



Ref. DDCP/EYCB/RYP/2018/04

Budapest, 30 January 2018

*Meeting of representatives of European
Roma youth networks and organisations
advocating and supporting participation of
young Roma people*

27 – 28 February 2018

European Youth Center Budapest



**Draft presentation of the
meeting**

Background

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

RYAP gives priority to human rights and intercultural dialogue as responses to discrimination and antigypsyism, together with the development and capacity-building of Roma youth organisations and movements. The project among other areas of intervention aims to facilitate and enable Roma youth alliances within and outside of Roma communities, through existing and new structures, mobilize Roma youth and make their voice heard and stake their position in the communities and in European society as a whole.

Participation and self-organisation of young people are important processes to promote inclusion and equality; it is also a way to promote autonomy and responsibility of young people. Youth participation includes young people being included and involved in decision making at all levels and people to take responsibilities, face challenges and to become active in terms of realising their own needs and aspirations. Youth participation is also a concept central to the Council of Europe youth policy whose aims is to provide young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society.

At the moment, there is little space for the concerns and needs of Roma young people in both youth policy and Roma-related policies. At best, Roma young people are recognised as a specific group, while the more common situation is to address Roma youth issues through general policies without placing any emphasis to the specificities of Roma youth.

The meeting

The meeting will gather representatives of formal and informal Roma youth networks, organisations and youth-led structures with the aim to build synergies within the Roma youth movement and to develop strategic orientations for working effectively towards greater and meaningful participation of Roma youth at all levels, including with the Council of Europe structures.

The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- To understand deeper the meaning of youth participation and identify existing approaches used by Roma youth networks and relevant stakeholders in the field
- To analyse the current organisational challenges and needs of existing Roma youth-led structures, primarily of the European Roma youth networks and their member organisations as key representation forms of Roma youth
- To develop strategic orientations with medium term objectives that will aim to enable and promote the participation of young Roma at all levels, including with the youth sector of the Council of Europe, etc.
- To shape the upcoming agenda of the next dialogue meeting of the Council of Europe with the Roma and Travellers civil society with a focus on Roma youth political participation which is scheduled for 11-12 April 2018

Among the expected outcomes of the meeting are:

- Needs identified for individual and organizational competence development
- Best practices and approaches identified promoting the participation and representation of Roma youth at levels and areas of their interest and concern
- Medium level strategic plan for supporting the sustainability and development of Roma youth structures to promote youth participation at European, regional and national levels
- Proposals developed towards the Council of Europe's youth sector and for the upcoming dialogue meeting of the Council of Europe with the Roma and Travellers civil society

The meeting is co-organised with the ternYpe – International Roma Youth network, Phiren Amenca network and the Forum of European Roma Young People.

Profile of participants

The meeting will gather some 20 participants, with the following profiles:

- Representatives of the European Roma youth networks such as TernYpe International Roma Youth network, Phiren Amenca and the Forum of European Roma Young People
- Representative of regional and national networks or organisations working to support and promote the participation of Roma youth
- Representatives of the statutory bodies of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe

Practical and financial conditions

The meeting will begin at **09.30 on the 27 February** and will finish at **18:00 on the 28 February**. Participants are expected to arrive at the European Youth Center Budapest on the 26th February in the afternoon and depart on the 1st March in the morning.

Venue and accommodation - The meeting will take place at the European Youth Center Budapest. Meals and accommodation in double bed rooms will be provided by the Council of Europe

Travel - The travel expenses to and from Budapest will be reimbursed according the rules of the Council of Europe.

Language - The working language of the meeting will be English.

For more information about the meeting, please contact Denis Durmish, denis.durmish@coe.int