,3	10,0	4,5
Apartment building (flat)	19,3	38,2	30,1
Collective living quarters	0,5	0,9	0,3
Building designed for non-residential purposes	0,4	1,4	0,4
Sheltler	11,0	2,6	0,1
Tent	1,2	0,0	0,0
Shack	2,4	0,1	0,0
Other structure	0,1	0,0	0,0

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Households

The type of building is correlated to the concentration of the two groups in enumeration areas. The areas where Egyptians are concentrated have an over-representation of houses rather than apartment. The non conventional housing is clearly associated with high concentration areas for Roma. These areas represent the kind of precarious settlements typical for marginalized Roma households. They live close to houses that may be dilapidated as well and distinguished themselves from the non conventional housing only by their walls in concrete.

Table 35: Type of building (short list) by ethnicity and concentration at the EA

		House	Apartment	Non conventional	Total
Roma	Total	65	20	15	100
	<i>Low concentration</i>	60	33	6	100
	<i>Medium concentration</i>	63	26	11	100
	<i>High concentration</i>	71	4	25	100
Egyptians	Total	57	39	4	100
	<i>Low concentration</i>	48	48	4	100
	<i>Medium concentration</i>	46	48	6	100
	<i>High concentration</i>	71	26	3	100

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Households

The precariousness of the housing is not reflected by the tenure status: most Roma households declare to own their house (74%), although a significant minority is occupying their place without paying a rent (16%). Ownership is the overwhelming majority of tenure status of the Albanians. State owned housing plays a minor role to compensate the difficulties that Roma faced on the housing market.

Table 36: Tenure status of the household by ethnicity

	Roma	Egyptians	Albanians
Owning or in process of acquiring legal act	73,7	78,8	90,5
Renting dwelling where the owner is	10,3	11,3	5,7
<i>State</i>	0,4	1,0	0,3
<i>Private</i>	9,9	10,3	5,4
Living free of rent in dwelling, where the owner is	16,0	9,9	3,8
<i>State</i>	0,7	0,8	0,2
<i>Private</i>	6,6	6,8	3,0
<i>Other</i>	8,7	2,3	0,6

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Households

A focus on the distribution of the tenure status for the non conventional type of dwelling of the Roma households shows that a small minority declare to own their shack or barrack, and that a surprising proportion declare to rent it (32%). The economy of the shanty towns inhabited by the Roma households deserves more research to understand how they function. During a field visit in one of these neighborhoods in Tirana, we have been told that families who were temporarily moving to other cities (or to Kosovo or Greece) were renting their barrack to other families for a modest price. There is obviously a market for this precarious housing for families leaving the rural areas to try to make a living in Tirana and other cities in Albania.

Table 37: Tenure status by type of building, Roma households

	House	Apartment	Non conventional	Total
Owner	58	75	7	54
In process	27	5	9	20
Tenant (rent)	5	13	32	10
Occupant (free)	10	7	53	16
Total	100	100	100	100

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

*Roma Households***Table 38:** Indicators of the norms of occupation of the dwellings by ethnicity

	Roma	Egyptians	Albanians
Average no. of rooms per conventional occupied dwelling	2,29	2,27	3,03
Density standard of dwellings (no. square meters per occupants)	8,36	8,27	14,39
Density standard of dwellings (no. room per occupants)	0,46	0,48	0,77
Percentage of overcrowded dwellings (dwellings with a no. of occupants per room = 3 or more)	32,76	32,05	5,3

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

We will now focus on the quality of the dwellings inhabited by the Roma households. This will be assessed by looking at the access to basic amenities such as water supply and toilets. The poor conditions of the housing infrastructures can be seen in the lower proportion of dwellings providing piped water (42% to be compared to 66% in Albania). If apartment are generally connected to a water system, either in the flat or in the building, this is not the case for detached house. As expected, non-conventional dwellings have a scarce access to water: in the best case they have water near the shack (40% of cases), but 52% of Roma households have simply no access to water.

Table 39: Water supply by type of building, Roma households

	Piped water			Other system	No water supply	Total
	In the dwelling	Not in the dwelling but in the building	Outside of the building			
Detached	34,3	25,2	19,7	13,3	7,5	100
Semi-detached	48,8	16,1	14,9	13,1	7,1	100
Row house	49,5	22,8	16,8	5,9	5,0	100
Apartment	87,8	6,4	3,7	0,8	1,3	100
Non Conventional	0,7	3,5	39,9	4,2	51,8	100
All type	42,1	17,3	19,0	9,0	12,6	100
Albania	66,0	11,0	9,2	11,2	2,7	100

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Roma Households

The same gap can be observed for toilets which are accessible in the dwelling only for 41% of the Roma households (77% of dwellings in Albania). Again, detached houses are less equipped than the average. Two third of the non-conventional dwellings do not provide any toilets for their inhabitants.

Table 40: Toilets by type of building, Roma households

	Flush toilets			Other system	No toilets	Total
	<i>In the dwelling</i>	<i>Not in the dwelling but in the building</i>	<i>Outside of the building</i>			
Detached	34,4	28,3	15,6	18,3	3,6	100
Semi-detached	44,1	20,8	17,3	16,7	1,2	100
Row house	48,5	18,8	20,8	8,9	3,0	100
Apartment	84,6	6,6	3,2	4,8	0,8	100
Non residential	1,4	1,4	6,6	24,1	66,4	100
All type	41,1	18,7	12,4	15,8	12,1	100
Albania	76,7	8,5	8,0	6,1	0,7	100

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Roma Households

From the UNDP-World Bank we also know that 36% of the Roma households are worried about the possibility of losing their housing because of eviction, whereas 24% of Albanian households share this fear. In addition, 68% have financial difficulties to pay for the mortgage, the rent or the utilities. Extreme poverty, or at least the very limited amount of financial resources, is one of the main drivers for explaining the poor housing conditions of Roma. We have also seen that 36% of Roma households complaint about being discriminated when they look for housing. Discrimination is adding to the problems faced by Roma families to find a decent housing.

6. LIVING CONDITIONS

The living conditions of the Roma and Egyptians are affected by the lack of financial resources due to their limited access to employment, and especially to waged employment. As a consequence of their exclusion from the formal labor market, they have entered in a circle of poverty and social exclusion that hinder all the opportunities they would have normally, and hamper their living conditions.

In the cases of high unemployment and low income coming from paid work, welfare subsidies are meant to cover the basic needs of families. The condition to receive social welfare, when such provisions exist, is that families should be enrolled in programs or at least been registered in the social assistance system. As explained in the *Needs Assessment report* (page 37 and sq), there are several explanation for the limited coverage of welfare assistance for the Roma families, including the difficulties to fill in administrative forms, the barriers made by local authorities to Roma to access their basic rights, some specific provision regarding the length of residence which prevent Roma families to be eligible for subsidies, etc. However, the census show that the sources of income received by the Roma are composed mainly by self-employment, social assistance and "other sources". Due to their age structure and the informality of their economic activity, they tend to receive fewer pensions than the Albanians and Egyptians. Egyptians are more often covered by social subsidies.

Table 41: Source of income by ethnicity

	Albanians	Egyptians	Roma
Paid work or self-employment	45,3	26,6	38,7
Property or other investments	2,1	0,5	0,9
Pensions of any type	25,7	20,4	16,2
Social assistance and benefits	9,4	31,7	21,6
Remittances	6,8	1,9	4,8
Support by another person	1,3	1,1	1,1
Other	9,3	17,9	31,3

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Households

The barriers to access to social assistance can be measured by the relatively low level of Roma recipients in high concentration areas, where we have seen that live the most deprived households. In these areas, only 14% of households receive social assistance, while 46% rely on other sources for their income. Conversely the Egyptians households living in high concentration areas are more depending on social benefits for their income.

Table 42: Source of income by level of concentration, Roma population

	Concentration			
	Total	Low concentration	Medium concentration	High concentration
Paid work or self-employment	38,7	47,9	39,7	31,4
Property or other investments	0,9	0,8	1,1	0,7
Pensions of any type	16,2	21,7	16,0	12,6
Social assistance and benefits	21,6	22,5	27,6	14,4
Remittances	4,8	5,2	3,7	5,6
Support by another person	1,1	0,6	1,1	1,4
Other	31,3	21,5	24,3	45,6

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Roma Households

Table 43: Source of income by level of concentration, Egyptian population

	Concentration			
	Total	Low concentration	Medium concentration	High concentration
Paid work or self-employment	26,6	36,6	32,8	15,6
Property or other investments	0,5	0,7	0,6	0,2
Pensions of any type	20,4	18,2	21,1	21,4
Social assistance and benefits	31,7	29,7	33,1	32,0
Remittances	1,9	1,7	0,9	2,8
Support by another person	1,1	0,3	2,1	0,9
Other	17,9	12,9	9,3	27,2

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Egyptian households

Another way to approach living conditions in the census is to screen out the level of equipment detained by households. If television is an equipment that almost all households tend to acquire, an obvious limitation is that the dwelling should have the electricity. This may explain why 18% of Roma household do not declare a television. They also lack of some of the basic electric goods: Refrigerator (35% do not have one) or washing machine (a luxury that 63% of Roma households cannot afford). They are comparatively more inclined to use mobile phones. Computers, internet connection or fixed telephone are detained by a small minority of Roma, but the coverage in Albania is anyhow quite limited.

Table 44: Household equipment by ethnicity

	Roma	Albanians	Egyptians
Refrigerator	64,9	92,7	75,8
Deepfreezer	3,1	6,1	2,9
Washing machine	36,6	80,6	51,8
Drying machine	1,0	2,8	1,4
Dishwasher	0,2	3,4	0,0
Boiler	19,0	51,4	28,2
Microwave oven	2,8	17,7	4,7
TV	82,0	92,7	89,4
TV decoder	6,3	18,7	10,1
Fixed telephone	6,0	28,8	16,2
Mobile telephone	62,7	87,5	65,9
Computer	4,1	20,4	6,7
Internet connection	2,2	12,6	4,4
Solar panel	0,2	2,7	0,2
Air conditioner	2,0	11,4	2,7
Car	8,5	24,9	4,3
None of these	15,3	4,0	7,0

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Households

The census does not provide any information on the amount of income, but the UNDP-World Bank survey has collected detailed information about monetary standards of living. An encompassing analysis of these data has been published recently by A. Ivanov and J.Kagin (2014). They show that if there has been a significant reduction of the absolute

poverty indicators (PPP 2.15\$ and PPP 4.3\$) between 2004 and 2011, both measured at the expenditure level or the income level. At the expenditure level, the absolute monetary poverty based on expenditures has declined from 78% of the households to 36%, which is still the double of the level recorded for the Albanians neighbors. The indicator of absolute monetary poverty based on income has followed the same evolution, declining sharply from 73% to 37%. Calculated by the absolute poverty line at PPP 2.15\$, 8% of the Roma households in Albania are closed to malnutrition and famine. In addition, 65% of Roma declared that they could not afford enough food in the previous month and 21% consider that it is acceptable to steal food if the family goes hungry (14% for the Albanians).



7. HEALTH

Encountering high level of poverty and living in extremely precarious housing conditions, Roma and Egyptians are experiencing poor health situation. It is alleged that life expectancy is lower for Roma and Egyptians. Incidences of different diseases and illness have been recorded in the UNDP survey. Compared to their Albanians neighbors, Roma and Egyptians show higher level of exposure to Asthma, chronic bronchitis, arthritis and anxiety or depression. The self-reported incidences also show that Roma women have a higher exposure to high blood pressure (26%) and long-standing problems with muscles and bones (arthritis: 31%). It is not possible to assess the consequences of these incidences in term of morbidity or mortality with the census or the UNDP survey, so we have to rely on other sources for this purpose. According to previous research, the *Needs Assessment report* states that infant mortality rates tend to be higher among Roma and Egyptians community compared to the rest of the population: 19% of Roma and 10% of Egyptians declared they have lost a child after birth (2012, p.29).

Table 45: Incidence of selected diseases by ethnicity

	Roma	Albanians
Asthma	7	3,6
Chronic bronchitis, COPD or emphysema	11,3	4,2
Hypertension	23,8	20,3
Arthritis	27,9	20,3
Chronic anxiety or depression	10,8	4,7
Diabetes	4,9	6,1

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

The census collects information about limitation in different physical abilities or activities which provides a broad picture of the situation of the two groups under study (table). However, the incidence rates of limitations remain relatively low and are highly dependent of the age structure, since impairments begin to occur with ageing.

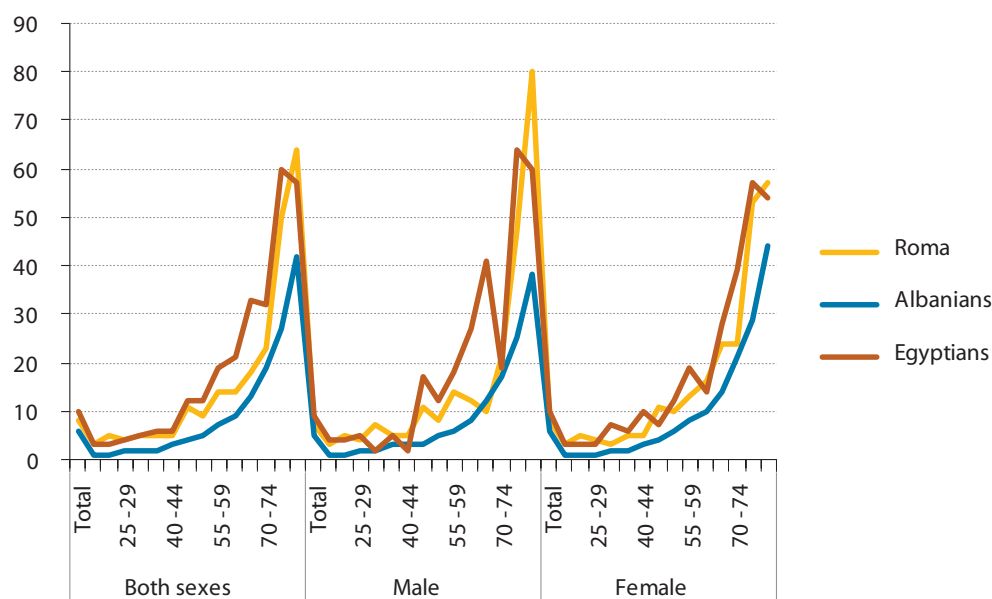
Table 46: Proportion of limitations (inability and severe difficulties) by ethnicity

	Roma			Egyptians		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Seeing	2,3	1,8	2,7	2,8	2,9	2,8
Hearing	2,3	1,8	2,8	2,3	2,2	2,4
Mobility	3,8	3,3	4,3	5,6	5,5	5,8
Cognition	2,9	3,2	2,6	3,0	2,9	3,2
Self care	2,6	3,0	2,2	2,2	2,3	2,1
Communication	2,2	2,1	2,3	2,4	2,5	2,4

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

Population aged 15 years old and more

The combination of the disabilities and impairments give a general indicator of limitations that can be used to describe the health status of the population. On average, 8% of Roma, 10% of Egyptians and 6% of Albanians declared at least one complete or severe limitation. The figure below displays the incidence rates by age, sex and ethnicity. At each age, the incidence is higher for Roma and Egyptians than for Albanians. The gap increases after 50 years old, when the rates reach higher levels. In the 60 to 64 years old group, 9% of Albanians declare a disability for 14% of Roma and 21% of Egyptians. The health status declines then faster for the elderly of the two groups than for the Albanians.

Figure 11: Individuals with at least one difficulty of the degree 3 or 4, by ethnicity and gender

Source: INSTAT, Census, 2011

The health situation reflects the socio-economic status and the poor living conditions of the members of the two groups. As we have seen in a previous chapter, housing of the Roma population is not providing security and the most common amenities are too frequently missing, including access to water. Lack of resources for eating is not uncommon: 17% of Roma households declared they could not afford enough food in the last month several times, and 35 that it did happen a few times. Malnutrition is a major concern in some Roma families. The consequences of poverty are well-known for Roma children who grow up in a context of destitution, which impacts not only their health condition during the childhood but also hampers their life chances on the long run.

One critical dimension for improving the health condition in deprived population is to ensure access to healthcare. Here again Roma and Egyptians prove to have limited access for different reasons. The discrepancies in official registrations begin by the lack of health cards and thus of health booklet which are required to access to health services. According to the needs assessment report, 42% of the Roma and 24% of the Egyptians do not have health cards, and 56% do not have health booklets. As stated by the OSF survey, the lack of health booklets (50% of Roma in this survey did not have one) increase barriers in the administration and discourage demand. The physical distance to health services tend to be higher for Roma, due to the location and the lack of services of the neighborhoods where they are concentrated. The physical distance is aggravated by a cultural distance and the anticipation of negative interactions with health services and fears of discriminations. Even though health costs can be covered when a health card is used, informal payments incurred by corruption raise costs and respondents in the needs assessment survey declared that this was a reason for not seeking medical help.

The UNDP survey confirms that the level of health coverage for Roma population is lower than for Albanians (who are already a selected sample of the Albanian population with lower socio-economic status). If 74% of Roma have a household doctor, almost half of them don't feel safe to receive health service. As a result, 58% should have consulted a doctor but failed to do it. This unmet need can be attributed both to the distance to the amenities and the resistance to use health services.

Table 47: Indicators of health coverage and unmet needs, by ethnicity

	Roma	Albanians
Household has a doctor	74	83
Don't feel safe to receive health service	48	30
Not able to afford medicines (past 12 months)	55	30
Need to consult a doctor, but did not	58	35
Have a medical insurance (personally or with other household member)	33	53

Source: UNDP/WB survey, 2011

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ANNEX: ESTIMATION OF THE ROMA POPULATION IN DIFFERENT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Document prepared by the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Roma Issues							
Updated on 2 July 2012. Most estimates include both local Roma + Roma-related groups (Sinti, Travellers, etc.) & Roma migrants. See details in "Sources".							
Country	Total population (World Bank 2010)	Official number (self-declared)	Census year	Minimum estimate	Maximum estimate	Average estimate (CoE used figure)	Average estimate as a % of total population
Turkey	72 752 325	4 656	1945	500 000	5 000 000	2 750 000	3,78%
Romania	21 442 012	619 007	2011	1 200 000	2 500 000	1 850 000	8,63%
Russian Federation	141 750 000	205 007	2010	450 000	1 200 000	825 000	0,58%
Bulgaria	7 543 325	325 343	2011	700 000	800 000	750 000	9,94%
Hungary	10 008 703	190 046	2001	500 000	1 000 000	750 000	7,49%
Spain	46 081 574	No data available		500 000	1 000 000	750 000	1,63%
Serbia (excl. Kosovo *)	7 292 574	108 193	2002	400 000	800 000	600 000	8,23%
Slovak Republic	5 433 456	89 920	2001	380 000	600 000	490 000	9,02%
France	64 876 618	No data available		300 000	500 000	400 000	0,62%
Ukraine	45 870 700	47 917	2001	120 000	400 000	260 000	0,57%
United Kingdom	62 218 761	No data available		150 000	300 000	225 000	0,36%
Czech Republic	10 525 090	11 718	2001	150 000	250 000	200 000	1,90%
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	2 060 563	53 879	2002	134 000	260 000	197 000	9,56%
Greece	11 319 048	No data available		50 000	300 000	175 000	1,55%
Italy	60 483 521	No data available		120 000	180 000	150 000	0,25%
Albania	3 204 284	1 261	2001	80 000	150 000	115 000	3,59%
Republic of Moldova	3 562 062	12 271	2004	14 200	200 000	107 100	3,01%
Germany	81 702 329	No data available		70 000	140 000	105 000	0,13%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3 760 149	8 864	1991	40 000	76 000	58 000	1,54%
Portugal	10 642 841	No data available		34 000	70 000	52 000	0,49%
Sweden	9 379 116	No data available		35 000	65 000	50 000	0,53%
Belarus	9 490 500	9 927	1999	25 000	70 000	47 500	0,50%
The Netherlands	16 612 213	No data available		32 000	48 000	40 000	0,24%
Ireland	4 481 430	22 435	2006	32 000	43 000	37 500	0,84%
Kosovo *	1 815 000	45 745	1991	25 000	50 000	37 500	2,07%

Country	Total population (World Bank 2010)	Official number (self-declared)	Census year	Minimum estimate	Maximum estimate	Average estimate (CoE used figure)	Average estimate as a % of total population
Austria	8 384 745	6 273	2001	20 000	50 000	35 000	0,42%
Croatia	4 424 161	9 463	2001	30 000	40 000	35 000	0,79%
Poland	38 187 488	12 731	2002	15 000	50 000	32 500	0,09%
Belgium	10 879 159	No data available		20 000	40 000	30 000	0,28%
Switzerland	7 825 243	No data available		25 000	35 000	30 000	0,38%
Montenegro	631 490	8 305	2011	15 000	25 000	20 000	3,17%
Latvia	2 242 916	8 517	2011	9 000	16 000	12 500	0,56%
Finland	5 363 624	No data available		10 000	12 000	11 000	0,21%
Norway	4 885 240	No data available		4 500	15 700	10 100	0,21%
Slovenia	2 052 821	3 246	2002	7 000	10 000	8 500	0,41%
Lithuania	3 320 656	2 571	2001	2 000	4 000	3 000	0,09%
Denmark	5 544 139	No data available		1 000	4 000	2 500	0,05%
Armenia	3 092 072	50	2004	2 000	2 000	2 000	0,06%
Azerbaijan	9 047 932	No data available		2 000	2 000	2 000	0,02%
Georgia	4 452 800	1 200	1989	1 500	2 500	2 000	0,04%
Cyprus	1 103 647	502	1960	1 000	1 500	1 250	0,11%
Estonia	1 339 646	584	2009	600	1 500	1 050	0,08%
Luxembourg	505 831	No data available		100	500	300	0,06%
Malta	412 961	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
Iceland	317 398	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
Andorra	84 864	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
Liechtenstein	36 032	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
Monaco	35 407	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
San Marino	31 534	No data available		0	0	0	0,00%
Total in Europe	828 510 000	1 809 631		6 206 900	16 313 700	11 260 300	1,36%
Council of Europe (47)	817 204 500	1 753 959		6 156 900	16 193 700	11 175 300	1,37%
European Union (27)	502 087 670	1 292 893		4 338 700	7 985 500	6 162 100	1,18%

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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