



DDCP-YD/ETD (2018) 40

Budapest, 22 March 2018

EU Roma Week: Roma youth in the European Policy Agenda Post 2018/2020

12 April 2018 (11:00 - 13:00)

Council of Europe office in Brussels

85 Avenue des Nerviens / Nerviërslaan 85, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium



**Description of the event and
draft programme**

Background

In recent years there has been a strong development of European policy frameworks supporting and guiding the for Roma inclusion. Although European stakeholders have acknowledged the importance of specific attention to the needs of young Roma people, they are still insufficiently present in European and national level policies and programmes. The absence of comprehensive data on Roma youth and their conditions, needs and challenges coupled with the existing structural barriers for their participation in social and political life has made it even more difficult for the inclusion policies to be effective in their aim and reach. The Council of Europe, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and others have developed institutional approaches and tools to address the specific situation of European young people, including Roma. At the same time, Roma youth and civil society organizations are still facing internal and external challenges to actively participate and contribute to relevant European or national policy coordination structures/platforms and be able to represent the voice of the numerous young people among the Roma communities.

Aim and objectives

The general aim of the panel discussion is to bring together relevant Roma and youth stakeholders for analytical discussion on the possibilities and ways of creating participatory policy making and implementation within youth and Roma inclusion policies and frameworks. Among the specific objectives of the panel are:

- To understand the current policy framework, tools and opportunities for inclusion of young Roma people
- To build synergies among relevant institutions in securing the inclusion of Roma youth issues into Roma and youth policies and programmes
- To develop specific recommendations towards relevant European institutions for the inclusion and participation of young Roma in the upcoming policy cycles and implementation, particularly relevant for the period post 2018 and 2020.

The time reference refers to the upcoming EU Youth Strategy, the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, and the Thematic Action Plan of Roma and Travellers of the Council of Europe. The event is organized under the EU Roma Week by the Council of Europe's Youth Department with the support and coordination of DG Justice, European Youth Forum and ternYpe International Roma youth network.

Practical information

The panel discussion is scheduled to take place on 12 April from 11:00 to 13:00 at the Council of Europe's office in Brussels. The address of the venue is: 85 Avenue des Nerviens / Nerviërsiaan 85, B-1040 Brussels, Belgium. Participants are invited to a small reception following the end of the panel discussion.

Interested participants can register their participation at the following link:
<https://go.coe.int/bzMn3>

Draft Programme

Thursday 12 April

11:00 **Opening by MEP Brando Benifei (TBC)**

11:10 **Roma Youth in the European Policy Agenda Post 2018/2020**

- Gordana Berjan, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- Lavinia Banu, DG Just, European Commission
- Mustafa Jakupov, ternYpe international Roma youth network

Initial reflections by participants

11:45 **Roma Youth in the European Policy Agenda Post 2018/2020**

- Teofano Papakonstantinou, Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe
- Charikleia Bampalouka, DG EAC, European Commission
- Līva Vikmane, European Youth Forum

12:05 **Discussion**

12:50 **Summary and conclusions**

13:00 **Reception**

Guiding questions:

- Where are Roma youth in the current policy and institutional set-up?
- What are the opportunities for inclusion and participation of Roma youth in the upcoming policy processes and structures? What could be the alternatives for Roma youth voices to be heard?
- How to secure the effective implementation of the European policy frameworks into national and local policy actions?