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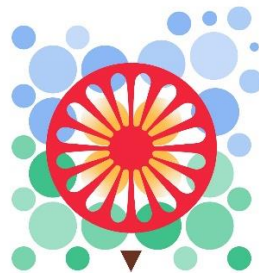
Strasbourg, 10 February 2022

ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER 2022

A seminar on Roma youth participation and empowerment
- on the occasion of the International Roma Day –

Seminar: 6-7-8 April 2022, European Youth Centre Strasbourg

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS



ERCIAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE



CONTEXT

The Youth Sector Strategy 2030 of the Council of Europe aims to create spaces for young people to live together in peaceful and inclusive societies, with special emphasis on allowing young people, including those experiencing any form of discrimination and exclusion, to benefit from opportunities that develop their commitment to and exercise of democratic citizenship. This aim is inter alia implemented by capacity building educational programmes of young multipliers (youth leaders and youth workers).

The Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) concludes that:

Despite many efforts and some progress made, there is still ample evidence showing that Roma and Travellers in Europe continue to suffer from widespread and persistent anti-Gypsyism, which is recognised as a specific form of racism fuelled by prejudice and stereotypes. In addition, Roma and Travellers remain victims of various forms of discrimination, including school segregation and a forced sedentary lifestyle, as well as hate speech and hate-motivated violence in many member States.

Deep concern about the rise of antigypsyism, anti-Roma rhetoric and violent attacks against Roma in Europe, as well as challenges related to racism and discrimination together with access to education, training and schooling was also expressed in the Youth Statement created on the occasion of April 8 - International Roma Day 2021 at the conference *Roma Youth Together* organised by the Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and in cooperation with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and in close association with Ternype, the European Roma Grass Roots Organisations Network, Phiren Amenca and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma.

The study on the results and impact of the Roma Youth Action Plan (2016-2019) has also recognised the importance of double mainstreaming focusing on one side on the inclusion of youth issues in Roma policies and programmes, and on the other side on the inclusion of Roma youth issues in youth policies and programmes. Such inclusion is indispensable to ensure inclusive policies, peaceful societies and to address the concerns of Roma youth. Moreover, to be effective and trustworthy, policies, including youth policy on Roma youth participation need to be based on the involvement of young people in their design and further implementation.

The involvement of Roma young people in all processes that impact their lives through multi-level support in engagement as active citizens were also made central in the Roma youth field by the preparation of the Committee of Ministers' Recommendation on Roma youth.

The Joint Council on Youth intends to further support the participation and inclusion of Roma young people in shaping policies and programmes which address them. The seminar Roma Youth Together 2022 remedies this by connecting stakeholders in the youth and human rights fields to the task of addressing persisting challenges to the participation of Roma young people in decision-making processes. It will have a special focus on as the capacity building of Roma youth and their involvement in setting thematic priorities and guidelines in the area of Roma youth participation in the present and future programming period.

In 2021, due to a pandemic, the activities with the participation of the Roma youth could not be held in person. Instead, an online conference *ROMA YOUTH: Together for Emancipation and Empowerment* was held with a high level of engagement of the partner organisations

working in the Roma youth participation field. After two years of ongoing restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic, young people have a deep longing to learn together, exchange challenges, and communicate in person after long months of virtual gathering, with no presential meetings.

ABOUT THE 2022 SEMINAR

The seminar *Roma Youth Together 2022* will bring together 30 young people who are youth leaders or youth workers in Roma and Travellers communities. The seminar will take place in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg on 6-8 April 2022. All participants are expected to attend in person, subject to the evolution of the covid-related protocols on travel and meetings. The seminar is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in cooperation with Phiren Amenca International, ERGO Network and the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims to re-connect Roma youth leaders with European youth policy processes and exchanges on strategies and priorities for youth empowerment and participation.

Its specific objectives are:

- to reconnect and share recent experiences and challenges that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic and their impact on Roma youth;
- to collect the input and feedback on the draft of the Recommendation on Roma youth participation including the thematic priorities in this field;
- to identify strategies for empowerment of Roma youth and Roma communities beyond the work on Roma youth participation;
- to connect young people to plan joint action to celebrate the International Roma Day;
- to engage participants in the preparation of the youth campaign on revitalising democracy, in particular on the theme of meaningful youth participation;
- to reconnect and to strengthen partnerships with European youth organisations and networks working in the field of Roma participation.

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the seminar will be based on the principles of human rights education, peer to peer learning, exchange of practices and dialogue among participants by using the participatory methods of learning, such as working groups and facilitated discussions. It will be structured in connection to the previous work done by the Council of Europe in the area of Roma youth participation.

The activity will ensure space to explore the wider perspectives on Roma youth participation and its challenges in connection to the themes such as democracy, non-discrimination, equality and meaningful youth participation.

The programme will be built on participants' experience, needs and inputs to the draft of the Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation.

There will be three main pillars of the programme:

1. **Reconnection:** aiming to build a safe space of working together and to map challenges faced by young Roma and translate them into priorities of action;

2. **Reflection:** putting together, needs, expectation and resources for strengthening Roma youth participation, notably about youth, human rights and inclusion policies;
3. **Action:** Celebrate International Roma Day and establishing working groups focussing on input on Recommendation and connection with the youth campaign.

Working language

The working language of the programme will be English. Participants must have a sufficient understanding of English to comprehend and complete the application form without assistance from another person and to take part fully and actively in the programme.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The seminar is designed for Roma young people, Roma youth leaders, trainers or youth workers in Roma communities, representatives of organisations and networks working with Roma communities from all across Europe, who are also:

- Motivated to share experiences and engage in dialogue and cooperation with other participants;
- Active within a Roma organisation or a (Roma) youth organisation;
- Motivated to participate in the seminar and contribute to its objectives;
- Motivated to engage in the working groups established as a follow-up of the seminar in cooperation with other participants of the seminar;
- Able to attend the whole seminar and all its programme elements;
- Able to work/communicate in English.

Priority will be given to participants under 30 years of age. The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the profile above, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

The training seminar will bring together 30 participants from state parties to the European Cultural Convention.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Travel expenses

Travel expenses and visa fees for accessing Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe. Only the participants who attend the entire training course can be reimbursed.

Accommodation

Board and lodging for the residential training course will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. The European Youth Centres are accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for any specific needs of participants in this respect. Please provide all the necessary information in your application form.

Enrolment fee

There is no enrolment fee for the seminar.

COVID protocol

A special COVID protocol will be shared with participants upon selection. This includes rules and recommendations for a safe stay in the European Youth Centre Strasbourg. All participants are expected to follow this protocol during the training course.

FURTHER INQUIRIES

For more information about the seminar and technical assistance with the application form uploaded at the Council of Europe Youth Department platform, please address: youthapplications@coe.int

PROCEDURE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Applications must be submitted **by Monday, 14 March 2022, 23:59 CET** by completing the online application form available at: <https://youthapplications.coe.int/Application-forms>.

Other training courses of the Youth Department

If you are interested in a training course in international youth work, but your profile does not fully correspond to the requirements of this activity, please note that the Youth Department of the Council of Europe also organises other study sessions, seminars and training courses with and for young people. For more details please consult our webpage www.coe.int/youth or contact one of the European Youth Centres.