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Strasbourg, 4 December 2023

REALISING THE POTENTIAL OF ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION

A consultative meeting to prepare a “roadmap” for the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Roma youth participation

24-25 January 2024

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg



DRAFT

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Registration form

The Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation

The [Youth Sector Strategy 2030](#) of the Council of Europe aims to create spaces for young people to live together in peaceful and inclusive societies, with special emphasis on allowing young people, including those experiencing any form of discrimination and exclusion, to benefit from opportunities that develop their commitment to and exercise of democratic citizenship. It also emphasises the interest of the Council of Europe youth sector to develop a stronger profile regarding the inclusion of *inter alia* minorities and vulnerable groups, intersectionality, and inclusiveness across its programming.

The Council of Europe Strategic [Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion](#) (2020-2025) concurs in this priority by noting that:

Roma and Travellers, particularly women and youth encounter a variety of social barriers and prejudices that severely impede their capacity to effectively participate in public and political life. They are consequently largely absent from the local or national political arenas and decision-making processes affecting them. This invisibility undermines their potential to reverse embedded marginalisation and discrimination.

The Council of Europe youth sector has been consistently supporting for several decades the participation of Roma young people and combating antigypsyism. This was particularly enhanced with the implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan (2011-2019) which, among others, developed awareness and resources on Roma youth identities and remembrance, multiple discrimination and in involving young Roma as agents of change and human rights defenders.

This work was consolidated in 2020 and onwards with the preparation of a recommendation on Roma youth participation to support and commit member states to competently address discrimination of Roma young people. The process was led under the auspices of the Joint Council on Youth, which was tasked by the Committee of Ministers to prepare the recommendation.

The [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma Youth Participation](#) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2023.

The Recommendation was adopted because young Roma people face systematic discrimination in their access to social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights, and that structural racism negatively impacts Roma youth's participation in civic and political processes and structures, self-esteem, pride and well-being, their transition to adulthood, their trust in the fairness of institutions, and their readiness to embrace their roots and cultures.

The Recommendation reflects the priorities, demands and aspirations established and expressed by young Roma people and Roma youth organisations during consultation processes. It acknowledges the importance and urgency of using a double-mainstreaming approach in youth and Roma policies, as well as mainstream legislation, policies, measures and programmes.

The Recommendation asks Governments of the member states to:

- ensure substantive, fair and systematic participation, representation and inclusion of young Roma people in all spheres of society and decision-making processes and structures;
- mainstream and include systematically and explicitly the needs and priorities voiced by young Roma people in all policies, standards and programmes that impact them;
- assess relevant mainstream and targeted policies, as well as democratic structures, in view of mapping and redesigning them to ensure Roma youth's effective participation, representation and inclusion;

- combat all forms and manifestations of structural anti-Roma racism and antigypsyism and their impact on Roma youth participation;
- ensure young Roma people's full and effective access to and fulfilment of all fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- ensure free and non-discriminatory access to quality education, training and employment opportunities for all young Roma people;
- support and strengthen the capacity of Roma youth-led organisations, groups and initiatives and Roma youth-focused organisations and youth centres;
- adopt policies, measures and programmes and allocate adequate funding to implement the guidelines set out as an appendix to the recommendation.

Governments are also asked to invite civil society, including mainstream youth councils and organisations, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation and evaluation of the recommendation.

The Consultative Meeting

Following the adoption of the Recommendation, the Joint Council on Youth has called for the preparation of "roadmap" to support member states and other stakeholders to implement the recommendation and its guidelines in the next five years. Reflecting the participatory approach adopted in the preparation itself, the preparation of the "roadmap" ought to be done with input and proposals from Roma and Youth experts, including Roma young people and representatives of Roma youth organisations.

In addition to preparing the roadmap, the Consultative Meeting *Realising the Potential of Youth Participation* also fulfils the function of the Task Force on Roma Youth Participation, which the Joint Council also decided to hold on a regular basis. The Task Force is an informal coordination mechanism between Roma and Youth stakeholders.

The meeting has thus the following **objectives**:

1. To identify the current needs and priorities related to the participation of Roma young people in the context of the Recommendation and of other initiatives and processes at national and European level;
2. To discuss practical ways and forms of using the Recommendation and its guidelines for advocacy and action purposes
3. To make proposals for implementation of the Recommendation in the next five years, including the specific roles of:
 - a. National/public authorities in charge of Roma and Youth affairs
 - b. National youth councils and mainstream youth organisations
 - c. Roma youth and other civil society organisations
 - d. The Roma and Travellers Team and the Youth Department of the Council of Europe
4. To propose support measures for the implementation of the roadmap
5. To exchange information about current plans and projects of Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders concerned with a view to coordinate calendars and processes where relevant, beyond the scope of the Recommendation.

The results of the meeting will be discussed by the Joint Council on Youth at its April meeting with the view to formally adopt it.

Participants

The consultative meeting will bring together some 20 experts representing the key stakeholders involved in, or concerned by, Roma and Youth policies, including:

- Roma youth civil organisations and networks
- Experts of the European Steering Committee for Youth, of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the European Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion and its subordinate body ADI-ROM
- Representatives of European non-governmental youth organisations and national youth councils.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe.

Accommodation and meals

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre.

The European Youth Centres is accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your registration form.

Working language

The working languages of the programme will be English.

FURTHER INQUIRIES

For more information about the meeting and for technical assistance with the application form uploaded at the Council of Europe Youth Department platform, please address: eyc.programme@coe.int

PROCEDURE FOR REGISTRATION

All those intending or interested to participate are kindly invited to return the appended registration form (appendix 2) to eyc.programme@coe.int by **15 December 2023**.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Tuesday 23 January

Arrivals of participants

Self-organised dinner

Wednesday 24 January

09:30 Welcome and opening

Introduction to programme and objectives of the meeting

Getting to know participants of the meeting

10:00 Presentation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma youth participation, by Rui GOMES, Youth Department, Council of Europe

11:00 Break

11:30 Updates on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) and the Draft Recommendation by the Committee of Ministers to the Member States on the topic of equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls, by Eleni TSETSEKOU, Head of the Roma and Travellers Team

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Sharing of relevant initiatives and projects by the participants
Discussion and reflection

16:00 Break

16:30 Roadmap to implementation of the CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma youth participation – identifying current needs and priorities for Roma youth participation at national and European level

18:00 Reception

Self-organised dinner

Thursday 25 January

09:30 Opening of the meeting and review of the previous day

10:00 Roadmap to implementation of the CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma youth participation – possible contributions and roles of different stakeholders

11:30 Break

12:00 Mapping opportunities, challenges and support measures for the implementation of the roadmap

13:00 Lunch

14:30 Creating synergies – sharing and exchange about possible next steps: policy action, joint projects and upcoming activities in 2024

16:00 Break

16:30 Conclusions and evaluation

17:00 Closing of the meeting

Self-organised dinner

Friday 26 January

Departure of participants

Consultative Meeting

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ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

REGISTRATION FORM

Name	
Postal address	
Country of residence	
Email address	
Mobile phone number	
Organisation/s	
Specific needs (dietary, mobility, accommodation...)	
<i>Optional:</i> proposals for the programme of the meeting	
Your expectations for the meeting	
Do you need a visa to France?	
Any additional information	
Thank you for returning this form by email to eyc.programme@coe.int before 15 December 2023	