

## The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe

**Course:** World Geography (CGU4U), Canadian and World Issues (CGW4U), Canadian and International Law (CLN4U)

Briefing:

The Roma first came to Central and Eastern Europe in the twelfth century from north-west India. Today, there are approximately 4-7 million Roma in Central and Eastern Europe (there are about 7-9 million Roma in all of Europe combined). Since their arrival in Europe, the Roma have faced various forms of discrimination, and have been victims of persecution. Even as the countries of Central and Eastern Europe moved toward European integration after the collapse of communism, the Roma remain one of the most impoverished minorities in the region.

Questions to consider:

- What is the predominant settlement pattern among the Roma (rural, or urban)? How does this affect their social and economic status?
- What are the most important social, economic, and political issues the Roma face today?
- How has European integration affected the Roma?
- What have the countries of Central and Eastern Europe done to protect the rights of the Roma population?
- How has the European Union contributed to the protection of the Roma's social, economic, and political rights?

Links:

Web Sites:

- [Roma Programs](#), Open Society Institute: Soros Foundation Network
- [The social roots of Roma health conditions in Central and Eastern Europe](#), EURactiv
- [The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe](#), Central Europe Review
- [RomNews Network](#)
- [The History of the Roma Minority in the Czech Republic](#)
- [The Roma](#), Forced Migration Online Research Guide
- [European Roma Rights Centre](#)

Reports:

- [EU Support for Roma Communities in Central and Eastern Europe](#), European Commission: DG Enlargement Information Unit
- [Roma and the Transition in Central and Eastern Europe. Trends and Challenges](#), World Bank Group
- [Avoiding the Dependency Trap: The Roma in Central and Eastern Europe](#), United Nations Development Program
- [UNDP and Roma Related Initiatives](#), United Nations Development Program

Articles:

- Pogany, Istvan. "[Legal, Social and Economic Challenges Facing the Roma of Central and Eastern Europe.](#)" Queen's Papers on Europeanisation 2 (2004). Queen's University Belfast.
- McDonald, Christina. "[The education of Roma children: inroads to good practice, the REI example.](#)" Open Society Institute: Soros Foundation Network, 6 February 2004.