

From Vulnerability to Resilience: The Roma Community's Perspective on Effective Approaches in the Pomurje Region

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This article explores the vulnerabilities and resilience of the Roma community in the Pomurje region through the perspective of community members. A review of the literature shows that Roma in Slovenia are among the most marginalized populations, facing complex social, spatial, and institutional challenges. Although previous research has addressed education, employment, health, and public safety, the voices of Roma themselves are often absent in these studies. To address this gap, a qualitative analysis was conducted based on semi-structured interviews with seven key informants from the Roma community. Thematic analysis identified critical dimensions of vulnerability, including social exclusion, housing insecurity, and cultural marginalization. At the same time, several effective practices contributing to community resilience, such as community-based projects, employment of Roma professionals, integration into local networks, and the empowerment of Roma women, were emphasized. While cooperation with formal institutions (such as police, social services, and schools) was generally assessed positively, respondents emphasized the need for more inclusive and less formalized participation. The findings underline the importance of strengthening internal community resources, removing systemic barriers, and fostering participatory frameworks that take Roma voices and perspectives in planning and decision-making processes seriously.

Keywords: Roma community, Pomurje, vulnerability, resilience, community work

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