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**Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller<sup>1</sup> Civil Society**

**4<sup>th</sup> meeting, Strasbourg, 18-19 September 2017**

**FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT**

**Room G01, Agora Building**

**AGENDA**

**Monday, 18 September 2017**

**08.45 - 09.00** Registration of participants

**09.00-9.30**

**Welcome and Opening Addresses**

Chair: **Mr Branko Sočanac**, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)

**Ambassador Božidarka Krunić**, Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the Council of Europe, Chair of the Committee of Ministers' Rapporteur Group on Social and Health Questions (GR-SOC)

**Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković**, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

**Ms Marie-Dominique Dreysse**, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg in charge of territorial social action (TBC)

**09.30 – 11.00**

**PLENARY SESSION 1: Tackling Education, Training and Employment Issues for Roma Youth**

Moderator: **Mr Branko Sočanac**, Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)

***Plenary Session Outcomes:** For Roma who are able to access educational opportunities, the consequences can be life changing, but how might broader change facilitate and extend the chances for all Roma youth? The session aims to initiate discussion of the barriers and good practices for Roma educational, social and economic inclusion.*

<sup>1</sup> The term "Roma and Travellers" is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians (Egyptians and Ashkali); c) Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term "Gens du voyage", as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Introduction: [Roma Education and Employment- Alternatives to Poverty and Exclusion](#)”, by **Mr Andrew Ryder**, Associate Professor, the Corvinus University of Budapest

[Tackling early leaving from education and training among Roma youth: VET tools and policies](#) by **Ms Irene Psifidou**, Expert, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop)

The European Commission's midterm review of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and next steps by **Ms Gesa Böckermann**, Policy Officer, DG Justice and Consumers, Non-discrimination policies and Roma Coordination, European Commission

Roma youth - Transition to work by **Mr Stefan Manevski**, Youth Department, Council of Europe

**11.00 – 11.30**

*Tea/coffee break*

**11.30 – 13.00**

**Parallel Working groups I (WG)**

*Topics to be discussed:*  
*Profiles of early leavers and learners at risk of early leaving;*  
*Drop-outs factors, incl. early marriages;*  
*Pull and push factors of the labour market;*  
*VET related factors leading to early leaving or lack of involvement in VET;*  
*Campaigns related to compulsory education, fighting drop-outs and improving access to employment;*

**Working Group Outcomes:** *Participants will examine in small working groups the barriers for Roma educational success and access to quality employment and interpret them into strategies of intervention within their working organisations.*

**WG 1: (Room G01)**

How to ensure compulsory and post compulsory educational completion: Understanding the barriers and examining the ways to reduce drop-out rates & Sustaining maximum educational participation and outcomes.

Facilitator: **Ms Tatjana Andjelić**, Vice-Chair of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)

Rapporteur : (TBC)

Roma with Studies- Roma with Future – Awareness-raising campaign for Roma Youth education continuation, by **Mr Gonzalo Montaña**, Officer of the International Department, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Spain

Supporting a culture of inclusion in and through education, by **Ms Margareta Mamaliga**, Senior Programme Officer, Council of Europe Education Department

Short Presentations by participating NGOs and Experts:

- Youth Empowerment, by **Ms Shpresa Spahiu**, Help for Children (NPF), Albania
- Roma Youth Empowerment through urban community centres, by **Ms Elena Mavromichali**, Programme Coordinator, Solidarity Now, Greece
- Roma children and youth education in Pilsen by Ms Klára Jedličková, Czech Republic

## WG 2: ( Room G06)

Experiences in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Employment: Improving Roma Youth access to quality employment.

Facilitator: **Mr Ján Hero**, Member of the Bureau of the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)

Rapporteur : (TBC)

Roma Youth and Vocational Education. Experiences from the PAL Project, by **Mr Valère Awouters**, Project Manager of PAL, University College Leuven-Limburg (UCLL) Belgium

Short Presentations by participating NGOs and Experts

- Professional skilling for those without diplomas, by **Ms Sonja Barbul**, Head of the Executive Board, Minority Rights Centre, Serbia
- Secondary Education, VET and transition to the labour market, by **Mr Marius Taba**, Lecturer, Corvinus University Budapest and ELTE University, Hungary
- Community members perspectives on the implementation of educational policies in the UK, by **Ms Lisa Smith**, Youth Editor, Travellers Times, United Kingdom

13.00 – 14.30

Lunch break

14.30 – 16.00

*Topics to be discussed:*

*Linking VET to the labour market- career paths; Labour market opportunities;*

*Job fairs;*

*Recognition of professional skills for those without diploma;*

*Apprenticeships;*

*Social entrepreneurship;*

*Skills development and the school to work transition.*

## PLENARY SESSION 2: The challenge: Improving Access of Roma and Traveller youth to the labour market

Moderator: **Ms Aurora Ailincai**, Head of the Strategic Partnerships Unit of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRS) for Roma Issues, Council of Europe

**Plenary Session Outcomes:** *Even when securing educational attainment and skills related competencies, Roma still face direct and indirect discrimination in the labour market in either accessing employment or in sustaining employability. The session will examine ways of sustaining Roma youth employability and increase awareness of multiskilling and career path alternatives.*

Challenges to Roma Youth. Decent work opportunities. Labour market inclusion for Roma Youth, by **Ms Mariko Ouchi**, Senior Specialist, Conditions of Work and Gender Employment Equality, International Labour Organisation (ILO), Budapest Office, Hungary

Roma Entrepreneurship: A possible solution to labour market discrimination and exclusion, by **Mr Ivan Ivanov**, Executive Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO), Belgium

Facilitating Transition from Education to Employment by Positive Action by **Dr. Wolfram Bechtel**, Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI)

Short Presentations by participating NGOs and Experts

- “Youth Guarantee”: How successful is the programme in reaching and creating meaningful opportunities for young Roma, by **Ms Christine Sudbrock**, Programme and Communication Manager, European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), Belgium

16.00 – 16.30

Tea/coffee break

16.30 – 18.00

*Topics to be discussed: Active labour market policies and employment services; Examples from member States; Best practices from participants; Future directives, initiatives, priorities.*

### PLENARY SESSION 3 : Initiatives for Roma Youth labour market insertion

Moderator: **Ms Malgorzata Rozycka**, Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues, Council of Europe

**Plenary Session Outcomes:** *Active labour market policies should go beyond mere short-term reinsertion in the work place for Roma. What is required are proven initiatives that will promote integration in the primary labour market with identified long term support. Participants in the session will discuss ways of interpreting these best practices into sustainable Roma youth and employment policy implementation.*

Short Presentations by participating NGOs and Experts

Roma Youth Social Entrepreneurship initiatives, by **Mr Štefan Simončič**, President of the Association EPEKA, Slovenia

Mission Roms, by **Ms H el ene Grosjean**, Policy Officer, City of Strasbourg

Roma Youth Internships, by **Ms Szilvia Szenasi**, Chief Operating Officer, UCCU Roma Informal Educational Foundation, Hungary

Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI) by **Mr Albert Memeti**, Project Manager, Romania

18.00

End of the First Working Day

09.00 - 09.45

**PLENARY SESSION 4: Roma Youth support initiatives for active community participation and labour market insertion**

Moderator: **Mr Thorsten Afflerbach**, Head of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues, Council of Europe

Roma-related activities of the Council of Europe Development Bank, by **Mr Luca Schio**, Director of Department, International Cooperation & Partnerships, Directorate for European Cooperation & Strategy, Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

EU support to overcome barriers to employment, by **Mr Dominique Bé**, Disability & Inclusion, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

ROMACT and Local Government Engagement, by **Ms Ana Oprisan**, Programme Manager Strategic Partnership Unit (SPU) of the SRSG Roma Support Team, Council of Europe

09.45 -11.00

**Parallel Working groups II: Planning for future cooperation activities**

**WG 3: (Room G01) How to initiate a community change?**

Facilitator: **Ms Chrisoula Arcoudis**, Member of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues  
Rapporteur : (TBC)

Bringing people together to identify common problems or goals, mobilize resources, and implement strategies to reach identified goals is fundamental to any initiative of change

Guiding questions:

- What does it mean to organise strategies for community change?
- What are effective strategies in community organisation change?
- Who should be involved?

**WG 4: (Room G06) Advocacy for Roma and Traveller Youth and labour market opportunities**

Facilitator: **Mr Robert Rustem**, Member of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues  
Rapporteur : (TBC)

Advocacy is about motivating and mobilizing the community for social change by drawing attention to the target issue and by directing stakeholders and decision-makers to a solution.

Guiding questions:

- What are the issues to be prioritised?
- Who should be mobilised?
- How to develop an advocacy plan?

**Working Group Outcomes:** *Promoting, disseminating information and sustaining continual dialogue of the issues are key features of advocacy. Participants will discuss in working groups, ways of advocating Roma youth and employment issues within their organization priorities and within national agendas on Roma inclusion.*

11.00 -11.30

Tea/coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

**PLENARY SESSION 5: Taking stock of issues discussed during the 4<sup>th</sup> Dialogue Meeting: Preliminary Conclusions and Commitments**

Moderator: **Mr Thorsten Afflerbach**, Head of the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) for Roma Issues, Council of Europe

- Presentations from the Rapporteurs of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dialogue Meeting
- Discussion

**Outcomes:** *Understanding the magnitude of the issues and interpreting them into concrete priorities is fundamental in any action based agenda. Participants will take stock of issues discussed during the meeting and identify key action priorities for further development in the area of Roma youth and employment. The success of advocacy lies within the strength of the issue and the cohesion of the voice. The session has the aim of interpreting the outcomes of the Dialogue meeting into a concerted effort of the participants to instigate interest and to mobilise further synergies between the Council of Europe, European Commission, International Labour Organisation (ILO), European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), Eurofound, and Civil Society.*

13.00

End of the meeting