

**Summative  
Report –  
RoW-  
Power Info  
Workshops**

**RoW-POWER**

Enhancing support for Roma women victims of GBV

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## Introduction

The RoW-POWER project has successfully concluded the Info-Workshops (Activities A4.3 - A4.8). Through targeted awareness campaigns, accessible information materials, Info-Workshops, and Counseling-Workshops, the project builds shared understanding and guides Roma women towards appropriate services. Between June and December 2025, project partners organised 12 Info-Workshops across participating countries, engaging Roma women in discussions on GBV, their rights under national and EU law, and practical pathways to support.

### 1. Project Background and Workshop Structure and Format Workshop Implementation:

These sessions were a huge step in helping Roma women in accessing relevant support services. These women are either facing or are at increased risk of social exclusion or GBV.

The overarching mission of the RoW-POWER project is to train and specialise two key professional groups: Roma mediators of various specialties and GBV professionals. This specialization is necessary to equip Roma mediators with the knowledge to encourage and direct Roma women towards appropriate GBV reporting and support services. In parallel, WP4 activities strengthen this mission by addressing the challenges, fears, and lack of trust Roma women face when seeking help. Through targeted awareness-raising campaigns, culturally and linguistically adapted information materials, and Info-Workshops, the project enhances shared understanding, builds trust, and raises awareness of Roma women's rights and protections. These efforts ensure that Roma women are not only informed about GBV and their rights but are also supported in accessing services for complaints, counseling, and long-term protection.

The project successfully mandated that all partners (except HIP) would be responsible for organising workshops in their respective countries. A total of 12 Info-Workshops were organised (two per country), each engaging 20 Roma women with the support of trained Roma facilitators in each country. The workshops were mainly focused on gender-based violence (GBV), women's rights under national and EU law, and practical ways to protect those rights. All partners strategically implemented the workshops between June 2025 and December 2025.

Additionally, within the WP4, promotional materials were produced:

- Info brochure: <https://row-power-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/En-8.pdf>
- Promotional Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9B9hEcZiwA>

These materials have fostered the knowledge and raised the awareness regarding the gender based violence topic among the participants. Participants reacted positively and appreciated the materials.

## Workshop Structure and Format

The structure of the Info workshop was divided into three distinct sessions or thematic segments. These sessions typically focused on: 1) GBV what is Gender-Based Violence; 2) Roma Women's Rights under National and EU law, and 3) Mapping Local Support Services: collaborative activity to identify hotlines, shelters, legal aid, and healthcare providers. To maximise participation and reduce implementation costs, these workshops were conducted face-to-face (F2F). This flexibility was crucial for ensuring a balanced and inclusive participation and accommodating the geographical and scheduling needs of participants.

## 2. Key Insights and National Findings

The national workshop reports provided crucial data regarding vulnerabilities, knowledge gaps, and the agreed-upon role of the Roma Mediator across the diverse European contexts.

## Ireland

### Description of the testing process

Recruitment and Workshop Delivery Five trained Roma facilitators, experienced in social work and advocacy, led the sessions, supported by community networks and social workers. Each country engaged 20 Roma women aged 18 and above, prioritizing those with limited prior access to GBV information to ensure diversity and inclusion. The workshops, held on 13 and 23 October 2025 in Cavan Town, were organised in trusted community venues to foster familiarity, cultural sensitivity, and open participation.

The three-hour workshops began with introductions and an icebreaker to build comfort, followed by a discussion on GBV and examples from Roma communities. Participants then learned about their rights under national and EU law, supported by visual aids. Interactive role-playing and storytelling encouraged empathy and safe sharing, while a collaborative mapping of local support services provided practical resources. The sessions closed with reflection and anonymous feedback, ensuring a balance of learning, participation, and cultural sensitivity.

## Results of the Info Workshop/s

Overall, the participants appreciated the project's aims and content but highlighted key challenges. Literacy barriers made slides difficult to follow, and women stressed the need for real change beyond information—safe housing, financial support, and practical pathways out of abuse. Many voiced mistrust of services that offer leaflets without help, insisting on anonymity, one-to-one work, and strict privacy rules. Group activities felt unsafe, and participants asked for more choice, creative methods, and clearer visuals. While printed materials and discussions were useful, women wanted more detail on legal protections and more time for questions. Overall, they valued the chance to talk but warned that without long-term support, workshops risk providing knowledge without solutions.

## Lessons Learned and Takeaways

The workshops showed some strengths but also revealed serious challenges. What worked well was the use of printed materials and service maps, which participants found useful to take home, and the inclusion of visual aids that helped explain complex legal rights in a clearer way. Women valued the chance to talk about gender-based violence and appreciated it when facilitators showed respect for Roma and Traveller traditions. However, significant obstacles were encountered. Many participants did not feel safe enough to share openly, fearing retaliation or gossip. Group activities such as role-playing were seen as exposing and unsafe. Distrust of outsiders created further barriers, with women saying that services judged them and offered only leaflets instead of real support. Privacy was a major concern, with strong rejection of sign-in sheets, photos, or recordings, as these were considered dangerous. Some participants struggled with literacy and needed help with surveys, highlighting the need for more visuals and oral methods. Legal discussions felt rushed, and women expressed frustration that protections like barring orders were limited and ineffective. Overall, while the workshops provided useful information, the lack of anonymity, practical support, and long-term safety measures limited their impact and left women

calling for real changes, such as financial support, safe houses, and community-led facilitation.

## Greece

### Description of the testing process

The recruiting process to find interested Roma women was carried out with the valuable assistance of the Association of Greek Roma Mediators and their associates, as well as the assistance/ support of the social integration workers and Roma mediators of the Roma Community Center of the Municipality of Ampelokipoi-Menemeni, whose mediators had also participated in the training of Roma Mediators in the RoW-POWER project. After communicating by phone and email with the aforementioned responsible bodies and providing them with a detailed description of our objectives and target groups for the specific workshop, these bodies identified the interested Roma women, invited them by telephone, made sure to make reminder calls, and hosted us at their offices for the implementation of the Info Workshops.

A total of sixteen (16) Roma women aged 17 to 60, with different educational and professional backgrounds, participated in the workshops. Only three of the women were students at VET schools; the majority were engaged in household work and a few (four) also worked at stalls in street markets or as saleswomen in shops near the Roma community. The women were residents of Thessaloniki from Roma communities around Ampelokipoi and Menemeni and did not belong to any official organization. The workshops were conducted with the help of a woman Greek Roma mediator (member of the Association of Greek Roma Mediators and their associates) and a woman social worker who had been serving at the Roma Community Center of the Municipality of Ampelokipoi-Menemeni for about 8-10 years.



The two workshops : Two workshop session groups took place on November 3, 2025, at the Roma Community Center of the Municipality of Ampelokipoi-Menemeni in Thessaloniki. The workshops lasted approximately four hours, two and a half (2,5) hours each, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:40 p.m.

10:00-10:15 Reception of participants

10:15-10:30 Welcome and introductions - Activity to build trust and safety.

10:30-11:00 Session 1: What is gender-based violence?

Definitions, types, real-life examples in Roma communities

11:00-11:30 Session 2: The rights of Roma women under national and European law  
Rights-based presentation with visual aids.

11:30-11:45 Break

11:45– 12:00 Session 3: Role-playing and storytelling exercise

Interactive session led by Roma mediators using safe, guided storytelling.

12:00-12:30 Mapping local support services

Collaborative activity to identify resources, followed by distribution of contact lists.

12:30 – 14:00 Break for light lunch

14:00-14:30 Participants share their conclusions and complete the evaluation forms.

14:30-14:40 Summary and guidance on services

## Results of the Info Workshop/s

All 16 participating Roma women (16/16) agreed that the purpose and objective as well as the overall program of the workshop were clearly justified. At the same time, all of them responded that they strongly agreed (11/16) or agreed (4/16) that the content of the workshop was relevant to the objective and was presented in a high-quality manner. In addition, all respondents agreed completely (15/16) or agreed (1/16) that the workshop and presentation were clear and understandable to them. Furthermore, all respondents agreed strongly (15/16) or agreed (1/16) that they appreciated the level of interactivity (discussions) in the workshop. Overall, all respondents agreed strongly (11/16) or agreed (4/16) that the RoW POWER program can have a significant impact on strengthening support for Roma women who are victims of gender-based violence. Finally, all Roma women strongly agreed (16/16) that: The content responds to the specific needs of Roma women that the information that emerged from the discussions could potentially increase their knowledge, and that they could actively participate in the discussion. While all responded that they strongly agree (15/16) or agree (1/16) that the workshop had logical and structured information, presented in an innovative and attractive format. No changes for the Info Workshops were asked by the participants.

## Lessons Learned and Takeaways

Overall, the participatory discussion worked very well, especially in explaining what GBV is and what women's rights are. Simplifying examples and explaining statistics in simple terms also played an important role in understanding the big picture. The storytelling exercise also worked extremely well in giving us hands-on experience of their personal experiences. The presence of the Roma mediator, who started the discussion and spoke about her own experience of GBV as a Roma woman in the



The half-day Info-Workshops began with a warm welcome and an icebreaker to help participants feel at ease. This was followed by an open discussion on gender-based violence (GBV), exploring its definitions, forms, and real-life examples from Roma communities. Participants then received a rights-based presentation on Roma women's protections under national and EU law, using simple language and visual aids to ensure accessibility. The session continued with a collaborative mapping of local support services, including shelters, hotlines, legal aid, and healthcare providers, with printed contact lists distributed. The workshops concluded with a group reflection and anonymous feedback, allowing participants to share insights and reinforce learning in a safe, inclusive environment.

## Results of the Info Workshop

The most significant aspect of the workshop was its inclusive format, which actively engaged both Roma women and men. The interactive sessions were especially well-received. Case studies as part of this session helped participants explore sensitive topics in a safe manner. By using familiar scenarios and a trusted-mediator model, the workshops created an environment where participants could engage openly, without fear of judgment. Another highlight was the collaborative “*Mapping Local Support Services*” activity, which provided participants with practical, actionable knowledge they could immediately apply and share within their communities.

From this workshop, we stressed these key insights:

- 1) Inclusive Participation Shifted Perceptions and
- 2) Safe, Interactive Methods Fostered Openness.

The “Mapping Local Support Services” activity equipped participants with actionable knowledge they could use and share within their communities.

## Lessons Learned and Takeaways

The workshop's inclusive format, engaging both Roma women and men, proved highly effective in fostering a shared understanding of GBV as a community concern rather than solely a women's issue. Men in particular valued being part of the dialogue and recognized their role in addressing it. Interactive sessions, including case studies and familiar scenarios guided by trusted facilitators, created a safe space for open discussion. A key highlight was the collaborative mapping of local support services, which gave participants practical knowledge to use and share. While some were initially hesitant to speak, the emphasis on a safe, non-judgmental environment gradually built trust and comfort, resulting in an inclusive space where everyone felt confident to contribute.

## North Macedonia

### Description of the testing process

- The recruiting process, description, and number of participants [gender, age, profession, professional specialty, organization **insert pictures**

The process of recruiting participants for the implementation of this workshop with Roma Women was implemented through the network of organizations that RRC has with organizations with which we cooperate in the Municipality of Shuto Orizari, the secondary school in Shuto Orizari, where students from the 4th final year of study(18 years old) were invited. Participants who had less access to education about GBV, and participants over 18 years old, were included, The trust among them was built through familiar and culturally sensitive outreach.

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The number of participants who participated in this Info-Workshops with Trained Roma Mediators workshop was 21 participants Roma Woman. Their age range was from 18 to 50 years. As a profession more of them were CSO activists who have been working with Roma women in Roma Coommunity for more than 10 years, social workers, Roma Faculty students for Social Science. Secondary students in their fourth-year(participants who have 18years).





- Timing and structure of the sessions

Regarding the timing and the structure of the sessions of the workshop, when we developed the sessions with communication with the Roma Mediators and Professionals and RRC team, we used the proposed agenda by adapting and choosing the topics that need of our Roma community, taking into account their needs and the time they can afford to participate.

In the section on the structure of the agenda, it consists of several Sessions, namely:

1 Session for welcome to the Welcome and Introductions - Icebreaker activity to build trust and comfort..

2 Session: What is Gender-Based Violence? Definitions, types, and real-life examples from Roma communities

3 Session: Roma Women's Rights under National and EU Law Rights-based presentation with visual aids.

4 Session: Mapping Local Support Services Collaborative activity to identify resources, followed by distribution of contact lists.

5 Session: Group Reflection and Feedback



Wrap-up and signposting to services

## Results of the Info Workshop/s

## Lessons Learned and Takeaways

The methods that were used in the workshop fulfill the expectations and the needs of the participants, because before implementing, we had done a good analysis of the needs of the community regarding GBV. The workshops had printed materials, an agenda, a PPT presentation, and evaluation forms. Also, we let a space for group discussions regarding the topic in order to give a chance to the group to speak about the things that they know about GBV, and the group to ask questions regarding GBV. We share many new pieces of information for the Roma community, related to the new protocol for intersectoral cooperation between institutions, how to use, where to ask for help when they will have a victim from GBV, paths, contacts from Chelter centers, contact from SOS Help line, etc. The participants could take this info home for future reference. Visual aids helped simplify complex legal information, making women's rights easier to understand, and participants valued the discussions that were conducted. At the same time, significant challenges emerged. Many women did not feel safe enough to speak openly due to fears of retaliation or community gossip. Distrust of external service providers further limited engagement, with participants feeling judged and offered information rather than practical support. Privacy concerns were particularly strong.

We face obstacles regarding the date for realisation of the workshops because it was a period of a very busy schedule, all other CSOs were already organising other events, workshops, etc., so we face a problem to decide for the final date in order to have participants. We must agree on one date when most of the participants were able to attend the workshop, on 04.12.2025.

## Slovakia

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### Description of the testing process

For the Info-Workshops with Trained Roma Mediators, communication and collaboration were maintained in a continuous and flexible manner with Roma Institutes, women's shelters, and non-profit organisations, with a particular focus on women from lower socio-economic backgrounds in the Slovak region who are in day-to-day contact with the Roma minority. This collaboration built naturally upon the earlier piloting phase of the developed learning and supportive materials, which was carried out under the scope of Work Package 3, and smoothly transitioned into the implementation stages of Work Package 4.

The Roma Mediators had been informed in advance about the subsequent project activities; therefore, drawing on their professional expertise and volunteering experience, they were able to engage with and understand the project objectives at a deeper level. In addition, Topcoach encouraged partner organisations and institutions to support its own outreach efforts by disseminating information and forwarding workshop invitations through their contact databases and newsletter initiatives, thereby increasing awareness and participation.

The participants attending the workshops represented an overwhelmingly female audience, which reflects the gender distribution typically associated with these roles within the Slovak context. The age range of participants spanned from 25 to over 55 years, with a total of 20 participants present.



The Trained Roma Mediators were predominantly representatives of local non-profit organisations and grassroots movements focused on supporting marginalised women from Roma communities. Many of the mediators were engaged in Roma counselling activities either on a voluntary basis or as part-time professionals, bringing valuable field experience and community-based knowledge into the workshops.

The events of the Workshops took place on November 25th and 30th, 2025, in the premises of Topcoach organization at Karpatské námestie 10/A, Bratislava, 83106, Slovakia.

Two Information Workshop sessions were organised, each structured into two-and-a-half-hour working blocks. The initial part of each workshop focused on ice-breaking activities designed to create a welcoming atmosphere, respect participants' personal boundaries, and establish a calm, safe, and supportive environment conducive to open dialogue. Roma Mediators trained during the WP3 piloting phase, particularly on the topic of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within the framework of Roma mediation, provided participants with an in-depth overview of the different forms of domestic violence and abuse linked to gender roles. These topics were illustrated through concrete examples, including real-life stories made publicly available on media platforms such as YouTube, which helped contextualise the discussion and enhance understanding.

The following section of the workshop focused on the specific legal frameworks at the European Union level, including an explanation of women's rights supported by visual aids to ensure accessibility and clarity of the information presented. The final part of the workshops was dedicated to storytelling and role-playing exercises, as outlined in the guided activity lists included in the WP3 lesson module compilations. Participants were encouraged to share their own perspectives on the social dimensions of Gender-Based Violence, discuss existing strategies and initiatives aimed at preventing and eliminating such forms of violence, and, where appropriate, reflect on their personal or professional experiences.

## Results of the Info Workshop/s

The proposal of the Info Workshop was met with very positive feedback from participants. Roma women from marginalised communities expressed that they often feel overlooked by local services when it comes to protection and personal security. They particularly welcomed the opportunity to openly articulate the challenges faced by women within their communities, with some participants sharing perspectives on behalf of relatives or other community members. Participants also expressed their appreciation that this issue—widely recognised as a societal concern in Slovakia—is being actively addressed through targeted initiatives.

All participants in the InfoWorkshops conducted in support of Roma women and the elimination of gender-based violence (GBV) expressed a positive assessment of the statement, "The information retrieved from discussions can potentially increase the acquisition of relevant knowledge." Specifically, 100% of respondents selected either "strongly agree" or "agree," demonstrating a clear consensus on the value of the discussions. This unified response indicates that the workshops were perceived as effective platforms for meaningful dialogue, knowledge exchange, and awareness-raising. Participants recognized that the shared experiences, practical information, and facilitated conversations significantly contributed to strengthening their

understanding of rights, available support mechanisms, and strategies for preventing and addressing GBV within their communities.

## Lessons Learned and Takeaways

Discussions covering the various forms of Gender-Based Violence revealed that physical abuse is most often the point at which women attempt to find the courage to leave an abusive relationship and seek external support. Furthermore, the mapping and clarification of first-contact support services were highly valued by participants and recognised as a best-practice approach, with strong agreement on its relevance and applicability across all participating countries.

Narrowing the target group specifically to women from Roma communities proved to be particularly effective, as it helped participants feel seen, heard, and represented—especially in comparison to more general initiatives addressing GBV among women at large. This targeted approach fostered a stronger sense of relevance and trust. Moreover, the Info Workshop format combined with a focus-group approach created a safe and supportive environment that encouraged open dialogue, trust-building, and meaningful connections among participants, as well as between community members and trained Roma Mediators.

## Spain

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### Description of the testing process

- The recruiting process, description, and number of participants [gender, age, profession, professional specialty, organization **insert pictures**]
- Timing and structure of the sessions

### Results of the Info Workshop/s

### Lessons Learned and Takeaways

### 3. Achieving Project Impact

The Info-workshops served as foundation for developing project's key outputs. The discussions successfully addressed the fundamental objectives that the RoW-POWER project sought to achieve:

We were therefore able to identify:

- Vulnerabilities and barriers Roma women face in accessing GBV support services.
- Knowledge gaps regarding GBV definitions, rights under national/EU law, and available protections.
- Challenges that limit Roma women's ability to engage with service providers;

From there on, we were able to enhance:

- Shared understanding of GBV as a community-spread issue, not only a Roma women's issue.
- Awareness among Roma women of their rights and possible ways to protection.
- Trust between Roma women and mediators through safe spaces, and culturally sensitive facilitation;

By the end of this project, we will achieve full circle of impact:

- Between Roma mediators, GBV professionals, and local service providers (hotlines, shelters, legal aid, healthcare).
- Reaching to Roma communities by involving women and men in dialogue and case studies.



- Across partner countries through the coordinated implementation of workshops with total of 120 participants, ensuring consistency and shared learning.



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# ROW-POWER

Enhancing support for Roma women victims of GBV



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