CONFRONT
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Participatory research

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Participatory research: 
what is it?

- Addresses **power imbalances** between researcher & researched, and tries to alleviate them...
- ...by **involving** research population in research, from beginning (formulation research question) till the end (distribution knowledge) of the research...
- ...and as such deriving **emic** knowledge (from the inside) rather than **etic**...
- ...with more **cultural sensitivity** than usual.
Participatory research: why did we do it?

- Roma context: possible ‘allergic reactions’ to researchers ‘in power’ – empower Roma to define character of research & how to conduct it;
- Culturally sensitive: pay due attention to Roma language, terminology, cultural values, sensitivities;
- Reduces chances of stigmatization;
- Ensures that Roma are first to profit from research results
Participatory research: *how did we do it?*

- Train **Roma community members** as researchers
- Use **participatory methods** like letting Roma mothers **rank** the problems they perceive in their communities
- Focus groups
- Community mapping
Challenges:

- **Taboo** on child trafficking in Roma communities
- ‘a danger arises that using indigenous forms of participation will **further cement existing inequities**, such as gender imbalances’ (Ozanne & Saatcioglu 2008: 435)
- ‘This shift in thinking towards **seeing children as having the capacity to be actively involved in assessment and decision-making** is essential in moving away from ascribing (...) passive and subordinate roles to children.’ (Fern 2014: 19)
Next step in similar projects:

- How to involve children in generating knowledge on their own exploitation?
- And: how to prevent tensions with parents/caretakers when involving children?
- How to translate emic knowledge to policy jargon & actions? How to bridge gap between policy makers’ needs and Roma needs?
Questions?