



DRTO(2022)2

Strasbourg, 9 May 2022

**13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with  
Roma and Traveller<sup>1</sup> civil society  
on "Defending the rights of Roma and Traveller children"**

**Strasbourg, 10-11 May 2022**

**Online/Room 3, Palais, Council of Europe**

**AGENDA**

<b>Tuesday 10 May 2022</b>	
<b>09.00-17.00</b>	
<b>09.00-09.30</b>	<b>Welcome and connectivity check</b>
<p><b>09.30-10.30</b></p> <p><b>Reference documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><i>Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025)</i></a></p> <p><a href="#"><i>Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027): "Children's rights in action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation"</i></a></p> <p><a href="#"><i>Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, OSCE, "Child protection and rights should be taken into account when the world recovers" (2021)</i></a></p> <p><a href="#"><i>Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, OSCE, "We are responsible for our children" (2022)</i></a></p>	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Hallvard Gorseth</i>, Head of Anti-Discrimination Department, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe</p> <p><b>Tatjana Anđelić</b>, Acting Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), Montenegro</p> <p><b>Maria-Andriani Kostopoulou</b>, Chair of the Council of Europe Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF)</p> <p><b>KEYNOTE SPEECH: H.E. Dr. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye</b>, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Children and Security, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</p>

<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.

<p><b>10.30-11.15</b></p> <p><i>The purpose of this session is to present and discuss the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027).</i></p> <p><i>The session will focus especially on discussing measures which are most relevant for Roma and Traveller children and how these measures should be implemented, based on reflections of the Roma and Traveller civil society.</i></p> <p><b>Reference Document:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027): "Children's rights in action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation"</u></a></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <p><i>1) What is the focus and relevance of the new Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) from the perspective of Roma and Traveller civil society, pro-Roma civil society and Roma and Traveller children?</i></p> <p><i>2) Which current and upcoming Roma and Traveller and pro-Roma civil society initiatives connect well with the new strategy?</i></p>	<p><b>SESSION 1: Roma and Traveller Children in Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) - Children's rights in action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation</b></p> <p><i>Chair: <b>Andreea Cârstocea</b>, Senior Researcher and Head of the Cluster Equality &amp; Inclusion, European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI)</i></p> <p><b>Maren Lambrecht</b>, Programme Officer and Secretary of the Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF), Children's Rights Division, Council of Europe <i>General introduction to the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child (2022-2027) - Children's rights in action: from continuous implementation to joint innovation</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Ionela Pădure</b>, Popular Centre for Research and Documentation, Romania</p> <p><b>Manjola Veizi</b>, legal consultant European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), Albania</p>
<p><b>11.15-11.45</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>

<p><b>11.45-12.45</b></p> <p><i>The purpose of this session is to discuss Roma children's current situation in Ukraine and in countries receiving Ukrainian Roma refugees.</i></p> <p><b>Reference Documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)11 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on Effective guardianship for unaccompanied and separated children in the context of migration</u></a></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion :</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>What is the situation of Roma children in Ukraine and as refugees?</i></li> <li>2) <i>How can the civil society organisations, member States and the Council of Europe best protect Ukrainian Roma children's rights in Ukraine and as refugees?</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>SESSION 2: Anti-discrimination approach and responses to current violations of Roma children's rights in Ukraine and emerging concerns regarding Ukrainian Roma refugees in different member States</b></p> <p><i>Chair: H.E. Dr. Rita Izsák-Ndiaye, Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on Children and Security, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)</i></p> <p><b>Zemfira Kondur</b>, Project Officer, Council of Europe, Office in Ukraine <i>War crimes against Roma children and other violations of their rights during the war in Ukraine</i></p> <p><b>Anzhelika Bielova</b>, Voice of Romni NGO, Ukraine <i>Discrimination, antigypsyism and hate crimes against Roma and Roma children in Ukraine during and before the 2022 war</i></p> <p><b>Cristina Genovese</b>, Adviser, Office of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights</p> <p><b>Anne Kayser</b>, Adviser, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Migration and Refugees <i>Protecting Ukrainian Roma children's rights as refugees</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>12.45-14.30</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>

<p><b>14.30-15.30</b></p> <p><i>The purpose of the session is to share examples of good practice and children's rights initiatives implemented by member States' governments, municipalities and civil society organisations</i></p> <p><b>Reference Documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Strategic Regional Policy Analysis in Western Balkans and Turkey: ECD &amp; Primary Education</u></a></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <p>1) <i>How to identify and reach the most marginalised and in need Roma and Traveller children in socio-economically diverse Roma communities?</i></p> <p>2) <i>How to monitor and address structural barriers which Roma and Traveller children face in their access to rights and services, including inclusive education and quality learning?</i></p>	<p><b>SESSION 3: Sharing examples of good practice and children's rights initiatives implemented by member states' governments, municipalities and civil society organisations</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Malgorzata Milewska, Children's Rights Rapporteur, Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM), Council of Europe</i></p> <p><b>Redjepali Chupi</b>, Co-Director, Roma Education Fund (REF)</p> <p><b>Valerie Poppe</b>, Project manager, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe <i>ADI-ROM 2022 Thematic report on legislation and policies related to begging, with special focus on children</i></p> <p><b>Gelu Dumnică</b>, INSCHOOL Education Advisor for Romania, Agenția Împreună/Council of Europe, Romania <i>Good practice regarding Roma children's educational inclusion and quality learning, European Union and Council of Europe Joint Project "Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children (INSCHOOL)"</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>15.30-16.00</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>

<p><b>16.00-17.00</b></p> <p><i>The main purpose of this session is to discuss how the on-going COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the resilience of civil society Roma care organisations and what are the experiences and adaptation patterns of these organisations in different countries like during COVID-19 pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>The session will also discuss the role of different stakeholders in changing discriminatory and racist practices in child protection and long-term institutionalisation of young Roma and Traveller children.</i></p> <p><b>Reference Documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>ERGO network (2020) Input to the European Commission consultation on the Roadmap for a Council Recommendation for a Child Guarantee</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>EURODIACONIA (2021) Policy Paper – Roma Child Poverty and Social Exclusion</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Orru K.&amp; Nero K. &amp; Nævestad T.&amp; Schieffellers A. et. al (2021) Resilience in care organisations: challenges in maintaining support for vulnerable people in Europe during the Covid-19 pandemic</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>European Roma Rights Centre (2021) Blighted Lives: Romani children in state care</u></a></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <p>1) <i>How have the functioning day centres, night shelters, residential facilities, soup kitchen's and other humanitarian aid and service providers reorganised their work during the COVID-19 pandemic? What were the short- and long-term effects on the grassroots level to the provision of care for Roma families and children of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>the drastic surge in demand for these services</i></li> <li>• <i>the suspension of certain activities</i></li> <li>• <i>the digitising services</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>SESSION 4: The work of International Organisations and Roma civil society networks to protect and promote the rights of Roma and Traveller children under crisis</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Oana Tabă, Project Officer, Council of Europe</i></p> <p><b>Sri Kumar Vishwanathan</b>, Life Together, member organisation of the European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO), Czech Republic <i>Roma and Traveller civil society's recent inputs and opinions regarding the Council Recommendation establishing the European Child Guarantee and the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child 2021-2024</i></p> <p><b>Abriel Schieffellers</b>, Policy and Membership Development Officer, Eurodiaconia <i>Community mitigation efforts regarding negative effects of COVID-19 on Roma and Traveller children</i></p> <p><b>Bernard Rorke</b>, Advocacy Officer, European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) <i>European Roma Rights Centre's fact-finding missions and legal interventions regarding Roma and Traveller overrepresentation in state care-challenging discriminatory, racist and assimilative practices in long-term institutionalisation of young Roma and Traveller children for example in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Moldova, Romania, and the Slovak Republic</i></p> <p><b>Szymon Janczarek</b>, Lawyer, Department for the Execution of Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>reliance on an overburdened (volunteer) workforce</i></li> <li>• <i>lack of crisis plans</i></li> </ul> <p>2) <i>"How have service providers and NGOs who assist Roma children and families reorganised their work during the COVID-19 pandemic? What were the short- and long-term effects on the grassroots level to the provision of care for Roma children and families regarding: - the drastic surge in demand for services - the suspension of certain activities - the digitisation of services – reliance on an overburdened (volunteer) workforce - lack of funding"</i></p>	
<b>17.00 End of the first day</b>	

<b>Wednesday 11 May 2022</b>	
<b>09.00-14.45</b>	
<b>09.00-09.30</b>	<b>Connectivity check</b>
<p><b>09.30-10.30</b></p> <p><i>The purpose of the session is to discuss gender-inequality and gender-sensitivity issues and issues such as child/early/arranged/forced marriages which are still common in many Roma and Traveller communities, and deepen the existing disparities between Roma/Traveller and non-Roma (e.g. school drop-out, illiteracy, dangers of early pregnancy and childbirth, as well as domestic violence).</i></p> <p><b>Reference Documents:</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse</u></a></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 5: Gender-sensitive approach in the promotion of the rights of Roma and Traveller children</b></p> <p><i>Chair: <b>Manjola Veizi</b>, legal consultant European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), Albania</i></p> <p><b>Savina Mitrashkova</b>, Social worker, Mother and Baby Center, Hayir Foundation, Bulgaria</p> <p><b>Petya Nestorova</b>, Head of Division and Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Secretariat of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), Council of Europe</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>

<p>1) <i>How can the Roma and Traveller communities, civil society, states and municipalities ensure that children receive equal treatment regardless of their gender and are protected and supported according to their specific needs?</i></p> <p>2) <i>What kind of measures have proven to be successful in combating negative marriage traditions such as child/early/forced marriages internally within the Roma and Traveller communities?</i></p> <p>3) <i>How can civil society, member states and Council of Europe increase agency and resources for adolescents and women at risk of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and/or human trafficking?</i></p>	
<p><b>10.30-11.00</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>11.00-12.00</b></p> <p><i>The purpose of the session is to discuss how the Council of Europe, member States, municipalities and civil society organisations can foster child and youth participation in their needs analysis, consultation, programming and decision-making processes.</i></p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <p>1) <i>How can the member States, municipalities and civil society organisations ensure that Roma and Traveller children and youth can participate in decision making that affects them and that their views are given right attention in these processes?</i></p> <p>2) <i>How can the member States and municipalities ensure that Roma and Traveller children can freely participate in decision-making that affect them and that their views are given due weight?</i></p>	<p><b>SESSION 6: Fostering child and youth participation in decision making</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Viola Popenko, Council of Europe Office in Ukraine</i></p> <p><b>Video from children working with Fundació Privada Pere Closa and Cath Larkins, Professor and Co-Director, The Centre for Children and Young People's Participation, University of Central Lancashire.</b> <i>Reaching In: promoting Roma children's impactful participation in inclusive public decision making in Europe</i></p> <p><b>Rose Marie Maughan, National Youth Officer, The Irish Traveller Movement, Ireland</b></p> <p><b>Sylvia Ivanova, Deputy Head of the European Youth Foundation (EYF), Directorate of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe</b> <i>Strengthening young people's role in the process of revitalising participatory democracy and restoring mutual trust between young people and democratic institutions and processes</i></p> <p><b>Volodymyr Yakovenko, Head of the Youth Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture (ARCA), Ukraine</b></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>12.00-14.00</b></p>	<p><b>Lunch break</b></p>
<p><b>14.00-14.30</b></p>	<p><b>SESSION 7: Conclusions and Recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting</b></p>

<p><i>The purpose of this session is to discuss the preliminary conclusions and recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting as presented by the General Rapporteur of the meeting.</i></p>	<p><i>Chair: <b>Costel Bercuş</b>, Centre for Education and Human Rights, Romania</i></p> <p><b>Anzhelika Bielova</b>, General Rapporteur of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society, Ukraine  <i>Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting</i></p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>14.30-14.45</b></p>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <p><b>Gelu Duminică</b>, INSCHOOL Education Advisor for Romania, Agenția Împreună/Council of Europe, Romania</p> <p><b>Thorsten Afflerbach</b>, former Head of Division of the Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe</p>
<p><b>14.45 End of the 13<sup>th</sup> Dialogue meeting</b></p>	