



## Knowledge is Power – Youth Understanding Antigypsyism



Report of the study session held by  
**ERGO Network and TernYpe International Roma Youth Network**  
in co-operation with the  
European Youth Centre of the Council of Europe

European Youth Centre Budapest  
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## Knowledge is Power – Youth Understanding Antigypsyism

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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# 1. Executive Summary

From 7 to 13 October 2018, for the first time the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network together with ternYpe International Roma Youth Network held a study session in cooperation with the Council of Europe. After many years of working together, for example in the informal contact group for the Roma Youth Action Plan (RYAP), we decided to hold this study session to work on a youth-friendly version of the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism.

The study session brought together 20 young Roma and pro-Roma activists from all corners of Europe in order to learn together about the concept of antigypsyism and to pool all their experiences and expertise for contributing to the development of a 'youth-friendly' version of the important reference paper.

The work of the participants is a direct input into the youth-friendly version, jointly produced by ERGO Network, ternYpe and the Council of Europe.

This report gives a brief overview over what was discussed during the study session and the main conclusions that the team and the participants have taken away from this week. It provides only an overview of the results of the working groups, as their outputs will be part of the youth-friendly version that will be published in 2019.

The participants got not only new knowledge about antigypsyism and ways to raise awareness of this phenomenon, but also new partners and the strong feeling of empowerment through working together with like-minded people and contributing to our common fight. They furthermore gained insights into the work of the Council of Europe in the field of youth and of Roma and Travelers and left with great motivation to continue their work locally, while at the same time work more closely together with other activists across Europe.



## 2. Introduction

In 2016 the Alliance against Antigypsyism has been founded with the publication of the 'Reference Paper on Antigypsyism', with the aim to advance a better understanding of the phenomenon of antigypsyism. While among stakeholders on European level, the Alliance has so far been very successful in fostering the recognition of antigypsyism as the core reason for the social exclusion of Roma, there is still a long way to go in promoting the recognition of antigypsyism in society and among policy-makers.



Antigypsyism – as the specific form of racism against anyone stigmatized as ‘gypsy’ – is the most widespread and most socially accepted form of racism across Europe, with a high number of hate crimes and hate speech and a high level of institutional discrimination.

Besides advocacy work to increase the political responses to antigypsyism, ternYpe and ERGO Network believe that human rights education with young people – both Roma and non-Roma – is of utmost importance to foster the fight against antigypsyism in society. Therefore we decided to re-work the rather academic ‘Reference Paper on Antigypsyism’ into a ‘youth-friendly version’, together with those who should know best how to work on this topic with young people: Roma and human rights activists who are young people themselves and work with other young people on the ground.

The outcomes of previous trainings on antigypsyism of the Council of Europe, based on the Mirrors manual, as well as by the applicant organisations (e.g. Roma Youth Advocacy Training in Brussels, Dikh He Na Bister) had shown that a deeper understanding of the concept of antigypsyism is still necessary among young activists and educators. While “Mirrors” provides useful non-formal educational methods on racism and human rights education, it does not offer a fully deep analysis of antigypsyism as a complex phenomenon to its users. The ‘Reference Paper on Antigypsyism’ gives on the other hand a complex analysis of antigypsyism, but needs to be translated to the needs of activists and youth organisations.

Bringing these two sides together to develop a youth-friendly version of the reference paper, including a part for educators, has a great potential for future activities both of the applicant networks and their members as well as of the Council of Europe. The study session increased the understanding of the background, dimensions and mechanisms of antigypsyism among youth organisations and youth activists and the outcomes will support them to better address this dangerous and widespread form of racism in our societies.

At the same time, the study session was an important step to foster Roma youth participation in Europe. By learning from each other’s experiences, creating useful tools together and exchanging ideas on how to communicate about and how to combat antigypsyism, Roma youth activists increased their competencies to participate in a double-mainstreaming approach – both in the field of Romani activism and in the field of youth work and youth policy.

### Aim

The overall aim of the study session was to introduce participants to the concept of antigypsyism, discuss its manifestations and give the space to develop activities, case studies, counter-strategies and visuals that will foster the understanding of antigypsyism.

## Objectives

- To advance a common understanding of the roots, mechanisms, manifestations and implications of antigypsyism
- To contribute to the development of a 'youth-friendly' version of the reference paper on antigypsyism for better use in youth work, human rights education and advocacy
- To share approaches of combatting antigypsyism and other forms of racism
- To experience, develop and test activities that introduce the concept of antigypsyism to empower young people to articulate and fight antigypsyism
- To further the work of the Alliance against Antigypsyism through education, advocacy, communication and networking activities

## Topics discussed

The participants were introduced to the terminology around antigypsyism, compared the term with other related terms and discussed the mechanisms of antigypsyism. They then moved on to discussing how a youth-friendly version of the reference paper on antigypsyism should look like and dug into the 'academic' version in order to give recommendations for the youth-friendly paper. Before moving on to creative work, the group also discussed the work of the Council of Europe in this field and how they can use relevant tools and instruments by the organisation for their own work on local or national level, and received a practical introduction to human rights education.

Through an input from the European Union of Jewish Students, also antisemitism and how to combat it was discussed as inspiration on how to tackle antigypsyism.

In four working groups the participants then prepared creative products that will be used alongside the youth-friendly text of the reference paper: one group discussed visuals that will support the understanding of the text, another prepared workshop plans for nonformal educational settings, a third prepared case studies that exemplify the text and a last discussed counter-strategies that will be added to the text in order to give the young users some ideas on how to combat antigypsyism in their personal and activist life.

Finally, the group heard about the political work of the Alliance against Antigypsyism and spoke about how they can personally follow up with what they had done and learned throughout the study session.

## Profile of participants



We invited a diverse group of Roma and non-Roma participants from a variety of organisations that are active in their respective (youth) organisations with experience and commitment to combat antigypsyism. There were 20 participants in total, with 12 male and 8 female participants. This imbalance was due to many changes from the initially invited participants with applicants from the waiting list. The participants came from 11 different Council of Europe member states. Most of them identified as Roma or traveller, with only two participants considering themselves as allies, who are active in general

human rights organisations. Except one, who is an individual activist, all are active in Roma or (pro)-Roma organisations in their country, and most of them have already taken part in activities organised by ERGO Network, ternYpe, Phiren Amenca or the Council of Europe Youth Department. This meant that everyone came with a wealth of experiences and expertise to share with the others. The average age of participants was 24.5.

## Organisers

The study session was jointly organised by the European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network and ternYpe International Roma Youth Network. The two organisations regularly work together when it comes to combining advocacy for Roma rights on European level and youth activism and empowerment. Many national and local (pro) Roma organisations are actually a member of both ERGO Network and ternYpe.

ERGO Network brings together 26 Roma and (pro) Roma grassroots organisations from across Europe to act as a bridge between the EU level and Roma communities. ERGO brings evidence from the ground to European policy-making, and at the same time supports Roma organisations in using EU programmes and policies to their advantage.

The Network furthermore empowers activists, campaigns against antigypsyism and social exclusion and enables Roma civil society to learn from each other.

ternYpe - International Roma Youth Network was founded in January 2010 and unites different Roma youth organizations from Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain and Poland. TernYpe is a network of youth and youth associations, which creates space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilisation, self-organisation and participation. We believe in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth.

## 3. Results and Conclusions

### ‘We are not your gypsies – Youth speaking up against antigypsyism’



The main result of the study session is obviously the youth-friendly version of the reference paper on antigypsyism, ‘We are not your gypsies – Youth speaking up against antigypsyism’. Even though the writing of the final text was done by a consultant together with the team of the study

session and ERGO Network, a lot of content around the pure text, and clear guidelines on how the text should look like, were developed by participants during the study session. The participants were part of a big collaborative process producing this tool, and importantly also confirmed the need for the youth-friendly version through their critique of the ‘academic’ version.

This tool will be used in a variety of ways: It will form the basis of the future educational work on antigypsyism by ERGO Network and ternYpe, for example during the annual Roma Youth Advocacy Training in Brussels or Dikh he na Bister in Krakow. It will furthermore be widely disseminated among Roma civil society, youth organisations and human rights organisations, in the hope that it will support the understanding of antigypsyism among young people. We also count on the participants to actively promote the publication.

It will furthermore be an important contribution to the Council of Europe’s Roma Youth Action Plan and is meant to be used in its various activities.

The Alliance against Antigypsyism has plans and ideas for several additional follow-up activities around the Reference Paper that will complement the work with the youth-friendly version:

- It will produce infographics explaining the reference paper, which could then be used alongside the youth-friendly version.
- It will develop other adapted versions of the reference paper for other target groups, for example for journalists.
- It will train Roma activists on how to advocate for policies combatting antigypsyism on national level. For these trainings, the youth-friendly version and its part for multipliers can be useful tools.

## Empowerment of participants



The second most important outcome of the study session is the empowerment of participants. This was an overwhelming answer in their final evaluation and was expressed many times throughout the week: they felt very much empowered by knowing more about the concept of antigypsyism, by the feeling of accomplishment through contributing to the youth-friendly version, and importantly especially by knowing that they are not alone in their activism. Many are active on very local level with little contact to Roma activists elsewhere, so knowing that there are more young people who struggle

with the same challenges within and outside their communities was very important to them.

As further learning points they mentioned new knowledge about terminology of antigypsyism, inspiration through new approaches and tools to combat antigypsyism and ideas for further projects together with other participants, introducing the youth-friendly version to rural Roma youth communities. Many participants highlighted also the information received about the European Youth Foundation and the Roma Youth Action Plan, as this can directly support their own work.

## Conclusions of the study session team

The preparatory team drew two conclusions from the study session that will be very useful for future work on antigypsyism in the two networks.

1. It is valuable to work with a group that is almost exclusively made up of Roma young people. Even though this was not the initial intention of the organisers, it provides young Roma with a very safe space to express themselves and shows them that there are many other young people like them in Europe, having the same struggles and working towards the same things. This increased their confidence and motivation hugely. They did not have to explain themselves and understood each other's challenges from the outset, which made the working atmosphere in the group very positive.
2. So far, at other educational activities on antigypsyism, we often had very long discussions about terminology that took time away from work on the content. Many participants questioned the term antigypsyism, which meant that too much time was spent on only explaining the term, without discussing the causes, manifestations and consequences. In this study session we explained different terms and then explained why we use antigypsyism. Even if it is not everyone's favourite term, we simply have to compromise to use one term and then go on and discuss how to combat this form



of racism. It showed us that it is possible and important to keep the discussion on terminology to the minimum time necessary.

### Contribution to the mission of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe



In general, the activity contributed to the Youth Department’s priority of promoting inclusive and peaceful societies, as it fostered understanding of antigypsyism and motivated young people to combat it. Importantly, it did not only promote inclusive and peaceful societies among participants, but its main output will hopefully be a widely used educational tool to contribute to raising awareness of this specific form of racism and encouraging young people to act against it.

The study session was closely linked to the Council of Europe’s efforts and policies to combat racism, anti-Semitism, antigypsyism and xenophobia and in particular the Roma Youth Action Plan, which aims to support Roma youth participation, promotes equality of opportunities to participate, and counters the effects of discrimination on young Roma.

Following the objectives of the RYAP, the study session focused on capacity-building of Roma youth leaders – both directly of the participants, and indirectly through the later use of the youth-friendly version of the reference paper.

The partner organisations participate in the Informal Contact Group of the Roma Youth Action Plan and in the past years contributed to developing the training manuals “Mirrors” and “Right to Remember”.

The outcomes of previous trainings on antigypsyism of the Council of Europe, based on the manual Mirrors, as well as by the applicant organisations had shown that a deeper understanding of the concept of antigypsyism is still necessary. While “Mirrors” provides useful non-formal educational methods, it does not offer a full deep analysis of antigypsyism as a

complex phenomenon. The 'Reference Paper on Antigypsyism' gives on the other hand a complex analysis of antigypsyism, but needs to be translated to the needs of activists and youth organisations. The study session brought these two sides together to develop a youth-friendly version of the reference paper, which will have a great potential for future activities both of the partners and their members as well as of the Council of Europe.

In addition to the link with the YD, the study session contributed to the overall work of the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Team as the capacity-building of civil society to address antigypsyism is a fundamental element for any efforts towards the empowerment of Roma and Roma communities as well as Roma participation.

## 4. Programme

The following chapters will give brief overviews of the different programme blocks and its outcomes. The main results can be seen in the youth-friendly version of the reference paper on antigypsyism, as the study session was fully dedicated to the creative process developing the youth-friendly version.

### 4.1 Terminology

In the Roma field, there are always big discussions about terminology, as the phenomenon of antigypsyism as a specific form of racism has only quite recently found more recognition by institutions and civil society, and the definition of the phenomenon was and still is a highly politicised process.

In the study session team we decided that we do not want to lose too much time on discussing terminology, but rather briefly introduce what different terms exist for the same phenomenon, and why we use the term antigypsyism. We wanted to make clear that activists should simply agree on a common word and then go on to work against racism, instead of losing too much time just talking about terminology. Nevertheless, in order to avoid these discussions, we had to clarify the debates around this issue.

We started with giving participants some background on where the words 'Gypsy', 'Roma' and 'Cigan' come from in order to understand the terms. It is important to point out that these terms have never been given by Roma, Sinti, travellers, Manouche, Kale or other groups to themselves, but rather have been introduced by majority society to define Roma.

The participants then looked at the terms 'antigypsyism', 'antiziganism', anti-Romani racism and anti-Gypsyism' and discussed why we use the term antigypsyism, without a hyphen.

The Alliance against Antigypsyism defines antigypsyism as the specific form of racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others who are stigmatised as 'gypsies' in the public imagination. We are not using the terms **anti-Romani racism** or **Romaphobia**, as this would only include racism against people who identify as Romani, and not everyone who is perceived as 'gypsy', whether they are Roma, Sinti, travellers or maybe don't belong to any of these groups and are just perceived in this negative stereotype because they are for example begging on the street. We don't use the term **anti-Gypsyism**, as this would imply that something like 'Gypsyism' exists. **Antiziganism** conveys the same content as antigypsyism, so using antigypsyism is

more a matter of convention, reflecting the fact that 'gypsy' is the English term comprising the core elements of this racist ideology.

#### 4.2 How should a youth-friendly reference paper look like?

Before diving into concrete work on the youth-friendly version, the participants what in their view would make a publication such as the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism "youth-friendly".

There was great consensus in the group among the main features: The youth-friendly version should be simple and attractive, with the pure text only being 2 to 4 pages. long This can be achieved itthrough translating content into images and visuals that will make the content clear and understandable.

It is important to bear in mind that this edition will be read by people with very different educational levels, so the language used needs to be extremely simplified compared to the current version. It can make use of bullet points and other ways that don't tire the readers with too much information. The participants proposed to use a narrator leading through the content and to use as many images as possible – possibly even to make the reference paper into a comic that uses as little words as possible.



The aim of the youth friendly version is to raise awareness of young people about antigypsyism; to create possibilities for young people to learn about antigypsyism (mechanisms, causes, manifestations and consequences) and to motivate them to contribute to combatting antigypsyism. Therefore the youth-friendly version needs to familiarize young people with this specific form of racism and to give them ideas on how to act against it.

The youth friendly version shall put on the table the discussion about the roles, responsibilities and opportunities of youth in addressing current challenges of antigypsyism in order to become agents of change. It will develop motivation, capacity and empowerment of young people to engage in local, national and international youth work on issues of combatting antigypsyism.

#### 4.3 Human rights education and the Council of Europe

In order to give participants the context in which the study session was held, and to equip them with knowledge of tools that they can use in their own work, we spent one full morning to discover relevant information about the Council of Europe as well as to put the study session into the context of Human Rights.

Besides a general introduction to the Council of Europe and its Youth Department – where the participants learned about the aims and structure of the organisation, the yout sector priorities and the role of the educational advisors – they got the chance to talk to Deniz Durmis about the Roma Youth Action Plan and to one of the trainers about the European Youth Foundation. This

gave them ideas on how to finance potential local follow-up projects and on how to keep engaging in Roma youth empowerment through Council of Europe instruments. Almost all participants represented local NGOs, therefore we put an emphasis on explaining the possibility of applying for pilot projects.

Through the activity 'Take a step forward' from Mirrors, the participants then discovered how we learn **about, through and for** human rights in human rights education. Having in mind the living situation of many Roma in Europe, it is extremely important to work with the concept of human rights and to make clear that they are universal, inalienable, indivisible and interdependent – because many Roma themselves don't even realise that they have the same rights as other individuals.

The activity also allowed participants to reflect on their personal experiences with discrimination, and led to a discussion on **intersectionality**: the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

Finally, through the activity the participants were also introduced to the Council of Europe manuals Mirrors and Compass, which will be useful for many of them in their local work.

#### 4.4 Inspiration from the European Union of Jewish Students

In order to learn how other anti-racism movements deal with explaining the racism targeting them and get inspired by their working methods, we invited the European Union of Jewish Students to run a session on antisemitism with us. There are many similarities between antigypsyism and antisemitism, for example the long history of these specific forms of racism, so we felt that the participants could learn from the work of Andras Ligeti, the director of EUJS.

Andras, together with Bendeguz Moldovan, president of the Hungarian Union of Jewish Students, ran with us an exemplary introduction session to antigypsyism with the following programme blocks:

1. Introduction to Jewish identity: Everyone received a card with a short description of a person and how they live their Jewish identity. The role cards included people of different ages, countries of origin, different level of religiosity, different political views etc. The participants then made a drawing of their person and subsequently put themselves into a line according to their age, religiosity, closeness to Israel etc. This showed the group how extremely different Jewish people are.  
The conclusion of EUJS of this activity was: *'The only thing that all Jews have in common is the experience of antisemitism'*.
2. Introduction to the history of antisemitism: The participants split into small groups and each got a description of antisemitism in a specific time period. They then prepared creative presentations of their period and through their presentations they were put into a timeline. The periods presented were:
  - Biblical Times
  - Anti-Judaism
  - The Middle Ages
  - Modern Anti-Semitism
  - The Holocaust
  - Contemporary Anti-Semitism.
3. Solutions and ways to react to and combat antisemitism: Again in groups, the participants received examples of incidents of antisemitism and thought about possible

short-term and long-term solutions for such incidents. Their proposals included police protection, getting to know each other between different religious groups or education.

EUJS then presented some good practice examples that are being used by different groups. These are:

- Physical protection
- Monitoring and encouraging states for monitoring (e.g. through ECRI Handbook)
- Advocacy at the UN/EU
- Bridges not Boycott - UJS
- Legal Framework (e.g. Definition by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, IHRA)
- Coalition Building (e.g. between Roma youth and Jewish youth organisations)
- Education

#### 4.5 Developing content to support the youth-friendly version:

The participants worked in four “expert groups” in order to create content for the youth-friendly version that will enhance the text of the paper and give more insights into understanding antigypsyism and engaging young people for change.

The groups worked on 1) case studies, 2) counter-strategies, 3) educational activities and 4) visuals of the publication.

##### 4.5.1 Case studies

The group working on the case studies decided that the cases should explain how problems can be solved, to provide social evidence, to lead to spinoff content and to position the youth friendly paper as credible source.

Case studies are very important because they present the racism that Roma felt throughout Europe in the past years in real stories; they present reality and through them we can gain the trust of readers. Case studies are a source of history that will teach readers the past, the implications for the people involved as well as the reactions towards the incidents of antigypsyism (e.g. answers by civil society). In addition, case studies will help to show that antigypsyism is indeed a European problem and not only a phenomenon in some countries.

The purpose of case studies is to stir feelings and motivate people to take action against antigypsyism and general racism because they will read real stories about incidents against a particular section of society. These stories are real. Therefore, the youth-friendly version will be credible and confidential

**The group came up with the following examples:**

##### **Murder of young Roma man in Ukraine**

The latest case of attacks on Roma occurred on 23 June 2018 in Ukraine where a young Roma man called David Popp was killed and a child and a woman injured by far-right nationalist gang members. According to Al Jazeera, a group of masked men with knives and chains attacked the Roma neighbourhood located in the wooded area where Roma families live in shantytowns. The police arrested 7 young men (16, 17 and 20 years old), who according to the Lviv Police Department may be part of a far-right group in Ukraine. After the murder, non-Roma activists marched in solidarity through Lviv. According to live-streamed videos and the witness reports in local media in the two-months before this murder several attacks on Roma were carried out near Kiev and Ternopil. However, the Kiev police was silent about some of these attacks despite the live-streamed video, which shows how members of uniformed militia- "Natsionalnyi Druzhyny" destroy a Roma camp.

### **Evictions in France**

In 2016, more than 10.000 Roma were evicted from France. According to the European Roma Rights Center, "France's policy of ethnically targeted evictions creates cycles of repeat evictions and forced removals". Nevertheless, most of the documented evictions have been without decisions by the court and adequate alternative accommodation was provided to those families who were evicted. In June 2016, several organizations and agencies - including the Council of Europe and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights - warned local authorities across the continent to provide Roma with "sustainable" housing, saying that children were at particular risk of trauma and social isolation because of evictions.

### **Census of Roma**

The far-right politician, Matteo Salvini, deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior of Italy has called for a new census of Roma and for all non-Italian Roma to be expelled from the country. There have been marches and protest, and growing national and international concern about the rise of the far-right in Italy. There have been increased police raids, and forced evictions of Roma. Even the Italian government agrees a "Roma registry" would violate human rights. Ethnic statistics have been banned since Mussolini's fascist regime where Roma and Jews were targeted the same way. Despite of all this, local authorities still announced plans for a "Roma registry" in Lombardy. Antigypsyist hate speech is on the rise. The media and political leaders are not helping, but also attacking Roma.

For the first time of the Romani Movement, between 26 of June and 10 of August 2018, a coordinated protest march across Europe was organized by Roma activists in Spain, Romania, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Italy, Bulgaria, Macedonia and Hungary. Around 5.000 Roma occupied the capitals of 9 countries and in one voice united under the motto "Death to fascism – Justice for Roma".

### **Showmen in Feltham, London**

The showpeople are demanding their yards are taken off the Feltham Masterplan, which highlights the site's potential for new homes. Their main fear is that the council will force them out with a compulsory purchase order.

"We don't want to go anywhere else. This is our way of life and there is nowhere else we can go," says David, who was born on the five-acre site bought by his ancestors.

His sister has her stationary mobile home in the front garden, sharing the family plot as is customary for show people. Today, about 27,000 people live in the Feltham area, which has undergone massive regeneration in recent years. Now the show people's site has become a focal point in a battle to preserve local heritage amid fears of overcrowding and "aggressive" development.

### Forced sterilization in Czech Republic and Slovakia

From the 1970s until 1990, the Czechoslovak government sterilized Romani women as part of policies aimed at reducing the "high, unhealthy" birth rate of Romani women. The sterilization was performed on Romani women without their knowledge. The Czech ombudsman estimated that more than 90,000 women from former Czechoslovakia became infertile as a consequence.

*"I decided to come out with my story so that it doesn't happen to other women, to our children, to our grandchildren. So that they never find themselves in the situation I am in today."* (Elena Gorolova, interview for Romedia's I'm a Roma Woman campaign)

Exactly 15 years ago, the Centre for Civil and Human Rights, in collaboration with the Centre for Reproductive Rights, released the report entitled "Body and Soul: Forced Sterilization and Other Assaults on Roma Reproductive Freedom", which documented cases of the illegal sterilizations of Romani women and other violations of their human rights during the provision of health care. The Centre for Civil and Human Rights, an NGO in Slovakia, has published a press release announcing an online petition that has been launched by illegally sterilized Romani women from Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The initiative is attempting to achieve justice from the government institutions in both countries that are responsible for delivering redress.

### Ethnic profiling

From the end of 2009 to November 2012 about 7,000 Macedonian citizens, mostly Roma, were not allowed to leave the country and had their travel documents confiscated. In 2011 alone, during a seven-month period, more than 1,500 Macedonian citizens, mostly Roma, were refused to exit from the country on the basis of being potential asylum seekers in the EU. The border police have been instructed to check Roma especially. There have been cases where only Roma people on buses full of Romani and non-Romani passengers were asked to provide documents in addition to their passports to justify the purpose of their travel.

The Minority Rights Group has submitted a third-party intervention in three cases before the European Court of Human Rights concerning Roma individuals who claim to have been prohibited by the border control authorities from leaving the country as a result of their ethnic origin.



*This map was produced by the working group, providing background information to all case studies.*

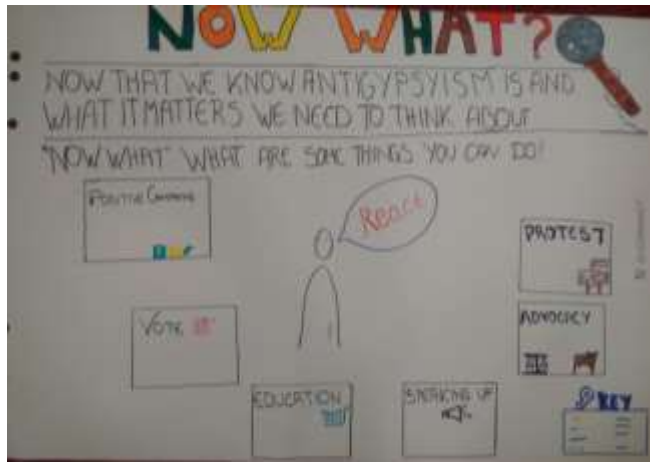
## 4.5.2 Counter-strategies

One aim of the youth-friendly version is to motivate young people to contribute to combatting antigypsyism. We therefore felt that it is important not only to provide knowledge about what antigypsyism is, but also to inspire the readers to act against it.

The group discussed that the proposed counter-strategies should be spread through the publication, addressing concrete points that are mentioned in the text. They should also address different levels and be actionable for different kinds of young people. Advocacy for example is an important tool to contribute to the fight against antigypsyism, but not every young person will become an advocate towards their national governments. Some will rather engage in educational work, protests or other forms.

The working group proposed to focus on counter-strategies in the following areas:

- Positive campaigning (showing Roma role models and the positive impact they have on society)
- Voting and taking part in democratic life
- Education to raise awareness of antigypsyism and its negative effects, as well as on the history of Roma
- Speaking up in everyday life, having arguments to bring against everyday racism by family, friends, classmates etc.
- Protest: Engaging in protest to raise awareness of human rights violations against Roma and make clear that young people want the situation to change.
- Advocacy: taking part in advocacy activities towards local, regional, national and EU institutions in order to change laws.



## 4.5.3 Educational activities

As few young people will directly pick up the youth-friendly version, it is also aimed at young multipliers who are tackling the topic of antigypsyism in their organisations, in schools or youth groups.

Nonformal education is a very important tool to foster knowledge, skills and attitudes to learn for, with and through human rights, therefore we will include some nonformal educational activities that will help multipliers to better bring across the content of the reference paper to young people.

The participants in the working group had some discussions whether the educational activities should be specifically targeted at marginalised young Roma or whether they should be more generally applicable. As the participants were mostly Roma themselves who had gone through very important empowerment moments during their lives and during the study session, they felt that they wanted other young Roma, especially from rural communities, to experience the same and to feel empowered to contribute to combatting antigypsyism.



The whole group decided that the activities should rather be targeted at mixed groups of Roma and non-Roma, as particularly non-Roma people are responsible for combatting antigypsyism.

The group decided to offer two different kinds of workshop sets to satisfy demands for different lengths of sessions:

1. A 90-minute session that would fit into a school lesson
2. A 2-day workshop that could be delivered over a weekend

The 2-day session can of course be broken into smaller pieces.



Objectives of the 90-minute workshop:

- To introduce what antigypsyism is
- To share experiences with antigypsyism

Objectives of the 2-day workshop:

- To introduce the causes and mechanisms of antigypsyism and other forms of racism and othering
- To discuss how to recognise antigypsyism
- To find ways on how to address and combat antigypsyism
- To plan concrete activities on how participants can address antigypsyism in their communities

#### 4.5.4 Visuals

Visuals are important because they attract attention and one of the goals of the friendly version is to be attractive to readers. Images can transmit lots of information, visualise history, hierarchies and strategies, also to readers who are less literate. Images furthermore evoke emotions, which are important to motivate the readers to act against antigypsyism. At the same time, they can challenge the reader to think differently.

Being visual and using images that are attractive to young people – such as comic figures and super heroes – was one of the main conditions given by the participants to the youth-friendly version. The work of this expert group was therefore very important.



The group came up with the following ideas:

- Should be exciting, even aggressive or controversial to attract attention
- Could include crosswords, small self-reflective questionnaires etc.
- A character (like a superhero) could take the reader through the publication
- Superhero theme, like a comic book → but make sure it attracts young women/men alike
- Break up paragraphs with images
- Left side of each page story with pictures, videos etc., and right side facts.
- Making it like a video game - Different chapters are "levels" and at the bottom of the page you'd unlock 'achievements' (e.g. "Achievement Unlocked: understanding antigypsyism") or pick up 'weapons' (e.g. "Equipped: counter-strategies").
- Superhero on the cover: can use the shield to protect her or himself from different manifestations of antigypsyism
- Possibility to have an interactive online version

#### 4.6 The Alliance against Antigypsyism

Jelena Jovanovic, advocacy and research coordinator of ERGO Network and one of the coordinators of the Alliance against Antigypsyism, joined the study session for the last two days to share with the group the wider political (EU) context of our work against antigypsyism and explain some of the ways on how ERGO Network with its partners is contributing to this work.

The 'Alliance against Antigypsyism' is a coalition of organisations that promote equality of rights for Roma and a racism-free society. The aim of the Alliance is to advance a better understanding of antigypsyism as a specific form of racism, and to strengthen the political will, institutional mechanisms and civil society in order to address, monitor, combat and sanction antigypsyism in Europe. The core members of the Alliance are ERGO Network, the European Network against Racism (ENAR) and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma.

Currently, the main focus of the Alliance is on **advocacy towards the EU Roma Framework for the EU programming period 2021-2027**. It is our advocacy aim that the framework will be based on the assumption that antigypsyism is the cause of the poverty and social exclusion of Roma, and should include measures and funding to combat antigypsyism in the EU member states. The European Commission agrees with this view – now advocacy needs to go towards EU Member States and the European Parliament.

Another great effort goes into the **monitoring of antigypsyism and the effectiveness of state measures taken against antigypsyism**. Currently many Roma civil society organisations in all EU member states are part of the Roma Civil Monitor project, which monitors the implementation of national Roma integration strategies. The partners of the Alliance against Antigypsyism are responsible for the chapters on antigypsyism – we are building the capacity of civil society organisations to understand the topic and to be able to report on it, and we are preparing the synthesis report on the issue. The same work is done in the Western Balkans and Turkey with ERGO Network members in the project 'Joint Initiative to empower Roma civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey'.

Jelena also reported on future project plans of the Alliance. In the next year, we plan to train national Roma activists to be more effective in their advocacy efforts on combatting antigypsyism on national level. In this work the youth-friendly version of the reference paper will be very useful.

#### 4.7 Follow-up

The main follow-up of the study session obviously is finalising and then using the youth-friendly version of the reference paper on antigypsyism, 'We are not your Gypsies'.

This includes the wide dissemination of the paper and its use in educational activities organised by ERGO Network and ternYpe such as the annual Roma Youth Advocacy Training and Dikh he na bistar – Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative.

Besides the direct work on and with this publication, further follow-up ideas include:

- A transnational project organised by some of the participants who want to use the publication with Roma youth in very poor rural communities in their own countries and exchange their experiences, but also messages between the young people in order

for them to see that their struggle against antigypsyism is a European one and they are not alone.

- Further work on the visualisation of the reference paper: The Alliance against Antigypsyism is planning to develop some infographics in 2019 that will further explain the content of the paper in a visual way. This will also be helpful to use alongside the youth-friendly version of the publication.
- Further work on other adaptations of the reference paper, for example creating a version for journalists. This could include tips on how to report on antigypsyism, specific case studies and counter strategies related to media.

## 5. Appendices

### 5.1 Appendix 1: Final activity programme

#### Sunday 7th October 2018

Arrival of the participants

19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Welcome Evening

#### Monday 8th October 2018

09:15 Welcome and Introduction to the Council of Europe and the study session  
( aims,objectives, expectations, program)

11:00 Coffee break  
11:30 Getting to know each other  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Introduction to the terminology of antigypsyism  
16:00 Coffee break  
16:30 Introduction to antigypsyism  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 World Cafe of Hungarian Testimonies

#### Tuesday 9th October 2018

09:15 Introduction to the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism  
11:00 Coffee break  
11:30 Revising the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism – group work  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Revising the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism - feedback  
16:00 Coffee break  
16:30 Creative Working Groups - 1  
18:00 Reflection groups  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Film Night

#### Wednesday 10th October 2018

09:15 Council of Europe and Roma Youth Action Plan  
11:00 Coffee break  
11:30 Human Rights Education  
13:00 Lunch  
14:00 Creative Working Groups  
15:00 Free afternoon  
19:00 Dinner out together

#### Thursday 11th October 2018

09:15 Inspiration from other anti-racism actors  
11:00 Coffee break  
11:30 How to react to and articulate antigypsyism  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Presenting the revised youth-friendly reference paper and updates  
from working groups  
15:30 Creative Working Groups (with coffee break) 1

18:00 Reflection group  
19:00 Dinner

**Friday 12th October 2018**

09:15 Presenting results of Creative Working Groups  
11:00 Coffee break  
11:30 Presenting results of Creative Working Groups  
13:00 Lunch  
14:30 Introducing the European Youth Foundation  
Follow-up with Alliance against Antigypsyism  
16:00 Coffee break  
16:30 Evaluation and Closing  
19:00 Dinner  
20:30 Farewell Party

**Saturday 13th October 2018**

Departure

## 5.2. Appendix 2: Participants list

### Participants

<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>
Saska Dimic	Austria
Albert Barseghyab	Armenia
Tsvetomir Nenov	Bulgaria
Daniela Dimitrova	Bulgaria
Magdalena Karvayova	Czech Republic
Vivian Isberg	Finland
Sejnur Memisi	Germany
Judith Klenter	Germany
Athanasios Mitrou	Greece
Rachael Stockdale	United Kingdom
Diesel Halilovic	Italy
Lorenta Kadriu	Kosovo*
Deniz Selmani	North Macedonia
Enes Bilalli	North Macedonia
Kilino Stojkov	Serbia
Artur Ivanenko	Ukraine
Volodymir Yakovenko	Ukraine
Tetiana Storozhko	Ukraine
Johnson Welch	United Kingdom
Tyler Hatwell	United Kingdom

### Lecturers

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation/Role</i>
Jelena Jovanovic	ERGO Network
Andras Ligeti	European Union of Jewish Students

### Preparatory team

Christine Sudbrock,	ERGO Network, Belgium
Irina Spataru	Romano Centro, Austria
Vicente Rodriguez Fernandez	ternYpe, Germany
Mustafa Jakupov	RROMA, Macedonia

### Council of Europe

Laszlo Milutinovits	Educational advisor
Zsuzsanna Molnar	Programme Assistant

*\*All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*