



STEERING COMMITTEE FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPE (CDCPP)

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Strasbourg, 7 May 2015

4th meeting
Strasbourg, 1-3 June 2015

RESULTS FROM THE JOINT PROGRAMME EUROPEAN ACADEMIC NETWORK ON ROMANI STUDIES (EANRS), 2011-2015

DOCUMENT FOR DECISION

Item 5.1 of the draft Agenda

The Committee is invited to:

- hear a presentation of the main results of the Joint Programme European Academic Network on Romani Studies;
- discuss how member States could make use of the projects' results in their daily policy-making and policy advisory work as well as for action and research on Roma issues.

European Academic Network on Romani Studies (EANRS) Joint Programme (2011-2015)

Project objective and expected results

Project Objective:

Following an initiative by the European Commission DG/EAC, the JP EANRS was set up in 2011 to

- facilitate intercultural dialogue and support efforts towards the social inclusion of the European Roma,
- offer an interface between academic researchers and political decision makers, both at European and at national level, in order to allow for the implementation of better conceived policy initiatives facilitating the social inclusion of the Roma population based on reliable evidence.

Expected results:

Accordingly, the expected results are to

- facilitate contacts and exchanges between the academic community and policy making bodies, such as National Ministries of Education, Culture and Social Affairs of the European Union and the Council of Europe Member States, international organisations, and other transnational actors in policy making and development,
- connect researchers in the field of Romani studies and make their contributions available to the wider public - thus giving more visibility to existing key research,
- improve existing resources by mapping relevant research in the field of Romani studies and developing a scientifically reliable knowledge database on Roma.

Results of the JP EANRS

Accountable Results / facts and figures

- **Database of expertise in Romani Studies**
 - including 405 members
 - in 41 countries and 183 cities worldwide
 - database searchable by academic specialisations, most notably in Anthropology, Sociology, History, Political Science, Linguistics, Legal Studies / Human Rights but also many other disciplines of Humanities and Social Sciences.
 - gender balanced
 - highly qualified academics both young and senior

- **7 communication and visibility tools** developed to promote the Network and allow for effective communication of its members:
 - Romani Studies website (<http://romanistudies.eu>)
 - Council of Europe web hub (www.coe.int/romastudies)
 - Yahoo email group (romani_studies_network@yahoo.com)
 - Facebook page (www.facebook.com/romanistudies.eu) with more than 1,400 followers
 - Network blog
 - European Academic Network on Romani Studies brochure
 - EANRS Newsletter
- **20 seminars, workshops and meetings** organised to promote Romani Studies and bridge the gap between academia and policy making:
 - 4 research seminars in 2013
 - 4 meetings of Network members with National Contact Points (NCP) in Italy, UK and Sweden/Finland
 - 12 workshops and thematic meetings organised within the framework of a call for proposals for events bridging the gap between research and policy making
- **1 Summer school** organised in 2012 with 53 participants from 16 countries all over the world.
- **61 Early Career researchers' grants and internships** awarded to support young scholars in the field of Romani Studies

The Initial Impact of the Network on Policy Processes

- The Network offered visibility to the contribution of the Academic Community to Roma related issues within International Organizations, i.e. the European Commission and the Council of Europe; the Network facilitated members' participation in consultation meetings with organisations such as the World Bank, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, UNESCO, and the UN-OHCHR;
- The European Commission, DG Justice, regularly invited the Network to events organised on Roma related policies (consultation meetings with the civil society, Roma Platform, Roma Summit etc.) and the Network held meetings with National Roma Contact Points. Members of the Network are regularly invited to contribute to the DG Justice Progress Report on the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies (e.g. the 2012 report at: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/com_2013_454_en.pdf on page 4 and 9 -notes 11 and 20);

- Contributions from the Network are regularly invited by different entities from within the CoE such as ECRI, the Youth Department, ERTF, and outside the CoE such as the Assembly of European Regions. A delegation of the Scientific Committee attended the 7th Meeting of the CAHROM at the Council of Europe in May 2014 and presented the Networks tools that are available to the manifold Council of Europe initiatives overseen by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma issues. The Networks' expertise may also benefit new European initiatives such as a European Roma Institute;
- A final showcase event on the EANRS took place on 22 April 2015 at the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg.
(<http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/romastudies/2015/OJ-8thmeetingRAN-2204.pdf>). Debates among policy makers and researchers underlined the complexity of the interaction between policy and research and the key importance of the factor "political will" when it comes to inclusive policies and empowerment of Roma in Europe;
- It is expected that the Network consolidates its tools and involvement in policy processes also following the formal conclusion of its terms as a Joint Programme between the European Union and the Council of Europe on 31 May 2015. A "Legacy Group" comprising four members of the EANRS last Scientific Committee will follow-up developments and ensure the maintenance of the project website hosted on the University of Manchester server while the domain name (<http://romanistudies.eu>) remains the property of the Council of Europe. The website contains the unique database of Roma-related expertise.