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Budapest, 12 september 2017

**Training course on Roma youth
participation and self-organisation
in Croatia**

27-29 November 2017

Zagreb, Croatia



Call for participants

Deadline for applications: 3 November 2017

The Roma Youth Action Plan

The Roma Youth Action Plan (hereafter [RYAP](#)) is a project by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe which aims to support the participation and inclusion of Roma youth across Europe. Initiated in 2011, the project is a response of the Council of Europe to the challenges faced by Roma¹ 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.

Participation and self-organisation of young people are important processes to promote inclusion and equality; it is also a way to promote autonomy and responsibility of young people. Youth participation includes young people being included and involved in decision making at all levels and people to take responsibilities, face challenges and to become active in terms of realising their own needs and aspirations. Roma youth participation includes also the development of youth-led organisations (including Roma youth organisations), but it goes beyond that and embraces nowadays many forms of individual and collective youth participation, including online participation. Youth participation is also a concept central to the Council of Europe youth policy whose aims is to provide young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

Roma communities living in Croatia are relatively small in size as compared to the general population; nevertheless, they are confronted with wide challenges to their social and economic integration and participation. Roma have been among the most discriminated groups in the country facing significant negative attitudes which consequently results and contributes to the low level of employment, unequal access to education, lack of access to health and other social services. The Roma population in Croatia is much younger than the general population with an average of 21.8 years compared with 41.8 years among the total population². More than half of the Roma are aged between 0 and 19 years all as compared to 21 percent of the total population. Roma communities have demonstrated a growing interest for a political representation in the past years by greatly supporting the representative of the national minorities in the national parliament to be of Roma origin. However, the participation of young Roma at national and local level process and structures still remains to be very low, almost inexistent.

Capacity-building and the development of competencies of young Roma, organisations and networks have been a central part of the Youth Department and the RYAP project and is a way of supporting the autonomy and participation of Roma youth in areas of their concern. The organisation of the training course will directly aim to support the visibility and self-organisation of Roma youth in Croatia at various levels. The training course is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnership with Roma Youth NGO from Brodski-Posavske region of Croatia.

¹ 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.

² Source: 2011 Census.

The training course

The training course aims to raise participant's skills and competences to create actions and develop opportunities for self-organisation and participation of young Roma people at all levels in Croatia by identifying policy and programme opportunities within Roma and youth policies and programmes that will consequently accelerate the social and economic development of young Roma people.

The training course will bring together 25 young people.

The specific objectives of the training course are:

- To explore the meaning and understand the value of youth participation and its different forms
- To support the mutual learning and networking among participants and to support the development of Roma youth led structures and projects
- To identify challenges, analyse barriers and develop sustainable plan for better visibility and organisation of Roma young people that will consequently improve their access to social rights, particularly the rights to education and employment
- To support the mainstreaming of Roma youth issues into youth policies and programmes, and in Roma specific policies and programmes
- To promote the principles and values of the Council of Europe and the Roma Youth Action Plan in supporting and working with young people

Profile of participants

The training course is open to Roma and non Roma young people, activists, youth leaders, educators, youth workers representative of civil society organisations and all those interested to promote and support Roma youth participation.

Participants should:

- Be residents of Croatia
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years old (exceptions are possible)
- Connected with the Roma community
- Involved or interested to work with the Roma youth from Croatia
- Have a clear idea and are committed to organise follow-up activities in support of Roma youth participation and self-organisation of the communities
- Be interested to learn and network among participants

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

Particular conditions

The working language of the training course shall be Croatian. The travel expenses of participants, accommodation and meals will be covered by the organisers of the event.

Participants must arrive at the training venue on the 26 November in the afternoon and leave on 29th November during late afternoon.

How to apply

Interested candidates must send their application form in word (attached) filled in by email to Denis Durmish, denis.durmish@coe.int before 3 November, at 18:00 CET.

For more information about the training course, please contact: Denis Durmish, denis.durmish@coe.int