

# SWEDEN

## UNSEEN BARRIERS: THE STRUCTURAL REALITY OF BEING ROMA IN SWEDEN

JEKHIPE RESEARCH FINDINGS 2025

Based on research conducted in Sweden under the JEKHIPE Project

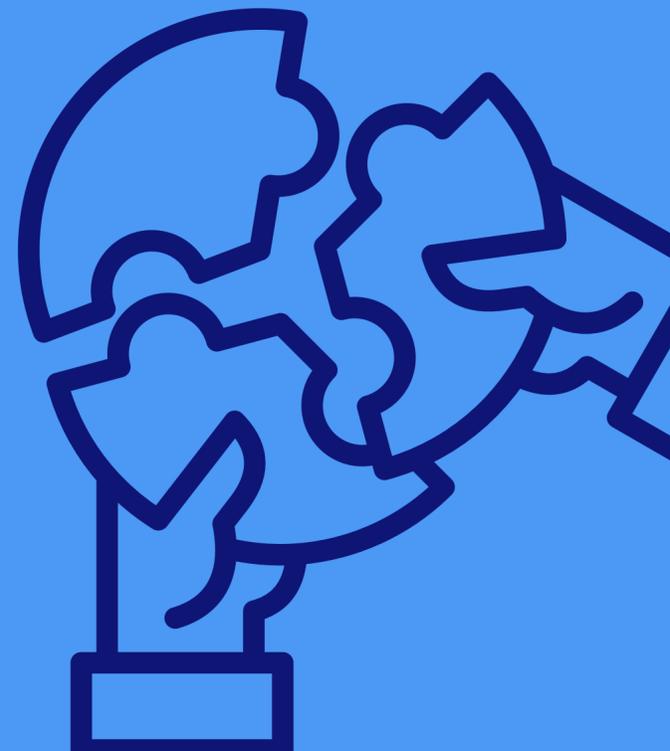
### Policy Implementation Gap

Antigypsyism in Sweden remains structural and persistent despite decades of policy initiatives. Key national policies include:

- **Roma Inclusion Strategy (2012–2032)**
- **White Paper on Abuses Against Roma (2014)**
- **Commission Against Antigypsyism (2014–2016)**
- **Action Plan Against Racism and Hate Crime (2025–2029)**

Despite these initiatives, research shows **implementation gaps and declining trust** among Roma communities.

One of the clearest indicators of weak implementation is local government participation: Only **11%** of municipalities actively implemented Roma inclusion measures in 2022–2023.

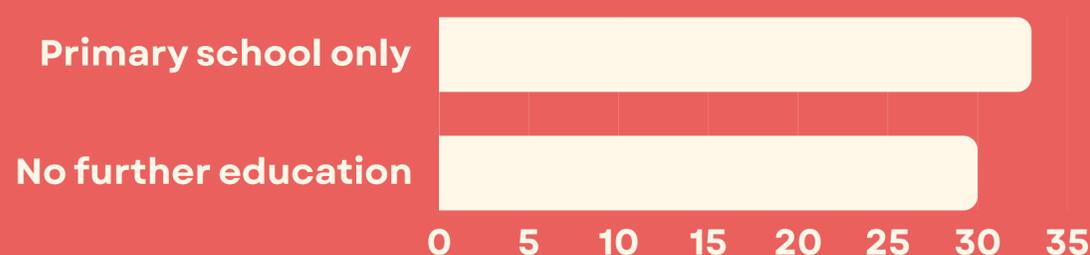


### Education Inequality

Education remains one of the key structural barriers.

- Around **one-third** of Roma youth complete only primary education
- About **30%** do not continue to further education
- Roma pupils report **bullying, segregation, and low expectations** from teachers

#### Educational Attainment Risk (Percentage)



### Hate Crime Reporting

Antigypsyist hate crimes are widely believed to be significantly underreported.

Official data:

- **33** anti-Roma hate crimes recorded in 2022
- Roma communities report low trust in police and justice institutions

Low reporting is linked to:

- **fear of discrimination**
- **lack of trust in authorities**
- **weak prosecution rates**

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### Structural Barriers Identified by Stakeholders

#### Top Structural Challenges

- Weak municipal implementation of Roma policies
- Discrimination in housing
- Lack of trust in justice institutions
- Lack of education about Roma history in schools
- Chronic underfunding of Roma civil society organizations

**Over 60%** of survey respondents identified **weak local implementation** as the main challenge, followed by **housing discrimination**, **a lack of trust in the justice system**, and **Roma history missing in schools**.



### Declining Trust and Political Climate

**Recent developments show growing antigypsyist rhetoric in political discourse.**

**1999:** Roma recognized as a national minority in Sweden

**2012:** National Roma Inclusion Strategy (2012–2032)

**2013:** Police Roma registry scandal undermines trust

**2014:** White Paper on historical abuses against Roma

**2014–2016:** Commission Against Antigypsyism

**2024:** Government adopts new Action Plan against Racism

**2025–2029:** National Action Plan Against Racism and Hate Crime

### Why This Matters

**Sweden's framework is strong on paper but weak in practice.**

#### Without structural reforms:

- Roma inclusion policies risk remaining symbolic
- Roma participation remains limited
- Structural antigypsyism continues across institutions

#### Key reforms proposed include:

- Stronger municipal accountability
- Roma co-governance in policymaking
- Mandatory Roma history education
- Stronger hate-crime enforcement mechanisms