

Teacher Notes

Perspectives: Free movement within the EU

Subject Area: Geography

Conceptual Strand:

Place and Environment - Students learn about how people perceive, represent, interpret, and interact with places and environments. They come to understand the relationships that exist between people and the environment.

Achievement Objective(s):

Level 6: Understand how people interact with natural and cultural environments and that this interaction has consequences.

Level 7: Understand how people's perceptions of and interactions with natural and cultural environments differ and have changed over time.

Level 8: Understand how people's diverse values and perceptions influence the environmental, social, and economic decisions and responses that they make.

Possible Achievement Standards which could use a European Context:

- AS 91008 1.2 Demonstrate geographic understanding of population concepts
- AS 91429 3.4 Demonstrate understanding of a given environments(s) through selection and application of geographic concepts and skills
- AS 91431 Analyse aspects of a contemporary geographic issue

Geographic Concept:

Perspectives:

The way people view and interpret environments. Perspectives and values may be influenced by culture, environment, social systems, technology, economic and political ideology. They may influence how people interact with environments and the decisions and responses that they make.

Skills:

- **Geographic resource interpretation skills – Interpret information on a statistical map, interpretation of written material.**
- **Geographic resource construction skills –**
- **Communication skills – writing paragraphs**

Notes on the possible use of this resource:

- These resources were designed to be practise for AS 91429 3.4 Demonstrate understanding of a given environments(s) through selection and application of geographic concepts and

skills. There is no reason, however, why they could not be used by an able level 2 or even level 1 student who is need of extension'

- They could also be adapted for the following uses:
 - AS 91008 1.2 Demonstrate geographic understanding of population concepts – could be used as a case study for migration
 - AS 91431 Analyse aspects of a contemporary geographic issue

Perspectives: Free movement within the EU

Student Worksheet

Perspectives are the way people view and interpret environments. Perspectives and values may be influenced by culture, environment, social systems, technology, economic and political ideology. They may influence how people interact with environments and the decisions and responses that they make.

Free Movement within the EU

Migration has always been a thorny issue within Europe. There are many **perspectives** on whether or not the free movement of people within the union should have more restrictions placed on it.

One of the fundamental ideals of the EU is the '**single market**' i.e. the free movement of goods, services, money and people. The free movement of people is controlled by the **Schengen Accord** which came into effect in 1985. This agreement means that citizens of one EU country are free to reside and work in any other EU country provided although individual countries are still free to have their own immigration policy so long as this does not contradict any EU laws and regulations. Since 1997 nearly all member states have become party to the agreement and several non-member states have become associated states (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland and Liechtenstein). The United Kingdom and Ireland have agreed to cooperate in some aspects of Schengen, namely police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, the fight against drugs and the **SIS** but retain separate borders.

This right has been very controversial with some groups arguing it has led to flood of undesirable migrants entering their country. This was especially the case when **enlargement** resulted in no fewer than 10 new countries joining the EU in 2004, followed by two more in 2007 (Romania and Bulgaria). As most of these new members were former communist states there was a fear that the rich countries of Northern and Western Europe would be inundated with people wanting to leave the poorly performing economies of the east in order to seek a better life for themselves and their families. Many people felt that low-skilled east-European workers moving in would take jobs of locals, be a burden on the welfare system and lead to an increase in crime and social disorder. The migration of people from Poland to the UK represents a good example of this. There are now an estimated 600,000 Poles residing in the UK, and Polish is now the second most spoken language behind English.

A similar debate is now looming as the two latest EU members, Romania and Bulgaria, will have free access under Schengen after their five-year stand down period expires. Whether or not free movement should be granted has become more and more controversial as the time has approached, with public fears of a flood of immigrants, claims of mass 'benefit tourism'* and threats by some member states to veto the two countries entry into Schengen.

* When EU nationals go from their home country to another EU country to claim benefits.

Question 1: Identifying Patterns

Eastern Europe



a) Refer to an atlas. On the map of Eastern Europe above locate and label:

- Romania
- Bulgaria
- Moldova
- Greece
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Hungary
- Ukraine
- The black Sea
- The Danube River
- Bucharest
- Sofia

Refer to **Resource 1** to help you answer the following questions.

b) Which **region** has the fewest number of Eastern European immigrants? _____

c) Which **local authority** has the greatest percentage of Eastern European immigrants?

d) Use an atlas map of the UK and Resource 1. Do more Eastern European Migrant workers appear to settle in rural or urban areas? Use evidence from resource 1 to support your answer

e) Suggest a reason(s) for your answer in (d) above.

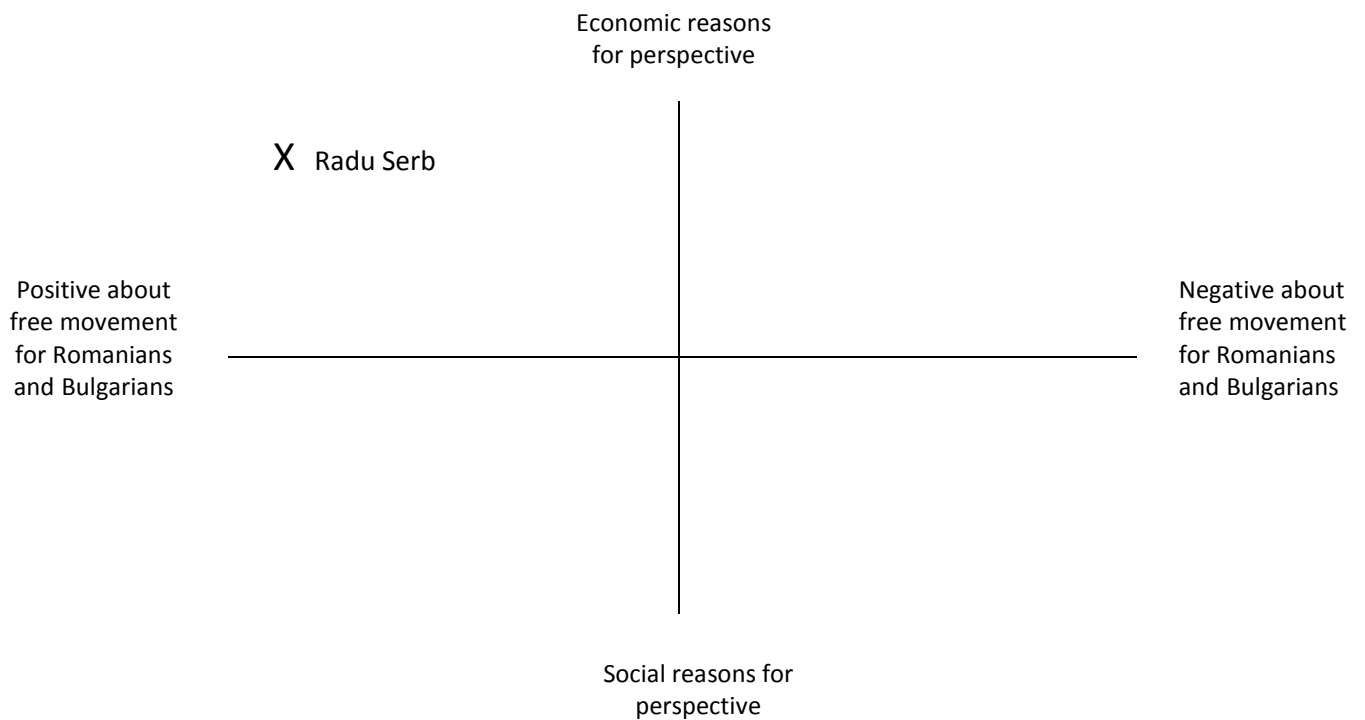
f) This map shows registered migrant workers. Suggest a reason(s) why this might not be a totally accurate picture of the actual number of Eastern European migrants in the UK.

Question 2: Identifying Perspectives

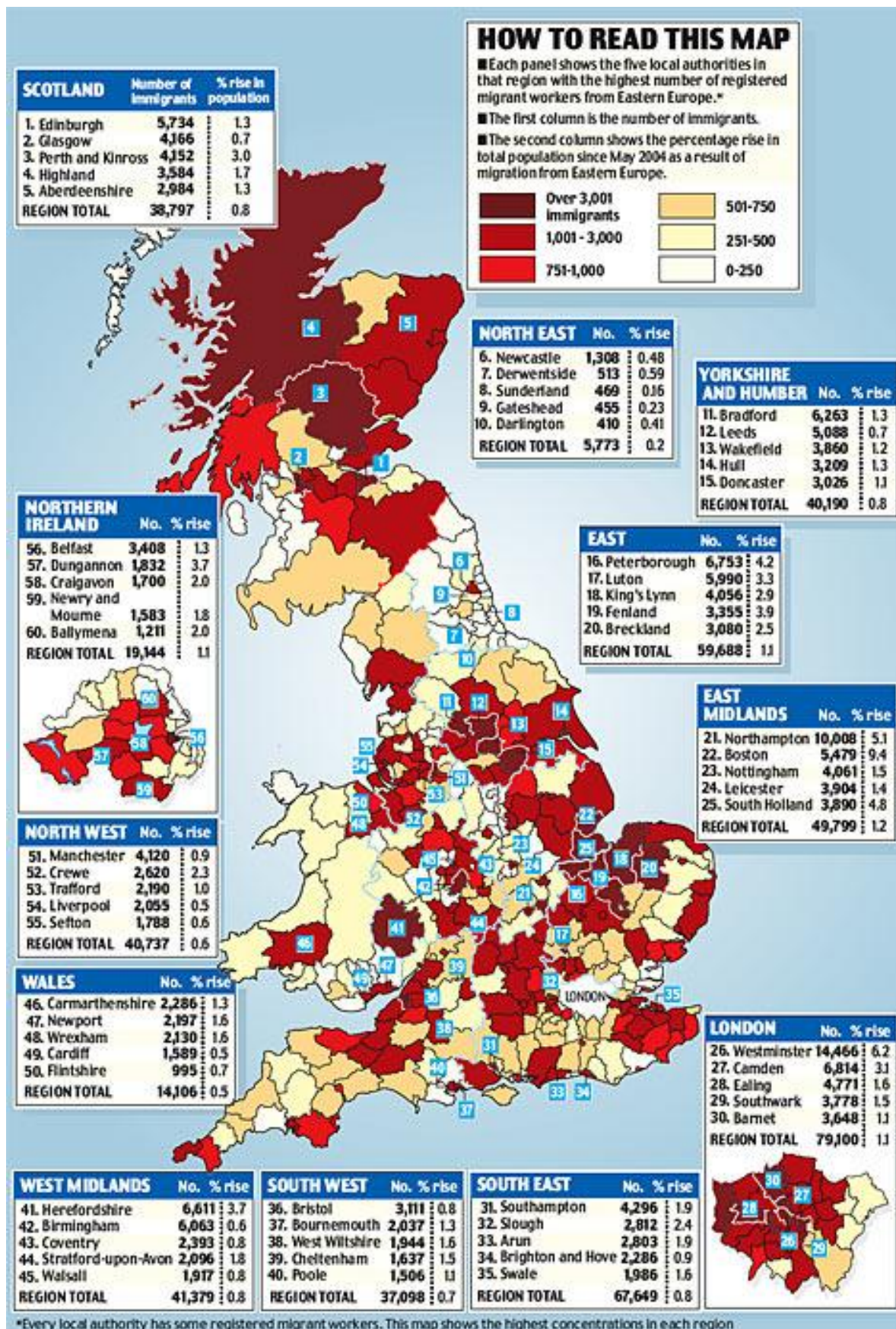
Perspectives are the way people view and interpret environments.

Refer to **Resource 1**. Use an X place the following people or groups on the chart below according to how they feel about the free movement of Romanians and Bulgarians.

- Hans Peter-Friedrich
- Migration Watch
- Eric Pickles
- Viviane Reding
- Titus Corlătean
- Radu Serb



Resource 1: Distribution of Registered Eastern European Migrant Workers in the UK



Source: www.dailymail.co.uk

Resource 2: Perspectives on Free Movement of Romanians and Bulgarians

German interior minister, Hans-Peter Friedrich



Migration Watch, an independent anti-migration lobby group.



"If Romania and Bulgaria insist on having a vote, their push will fail because of a German veto. Schengen enlargement will be accepted by our citizens only when the basic conditions are met. This is not the case for now. Freedom of movement means that every EU citizen can stay in another country if they work or study there. Everyone who meets these conditions is welcome here. But those who come here just to cash in social benefits and misuse freedom of movement, must be effectively stopped from doing so"

On present arrangements, a Bulgarian or Romanian working in Britain could claim for two children and receive an amount that was equivalent to a week's wages at the minimum wage in his home country. This is a huge incentive to head for Britain, or for the Netherlands or Germany, which are the only other major EU countries which pay child benefit to non-resident children. The focus now, therefore, must be on tightening access to this and other parts of the benefit system. A massive Polish migration during an economic boom is one thing. A substantial Romanian and Bulgarian influx during an extended recession is quite another.

There is mounting evidence that immigration has had a negative effect on wages at the lower end of the UK labour market. The effect is small but the evidence now seems consistent. There is also developing evidence of a negative impact on the employment of the UK born workers. Between the first quarter of 2005 and the last quarter of 2008 the number of UK born, aged 16 and over, in employment fell by about 230,000 while the foreign born increased by nearly one million. Thus the large scale immigration of recent years has done nothing to help the low paid and may well be affecting their chances of employment.

Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government



Mr Pickles was asked about the impact of a fresh wave of EU migrants by Andrew Neil on the BBC's Sunday Politics after a discussion about the low rate of housing growth. Asked how many Romanians and Bulgarians he expected to move to the UK, he said: "The truth is I don't think anybody entirely knows the number that will come from Bulgaria and Romania."

He said he had had "no discussions with the Home Office with regards to the numbers". But he said individual councils were taking action to prepare for a possible large increase in the numbers of people moving to the UK from the two countries next year. "We do know of a number of boroughs that have a higher than average number of Romanians so I would expect to see influxes in the east of London, which is predominantly where they are now," he said.

He added, "Given that we've got a housing shortage, any influx from Romania and Bulgaria is going to cause problems - it's going to cause problems, not just in terms of the housing market but also on social housing markets."

Viviane Reding, European Commission vice-president



Referring to concerns about benefit tourism Viviane Reding told reporters in Brussels that “no member state has provided the commission with facts about a 'perception' [that something is wrong].”

She said the EU-treaty-based right to free movement is not up for negotiation, “neither now nor for tomorrow. EU citizens working only become eligible for social security benefits under a very strictly defined habitual residence test. All this is in the national law, all this is clear,” she said.

Reding also said that making it easier for EU citizens to seek work in other member states is a big chance to alleviate the economic crisis. “We have seen how labour mobility has benefitted the European Union. The 15 countries benefited by enlargement to have the 12 newcomers ... [and] profited in their GDP rise by 1 percent more wealth due to enlargement,” she noted.

Titus Corlatean, Romanian Foreign Minister



Romanian Foreign Minister Titus Corlatean is not happy with the tone of the debate surrounding Romanian and Bulgarian immigration to the UK, he has told the BBC.

Transitional controls on freedom of movement, imposed when the two countries joined the EU in 2007, expire at the end of the year - and there is pressure on the government to prevent a significant wave of migrants arriving. "This type of debate in British society is quite surprising and we regret it," Mr Corlatean said. "It's quite enough."

He expressed frustration at reports which stereotype Romanians as criminals or scroungers, and said predictions of a flood of migrants arriving in the UK in 2014 were exaggerated. Many Romanians working abroad, he argued, play a valuable role in the economies of other countries, including the UK. There are more than 2,000 Romanian doctors in Britain. "They are not immigrants, they are European citizens with full rights," he added.

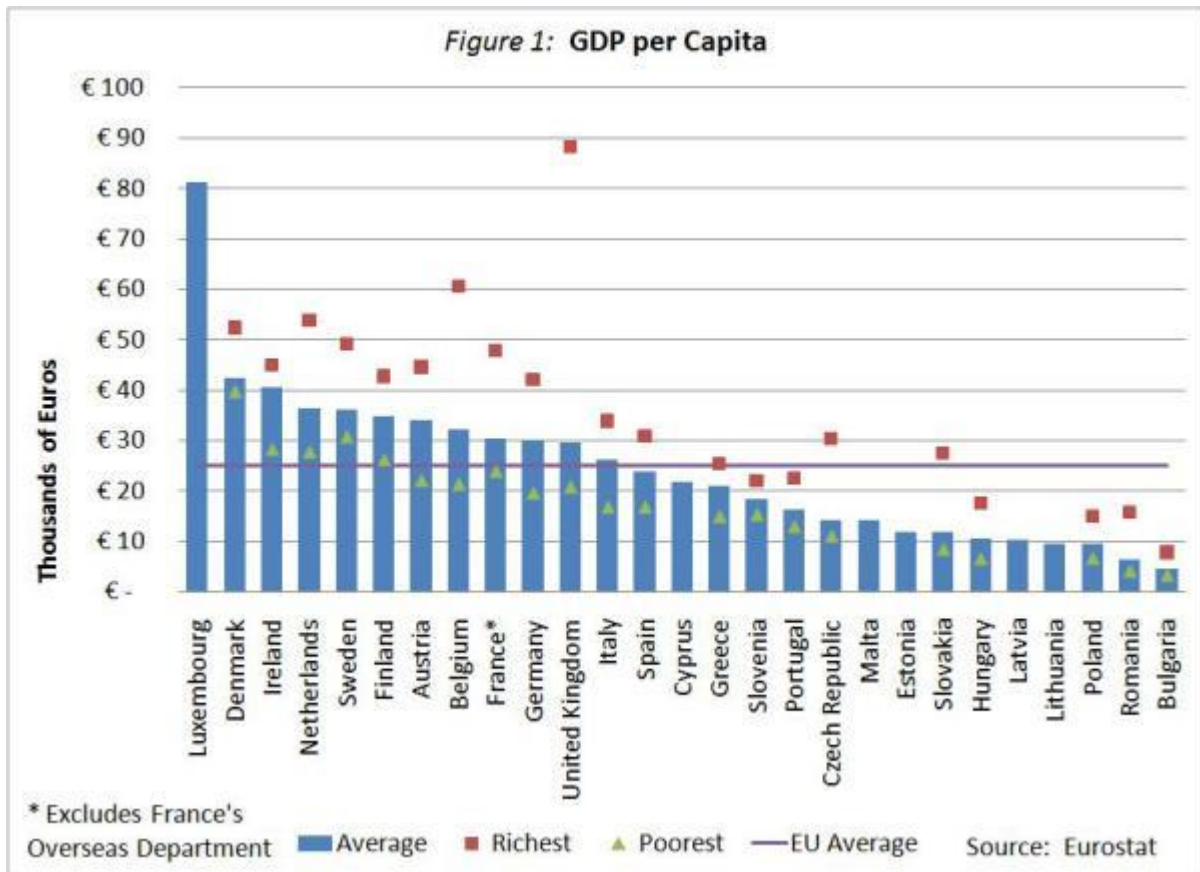
Radu Serb, Romanian Pensioner from the small village of Fizis, Transylvania.



“My wife is currently in Italy, caring for an elderly lady. She spends half the year there and earns 600-700 euro (£490 to £570; \$870 to \$1,000) a month - four times the value of our monthly Romanian pension. Wages are a lot higher in the West. It is not like to old days when we were not able to leave and had no choice but to work for next to nothing.

It is hard not seeing my wife for so long but it is necessary as we need the money to pay for our daughter’s wedding

Resource 3: GDP per Capita for the EU-27



Note:

- The red squares represent the GDP per Capita of the richest region within the country.
- The green triangles represent the GDP per Capita of the poorest region within the country.
- The purple line is the average GDP per capita of the 27 EU countries

Resource 4: On the road: Centuries of Roma history

www.bbc.co.uk, 8 July 2009



There are striking similarities between the Roma and some groups from Northern India

Beginning a series on the modern-day plight of Roma Gypsies in Europe, by BBC Russian for the World Service, Delia Radu traces the ethnic group's nomadic history back to northern India.

"Who are these people?" asks the man behind the counter in the photo store in Southall, an area also known as London's Little India. He is handing over my order: a hefty pile of colour photographs, of which a picture of two Roma women and their children (above) is the first.

"They look just like the Banjara in Rajasthan - that's where I come from," he says.

He points to a beautiful print on the wall, showing a glamorous group of female Banjara dancers. The similarity is striking. Historians agree that the Roma's origins lie in north-west India and that their journey towards Europe started between the 3rd and 7th Centuries AD - a massive migration prompted by timeless reasons: conflicts, instability and the seeking of a better life in big cities such as Tehran, Baghdad and, later on, Constantinople.

Some of these Indian immigrant workers were farmers, herdsmen, traders, mercenaries or book-keepers. Others were entertainers and musicians. They settled in the Middle East, calling themselves Dom, a word meaning "man".

To this day they retain their name and speak a language related to Sanskrit. Large numbers moved into Europe, where the D, which was anyway pronounced with the tongue curled up, became an R, giving the word Rom. Today's European Roma (the plural of Rom) are their descendants.

'Untouchables'

Maybe because they were carrying customs and memories connected to their Hindu gods, the Roma were regarded as heathens in Byzantium and were assimilated into a heretic sect: "the Untouchables" or Atsingani. This designation is the root of the words used for "Gypsy" in most European languages, such as the French "Tzigane" and the German "Zigeuner".

By the 14th Century, journeying further into Europe, perhaps fleeing the Turks or perhaps the plague, the Atsingani were to be found in Bulgaria, Serbia, and Greece.

They worked on the land or as craftsmen but in two Romanian principalities, Wallachia and Moldova, they were pushed into slavery and feature prominently in property deeds. About a century later the Roma fled towards Ukraine and Russia. Some presented themselves as pilgrims or penitents, and like any such group wandering throughout Europe during that era they were given aid or shelter.

This welcoming attitude changed dramatically around the year 1500. Historians believe this might have happened because the numbers of the immigrants grew bigger, but they also were seen as spies for the Turks, and consequently hunted and killed by decree. This led to what some historians dub "the first Roma genocide" - a period of fierce repression.



Roma have worked as coppersmiths possibly since the "Persian period"

There were hangings and expulsions in England; branding and the shaving of heads in France; severing of the left ear of Roma women in Moravia, and of the right one in Bohemia.

Following these expulsions and killings, large groups of Roma travelled back East, towards Poland, which was more tolerant. Russia was also a place where the Roma were treated less heavily, notably being allowed to retain nomadic or semi-nomadic ways of living, as long as they paid the annual taxes - the "obrok".

Children removed

In contrast, the policy of the West, especially during the Age of Enlightenment was to "civilise" the Roma through brutal forced assimilation. The repression included: 24 strokes of the cane for the use of the "Gypsy language"; forbidding Roma to marry among themselves; restricting the numbers of Roma musicians; taking away children as young as four years old from their parents and distributing them among the neighbouring towns, "at least every two years".

In some cases these policies did force Roma to become assimilated. But many took to the road again. The persecutions culminated in the Holocaust, or Porajmos - "the Devouring" - as it is called in Romany. The Roma found themselves among the first victims of Nazi policies. They were sent to die in the gas vans of Chelmno, and were subjected to gruesome experiments in the extermination camps. Up to 500,000 Roma are believed to have been killed under fascist rule.



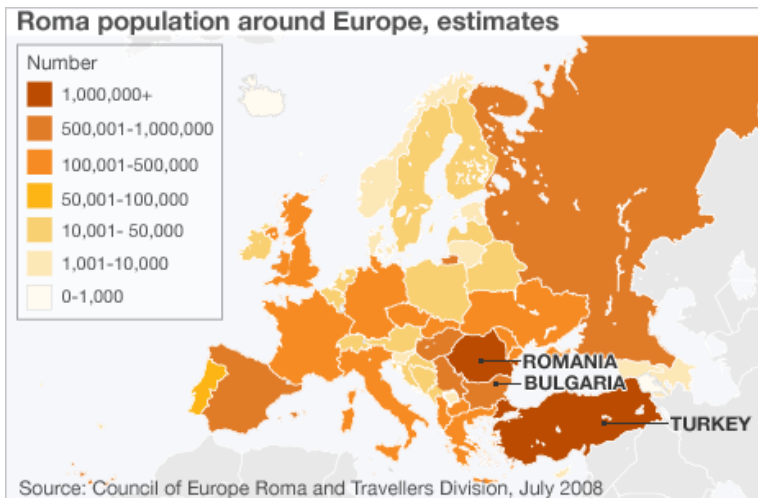
Roma families were among the first victims of the Holocaust

Poverty-stricken

Yet post-war European governments on both sides of the Iron Curtain denied the Roma Holocaust survivors any recognition or aid. In the communist bloc some managed to reach the modest living standards of the era, most often at the price of giving up their language and identity, while the majority of Roma continued to lead poverty stricken lives on the margins of society. In many cases there were special policies towards Roma, including coerced sterilisation (Czechoslovakia) or forcing them to change their names and hiding their dwellings behind concrete walls (Bulgaria).

The demise of the communist regimes in 1989 in Central and Eastern Europe was followed by an upsurge of anti-Roma violence in almost every country.

Today, six million out of the estimated 10 million European Roma live in Central and Eastern Europe.



Up to two million are to be found in Romania, whose established Roma slave markets horrified Western travellers until as late as the 19th Century.

Decades of communism and the recent admission of Eastern countries into the EU seem to have made little difference to their history of exclusion and poverty. Most Roma families live in small shacks with no electricity or running water, and international institutions calculate that Roma poverty rates are up to 10 times

higher than those of the majority population where they live, while their lifespan is 10 or 15 years lower.

Resource 5: EU warns France of action over Roma

www.bbc.co.uk, 29 September 2010 last updated at 14:33 GMT

Left: France's demolitions of Roma camps have been widely criticised in the EU



Roma in Europe

The European Commission has told France that it faces action over its expulsion of Roma (Gypsy) migrants if it fails to adopt EU rules on freedom of movement by 15 October. France welcomed the fact that the EU was not accusing it of discrimination.

But **EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding** said France had not respected a 2004 EU directive on freedom of movement. The controversial expulsions of thousands of Roma led to a serious row between Brussels and Paris. Recently Ms Reding compared France's action to events during World War II. The accusation drew a sharp rebuke from **French President Nicolas Sarkozy**.

"France is not enforcing European law as it should on free movement, so we are launching an infringement process against France," Ms Reding told France 24 television.

France Roma row

- 19 July: A French Roma mob riots in the Loire Valley town of Saint-Aignan after police shoot a Roma man dead
- 29 July: President Sarkozy orders the clearing of 300 illegal Roma and traveller camps within three months

- 9 September: With about 1,000 foreign Roma already deported from France, the European Parliament demands an end to the policy; France vows to continue
- 14 September: EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding draws parallels with WWII
- 16 September: President Sarkozy tells EU summit Reding's words were "disgusting and shameful"

Ms Reding says France has failed to transpose into law a 2004 EU directive on freedom of movement, which sets out procedures for deporting migrants deemed to be staying illegally. The Roma sent home to Romania and Bulgaria are EU citizens, so they have the right to move to another EU country. But host countries can deport people considered to be a public security risk or a burden on the welfare system.

President Sarkozy says the illegal Roma camps threaten to become shanty towns. He launched the crackdown in late July, calling the camps breeding grounds for people trafficking, prostitution and child exploitation. More than 1,000 Roma have been deported since Mr Sarkozy announced that the camps would be torn down.

Row over memo

A leaked memo from the French interior ministry infuriated Ms Reding earlier this month. It showed the authorities had been instructed to target Roma camps, rather than deal with migrants on a case-by-case basis, as the French migration minister and the minister for Europe had assured the European Commission.

The deliberate targeting of an ethnic minority, if proven, would violate EU anti-discrimination laws and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

"France did not correctly transpose the rules on free movement of European citizens and, as a result, she has robbed these citizens of essential procedural guarantees," Ms Reding said on Wednesday. "This must be corrected and that is why the Commission has acted firmly."

Below: EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding: "The European Commission today has decided to open infringement procedures against France. "



The official notification about an infringement procedure will be sent to Paris if France does not tell the Commission within two weeks how it is transposing the directive into law and present a timetable for doing so.

The Commission heard presentations on Wednesday from Ms Reding and two other commissioners on France's expulsions of Roma.

"The Commission is analysing the situation of all other EU member states under the Directive on Free Movement, to assess whether it will be necessary to initiate infringement proceedings also in other cases," a Commission statement said.

It warned that infringement cases would be opened against other countries if they were found to be ignoring the directive.