

CMJ(2024)5

JOINT COUNCIL ON YOUTH (CMJ)

50th meeting
9-10 April 2024
Budapest, European Youth Centre

**Roadmap
for implementation of the Committee Ministers Recommendation
on Roma Youth Participation - CM/Rec(2023)4**

Agenda point 6.3.3

Introduction

On 5 April 2023, the Committee of Ministers adopted the [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)4 on Roma Youth Participation](#). The recommendation was the result of the work undertaken within the Roma Youth Action Plan (2021-2018) and of the experiences with Roma youth civil society. The Recommendation was prepared through a process led by and with the framework of the Joint Council on Youth.

The Recommendation acknowledges that young Roma people face systematic discrimination in their access to social, economic, cultural, political and civil rights and calls on 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 that impact their lives at the local, national and international levels.

In January 2024 a consultative meeting was organised, together with the Roma and Travellers Division, 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](#) Realising the Potential of Roma Youth Participation 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 measures proposed in this roadmap are a selection that focus on the first 5 years after the adoption of the Recommendation with a concern for consistency, realism and the respect of the irreplaceable role of governments and national authorities as duty-bearers.

The 2024-2028 roadmap for the implementation of the CM/Rec(2023)4

1. GENERAL APPROACHES

This roadmap provides guidelines on what to prioritise, what is expected from each stakeholder group and what the Council of Europe can do to support them. The roadmap should be implemented according to the very same principles that inform the Recommendation, such as:

- Double-mainstreaming of Roma and youth policies and programmes
- Participation and agency of Roma young people
- Acknowledging the persistence of structural racism, intersectional discrimination and antigypsyism, and their present-day consequences
- Promoting affirmative action and anti-racist, gender-sensitive and intersectional approaches.

Within the Youth Department the roadmap should mobilise its various instruments and resources, including:

- The two European Youth Centres and their support to youth organisations through study sessions and training of youth leaders and multipliers;
- The European Youth Foundation;
- The work on policy development and the potential of the youth perspective to the work of the whole Council of Europe, also sensitising member states;
- The contribution of the sector to country and thematic Action Plans.

The roadmap must also be articulated with the Roma and Travellers Strategic Action Plans, including the Joint Programmes implemented by the Roma and Travellers Division.

2. PRIORITY ACTIONS BY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

2.1. National, local and regional public authorities and institutions

- 2.1.1. To translate and disseminate the Recommendation, including information sessions at relevant events, associating members of the CDEJ; ADI-ROM and CD-ADI; specifically address associations of local and regional authorities and consultative bodies in the National Roma Inclusion Strategies; inform and involving mediators and similar actors;
- 2.1.2. To appoint a representative of their respective entities to support implementation of the Recommendation on the local, regional and/or national levels;
- 2.1.3. To carry out assessments of current levels of Roma youth participation and representation in programmes and policies at national, local and regional level;
- 2.1.4. To mainstream Roma youth matters and include perspectives of Roma youth in the national and local youth and Roma strategies and create corresponding monitoring mechanisms, including Roma youth representatives; the involvement of National Roma Contact Points is particularly recommended;
- 2.1.5. To foresee targeted funding at the national and local level for Roma youth organisations and groups including in local strategies and actions plans;
- 2.1.6. To initiate and put into place processes to provide input for the first review of the Recommendation's implementation;
- 2.1.7. To introduce forms of "rewarding" and promoting the inclusion and participation of Roma youth and their organisations in local, national and regional activities, projects and organisations, including in commemorative and Remembrance initiatives;
- 2.1.8. To encourage national and local youth councils to include Roma youth and their organisations in their priorities, strategies, activities and structures;
- 2.1.9. To establish affirmative action participation measures for Roma youth;
- 2.1.10. To reach out to and associate national human rights institutions and equality bodies to be reactive and supportive to the Roma youth concerns, and the dimensions of Roma youth inclusion policies, including, for example, with relevant parliamentary committees;
- 2.1.11. To prepare and include Roma youth and children in school councils and student parliaments, where appropriate through affirmative action;
- 2.1.12. To establish co-ordination/advisory mechanisms to include all allies and stakeholders to work together with regards to the Recommendation, preferably on the national level;
- 2.1.13. To recognise and address existing internal institutional antigypsyist practices and organise capacity-building and raising awareness of civil servants on antigypsyism, including police forces and judicial staff;
- 2.1.14. To build capacities and work closely with media and journalists to support and promote positive reporting on Roma youth issues and their achievements.

2.2. National youth councils and mainstream youth organisations

- 2.2.1. To raise awareness of the Recommendation and use it for advocacy and policy-making;
- 2.2.2. To establish flexible membership or association criteria for Roma youth organisations and to include Roma youth and their organisations in their initiatives and structures
- 2.2.3. To support coalitions, co-ordination committees or co-operation processes among Roma youth organisations and youth (informal) groups;
- 2.2.4. To support capacity-building of Roma youth civil society producing shadow reports and monitoring the implementation of the Recommendation at national level;
- 2.2.5. To initiate actions towards national and local institutions and national parliamentary groups in charge of youth affairs to advocate for Roma-inclusive policies and projects;

- 2.2.6. To support local Roma multipliers and local NGOs with awareness raising and capacity building for increased participation (through re-granting, workshops, trainings, campaigns, other);
- 2.2.7. To encourage their members to be part of commemorative and Remembrance initiatives on Roma history and culture and support representation of young Roma therein;
- 2.2.8. To support partners and member organisations to being more inclusive and open to involve Roma youth in their activities and processes, especially those from rural areas, Roma women and girls, young LGBTQI+ Roma and young Roma with disabilities.

2.3. Roma youth and other civil society organisations (CSOs)

- 2.3.1. To map existent Roma youth CSOs and their priorities, mapping the needs and capabilities of the Roma and of Roma youth CSOs, including migrants, refugees, returnees, and IDPs, and groups facing intersectional discrimination, and mapping the representation in mainstream youth structures of Roma youth; such mapping exercises can be utilised as baselines;
- 2.3.2. To carry out capacity-building for Roma youth CSOs to recognise, understand, report and respond to antigypsyism and increase their ability to support and monitor Roma youth participation;
- 2.3.3. To carry out raising awareness and capacity-building for Roma youth leaders and multipliers on the local level, to empower their self-development and strengthen their participation;
- 2.3.4. To prepare, support and train Roma youth organisations to become active members of their country based national youth councils, and other international youth organisations;
- 2.3.5. To carry out outreach activities to support Roma youth leaders and multipliers to get involved in Roma youth organisations, policy processes and awareness activities;
- 2.3.6. To advocate for and initiate adequately funded programmes to promote a positive image of Roma identity and culture among Roma youth;
- 2.3.7. To support representation of young Roma in commemorative and Remembrance initiatives;
- 2.3.8. To systematically introduce a youth focus on celebrations of the International Roma Day.
- 2.3.9. To support inclusion of unorganised Roma youth in their activities, initiatives and processes offered by (Roma) youth organisations;
- 2.3.10. To strive to remain inclusive and open to the diversity of Roma youth in their activities and processes, especially those from rural areas, Roma women and girls, young LGBTQI+ Roma and young Roma with disabilities.

2.4. Council of Europe

- 2.4.1. To provide a youth-friendly version of the Recommendation for different stakeholders and encourage translation and dissemination of the Recommendation by national authorities;
- 2.4.2. To develop and make available tools and processes for assessing and improving Roma youth participation at national, regional and local level;
- 2.4.3. 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.
- 2.4.4. To strengthen the capacity of Roma youth organisations to prepare for and take part in the first review of the implementation of the Recommendation;
- 2.4.5. To support and organise capacity-building of Roma youth leaders and youth organisations on youth participation, human rights education and addressing antigypsyism, as well as organisation and project management;

- 2.4.6. To include Roma youth participation in the “youth perspective” work of the Council of Europe bodies and committees;
- 2.4.7. To assess and establish an affirmative action within the European Youth Foundation to take into account specific Roma youth organisations needs, including specific briefing or training sessions;
- 2.4.8. To create synergies with European and international organisations to include a Roma youth perspective in their policies and action, including funding and other resources to Roma youth organisations and groups to sustain themselves, their programmes and the participation of their members in international forums and consultation processes;
- 2.4.9. To support the establishment of scholarships, paid internships, fellowships, etc. needed for young Roma to get the necessary skills for participation;
- 2.4.10. To raise awareness of monitoring bodies of the Council of Europe, e.g. European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) or the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (ACFC), to include Roma youth participation in their monitoring processes;
- 2.4.11. To support the European Youth Capitals programme to include specific provisions about Roma and Roma youth, in co-operation with the European Youth Forum;
- 2.4.12. To strengthen the double-mainstreaming approach of Roma and youth policies;
- 2.4.13. To convey regular/yearly meetings of Roma youth organisations and other stakeholders concerned for coordination and monitoring of developments in relation to the Recommendation;
- 2.4.14. To mobilise financial resources or initiate projects (e.g. with the European Commission) to support the implementation of this roadmap:
- 2.4.15. To put into place tools and processes for the preparation of the first review of the Recommendation’s implementation.