



European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination

NEWS REPORT

Country:	Norway
Title:	Research report on migrants from Romania (Roma)
Date:	15 July 2015
Expert:	Else Leona McClimans
<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	Report assesses how Scandinavian countries treat migrants from Romania (Roma), and their consequences
Ground of discrimination:	Race/ethnic origin
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Other
Applicable law:	

Content

Policy development: The Norwegian research institution FAFO published on 16 June 2015 the report "When poverty meets affluence. Migrants from Romania on the streets of the Scandinavian capitals", about the situation of Romanian/ Roma beggars in the Scandinavian capitals. This is the first large-scale quantitative mapping of this population. 1296 migrants were interviewed about their coping strategies on the streets, their living conditions in Romania, their reasons for migration and their expectations for the future. The report found that the Romanian street workers are less subject to discrimination than expected, but are vulnerable to harassment and lack of protection. The report concludes that a number of the myths associated with the Romanian street workers are not true: although they are poor, they are not organised by traffickers, the money is sorely needed and spent on necessities and criminal activities are not closely associated with begging.

Key points of analysis: There are few Roma living in Norway. The last years have seen a large influx of street workers from Romania, most of them being ethnic Roma. Given Norwegian immigration policies, a large number of these do not have residence permits, but travel out and in of Norway on a tourist visa. The report demonstrates the consequences of the different policies chosen to meet the Roma migrants in the different Scandinavian countries. It also demonstrates that while the EU framework encourages the free movement of labour, there is little regulation in place to address the free movement of poverty. The knowledge base of the report may feed the debate on political responses to transnational poverty.

Internet link source: The report in English is accessed at:
<http://fafo.no/images/pub/2015/954-innmat-trykk.pdf>.