



Ref. DDCP-YD/ETD (2017) 161

Strasbourg, 17 August 2017

*Regional training course*  
on Roma youth participation and  
self-organisation

25 – 28 October 2017

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova



**Call for participants**

**(Deadline for applying: 15 September 2017)**

## Background

The Roma Youth Action Plan (hereafter [RYAP](#)) is a project by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe which aims to support the participation and inclusion of Roma youth across Europe. It was initiated in 2011 as a response of the Council of Europe to challenges faced by Roma young people in relation to their empowerment, participation in policy-making processes and structures at all levels, and the multiple realities of discrimination.

Capacity-building and the development of competencies of young Roma, organisations and networks have been a central part of the RYAP project and is a way of supporting the autonomy and participation of Roma youth in areas of their concern. Issues of structural discrimination, antigypsyism and youth participation are among the key issues identified as main concerns and barriers of Roma youth for access to their human rights. The project pays a particular attention to the concerns and needs of young Roma at national and local level, particularly in countries and regions where Roma have fewer opportunities to be visible.

Antigypsyism as a specific form of racism towards Roma remains widespread in the public domain and impacts heavily on the social, economic, political and cultural disadvantage of Roma. Given that youth consist a large part of the Roma community, it is significantly important to create opportunities for learning, analysing and creating ideas for responding to antigypsyism. Roma youth participation in all areas of society is an important aim and approach to address and overcome antigypsyism and its consequences on young people.

Participation and self-organisation of young people are important processes to promote inclusion and equality; it is also a way to promote autonomy and responsibility of young people. Youth participation includes young people being included and involved in decision making at all levels and invited people to take responsibilities, face challenges and to become active in terms of realising their own needs and aspirations. Roma youth participation includes also the development of youth-led organisations (including Roma youth organisations), but it goes beyond that and embraces nowadays many forms of individual and collective youth participation, including online participation. Youth participation is also a concept central to the Council of Europe youth policy whose aims is to provide young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

Roma youth issues have been more visible in the activities of the civil society, public authorities and other organisations and structures in Romania and the Republic of Moldova. Although there is increased interest in specifically addressing and supporting the needs of Roma youth people, they are still insufficiently represented nor participate in Roma and youth-led structures at the national and local levels. Roma and youth policy stakeholders are expressing interest in more systematically addressing and responding to the needs of young Roma people. The training course therefore will make an attempt to create a dialogue among Roma youth representatives and policy structures, including with the national youth councils to secure the double mainstreaming of Roma youth issues is secured and supporting.

The training course is organised in partnership with Roma National Center from the Republic of Moldova.

## **The training course**

The regional training course aims to raise participants' competences to support the self-organisation and participation of young Roma people by identifying opportunities for having Roma youth issues double mainstreamed at national and local levels.

The regional training course will gather 35 participants from Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

The specific objectives of the training course are:

- To contribute to the development of participants' personal and social competences for self-organisation and youth participation by introducing to them tools for the participation of young people in Roma and in youth movements;
- To identify the key challenges of young Roma people at local and national level in Romania and the Republic of Moldova;
- To identify opportunities and develop actions aimed at national and local level that will increase meaningfully the participation of Roma youth and will support their social and economic development
- To ensure that the gender dimension of youth participation is thoroughly dealt with when analyzing youth participation in Roma communities in Romania and Republic of Moldova;
- To develop participants' understanding of youth policy and ways of implementing youth policies at national and local levels in co-operation with organizations, local and national authorities
- To initiate and strengthen the cooperation between Roma and non Roma youth organisation, including with the National Youth Councils of Republic of Moldova and Romania

## **Profile of participants**

The training course is organised for participants who are:

- Aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions are possible)
- Residents in Romania or in the Republic of Moldova
- Able to work in Romanian
- Strongly connected with the Roma community
- Involved or interested to involve and/or work with Roma youth
- Have a clear idea and be committed for organising follow-up activities with young people
- Be interested in networking at the regional level
- Are active in a youth organisation, youth council, Roma-based organisation or other informal structures

## **Conditions**

### **Working languages**

The training course will be organised in Romanian. Romany may be used as a working language for working groups during the training course.

### **Financial conditions**

The travel expenses of participants, accommodation and meals will be covered by the Council of Europe.

### **How to apply**

Interested candidates must send their application form by email to Marius JITEA, [Marius.JITEA@coe.int](mailto:Marius.JITEA@coe.int)

**The deadline for submission of application forms is 15 September at 18:00 CET.**

The Council of Europe (and partners) welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

### **Further information**

For more information about the activity, the application procedure and financial and practical conditions of participants please refer to: Denis DURMIS (in English), [denis.durmis@coe.int](mailto:denis.durmis@coe.int) or to Marius Jitea (in Romanian), [Marius.jitea@coe.int](mailto:Marius.jitea@coe.int) .