

HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND ROMA

Tanja Dimitrijevic
Roma Center for Democracy
Serbia

HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND ROMA

- WHY AM I AT THIS SESSION?
- WHY ROMA?
- WHY HEALTH INEQUALITIES?

The Roma health gap

- Life expectancy for Roma in Serbia is around 45 years, and for Serbs 65 years
- Infant mortality rates are three times higher among the Roma than the non-Roma
- Prejudice, discrimination and social exclusion contribute to the persistence of the health gap

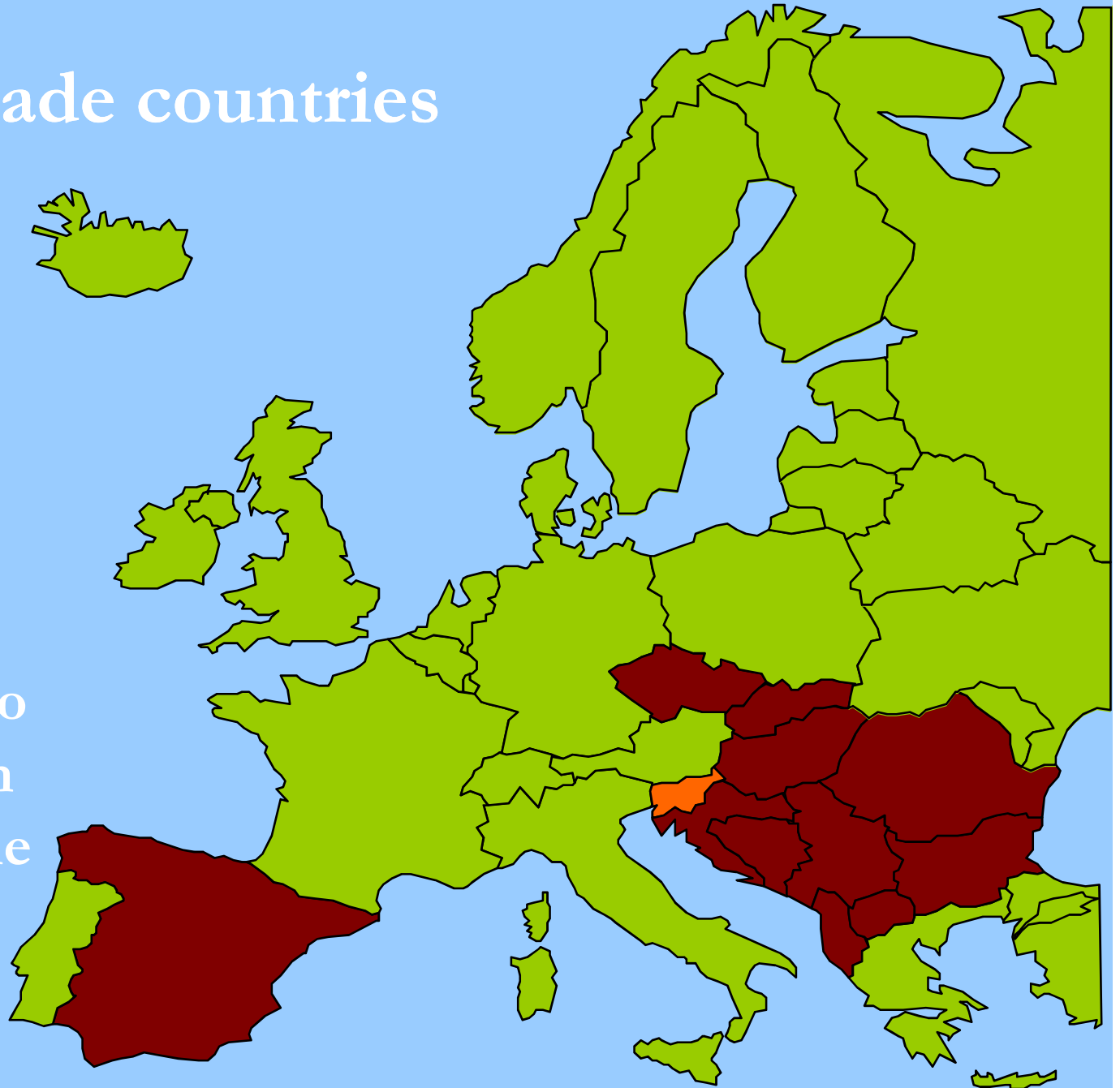
Laws, strategies, action plans, documents

- Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- Law on Health Care
- Law on Health Insurance
- Law about protection of patents rights
- Anti-discrimination law
- Rules and Regulations
- DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION 2005-2015
- OSCE ACTION PLAN

Roma Decade countries

An unprecedented political commitment by European governments to achieve the social inclusion of Roma.

An opportunity to reduce the health gap and break the cycle of exclusion!



Constitution of the Republic of Serbia

- Establishes the basic human rights and freedoms
- Everyone has the right to protection of their physical and mental health.

Law on Health Care

Stipulates:

- A system of health care
- Social care for the health of the population
- Rights and obligations of patients

Citizen of the Republic of Serbia, as well as other persons who have permanent or temporary residence in the Republic have the right to health care, in accordance with the law

AND OTHER LAWS, STRATEGIES, DOCUMENTS,
THAT ARE GOOD WORDS

BUT

REALITY IS DIFFERENT
THE WORDS DO NOT TRANSLATE
INTO ACTION

RESULTS

- Only 2 of 10 Roma in Serbia has health insurance
- 13.3% of Roma in Serbia do not go to the Health Center because the health staff is harassing them.

RESULTS

- *Well, my sister-in-law got sick and at 5 in the morning we went to the doctor, they gave her an injection and urgently sent her to a hospital ward. While we were waiting, in the waiting room there was also one man that was not Roma, waiting for treatment because he had flu. The Doctor chose to treat first the farmer with flu. We kept waiting and suddenly she just fell on my bosom and died. This is because they didn't see her immediately and she died, if they'd received her she would be still alive now. (Roma woman from Roma settlement Balačka)*

CONCLUSION

**ACTION IS NEEDED
DOCUMENTS ARE NOT
ENOUGH**

THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION

ROMA CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY