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Strasbourg, 19 September 2017

Training seminar on combating antigypsyism and online hate speech

13 – 15 November 2017
Rome, Italy

Call for participants

Deadline for applying: **20 October 2017**

Background information

The Roma Youth Action Plan (hereafter [RYAP](#)) is a project of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe which aims to support the participation and inclusion of Roma youth across Europe. Initiated in 2011, the project is a response of the Council of Europe to the challenges faced by Roma young people in Europe, particularly in relation to empowerment, participation in policy and decision-making processes and structures, and to the multiple realities of discrimination they are confronted.

The project gives priority to human rights and intercultural dialogue as responses to discrimination and antigypsyism and relies on the principle of double-mainstreaming and youth participation to support the efforts of young Roma in reaching their full potential as citizens and as young people.

Roma communities are facing a complex challenges to their social, economic, cultural and political integration and participation in the Italian society. Increased cases of hate speech in public and political life, hate crime against Roma, unresolved issue with personal documentation, forced evictions and unresolved housing rights, high rate of unemployment together with persistent racist and discriminatory practices in all areas of life are among the few reasons for social marginalisation of the Roma communities. Young people consist a large part of the Roma communities and therefore empowering young people to take action against discrimination, antigypsyism and hate speech is crucial to any action that seeks to promote long term results which, undoubtedly, have to include education and awareness-raising.

The Youth Department of the Council of Europe has developed specific educational materials and resources to support young people, organisations, networks and youth structures in raising awareness of discrimination and to promote a culture of respect and understanding of human rights of young people. [Mirrors](#) – manual on combating antigypsyism, [Bookmarks](#) – manual on combating online hate speech, and many more developed by the Council of Europe's Youth Department provide essential information and methodological tools in raising awareness and understanding among young people in taking action against such human rights violations. The [No Hate Speech Movement Campaign](#) is another source of inspiration on how young people can take action against hate speech online.

The event is organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in partnership with National Office Against Discrimination (UNAR) as National Roma Contact Point (NRCP) for the National Roma Integration Strategy in Italy together with Roma ONLUS association.

UNAR aims to create opportunities for higher participation of Roma youth representatives and organisations to contribute to the National Roma Platform, as the key coordination and cooperation mechanism in the country. The Platform includes about 79 NGOs (25 Roma and Sinti NGOs) with a general aim to stimulate co-operation between institutions and organisations representing Roma and the associations operating in the sector. UNAR is striving for a concrete competent and active participation of young Roma to increase their role in antidiscrimination actions.

The training seminar organised under the Roma Youth Action Plan of the Council of Europe will support participants develop their capacities and responses to counter the effects of discrimination and racism and will support Roma youth participation in all areas of society. The multi-stakeholder meeting of the National Roma Platform of Italy will look into the possibilities for a consistent representation of Roma youth within National Roma inclusion policies, programmes and coordination mechanisms.

The training seminar

The training seminar will bring together young people, youth activists, educators, youth leaders working with Roma youth and others to raise their competences and develop proposals to effectively address discrimination, antigypsyism and online hate speech in the Italian context. The training will gather 20 participants from across Italy.

The specific objectives of this course are:

- To raise awareness and deepen the understanding about antigypsyism and online hate speech and its implication in the Italian society and the Roma communities
- To develop the competences of participants in creating activities and projects to counter antigypsyism and online hate speech, particularly using human rights education methodologies
- To identify existing and develop further and more targeted measures and actions in combating racial discrimination and hate speech within the national and European level contexts
- To support mutual learning and networking among participants, organisations and youth structures
- To develop concrete proposals for continuous and consistent dialogue among Roma youth representatives and national and local stakeholders within the frame of the National Roma Platform of Italy.

Training seminar participants' will have the ***opportunity to participate and contribute to the National Roma Platform Meeting which will be held during 15th November in the afternoon***. Among the main objectives of the Platform meeting is to provide space, recognize and discuss the role of Roma young people in the efforts for effective Roma inclusion and participation through an open and transparent process in line with the National Roma Inclusion Strategy of Italy and its coordination mechanism. Part of the Platform meeting will take into consideration the outcomes of the training seminar and will look into the possibilities for continuous dialog and support for Roma youth.

UNAR is prepared to support the idea of involving a representation of young Roma for the national working groups of the Platform such as the international no hate speech activities, future national and international campaigns, projects, etc.

Methodology of the training seminar – the two and half days training course programme will aim to provide space for participants to learn about the topics of the course, share their experiences and realities with which they are confronted, identify challenges and opportunities and develop ideas for actions against discrimination and for human rights and equality. Concepts and activities related to human rights, human rights education, antigypsyism and hate speech, will be discussed and reflect upon based on experiential learning.

Profile of participants

The training course is organised for youth activists, educators and youth leaders working with Roma youth who are:

- Connected with the Roma communities in Italy

- Involved or interested to work and support young Roma people
- Active with the No Hate Speech Movement campaign in Italy
- Supported by a youth or community organisation committed to organise or support follow-up activities in combating antigypsyism and hate speech at the national, regional or local level
- Be motivated to learn, network and share with other training participants
- Able to express themselves in Italian. Knowledge of English and Romany is considered an asset
- Be aged between 18 and 30 years (exceptions are possible)
- Residents of Italy.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the above mentioned profile, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

Practical and financial conditions

The event organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe and UNAR is consisted of a two and half days training course and a half-day strategic meeting. The expression of interest of candidates is for the participation and involvement in the entire three days programme.

Working languages

The training course will be held in Italian language.

Travel and accommodation

The travel expenses of participants, accommodation and meals will be covered by the organisers of the event.

Dates

Participants must arrive at the training venue on the 12 November during late afternoon and leave on 15 November in the afternoon.

Participants interested to join and participate at the national Roma platform meeting are expected to indicate their preference in the application form. The location and transport to the Platform meeting shall be organised and additionally communicated to the event participants.

All participants must leave during 15th November during late afternoon.

How to apply

Interested candidates must send their application form in word (attached) filled in by email to piattaformarsc@unar.it by 20 October, midday CET.

For more information about the training course contact Denis Durmish (in English) at denis.durmish@coe.int and Alessandro Pistecchia (in Italian) at a.pistecchia@palazzochigi.it