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Strasbourg, 15 March 2023

ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER 2023

A seminar on Roma youth participation
and intersectional discrimination

at the occasion of the International Roma Day
in cooperation with the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe

4-5-6 April 2023, European Youth Centre, Strasbourg, France



Draft Programme

ERAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

Phiren Amenca
ROMA-GADJE DIALOGUE THROUGH SERVICE

ternype
International Roma Youth Network



DRAFT DAILY PROGRAMME

Monday, 3 April

Arrival of participants

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Welcome evening

Tuesday, 4 April - CONNECTION

09:30 **Opening and introductions**

Welcome statements by:

- Rui Gomes, Youth Department of the Council of Europe
- Eglantina Aliu, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
- Danjel Hyseni, ternYpe
- Annamaria Pšenková, ERGO Network
- Atanas Stoyanov, Phiren Amenca
- Eleni Tsetsekou, Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe

Expectations of participants and partners

Programme of the seminar

11:00 *Break*

11:30 **Action for participation** – sharing realities and experiences of Roma youth participation

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 **What is intersectional discrimination?** – exploration and understanding of the concept and its implications with *Antonella Lerca Duda*

16:00 *Break*

16:30 **Intersectional discrimination** (continued)

18:00 *Reflection Groups*

19:00 Dinner

20:00 Evening activity: European Roma evening

Wednesday, 5 April – REFLECTION

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

09:40 **Antigypsyism and intersectional discrimination**, with *Irina Spataru*

10:30 **Experiences and impact of intersectional discrimination**

understanding challenges faced by Roma youth, including the intersection of antigypsyism/anti-Roma racism with age, gender, sexual orientation and gender

identity, disability, migration status, social and economic status and mapping their impact on Roma youth participation

Coffee break included in the session

13:00 *Lunch*

14:30 **Youth participation in practice of Roma (youth) organisations**, with:

- ternYpe
- ERGO Network
- Phiren Amenca
- ERIAC
- ...

15:30 *Break*

16:00 **Youth Participation and Intersectional discrimination** in the work of the Council of Europe:

- Youth Department – Recommendation on Roma youth participation
- Roma and Travellers Division - Recommendation on equality for Roma and Traveller women and girls
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Unit

17:45 **Funding opportunities in the Council of Europe**: European Youth Foundation, with Mara Georgescu, Senior educational support officer

18:00 Reflection Groups

19:00 Dinner

21:00 Evening activity: Film screening

Thursday, 6 April – ACTION

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

09:40 **Meeting with Rapporteur on Roma issues** in the Joint Council on Youth - *Constantin-Alexandru Manda*

10:15 **Preparation of International Roma Day** – meanings and ways of celebration

10:45 Break

11:15 **International Roma Day**: what and how to celebrate

Presentation and exchange of the programme and purpose of the celebrations

12:00 Meeting and exchange with *Bjørn Berge*, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe

12:30 **Casting of flowers ceremony**, with officials of the Council of Europe, local authorities in Strasbourg and Roma activists

13:30 *Lunch*

14:30 **Debriefing of the ceremony**

14:50 **Actions/proposals to combat intersectional discrimination and antigypsyism**

16:15 Evaluation

16:30 Closing of the Programme

FREE TIME

19:30 Festive dinner with live music (*Di Mauro Swing*)

BACKGROUND TO ACTIVITY

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 permeate all specific actions.

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 some 30 young people who are youth leaders or youth workers in Roma and Travellers communities and organizations.

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 and antigypsyism, 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.

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 and consists of three pillars:

1. **Connection:** connecting with challenges faced by young Roma and with intersectional discrimination
2. **Reflection:** deepening the understanding of antigypsyism intersectional discrimination and their relation to Roma youth participation;
3. **Action:** celebrating the International Roma Day and devising actions or proposals to combat intersectional discrimination and antigypsyism.

Working language

The working language of the programme will be English.