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## **Training workshop on developing responses of young people to antigypsyism and hate speech in Italy**

27-30 November 2018

Rome, Italy



### **Call for participants**

**(Deadline for applying: 7 November 2018)**

## Background

The Roma Youth Action Plan (hereafter [RYAP](#)) is a project of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe which aims to support the participation and inclusion of Roma<sup>1</sup> youth across Europe. Initiated in 2011, the project is a response of the Council of Europe to the challenges faced by many Roma young people in Europe, particularly in relation to empowerment, participation in policy and decision-making processes and structures, and to the multiple realities of discrimination they are confronted. The project gives priority to human rights and intercultural dialogue as responses to discrimination and antigypsyism and relies on the principle of double-mainstreaming and youth participation to support the efforts of young Roma in reaching their full potential as citizens and as young people.

Discrimination is among the most common forms of human rights violations and abuse. When looking at the Roma population, discrimination is deeply rooted and a common reality all over Europe. Nevertheless, Italian Roma communities are facing complex set of challenges to their social, economic and political integration in mainstream society due to increased number of hate speech, evictions, persistent racists and discriminatory practices hindering any potential for equality and social integration of the community. Roma young people consist large proportion of the Roma community and are treated less favourable than other people who are in in similar situation, only because they belong to a certain group or category of people.

The Council of Europe, UNAR and Roma ONLUS in 2017 organised a meeting with young people to discuss and learn about the deeply rooted racism and hate speech against Roma communities in the Italian context. The event was a good venue to discuss the current challenges and needs among different Romani communities across Italy. Some of the main challenges identified are: Roma youth face abrupt difficulties in their transition from teenage-hood to adulthood, have difficulties in access to quality education and housing services and are frequently exposed to structural discrimination which hinders their access to basic human rights. Living conditions among Roma youth also play a key role, youth living in camps are confronted with a different and very often harsher conditions and obstacles compared to peers living in flats and non-segregated areas. Antigypsyism and violent hate speech coupled with lack of adequate Roma representation have an enormous impact on the lives of many young Roma in relation to their social and economic integration in the society.

The training workshop will follow-up on conclusions from the seminar in 2017 particularly in relation to further capacity building and developing tangible actions to counter the high level of antigypsyism and discrimination prevailing in the society. The event is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnership with National Office Against Discrimination (UNAR) and Roma ONLUS from Italy.

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<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.

## The training workshop

The workshop will aim develop participants understanding and competences about structural discrimination, antigypsyism and hate speech against Roma young people in Italy and will help to generate appropriate responses using the available human rights and institutional framework.

The specific objectives of the training workshop are:

- To develop participants understanding about the implications of structural discrimination, antigypsyism and hate speech against Roma young people in Italy
- To develop concrete actions as a response to discrimination, antigypsyism and hate speech against Roma young people
- To raise awareness about Roma culture, history and language among participants
- To create an effective advocacy strategy to promote and protect human rights of young Roma communities
- To support networking, partnerships and dialogue among relevant stakeholders and the Roma communities
- To support Roma youth self-organisation and participation in countering mainstream stereotypes and narratives of the Roma communities.

Educational support – on the basis of the conclusions and ideas developed during the workshop the organizers and trainers will support participants in initiating their activities through educational advice. The support will be non-financial and in the form of advice, support in methodology development, providing guidance, etc. with the intention to help participants operationalize on the ideas developed during the workshop.

**Methodology of the training workshop** – the event will provide space for participants to learn about the antigypsyism, discrimination and hate speech, identify challenges and opportunities within the national and local Italian context and develop ideas for actions against discrimination and for human rights and equality. Concepts and activities related to human rights, human rights education, antigypsyism and hate speech, will be discussed and reflect upon based on experiential learning.

## Profile of participants

The training workshop is designed for young people, youth leaders, activists, educators and other working with Roma communities who are:

- Connected with the Roma communities in Italy
- Involved or interested to work and support young Roma people
- Supported by a youth or community organisation committed to organise or support follow-up activities in combating antigypsyism, discrimination and hate speech at the national, regional or local level
- Be motivated to learn, network and share with other event participants
- Able to express themselves in Italian. Knowledge of English and Romany is considered an asset
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions are possible)
- Residents of Italy.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfill the above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

### **Practical and financial information**

The training workshop is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnerships with UNAR and Roma ONLUS from Italy.

#### **Working language**

The seminar will be held in Italian.

#### **Travel and accommodation**

The travel, accommodation and meals related to participants' participation at the workshop will be covered by the organizers of the event.

#### **Dates**

The programme of the workshop will be held during 27-30 November in Rome, Italy.

Selected participants must arrive at the seminar venue on the 27<sup>th</sup> November before 13:00 and leave on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in the afternoon.

#### **How to apply**

**Interested candidates must send their application form in word (attached) filled in by email to [piattaformarsc@unar.it](mailto:piattaformarsc@unar.it) by 7 November, midday CET.**

For more information about the training workshop contact Denis Durmish (in English) at [denis.durmish@coe.int](mailto:denis.durmish@coe.int) and [piattaformarsc@unar.it](mailto:piattaformarsc@unar.it) (in Italian).