

# Thematic Action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)

**Robert Rustem** 

### Current situation

"Roma and Travellers still suffer from widespread anti-Gypsyist prejudice and stereotyping and are still the victims of massive discrimination in many member States. These processes perpetuate their marginalisation and pose serious obstacles for any policy initiatives to improve their situation."



# Thematic Action Plan (TAP) on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers

(2016-2019)

In line with the strategic orientations agreed by the Ministers' Deputies on 17 June 2015, the Council of Europe created a Thematic action Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers.

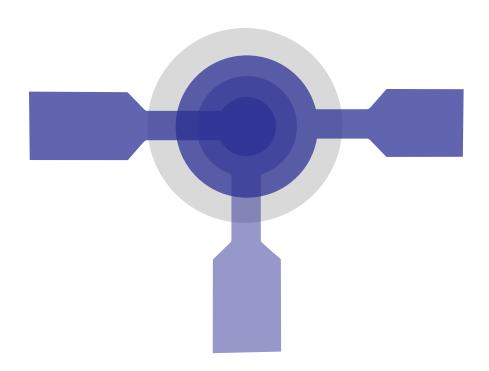




# Priorities of the TAP

ON THE INCLUSION OF ROMA AND TRAVELLERS

1. Tackle anti-Roma and anti-Traveller prejudice, discrimination and crimes more effectively

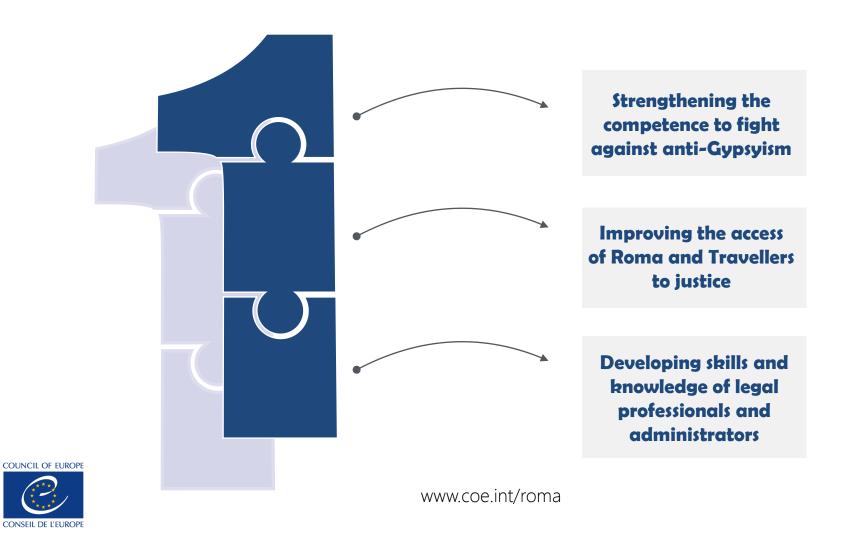


3. Promote innovative models for local-level solutions

2. Demonstrate innovative models for inclusive policies for the most vulnerable



# 1:Tackling anti-Roma and anti-Traveller prejudice, discrimination and crimes ("anti-Gypsyism")





# Enhancing Romani women's access to justice

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVES**



Empower Roma women to adequately address discrimination and violence and abuse against them



Facilitating Roma women's access to court and provide them with legal aid and counsel



Enhance the capacities of legal professionals, law enforcement bodies to adequately respond to Roma women's needs based on HR standards



# Target countries & Groups



#### **Target countries**

• Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Ireland and Romania (provisional, to be further determined after the feasibility/needs assessment in the 5 proposed countries)

#### Target groups

- Romani women and young girls, including those in prison, victims of discrimination and violence;
- Romani women's associations and networks, other relevant NGOs, ROMED mediators, ROMACT action groups;
- Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, National Equality Bodies and Human Rights Institutions.



# Project Activities



Feasibility study on access to justice of Roma women



National workshops on empowering Romani women and girls



Organizing awareness raising campaign



Developing mechanisms of cooperation among Roma NGOs, state institutions





**Establishing legal clinics** 

Developing and implementing regional (ToT) for judges, prosecutors and police



Developing a handbook on ensuring access to Rights for Romani women



International Review Conference of Roma Women Skopje, 6-7 october 2015 Biennial Roma Women's Helsinki 2013 International Conferences The conceptual framework of gender equality and empowerment action will be promoted through the Roma Women's International Conferences planned for 2017 and 2019. Conference objectives tailored to the historical context of the time and have included various themes such as: evaluating the situation of Roma women's rights, both at European level and in Council of Europe member States; taking stock of developments in the area of Roma women's rights and social inclusion at national level; political participation; best practices of Roma women inclusion ....











# Supporting a creation of a Roma women representation

At the 5th International Review Conference of Roma Women in Skopje 2015, Roma women have discussed about the need to come together under one platform in order to have a stronger voice and greater impact in advancing Roma women's rights and priorities.

# The Ad-Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues (CAHROM)

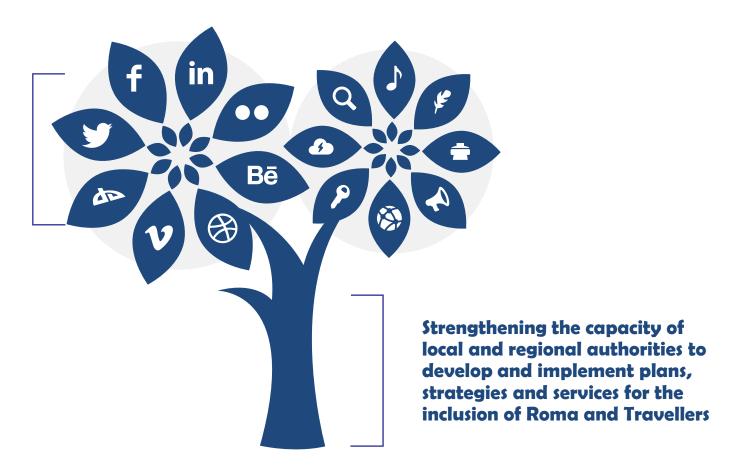


- Thematic visit on early and forced marriages (Romania, 2015);
- Introduced combating early marriages as one of thematic priorities in CDDH Committee;
- Intends to commission a wide member state report on early and forced marriages with a focus on Roma children.



# 3: Promoting innovative models for local-level solutions

Supporting the participation of Roma and Travellers in local decision-making







# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

#### Robert Rustem

Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues E-mail: robert.rustem@coe.int