



The Economic Costs of Roma Exclusion

**Human Development Economics
Europe and Central Asia**

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Three Key Messages:

- **Roma are unable to successfully participate in the labor market**
- **Billions of Euros are lost in productivity and fiscal contributions**
- **Investing in quality and inclusive education is the economically smart choice**

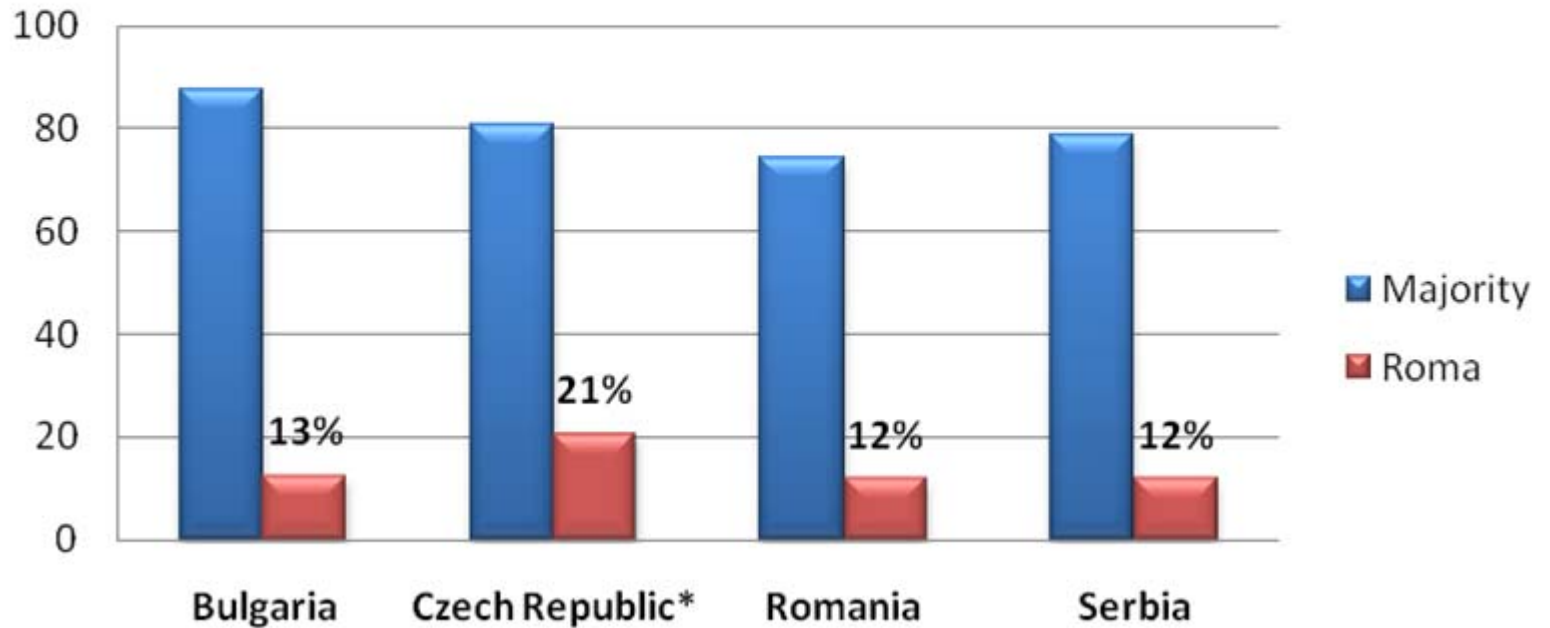


Findings from four countries:

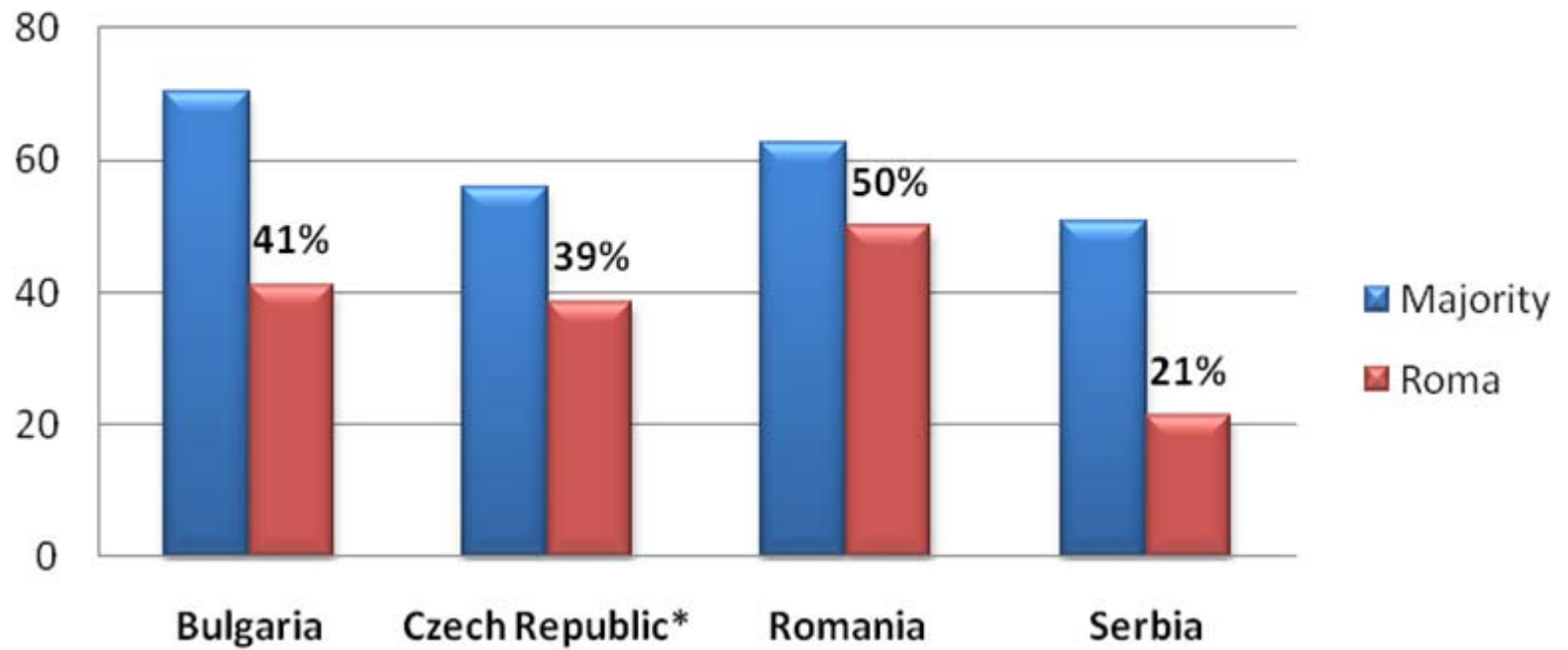
- **Bulgaria: 370,000**
- **Czech Republic*: 70,000**
- **Romania: 535,000**
- **Serbia: 108,000**

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- **Roma are unable to successfully participate in the labor market**

% Working Age with at Least Some Secondary Education or More

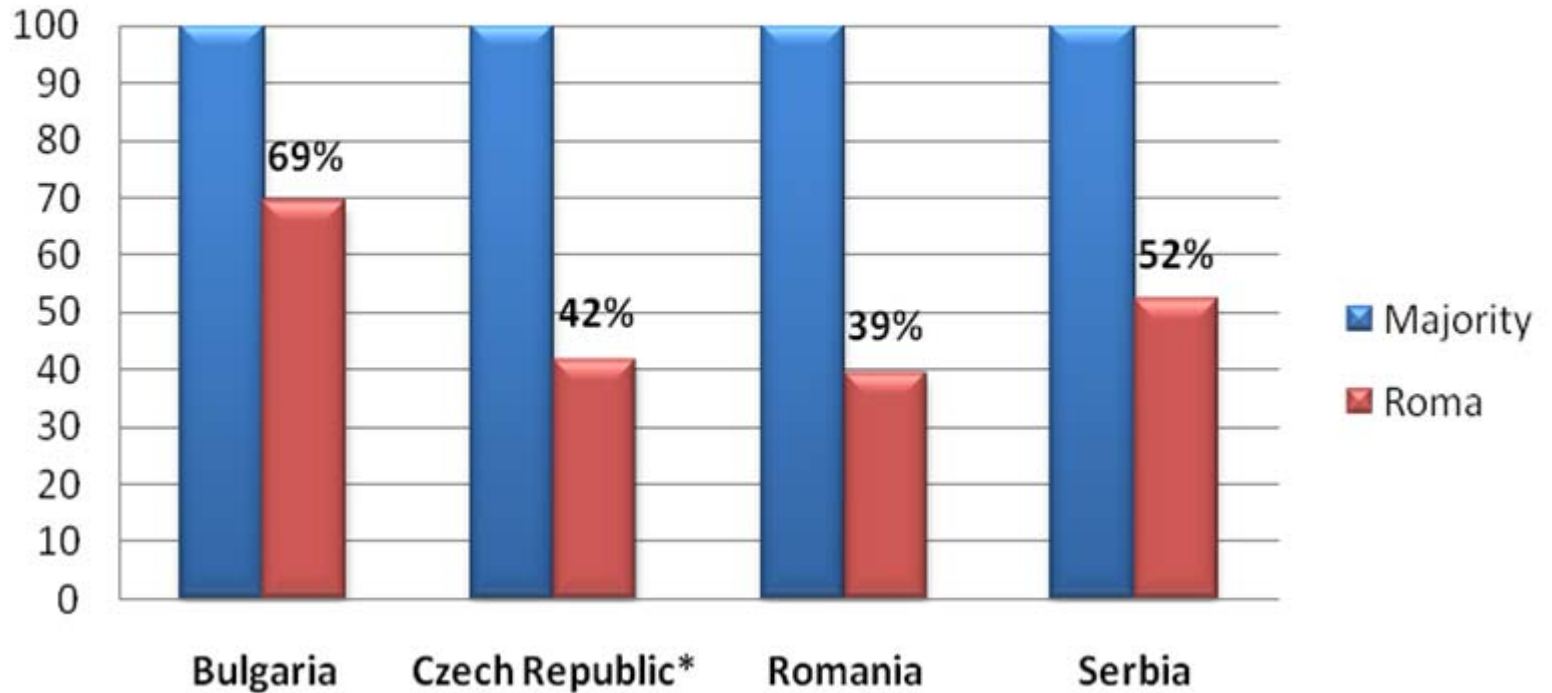


Employment Rate: % Working Age with Jobs



Monthly Income if Working

(as % of majority monthly income)

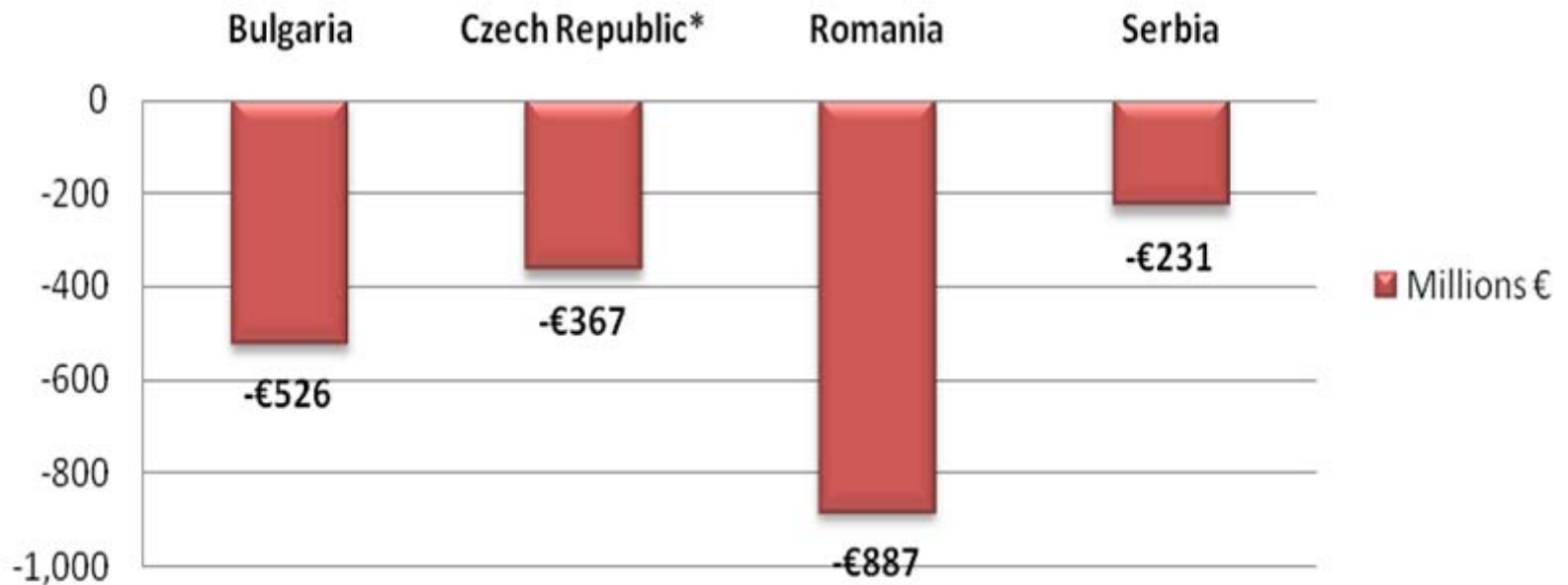




- **Billions of Euros are lost in productivity and fiscal contributions**

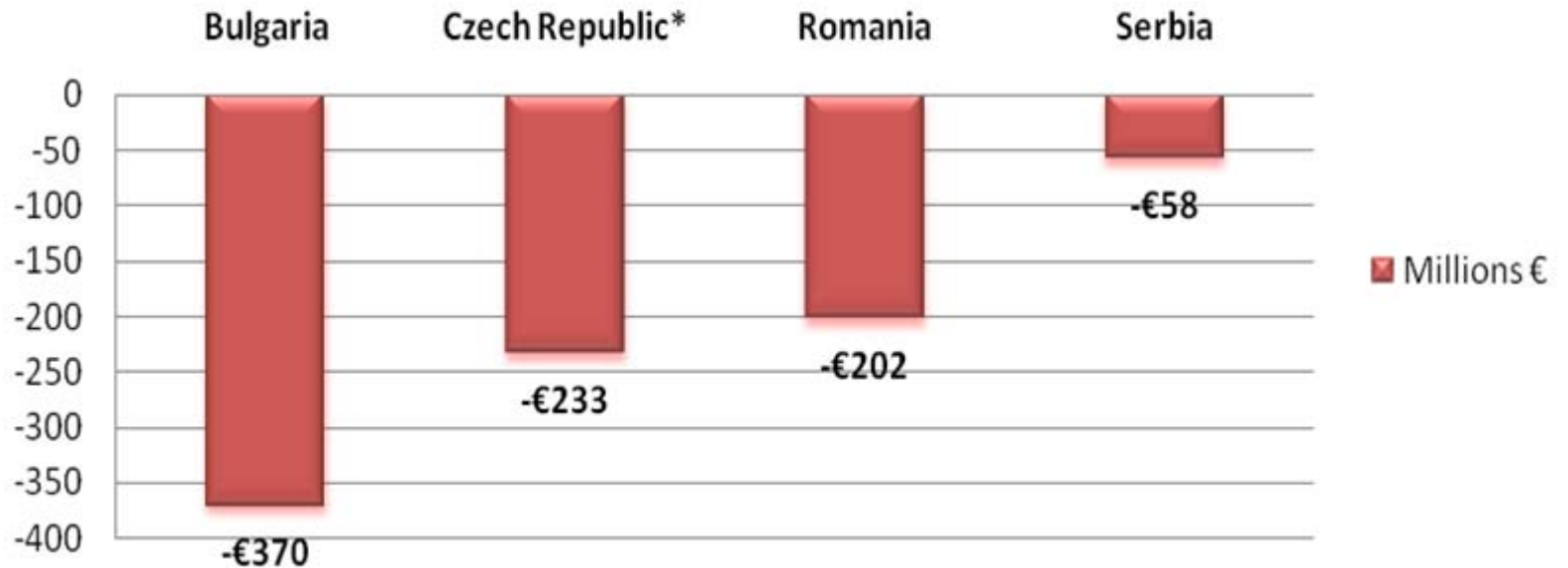
Economic Cost of Roma Exclusion: Annual Productivity Losses

(lower bounds based on official population estimates)



Economic Cost of Roma Exclusion: Annual Fiscal Costs

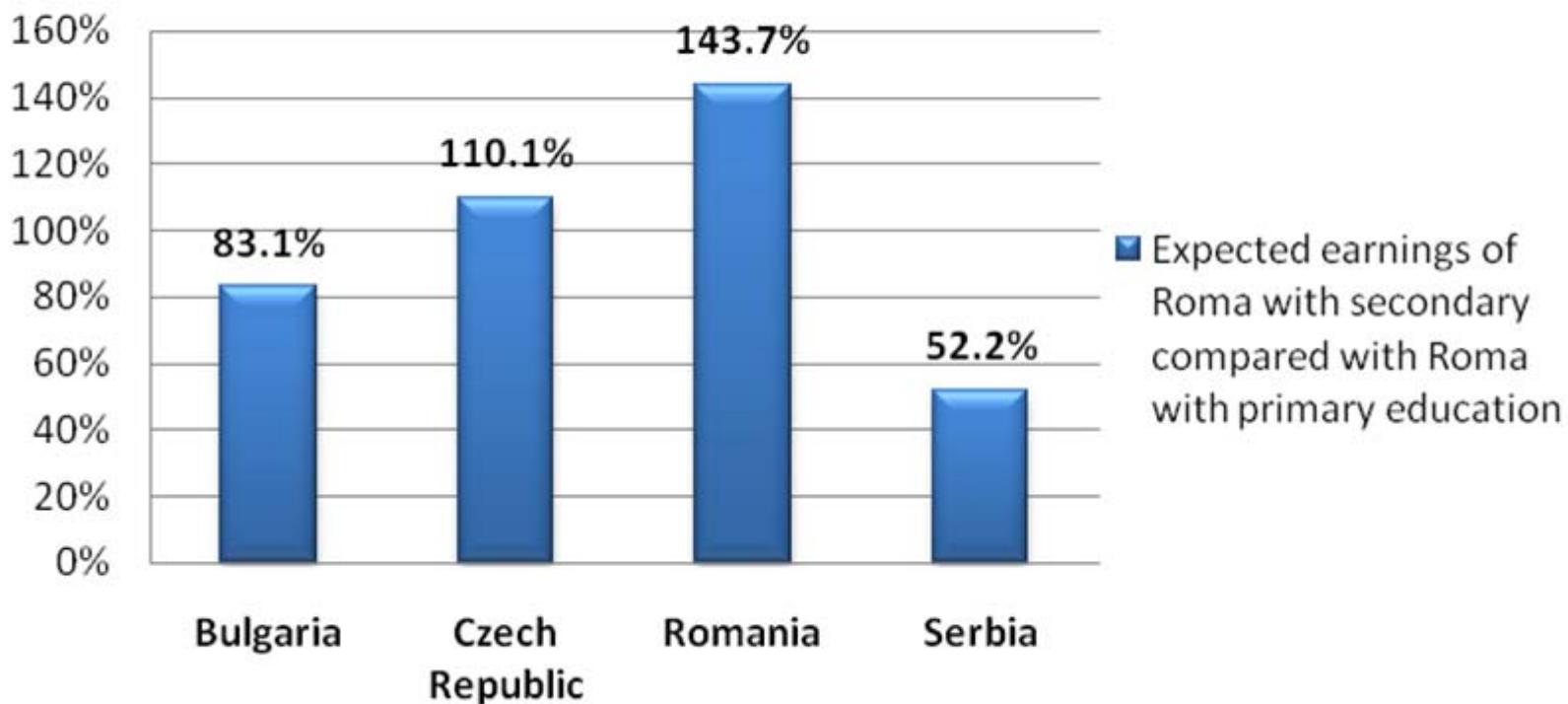
(lower bounds based on official population estimates)



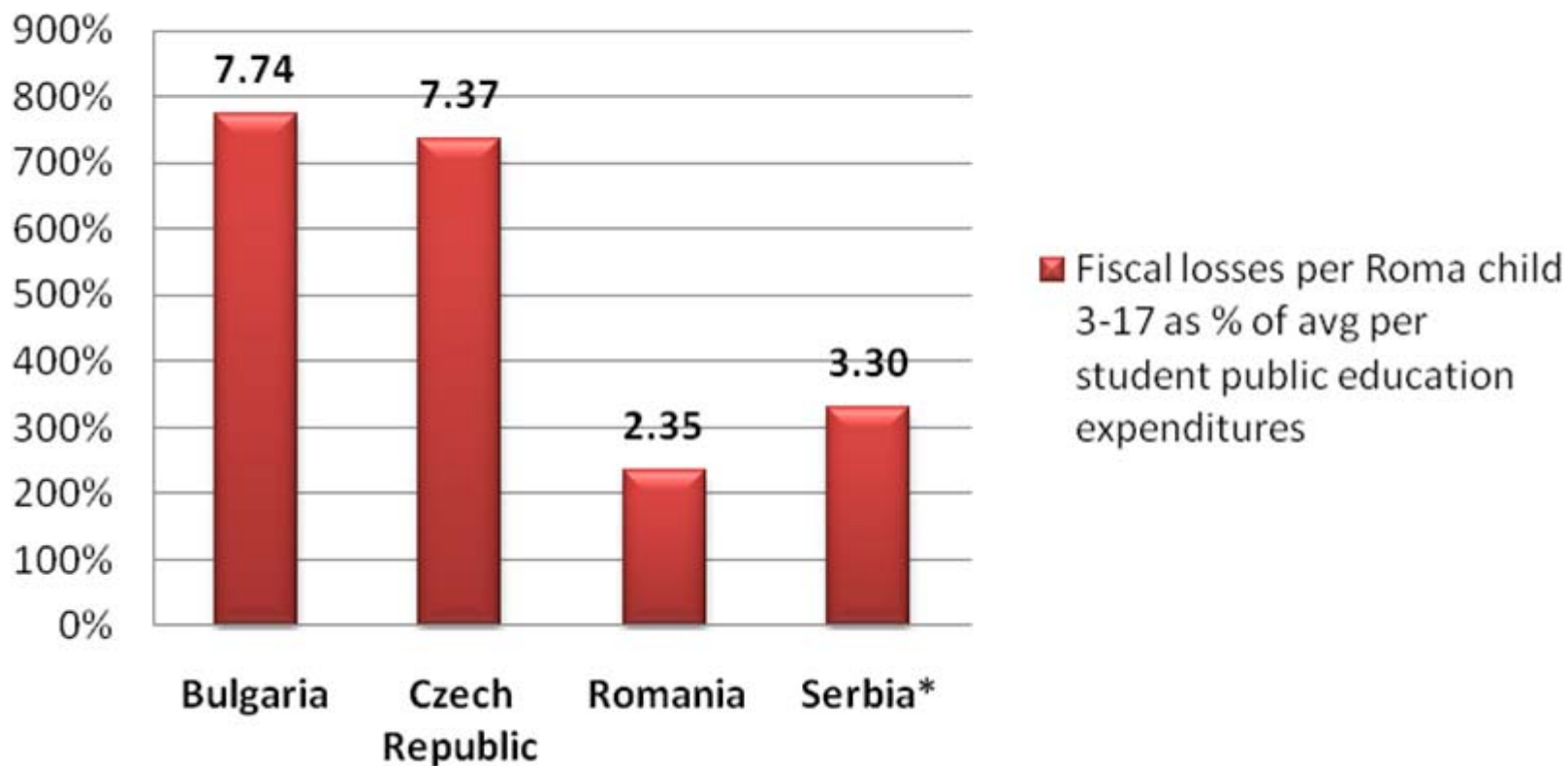


- **Investing in quality and inclusive education is the economically smart choice**

How Much Can Roma with Secondary Expect to Earn More than Roma with Primary Education?



Comparing Fiscal Losses with Public Education



A Large Challenge Growing Even Larger: Aging Majority Populations

Between 2000 and 2025:

- Bulgaria: - 18%
- Czech Republic: - 5%
- Romania: - 10%
- Serbia: - 3%



**...and large increase in proportion
population aged 65+ years old...**

- ***Pensions***
- ***Health care***
- ***Etc.***



In sum:

- **Roma are unable to successfully participate in the labor market**
- **Billions of Euros are lost in productivity and fiscal contributions**
- **Investing in quality and inclusive education is the economically smart choice**



Invest now in early childhood education, in inclusive and quality primary education, and ensure normal transition to secondary



Toward Inclusive Growth:

**Social and Economic Argument
against Inaction is too Strong to be
Overlooked**