

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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10 April 2012

1st Plenary Session
Strasbourg, 14 – 16 May 2012

European Academic Network on Romani Studies

DOCUMENT FOR INFORMATION

Item 3.2.4 of the draft agenda

Draft decision

The Committee:

- ***noted*** the report concerning the activities of the Network.

BACKGROUND

The Joint Programme, European Academic Network on Romani Studies was launched in June 2011 for a duration of two years (through May 2013). The overall aim of the project is to facilitate intercultural dialogue and support efforts for the social inclusion of Romani citizens in Europe. The project focuses on raising visibility of existing research and fostering cooperation with policymakers. One of its key roles is to provide references and guidance to policymakers and young researchers. The network consists of a Scientific Committee (11 members), a network secretary, CoE and EU secretariat and network members.

PROGRESS

The first meeting of the Scientific Committee took place in June 2011, it established criteria for membership and also opened a call for members.

The second meeting followed in December 2011. The committee set up criteria for election of the next Scientific Committee, rules for grants for young researchers and agreed on a summer school project.

The elections were conducted in February 2012 and a new committee has now been elected. (The new members of the Scientific Committee are: Mr Thomas Acton, Ms Henriette Asseo, Mr Victor Friedman, Mr Jean-Pierre Liegeois, Ms Elena Marushiakova, Mr Yaron Matras, Ms Eva Sobotka, Mr Michael Stewart, Ms Elisabeth Tauber, Mr Peter Vermeersch, and Mr Enikő Vincze.)

A Summer school project in partnership with the Central European University had been launched and a call for application was opened.

A competition for website designers took place in December 2011 and a contract for the creation of the website was signed. The network website has now been developed and currently functions in the test mode.

Members of the network participated in numerous events and meetings, such as the Summit of Mayors on Roma (CoE, Strasbourg, 22 September 2011), Roma Youth Conference (CoE, Strasbourg, 26-30 September 2011), Regional Expert Meeting "Promoting the Right to Quality Education for Roma People" (UNESCO, Belgrade, 17-18 October 2011), seminars URBA-ROM (Paris, 5 November 2011), Forum on Minority Issues (UNHCR, Geneva, 29-30 November 2011).

In collaboration with the EU a meeting of the key managers on Roma and Roma-related issues of the EC took place in December 2011. Members of the network attended relevant meetings organised by the EC such as the Extraordinary European Platform on Roma Inclusion (Brussels, 22 March 2012), Conference "From segregation to integration - the role of culture in Roma inclusion" (Brussels, 18 April, 2012), where an exchange of information between the JP and EC was established.

The JP has been collaborating with the Remembrance of Holocaust/Roma Genocide project, the Roma Youth Action Plan, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues and the support team. The following cooperation has been established with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues and the support team: a steady exchange of information; links being set up between respective databases; policy advice by the Scientific Committee of the Network made available to the Special Representative and his team. The Special representative and the support team are invited to attend meetings of the Scientific Committee.

The Scientific Committee is being used as an active body for advice on policies by member states on the basis of latest research. Such visibility tools as a brochure, a logo, a CoE webpage, and a Facebook page have been developed for the JP.

As of the end of March the Network includes 216 members.

NEXT STEPS

The launch of the website in fully functioning mode is planned for the end of April 2012.
The third meeting of the Scientific Committee will be held in June 2012.

The summer school for your researchers 'The Roma in Europe - Debates on Comparative Analysis/Policy Strategy' in partnership with the Central European University, Budapest, will take place in June and July 2012.

An updated brochure and publications of the results of the summer school are planned as part of the development of further visibility tools.