



DDP-YD/ ETCD (2026)29 rev

Strasbourg, 25 March 2026

ROMA YOUTH TOGETHER 2026

celebration * pride * contribution

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

8-10 April 2026

European Youth Centre, Strasbourg



PROGRAMME

ERAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

 **Phiren Amenca**
ROMA-GADJE DIALOGUE THROUGH SERVICE

 **ternype**
International Roma Youth Network

ERGO
NETWORK



This initiative is a contribution towards the
New Democratic Pact for Europe

Tuesday 7 April

Arrival of the participants

19:00 *Dinner*

20:00 Welcome evening

Wednesday 8 April – CELEBRATION

08:00 Registration of participants

09:30 Opening and introductions with

Sophie KWASNY, Head of the Education, Training and Cooperation Division, Council of Europe

Eleni TSETSEKOU, Head of the Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe

Programme and objectives of the seminar

Expectations and contributions

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Getting to know each other

13:00 Celebrating International Roma Day and Flower casting ceremony

Official addresses by:

Marja RUOTANEN, Director General of Democracy and Human Dignity, Council of Europe

Georgios STAMATIS, General rapporteur of PACE on Roma and Travellers

Stelina DUNGAJ, Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe

14:00 *Lunch break*

16:00 Debriefing of the ceremony and introduction of workshops

16:30 **Parallel thematic workshops**

Roma Pride in Motion

Strengthening Roma Youth Participation

Changing Narratives - Breaking Stereotypes through Creative Writing

18:00 Reflection Groups

18:30 End of the day 1

20:00 *Reception Dinner*

Thursday 9 April - PRIDE

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

World Cafe with partners and organisers

TernYpe – International Roma Youth Network

Ergo Network – European Roma Grassroots Organisations

Eriac – European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

Phiren Amenca

Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe

Youth Department, Council of Europe

11:00 *Break*

11:30 Museum of Realities

13:00 *Lunch break*

14:30 **Parallel thematic workshops**

Dikh! Speak up! Roma Youth Debate Lab

Romane khelimata - I chib ilostar Roma Dance through shared experience

Roma Pride: A Door to Ourselves

16:00 *Break*

16:30 **Parallel thematic workshops**

Dikh! Speak up! Roma Youth Debate Lab

Romane khelimata - I chib ilostar Roma Dance through shared experience

Roma Pride: A Door to Ourselves

18:00 Reflection groups

19:00 *Dinner*

20:30 Storytelling Evening

Friday 10 April - CONTRIBUTION

09:30 Opening and programme of the day

Parallel thematic workshops

Strengthening Roma Youth Participation

Romane khelimata - I chib ilostar Roma Dance through shared experience

Roma Pride: A Door to Ourselves

Changing Narratives - Breaking Stereotypes through Creative Writing

11:00 *Break*

- 11:30 Sharing Results from the Workshops and Preparing the youth statement as a contribution to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe
- 12:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30 Preparing the youth statement as a contribution to the process towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe (continued)
- 14:30 Walk from the European Youth Centre to the Palais de l'Europe
- 15:00 Arrival to the Palais de l'Europe
- 15:15 Presentation of the key messages of the youth statement as a contribution of Roma young people to the process towards a "New Democratic Pact for Europe"
Room 10, Palais de l'Europe
Group photo
- 16:00 Guided tour of the Palais de l'Europe
- 16:30 Return to the European Youth Centre
- 17:30 Evaluation and Closing with
Antonio SERON DIEGUEZ, European Steering Committee for Youth, Spain, Council of Europe
Stelina DUNGAJ, Member of the Advisory Council on Youth, Council of Europe
- 19:00 *Dinner*
- Free Evening
- Saturday, 11 April**
Departure of the participants

About 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 2026 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 European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture ([ERIAN](#)), the International Roma Youth Network - [TernYpe](#), the European Roma Grassroots Organisations ([ERGO](#)) Network and [Phiren Amenca](#).

The seminar Roma Youth Together 2026 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 2026 seminar should highlight the contemporary contributions of Roma youth in Europe, emphasising Roma pride, celebration, and contribution.

The Seminar aims to strengthen the confidence of Roma youth leaders from across Europe by celebrating their sense of 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 foster confidence of 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 New Democratic Pact for Europe
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.

DESCRIPTION OF THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Roma Pride in Motion

Facilitated by Petro Rusanienko, *ERAC*

This interactive workshop invites participants to reflect on Roma pride and the meaning of International Roma Day. Through conversation and creative exploration, the group will share personal reflections on identity, belonging and community. Participants will then transform these ideas into short video expressions capturing messages of pride, unity and the voices of Roma youth.

Strengthening Roma Youth Participation

Facilitated by Donald Myrteli, *Ternype*

The workshop introduces the Roma Youth Participation Dictionary developed by ternYpe International Roma Youth Network as a tool to better understand and apply the Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma Youth Participation. Participants will explore selected concepts from the dictionary and reflect on how these ideas connect to their own experiences of youth participation and advocacy.

Changing Narratives - Breaking Stereotypes through Creative Writing

Facilitated by Klaudia Veizaj, *guest facilitator*

This workshop will explore stereotypical representations of Roma characters in animated media and examine how storytelling influences public perceptions of marginalised communities. It will begin with a presentation based on research analysing antigypsyist depictions in children's cartoons. The participants are invited to deconstruct the stereotypes biases of the story and change the narrative to get a positive view that challenge stereotypes and promote more inclusive and respectful representations.

Dikh! Speak up! Roma Youth Debate Lab

Facilitated by Dezdemóna Kovács, *Phiren Amenca* and Cheyenne Wijts, *ERGO*

This interactive workshop introduces participants to the British Parliamentary (BP) debate format while using drama pedagogy techniques to strengthen public speaking skills, confidence, and persuasive communication. Through role-play, body-awareness exercises, and structured debate practice, participants will develop effective speech techniques, confident posture, and the ability to present arguments clearly under time pressure. Participants will explore debate topics connected to Roma youth participation and advocacy.

Romane khelimata - I chib ilostar

Facilitated by Adrian Radosta, *guest facilitator*

This workshop focuses on the organic transmission of Roma dance through shared experience and community heritage. Drawing from personal history and informal gatherings, the sessions utilize a "learning together" approach where participants exchange movements in a collaborative space. Beyond the physical practice, the sessions include critical reflections on the history of Roma arts, specifically addressing cultural appropriation and the historical silencing of musical and dance traditions. By examining examples such as Flamenco, Manele, and Roman Havasi etc., we will discuss who has access to our cultural production and how these traditions are preserved or lost in the modern world. By profiting from the real-life knowledge of course attendees and their actual cultural heritage in the form of dance, this workshop aims to incorporate these experiences and incentives self-empowered peer-learning amongst the participants.

Roma Pride: A Door to Ourselves

Facilitated by Vicente Rodriguez Fernandez, *guest lecturer*

This workshop explores little-known facts about Roma history, culture and cosmovision, and will challenge our understanding of our people while confronting our own stereotypes about the diverse ways our communities' function and relate to the non-Roma world. It also dives into the secret story of the Roma movement, its design, its fall, and its transformation. The second part of this workshop will use a debate format inspired by the YouTube channel Jubilee: Gen Z Roma Activists vs. a Millennial Roma Dinosaur. Here, one older Roma activist will face a group of young Roma participants through a series of bold, controversial and sometimes radical statements about the Roma movement, education, representation and Roma civil society.