Abstract in English

The socio-economic inclusion of many Roma throughout Europe continues to be problematic in multiple ways. The transition from theory to practice has not yet happened for an overwhelming part of the Roma population in Europe, despite the relevant anti-discrimination legislation and policies currently in place. Significant gaps remain between the human rights standards, which have been introduced, and the everyday situation in which many members of this minority find themselves. This study considers the extent to which the collection of ethnic data and the implementation of positive action can render existing anti-discrimination frameworks more effective with the aim of combating the discrimination against, and promoting the inclusion of, Roma. This work engages in debates within the sphere of human rights, including equality, anti-discrimination, privacy and socio-economic rights, at the level of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the European Union. It argues that ethnic data ought to be collected and that positive action must be implemented so as to render actions and policies more effective and robust in the promotion of equality and the inclusion of Roma across Europe. A critical analysis of the legal and policy objections, as well as the predominant concerns and discussions on both topics, demonstrate the feasibility and the desirability of collecting ethnic data on Roma. This ought to be coupled with the implementation of one or many of the wide variety of measures covered by the much-debated notion of positive action, provided that certain conditions are met.