

The specific needs of Travelling People regarding the organisation of educational and professional training systems

Interviews of Travelling People

A survey about the specific needs of Travelling People regarding the organisation of educational and professional training systems has been achieved by the project partners in 2005.

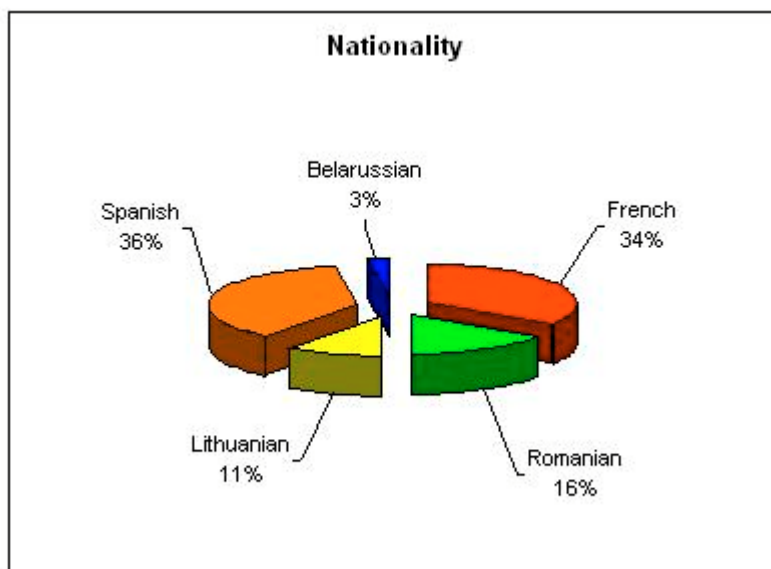
- interviews of Travelling People
- interviews of people working in institutions dealing with Travelling People.

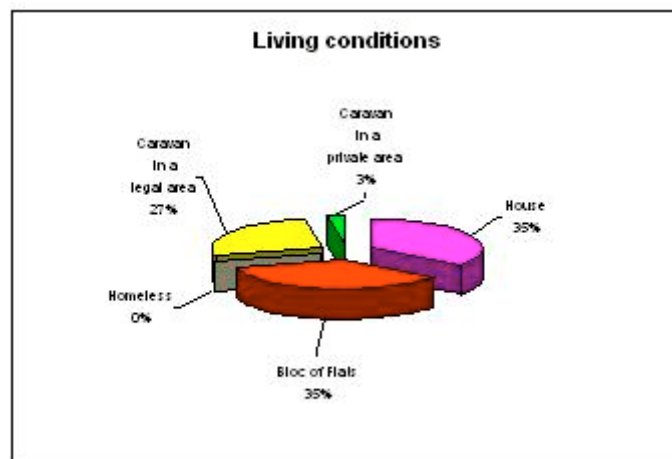
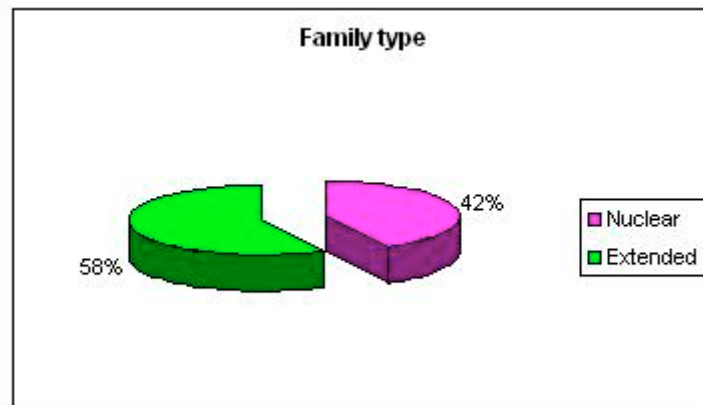
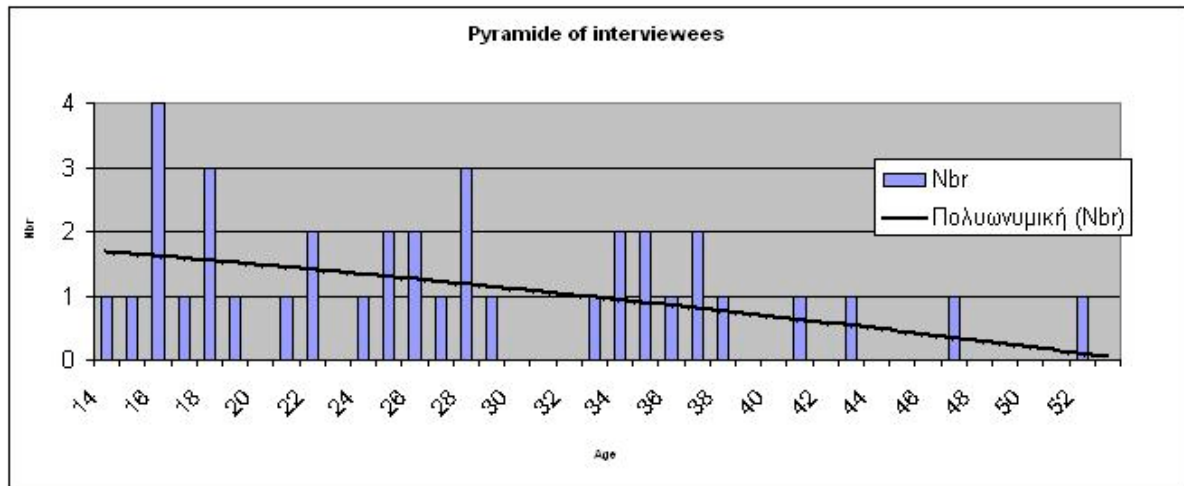
This report summarizes the results of interviews with Travelling People

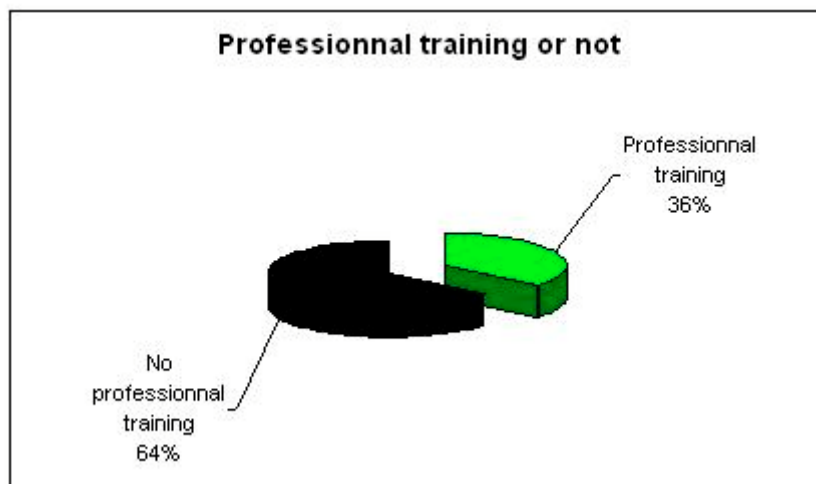
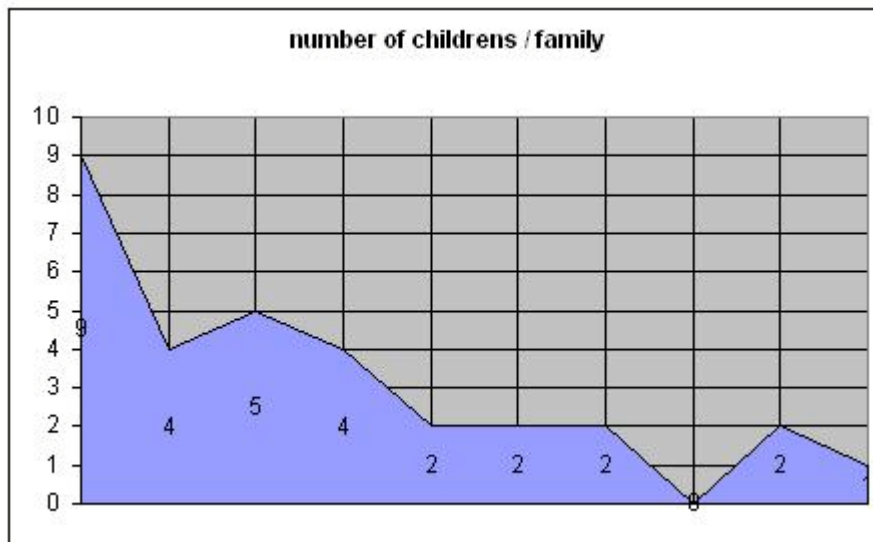
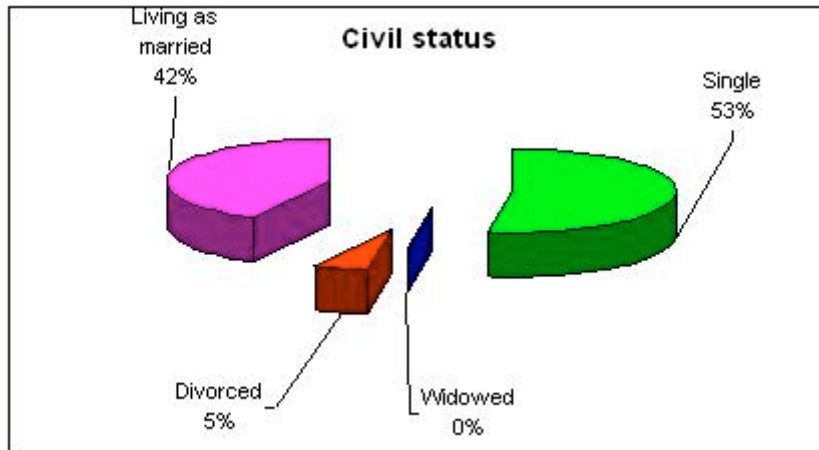
Number of interviewed people :

- 15 in France
- 5 in Lithuania
- 5 in Romania
- 14 in Spain

The figures below are a statistic presentation of the interviewees:







About education and professional training

As the level of education increases, less people attended. Very few people attended high school, and even less university. The majority didn't attend professional training. Out of those who attended, the majority participated in training provided and paid by stage organizations.

The majority finished vocational training. Obstacles in finishing were:

- change of living space
- got married

The majority of those who attended felt that the training met their needs. Most people chose the training themselves. They were happy when they felt their needs were taken into consideration in the courses and they learnt things that could help them improve their life.

They had problems when the course was not adapted to the reality of their life (mobility, level of education, attitude of family toward education). There is a gap between the end of initial education and the beginning of vocational training. (Women had more problems in attending school because of their role in their culture.)

Travelling people want to enrol in professional training to:

- be better at work
- improve their living conditions
- make money
- find work

They do not want to enrol in professional training when :

- courses are not adapted
- they are illiterate
- women : no time because of their family responsibilities

About professional situation

Professional situations vary between employed and unemployed. Most of them are self-employed. For some of them their job is not a legal job.

Example of jobs : season workers, painters, housewife (women), pupils or students.

Some of them are happy about their professional situation (Housewives are near their children. They are free and independent.)

For the other, who are not happy, they are poor, they haven't got enough money; some of them can't look for a job. They haven't got a job. Many of them did not answer.

Half of the interviewees have itinerant jobs and the other half have stationary ones.

About needs, they want apprenticeship (25 %), hairdresser, and assistant in house/ house workers. Many of them are continuing their studies (12 %), need courses (12 %).

About vocational courses the aims of this are about new technologies / computer / English.

Few of them have vocational training focus on house workers and hairdresser.

Other needs are :

- money
- the same opportunity of all the people
- find a job
- to learn to read and write : to have a basic level of education

About problems to access :

- they don't have basic skills to access to education because of their mobility
- it's difficult to find courses (schools are not near to the settlement)
- they haven't got time
- for women, the problem is that they must take care of children
- cultural difficulties for women to access to education
- they think they can't access because they are afraid to be discriminated.

About most suitable jobs :

- cleaning
- cooking
- painting
- hairdresser
- check out operator ... a dream
- doctor..... a dream

About needs to get such jobs

- a) training : special skills and learning in special courses
- b) money

They need at first training and then money to start the work.

A lot of them don't have any ideas. They don't know what to do to have access to a job.

75% of the interviewees know traditional activities of their families.

- For women most of them are trading, housewives and housekeeper.
- For men most of them make and sell basket, are painters, musicians, farmers, scrap dealers, hawkers, stockbreeders and gardeners.

30 % think that these traditional skills are lost, 40 % think that they still exist (no answer : 30 %)

About family's attitude, towards...

... towards children's education in schools

Family's attitude toward children's education in schools is positive and more usually a priority. They need it to succeed in life because they want to learn how to write, to read and get the driving license to have a good job. For a few families school is not important.

... towards employment

For many families, it's very important to have a job (to earn money), but more for boys than for girls. However, getting a job is difficult.

Others families have a negative attitude because of discrimination and low salaries. Some answers indicate that it's important to have a work for the family together.

... towards the employment rate of travelling people and means to improve it.

Society's attitude towards the employment of travelling people is very usually. There is a lot of xenophobia, suspicion and racism.

Some people think that they must work, because it's better for them to earn money by themselves than to get only social aids.

... towards means to succeed in professional life.

A lot of people didn't answer. And for the other the propositions are :

- Simplification of administrative formalities
- Short contracts
- To fight against discrimination
- To let young people under 15 work
- Keep traditional skills

- To fight illiteracy
- Insertion site
- Change mentalities
- Better salaries
- Give models, and motivate travelling people
- Vocational training

... towards other propositions.

- It's important to the life to the children
- It's important to get the driving license to have a job
- Girls want a part-time job because they want to help parents
- It's difficult to take time to learn because, men must work for their family
- The salary must be good because, they have big families (5 - 6 children)
- Sewing works for women
- There is too much racism. Negative behaviour of some of travelling is generalized and they are judged based on prejudices. All travelling people are not similar
- Women want to learn to cook and know more about children education