



DDCP-YD/RYS (2015) 1

Strasbourg, 14 October 2015



## **ROMA YOUTH CONFERENCE 2015**

A Council of Europe conference to discuss current Roma youth issues and future policy orientations for the participation and inclusion of Roma youth

**19-22 October 2015, European Youth Centre Budapest**

**Draft programme**

**Background information about the conference**

## Draft programme

### 18 October 2015

Arrival of participants

20:00 Welcome evening for participants (informal getting to know each other)

### 19 October 2015

08:15 Registration of expenses (travel and meals)

09:15 Introduction of participants and breaking the ice

10:10 Conference opening and welcome

*Lilit Chilingaryan, Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe*

*Representative of the Roma youth networks*

10:30 The role of the Conference in the youth policy of the Council of Europe

*Antje Rothemund, Head of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe*

11:00 Break and registration of expenses

11:30 Exploring participants' expectations

12:15 The Roma Youth Action Plan in brief (introduction to the Roma Youth Action Plan)

*Facilitated by the members of the Informal Contact Group of the Roma Youth Action Plan*

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Registration of expenses

14:30 Workshops on exploring realities of Roma young people in Europe using the tools developed in the Roma Youth Action Plan

Workshop 1: Identity

- *With Iulius Rostas (the Alliance for the European Roma Institute)*

Workshop 2: Roma youth participation

- *With Nicholas Paddison, editor of a publication on good practice of Roma youth participation, and Karolina Mirga (ternYpe)*

Workshop 3: Combating antigypsyism

- *With Marcell Lorincz (ENAR)*

Workshop 4: Multiple discrimination

- *With Oein DeBhairduin (LGBT Pavee)*

Workshop 5: Roma youth issues in policies

- *With the CDEJ*

Workshop 6: Human rights education

- *With Marietta Herfort (Phiren Amenca)*

Workshop 7: Remembrance and Roma youth

- *With Irvin Mujcic (ternYpe)*

Workshop 8: Combating hate speech affecting Roma

- *With Dragan Radosavljevic (NGO Minority voice)*

18:00 End of the daily programme

19:00 Dinner

Informal programme

## 20 October 2015

09:15 Review of the first day of the Conference

09:45 The Roma Youth Action Plan's evaluation findings and discussion (exploring the outcomes and results of the last 4 years of implementation, in view of planning the future)

*Yael Ohana and Marija Bulat, evaluators of the Roma Youth Action Plan*

11:00 Break

11:30 Discussion on the relevance of the Roma Youth Action Plan evaluation findings for the future

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Learning more about Roma youth activities and projects in view of planning the future of Roma youth programmes

*Learning spaces moderated by Roma youth organisations and practitioners involved in Roma youth issues:*

*Learning space 1: Roma youth for the recognition of the Roma Genocide*

- *With Karolina Mirga and Irvin Mujcic (ternYpe)*

*Learning space 2: Roma youth actions regarding minorities within minorities*

- *With Edita Rigova (Fundamental Rights Agency)*

*Learning space 3: Roma youth activism and local participation*

- *With Andrea Wierich (Amaro Foro)*

*Learning space 4: Advocacy for Roma youth issues in policies*

- *With Tatjana Peric (OSCE – ODIHR)*

*Learning space 5: Funding for Roma youth initiatives*

- *With Dora Halasz (Erasmus+ Youth National Agency from Hungary), Dan Doghi (Roma Education Fund)*

*Learning space 6: Learning mobility and Roma youth*

- *With Megan Roseblade (SALTO Cultural Diversity), Marija Kljajic (SALTO Inclusion), Marietta Herfort (Phiren Amenca)*

*Learning space 7: Setting up Roma youth organisations*

- *With representatives of the Roma youth networks*

*Learning space 8: Local youth centres developing intercultural actions*

- *With the EEA Norway grants programme on “Children and youth at risk in Bulgaria” and ROMED / ROMACT*

*Learning space 9: Human rights education projects*

- *With Anca Sandescu (European Roma Rights Centre) and Phiren Amenca*

*Learning space 10: Social inclusion of young Roma*

- *With Mustafa Jakupov (RROMA)*

18:00 End of the daily programme

19:00 Dinner

Informal programme at the community centre Aurora

### 21 October 2015

09:00 Recap of the previous day’s discussions

09:15 Introduction to the Council of Europe’s agenda on Roma issues and the place of Roma youth issues therein, followed by questions and answers

*With Ulrich Bunjes, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for Roma Issues*

10:15 Break

10:30 The vision for the future agenda on Roma youth issues (I)

*With FERYP, Phiren Amenca and ternYpe*

11:15 Break

11:30 The vision for the future agenda on Roma youth issues (II)

*With OSCE – ODIHR, the European Commission, the European Youth Forum and Open Society Foundations*

12:15 Programmes for Roma youth: lessons learn, strategic networking and partnership building

*Inputs and discussion spaces with institutions and organisations supporting Roma youth issues*

- *The European Youth Forum*
- *EEA Norway grants*
- *Swedish International Development Agency*
- *DG Justice of the European Commission*
- *UNFPA Regional Office*
- *Fundamental Rights Agency*
- *Alliance for the European Roma Institute*
- *OSCE – ODIHR*
- *Roma Education Fund*
- *Open Society Foundations*

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Planning the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan: introduction to the context

*Rui Gomes, Head of the Education and Training Division, Youth Department, Council of Europe*

15:00 Working groups on planning the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan - priorities, partners, coordination, roles

18:00 End of the daily programme

19:00 Dinner

### 22 October 2015

09:30 Recap of the previous day's discussions

10:00 Input for the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan and follow-up

11:00 Break

11:30 The conference in participants' views: conference declaration

*The conference through the eyes of the rapporteur*

13:00 Evaluation and closing of the conference

*Representative of the Council of Europe's European Steering Committee on Youth*

*Representative of Roma youth networks*

13:30 End of the conference programme

13:30 Reimbursement of expenses

Departures

## Background of the conference

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organisation whose mission is to promote human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe. The Council of Europe has been playing an important role regarding the situation of Roma people in Europe, regularly condemning discrimination against Roma and their social and economic marginalisation and developing ways for Roma participation at European level. Currently, the main strategy of the Council of Europe regarding Roma issues (based on the “Strasbourg Declaration”) focuses on the following priorities:

- Non-discrimination, citizenship, women and children’s rights.
- Social inclusion including education, housing and healthcare.
- Empowerment and better access to justice.

In 2011, the first Roma Youth Conference was organised by the Council of Europe, during which Roma youth people, youth leaders, members of international Roma youth networks and other international institutions defined the priorities for the Roma Youth Action Plan. The Roma Youth Action Plan<sup>1</sup> is a response of the Council of Europe to the challenges faced by Roma young people in Europe, particularly in relation to their empowerment, participation in policy decision-making processes and structures at European level and multiple realities of discrimination. The action plan includes activities of the Youth Department and of other sectors of the Council of Europe, as well as activities by other partners – intergovernmental and non-governmental – cooperating with the Council of Europe. The action plan gives priority to human rights and intercultural dialogue as responses to discrimination and antigypsyism, together with the development and capacity-building of Roma youth organisations and movements. The overall plan follows an approach of “double mainstreaming”: promoting the inclusion of youth-related matters in policies and programmes dealing with Roma issues and promoting the inclusion of Roma youth and related issues in youth policies and programmes. Since 2011, the Roma Youth Action Plan has included a wide variety of activities, training courses, development of expertise related to the situation of Roma youth, educational manuals, study sessions in co-operation with international youth organisations, study visits at national level, support and funding to Roma youth projects and policy advising activities. The implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan is led by the Youth Department in close cooperation with Roma youth organisations and other European stakeholders on Roma and youth policies.

In 2015, the Council of Europe organises a second Roma Youth Conference, in order to take stock and draw lessons from the last years of implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan. The Roma Youth Conference will also be an opportunity to look forward to the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan and its orientations in the years to come.

## Aims and objectives of the conference

The Roma Youth Conference aims to bring together Roma youth organisations, Roma youth representatives and relevant Roma youth stakeholders for taking stock of the results and relevance of the action plan so far and to discuss the future orientations of the Roma Youth Action Plan.

The main objectives of the conference are:

- To discuss, promote and learn from the Roma Youth Action Plan experiences and practices
- To promote and enable the participation of young Roma in policy making process at all levels

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<sup>1</sup> More about the Roma Youth Action Plan: [www.coe.int/youth/roma](http://www.coe.int/youth/roma)

- To emphasize the role of Roma youth in fighting antigypsyism
- To enhance the inclusion of youth matters in policies and programmes dealing with Roma issues and promoting the inclusion of Roma youth issues in youth policies and programmes within the Council of Europe and all relevant stakeholders
- To shape the future of the Roma Youth Action Plan in coordination with young people in relation to the Council of Europe's policies and programmes and other relevant Roma and youth stakeholders
- To analyse the current place of Roma youth issues in regards of the national Roma inclusion policies, such as the National Roma Integration Strategies and other relevant policies.

### Expected outcomes of the conference

The Conference is first of all a learning and networking experience for Roma youth. In addition to this, the conference should also result in:

- A better understanding of the current situation of Roma youth in Europe
- More visibility for Roma youth activities and policy efforts
- Greater awareness about Roma youth issues (policies, organisations agenda, etc.) and proposals on how to address Roma youth issues at national, regional and local level
- Revised orientations for the Roma Youth Action Plan in the future
- Concrete proposals developed and addressed towards institutions and platforms supporting Roma youth such as the: Roma Youth Action Plan, CAHROM, National Roma Integration Strategies, the European Roma Institute, etc.
- More networking, engagement and coordination among RYAP partners
- A declaration by the participants in the conference

### Format and methodology

The Roma Youth Conference is a three days and half event involving some 80 participants.

The conference is designed as a multi-stakeholder and non-formal intercultural learning environment, where young people and stakeholder representatives can exchange their experience in working with Roma and young Roma, and build upon previous experiences and results. Representatives of relevant international organisations and institutions working and supporting Roma issues will be also invited to take part at the conference.