



DDP-YD/ETD (2022) 202

Strasbourg, 16 September 2022

## **Drafting Group**

# PROJECT OF RECOMMENDATION ON ROMA YOUTH PARTICIPATION

### **Third Meeting**

European Youth Centre Budapest, room C  
**12-13 September 2022**

## **REPORT**

## Introduction, opening and adoption of the agenda of the meeting

The meeting started with an introduction of the 12 participants (list appended at the end of this report), 11 of the participants joined offline in the European Youth Centre Budapest and 1 of the participants joined online. On the second day of the meeting there were 13 participants, as one more person joined online.

The following agenda was adopted and there were no comments for additional points:

1. Opening, introductions and adoption of the agenda of the meeting
2. Changes and progress with the draft text after the last meeting
3. General impressions about the current text of the draft recommendation
4. Updates and feedback received from other services and bodies of the Council of Europe and from non-governmental organisations
5. Detailed review with amendments or additions on:
  - The preamble
  - The operative sections
  - The appendix
  - The explanatory memorandum
6. Next steps and further consultations
7. Presentation of the recommendation at the meeting of the Joint Council on Youth (Budapest, 11-12 October)
8. Procedures for communication in the group
9. Any other business

Roles division was introduced on facilitation of the meeting, noting the changes in the draft of the Recommendation and taking notes of the meeting.

Members of the Drafting Group shared the intention of the meeting to finalise the draft of the Recommendation.

## Changes and progress with the draft text after the last meeting

Since last meeting the new version of the Recommendation was prepared named "Draft 2.0".

In June 2022 the Recommendation draft 1.0 was presented and review by the Drafting Group on the online meeting. Several changes were added, such as a new section was drafted into the Recommendation after June meeting (section 24 in the Preamble). The Glossary of terms was improved. An Explanatory Memorandum was added.

In August 2022 the draft 2.0 of the Recommendation was finalised and circulated for the consultations.

## General impressions about the current text of the draft recommendation

Members of the Drafting Group (further also: DG) shared their impression on the Recommendation, noting that they find draft very well written and comprehensive. Several members recommended to include more practical examples in the Recommendation for the member states to make it easier to implement the Recommendation.

The strengths and possible improvements of the draft 2.0 of the Recommendation were shared. As for the strengths members of DG mentioned that Recommendation can be used as raising awareness tool for the Roma Youth Participation, it is a comprehensive text with a lot of information and that impressive amount of information is included in the draft. DG members also appreciated the division on the measures in the Recommendation such as substantive participation, mainstreaming needs and priorities of Roma youth, structural racism

and antigypsyism, etc. It was mentioned that the Recommendation has a broad scope, so that it gives room for the complexity of the challenges of Roma youth and the political context.

Possible improvements noted by the DG members were to concentrate in the Recommendation on cooperation among Roma communities and local authorities, governments, municipalities. It was mentioned to explain better the purpose of the appendix in the Recommendation. There was a suggestion to explain in the explanatory memorandum that exclusion of the Roma community from youth participation has complex roots and to note that youth itself is a heterogeneous group (one size fits is not the effective solution), as well to recall the purpose of the Recommendation.

It was noted that some of the measures seem repetitive and headlines are not clear enough. There was a need expressed to add comprehensive examples in the part of the measures to guide clearer the members states on how to implement the Recommendation. There was a suggestion to improve the language of the Recommendation to make it more comprehensive and lean.

#### Feedback received from other services and bodies of the Council of Europe and from non-governmental organisations

In July 2022 the draft of the Recommendation was consulted with the Legal Department and afterwards translated into French. In August 2022 the draft 2.0 of the Recommendation was finalised and circulated for the consultations to inter alia:

- The Roma Team and ADI-ROM
- CD-ADI
- Framework Convention on National Minorities
- Charter on Regional/Minority languages
- ECRI
- History Teaching Observatory
- Education
- Congress
- Gender Equality
- Rapporteurs of Joint Council.

Substantial number of comments were received and integrated in the document.

A few general points were addressed:

- Title: Roma Youth Participation v. Promoting the Participation of Roma<sup>1</sup> Young People in Democratic Processes and Structures – the Drafting group decided to keep the title of Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation to remain in line with the Terms of Reference;
- Scope: the DG discussed the scope of the target group who is address by the Recommendation: Roma or Roma and Travellers. The DG recalled the Task Force conclusions on the Recommendation which states “The Recommendation should also address the needs and realities of young people from Travellers communities wherever

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<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.”

relevant". The DG concluded that the Travellers communities were not consulted in the process of drafting the Recommendation, and the mandate of the DG group is shaped to prepare the Recommendation on Roma Youth Participation, thus the main target of the Recommendation remain the Roma communities.

- Affirmative actions: there was a general proposal to change the wording "positive actions" into "affirmative actions" which was welcome by the DG and included in the draft.

## **Detailed review with amendments or additions on the Recommendation**

### **The preamble**

The DG discussed one by one the proposed changes by the consulted services, bodies and NGOs. There was an agreement reached to keep the studies mentioned in point 15 in the preamble as important part of the work in the field of Roma youth participation. The preamble was also revised in line with the instructions and consultations done with the Legal Department throughout the drafting process.

### **The operative sections**

The DG went through all the operative sections and updated them taking into consideration the consultations outcomes, as well as the ideas for improvements shared by the DG members, such as clearer explanation on the role of the Appendix – Guidelines in the Recommendation.

### **The appendix**

The DG analysed the outcomes of the consultations as well the need to make the measures more comprehensive and clear for the members states.

### **The explanatory memorandum**

The DG noted the need to acknowledge that youth with Travellers background share similar obstacles in access to rights and many measures of the Recommendation may apply to the Travellers youth as well. This view is also reflected in the preamble of the Recommendation. There was a need expressed to make reference to the Council of Europe`s definition on Roma and Travellers in the explanatory memorandum.

DG members agreed to add to the Glossary of the recommendation the term "antigypsyism".

A full review of the draft text was concluded.

## **Next steps and further consultations**

The next steps were agreed as follows:

- Consultant Margareta Matache will send the final Draft Recommendation to the DG by 14 September 2022
- DG members will have time to comment on the proposed project of the text and review the presence of proposed amendments
- The final version of the Draft Recommendation will be updated in French
- The Text of the Draft Recommendation will be presented at the meeting of the Joint Council on Youth (Budapest, 11-12 October).

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CONSTANTIN-ALEXANDRU MANDA	CCJ
ENIKŐ VARGA-VÉGVÁRI	European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)
RICCARDO VENTURINI	CDEJ
CARMEN TANASIE	European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network
MARINA CSIKÓS	Phiren Amenca
BERILL BARANYAI	Youth rapporteur in ADI-ROM
MARGARETA MATACHE	Consultant
MONIKA SKADBORG	European Youth Forum - <i>online attendance</i>
<i>Apologised:</i>	
PIA SLOGAR	CCJ
CLARA GONZALVEZ	CDEJ
<a href="#">Council of Europe secretariat</a>	
MAGDALENA BUTRYMOWICZ	Secretariat of the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) - <i>online</i>
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