



COMPARATIVE REPORT

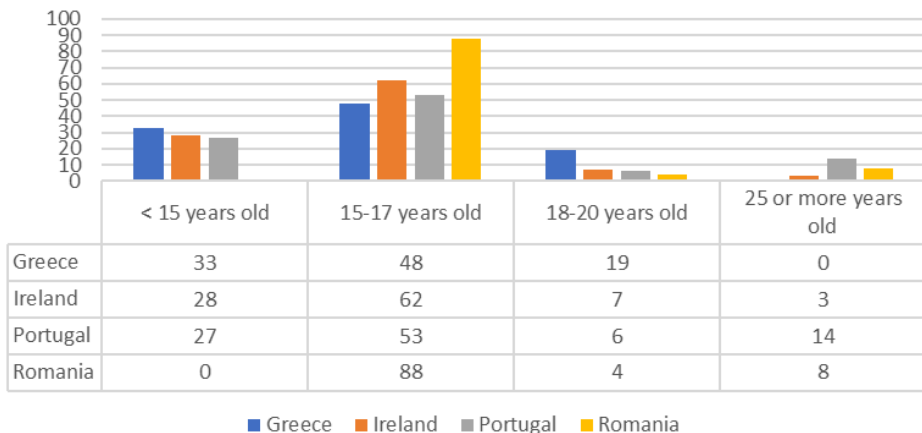
RESEARCH RESULTS IN 4 COUNTRIES



The Comparative Report on early marriages and early motherhood in Roma communities in Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Romania conducted under Erasmus+ programme, Project "Roma Influencers breaking the circle of early marriages and early motherhood in Roma communities" Project Code: 2024-1-EL01-KA220-ADU-000247507 contributes to a deeper understanding of the harmful practice of early marriage and early motherhood, by outlining the legal frameworks, existing policies, and the current situation of Roma communities in 4 countries.

DATA 1

Age of marriage/start of cohabitation, by country (%)



Most of the Roma women interviewed had married or entered into a partnership while they were minors, regardless of the country. Greece emerges as the country with the highest number of women interviewed who married under the age of 15 (33%). However, the age group between 15 and 17 is the one with the highest number of women who married at that age, especially in Romania.

This information shows that there is a tendency towards early marriage in these populations, regardless of country of origin. For women in particular, marriage is perceived as a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood in a world where childhood is short and adolescence is almost non-existent.

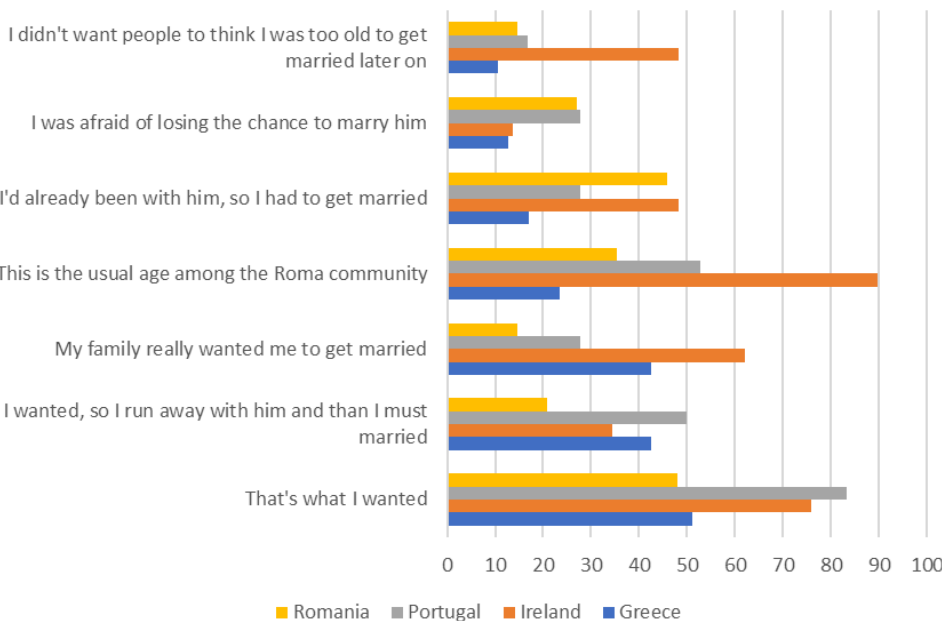
DATA 2

Reasons for marrying at this age, by country (%)

From a young age, girls are socialized with the expectation of early marriage. Therefore, it is not surprising that women's willingness is the main reason given for marriage or cohabitation, particularly in Portugal (83%) and Ireland (76%). However, as well as self-will, there is also the realization that pressure is exerted by the families for the marriage to take place. This perspective is evident in Ireland.

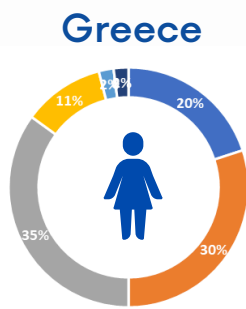
Another important reason is that the young age at which marriage takes place is considered normal in Roma communities. This not only legitimizes early marriages but also suggests that free will can be constrained by such a norm. This was particularly mentioned in Ireland (90%) and also in Portugal (53%).

The existence of pre-marital relationships was also mentioned as a reason for getting married, particularly in Ireland and Romania. Marriage was also mentioned in relation to situations of running away by half of the Roma women in Portugal.

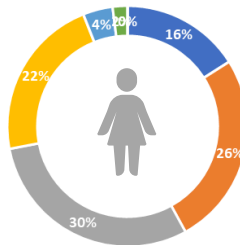


DATA 3

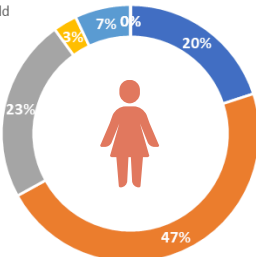
Age of women at the birth of their first child, by country (%)



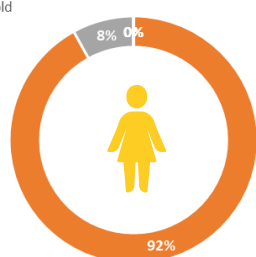
Portugal



Ireland



Romania



More specifically, most births generally took place before the age of 20. However, most of the Roma women interviewed had their first child as minors, and in most cases before the age of 15, with the exception of Romania. The youngest mothers, aged 13, were found among Greek, Portuguese and Roma women living in Ireland.