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Strasbourg, 21 May 2025

**20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
DIALOGUE WITH ROMA AND TRAVELLER<sup>1</sup> CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Advancing Social Rights of Roma and Travellers**

**Strasbourg, 23-24 September 2025  
Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe  
Room 10**

**DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE**

**BACKGROUND**

The regular dialogue events with Roma and Traveller civil society organisations aim to:

1. reinforce the regular dialogue between the Council of Europe and Roma communities on all policy issues relevant for Roma inclusion
2. stimulate the regular dialogue between member states and Roma organisations at national level
3. provide input to the various organs and entities of the Council of Europe on the effectiveness and appropriateness of their operational programmes, monitoring mechanisms and political initiatives, with due respect for their independent character and mandates.
4. increase the capacity of Roma and Traveller civil society organisations and to build expertise and knowledge of the Council of Europe standards and monitoring mechanisms, relevant for Roma and Traveller inclusion.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Dialogue Meeting focuses on the social rights of Roma and Travellers, as highlighted by the European Committee on Social Rights (ECSR) in its conclusions and decisions on collective complaints on this topic.

The participants will benefit from preparatory online training sessions, on the reporting and the collective complaints mechanisms of the ECSR, as well as on the follow-up to ECSR decisions related to Roma and Traveller rights.

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<sup>1</sup> 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. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Participants will be presented with an opportunity to understand relevant aspects in respect of the work of the ECSR related to Roma and Travellers and discuss with a view to:

- provide relevant information to the Secretariat which can be of relevance to the ECSR;
- share updated information on the issues deriving from the decisions with the Roma and Traveller civil society organisations
- sharing good practices that could support member states with the implementation of the ECSR decisions.

The ECSR monitors compliance with the European Social Charter under two separate procedures:

- through collective complaints lodged by the social partners and non-governmental organisations (Collective Complaints procedure) and
- through reports drawn up by States parties (Reporting procedure). States Parties to the European Social Charter regularly submit a report on the implementation of the Charter in law and in practice. National reports are examined by the ECSR, which rules on whether the national situations they describe comply with the Charter.

The involvement of the civil society organisations in these mechanisms is crucial. Their engagement is a pre-requisite for advocating for needed reforms, in light of the conclusions and decisions of the ECSR related to Roma and Travellers. This type of work enables the ECSR to analyse a full picture, which includes perspectives of experts and civil society.

Civil society organisations can represent trustworthy collaborators in supporting the implementation of the ECSR decisions on Roma and Traveller rights. Their expertise and grassroots presence are the added value which member States can make full use of.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE 20TH DIALOGUE MEETING**

The 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society will provide an opportunity for a broad and substantive exchange on the mechanisms of the European Committee on Social Rights, as well as on the status of implementation of its decisions and conformity with the Charter's provision, in respect to Roma and Traveller social rights.

The meeting will:

- Present relevant follow-up to decisions of the ECSR related to Roma and Traveller social rights
- Provide updates on the implementation of these decisions, bringing forward the perspective of civil society organisations
- Discuss the challenges in the process of advancing social rights of Roma and Travellers
- Bring forward possible avenues of co-operation with civil society organisations that can support advancement of social rights of Roma and Travellers

## **PARTICIPATION**

- 25 civil society participants will be chosen through an open call disseminated via the public website of the Council of Europe's Roma and Travellers Division. Participants will be representatives of Roma and Traveller organisations, including representatives of youth and women organisations, and experts from international, national and local civil society organisations. Priority is given to representatives who hold specific expertise regarding social rights of Roma and Travellers.

Participants must be competent to work in English or French or Romani, the working languages of the meeting.

- Members of the Roma and Travellers Division who are involved joint programmes in member states.
- Members of other departments of the Council of Europe, in particular of the Department of Social Rights.

## DATES AND VENUE

The meeting will take place on 23 September 2025, from 09:00-16:15 and on 24 September 2025 from 09:30 to 15:15 – in Strasbourg, France.

Travel and subsistence expenses, as well as visa fees, if necessary, related to the participation in this 20<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting will be reimbursed according to Council of Europe rules and regulations.

Working and background documents:

- Agenda of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting
- Concept Note of the 20<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting

## REFERENCES

Resources on the European Social Charter monitoring:

- [Reporting system of the European Social Charter - Social Rights](#)
- [Collective complaints - Social Rights](#)
- [Pending complaints - Social Rights](#)
- [Country profiles - Social Rights](#)

Joint Programmes resources

- [The implementation of local plans: The importance of monitoring and evaluation](#) (only in Albanian) (2024)
- [Roma Responsive Human Resource Management at Local Level](#) | AL (2024)
- [Feasibility study on desegregation and inclusion policies and practices in the field of education for Roma and Traveller children](#) (2024)
- [Mapping Study on School Segregation of Roma Communities: Trends and Pathways Towards Educational Inclusion](#) (2024)
- [A manual for development of local resources, joint action and empowerment of Roma communities - ROMACTED \(2019\)](#) AL | BHS | MK | SR | TK

Resources developed by inter-governmental bodies:

- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2024\)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls and Explanatory Memorandum](#)
- [Feasibility Study on a School Desegregation Intervention in the Slovak Republic](#) (2024)
- [Thematic report of the ADI-ROM on Early Childhood Education, Athens & Nafplio, Greece](#) (2023)
- [Thematic report on how to stimulate governments to employ Roma and Travellers in governmental institutions and public administration](#) (2022)

- [Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on upholding equality and protecting against discrimination and hate during the Covid-19 pandemic and similar crises in the future \(2021\)](#)
- [Responses to the Covid-19 pandemic in the fields of non-discrimination, diversity and inclusion. Promising and good practice examples \(2021\)](#)

Other Council of Europe bodies

- [Adopted texts - Roma and Travellers](#)
- [Roma and Travellers - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#)
- [Roma and Travellers - Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [Housing - Roma and Travellers](#)
- Parliamentary Assembly [Res. 2413 \(2021\) - Resolution](#) Discrimination against Roma and Travellers in the field of housing