ROMANI STUDIES – ENGAGED ANTHROPOLOGY

WE ENGAGE IN APPLIED RESEARCH REGARDING THE HEALTH CONDITIONS IN VULNERABLE ROMA **COMMUNITIES IN SLOVAKIA**

We proactively engage in the monitoring of and interventions regarding health and health determinants. For example, we contribute to the state management of the COVID-19 pandemic situation across the country's marginalised Roma communities. Via the COVID-19 epidemiological surveillance system developed for monitoring the health situation in vulnerable Roma communities in Slovakia, we have contributed to the gradual adoption of a more effective and sensitive approach to the spread of the pandemic and its impacts (both health and social) across social settings, increased local general awareness of the Roma vs non-Roma health inequity and its key (social) determinants, as well as promotion of critically applied and collaborative medical anthropology.



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Screenshot from our online COVID-19 report, summarising selected data on the pandemic across segregated Roma communities in Slovakia, designed and ran since 2019 on behalf of the Slovak Healthy Ministry's contributory organisation Healthy Regions.





WE ANALYSE AND HELP IMPROVING THE LIVING CONDITIONS IN SEGREGATED ROMA SETTLEMENTS IN SLOVAKIA

- The structural inequalities in the field of access to water, sanitation, and waste management in Roma settlements in Slovakia cannot be understood without a deeper analysis of the processes of exclusion and marginalisation of the Roma population.
- Although access to drinking water and sanitation is recognised as a human right enshrined in many international instruments at the UN and the European level, many marginalised Roma communities in Slovakia are without any drinking water.
- The increased incidence of infectious diseases in areas with Roma population is one of the indicators of structural inequalities in Slovakia. The core of the problem lies in the absence of basic infrastructure for access to water, waste water treatment, and the absence of waste collection.



Book "Ensuring Access to Sanitation Infrastructure" published and based on research on the barriers for Roma in access to water.

Undocumented water \triangleright sources with polluted water from agricultural activities are the only source of water for a settlement with almost 2,000 people.

Book "Waste as a social problem in excluded Roma settlements" based on applied research on the management of waste collection at Roma-inhabited locations.



A settlement \triangleright on a hill, where sewage flows downward when raining, in the middle of the settlement and between the houses. Part of the latrines is located on the hill above the settlement.

as the COVID-19 pandemic.



Many Roma settlements are located in close proximity

- In our methodological approach, we focus not only on technical aspects, but primarily on social processes at the local level and their links to structural disadvantages.
- We have developed a typology for the categorisation of Roma localities, and analysed how social actors and Roma themselves, both individually and collectively, cope with the absence of water and sewerage systems. • We proactively engage in the monitoring of and interventions regarding health and health determinants, including during public health crises such



Polluted water from abandoned precious metals Mines flow below the Roma settlement.



of toxic dumpsites.



A water tap for the entire community located virtually metres from the latrine and not connected to the cesspool.

Roma settlement without \triangleright iny physical infrastructure.

