



Environmental Injustice

THE CASE OF ROMA
 EEB - PUSHED TO THE
 WASTELANDS

Bullard, a sociologist by training, got pulled in to collect and parse the data. He found that 14 of the city's 17 industrial waste sites—accounting for over 80 percent of the city's waste tonnage—were situated in Black neighborhoods, though only 25 percent of Houston's population were Black.

What is environmental injustice

- Start - observation that the place where we dump our garbage and process dangerous chemicals tends to be located in/near poor, deprived communities and this leads to a disproportionate effect on their health and living conditions
- Communities should not be affected by more pollution just because they belong to a certain race, ethnicity, minority or income group.
- The movement started in the '80s - demonstrations - fact-checking - research - government structures

The United States Environmental Protection Agency – Office of Environmental Justice defined environmental justice as the:

"the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work."

The South African Environmental Justice Networking Forum asserts:

"Environmental justice is about social transformation directed towards meeting basic human needs and enhancing our quality of life – economic quality, health care, housing, human rights, environmental protection, and democracy. In linking environmental and social justice issues the environmental justice approach seeks to challenge the abuse of power which results in poor people having to suffer the effects of environmental damage caused by the greed of others."

For this report we refer to Filčák and Steger's definition of environmental justice:

[It is] the fair treatment of people regardless of ethnic origin or class in the distribution of negative environmental consequences from development plans and policies, industrial operations, or natural disasters and as fair access to natural resources and a clean environment. Environmental justice is also the recognition and involvement of stakeholders regardless of their economic status or ethnicity in development, implementation, and enforcement of policies, programs, and projects related to the distribution of environmental benefits and harm.¹³

CLIMATE INEQUALITY A GLOBAL PHENOMENON

POPULATION

REGIONS

COUNTRIES

Who are the Roma

- Around 11 m Roma in Europe -largest ethnic minority
- Originated in India - migration
- Social, economic, political, and cultural exclusion in Europe
- Discrimination led to poverty, unemployment, poor education, poor access to health services, environmental burdens
- Antigypsism
- Around 80% live in poverty (FRA) and suffer discrimination in all EU countries
- EU Framework for NRIS

Environmental injustice – EEB report

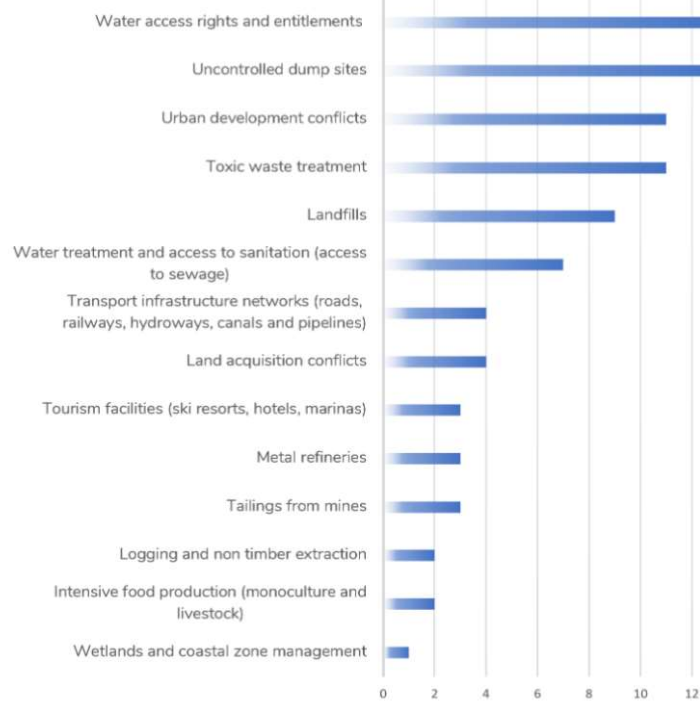


- Relation with different EU policies related to development and discrimination
- Relation to SDGs

This map illustrates 32 cases of environmental racism against Roma communities in Central and South Eastern Europe. The EJAtlas team at ICTA-UAB developed this map in cooperation with the EEB, ERGO network and a team of researchers working in Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and North Macedonia. It provides a sample of the widespread environmental injustice that Roma communities experience in Europe due to deeply entrenched racial discrimination and social exclusion.

TYPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICT

- Biomass and land
- Industrial and utilities
- Water management
- Waste management
- Infrastructure and built environment
- Tourism and recreation



Types of discrimination

Cut off - no access to services

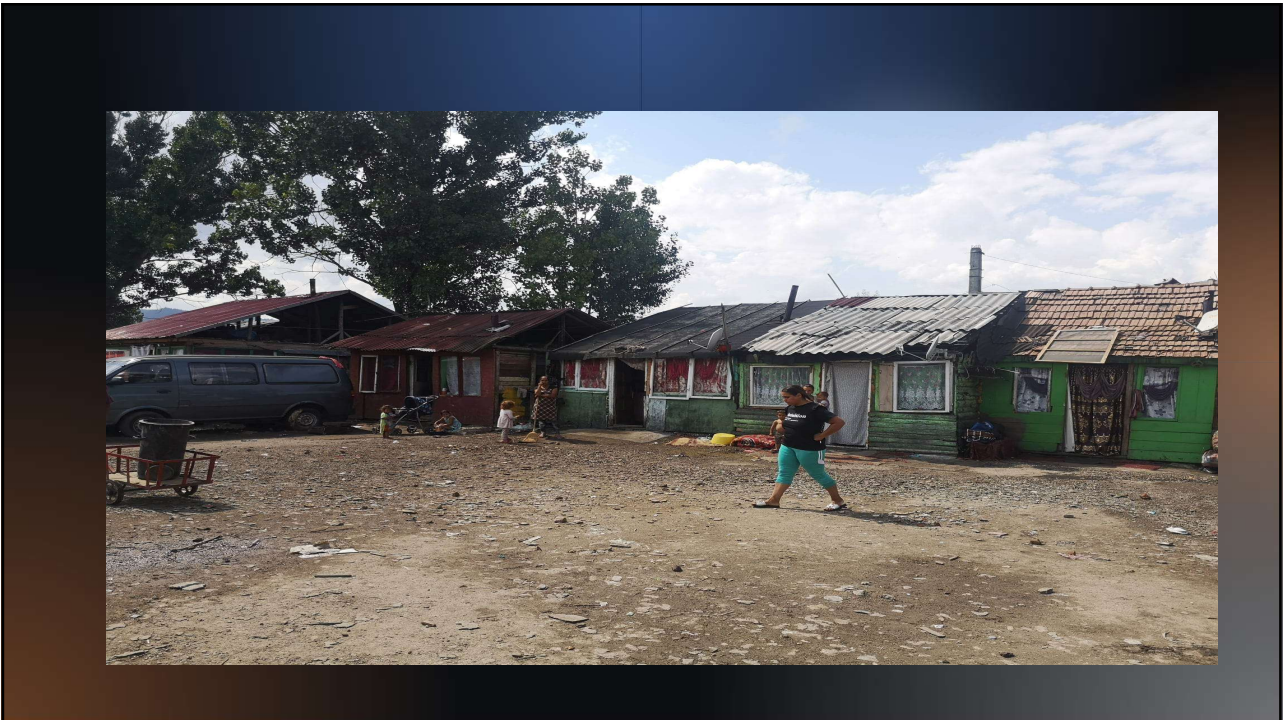
Put in danger - environmentally polluted, degraded or hazardous sites

Pushed aside - forced evictions and displacement

Pata Rat



Pile of waste in Pata Rat, Cluj, Romania
Source: Dan Perjovschi ([Wikimedia commons](#))



Miercurea Ciuc



Preparation of intervention

HISTORY

- Discrimination
- Unclear status

LEGAL

- Lack of papers
- Tenure security

SOCIAL

- History
- Solutions for integration

THANK YOU!