



REPORT

SOCIAL POSITION OF ROMA AND EGYPTIANS

AND

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT TO ROMA AND EGYPTIAN
POPULATION

June, 2013

1. DESIGN AND GENERAL GOALS OF THE RESEARCH

The research that we are to present here was designed with the primary objective to scan the social position of the Roma and Egyptian (RE) population in Montenegro. The research provided us, also, with the data on type and level of social welfare / protection that members of this population enjoy under the support by the competent institutions of the state. Detailed and in-depth analyses of institutionalised practices were conducted with the aim of achieving the goals defined under the research. Each of these practices has been the specific subject of the research instrument. As for the research method, we used surveys and inquired total of 701 respondents of Roma and Egyptian ethnicity.

The questionnaire was designed specifically for this study and consisted of a total of 43 questions, 23 of which were socio-demographic variables and questions that measure social status, while the remaining questions and items aimed at determining the scope of social support that members of Roma and Egyptian population received (or did not receive). Considering that the majority of the RE population is situated in three municipalities (Podgorica, Niksic, Berane), the survey was conducted among members of the population living in these three towns. Bearing in mind the data on the Roma and Egyptian population are taken from the official census (2011), it was not possible to determine the criteria for post-stratification, thus, we will present integral and original (authentic) data of those respondents who were surveyed.

Before going into details, one should bear in mind that the study of the Roma and Egyptian population is regularly accompanied by a number of specific methodological problems that have been carefully analysed before it went into the process of field data collection. The first problem is related to the traditionally low level of education of the majority of the population; hence when creating research instrument, methodologists must take into account the language and wording of the questions themselves. Second, most of the RE population lives in ghetto communities, which was additional obstacle for the collecting data and the work of fieldwork interviewers. Third, among the members of deprived groups, which are often discriminated against on many basis, and this is the fact driven out of different methodological studies, there is a tendency to either get answers that are socially desirable by mimicry or to unrealistically present the situation as very bad, because even the mere participation in the survey is often perceived as "plea for the help" from the government. This is the reason due to which the instrument must contain the specific issues and items that have the purpose of maintaining the logic control as to ensure the data validity.

Finally, a fieldwork was conducted from 07 to 15 June 2013.

Fig 1. Municipality

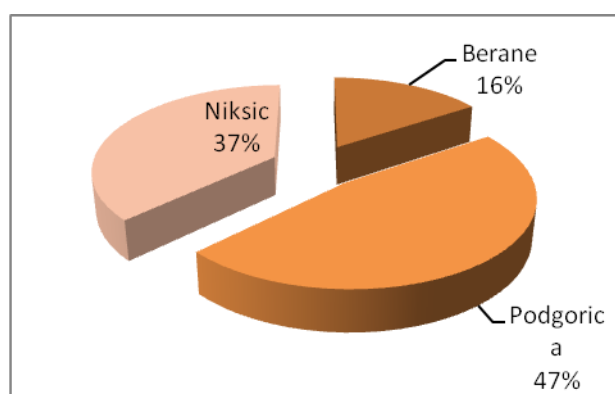


Fig 2. Sex

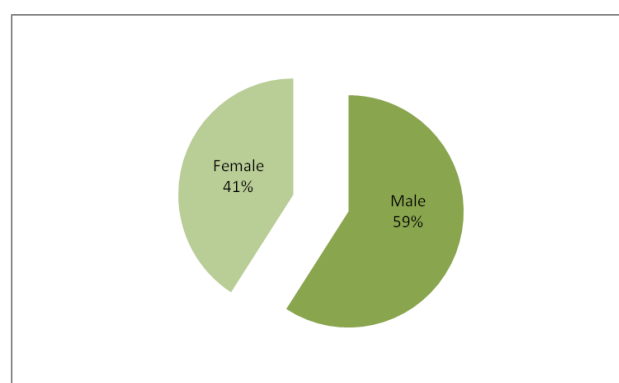


Fig3. Age %

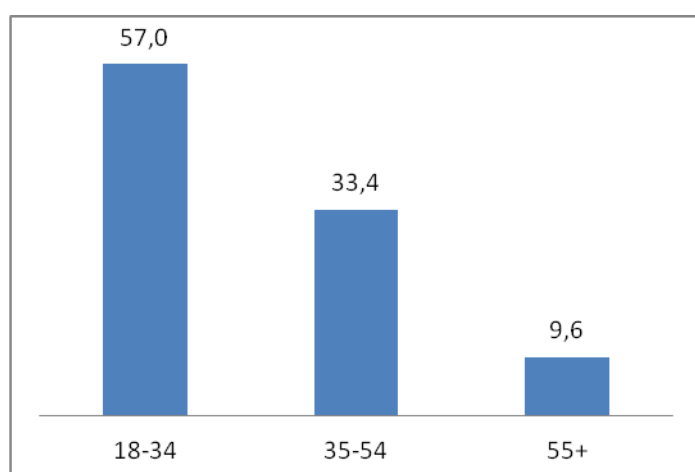


Fig 20. Does the respondent have the citizenship of Montenegro? %

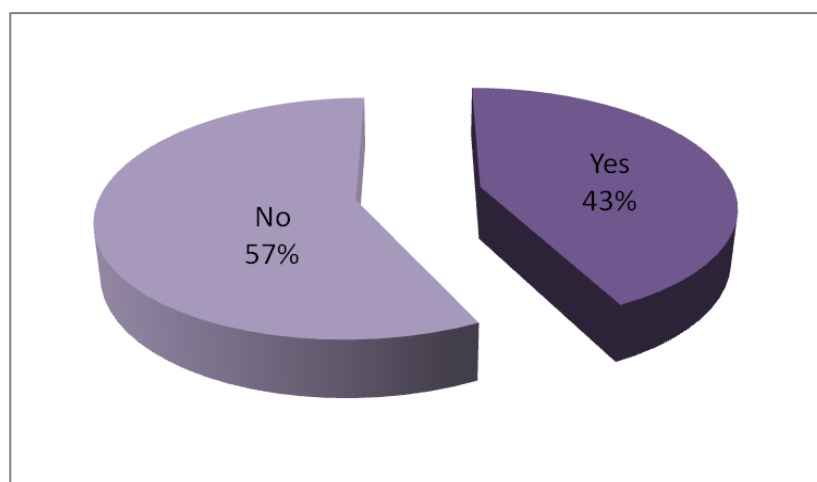


Fig 9. Roma/Egyptian settlement %

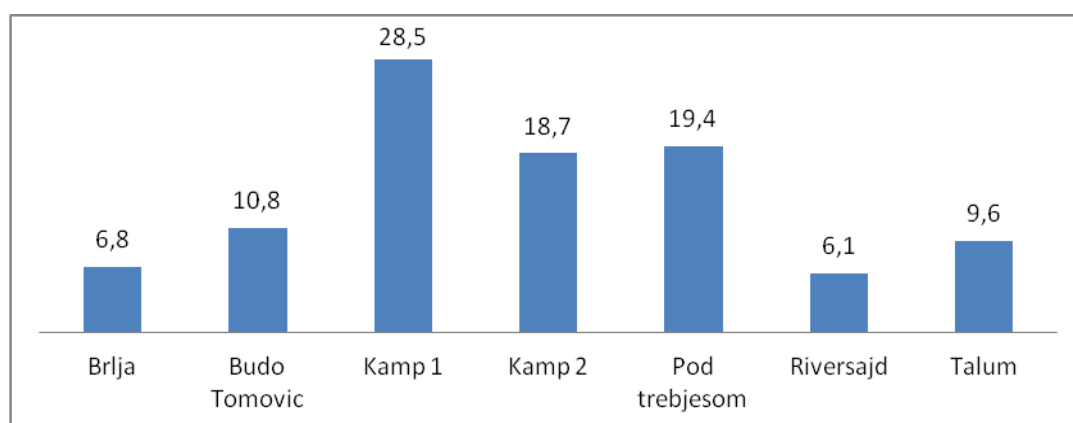


Fig 13. Number of children (out of those having children) %

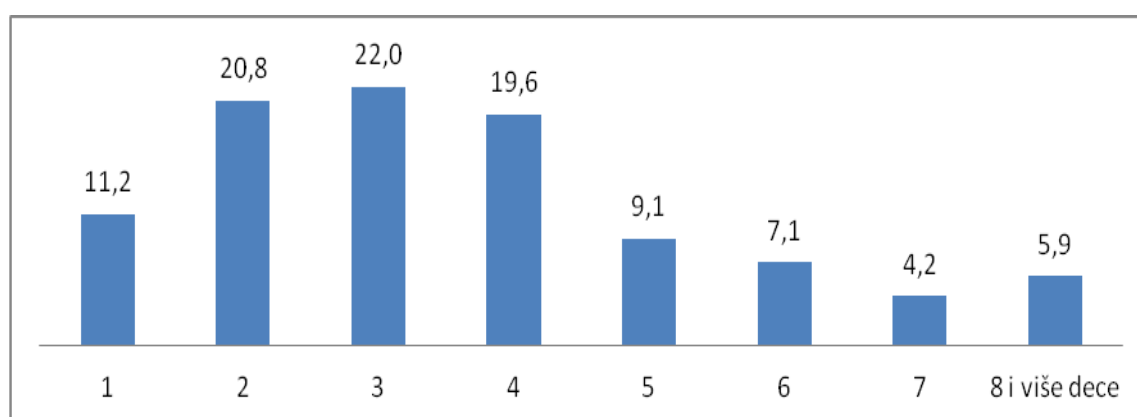


Fig 14. Does your child attend school/kindergarten? %

	Yes	No	Doesn't fulfil the age condition
1 child	51,3	36,1	12,5
2 children	53,3	35,6	11,1
3 children	50,3	39,0	10,7
4 children	51,4	36,8	11,8
5 children	39,5	41,2	19,3

Fig 15. Are you the owner of the object you are living in? %

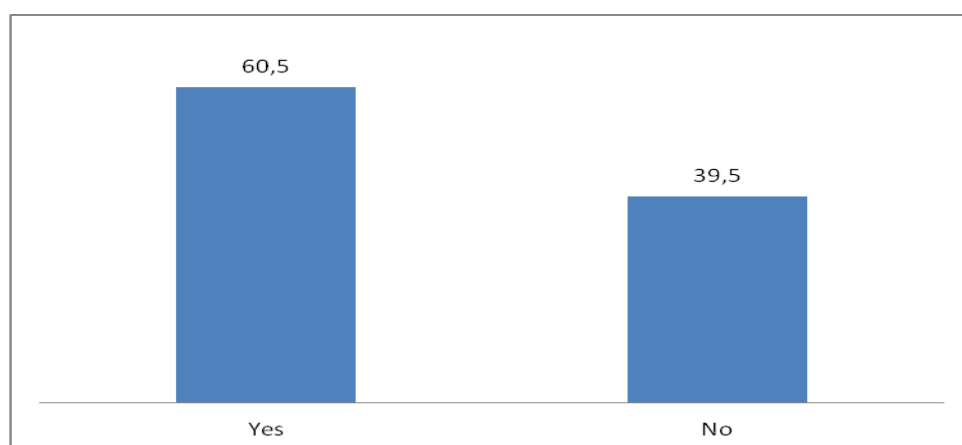


Fig 15.1 What material is the object you live in made/built of? %

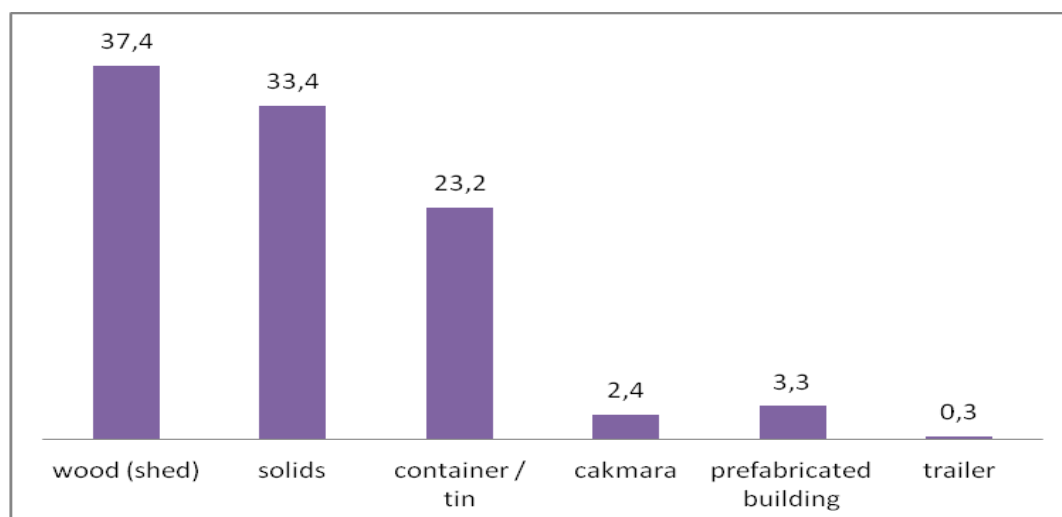


Fig 17. House/apartment features

	% of households with the feature
Bathroom	29,5
Electricity	88,0
WC with running water	31,5
Fridge	60,0
Deep freezer	17,8
TV	80,5
Stove / cooker	58,5
Washing machine	20,5
Access to cable TV	7,2
Computer	10,3
Landline phone	4,3

Fig 21. Employment status %



Fig 25. Number of households receiving financial assistance for family %

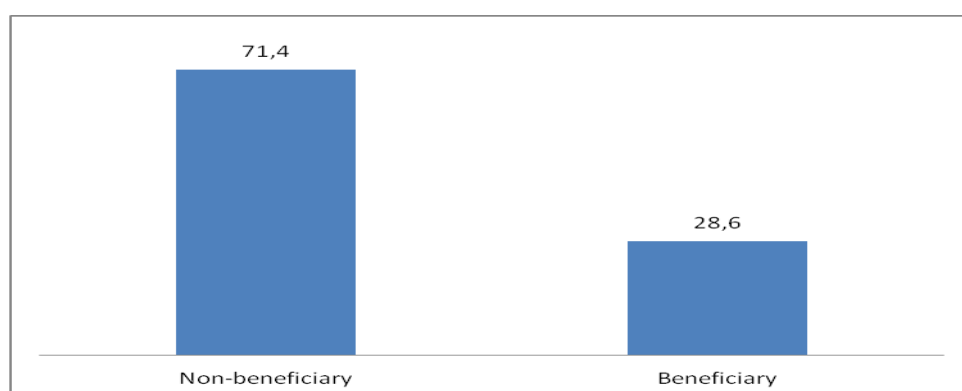


Fig 27. Households receiving one-off financial aid %

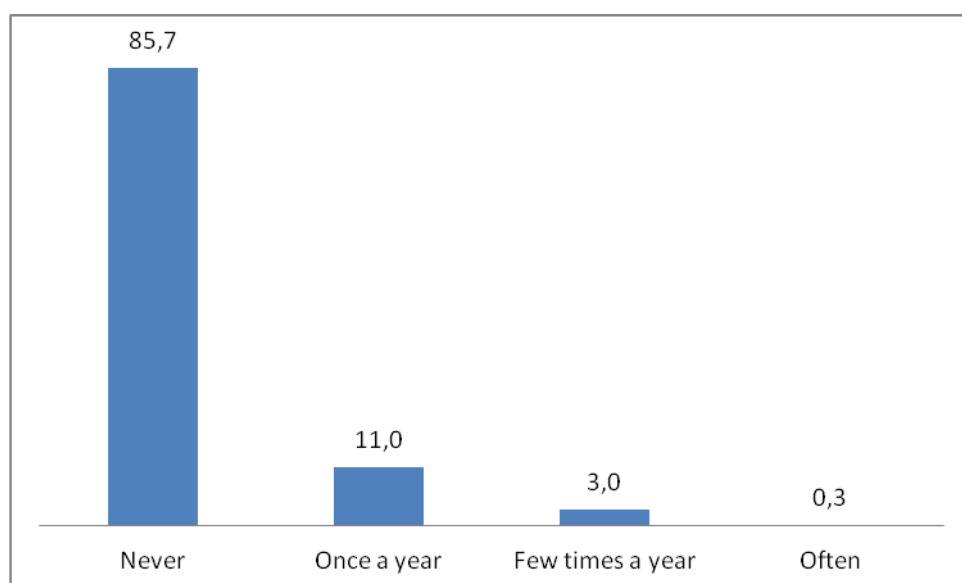


Fig 29. Receiving support in %

	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Food	,1	34,0	25,8	40,1
Clothing	,7	31,3	25,3	42,7
Shoes	,3	28,6	25,0	46,2
Sheets	0,0	12,2	24,3	63,5
Fuel/firewood	0,0	2,7	16,9	80,4
Toiletries	1,0	27,7	22,6	48,7
Construction mater.	0,0	1,0	10,5	88,5

Fig 31. Does anyone in your family receive disability benefits (cash assistance for hearing health)? %

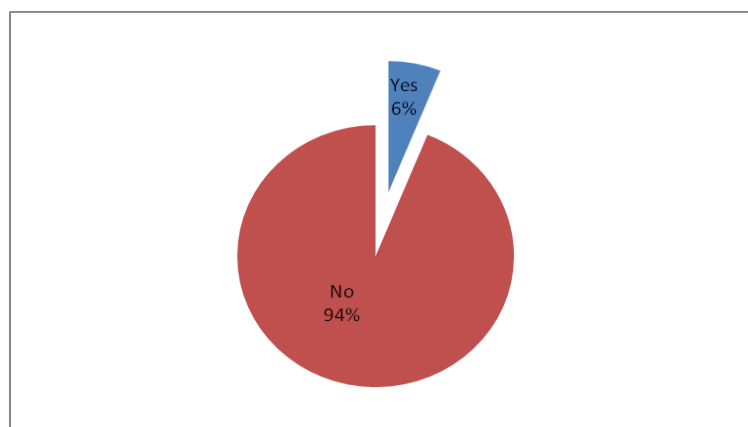


Fig 32. Do you receive child support? %

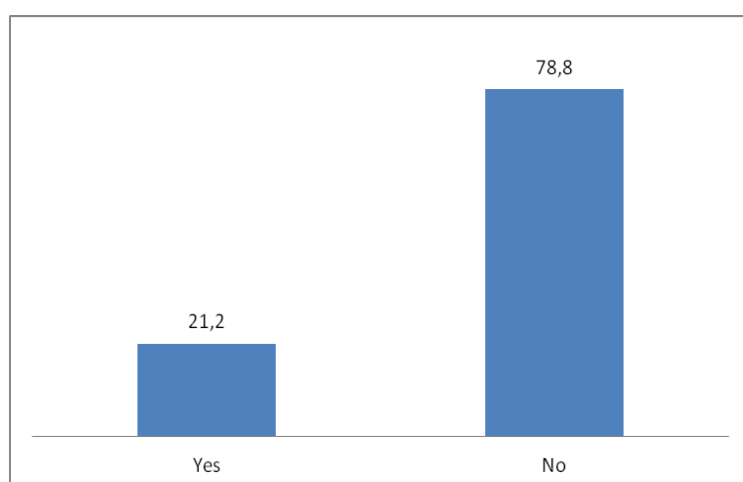


Fig 35. Have you or has anyone from your family ever received financial compensation for childbirth/maternity? %

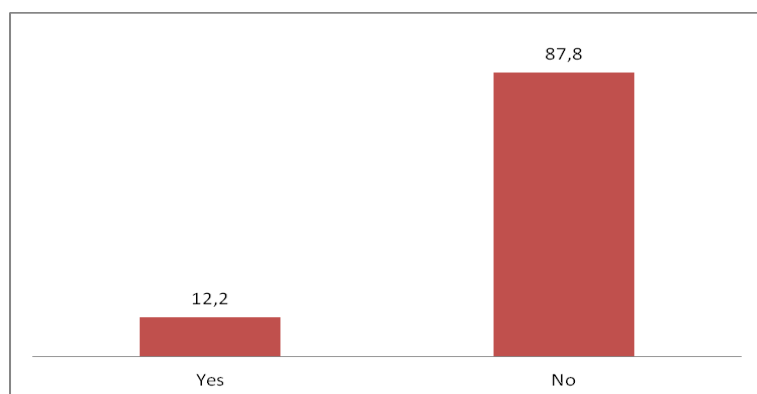


Fig 36. Have you or has anyone from your family ever received the newborn gift pack? %

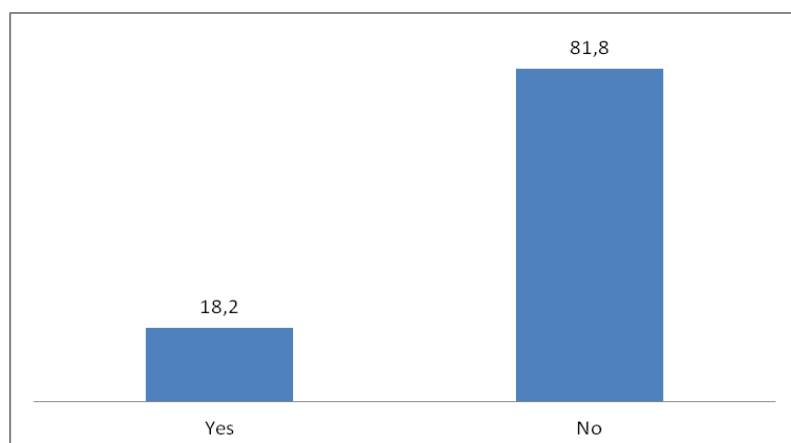


Fig 37. Has the municipality ever provided you or anyone from your family with the apartment/ some property for the temporal usage? %

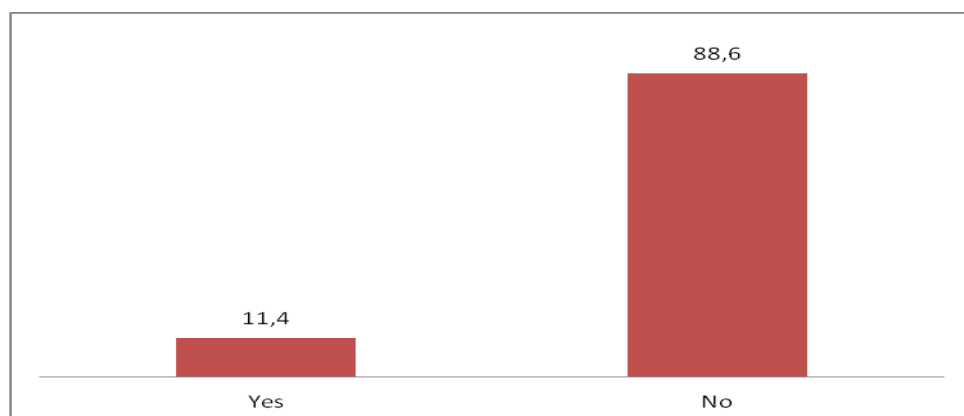


Fig 40. Has the Employment Agency ever provided you with the financial support for your self-employment or business start-up? %

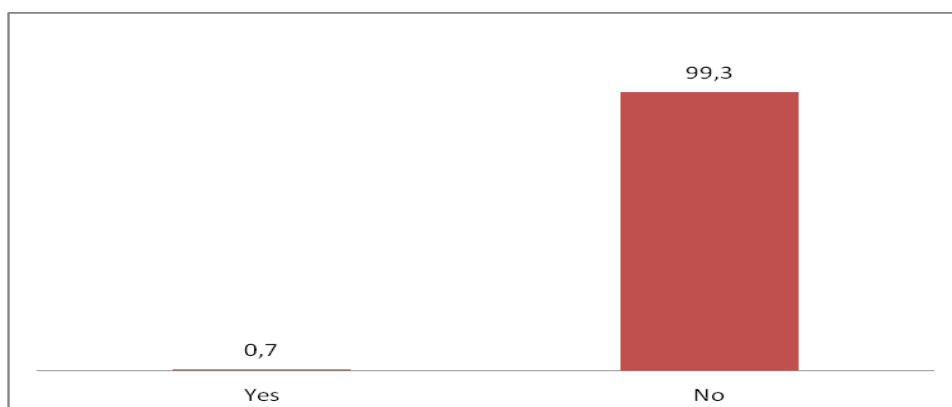


Fig 42. Have you ever worked part-time at the invitation of the municipality or Employment Agency (cleaning, manual labour, surveys, etc)? %

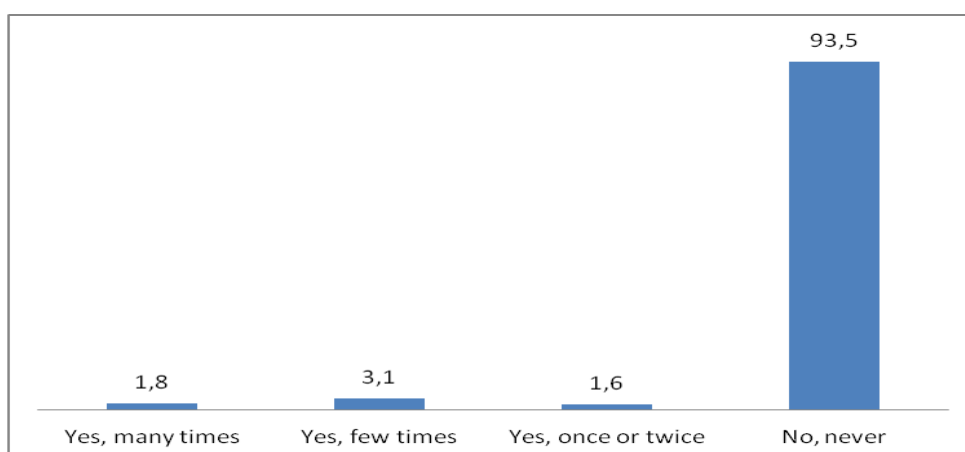


Fig 43. Have you attended any vocational training (apprenticeship, additional training, courses, etc)? %

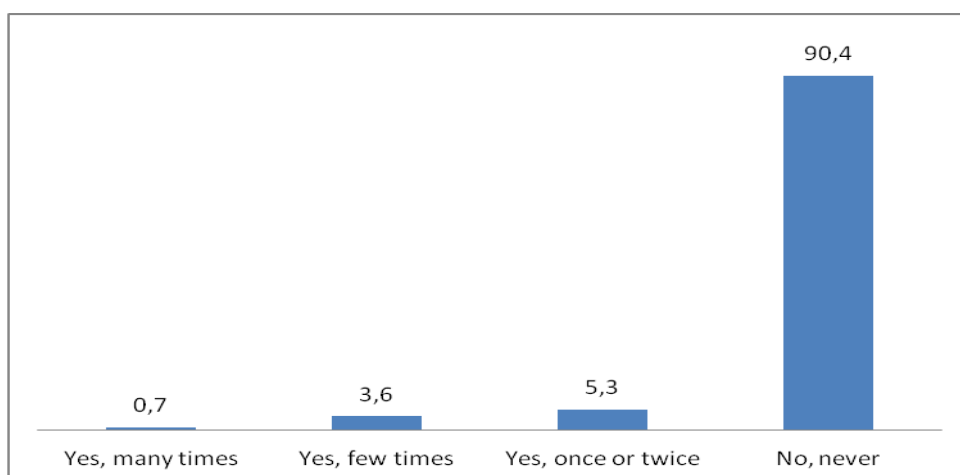
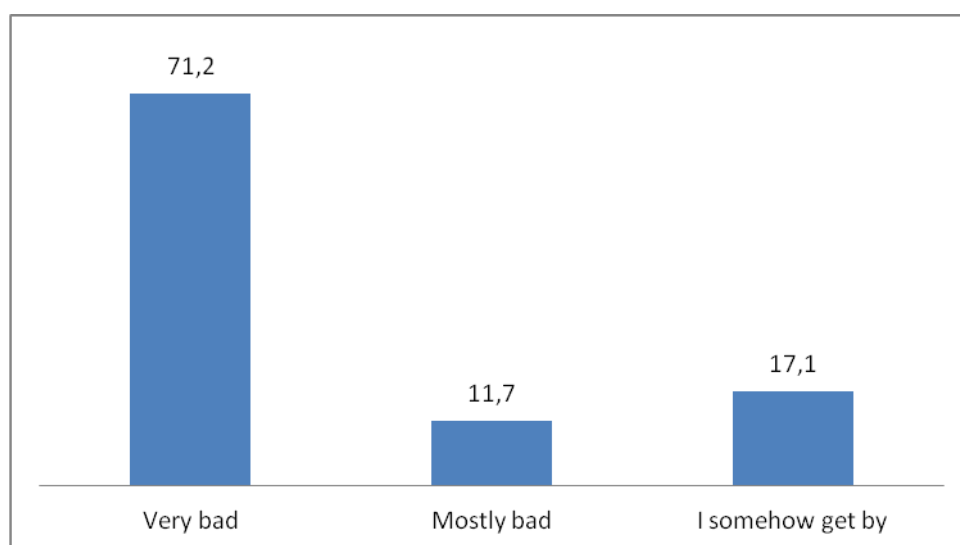


Fig 44. How would you assess your standard of living, in general? %



2. KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

It is not a novelty to say that the social status of the Roma and Egyptian population is very difficult. Such perception is actually tautology, comparatively speaking, given the fact that the same perception is applicable to all countries of the region. What is new in this study is actually the fact that we got some information through fieldwork directly within RE settlements and with the RE population. Having done this, this research gives the full contribution to policy level estimations and strategies aimed at social protection of the Roma and Egyptians.

Although it's methodologically impossible to create sample of Roma and Egyptian population by using some standardised methods of sampling, and this due to the insufficient statistical data on this population, there is no doubt that we have covered all the key RE settlements in Montenegro. Therefore, obtained data values are reflecting the real situation in which Roma and Egyptians actually live in Montenegro today.

The research results are very indicative, either with regard to the assessment of the social situation, either with regard to the forms and extent of social support Roma and Egyptian households had received. Having already presented and deeply analysed data in the text above, at this point we will only emphasise several key points regarding key issues, which can be helpful for policy makers in solving living problems of Roma and Egyptians. Thus, here are some key analytical information and answers to the questions raised in the research:

- One of the key problems is the low educational level of the Roma and Egyptian population
- The percentage of unemployed Roma and Egyptians is critically high
- Every second child of the RE population does not attend school
- Social living conditions of Roma and Egyptians are far from a decent standard of living
- The majority of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro do not have citizenship, which severely limits legal possibilities and their right to social assistance

- Revenue of Roma households are far beyond population average
- The vast majority of Roma do not receive financial assistance for family
- Very few Roma and Egyptians have received one-off financial aid
- Roma and Egyptian households occasionally receive non-cash social assistance (food, clothing, shoes, toiletries)
- Very small percentage of them uses free meals provided by the municipality
- It is a very small percentage of those who receive financial assistance for hearing health (disability)
- Every fifth RE household receives child support
- About a third of households, more or less, frequently receives free textbooks and school supplies
- A small number of Roma and Egyptian households receive compensation for maternity/childbirth and newborn gift pack
- One in ten Roma and Egyptian households has been assigned the municipal property
- Very few Roma and Egyptians use different types of institutional/state accommodation, while symbolically small number of them have exercised the right to free accommodation and recreation
- Only few Roma and Egyptian have ever benefited from the financial support of the Employment Agency for business start-ups
- A very small percentage of RE received financial aid for kindergarten
- Every tenth member of the RE population is doing temporary work at the invitation of the municipality and / or the Employment Agency
- Similarly, every tenth member of population, often or rarely attended some form of vocational training
- Finally, the Roma and Egyptians are estimated themselves to live very difficult and that the help they receive from the state is insufficient.