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ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER 2025

confidence 🌸 creation 🌸 celebration

A seminar on confidence and pride for Roma youth participation on the occasion of the celebration of the International Roma Day

5-8 April 2025

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg



CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Deadline: **17 February 2025**



BACKGROUND

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.

In their [Youth Statement](#) issued on the occasion of 8 April 2021, the participants in the first 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. 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.

On 5 April 2023, the Committee of Ministers adopted the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma Youth Participation](#), urging member states of the Council of Europe to prioritise the substantive, fair, and systematic involvement of young Roma individuals in various societal aspects and decision-making processes. The recommendation emphasises the need to integrate the expressed needs and priorities of young Roma people into all relevant policies and programs, assess existing policies for potential redesigning to enhance Roma youth participation, combat structural anti-Roma racism, ensure the full realisation of fundamental human rights for young Roma, support Roma youth-led organisations and initiatives, and more.

The Recommendation was adopted because young Roma people face systematic discrimination in their access to social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights, and that structural racism negatively impacts Roma youth's participation in civic and political processes and structures, self-esteem, pride and well-being, their transition to adulthood, their trust in the fairness of institutions, and their readiness to embrace their roots and cultures.

ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER – 8 APRIL

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

In 2025 this will continue by focusing on youth participation and empowerment of Roma youth, including Roma girls and women, young Roma LGBTI and Roma migrants. As in previous years, the activity will be co-organised with the International Roma Youth Network - [TernYpe](#) and the European Roma Grassroots Organisations ([ERGO](#)) Network and [Phiren Amenca](#).

The seminar Roma Youth Together 2025 will bring together young people who are youth leaders and/or youth workers in Roma and Travellers communities and organisations across Europe. The seminar will be part of the **OPRE! Roma Month: Standing Up for Dignity and Rights**, organised by the Roma and Travellers Division.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Roma Youth Together 2025 seminar should highlight the contemporary contributions of Roma youth in Europe, emphasising Roma pride, action, and resistance.

The seminar aims at strengthening the confidence of Roma youth leaders from across Europe by celebrating the sense of Roma identity and belonging and developing their skills as agents of change on the International Roma Day. Its specific objectives are:

1. to share experiences and realities of Roma youth across Europe, especially in relation to meaningful youth participation;
2. to empower Roma youth and Roma civil society to act as agents of change and multipliers in their communities;
3. to support participants' potential for leadership, advocacy and action for human rights and the fight against antigypsyism;
4. to associate young Roma with the Council of Europe's work in the field of Roma youth participation, namely in the light of the 75th anniversary of the European Convention of Human Rights;
5. to celebrate the International Roma Day with Roma youth as front-runners in shaping it;
6. to strengthen the sense of Roma youth community and connect with European youth organisations and networks in the field of Roma participation.

PROGRAMME AND METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the seminar will be based on the principles of human rights education particularly to address antigypsyism, peer to peer learning, exchange of practices and dialogue among participants by using the participatory methods of learning, such as working groups, creative workshops 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 emphasising the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4](#) and its friendly-for Roma youth version.

Specific of the 2025 event is the focus on celebration of **creativity, co-creation** and **expression** as a form of celebrating the International Roma Day. There will be three main and interconnected phases of the programme:

1. **Sharing:** discussing achievements and good practices from the Roma youth communities across Europe and the related approaches of the Council of Europe and priorities of Roma youth organisations which support Roma youth participation.
2. **Creating:** putting together resources, skills, and knowledge to co-create narratives and content that promote Roma identity, heritage, and culture, and establishing working groups focussing on strategies to address anti-discrimination online and offline, advocacy and leadership.
3. **Celebrating:** preparing and partaking in the programme for the celebration of the International Roma Day.

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 across Europe. Participants should also be:

- Aged between 18 and 30;
- Motivated to meet and develop cooperation with other Roma youth;
- Active within a Roma organisation or a (Roma) youth organisation or community or informal group;
- Committed to act as multipliers for empowerment of Roma youth;
- Motivated to share experiences and engage in dialogue and cooperation with other participants in 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 who have not attended previous editions of Roma Youth Together seminars or similar activities of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe (and partners) welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the above-mentioned competences profile, 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 travelling to Strasbourg will be reimbursed according to the rules of the Council of Europe; the Council of Europe can also provide pre-paid tickets. Only the participants who attend the entire seminar will 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 in Strasbourg. The venue is accessible to people with disabilities and can take measures to accommodate for specific needs of participants in this respect.

Working languages

The main working language of the programme will be English with the possibility for usage of Romany if needed.

FURTHER INQUIRIES

For more information 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 APPLYING FOR PARTICIPATION

Applications must be submitted by **Monday, 17 February 2025**, 23:59 CET by completing the online application form available at: <https://youthapplications.coe.int>.

Interested in other activities of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe?...

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe 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 the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg or Budapest.