



DDP-YD/ETD (2020)158

Strasbourg, 13 November 2020



## TASK FORCE ON ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Second meeting

15-16 September 2020, Online

### **REPORT**

#### **1. Introduction**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Task Force discussed the draft report on the needs and policy gaps which impact on Roma youth participation. The experts used the meeting to explore further how the Council of Europe can make a difference in creating an enabling and inclusive youth participation environment in its member states.

The participants concluded that based on the initial results of the study on Roma youth participation, the Council of Europe should play a role in promoting double mainstreaming of Roma youth and guide its member states towards more open and inclusive spaces for young Roma. The task force would recommend to the CMJ to consider working on standards for Roma youth participation.

## **2. Recalling the Conclusions of the first meeting**

The first meeting identified a broad list of obstacles for Roma youth participation. These obstacles are manifested as strong forms of discrimination and lack of active work on inclusion. These are often invisible as they are not recognized by wider societies and governments. Roma youth are less visible in mainstream youth organisations as well, and the experts spoke about the need to explore why such exclusion happens. Phiren Amenca conducted also a study which looked into the needs of Roma youth in regards to their participation.

Considerable input has been given about the *Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion 2020-2025* and about the need to integrate and reflect the concerns and needs of Roma youth in the Action Plan.

## **3. Updates since the last meeting**

### Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ) – Pia Slogar

Pia has attended the meeting of The Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) of the Council of Europe, of which the sub-body is the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). The CDADI will develop a study on the political participation of national minority youth, where it is relevant to fit in Roma youth issues. Pia will be representing the CCJ in the working group that will deal with this study aiming at drafting a Recommendation on political participation of national minority youth.

### European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO) – Mustafa Jakupov

ERGO is concluding the survey on the impact of Covid-19 on the Roma community across Europe. The survey was divided into two parts; to include a) Western European countries and b) the Western Balkans. Parts of the data and results of the survey are to be presented at the European Platform for Roma Inclusion on 12 October.

Additionally, ERGO launched a Project with Google, financed by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST), which supports peer-education to counter antigypsyism and hate speech. Peer-educators in ten countries are already being trained, the capacity building training is being finalised and the peer-educators will also start monitoring hate speech online and report it. This project lasts 23 months.

The *Place for All* campaign is still running, which advocates for businesses to be more open and inclusive and hire more young Roma people. ERGO developed comics, as well as videos with narration in different languages, which will soon be launched.

### Phiren Amenca – Marietta Herfort

Phiren Amenca and its supporting national partners organised a commemoration of the Roma Genocide on local and national level on 2 August. In Budapest, Phiren Amenca hosted a public 24 hours memorial event, where around 150 people, including public figures and different representatives from NGO's read out more than 12000 Roma victims' names of the holocaust without interruption.

The survey on Roma Youth Participation is progressing with one individual survey focussing on young Roma in EU member states and the second survey is being concluded, which was conducted with NGO's and Roma youth organisations in the EU. Phiren Amenca is also conducting focus group interviews with its partners. The data resulting from this is used in advocacy trainings, that took place offline and online. As part of the study, which was developed by Simona Torotcoi, Phiren Amenca came up with recommendations and these were taken up by the participants to further

develop and work with. In cooperation with TernYpe, it will be discussed how use the data and recommendations for using it at an event of the EU German Presidency on 12 October. Finally, the voluntary service is ongoing, but very challenging due to the pandemic and more support is needed.

#### The European Youth Foundation – Margit Barna

The EYF has extracted a list of projects linked with Roma youth and anti-discrimination which were granted in the last 3 years, there is potential to include more projects.

#### Roma rapporteur in the Joint Council on Youth (CJM) – Georgina Laboda

Georgina participated in the preparation of the International Roma Women's Conference, where the focus was set on the perspective of young Roma women. There, she suggested a panel discussion issues related with young Roma women, which should include a presentation of local and grassroots activists' good practices. Additionally, Georgina is currently preparing the report for the CJM. It was difficult to report towards the CJM, as "most of the activities towards young Roma people were cancelled or postponed and [...] now Roma young people are totally on the side."

#### Roma and Travellers Team – Council of Europe – Henna Huttu

Since the last meeting, the Roma and Travellers Team has used a youth quota in the selection of participants for the 9 meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society to ensure youth participation. In addition, after the presentation of the strategic Action Plan on 29 October, it was decided that in addition to the presentation of the SOGI Unit to also have a presentation on youth issues by the youth task force on the most important developments.

To strengthen the political participation of Roma youth, as well as the inclusion in education, the Roma Travellers Team have invested more on expanding the political participation in the political schools and to ensure access to these activities for young Roma people through their EU joint programmes.

Zora Popova, a Bulgarian researcher, is conducting a survey on the gender equality measures that member states have included in their national Roma integration strategies. The report includes several issues from the point of view of Roma youth, including early marriages and many other taboo subjects.

The concept paper of the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Organisations is being developed and will concentrate on hate speech and hate crime. The inclusion of youth issues are on the agenda of the upcoming Dialogue meeting.

The International Roma Women's Conference 2021 was postponed for the second part of the year. Young Roma Women's contributions were included on the list of topics, which will then be negotiated with the hosts. The conference should result in the creation of a think-tank, and a panel arranged separately for young Roma women to talk about the issues from their perspective – including "taboo issues".

#### Youth Rapporteur in Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) – Berill Baranyai

The next ADI-ROM meeting will be online on 8-9 October, so there will be more updates after the meeting. In July the Committee of Ministers adopted an important Recommendation on the history of Roma and Travellers in school curriculums and teaching materials.

The new edition of the scholarship programme in Portugal continues, one is for university students and the other one for secondary students.

Additionally, there is a project financed by the European Commission, where ADI-ROM hopes to integrate not only the Roma women's, but also the Roma youth perspective on local integration plans for the Roma community integration.

Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña (FAGiC) – Anna Carballo

FAGiC facilitated a successful Human Rights education course in Lamina –a Roma neighbourhood in Catalonia– in July. An online commemoration of the 2 August took place, which was joined by 15 Roma youngsters. FAGiC also participates in the monitoring project launched by ERGO, training part of their youngsters in how to monitor hate speech online. Moreover, FAGiC is part of the Roma Youth Voices project run by Phiren Amenca and they would like to organize a focus group interview next month. Together with the ministry of education, FAGiC is preparing a mentoring programme for Roma youth that are attending universities (by youngster diploma holders) to secure that they can adapt to the new conditions linked with schools.

Youth Department of the Council of Europe – Rui Gomes

The training course for Roma youth participation called RomaActiveYouth was cancelled due to the pandemic. Additionally to the RomaActiveYouth Training course, it is foreseen in the 2020 program to support activities for national based projects. It should be focused on capacity building or other important activities, as we did in Portugal, Croatia and Italy to address anti-gypsyism or favour meeting dialogue within Roma Youth Organisations and other youth organisations. This is still in the budget in 2020 and if anyone wants to take advantage of this, it is encouraged to contact the Youth Department.

We have been asked by the German chairmanship of the Council of Europe to propose activities for their program, which partly overlaps with the chairmanship of the European Union. An activity was suggested around 8. April in Berlin and Strasbourg to mark the date and give more impetus and visibility to Roma Youth in the programme of the chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

The Youth Department looks forward to the conclusions from the task force related to the role of the youth sector in relation to Roma Youth Participation and combatting antigypsyism. The task force should provide ideas on what can be our role or how can we best make use of the instruments and resources of the Youth department?

Finally, the call for study session applications are open, where we hope to receive some applications as this would be a demonstration for the need and visibility for Roma young people to take part in mainstream activities.

#### **4. Surveys on Roma youth participation**

At the first meeting the task force had suggestions regarding possible synergies with the study conducted by Phiren Amenca and how the results of the study can support the desk research of Margareta Matache. Since the last meeting, Phiren Amenca sent the collected data to Margareta which included the surveys, and they are currently working through focus groups to gather qualitative data from non-EU countries. The report will look into two main directions:

- 1) What was the impact of various standards, instruments and programmes that were implemented by inter-governmental organisations to support Roma youth participation?
- 2) What is the added value of a possible recommendation on Roma Youth Participation?

For both questions it is important to get information and to reflect the voices of various organisations in the study. To answer the first question, five surveys were drafted, separately for the members of the European Steering Committee on Youth, the Advisory Council of Youth, the national youth councils, international youth organisations, and ADI-ROM. Based on the feedback from these surveys, there would be more qualitative data to strengthen the arguments of the report. An alternative, or addition could be to conduct interviews with Georgina, Pia and Berill.

The second question regarding added value will be concluded in the study as the outcomes of the task force. In addition to the answers in the surveys, the study will include also interviews of the OSCE and the European Commission.

Juozas Melduzkas (CDEJ) shared that the main institution which is coordinating Roma issues in Lithuania is the Department on National Minorities under the government. Roma Youth issues fall between the competences of youth responsible bodies and Roma or National Minority bodies, which is an interesting case, as we assume in the youth sector that youth ministries naturally take responsibility. However, the responsibility is perceived to be shared with someone else which shows how these issues are intersectional.

## **5. Working groups on the added value of the Recommendation**

This is a summary of the discussions, ideas and proposals from the 3 working groups exploring the added value of a potential Recommendation.

### **a) Working group with Roma youth organisations**

*What is the added value of the Recommendation?*

1. It gives a push to the member states to commit towards inclusion of Roma youth. At the moment governments do not see the relevance of having space for Roma youth within Youth policies and Roma inclusion policies. Roma youth are seen as beneficiaries of these policies as there are no obstacles for them to take part, but they are not active contributors shaping these policies.
2. Youth and Roma policies do not mention Roma youth – bring the topic of Roma youngsters as the needs and interests of young Roma are often not taken into account. It is the first step for National governments to realise that it is important to acknowledge Roma youth as a stakeholder with specific needs. These specific life experiences require that the existing policies and programmes have some dedicated spaces for Roma youth. For example, in the Roma inclusion policies, the youth are often put into a bigger block of Roma women and children, but this does not address their needs.
3. Even if the Recommendation is not binding it introduces to the governments the idea that Roma youth have also the right to access their rights; this makes it easier for youth organisations to advocate on the National and local level and raise awareness to the governments to take into account Roma youth.
4. The Recommendation should give a priority and space to Roma youth, so they are not simply seen as beneficiaries of other programmes and they are actively invited and involved
5. By saying there is no exclusion – it does not mean that there is actual inclusion. This mindset would need to be challenged.

*What would the recommendation be good for?*

1. The Recommendation would support the process of design of youth policies by making sure that Roma youth are not forgotten
2. It can call for specific national measures for Roma youth or bring the needs of Roma youth in a more visible way in the existing programmes and policies
3. The Recommendation would serve as concrete support for Roma youth organisations, so they have some instrument to call upon when they advocate.
4. Youth organisations expect that the impact of the Recommendation will be mainly in increased and re-thought way of funding / support / involvement in youth and Roma policy creation for Roma youth
5. Recommendation should call upon the existing funding and operational programmes which do not have any actions or indicators that secure the inclusion of Roma youth directly in their implementation. This often results with the fact that Roma youth are forgotten.
6. The mainstream youth policies and structures are not inclusive but rather neutral – this means they do not do anything with regards to targeting or attracting Roma youth. Being

- neutral in a context of discrimination and exclusion will not produce results contrary to the context. (Not excluding Roma youth, but at the same time not giving space for them)
7. It is addressing the inequality on the level of participation – the inequality is due to the fact that the starting point is not the same so it is difficult to expect that there will be the same level of participation.
  8. Mainstreaming is not automatic – there is a need for an effort to move from non-exclusion to actual inclusion.
  9. The international level Recommendation and its framework is a guidance – it's up for the Roma youth organisation how to push issues and advocate for Roma youth on national level – including the Roma strategies and Roma inclusion policies.
  10. National Roma inclusion policies and strategies are also very different – in some countries the policies are just referring to diversity and immigration, disregarding the fact that Roma are autochthonous and often struggling in some member states to reach a status of minority group.

*Which are the main messages that the Recommendation should bring? What is essential and useful to be there?*

1. The Recommendation should also acknowledge the diversity of Roma youth, their experiences and diverse struggles, and invite all stakeholders to have this in consideration when developing their policies and programmes.
2. Young Roma people who have their own family (being young parents), still should enjoy full access to rights as young people. Having a family should not deprive them from enjoying education culture, leisure, housing, healthcare, political and civic engagement and other opportunities.
3. The Recommendation should address the lack of political youth participation of young Roma
4. To make sure that the activities proposed *for* Roma youth are based on the interests, availability and co-organised together *with* Roma young people.
5. The programmes and policies should have the needs of Roma youth at its core. Furthermore, Roma youth should have meaningful roles in devising these programmes and policies so they can prioritise, make decisions and implement activities
6. Roma policy structures do not take Roma youth seriously – it is important to work on preparing, empowering and connecting Roma youth so they can claim their space. Roma forums often have older Roma leaders but completely lack the presence of young people.
7. Space should also be created for young Roma in youth councils and other youth structures as well. These mechanisms should be more pro-active in their outreach, preparation and decision-making processes to secure Roma youth are included.
8. The EU youth guarantee is an example of a programme that has a clear blind spot – as a programme which aims on inclusion does not have indicators which will show Roma youth inclusion; therefore, many Roma young people do not really benefit from it.
9. Political party youth are also a stakeholder – they should work with Roma youth leaders to devise ways how to support other Roma youth in their engagement in the political process.
10. Make sure that young Roma have access to education for democratic citizenship so they can understand how to advocate for their rights within various political structures. Address the tokenism from some political structures who abuse Roma youth in the political process, guide such structures to make sure Roma youth have a meaningful role.
11. Public services should be proactive in their outreach and support to Roma youth through direct mentoring activities and working together with associations.
12. Address antigypsyism which affects young Roma through Human Rights Education to empower young Roma people to address discrimination, but also non-Roma youth to become aware and counter antigypsyism.
13. Pay particular attention to raise mutual trust and commitment between Roma youth and the public authorities. Counter the narrative that Roma youth do not have the motivation

to join, as often the disengagement is not due to motivation but rather due to the experiences of discrimination and systemic abuse.

14. Take into account that within Roma youth the participation and equal access of young parents and young Roma women to the different structures, activities and decision-making power
15. Further work on empowering Roma youth to organise themselves – acknowledge that Roma youth are not often organised in independent youth organisations, but rather in informal groups associated with Roma organisations. The formal youth participation structures do not allow for such informal structures to take part; therefore, it is important to reflect on ways how these informal groups can get their space in the youth councils.

#### **b) Working group: Statutory bodies (CCJ, CDEJ, ADI-ROM) and partners (YFJ)**

*What would be the added value of a potential recommendation on Roma youth participation? What would this recommendation be good for?*

1. It is unique as such – an instrument specifically setting guidelines in the area of Roma youth participation and is prepared through a process where young Roma are actively involved and consulted
2. Serves as a reference for (Roma) youth and their organizations in their advocacy work and in making decision makers and authorities accountable
3. Encourages Roma youth to make their voice heard and making the support and approach of the Council of Europe and its member states clear and tangible in ensuring the access of young Roma to their rights, and their active participation in specific
4. Provides concrete examples and sets standards on how Roma youth participation can be ensured and supported
5. Recognizes the importance of and the need for specific measures to support Roma youth participation and thus encourages and obliges stakeholders to take concrete, efficient actions with measurable short- and long-term impact
6. Highlights the need for investment of resources in this area, including funds based on the consideration of the precarious situation of a relatively young Roma population in Europe whose future remains in many areas uncertain
7. Built on, and therefore ensures continuity of previous work done at the Council of Europe with Roma youth, the Roma youth Action Plan in specific and serves as a compendium of knowledge in the field of Roma youth participation

*Which are the main messages that the Recommendation should bring? What is essential and useful to be there?*

1. Active citizenship and political participation of young Roma must be ensured and encouraged
2. Roma youth movements in Europe need to be strengthened
3. Existing and widespread discrimination against Roma and all forms of antigypsyism must be taken into consideration, with special respect to their negative impact on the identity and self-esteem of young Roma and thus on their participation
4. Youth work has a role and responsibility in reaching out to and supporting young Roma – existing youth work structures, such as local youth centers need guidance and support to become champions of Roma youth participation.
5. Youth work needs to target Roma youth as well as children at an early stage
6. The target group, i.e. Roma youth must be clearly defined, taking traditions and specific needs and challenges of Roma youth into consideration
7. Specific challenges faced by young Roma girls and women must be reflected on to ensure an efficient and balanced Roma youth participation
8. The diversity of Roma communities in Europe needs attention when developing strategies in support for Roma youth participation – this may entail taking the general situation of

Roma communities into consideration and suggesting guidelines for community work and intergenerational dialogue

9. Good practices in the field of Roma youth participation in the Council of Europe and in member states must be collected and disseminated
10. The guidelines outlined in other instruments and specifically the Recommendations of the youth sector, such as the Enter!, Access to Rights and Youth Work Recommendations must be applied in the work with Roma youth, with special regards to supporting leadership, the right to health, housing and employment. It cannot be taken for granted that general measures aimed at young people are put into practice in youth work with young Roma without specific support.

### **c) Working Group: Council of Europe Secretariat**

The group explored the added value of Recommendation on Roma youth participation to the work of the Youth Department and the Roma and traveller's team. Here are the conclusions / ideas:

11. The Recommendation could be relevant for the work of institutions, fighting discrimination, for example the equality bodies and Ombudsoffices, and the responsible bodies for fighting hate crime and hate speech. The Recommendation could be introduced in thematical meetings, tackling for instance generational issues.
12. The content of the Recommendation should also address the training of Roma youth workers and trainers, as well as it could be introduced to the institutions in charge of preparing the future educators.
13. The Recommendation also impacts on the way of perception of the young Roma people. At the moment there are Recommendations on supporting young refugee in transition to adulthood CM/Rec (2019)4, Recommendation on youth work CM/Rec(2017)4, Recommendation on the access of young people from disadvantage neighbourhoods to social rights CM/Rec(2015)3, and Recommendation on young people's access to rights CM/Rec(2016)7, however none of them was specifically reflecting the needs of young Roma people. Recommendations are usually reviewed after a period of 5 years, and this would be an opportunity to check and follow the work more regularly.
14. The possibility for cooperation in the process with the Children's Rights Division should be taken into account to encourage the process of participation at an early age as usually some part of youth overlaps with childhood. Roma young people have a relatively short period of youth, starting earlier. In addition, a link could be made to the Convention on the rights of the Child.
15. The European Youth Foundation for the last 3 years granted 9 projects on Roma youth issues and related to Roma youth needs. More can be done to promote inclusion and accessibility of the different projects and the planned activities for Roma youth. The EYF follows the gender equality dimension of the projects, but it could for example explore ways to follow the inclusion and accessibility of the projects (to young Roma people as well).
16. Young people are a resource with a great potential which is being blocked by the visible and invisible discrimination on institutional level. The programme and projects toward Roma young people should be improved at least in terms of accessibility.
17. There was a certain tendency of neglecting the Roma aspect in certain project areas, for example there are rarely initiatives related to the proper maintenance and improvement of infrastructure in neighbourhoods with significant number of Roma population. Projects related to topics such as environment and housing are sporadically involving the Roma young people.
18. Participation was to be considered not simply as involvement in the political processes but also inclusion in sport, education and cultural life. Roma youth are not involved and visible in the national and local youth councils, and other structures dealing with youth matters.
19. There should be Guidelines for the implementation of the Recommendation as an immediate follow-up after its potential adoption. These guidelines could serve as a bases



for the member states on how to understand and properly develop measures to address the needs of the Roma young people.

20. There is a lot of internal diversity in the Roma community, and when we mention Roma youth, we should note that this is not a homogenic group. The Recommendation therefore should consider the involvement of more Roma young people in mainstream projects, revision of the existing models for inclusion and exclusion. He also marked the importance of the Intersectionality in the recommendation.

## **6. Measures to support Roma Youth Participation 2020-2023**

As part of the mandate of the task force the following list containing the measures to support Roma youth participation was reviewed and the experts agreed to its content.

The Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) has provided guidance on the continuation of the activities which support Roma youth participation and combat antigypsyism through human rights education. This reflected in the documents CMJ(2019)28 and CMJ (2020)9 and results from the report of the seminar "Roma Youth Participation: What now?" (24-26 September 2019, EYCS).

The Council of Europe Youth Department is credited for the capacity to involve, listen and mainstream the Roma youth's demands and needs, and to strengthen their voice, capacity, and power in the Council of Europe. This role is specific to and within the Council of Europe: no other intergovernmental organisation in Europe has prioritised and worked with Roma and non-Roma youth organizations and individuals towards achieving participation, diversity, and strengthening capacity of Roma youth.

The Task Force has reviewed the existing proposals for measures and ways forward by the Council of Europe's youth sector in the next years. The following list includes these proposals as well as, other ideas relevant to the scope of work of the Council of Europe's youth sector.

### ***RomaActiveYouth***

1. Secure the continuation and visibility of the work on Roma youth participation in the 2022-2023 biennium. It should in particular identify priorities and safeguard the central role of Roma and non-Roma youth civil society. It is important that this set of measures and activities are connected under one name or label. RomaActiveYouth may reflect the broad aims of supporting youth participation and combating antigypsyism.

### ***Supporting Roma youth civil society***

2. The Youth Department should strengthen education and training measures to support Roma youth leaders, trainers, youth workers and their organisations. The scope of these activities should be connected with advocating for human rights, combating structural racism and discrimination through human rights education.
3. The programme of the European Youth Centres in Budapest and Strasbourg should include activities organised with, for and by Roma young people and their organisations.
4. The emphasis of the activities should be placed on quality and complementarity with the programmes of Roma youth networks and the work of the Roma and Travellers Team.

### ***Addressing structural discrimination***

5. More knowledge on structural racism and discrimination against Roma youth across Europe is needed. Evidence and data gathering in this direction will support the work on addressing structural and intersectional discrimination. Roma youth organisations should be supported in their efforts to document structural racism and discrimination.

6. The training activities should include information and guidance to Roma youth organisations on identifying, documenting and reporting discrimination.
7. A specific training activity on antigypsyism should empower youth leaders to recognise and counter antigypsyism on the basis of Mirrors and the Education Pack All Different – All Equal.

***Supporting Roma identity, learning about Roma history***

8. The Council of Europe should continue to support the activities of youth organisations in the framework of Dikh he na Bister, Roma genocide remembrance. The handbook Right to Remember should be further used and promoted, together with Mirrors.

***Double mainstreaming***

9. The role and cooperation between the youth rapporteur in ADI-ROM and the Roma rapporteur in CMJ should be strengthened.
10. The Romactive youth activities should be planned, implemented and reviewed as much as possible based on the approaches of co-management and double mainstreaming.
11. The number of Roma youth workers and trainers who are involved in the Youth sector's programme should increase in order to build more multipliers on human rights education, inclusion and youth participation.
12. The sharing and coordination of the work of double mainstreaming between the Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Division needs to continue and be clarified, notably in conjunction with the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan for Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025).

***Supporting action by and in member states***

13. The Youth Department, in cooperation with its members states, should develop educational activities "by demand" on human rights, anti-racism, and anti-Roma racism for local politicians, decision-makers, and public servants.
14. Organise strategic jointly national level educational activities - training courses and seminars for Roma youth leaders, youth workers, and others who want to participate and contribute to youth movements involving a diverse group of national partners. Synergies with Joint Programmes of the Roma Team are important.
15. The European Youth Foundation as an instrument of the Council of Europe's youth sector has a role in promoting Roma youth participation as well. One of the potential measures includes that the EYF receives feedback from Roma youth organisations to examine the de facto accessibility to Roma youth (organisations).

***Follow-up and support activities proposed by the Roma and Travellers' team***

The Roma and travellers' team has proposed the following measures and possibilities to secure the ongoing support for Roma Youth participation:

16. On institutional level it is important to continue to invite the CMJ to take part in ADI-ROM meetings. ADI-ROM has a youth rapporteur and also contributes to the work of other committees for example, ADI-ROM contributes to a draft CM Rec on combatting hate speech. The CMJ Roma rapporteur attended the preparation of the 8 International Roma Women conference (as a result there will be a workshop on Roma youth activism and a round table on young Roma women). Young Roma women can take part in the think-tank on Roma feminism which will also be set up as a result of the conference.
17. On programme level, the involvement of young people can be particularly strong within the activities in the field, notably the different joint programmes such as ROMACTED which

marked a high participation rate of young Roma in the community action groups as well as, as experts in the support team.

18. The Summer Universities and workshops are also organised for young people. Roma political schools also encourage the participation of young Roma (around 50% are under 30).
19. Roma holocaust commemoration activities have a youth support component which should also continue in the upcoming period. Roma in schools has a specific approach also increasing the participation of Roma children and youth at school level. Concrete example of InSchool project also identifies youth ambassadors.
20. Strategic partnerships of interest to Roma youth are for example the partnership with CEU on a summer course where Roma and non-Roma are trained in non-discrimination. A traineeship programme was established where trainees from CEU can work for the Council of Europe. Due to current situations this programme is not open this year, but hopefully after the situation of CEU improves this programme can continue.
21. The Roma team also committed to support Dikh he na Bister activities, and in addition to this, another space for cooperation can also be the Joint Programmes.
22. The new CM Recommendation on History of Roma and Travelers also allows space for working with youth organisations on teaching materials and raising awareness for change in curricula and textbooks.

## **7. Conclusions**

The possible CM Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation will be very beneficial for the youth sector, as it brings an added value in the work on Human rights education and combating antigypsyism. The experts welcomed that the Roma youth organisations and Council of Europe's Roma and Youth sectors are complementing on the needs for such a recommendation. It seems that this recommendation adds knowledge on structural discrimination and how to address it together.

The experts agreed to meet once again to review the final report by Magda Matache and agreeing on the conclusions and recommendations to the CMJ and ADI-ROM.

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

GEORGINA LABODA	Roma rapporteur in the Joint Council on Youth
BERIL BARANYAI	Youth rapporteur in ADI-ROM
PIA SLOGAR	Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ)
IRINA BELYAEVA	European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ) <i>excused</i>
JUOZAS MELDZUKAS	CDEJ
MUSTAFA JAKUPOV	European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO)
CARMEN TANASIE	ERGO
MARIETTA HERFORT	Phiren Amenca
SIMONA TOROTCOI	Phiren Amenca
VIVIAN ISBERG	TernYpe – International Roma Youth Network
ALEX PETROVICS	European Youth Forum (National Youth Council of Ireland)
ANNA CARBALLO	Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Catalunya
ALEXANDRA RAYKOVA	Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP) <i>excused</i>
JOHN WARMISHAM	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities <i>excused</i>
MARGARETA MATACHE	Consultant with the Council of Europe

### Council of Europe secretariat

THORSTEN AFFLERBACH	Head of Roma and Travellers Team
AURORA ALINCAI	Roma and Travellers Team
HENNA HUTTU	Roma and Travellers Team
TUDOREL TABBA	Roma and Travellers Team
STEFAN MANEVSKI	Educational advisor, Youth Department
LÁSZLÓ MILUTINOVITS	Educational advisor, Youth Department
MARIYA ANGELOVA	Programme Officer, Youth Department
MIRJAM HAGMAN	Trainee, Youth Department
RUI GOMES	Head of Division Education and Training, Youth Department

## **AGENDA**

### **Tuesday 15 September**

*14:00 – 15:30*

1. Introduction of participants
2. Adoption of the agenda of the meeting
3. Recalling the conclusions of the first meeting and steps taken after the first meeting
4. (Brief) Updates from the Council of Europe and participants' organisations since the last meeting
5. State of affairs with the surveys about Roma youth participation

*15:30 - 16:00 Break*

*16:00 – 17:45*

6. Progress with the study on the opportunity/need of a Community of Ministers Recommendation on promoting Roma youth participation
7. Main findings and preliminary conclusions regarding the need of a recommendation, introduction by Margareta Matache

*17:45 End of the first meeting day*

### **Wednesday 16 September**

*10:00 - 11:15*

8. The potential added-value of a Recommendation – in 3 working groups

*11:15-11:45 Break*

*11:45 – 12:45*

9. Feedback/conclusions from the working groups
10. Other measures to support Roma youth participation and combating antigypsyism
  - By the Roma and Travellers Team
  - In the programme of the Youth Department
  - By other partners and stakeholders

*12:45 – 14:15 Break*

*14:15 – 15:45*

11. Conclusions of the meeting
12. Report/communication to the Joint Council on Youth
13. Follow-up to the meeting
14. Any other business
15. Evaluation and closing of the meeting