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# EDUCATION AS A KEY TOOL FOR KEEPING ROMA OUT OF POVERTY

The education of Roma children in France and in Spain

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### Abstract:

Concerns over the underachievement of Roma children in the educational systems of many countries in Europe, and a commitment to improve provision for these children, are something that has been acknowledged across a series of government reports and other documents over the last decades. However, despite many efforts have been made, Roma communities continue to experience discrimination and remain the worst achieving minority group in European schooling systems.

This paper compares the educational policy on the inclusion and exclusion of Roma children from France and Spain. By analysing the educational situation and measures adopted in these two European countries to deal with the situation of Roma, this paper deals with the challenges that minority communities find in their tentative of integration in the national systems of European states.

Whilst different states of the European Union are increasingly taking seriously the educational inequalities of such communities, ethnocentrism and assimilationist frameworks undermine such efforts. A more coherent Europe wide policy may encapsulate a broader understanding and respect for these communities, in order to ensure their inclusion in the educational spaces they occupy.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 1: THE ROMA IN BREAFA

1.1. Terminology and historical context

1.2. The situation of Roma in Europe : Challenges

CHAPTER 2: ROMA AND EDUCATION

2.1. The educational situation of Roma in Europe

2.2. Obstacles of poor educational outcomes:

2.2.1. Poverty, discrimination and social exclusion

2.2.2. Segregated schools:

2.2.2.1. Segregation schooling in Spain

2.2.2.2. Segregation schooling in France

2.3. The relationship between Roma and school: the question of the “cultural factors”

2.4. Reasons for dropout situations

## CHAPTER 3: EU POLICY INSTRUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE ROMA

### 3.1. EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020

3.1.1. Access to education : Ensure that all Roma children complete at least primary school

3.1.2. Implementation and main findings of the EU Framework: France

3.1.2.1. Measures regarding the *Gens du voyage*

3.1.2.2. The expulsions in France and their influence on schooling

3.1.3. Implementation and main findings of the EU Framework: Spain

3.1.3.1. Mesures regarding the Spanish *Gitanos*

3.2. The Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015

3.3. The European Platform Against Poverty and Social Exclusion

3.4. The Open Method of Coordination (OMC) in Social Protection & Social Inclusion, and OMC in education

## CHAPTER 4: SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF ROMA CHILDREN IN EUROPE: FRANCE AND SPAIN

4.1. National legislations of France and Spain regarding the education of Roma children:

4.1.1. Education of Roma in France

4.1.2. Education of Roma in Spain

4.2. Towards the goal of providing a quality, inclusive education for Roma children

CONCLUSIONS: