

## Statement on the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

Miranda RIRA (Albania, SOC), former Congress spokesperson on Roma, issued a statement on 2 August 2019, on the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. She stressed that the memory of the persecution suffered by Roma in the past serves as a reminder of the urgent need to put an end to anti-Gypsism today, which Roma and Travellers continue to be subjected to in many European countries.

## Dosta! Prize

Every two years, the Congress Dosta! Prize is awarded to municipalities from Council of Europe member states which have implemented initiatives to integrate Roma within their borders on a long-term basis.

Selection of candidates for the Prize 2019 is ongoing. The prize, open to local authorities from Council of Europe member states who have run projects in 2017 and 2018 targeting Roma and/or Travellers, whether they be nationals or more recent migrants, will be given to three projects at the 38<sup>th</sup> Congress plenary session in March 2020.

## D. EUROPEAN LOCAL DEMOCRACY WEEK (ELDW)



Presentation of the ELDW by the Secretary General of the Congress, Andreas KIEFER at the XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum on 'Building Inclusive, Open and Transparent Societies' in Odessa, 19 June 2019

Acting on the proposals of the ELDW national coordinators, the Bureau of the Congress, at its meeting on 4 April 2019, approved the theme 'Local democracy: building trust' as the biennial theme for 2019-2020. To date, some sixty partners from nearly 20 countries have participated in the ELDW under this theme.

The ELDW was presented in Odessa, Ukraine, as part of the XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum 'Building Inclusive, Open and Transparent Societies', organised jointly with the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) and international partners from the United States and Canada, from 18 to 20 June 2019. The ELDW stand was an opportunity to introduce the initiative to the more than 400 mayors from all regions of Ukraine, some of whom had the opportunity to pre-register with the ELDW.

On 24 September, the ELDW was also presented by Thematic Spokesperson Bryony RUDKIN at a round table on local democracy and equal participation, as part of the conference on 'The role of the Congress of the Council of Europe in promoting local democracy in Georgia', co-organised with the Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) in Tbilisi. The President of the Chamber of Local Authorities, Xavier CADORET also contributed to this event.