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Roma Youth Participation Coordination and Support Group

Consultative Meeting with Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders to support participation, representation and inclusion of Roma young people in accordance with the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4

15-16 January 2025
European Youth Centre, Strasbourg



REPORT

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Executive summary

This report summarises the reflections of participants about the state of representation, participation and inclusion of Roma young people in Europe in accordance with the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4](#). The aim of the meeting was to reflect on the progress that youth movements, authorities, and the Council of Europe had made in 2024 with regard to the implementation of the Recommendation through the “roadmap” that was established at the last meeting of the Joint Council on Youth in April 2024. It was also a space for participants to discuss about further course of action in four main areas:

- combatting antigypsyism;
- remembrance, culture and identity;
- capacity building and sustainability;
- advocacy, awareness, monitoring and coordination.

The meeting formulated specific proposals both in the long term and the short term for the implementation of the roadmap.

They are addressed to Roma Youth organisations, local, regional and national authorities, national youth councils, Roma youth civil society and the Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Division of the Council of Europe. The proposals will be shared through this report to the next meeting of the Joint Council on Youth in April 2025.

The opinions expressed in this work are the responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy of the Council of Europe.

This report was prepared by Susana Lucas Pérez, rapporteur of the meeting.

1. Setting the scene: updates on the implementation of the Roadmap for the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma Youth Participation

The meeting started with a warm welcoming by Rui Gomes, head of the Education, Training and Cooperation Division from the Youth Department. The intention was to bring together representatives from organisations, movements, and authorities to follow up on the implementation of the Roadmap for the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma Youth Participation.

Adopted by the Joint Council on Youth (CMJ) in April 2024, the Roadmap focuses on addressing structural racism, intersectional discrimination, and antigypsyism. It identifies four key stakeholders: public authorities, youth councils and mainstream youth organisations, Roma youth and civil society organisations (CSOs), and the Council of Europe (CoE).

The CoE has already taken several actions in 2024 in line with the objectives of the Roadmap, including the *Roma Youth Together* event and study sessions on antigypsyism, gender equality, and remembrance, along. There has also been work on creating Roma/Youth-friendly versions of the Recommendation and support to initiatives such as *Dikh He Na Bister* and to Roma organisations in Ukraine. The CoE has also formed a coordination group to support the Action Plan on Roma and Travellers.

Looking forward, a new training course on antigypsyism is planned for 2025, and the "Mirrors" manual will be translated for wider accessibility.

2. Priorities and programmes of the Joint Council on Youth

The meeting continued with input from Petr Banda, Roma rapporteur in the CMJ and part of the Advisory Council on Youth (CCJ), who outlined priorities and programmes for Roma youth participation from 2025 to 2026. Since the last Consultative Meeting, the CMJ has focused on encouraging national ministries to translate the Roma Youth Participation Recommendation and integrating Roma issues into non-Roma organisations. Key achievements in 2024 include Roma community participation in events like *Confidence in Tomorrow*, the *World Forum for Democracy*, and *Roma Youth Together*, as well as study sessions on topics such as Roma heritage, antigypsyism, and youth engagement.

However, challenges persist, including structural barriers, environmental racism, and educational disparities, as well as the need for more engagement with non-Roma organisations. The CMJ also highlighted the importance of further research on Roma youth participation, the development of a new Recommendation on Roma women, and addressing segregation in education.

Xesc Mainzer, also from the CCJ, reminded participants of the CMJ's five strategic priorities, which align with the Youth Department's Youth Sector Strategy 2030. He emphasised the role of the European Youth Centres (EYC) and the EYF in supporting these priorities, though awareness of the EYF remains limited among many Roma organisations.

3. Updates on the Strategic Action Plan on Roma and Travellers Inclusion (2020-2025) and plans for the upcoming Action Plan 2026-2030

Marina Vasic, from the CoE Roma and Travellers Division, presented the the Strategic Action Plan on Roma Inclusion (2020-2025), which focuses on three main priorities: addressing antigypsyism and discrimination, promoting equal access to education and training, and fostering democratic participation.

The division supports these goals through initiatives such as collaboration with ADI-ROM, implementing European Court of Human Rights rulings, and integrating Roma concerns into national Action Plans. A significant new development is the Recommendation CM/Rec(2024) on the equality of Roma and Traveller women and girls, which covers areas such as housing, health, education, and protection from violence. The division also works on Roma history education, especially about the Holocaust, through projects like RomaMemory, ROMACT, and Roma Integration III.

A new strategy for 2026-2030 is being drafted. This strategy will address issues such as combating antigypsyism, desegregation, and Holocaust remembrance and is expected to be finalised by late 2025. Challenges include the need for a long-term approach to Roma youth engagement, internal discrimination within Roma NGOs, and a need for greater unity among Roma communities. The Council of Europe is also exploring collaborations with universities to include Roma issues in academic programmes. Anti-discrimination training for staff and member states is also a key priority, along with strengthening Roma youth participation and bridging the gap between informal and formal processes.

4. Sharing of initiatives and projects by participants in support of implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 by Roma youth civil organisations and international youth networks

After reviewing the work and commitment of the Council on Europe in Roma Youth participation, the second day started with the exchange of initiatives and projects by the participants in support of the implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4.

TernYpe Youth Network, by Satu Florin

Throughout 2024, TernYpe launched several significant initiatives to advance the Roma Youth movement and raise awareness of Roma history. These included the "Echos of Remembrance" study session for Roma youth leaders, the *Dikh He Na Bister* event, which marked the 80th anniversary of the Holocaust with 380 participants, and a remembrance event reinforcing TernYpe's commitment to preserving Roma history. The organisation also created a handbook on the Roma genocide and collaborated with ERGO on a study session about Roma history and remembrance.

Looking ahead, TernYpe plans the "Breaking the Barriers" project to empower young Roma, a focus on Roma Week to showcase achievements, a new study session on remembrance and

antigypsyism in September 2025, and a strengthened coalition with partners to promote local activities using the handbook and direct visits.

ERGO Network, by Carmen Tanasie

ERGO actively contributes to the EU Commission's policy-making by ensuring Roma issues are included in EU initiatives and recommendations, while also collaborating with organisations like TernYpe and the Council of Europe.

Despite financial challenges, ERGO has secured cooperation with other institutions and will oversee the financing for several key projects. These include a partnership with TernYpe to address issues such as digitalization, youth, and online bullying, with events like a breakfast meeting with a Member of the European Parliament from Bulgaria and a project combating online antigypsyism involving young people from Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, and the Czech Republic.

ERGO is also leading *Roma Week*, which will coincide with the Council of Europe's *Roma Youth Together* event in April. Additionally, ERGO is currently promoting the EU Roma Strategy Framework on its 10-year anniversary.

YEN / JEV, by Louis Albert-Becker

YEN (Youth of European Nationalities) addresses minority issues across Europe, with 40 members representing a broad range of communities. While their focus is not solely on the Roma community, they collaborate with several organisations to support minority rights, including FUEN (Federal Union of European Nationalities) and UNPO (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation).

Last year, YEN made a collaboration with other organisations to raise awareness of Roma issues within their network. Additionally, YEN participated in the *Dikh He Na Bister* and they plan to be involved in this event again in 2025, creating a dedicated space for young Roma participants.

Looking ahead, YEN aims to increase visibility and collaboration among different minority groups and use their annual event in June for that. They recognize that while individual groups may be weak alone, they are stronger when united. YEN's strategy for 2025 is to propose a recommendation to every member of their organisation to support the translation of key educational materials to ensure they are accessible in all countries.

Romano Phralipe, by Mvelana Sahiti

Romano Phralipe, based in Besançon, France, focuses on increasing Roma youth participation in local activities and promoting Roma culture.

In 2024, the organisation organised a breakfast meeting with local NGOs to foster appreciation of Roma traditions, and later led three events for Roma month, including a video presentation, a film screening about Roma life post-Kosovo war, and a cultural dinner. The organisation also worked with 20 local schools to strengthen ties between Roma parents and institutions, with Mvelana Sahiti representing Romano Phralipe at a school event.

Looking ahead, Romano Phralipe plans a Roma culture celebration in 2025 and is advocating for a dedicated council to address Roma issues at the local level. Despite the absence of official Roma representatives, the organisation continues to work independently and collaborate with *Roma sans Frontières in Luxembourg* to strengthen regional networks and support the Roma community in Franche Comté.

Romani Godi, by Fatos Kaytan

Romani Godi, based in Türkiye, has evolved from not being Roma-focused to becoming a key advocate for Roma rights, particularly supporting Roma who wish to engage in advocacy but lack the resources and knowledge.

Over the past year, the organisation has organised online training sessions for around 50 Roma youth, teaching them how to advocate for Roma rights, monitor hate speech, and report incidents. Partnering with the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), Romani Godi has worked to monitor hate speech in digital media and trained young Roma to engage with municipalities and decision-makers. The organisation has even visited members of parliament to raise awareness about Roma issues, though challenges remain, such as limited access to public services.

In 2024, Romani Godi participated in *Dikh He Na Bister* for the first time. Looking forward, they are planning a study session for October 2025 on reproductive health, intersectionality, and discrimination, providing a platform for Roma youth, particularly women and LGBTQ+ communities, to address important issues. However, language barriers, with only a few members proficient in English, remain a challenge for broader international engagement.

Tenet, by Tetiana Storozhko

Tenet's primary goal is to support and further develop the Roma youth movement in Ukraine. One of its key achievements in 2024 was the creation of a Roma informational platform called the *Roma Youth Development Platform*, which was made possible through the project *Building Resilience: The Roma Youth Movement Initiative*, funded by the Council of Europe's EYF and inside the Youth for Democracy programme in Ukraine.

The project focuses on three main components: first, the publication of reports in both Ukrainian and English, which highlight the challenges faced by Roma youth organisations and activists, especially in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine. Second, the creation of digital content to raise the issues of Roma youth to public attention through short video podcasts. And lastly, the third component is the creation of the *Roma Youth Development Platform*, a coalition of Roma youth organisations that promotes a culture of cooperation. The aim is for these organisations to collaborate and complement each other, rather than compete. While the platform is still in its early stages, it operates on a weekly basis, connecting various Roma youth groups and providing opportunities for sharing resources and support.

In addition to this ongoing initiative, Tenet's most recent activity focuses on promoting the memory and commemoration of Roma history through the participation in events like *Dikh He Na Bister*. Through these efforts, Tenet is committed to fostering a sense of unity, collaboration, and resilience within the Roma youth movement in Ukraine.

Kherson City Association of Young Roma, by Arthur Ivanenko

The Kherson City Association of Young Roma, part of the *Roma Youth Development Platform*, is actively working to raise awareness about Roma issues and develop the Roma youth movement.

One of their key projects focuses on using graphic design to make the Roma cause more accessible, collaborating with partners to create graphic stories that present the Roma experience visually. The association also emphasises the link between memory and identity, having recently conducted a training session for Ukrainian youth on preserving memory and building connections within the Roma community. This includes creating a digital archive to preserve Roma history, with results to be shared next year.

Additionally, the association runs educational sessions for young Roma in Ukraine, covering topics like knowledge sharing, event preparation, and leadership skills.

Roma Youth Development Platform, by Vira Dranhoi

The *Roma Youth Development Platform* coalition has been focused on creating unique digital content that raises awareness about Roma culture and the modern-day challenges Roma face in Ukraine. One of the first steps in their work is offering training for young Roma on how to produce high-quality media content. The coalition equips young people with the skills to share their personal stories, effectively counter discriminatory narratives, and create content that represents their realities and challenges.

A key focus of this project has been the creation of videos that highlight both the opportunities and barriers Roma face, including issues related to labour, stereotypes, and societal discrimination. These videos not only showcase the struggles faced by the Roma community but also provide valuable resources that can aid Roma individuals in their professional lives. One of the overarching goals is to break down stereotypes and show how Roma people can overcome barriers to succeed in various aspects of life. Also, the videos are key to combat online hate speech, which remains a significant problem.

Amaro Drom e.V., by Vahide Berisha

Amaro Drom e.V. is a German youth organisation that has supported young migrants, particularly from the former Yugoslavia, since 2006. With a presence in 10 federal states, it focuses on youth empowerment, strengthening identity, human rights education, and community work. The organisation is dedicated to Holocaust remembrance, fighting antigypsyism, and addressing hate speech, particularly online post-pandemic.

Amaro Drom engages with schools, police officers, and communities to promote human rights and combat discrimination. It runs international projects supporting refugees and hosts the annual "Buses Yung" conference, bringing together over 100 young people for discussions and artistic activities. The organisation also participates in global projects related to mental health and genocide awareness, with a goal to expand international connections and promote Roma remembrance and solidarity.

5. Introduction of the work of the European Youth Foundation (EYF) and the Youth Sector co-management system.

The European Youth Foundation (EYF)

Gordana Berjan, head of the European Youth Foundation, introduced to participants the EYF and the financial support it gives to youth organisations. The foundation focuses on key areas such as Human Rights Education and support for Ukrainian youth, with over 600,000 euros currently allocated for Ukrainian youth projects. Most of the activities it funds are international, supporting organisations like TernYpe. The EYF is currently undergoing reforms to simplify its processes and improve access to funding, particularly for local and national projects.

The EYF offers several funding opportunities: international projects, advocacy, campaigns, and sustainability-related projects and pilot projects among others. Applications for international grants can be submitted in April and October, while pilot project applications can be made for same-year funding. The foundation prioritises themes like combating antigypsyism, promoting Roma inclusion, and supporting Roma youth organisations.

Youth Sector co-management system

Enikő Varga-Végyvári's, member of the European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ), explained to participants the CoE's Youth Sector Co-Management System, which ensures that youth policies are developed with the active involvement of young people. For this purpose, the CDEJ itself hosts both national and international events to encourage dialogue and cooperation among youth representatives.

In the field of Roma, as an example, initiatives by the CDEJ involve translating important texts to make them more accessible, especially as many Roma youth lack strong English proficiency. There is also the Roma Youth Conference, held annually, which provides a platform for young people to discuss their future.

Engaging Roma youth requires the participation of various groups, including youth workers, social workers, teachers, researchers, child protection professionals and volunteers. But civil society organisations, mentors, local youth councils, and international bodies also play key roles in supporting youth initiatives. Also, public administration staff and minority self-government representatives help ensure effective implementation of youth programmes.

Enikő's presentation highlighted the importance of a multi-sectoral approach to empowering Roma youth and ensuring their active role in decision-making. For that purpose, an upcoming seminar on Roma Youth Together organised by the CoE in April 2025 will explore how national-level actions can align with the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4.

6. What is next? Further course of action (policy initiatives, projects, activities)

The participants of the Meeting were organised in four working groups to the conclusions of which were later shared in the plenary:

- Combating antigypsyism, facilitated by Marcos Andrade.
- Remembrance, culture and identity, facilitated by Petr Banda.
- Capacity building, solidarity and sustainability, facilitated by Ana Aranzhii.

- Advocacy, awareness raising, monitoring and coordination of the Roadmap, facilitated by Rui Gomes.

COMBATTING ANTIGYPSYISM

A first step in this regard was to **identify the stakeholders** affected by this subject and **review the initiatives** they are already carrying out:

- Roma and Travellers Division of the CoE
- Roma organisation networks (especially ERGO)
- Youth Department of the CoE
- CSO stakeholders involved in Roma rights (the European Roma Rights Centre, the institutions in academia, the Roma Study Programmes of the Central European University and the Roma Foundation for Europe, among others)
- Local municipalities and local Roma youth organisations.
- Other important contributors from international organisations (the Human Rights Commissioner, the European Court of Human Rights, ECRI the UN Human Rights Office and the Minorities Fellowship Programme of the UN)

Once the stakeholders were identified, it was time to propose **opportunities and leveraging activities** among all the initiatives and projects mentioned:

- Roma and Travellers Division: it should target not only police forces but also security workers, social workers, and educators in their new project, providing training in the area of combating antigypsyism. Also, the group pointed out that revitalising the media and journalism project should continue, as it was paused.
- ERGO Network: it should focus on using traditional media to enhance their visibility and also mainstream their activities online.
- Youth Department: it could help in the promotion of events like *Opre Roma Month*, through the proposal of films on antigypsyism on the Council of Europe's social media, and in the promotion of the Roma Week. Moreover, it could be in charge of creating an online calendar for organisations to collaborate throughout key dates, as well as of moderating and organising sessions that bring donors together. The Human Rights Education Forum could be a good opportunity to host workshops on antigypsyism, while the Ministerial Conference on Youth could include discussions on recognising and addressing this discrimination.
- Media coverage during *Roma Youth Week* could help deliver a unified message regarding antigypsyism, while ECRI, during their monitoring, could include youth narratives and perspectives through the realisation of interviews to Roma travelling youth. Finally, it could be a good idea to create a youth-friendly version of the Framework Convention, with YEN acting as a contact point for Roma youth organisations. Additionally, the Roma youth rapporteur could add this to his portfolio within the Advisory Council on Youth.

Finally, the group shared its thoughts about the **possible immediate action that can be taken in the next 3 months** to combat antigypsyism:

- To influence the agenda of upcoming events like the seminar *Roma Youth Together*, the Ministerial Conference on Youth and *Opre Roma Month*, as well as the meetings of the

- Joint Council on Youth, ensuring that the topic of antigypsyism and the Roma youth perspective are included.
- To maintain momentum and communication after this meeting, developing the already mentioned common calendar.
 - To influence the CoE's Youth Sector Strategy 2030 through the Advisory Council on Youth Rapporteur on Roma and Traveller Issues.
 - To moderate discussions between civil society and donors at upcoming events, aiming to establish direct contact and discuss key issues.
 - To create a glossary of key terms on Roma inclusion to assist organisations less active at the international level.
 - To stay proactive in raising awareness of antigypsyism within the Roma youth organisations present in the consultative meeting.

In the plenary, Jonathan Mack addressed the widespread nature of antigypsyism, noting that it has often been viewed as a social policy issue rather than racism, and emphasised the need for long-term funding for programmes aimed at sustainable change. He also pointed out the importance of academic involvement and solid research in addressing antigypsyism, as well as the need for greater pressure on states to take responsibility. Rui Gomes highlighted the "Mirrors" manual as a key tool in combating antigypsyism, with a consensus that it should be more widely promoted and translated. Lastly, it was noted that National Youth Councils should be more actively advocating for the adoption of the IHRA's working definition of antigypsyism.

REMEMBRANCE, CULTURE AND IDENTITY

The participants of this group organise their initial recommendations in three main topics: **remembrance, identity and participation in cultural development.**

- Remembrance: a key objective is to encourage member states and organisations to actively promote Roma history and culture. This includes supporting commemorative initiatives related to Roma history and Holocaust remembrance. Additionally, the creation and dissemination of educational materials that reflect Roma culture, history, and contributions are vital. Recommendations will be made for events and initiatives that celebrate International Roma Day.
- Identity: recognition of structural racism and its negative impact on the self-esteem and cultural pride of Roma youth is crucial. Efforts should be made to emphasize the importance of fostering positive narratives about Roma identity, while counteracting stereotypes in media, education, and public life.
- Participation in Cultural Development: the active inclusion of Roma youth in cultural, artistic, and historical initiatives is essential to ensure their representation and empowerment. Financial support for Roma youth organisations should also be provided to promote cultural projects that help strengthen community identity.

Next, the **following action points** for implementation in 2025 and 2026 were identified:

- In 2025, the agenda will include several key events: *Opre Roma Month* (Council of Europe), *Roma Youth Together* (CoE + RYC), and *EU Roma Week* in April. May will highlight *Romani Resistance Day* organised by ERIAC. In August, *Dikh He Na Bister* will

be hosted by TernYpe, and November will feature *Romani Language Day*, organised by the CoE and ERIAC.

- For 2026, these events will continue, including *Roma Youth Together*, *EU Roma Week*, *Romani Resistance Day*, *Dikh He Na Bister*, and *Romani Language Day*.

In the same token, **key stakeholders** were identified:

- TernYpe
- The Documentation Centre for Sinti and Roma
- Member state governments
- International organisations like the IHRA, OSCE, and CoE, as well as the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM)
- Higher education institutions (with a focus on Roma studies)
- The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN)
- The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)
- The Roma Educational Fund (REF)
- The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN)

Taking these into account, several **opportunities** are available for **promoting Roma culture and history**:

- *Opre Roma Month* (CoE), which will feature the *Romaland* play in the first week of April, along with activities linked to the Luxembourgish presidency and a PACE hearing on minority women.
- *Roma Week* (ERGO-European Parliament), which will take place from April 7-20.
- *Holocaust Remembrance Day* on January 27, which will feature a youth representative in the CoE hemicycle
- *Roma Resistance Day* on August 2.
- *Romani Language Day* on November 5 to honour and celebrate the Roma language and culture.

As a final point, the group focused in reviewing **immediate actions in the upcoming 3 months**:

- On January 27, a commemoration event will take place to raise awareness and give more recognition to the Roma community.
- On February 26, a coalition between the Council of Europe and stakeholders will officially start.
- In April, the *EU Roma Week* in Brussels and *Roma Youth Together* will be held, with the latter taking place on April 8.

Participants agreed that it is vital to ensure that future generations carry forward Roma traditions, and this work must be done consistently. Coordination between stakeholders is essential. A coalition for commemoration could be helpful in uniting various organisations.

Questions were raised regarding the focus of *Roma Youth Together* in 2025 and whether there will be a specific emphasis on *Dikh He Na Bister* that year. Since will celebrate its 15th anniversary, TernYpe is considering an exhibition to showcase its work over the years. Collaboration with academia and utilizing the Council of Europe to strengthen the connection between these efforts is also encouraged.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND SUSTAINABILITY

Recommendations on capacity building and sustainability:

- To facilitate online meetings for the organisations currently involved in the consultative meeting. At present, four organisations are engaged, and these meetings could be organised in collaboration with Amaro Drom and the Hungarian UN Youth Delegate.
- To create workshops aimed at training future facilitators and offer them certification when they complete the training. These workshops should target a wide range of stakeholders, including students, social workers, university staff, teachers, activists, organisations, and potentially even police officers and professors, to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to engage in Roma-related initiatives.
- To enhance volunteer support with an online platform where Roma NGOs could be found.
- To provide advocacy training at the EYC through workshops that include games and simulations to help participants communicate ideas to stakeholders or decision-makers such as the Council of Europe (CoE) and national or international Roma organisations. To ensure these workshops are effective, consultations should be conducted to understand the specific needs of the participants. It would also be important to translate manuals and publications into different languages to make them more accessible.
- To focus on organisations like the European Youth Forum and the European Commission to make the topic of antigypsyism more visible on these platforms.
- The CoE could also assist Roma organisations by providing funding opportunities and offering guidance on how to develop and deliver impactful programmes.

For the **next 3 months**, the working group stated the following **immediate actions**:

- To organise national meetings in order to coordinate actions for 2025.
- To prioritise Holocaust remembrance days.
- To give attention to the *UN Youth Delegate Programme*. Annamaria Wettstein commits to do a roadshow in schools in Hungary inform about volunteering opportunities.
- To create the already mentioned online platform for volunteering so that young people can connect with different organisations. This initiative would not only raise awareness within Roma organisations but also share valuable knowledge about the CoE's work. It could also have a recruitment option and connect volunteers with mentors.

ADVOCACY, AWARENESS RAISING, MONITORING, COORDINATION

As general **recommendations**, the group proposed:

- To establish networks at local and national levels to improve communication and coordination among organisations.
- To create a task force that could focus on reporting and assessing the implementation of recommendations to better monitor and track progress. This task force could begin its work in the upcoming three months, with the goal of systematically reviewing the progress and challenges faced by member states.
- To arrange a meeting with the European Youth Forum, possibly with Carmen Tanasie's assistance, to foster coordination and collaboration. The group also emphasizes the need to prioritize work on the *Compass* manual on human rights to support advocacy efforts.

- To develop workshops focused on advocacy, especially considering the importance of *Roma Youth Together* and the growing interest in youth organisations. The group suggests that advocacy efforts should include creating easy-to-read recommendations.

As for **immediate actions for the upcoming 3 months**, the group recommends:

- Bringing the discussions and conclusions from the *International Roma Week* in Brussels into action. This could involve building partnerships with stakeholders like the European Youth Forum and presenting these findings to the Council of Europe.
- Creating detailed reports, which should be integrated into national-level activities.
- Reaching out to stakeholders beyond those currently involved to help elevate the issues discussed.
- Increasing support for financing and creating additional working groups to address these concerns more effectively.

Finally, during the round of **questions and comments**, Rui Gomes emphasized the importance of monitoring and reporting, suggesting that perhaps during the TC on antigypsyism or the next Consultative Meeting on Roma Youth Participation, a dedicated day for monitoring could be scheduled. This day would provide an opportunity to learn from existing practices and explore further ways to improve monitoring efforts.

Petr Banda noted that it is critical to start cooperating more, particularly with the European Youth Forum, which plays a significant role in this area.

7. Conclusions of the meeting

As a general conclusion, there was agreement on the need to explore possible solutions to streamline and improve coordination efforts going forward. Developing clearer processes and structures is essential for better collaboration across the different organisations involved.

The outcomes of the meeting will be communicated to the CMJ. This is crucial to ensure that all relevant parties are aligned and informed about the decisions and next steps, fostering transparency and shared understanding within the broader network.

The group also agreed that it would be beneficial to petition Roma organisations to remain in regular contact with each other. It was further concluded that the CoE has a significant role to play in facilitating this exchange of information among the various organisations involved.

The group also took the opportunity to express gratitude for the important work carried out by the Advisory Council on Youth on Roma youth participation. It was also agreed that cooperation with the Roma and Travellers Division should continue, as it plays a vital role in advancing Roma-related initiatives and Roma youth participation.

One of the key takeaways from the meeting was the importance of adopting a common effort and a unified attitude among all parties involved. There was a clear understanding that cooperation and solidarity are essential to overcoming the challenges faced by Roma youth organisations.

Appendix 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Roma / Youth organisations

ANNAMARIA WETTSTEIN	Youth Delegate of Hungary to the United Nations
ARTUR IVANENKO	Roma Youth Development Platform (Ukraine)
CARMEN TANASIE	ERGO Network
DENIZ SELMANI	Romalitico
FATOS KAYTAN	Romani Godi
IOANA SPATARU	TernYpe Youth Network
JONATHAN MACK	German Documentation and Culture Centre for Sinti and Roma
KONSTANTINOS SAREDIS	Human Rights in Action
LOUIS ALBERT-BECKER	YEN/JEV
MEVLANA SAHITI	Romano Phralipe
NICOLAS ANDERSEN	Central Roma Council of Poland
PIA ŠLOGAR	YENI
SATU FLORIN	TernYpe – International Roma Youth Network
TETIANA STOROZHKO	TENET
VAHIDE BERISHA	Amarodrom e.V.
VIRA DRANHOI	Roma Youth Development Platform (Ukraine)

Advisory Council on Youth

PETR BANDA	IQ Roma Servis
XESC MAINZER CARDELL	Young European Federalists

European Steering Committee for Youth

ENIKŐ VARGA-VÉGVÁRI	Ministry of Culture and Innovation (Hungary) - <i>by visio</i>
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Secretariat

MARCOS ANDRADE	Deputy Executive Director, European Youth Centre Budapest
Yael OHANA	Programme Manager, Youth Department
ANNA ARANZHII	Programme Manager, Youth Department
SUSANA LUCAS PÉREZ	Trainee, Youth Department
PATRICK NORLAIN	Programme Assistant, Youth Department
RUI GOMES	Head of Division Education, Training and Cooperation, Youth Department
GORDANA BERJAN	Head of the European Youth Foundation, Youth Department
MARINA VASIC	Programme Manager, Roma and Travellers Division
KAJA PAULIN	Trainee, Roma and Travellers Division

Appendix 2

AGENDA OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING

Wednesday, 15 January

- 14:30 Welcome and opening
Introduction to programme and objectives of the meeting
Getting to know participants of the meeting
- 15:00 Updates on the implementation of the Roadmap for the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma Youth Participation, by RUI GOMES, Youth Department, Council of Europe
- 15:30 Priorities and programmes of the Joint Council on Youth of the Council of Europe in relation to Roma youth participation for 2025-2026, introduction by PETR BANDA, Roma rapporteur in the Joint Council on Youth
- 16:30 Updates on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Roma and Traveller Inclusion (2020-2025) and plans for the upcoming Strategic Action Plan 2026-2030, by MARINA VASIC, Programme Manager of the Roma and Travellers Division

Thursday, 16 January

- 09:30 Sharing of relevant initiatives and projects by the participants in support of implementation of the Recommendation CM/Rec(2023)4 on Roma youth participation by Roma youth civil organisations and international youth networks:
- TernYpe International Roma Youth Network
 - European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO)
 - Youth of European Nationalities (YEN)
 - Romano Phralipe
 - Romani Godi
 - Others
- Discussion and reflection
- 11:30 What's next? Discussion about further course of action (policy initiatives, projects, activities) in smaller groups
- 14:30 Presentations of group conclusions (with Q&A)
Staying connected and informed (discussing ways for closer communication and cooperation around upcoming activities)
- 16:30 Final conclusions and evaluation of the meeting

Appendix 3

CONCEPT NOTE OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING

The [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma Youth Participation](#) was adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2023. The Recommendation was adopted because young Roma people face systematic discrimination in their access to social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights, and that structural racism negatively impacts Roma youth's participation in civic and political processes and structures, self-esteem, pride and well-being, their transition to adulthood, their trust in the fairness of institutions, and their readiness to embrace their roots and cultures.

The Recommendation reflects the priorities, demands and aspirations established and expressed by young Roma people and Roma youth organisations during consultation processes. It acknowledges the importance and urgency of using a double-mainstreaming approach in youth and Roma policies, as well as mainstream legislation, policies, measures and programmes.

The Recommendation asks Governments of the member states to:

- ensure substantive, fair and systematic participation, representation and inclusion of young Roma people in all spheres of society and decision-making processes and structures;
- mainstream and include systematically and explicitly the needs and priorities voiced by young Roma people in all policies, standards and programmes that impact them;
- assess relevant mainstream and targeted policies, as well as democratic structures, in view of mapping and redesigning them to ensure Roma youth's effective participation, representation and inclusion;
- combat all forms and manifestations of structural anti-Roma racism and antigypsyism and their impact on Roma youth participation;
- ensure young Roma people's full and effective access to and fulfilment of all fundamental human rights and freedoms;
- ensure free and non-discriminatory access to quality education, training and employment opportunities for all young Roma people;
- support and strengthen the capacity of Roma youth-led organisations, groups and initiatives and Roma youth-focused organisations and youth centres;
- adopt policies, measures and programmes and allocate adequate funding to implement the guidelines set out as an appendix to the recommendation.

Governments are also asked to invite civil society, including mainstream youth councils and organisations, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to the implementation and evaluation of the recommendation.

The "Roadmap" to implementation of the Recommendation

Following the adoption of the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma Youth Participation](#) by the Committee of Ministers on 5 April 2023, the Youth Department organised in January 2024 a consultative meeting (Realising the potential of Roma Youth participation) to prepare a Roadmap, setting directions, priorities and tasks for the implementation of the Recommendation, notably in view of associating stakeholders to the preparation of the first review of the Recommendation's implementation in 2028. The meeting brought together representatives of the CMJ, ADI-ROM, Roma youth organisations and networks and other youth organisations concerned and committed with participation and inclusion of young Roma people. The [report of the consultative meeting](#) provides an account of all the proposals made and of the broader context for the Roadmap, notably by taking into account the activities and projects of Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders.

The Coordination and Support Group

According to the adopted Roadmap, the Council of Europe plays a pivotal role in the coordination of implementation of the Recommendation. And it should do it in close coordination with other

stakeholders, chiefly youth organisations. This meeting of the Coordination and Support supports the following specific measures identified for the Council of Europe:

- To lead the co-ordination with regards to the implementation of the Recommendation and its monitoring, including collecting and disseminating relevant information on its developments and establish mechanisms to inform on developments (2.4.3);
- To convey regular/yearly meetings of Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders concerned for coordination and monitoring of developments in relation to the Recommendation (2.4.13).

Therefore, the meeting has the following objectives:

1. To explore, exchange and collect support measures (projects, practices and initiatives) implemented by Roma and Youth stakeholders in 2024;
2. To inform participants about the initiatives taken by the Council of Europe in relation to implementation of the Recommendation and its Roadmap;
3. To discuss further course of action and practical ways of using the Roadmap and the Recommendation for advocacy and action purposes (to be taken in 2025);
4. To exchange information about current plans and projects of Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders concerned with a view to coordinate calendars and processes where relevant, beyond the scope of the Recommendation.

In addition to this, the meeting also fulfils the function of the Task Force on Roma Youth Participation, which the Joint Council on Youth also decided to hold on a regular basis. The Task Force is an informal coordination mechanism between Roma and Youth stakeholders.

The results of the meeting will be presented to the Joint Council on Youth at its meeting in April 2025.