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Strasbourg, 6 February 2023

ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER 2023

A seminar on Roma youth participation
and intersectional discrimination

at the occasion of the International Roma Day

Seminar: 4-5-6 April 2023, European Youth Centre Strasbourg



DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

ERIAN
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

 **Phiren Amenca**
ROMA-GADJE DIALOGUE THROUGH SERVICE

**ternype**
International Roma Youth Network



Youth participation and intersectional discrimination

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. It also emphasises the interest of the Council of Europe youth sector to develop a stronger profile regarding the inclusion of *inter alia* minorities and vulnerable groups, intersectionality, and inclusiveness across its programming.

The Council of Europe [Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion \(2020-2025\)](#) concurs in this priority by noting that:

Roma and Travellers, particularly women and youth encounter a variety of social barriers and prejudices that severely impede their capacity to effectively participate in public and political life. They are consequently largely absent from the local or national political arenas and decision-making processes affecting them. This invisibility undermines their potential to reverse embedded marginalisation and discrimination.

The Action Plan also recognises that there can be several – intersecting - grounds for discrimination at play in a given case and that unfortunately, neither the concept of multiple discrimination nor intersectionality have yet been integrated into legal remedies, policy making or data collection. In line with the [2010 Strasbourg Declaration on Roma](#), which highlights women's rights and gender equality, the Council of Europe remains sensitive to multiple discrimination and intersectionality as cross-cutting issues which will permeate all specific actions in a horizontal way.

In the field of youth work and youth policy, the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2016\)7](#) calls on the member states of the Council of Europe to address the discriminatory practices faced by young people, on the grounds laid out in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights or in any other form identified in case law of the European Court of Human Rights, with special attention to multifaceted identities and intersectionality of discrimination, including discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, age, disability, migration status, social and economic status.

In their [Youth Statement](#) issued on the occasion of 8 April 2021, the participants in the conference *Roma Youth Together* call on the Council of Europe member states to seek active dialogue with Roma youth organisations and to ensure lasting mechanisms of empowerment and participation of young Roma, which would take into account intersectional identities.

These calls result from the fact that many Roma youth continue experiencing multiple discrimination, or live in specific situations of vulnerability, with impact on their social inclusion and lower levels of participation in society. Inclusion mainstream strategies need to consider the intersectional analysis and the conception of equality which includes the need to facilitate the voice and participation of Roma youth.

Roma Youth Together – 8 April

The Council of Europe ([Youth Department](#) and [Roma and Travellers Team](#)) has been marking the International Roma Day by bringing together Roma youth organisations and young people at the European Youth Centre to put together their concerns and aspirations.

This took the form of an online conference in [2021](#), *Roma Youth: Together for Emancipation and Empowerment*, and a residential seminar in [2022](#) *Roma Youth Together - seminar on Roma youth participation and empowerment*.

In 2023 this will continue by focusing on youth participation and, especially, the consequences of intersectional discrimination on, notably, Roma girls and women, young people, Roma LGBT and Roma migrants. As in previous years, the activity will be co-organised with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture ([ERIAN](#)), [TernYpe](#), the European Roma Grassroots Organisations ([ERGO](#)) Network and [Phiren Amenca](#).

The seminar *Roma Youth Together 2023* will bring together young people who are youth leaders or youth workers in Roma and Travellers communities and organizations. The seminar will take place in the [European Youth Centre in Strasbourg](#), France, from 4 to 6 April 2023.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims at connecting Roma youth leaders with the Council of Europe European policy processes in view of addressing intersectional discrimination as part of strategies for empowerment and youth participation.

Its specific objectives are:

- to share recent experiences, concerns and conflicts affecting Roma youth with a focus on intersectional discrimination, its impact on meaningful youth participation and develop a common understanding of the causes and consequences it has on young people;
- to identify strategies and practices for the empowerment of Roma youth, Roma communities and Roma civil society, taking into account the intersectional approach to discrimination;
- to connect participants with the Council of Europe's work in the field of meaningful Roma youth participation;
- to celebrate International Roma Day with a perspective of Roma young people and with visibility given to their work in the field of combatting intersectional discrimination;
- 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.

There will be three main pillars of the programme:

1. **Connection:** discussing challenges faced by young Roma and the related approaches of the Council of Europe and priorities of Roma youth organisations;
2. **Reflection:** putting together, needs, expectation and resources for strengthening meaningful Roma youth participation, notably in relation to youth, human rights and inclusion policies;
3. **Action:** celebrating the International Roma Day and establishing working groups focussing on strategies to address intersectional discrimination and connection with youth policies and programmes.

Working language

The working languages of the programme will be English and Romany. Participants must have sufficient understanding of English or Romany in order to fully and actively take part in the programme.

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

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

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

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.

FINANCIAL AND PRACTICAL CONDITIONS

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 and meals

Board and lodging for the seminar will be provided and paid for by the Council of Europe at the European Youth Centre. The European Youth Centres is 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.

FURTHER INQUIRIES

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

PROCEDURE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Applications must be submitted **by Wednesday, 8 March 2023, 23:59 CET** by completing the online application form available at: <https://youthapplications.coe.int>

Other activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

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.