



DDP-YD/ETD (2020)83rev

Strasbourg, 9 June 2020



## **Task Force**

### **ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION**

**Role and purpose of the Task Force**  
**Agenda of the first meeting**

**18-19 June 2020**

<https://bluejeans.com/761641766>

#### **Background**

The Roma Youth Action Plan (hereafter [RYAP](#)) was a project of the Council of Europe to respond to the challenges faced by Roma young people in Europe. Initiated in 2011, the RYAP was developed on the basis on the recommendations from the [first Roma Youth Conference](#) organised in September 2011. A [second Roma Youth Conference](#) was organised October 2015 to revise the content and orientations of the future project, particularly for the period beyond 2015. In March 2016, the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) adopted the [Guidelines for the Implementation of the Roma Youth Action Plan 2016-2020](#). These guidelines provided the strategic framework, priorities and main approaches for the implementation of the RYAP for the period of 2016-2020.

The Council Europe commissioned in 2019 a [study about the results achieved and the impact of the RYAP \(2016-2019\)](#) at national and European level. The conclusions of the study were reviewed and complemented during the seminar [Roma Youth Participation: What Now?](#) And were submitted to the CMJ

### ***Conclusions and recommendations***

1. The RYAP set an example in inclusion of Roma youth in the development of interventions and actions in the Council of Europe. In the period of restructuring CAHROM, it would be essential to secure that the new committee on Roma and Travellers keeps a Rapporteur on Youth issues, as well as, that the CMJ continues to have a rapporteur on Roma inclusion.
2. Human Rights Education training courses based on *Mirrors*, as well as *Dikh he na Bister* activities should be promoted as approaches for capacity building in identity, history, access to rights and other related topics. These courses, based on the needs and input from the Roma young people, should seek to involve Roma trainers and become replicable by Roma youth organisations to the extent possible.
3. Further project management and networking programmes are needed to increase the capacity of Roma youth organisations to develop and implement their own projects and to build lasting horizontal and vertical networks at local, national and European levels.
4. Education and information resources should be further made available in user-friendly language and terminology, taking into account the interest and experiences of Roma young people.
5. For the upcoming programme of the youth sector, the Roma Youth Participation activities should have clear and specific monitoring and evaluation indicators that can be agreed and followed by all the relevant partners.
6. It is crucial for the Council of Europe to consolidate their experiences from the RYAP with a new policy standard in the form of a Committee of Ministers recommendation on Roma youth participation. This standard should reflect the experiences from the double mainstreaming approach, used in the RYAP, and provide Member States with clearer guidelines to support Roma youth participation.
7. The Youth Department should maintain its focus on Roma youth participation activities. This should be not so much in the form of an action plan, but rather a continuing internal programme focus that will ensure that Roma youth participation and empowerment.
8. It is crucial to increase the number of human rights education training, and human rights and anti-racism activities at the European, national and local levels for Roma youth, but also for Roma, minority youth, and generally for European youth. Such activities can have clear indicators through which it is possible to measure the progress of capacity building activities, allocation of resources, and access to the stakeholders (dialogue).
9. The Roma Youth Academy remains an important project which should be pursued in the next years.
10. Educational activities at the European, national, and local levels on anti-Roma racism should create understanding and knowledge regarding all layers and manifestations of racism and to encourage solidarity among Roma people and their allies. Furthermore, specific workshops, seminars, and training courses on human rights, anti-racism, and anti-Roma racism should become available for local politicians, decision-makers, and public administration.

The recommendations specifically aimed at the member states are the following:

11. To recognise and commemorate state-sponsored injustices against Roma, such as the Roma Genocide, the enslavement in Romania, Great Gypsy-Round up in Spain, the forced transfer of Yenish children from their parents to foster care/adoption in Switzerland, etc.
12. To create opportunities and spaces for young Roma people to foster their identity and ability to reflect and react to encounters of injustice. These can be official activities at the European, national, and local levels to commemorate and memorialise (through museums, memorials, statues, names of streets, digital content, etc.) critical elements in building a positive sense of and confidence in Roma identity among Roma youth;
13. To support Human Rights Education focused at anti-racism and addressing antigypsyism both in formal and non-formal education and include Roma history as an integral part of national history books and school curricula;
14. To support the involvement and membership of Roma youth organisations in National Youth Councils (NYCs) to bring different perspectives in the work of NYCs and indirectly sensitise NYCs members to minority topics and Roma.
15. To initiate legislation against structural anti-Roma racism and discrimination including policies, and laws to dismantle the exclusion and segregation of Roma children and youth in schools, as well as, preventing discrimination in public institutions, including by employing Roma and training public authorities on anti-bias and anti-Roma racism.

## **The Task Force**

The Joint Council on Youth took note of the above-mentioned findings and conclusions and decided to set up a Task Force on Roma Youth Participation to follow-up them up. The Task Force should, inter alia:

- Prepare a proposal for the continuation of the work on Roma youth participation in the 2020-2021 biennium and within the 2030 Youth Strategy;
- Identify priorities and specific missions of the youth sector, in articulation with the Roma and Travellers Division and safeguard the necessary role of Roma and non-Roma youth civil society;
- Assess the opportunity and feasibility of preparing a recommendation by the Committee of Ministers on Roma youth participation, notably by identifying the possible substance of the recommendations and their relevance for youth (and Roma) policy stakeholders in Member states.

The Task Force should meet twice in 2020 and send the conclusions and proposals for analysis by the Joint Council on Youth.

### *Composition*

The Task Force will bring together:

- Representatives of Roma youth organisations and networks
- Members of the Advisory Council on Youth and of the European Steering Committee on Youth
- The Roma rapporteur in the Joint Council on Youth

- The youth rapporteur in the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM)
- A representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
- An expert from the Education Department of the Council of Europe
- A representative of the European Youth Forum.

### **The First Meeting of the Task Force**

The Task Force was meant to meet for the first time in April 2020 in Budapest. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the cancellation and later postponement of the meeting. In view of the continuation of the difficulties to meet physically, the meeting will be held online on **18 and 19 June** (provisional dates).

## DRAFT AGENDA

### Thursday 18 June

*09:30*

1. Introduction of participants and expectations about the Task Force
2. Clarification of the role of the Task Force, working methods and calendar
3. Roma youth in the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025), introduction by Thorsten AFFLERBACH, Head of Division, Roma and Travellers Team
4. The place of Roma youth issues in the Council of Europe youth sector strategy and in the Youth for Democracy programme 2020-21, introduction by Rui GOMES, Head of Division Education and Training, Youth Department

*11:00-11:30 Break*

5. Current priorities and main projects of Roma youth organisations and other actors in youth policy: ERGO, Phiren Amenca, Ternype, European Youth Forum, Advisory Council on Youth, European Steering Committee on Youth, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, ADI-ROM (...)

*12:30*

6. Recalling of the main conclusions and recommendations of the review of the Roma Youth Action Plan

*13:00 End of the first meeting day*

### Friday 19 June

*09:30* Opening of the day and review of the agenda and timetable

7. Existing gaps on Roma and youth policies regarding Roma youth participation – introduction by Margareta MATACHE, consultant
8. Exchange of views on the relevance and opportunity of a possible recommendation to member states on Roma youth participation – in working groups

*11:00 Break*

*11:20* Feedback from the working groups

9. Other measures to support Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism
10. Conclusions and preparation of the second meeting
11. Any other business

*13:00* Evaluation and closing of the meeting

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GEORGINA LABODA	Roma rapporteur in the Joint Council on Youth
NN	Youth rapporteur in ADI-ROM
PIA SLOGAR	Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)
IRINA BELYAEVA	European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)
JUOZAS MELDZUKAS	CDEJ
MUSTAFA JAKUPOV	European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO)
CARMEN TANASIE	ERGO
MARIETTA HERFORT	Phiren Amenca
VIVIAN ISBERG	TernYpe – International Roma Youth Network
ALEX PETROVICS	European Youth Forum (National Youth Council of Ireland)
ANNA CARBALLO	Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Catalunya
ALEXANDRA RAYKOVA	Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP)
JOHN WARMISHAM	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
MARGARETA MATACHE	Consultant with the Council of Europe

### Council of Europe secretariat

ANTONELLA CRICHIGNO	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities
THORSTEN AFFLERBACH	Head of Roma and Travellers Team
AURORA ALINCAI	Roma and Travellers Team
HENNA HUTTU	Roma and Travellers Team
TUDOREL TABBA	Roma and Travellers Team
NN	Education Department
STEFAN MANEVSKI	Educational advisor, Youth Department
LÁSZLÓ MILUTINOVITS	Educational advisor, Youth Department
RUI GOMES	Head of Division Education and Training, Youth Department