

THE SILENCE OF THE BIRTH REGISTRY

Statelessness and undocumented status of Roma in central, southeast and eastern Europe

25,000 Roma, arriving since 1945 from Slovakia, were able to obtain citizenship of the new state only after protests (1992).

Czech Rep.

Roma in Serbia lacking identity documents, in percent



At least 2,700 Roma (3.9 percent) in Roma settlements in Serbia were threatened with statelessness in 2015.

Of 7,166 Roma, 2,767 have incomplete personal documents; 30 percent of children of nationals and 70 percent of refugees were not included in the birth registry (2008).

Montenegro

Albania

Serbia

North Macedonia

Romania

Bulgaria

Many of the officially 300 stateless are Roma and cannot cover the cost of their naturalization. Children without documents not recorded.

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Of 13,770 Roma, 6,514 persons had problems with documents. 775 were not recorded in the birth registers (2008–11).

7,433 persons described themselves as stateless in the 2011 census. Ethnic affiliation was not recorded.

17 percent of the at least 100,000 Roma lack documents, estimates the Ukrainian government ombudsman (2015).

Ukraine

The problem of home births in North Macedonia

