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Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller¹ Civil Society

FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT

4th meeting, Strasbourg, 18-19 September 2017
Room G04, Agora Building

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday, 18 September 2017

08.45 - 09.00 Registration of participants

09.00-10.00

Welcome and introduction to the topic

Chair: 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) (TBC)

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

[Young people not in employment, education or training](#) (NEETs): [characteristics, costs and policy responses in Europe](#) by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (TBC)

The situation of Roma youth in the labour market by the Council of Europe Youth Department and the Support Team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues (TBC)

10.00 – 10.30

PLENARY SESSION 1 : Tackling early Education leaving "A strive for qualifications"

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 economic and educational inclusion.

¹ The terms "Roma and Travellers" are 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.

	Introduction presentation : “Roma Education and Employment- Alternatives to Poverty and Exclusion” (TBC) followed by a discussion
10.30 – 11.00	Tea/coffee break
11.00 – 13.00	<p>Working groups I (WG)</p> <p>WG 1: How to ensure compulsory and post compulsory educational completion – Ways to reduce drop-out rates and sustain maximum educational participation and outcomes.</p> <p>WG 2: Experiences in Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Second chance schools - How to safeguard educational dropouts.</p> <p><i>Working Group Outcomes: Participants will examine in small working groups the barriers for Roma educational success and interpret them into strategies of intervention within their working organisations.</i></p>
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 – 16.00	<p>PLENARY SESSION 2 : The challenge: Improving Access of Roma and Travellers to employment</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>
16.00 – 16.30	Tea/coffee break
16.30 – 18.00	<p>PLENARY SESSION 3 : From best practices to policy development for Roma and Travellers a vice versa</p> <p><i>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 in sustainable Roma youth and employment policy implementation.</i></p>
18.00	End of the First Working Day

Tuesday, 19 September 2017

09.00 - 10.00

PLENARY SESSION 4: Taking stock of issues discussed during the first working day

Plenary Session 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 first day of the working agenda and identify key action priorities for further development in the area of Roma youth and employment.

10.00-11.30

Working groups II: Planning for future cooperation activities

WG 1: How to initiate a community change?

WG 2: Advocacy for Roma and Traveller Youth and labour market opportunities

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.

11.30-12.00

Tea/coffee break

12.00 – 13.00

PLENARY SESSION 5: Report from Working Groups & Conclusions

Plenary Session Outcomes: 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 mobilise actions.

13.00

End of the meeting