

# Mirjana Rasevic

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Submitter	Aleksandra
Submission Date	Aug 31, 2023 12:38 PM
Name of applicant (principal investigator or leader of the project team)	Mirjana Rašević
Job title	Principal research fellow, Full professor, M.D. PhD
Name of the institution or society who will administer the grant if successful (if no responsible organization/institution - please give justification for this)	Center for Population Policies and Sustainable Development (CPPSD- member of IPPF)
Name of all other co-investigators and institutions. (Please provide name, affiliation, position, and country)	Katarina Sedlecky, M.D., PhD, Ob/Gyn spec., Consultant in Zutic specialized hospital, Belgrade, Serbia Aleksandra Sremčev, Programme director in CPPSD, Belgrade, Serbia Dragana Stojanović, Executive director in CPPSD, Belgrade, Serbia
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A short CV of the applicant (or the principal investigator or the team leader) should be provided here. (Max 2 pages)	<b>Mirjana Rašević</b> <b>Education:</b> Ph.D. Faculty of Philosophy (Department for Sociology), University of Belgrade, 1992; M.A. Center for Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Belgrade, 1988; M.D. Faculty of Medicine, University of Belgrade, 1983. <b>Employment Record:</b> Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, 1991; Mother and Child Health Care Institute of Serbia, Belgrade, 1984-1991; Institute of Gerontology, Belgrade, 1985-1987. <b>Membership in Professional Organizations:</b> Association of Demographers of Serbia;

Serbian Academy of Science and Arts, Committee for the Study of Population;  
Matica Srpska, Department of Social Sciences;  
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population;  
The European Society of Contraception and Reproduction Health.  
Former Director of the Center for Demographic Research of the Institute of  
Social Sciences, 1993-2022.  
Full Professor at the Demography Department of the Faculty of Geography,  
University of Belgrade, 2008.  
Former Director of the Institute of Social Sciences, Belgrade, Serbia,  
2002-2015.  
Former Editor of the journal Stanovništvo / Population, 2006-2010.  
National Project Coordinator:  
Motivating Persons Involved in Decision-Making to Implement the Birth  
Promotion Strategy and the United Nations Agenda 2030 (2020);  
Identifying and Promoting the Linkage Between Fertility Policies in Serbia and  
the United Nations Agenda 2030 (2019);  
Research on the Activation of Four Local Government Units in the Republic of  
Serbia, in Order to Identify Demographic Challenges and Improve Population  
Policy at the Local Level (2018);  
Researching Demographic Phenomena for the Purpose of Public Policies in  
Serbia (2011-2019);  
Demography and Population Policy in Serbia (2017);  
Birth Promotion Strategy (2008, 2017);  
Demographic Premises and Perspectives of Population Development in Serbia  
in Conditions of Contemporary Socio-Economic Processes (2006-2010);  
National Strategy on Ageing (2005);  
Let's Preserve Reproductive Health (2004);  
Model of the Law on Social Care for Children (2002);  
Voluntary Sterilization – Needs, Barriers, Solutions (2001-2002);  
Population of Serbia at the end of XX Century: State, Trends and Problems  
(1996-2000);  
Population Development of Serbia, 1991-1997 (1999);  
Social Position of Women in Kosovo and Metohija and Their Reproductive  
Behaviour (1997-1998);  
Case Studies in Population Policy (1995);  
Population Development of Serbia 1950-1991 (1994-1995).  
National Consultant:  
Developing the progress report for the ICPD@30 review in Serbia (2023);  
Infertility and Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Serbia (UNFPA, 2021);  
Prospects for a Fertility Increase in the Formerly Socialist Countries of Central  
and Eastern Europe (Department of Social Policy and Intervention University  
of Oxford, 2014-2015);  
White Paper on Migration and Development in Serbia (IOM, 2015);  
Population Situation Analysis in Serbia (UNFPA, 2014);  
Policy Brief on Family Planning in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SWISS  
TPH, 2013).  
Project Co-coordinator:  
Managing Migration and its Effects in South-East Europe-SEEMIG  
(2012-2014);  
Improving Institutional Capacities and Fostering Cooperation to Tackle the  
Impacts of Transnational Youth Migration-YOUMIG (2017-2019).  
International Management Committee Member:  
COST Action “International Ethnic and Immigrant Minorities Survey Data  
Network” (2016-2021).  
Selected Publications:  
Sedlecky, K. & Rašević, M. (2015). Challenges in sexual and reproductive  
health of Roma people who live in settlements in Serbia. *The European Journal  
of Contraception & Reproductive Health Care* 20(2): 101-109. <https://doi.org/10.3109/13625187.2014.957825>  
Rašević, M. (2017). Low fertility in Serbia:  
New Insight. In V. Janeska & A. Lozanoska (eds.), *The population of the  
Balkans at the dawn of the 21st century* (pp. 31-41). Skopje: Cyril and  
Methodius University in Skopje, Institute of Economics.  
<http://iriss.idn.org.rs/187/> Rašević, M. & Vasić, P. (2017). *Obrazovanje kao  
faktor fertiliteta i populacione politike u Srbiji / Education as a Factor of*

Population Policy. *Annales. Series Historia et Sociologia* 27(3): 599-608. <https://doi.org/10.19233/ASHS.2017.42> Rašević, M. (2019). Migration as a Catalyst of Serbia's Development – Illusion or Real Potential? *Southeastern Europe* 43(3): 277-303. <https://doi.org/10.1163/18763332-04303004> Sedlecky, K., Rašević, M. & Bitzer, J. (2020). Education and Training of Health Care Workers for Contraceptive Service Delivery in 21 Countries Across Europe. *Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare* 24(2):100498. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.srhc.2020.100498> Rašević, M. & Galjak, M. (2022). Demographic Challenges in Serbia. In: E. Manić., V. Nikitović & P. Đurović (eds.), *The Geography of Serbia: Nature, People, Economy* (pp. 143-155). World Regional Geography Book Series. Springer. <https://www.springerprofessional.de/en/the-geography-of-serbia/19898032> Rašević, M., & Sedlecky K. (2022) Is there improvement in the sexual and reproductive health of Roma women in Serbia in last decade? Paper presented at 16th Congress of the European Society of Contraception and Reproductive Health “Cultural and ethnic diversity in a changing world”, Ghent, Belgium, 25-28 May 2022. Retrieved from <https://escrh.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/abstract-book-LV.pdf>

Is the person responsible for the project different to the person named in box A

No

Title of the project

Towards the improvement of family planning of young Roma women in Serbia

Sector in the area of contraception, sexual and reproductive health:

Empowerment of young Roma women in Serbia for modern contraception use

Please provide a comprehensive description of your project. The application will be assessed under the following headings: Background and rationale (with evidence of unmet need and innovation, the relevance of the proposed project with contraception, sexual and reproductive health); Aims/ Objectives; Methodology (include where will it take place - country/town, establishment, sample size, justification, ethical approval plans (inclusion & exclusion criteria); Main outcome measures, statistical analyses); Impact it will or may have in the field of contraception, sexual and reproductive health (also under consideration of the situation in your country); Patient/ public involvement (where relevant) (1200 words)

Project description - Background and rationale: Roma people are, according to official data, the largest vulnerable population group in Serbia. Given Europe's political commitment to eliminating discrimination against Roma people in several areas, including sexual and reproductive health, within the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, a number of relevant strategic documents have been adopted in Serbia and a number of projects have been implemented. In spite of that, according to data from the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, 2019) young Roma women retain the traditional model of family planning with high rates of adolescent fertility (163/1,000), a high proportion of those who give birth before the age of 18 (35.8%), and a low prevalence of using modern contraceptive methods (5.5% among women aged 20 – 24, and 6.7% among women aged 15 – 49). The reasons for the failure of the activities implemented so far in changing the family planning model of young Roma women in Serbia have not been investigated in detail.

Aims: 1) To identify and assess the inclusion of the issue of family planning of young Roma women in the existing strategic documents of Serbia. 2) To identify and perform secondary analysis of research results from Serbia that included this question. 3) To identify the reasons for maintaining the traditional model of family planning among young Roma women in Serbia. 4) To define recommendations that would contribute to the empowerment of young Roma women in Serbia through increased use of modern contraception. 5) To provide the advocacy of the above recommendations.

Methodology: This is a qualitative research that will be conducted in several phases.

The first phase of the Project - All current strategic documents of Serbia related to: 1) Roma women; 2) young people; and 3) family planning and use of modern contraception will be reviewed and analysed. It will be assessed whether the defined activities can adequately contribute to the empowerment of young Roma women through the use of modern contraception. The approval of the Ethics Committee will be sought for the implementation of the research planned by the Project.

The second phase of the Project - Through the relevant databases (Medline, Scopus, Serbian citation index, Web of Science, ScienceDirect), studies that

are directly or indirectly related to family planning of Roma people in Serbia, including education, the establishment of marital/extramarital unions, employment opportunities, experiencing stigmatisation and abuse will be selected. The results that contribute to the understanding of the reasons for maintaining the traditional family planning model among young Roma women in Serbia will be highlighted.

The third phase of the Project - In each of three cities of different sizes from different regions of Serbia (Belgrade, Kragujevac, Zajecar), three focus groups will be held with different participants (young Roma women, young Roma men, and older Roma women). Previously, questions for discussion in three types of focus groups will be defined. Through the conversation in each of the focus groups, at least the following questions will be opened: 1) Why do a large number of Roma women give birth before the age of 18? 2) How do young Roma people in Serbia enter into marital/extramarital unions? 3) Who decides on the number of children that a Roma woman will give birth to? 4) Why do young Roma women not use modern methods of contraception? 5) What do young Roma women, young Roma men, and older Roma women think about the way young Roma couples start and plan a family today? 6) What would be their suggestions for a possible change in the family planning model among young Roma women in Serbia? The obtained material will be analysed according to the established methodology for focus group research. The fourth phase of the Project – Based on the results of the previous three phases of the Project, recommendations will be defined that can potentially contribute to the empowerment of young Roma people to achieve their reproductive goals with greater use of modern contraception, with awareness of the health-acceptable model of family planning.

The fifth phase of the Project - Advocacy of recommendations defined in the previous phase of the Project with relevant stakeholders and the civil sector, and dissemination of recommendations through the media.

Main outcomes: 1) The existence of systemic measures related to the empowerment of young Roma women to freely make informed decisions in the sphere of family planning. 2) A better understanding of drivers that contribute to the childbearing before the age of 18, high rates of adolescent fertility and maintenance of the low modern contraception prevalence rates among young Roma women in Serbia. 3) Recommendations for empowering young Roma women from Serbia to freely decide on the number of children and the time when they will have them with a greater use of modern contraception, knowing the health principles of planning. 4) Obtaining support from relevant stakeholders and the civil sector for taking into account recommendations that would facilitate Roma women to freely make informed decisions in the area of family planning.

Main outcome measures: Realisation of the main outcomes.

Statistical analyses: This is qualitative research, which would include descriptive statistical analysis.

Planned start date and end date From January 10, 2024 to December 10, 2025

Timeline: Planned time for each phase of the project eg. approvals, recruitment, analysis, reporting, dissemination? (Max 50 words)  
 1-3: data collection/analysis/obtaining Ethical approval  
 4-6: collecting/analyzing research studies  
 7-14: Defining questions for types of focus-groups/FGresearch  
 15-17: Recommendations  
 18-23: Report/Advocacy

Is it a 'new' project? Yes

How much will this project cost? 9947.6

Are there other partners or organizations supporting this same project?

No

Have you already obtained any funding?

No

#### Budget

List each Item re-quired for this project	Amount re-quested from ESC	Amount re-quested from addi-tional partner	Name of partner	Any Comments
Principal re-searcher	2400	0		
Researcher	2400	0		
Research team assis-tant 1	1350	0		
Research team assis-tant 2	1350	0		
Venue rent and refresh-ment for or-ganization of 3 focus group diss-cussions in Zajecar	600	0		
Accomodatio-n costs for 2 members from re-search team in Zajecar (3 nights x 2 persons)	270	0		
Travel cost Belgrade - Zajecar- Belgrade (round trip 486 km x 0,3 eur/km) x 3 times	437.4	0		
Venue rent and refresh-ment for or-ganization of 3 focus group diss-cussions in Kragujevac	600	0		
Travel cost Belgrade - Kragujevac-	250.2	0		

List each Item re-quired for this project	Amount re-quested from ESC	Amount re-quested from addi-tional partner	Name of partner	Any Comments
<b>Belgrade (round trip 278 km x 0,3 eur/km) x 3 times</b>				
<b>Refreshment for focus group dis-cussions in Belgrade for 20 people in total</b>	200	0		
<b>Trnscript of the recorded focus groups disscusions (5 groups x 5 pages x 2 eur per page)</b>	90	0		

Total amount requested from ESC

9947,6

Total amount requested from partner(s)

0

Add any additional information here

No.

The ESC may not be in a position to fully fund all applications; you must indicate whether / how part-funding may impact your project. (Max 100 words)

If the ESC does not provide full funding for the Project, our team has decided to carry out the research as planned entirely on a voluntary basis.

Who will oversee the budget & keep accounts? Provide name, title, contact number, and email address

Sanja Kovac, financial manager and accountant, +381607290501, sanjka@gmail.com

If you or your department has received grant funding from ESC for a project or course before, please give details of the date of funding, contact person, and title of the project or course.

N/A

I/We, as responsible agents for this project, agree to the following 11 points:

	yes
I/We agree that all monies will be spent appropriately	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
I/We agree to work with the nominated Mentor	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

		yes
	I/We agree to advise you at the earliest time if this project is delayed or cannot be completed	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We agree to provide an interim report(s) part way through the project and a final report to the ESC within 6 months of the end of the project.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We agree to provide the ESC with an interim budget(s) and a detailed budget at the end of the project. NOTE funding will be awarded in stages and will be dependent on appropriate reporting.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We agree to provide receipts for monies spent if requested.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We agree that if we need to make any significant changes to the duration, contents or funding of the project after it has been awarded, I/we will advise the nominated mentor.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We agree that any unspent money will be returned to the ESC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	I/We (the applicant) agree to acknowledge the ESC as a donor in any publications, submission of abstracts and oral communications resulting from this project. Please inform the ESC Office where and when the data is to be presented and/or published and note that ideally any manuscript should be sent to the ESC journal in the first instance.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Full Name	I/We agree to remain fully paid up ESC member(s) until the final grant report is submitted <b>Mirjana Rasevic</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Submission date of this form	I/ We agree that the reports get published on the ESC website <b>Aug 31, 2023</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>