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**COST ACTION CA16111**  
**INTERNATIONAL ETHNIC AND IMMIGRANT MINORITIES' SURVEY DATA NETWORK**  
**(ETHMIGSURVEYDATA)**

Call for applications for the  
**3<sup>RD</sup> ETHMIGSURVEYDATA TRAINING SCHOOL**  
**" RESEARCH ON ETHNIC AND MIGRANT MINORITIES"**  
14-15 November 2019  
Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary

(CALL OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2019)

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We invite applications for participation (with and without financial support) in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ETHMIGSURVEYDATA network Training School. As part of the COST Action CA16111 "International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network" ([ETHMIGSURVEYDATA](#)), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Training School seeks to train a new generation of researchers interested in Ethnic and Migrant Minorities' (EMM) integration with survey data by offering them the tools to design surveys on ethnic minorities or migrant minorities. The sessions will focus on methodological, conceptual, and ethical issues in designing surveys on Roma populations, in particular. Trainees interested in issues regarding new and innovative ways of sampling hard-to-reach EMM groups may also benefit from attending this Training School.

- **Organizers**

COST Action CA16111 (International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities' Survey Data Network, ETHMIGSURVEYDATA), Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest, Hungary (Local Organiser)

- **Aim of the Training School**

The 2-day Training School is designed to: (1) introduce methodological issues in design surveys on ethnic and migrant minorities; (2) discuss examples of such existing surveys; (3) facilitate discussions on conceptual and methodological issues associated with collecting and working with EMMs survey data.

The students will attend two days of sessions dedicated to discussing topics such as: issues in designing EMM surveys, in contacting, persuading, and interviewing respondents, difficulties in collecting the data and putting it into broader social, political, and policy context, methodological decisions that policy-makers and researchers need to make when targeting Roma in their work, the use of Facebook advertisements in sampling migrant populations.

The Training School is aimed, primarily, at young researchers affiliated with institutions from participating COST countries<sup>1</sup> and approved European RTD Organizations<sup>2</sup>, interested in analysing survey data on EMMs integration (for more information see the Cost [Vademecum](#)). Nevertheless, it is also open to anyone interested in receiving the training described, from any professional and organizational background. The call is, thus, open to: PhD students, Post-doctoral researchers, Early

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<sup>1</sup> Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom.

<sup>2</sup> FRA, EUROFOUND, EASO, European Commission – Joint Research Centre

Stage Researchers, and anyone actively undertaking or planning to undertake survey research on EMMs integration in academic or non-academic organizations (e.g. civil society organizations, think tanks, local/regional/national government departments).

There are no fees associated to the participation in this Training School.

- **Description of the Sessions**

**Aniko Bernat**, TÁRKI Social Research Institute. *How to avoid the traps: conceptual and methodological issues of Roma and migrant surveys*

**Abstract:** The presentation provides an overview and comparison on how the main steps of a Roma and a migrant survey should be designed with a focus on the social, ethical and legal factors relevant for the two target groups. The lecture will thus highlight some methodological lessons on how to survey the Roma and migrants as a hard-to-survey and hard-to-reach group, covering the following topics: identification of the target group, sampling strategies, getting in contact, persuading respondents, interviewing and ethical concerns. The lecture will be supported with examples from recent Roma and migrant surveys from Eastern Europe.

**Vera Messing**, Centre for Social Sciences, Budapest. *Dilemmas of identifying the population in the focus of our research and challenges of sampling*

**Abstract:** European countries as well as the EU are striving for comparable and reliable statistics about the 'Roma', which is a precondition to efficiently support the design and implementation of national and EU wide inclusion strategies as well as monitoring their outcomes. However, reliable data on Roma population is scarce because it is a difficult-to-survey population for various reasons. Firstly the identification of the group – who should be considered as 'Roma' by a survey - is a challenging dilemma. The other dilemma of the definition of the target group involves an answer to the following question: "What for do Roma need to be surveyed?". If it is about their living conditions, attitudes or opinions then self-ascription of ethnic identity seems to be an appropriate method. But if it is about discrimination and persecution – one of the major sources of their vulnerable situation – then the definition of the direct environment has to be considered as another suitable approach to identifying Roma. And these two definitions result in highly divergent outcomes in terms of constructing a representative sample of the population, which then leads to greatly diverging outcomes in terms of the most essential indicators, such as the size of the population, geographical dispersion, level of poverty, level of education and employment rate. The first part of the session will consider challenges related to the identification of the target population of the research ('the Roma') and the dilemmas related to the sampling of a survey.

The second part of the session will focus on a case study: the methodological challenges of researching a highly debated phenomenon, namely Roma migration and the referred subgroup of Roma: the "Roma migrants". The aim of this part of the session is to deconstruct the concept of the "Roma migrant", and to present the dilemmas researchers in the field need to respond prior to their research. In the past decade the migration of Roma people got to the forefront of political and media discourses within the European public sphere. In order to provide academic sanity and objectivity to this phenomenon, it is of utmost importance to overview the conceptual and methodological dilemmas of researching "Roma migration" and set the basic framework within which this phenomenon has been and can be academically discussed.

**Stefánia Toma**, Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities. *The Romanian Roma in Quantitative Surveys: looking for Schrödinger's Cat\**

**Abstract:** Research and evidence-based policy making aimed at Roma faces serious limitations that stems in methodological, epistemological, empirical, ethical, etc. considerations in collecting ethnic data. The session explores issues related to these problems in collecting data about the Roma population in Romania (and in other European countries generally) highlighting

methodological difficulties and putting it into broader social (e.g. migration), political (e.g. identity politics) and policy context (e.g. social inclusion). After a short overview of several controversial issues (use of ethnonyms, types of identification, sampling, mixed methods, etc.), the presentation will provide specific examples of such methods from several researches in Romania that had Roma subjects.

*\*Reference to Douglas Adams' book Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency (1987)*

**Stefano Piemontese**, CER-M Research Centre for Migration Studies, EMIGRA Research Group on Education, Migration and Childhood. *Targeting "Roma" in policy and research: conceptual, methodological and ethical dilemmas*

Abstract: With the adoption of a EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies in 2011, Member States were requested to develop inclusion plans targeted at their Roma populations. The scope and limits of these policies, however, were largely conditioned by the divides between colour-blind and identity-policy traditions, and between the recognition of Roma as a domestic or European issue. In other words, a variety of understandings and definitions exists about "Who the Roma are", and this diversity triggers very heterogeneous political approaches and actions. Also, the knowledge production about Roma, which is supposed to inform the design and implementation of these policies, is affected by meaningful dilemmas: conceptual, methodological as well as ethical. Indeed, the adoption of rigid, policy-oriented categories for sampling and surveying populations with multiple and threatened identities, like the Roma, run the risk of essentialising these groups and to invisibilise other important sources of social differentiation. Using ethnographic cases as discussion material, the seminar summarises the various methodological decisions that policy-makers and researchers need to make when targeting Roma in their work.

**Steffen Pötzschke**, GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences (Department "Survey Design and Methodology"). *Introduction to the use of Facebook as a sampling tool in migration research*

Abstract: Sampling migrants into a survey is a challenging endeavor. This holds especially true in cross-national research (where comparative sampling frames might not exist in all countries) and in surveys of small or scattered populations (so-called hard-to-reach populations, where established techniques might be less efficient and, consequently, very cost-intensive). The advent of social networking sites presents scholars with new means to face these challenges. One such possibility consists in the use of Facebook advertisements to sample migrant populations. This approach is especially promising as it can be used to reach a multitude of target populations in a high number of countries at comparatively low costs. This session will discuss the advantages and limitations of this new technique. Furthermore, the participants will learn how to set-up a targeted advertisement campaign and be introduced to general survey design aspects they should take into consideration when using this sampling approach. The course builds on findings of a survey which used Facebook advertisements to sample Polish migrants in four European countries. A total of 1,103 individuals completed the relatively extensive questionnaire within a field period of eight weeks. The sampling costs amounted to €500.

**Andrey Ivanov**, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

Abstract: Data collection does not take place in a vacuum; it serves the purpose of populating specific indicators. Thus, the first part of the session will introduce the Roma inclusion policy frameworks and the indicators that are needed to monitor progress - and, respectively, the data needed to populate such indicators.

The second part will address the challenges that make collecting data on the situation of Roma (and on measures targeting Roma) a particular challenge. These include the definition of the universe of study, sampling frames and constructing a sample, different levels of comparability and specific challenges related to the fieldwork. In part three of the session the pros and cons of different approaches will be presented using examples from UNDP, FRA and UNICEF surveys targeting Roma as well as EU SILC and LFS in countries using identifiers of ethnicity.

- **Provisional time table**

Thursday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>
	9:00 – 9:15 Registration
	9:15 – 13:00 Training Sessions
13:45 – 14:00 Registration & Welcome	13:00 – 14:00 Lunch Break
14:00 – 17:45 Training Sessions	14:00 – 18:00 Training Sessions and Closing Remarks

- **Applications and financial support**

Applications should include (in a single PDF file):

(1) A **motivation letter** of approximately 2 pages (between 800 – 1500 words). The letter should provide a short description of the applicant's background (education, employment, areas of interest, prior experience with ethnic and migrant minorities surveys or topics) and it should state the importance of the Training School for the applicant's work/research.

(2) **Academic CV.**

(3) If you request financial support, please include **your current institutional affiliation**, the **country of your institution**, and an estimate of the cost of the **travel expenses** (only for transportation, not for accommodation and meals).

The COST Action will provide grants to cover attendance expenses for 10-12 trainees, depending on funding availability.<sup>3</sup> Please, note that the Trainee Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee and does not necessarily cover the whole cost of attendance. Different amounts might be allocated to each trainee depending on the travel distance and the professional career status. Grant payments will occur only after the Training School has finished and upon attendance to all Training School sessions.

There are several additional available places for participants who can cover their own costs of participation in the school. In this case, please indicate in the application that you are applying to the Training School without the need for a grant.

Applications must be sent (as a single PDF document) by **30 September 2019, 12:00 noon (CET)** to: Paula Tufis ([paula.tufis@sas.unibuc.ro](mailto:paula.tufis@sas.unibuc.ro)) and Alina Thiemann ([ethmigsurveydata@sciencespo.fr](mailto:ethmigsurveydata@sciencespo.fr)), with the following subject line: **COST Training School Application**.

For more details on the eligibility for application and other related rules, please, consult the COST [Vademecum](#) or send an e-mail to: Alina Thiemann ([ethmigsurveydata@sciencespo.fr](mailto:ethmigsurveydata@sciencespo.fr))

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<sup>3</sup> UK-based applicants may become ineligible for these grants if the UK leaves the EU with no deal on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.