



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION
AS AN APPROACH TO WORK ON ROMA YOUTH ISSUES
REPORT OF THE STUDY SESSION

Held by the

FORUM OF EUROPEAN ROMA YOUNG PEOPLE - FERYP

in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe
European Youth Centre, Budapest 21st – 28th May 2006

This report gives an account of various aspects of the study session. It has been produced by and is the responsibility of the educational team of the study session. It does not represent the official point of view of the Council of Europe.

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- Ruslan Stanga, member of FERYP, Moldova
- Corinne Grassi – rapporteur of the session, France

And with the support of Annette Schneider, educational advisor at the European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Budapest

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Forum of European Roma Young People – FERYP organised in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sports, Council of Europe a study session: “Human Rights Education as an approach to work on Roma Youth Issues”, held from 21 to 28 may 2006 at the European Youth Centre Budapest.

The study session aimed at **defining quality criteria for Human Rights Education with young Roma people in order to enable the participants to apply these in their contexts.** 28 young Roma activists with experience on the topic attended the activity.

The study session was opened by the Executive Director of the EYCB – Ms. Antje Rothmund. The Commissioner on Human Rights of the Council of Europe, Mr. Tomas Hammarberg visited the session and addressed the participants. At the end of the activity the participants addressed a set of recommendations to the Commissioner. The document including the response of the Commissioner to the recommendations is appended to the report.

Inputs to the activity were made also by Mr. Michael Guet, Head of the Roma and Travellers Division of the Council of Europe and Mr. Rui Gomes, Head of Education and Training of the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe.

The participants developed a set of quality criteria for Human Rights Education with Young Roma within the following frame: “Why? What for? How? And what follow-up should be considered when planning Human Rights Education with young Roma”.

Further the participants worked on the development of concrete project proposals on Human Rights Education to be developed within the framework of FERYP.

An e-network for FERYP on issues related to Human Rights Education was created and participants are receiving daily relevant information for their work at local level on human rights issues for Roma in Europe.

Additionally in their final evaluation many participants mentioned that their motivation to work or continue working on the issues of the study session at local level was increased.

Special thanks to the preparatory team of the study session, to Ms. Annette Schneider, educational adviser of the activity and Ms. Corinne Grassi, rapporteur of the session for their contribution to the success of the activity!

INTRODUCTION:

Background of the activity:

The Forum of European Roma Young People – FERYP is a European Youth Association with a mission to prepare a generation of Young Roma to act for the improvement of the Roma situation in Europe.

Today FERYP has around 5000 members – Roma Youth associations and individuals, in more than 10 European countries.

Among the core working strategies of FERYP is empowerment of Young Roma through training.

Why this study session?:

The human rights violations of the Roma community and the access of Roma to human rights throughout Europe are major concerns of various social and political actors at all levels.

Among the common challenges faced by the Young Roma on the grassroots level are the lack of awareness about their human rights and civic responsibilities.

Various organisations/institutions (Roma and non-Roma) at local and European level are working on Roma Rights advocacy and many are using the Human Rights Education (HRE) of Young Roma as an instrument to address the above mentioned and to improve the Roma situation.

In this study session we would like to bring Young Roma who are familiar with and are using HRE in their work, or are motivated to work with HRE in their context, in view to achieve the outlined aim.

FERYP will implement this project in co-operation with the Directorate of Youth and Sport, Council of Europe, in order to benefit from the experience and the knowledge accumulated by this institution in the area of Human Rights Education with Young People.

This study session of FERYP **aimed** at:

Defining quality criteria for Human Rights Education with young Roma people in order to enable the participants to apply these in their contexts.

The **objectives** were:

- To explore participants experiences and perceptions of HRE.
- To define quality criteria on HRE with young Roma people.
- To focus on the possibility to use HRE as a way to increase the active participation of the young Roma in their communities and contribute to the overall improvement of the Roma situation.

- To introduce relevant instruments of DYS, COE and other organisations/institutions, including the upcoming European Youth Campaign.
- To develop the participants competencies in using HRE in their local communities and in projects/activities of FERYP.
- To motivate the participants to act as multipliers of HRE.
- To provide the participants with space to develop HRE projects/initiatives.
- To prepare a publication on “Quality criteria for Human Rights Education with Young Roma”.
- To discuss possible follow-up within FERYP.

28 European young Roma, with some previous experience in HRE and / or motivated to work with HRE in their context, worked for a week in Budapest in the Council of Europe’s European Youth Centre.

PROGRAMME FLOW AND MAIN CONTENT:

- Welcome evening
- Official opening by the Director of the EYCB
- Introductions (participants, team, study session)
- Getting to know each other + group building
- Expectations
- Human Rights Challenges
- Input of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe
- Participants experiences on HRE
- Exploring HRE
- Input on HR and HRE
- Instruments to promote Human Rights and Roma Rights
- HRE evening
- Quality criteria for HRE with young Roma (Why? Good practice; Skills training; Conclusions;)
- Projects planning and presentations;
- Follow-up;
- Evaluation;
- Closing.

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WITH ROMA – WHY?

A. The present situation of Roma communities in Europe – challenges to access human rights (HR)

The analysis of the current HR challenges faced by the Roma communities in Europe started with examining participants' realities. In groups were discussed the following questions:

1. Recent cases of human rights violation of Roma at local level?
2. What is your NGO doing in this field and how are you involved in this action/s?
3. Any conclusions that your group would like to put forward?

The results from the group work were presented and discussed with Mr. Thomas HAMMARBERG, Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe who being in Budapest took the opportunity to visit and address the activity of FERYP.

In their reports the participants underlined:

- Cases of direct and indirect discrimination in public services (administration, health services, education...) and in society in daily life;
- Segregation;
- Racism and violence;
- The negative image of Roma in the media;
- The situation of Roma migrants coming from Central and Eastern Europe to the West.

B. The raise of Romaphobia and Anti-Gypsyism in Europe

Among the conclusions of the participants was also that forms and manifestations of Romaphobia and Anti-Gypsyism are increasing. Even if Council of Europe's member states are adopting frameworks and legal instruments to protect minorities, forms of institutionalised direct and indirect discrimination against Roma and the perception of Roma as second class citizens are still reality. Anti-Gypsyism is not a new phenomenon and it keeps Roma communities in the vicious circle of exclusion, poverty and lack of access to social rights.

C. The lack of adequate political representation

The participants presented some innovative practices and positive NGO experiences in advocating improvement of the Roma situation (education projects, police training, participation in decision-making bodies, etc.).

However it was underlined that the Roma political representation at all levels is still very low and capacity building of NGOs for effective advocacy of Roma rights is still needed.

D. The lack of HR awareness

General awareness among the Roma communities throughout Europe on human rights and human rights issues should be also raised considering the amount of the obstacles that Roma

are facing in accessing their human rights including social rights such as: housing, employment, education, access to health care, etc.

E. The negative image of Roma in media

The unfair and untrue presentations of the Roma situation in media are among the major perpetrator of prejudices and anti-Roma feelings.

The participants discussed the role of the media in creating and perpetrating negative images about Roma. The need of supporting new approaches of presenting Roma in media, employment of Roma journalists in mainstream media as well as Roma media was highlighted.

F. The potential of Roma Youth to act on HR and HRE issues

It was underlined that the role of the young Roma in achieving such objectives is very important as well as the possibility to train them to act as multipliers in/about HRE initiatives and programmes.

THE DISCUSSION WITH THE COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS, COUNCIL OF EUROPE:

Mr. Hammarberg welcomed the reports of the participants and confirmed that, with the increase of xenophobia and Anti-Gypsyism in Europe, the rights of Roma in Europe are among the first priorities for his Office. He emphasised the importance of the mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma in Europe.

The Human Rights Commissioner acknowledged that FERYP is not only speaking about human rights but also does activities on this broad issue. The fact that FERYP can collect and transmit concrete information to his Office is very important and the co-operation should continue. The Commissioner underlined that with such information, he will be able to better prepare inquiries for his field missions as well as to confront governments and authorities with their responsibilities.

After the presentations of the group reports there was discussion with the Commissioner. The participants pointed to the attention of the Human Rights Commissioner the following:

- The urgent need to establish monitoring mechanisms regarding the implementation of anti-discrimination legislation in the CoE member states;
- That the Commissioner's country visits should involve all actors and more Roma, in order to secure all possible points of views and a better picture of the existing gaps between governmental legislation and practices/actions. It was specially underlined that monitoring is also important in member states of the European Union;
- The participants also asked the Commissioner to pay attention to migration issues and the situation of the Roma immigrants in Western European countries.

Further the Commissioner offered to FERYP to present to his Office few concrete recommendations, based on the results from the session. (See the recommendations appended)

QUALITY CRITERIA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION WITH YOUNG ROMA:

Throughout the study session the team and the participants identified the following criteria for quality Human Rights Education with young Roma. Few basic remarks were made and identified as introductory:

HRE ≠ HR advocacy

Already during the preparation of the study session appeared that Human Rights Education and Human Rights Advocacy in the context of Roma issues are sometimes confused. Therefore it has been underlined that it is important to make clear the two concepts, their distinctiveness and complementarity.

The Roma communities are not homogeneous

Even if often perceived as homogeneous by the majority the Roma communities have their own specificities based on their context, life style, etc.

HRE with young Roma needs clear objectives and methodology

The definition of clear aims and objectives and adopting appropriate methodologies while working on HRE with Young Roma people are other aspects that one should be considered. Below are outlined some proposals for quality criteria.

HRE with Young Roma should consider among others the following aims and objectives:

HRE - WHAT FOR?

Addressing external challenges:

- Ensuring access to HR for Roma
- Intercultural dialogue and Social cohesion
- Political participation
- Capacity building of communities and NGOs
- Empowering the Roma Youth

Addressing internal challenges:

- Intergenerational issues
- The role of the women and youth in the community

The internal dynamics in the Roma communities are also changing in the last years. Many young Roma nowadays have better education than the elderly and have developed capacity to be critical, abilities to understand different social mechanisms and to communicate with the world outside of the neighbourhood. Many young Roma are also modern and this is some times creating conflicts between the generations.

The HRE preparatory team should be aware of the challenges faced by the Young Roma and Roma women and be ready and prepared to address the above as well.

HRE – HOW?

Essential quality criteria for HRE would be:

- Learning FOR and learning THROUGH Human Rights;
- Establishing rules and intentions of what makes quality in HRE;
- What are the standards to be used (people, objectives, methods...);
- What is the process, what are the steps.

It was strongly underlined that any project launched should be realistic and credible for the partners and for the targeted public. And for this, sustainability of the project is crucial. There is no more needs for projects taking place without clear perspectives, where evaluation does not lead to a proper follow-up improving situations, empowering new people. It is important to ensure that what has been done does not get lost.

HRE should consider also:

- Understanding of the following concepts (among others) and their practical application: Inclusion, Integration, Assimilation and Adaptation;
- Reflection on Identity and Culture;
- Provide space to participants to analyse HR vs Cultural relativism.

Some competences for HRE with young Roma:

- Sense of responsibility for one's actions, a commitment to personal development and social change;
- Sense of human dignity, of self-worth and of others' worth, irrespective of social, cultural, linguistic or religious differences;
- A sense of justice, the desire to work towards the ideals of freedom, equality and respect for diversity;
- Empathy and solidarity with others and commitment to support those whose Human Rights are under threat;
- Curiosity, open mind and ability to value diversity;
- Active listening and communication;
- Critical thinking, challenge people, encourage not to accept things as they are;
- Ability to work co-operatively and to address conflict positively;
- Ability to participate in and organise social groups;
- Ability to promote and safeguard Human Rights locally and globally.

Methodology to consider when working on HRE with young Roma:

In small groups participants discussed the methodology which they consider relevant for HRE with young Roma in their communities as well as the relevant follow-up of the HRE activities.

- Work with young activists, meet with the youth, create small active groups among the Roma young people;
- Work with youth and elders, focus on some groups within the community;
- Bring young Roma and non-Roma together;
- Co-operate with other NGOs;
- Pass on the information, build confidence that people can pass knowledge;
- Use as peer educators participants from previous activities;
- Emphasis on local empowerment;
- Special attention to language used. Make sure that people really understood what is said and what is asked. Use Romanes and local dialect to show people they should not forget their language and to make sure that content is better understood.
- Involve local authorities, Roma community, Roma leaders and politicians, meet with administration, NGOs, Roma and non-Roma;
- Use examples of good practices;
- Use media – provide clear information and communicate with media;
- Introduce well all exercises, clarify the tasks to put people in the frame;
- Action plan with defined priorities, continuous flexibility in planning, adaptation after assessment whenever necessary;
- Education through entertainment;
- Promote active participation of the participants;
- Consider follow-up;

Follow-up to consider when working on HRE with young Roma:

- Continuous adaptation after assessment, constant monitoring;

- Rigorous evaluation, to do better next, to be able to go to another step;
- Indicators defined in advance: how many people included, how many people helped, relationships between Roma, local authorities and partners then continue in other neighbourhoods with the peer learning and education;
- Young Roma should propose follow-up activities – bottom-up approach;
- Dialogue with politicians to increase awareness on human rights issues for Roma;
- Encourage, enhance participation;
- Political integration and participation at local, national and international levels;
- Encourage networking to progress and exchange experiences and practises;
- Train mediators as bridges between the community and the society, use the potential of the young Roma;
- Access to information for a better understanding of human rights;
- Create offices/ centres on human rights issues;
- Raise support from institutions and resources from public administration;
- Prepare indicators to measure results;
- Keep transparency in all process including delivery and resources spent.

SOME PROJECT PROPOSALS BY PARTICIPANTS:

International Network for Locally Focused Human Rights Education

Aim:

The project aims to increase the level of knowledge about and for human rights among young Roma in 10 countries.

Objectives:

- To develop practical tools for HRE reflecting local contexts of participating countries
- To create a network of young Roma people for promotion of HR and to disseminate the knowledge created
- To have ideas and knowledge about HR shared among young Roma people

Target group:

The direct target group are young Roma, and indirectly, the whole society. Regarding the young Roma, we will include young native and immigrant Roma from all the countries mentioned below under “Where”.

When:

January 2007 – January 2008 (12 months)

Where:

The project will involve young Roma people from EU countries, accession countries, candidate countries and potential candidate countries. The countries and organizations from the countries will be identified during the project. However, the project will be managed in Spain, by Drom Kotar Mastipen.

Description of activities:

Phase I: Preparation

Development of methodology for HRE Local Focused Guide preparation – HRE training experts will have meeting in order to develop methodology for participatory preparation of HRE Local Focused Guide.

Call for applications for participating NGOs – a call for application for participating NGOs will be disseminated through Internet; colleagues from FERYP study session will be asked to promote the call for applications among the local NGOs; on the basis of criteria developed by the project team, participating NGOs will be selected and informed.

Informing Participating NGOs – all the participating NGOs will receive description of the project and the methodology of HRE Local Focused Guide, as well as on the network creation; their role in the project will be clearly explained and they will have opportunity to ask questions; the communication will be done through Internet.

Promotional materials – for the project will be produced – informational brochure, web site and posters.

Phase II: Preparation of guide

Research on local context of HR – each participating NGO will participate in data collection for the guide complying with the methodology; on the basis of the data, expert researchers will make a report on the local context regarding HR with specific and common conclusions.

Guide compilation – experts in cooperation with the team members will prepare a draft for the guide.

Guide development – representatives from participating NGOs, team members and experts will have a workshop for development of the guide, in order to input their views and ideas.

Printing and dissemination – the guide will be printed and disseminated to the participating NGOs; at the end of the guide there will be blank space available for additional local cases and ideas regarding human rights.

Phase III: Networking

Creation of the network – the network of young Roma HRE activists will be created in a way that each participating NGO will nominate 3 people from their country; the members of the network will meet in order to participate in a training for HRE on the basis of the guide and develop the aims and the objectives of the network and the methods for work, communication, sharing experiences, etc.

Network work – members of the network will be required and provided resources to implement in-country HRE activities based on the guide (as workshops, media presentations, etc); the activities will depend on the agreed methods of work of the network.

Network meetings – the network members will meet quarterly in order to share experience and feed-back on their in-country activities; further developments of the guide will also be proposed.

Study session – near the end of the project a study session will be organized, involving network members and other young Roma people from the participating countries; participants at the study session will discuss HR and HRE with focus on local context and share experience; suggestions for further development of the guide will be collected.

Guide development – the guide will be further developed by experts on basis of the project results and participants' suggestions (from study session and other meetings).

Printing and dissemination – the second edition of the guide will be published and disseminated widely in the participating countries by the participating organisations.

Phase IV: Management

Monitoring and evaluation – the project will be monitored by an independent expert who will prepare interim and final report on the project, including evaluation.

Reporting – on the basis of the progress of the project the team will prepare six-month reports to the donors, including the monitoring and evaluation reports.

Financial reporting – project financial manager will prepare and submit financial reports in addition to the narrative reports; the project will have independent audit, the report of which will be also included in the final report.

Team meetings – the team will meet regularly during the project in order to discuss the progress of the project and to plan in details further actions.

Funding:	505.100 € , European Commission's Youth Programme
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<p>People responsible:</p>	<p>The project will be managed by the project team consisted of Project Coordinator, responsible for the general coordination and organization of the project staff and project activities, monitoring and evaluation of the project, reporting, communication and cooperation with relevant parties, representation of the project, financial management and participation in activities as required; Project Assistant, responsible for administration and documentation of the project, correspondence with stakeholders, public relations related to the project, coordinator's assistance and participation in activities as required; and Project logistics manager, responsible for financial documentation, organization and coordination related to logistics issues, and participation in activities as required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of methodology for HRE Local Focused Guide preparation – project team and experts - Call for applications for participating NGOs – project team - Informing Participating NGOs – project team - Promotional materials – project team, design experts, printing office - Research on local context of HR – participating NGOs - Guide compilation – project team and experts - Guide development – project team, experts, participating NGOs - Printing and dissemination – project team, printing & post offices - Creation of the network – project team and participating NGOs - Network work – network members - Network meetings – project team - Study session – project team, experts, participating NGOs, Roma - Guide development – project team and experts - Printing and dissemination – project team - Monitoring and evaluation – project supervisor - Reporting – project team - Financial reporting – financial manager and independent audit - Team meetings – project team
<p>Who can help/ support the project</p>	<p>Experts from (freelancers and from various organizations); local NGOs working with Roma, Governments, general public. Note: FERYP expertise can be used free of charge for the preparation of the guide, meetings facilitation and training.</p>

Timeline (what and when):													
activity	month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Phase I: Preparation													
- Development of methodology for Guide preparation													
- Call for applications for participating NGOs													
- Informing Participating NGOs													
- Promotional materials													
Phase II: Preparation of guide													
- Research on local context of HR													
- Guide compilation													
- Guide development													
- Printing and dissemination													
Phase III: Networking													
- Creation of the network													
- Network work													
- Network meetings													
- Study session													

-	Guide development														
-	Printing and dissemination														
-	Phase IV: Management														
-	Monitoring and evaluation														
-	Reporting														
-	Financial reporting														
-	Team meetings														

An excel sheet (International Network for Locally Focused Human Rights Education – budget) attached to this proposal, provides budget details.

Note: fees for experts could be reduced if FERYP expertise is used. Translation costs for all the activities (meetings, guide, etc) are not included.

DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT SKINS ONE WORD HUMAN BEING (UNITED YOUTH)

Aims and objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Human right education - youth perspective - Intercultural learning - Integration in sociality-local inclusion - exchange of experience
Target group:	36 youth (age 16 to 21) from 6 countries – each country it will be ask that in the group will be formed, at least, from three different national minorities participants)
When:	2007 summer – it will be held two meetings per year (in two different countries)
Where:	7 days in each countries Romania, Macedonia, UK, Greece, Serbia, Moldova
Description of activities:	<p>1. The team must meet at least two times before the main meetings to do the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation for the meeting (including the agenda for the meeting) - Organisation (accommodation, travel etc...) - Selection of the applicants - Technical arrangements <p>2. Main meeting with participants First it will be in May 2007 Second it will be held in November 2007</p> <p>For the improvement of our activities we will have several games and workshops that the participants will feel comfortable and we will encourage all of them to get involved in organizing their free time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Choosing 4 people for participants who will be responsible with organising the evenings - They will be encouraged to organise them own party's also <p>Day 1 – Intercultural Learning (in the first day the participants will receive a questionnaire with some questions who are related with the hole session, to see the difference before and after the participation to this meeting)</p>

	<p>arrival and accommodation of the participants introduction of the participants expectations participants experience in the following fields: HR, discrimination, xenophobia, the importance of knowing others culture and tradition</p> <p>During the session they will have the opportunity to know/find out more information about the fields mentioned before.</p> <p>Day 2 – Human Rights Introduction of the schedule for the day Workshops (which is going to finish with a drama presentation/performing something what it will be related with the day topic Conclusions of the workshop Guest speakers – from different NGO`s Answers and question</p> <p>Day 3 – Visit day - Roma communities - museum - NGOs - other national institutions - evaluation of the day; questions and answers about the visits</p> <p>Day 4 – debates Conclusion for the day before Debate Exercises in several study cases Film projection Debate Evaluation of the day</p> <p>Day 5 - minorities and them importance in the process of learning for a country 14.30 – half of the day reflection for the meetings panel of discussion: guest from the police/local authorities workshops – in different topics related with HR and culture differences questions and answers session</p> <p>Day 6 – final evaluation of the hole week</p> <p>Evaluation based on the questionnaire (short debate, analyse, etc.) Preparation for the leaving day Farewell party based on HR acceptance (each participant it will be asked to come with different clothes in the party)</p>
Funding:	CoE, UNICEF, National Agencies, Private Donors, Embassies etc....

People responsible:	The responsible for all this project, it will be, one after the other team member who is evolved in the project. Ex. If the project it will take place in Slovakia, the person who is from Slovakia will be the main coordinator.
Who can help/ support the project	Different NGO`s, stakeholders, etc....
Timeline (what and when):	We need a team meeting to establish the timeline and all the others activities, what are included in the project

Roma Training Program



Aims and objectives:

- ✓ HR education for Roma
- ✓ Including the Roma community in the Roma organisation's action plan.
- ✓ Building bridges between ADBs, Media and the Roma organisations.
- ✓ Building trust between the Roma and the not Roma.

Target groups:

- ✓ Roma (community and organisation)
- ✓ Media
- ✓ Lawyers from ADB
- ✓ Ombudtsman
- ✓ International Bodyes

When:

- ✓ September 2007 (length of the project - three years)

Where:

- ✓ At local level
- ✓ National level
- ✓ International level

Funding: 499 999 Euro

- ✓ National government, OSI, REF, UNDP, World Bank, MRG...

FOLLOW-UP OF THE STUDY SESSION:

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION:

- ✓ Follow-up the projects prepared by the participants;
- ✓ Report (finalisation and publication, dissemination to participants in the session, member organisation and associates and other organisations/institutions);
- ✓ Input to promoting quality criteria on HRE with young Roma;
- ✓ Fundraising for Roma youth projects on Human Rights Education and translation of COMPASS into Romanes;
- ✓ Follow-up the recommendations from the session to the Commissioner on HR of the Council of Europe;
- ✓ Networking on the issue;

MIGRATION:

- ✓ Printing the report “Roma Youth and Alternatives to Migration” into French and dissemination;
- ✓ Dissemination of the follow-up information materials of FERYP on the issue: “Have you decided to emigrate?” and “Stop the trafficking of Roma women!”
- ✓ Pilot project in Spain;

YOUTH PARTICIPATION:

Recommendation on Roma Youth participation + outcomes from this session;
Address them to Roma and Youth policy actors and follow-up;
European Roma and Travellers Forum.

ROMAPHOBIA AND ANTI- GYPSYISM:

- ✓ “All different, all equal” - European Youth Campaign ;
- ✓ Diversity Youth Forum – October 2006 EYC Budapest;
- ✓ “DOSTA” Campaign;
- ✓ Study session January 2007 in Strasbourg on “Campaigning for Roma Rights and Equality of Opportunities”;
- ✓ Conference “Romaphobia and Anti-gypsyism – old phenomenons and new challenges in Europe” 17-22 November 2006, Strasbourg;

INSTITUTIONAL ASPECT:

Setting up regional office of FERYP.

APPENDICIES:

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER ON HUMAN RIGHTS, COUNCIL OF EUROPE:

Each of the recommendations presented in the document submitted at the end of May 2006 was discussed with the Commissioner and the CoE Secretariat members. Possible priorities, actions and activities, which could be further implemented or are taking place already, were shared.

It has been agreed that FERYP will receive the written reply from the Commissioner, taking into consideration the discussion, which took place. Furthermore the Commissioner and the President of FERYP discussed the possibilities for future co-operation between the organisation and his Office.

The recommendations below are extract from the document submitted to the Commissioner and contains his official reply.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Following the meeting of Mr. Thomas HAMMARBERG, Human Rights Commissioner at the Council of Europe with the participants in the study session of FERYP - "Human Rights education as an approach to work on Roma Youth issues", held in the European Youth Centre Budapest between 21-28 May 2006;

Considering that the importance of the contacts and the need to foster the co-operation between FERYP and the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights at the Council of Europe were highlighted during the meeting;

FERYP is asking for a meeting with the Human Rights Commissioner in order to present and discuss further:

- the below mentioned recommendations;
- the outcomes from the study session "Human Rights education as an approach to work on Roma Youth issues";
- future projects and ideas of FERYP and possibilities for future co-operation in the field of Roma rights advocacy.

1. Considering the level of anti-gypsy manifestations in the Council of Europe members states and the number of the human rights challenges faced by the Roma community on daily bases, we are urging the Commissioner for Human Rights to recommend the following at the Council of Europe:

Establishment of an institutional instrument/mechanism in charge of monitoring and direct intervention (efficient and quick) in cases of human rights violations faced by the Roma in the Council of Europe member states.

CommHR

The Commissioner is able to carry out a number of special missions on short notice and human rights violations confronted by the Roma can be tackled in this way. On the other hand, several CoE monitoring mechanisms consider improving their rapid reaction capacity (e.g. Framework Convention for the protection of national minorities and ECRI). The Commissioner will also work for the protection of human rights defenders.

2. Considering the existence of anti-discrimination legislations at national levels, we are urging the Commissioner for Human Rights to recommend the following to the Council of Europe member states:

Ensuring the implementation of the above mentioned anti-discrimination legislations as well as underlining the importance of monitoring and evaluation of their implementation.

CommHR

This is naturally part of the Commissioner's country missions; ECRI and Framework Convention are doing this as well. Ratification, by member states, of Protocol 12 on the prohibition of discrimination to the European Convention on Human Rights is important. Easy access to complaints mechanisms in addition to courts is essential.

3. Considering the long-term experience and the expertise of FERYP on Roma issues as well as its recognised effective working approaches with the young Roma, we are urging the Commissioner for Human Rights to recommend the following at the all levels:

Support (underline the importance of) the representation and participation of FERYP in policy making on Roma issues (including various structures, forums and activities).

CommHR

Young Roma are bringing about a generational change among people speaking for Roma. Their active participation in all fora is very important and must be supported. For example, many active young Roma are already well equipped to co-operate with international organizations.

4. Considering the outcomes from the work of FERYP and specifically the conclusions made by the participants in the session regarding the importance and the role of Human Rights Education for young Roma and youth work with Roma, we are urging the Commissioner for Human Rights to recommend the following at the Council of Europe, other international institutions, national governments and youth services:

Underlining the importance of prioritising Human Rights Education programmes/activities with young Roma. Furthermore underlining the need of allocating adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of such programmes/activities.

CommHR

Young Roma need to know about human rights and how to participate in decision-making regarding their lives. Formal and informal education programmes, such as the ones carried out by FERYP in the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest, are very useful. The Commissioner's Office is happy to co-operate with FERYP in this field.

PROGRAMME OF THE SESSION:

21/05/06 Sunday	22/05/06 Monday	23/05/06 Tuesday	24/05/06 Wednesday	25/05/06 Thursday	26/05/06 Friday	27/05/06 Saturday	28/05/06 Sunday
Arrival	Introduction - study session - pax team Getting to know each other Group building	HRE Exercise <i>"Step forward"</i> Input on HR	Input on HRE Quality criteria for HRE with young Roma Introduction Analysis	<i>Quality criteria</i> Good practice (local visits)	<i>Quality criteria</i> Conclusions	Projects Presentation Follow up	Departure
<i>Lunch</i>							
Arrival	Expectations HR Challenges Participants experiences on HRE Addressing the HR Commissioner	Instruments: - HR and Roma Rights - Approaches to work on the promotion of Roma Rights?	FREE	Case study	Projects/ initiatives planning	Evaluation Closing	
<i>Dinner</i>							
Welcome	Roma evening	HRE evening	Dinner out			Farewell party	

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