

Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller¹ Civil Society

8th Meeting

**Strasbourg, 10-11 October 2019
Palais de l'Europe, Room 10**

***“Protecting the right of Roma and Traveller children to equal access to quality education.
Fighting school segregation through inclusive education”***

Keynote Speaker Profiles

SICILIANOS Linos-Alexandre

Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos was born in Athens in 1960.

A graduate of the University of Athens, he was awarded a doctorate of law and accreditation to supervise research (habilitation) by Robert Schuman University, Strasbourg, in 1990. Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been Professor of Law at the University of Athens and a member, and subsequently Chairman, of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts for the Improvement of Procedures for the Protection of Human Rights. He has also been a member, and subsequently Vice-Chairman, of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). He was a member from 2000, and Vice-Chairman from 2006 to 2011, of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights, and has also been a member of the European Union Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights and of the Management Board and the Executive Board of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

In the field of international law, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been a member of the Curatorium of the Hague Academy of International Law since 2010, and an associate member of the Institute of International Law since 2011. He was also a member of the Board of the European Society of International Law from 2010 to 2012.

In addition, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos has been a member of the Scientific Board of the Revue trimestrielle des droits de l'homme (since 2005), the European Journal of Human Rights (since 2013), the Annuaire français de droit international (since 2015) and the European Journal of International Law (from 2007 to 2012).

¹ 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, Roma, Sinti/Manush, Kale/Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; and, on the other hand, groups such as Balkan Egyptians and Ashkali, Eastern groups (Dom, Lom and Abdal), Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies, Boshia or Garachi. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

Having been elected as a judge of the European Court of Human Rights as from 18 May 2011, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos served as Section President from 1 February 2017 to 30 April 2017 and Vice-President of the Court from 1 May 2017 to 4 May 2019. He has been President of the Court since 5 May 2019.

An associate member of the Academy of Athens since 2017, Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos is the author of six monographs, the editor or co-editor of fourteen books and the author of some 100 articles and studies on general international law and international human rights protection, in English, French and Greek. He has been invited to teach at various universities and academies, including the Law Faculties of the Universities of Oxford, Paris-I Panthéon-Sorbonne, Paris-II, Strasbourg, Aix-Marseille, Bordeaux and Geneva, the National University of Ireland, Sciences-Po (Paris), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, the Hague Academy of International Law, the International Institute of Human Rights, etc.

FARKAS Lilla

Lilla Farkas has been a member of the Budapest Bar Association since 1998 engaged in human rights practice. She has served as president of the Hungarian Equal Treatment Authority's Advisory Board (2005-2011) and as race (Roma) ground coordinator of the European network of legal experts on gender equality and non-discrimination (since 2005). She holds an LLM from King's College, London and is set to defend a thesis at the European University Institute on "Mobilising for racial equality in the EU: Roma rights and transnational justice," having spent the last academic year at the UCLA as a Fulbright scholar studying the enforcement of anti-discrimination law.

MATACHE Margareta

Margareta (Magda) Matache is the director of the Roma Program at Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, and also a Harvard instructor. In 2012 she was awarded a Hauser postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard FXB and founded the Roma Program there at that time. The University of Pennsylvania Press published her latest book *Realizing Roma Rights* in spring 2017. This volume, which she co-edited with Andrzej Mirga Jacqueline Bhabha, investigates anti-Roma racism and documents a growing Roma-led political movement engaged in building a more inclusive and just Europe. From 2005 to 2012 Matache was the executive director of Romani CRISS, a leading NGO that defends and promotes the rights of Roma.

She completed her Master's in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and her doctoral degree in Political Sciences from the Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bucharest. She also holds a Master's degree in European Social Policies.

POLLAK Peter

Mgr. Peter Pollák, PhD. is a Slovak politician, part of the OLaNO political party /Ordinary people and Independent personalities.

In the Parliamentary election in 2012, he was elected to the Slovak National Council as the first Deputy of Roma origin. In the meantime, he also served as the Slovak government Plenipotentiary for Roma communities.

Before entering into politics, he worked as Roma activist trying to bring a positive change into Roma people lives whose voice is often omitted. As University lecturer he focused on fighting extremism and radicalisation.

As a newly elected MEP he joined the European People´s Party, the largest political fraction in the European Parliament. He is a full member of CULT Committee and substitute member of REGI Committee. Ensuring equality to all, including the most disadvantaged people, reducing regional disparities, fight against extremism, discrimination and corruption have been set as priorities of his mandate.

Speaker and Participant Profiles

ALEXANDRIDIS Theodoros

He holds an LLB in English Law and an LLM in International Human Rights Law from the University of Essex, United Kingdom. Between 2007 and 2009 he worked as a staff attorney at the European Roma Rights Centre in Budapest. He was worked and litigated extensively on Roma housing and access to education cases before the European Court of Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee. He has been deeply involved in four major Roma education cases before the European Court of Human Rights, namely Sampanis and Others v. Greece, Oršuš and others v. Croatia, Sampani and Others v. Greece and Lavidia and Others v. Greece. He is currently working as a legal consultant on strategic litigation cases with Albanian and Greek NGOs.

BARBUL Sonja

During my work in the UN I have encountered many great occasions of how the segregation in education should be tackled. Serbian Government has accepted to tackle this phenomenon through the institutions themselves, by working also with the institutions, the parents and with the children and therefore Serbia can be used as an example of a country with no segregated schools, with high number of children in the educational system and with many ngo's working on diminishing the percentage of school dropouts, especially for girls. Many schools have many roma children attending school rather than non roma children due to the lower birth rate of non Roma children.

BECHTEL Wolfram

Wolfram Bechtel obtained legal degrees at the universities of Heidelberg and Montpellier. Subsequently he taught at the University I of Montpellier, completed his legal traineeship in Mannheim and presented his PhD thesis at the University of Heidelberg. He then worked for nine years as a judge and public prosecutor in the judiciary including at the Karlsruhe Court of Appeal. During another three years he was a consultant, project manager, trainer and facilitator at the Leadership Academy Karlsruhe in the fields of human resources and organisational development. He joined the Council of Europe in 2012; since then he works as a lawyer at the Secretariat of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance with special focus on country monitoring, Roma issues and standards for strengthening Equality Bodies.

COSTEA Claudia

I am a teacher, but I worked since 2001 in the social field. My expertise includes projects for closing down old-type institutions and preventing the separation of children from their families, as part of the Hope and Homes for Children team. From 2015, I work for the Municipality of Baia Mare as Senior Consultant on the field of child protection and marginalized communities. Also, I'm an expert for ROMACT programme.

DUMINICA Ion

I am Romani studies scholar and Roma NGO leader/activist from the Republic of Moldova. From 2004 I provide Romani studies at the Institute of Cultural Heritage / Republic of Moldova. From 2006 I hold a PhD degree in Political Sciences. In 2011 I was elected as Executive Director of the

Public Association "POROJAN" (Roma NGO), which are a member of the Coalition "Roma Voice" of the Republic of Moldova [<http://www.romi.md/en/product/100195-asociatia-porojan>]. In 2015-2016 I was involved by International Organisation "Terre des Hommes Moldova" as expert in Roma education field for provide a Report "How to make the school as friendly learning environment for Roma children". The main conclusions of this report was focused through discover and describe intersectorial links between main influencer/stakeholders which are responsible for generate three educational motivation for Roma children: motivation to going to school, motivation to learn at the school and motivation to become a graduate.

ELEZOVSKI Asmet

Asmet Elezovski is the Executive Director of the National Roma Centrum and activist in the Roma movement and civil society on the international and national level for more than 20 years. As an activist, he advocates the rule of law, the reduction and counteraction with injustice - discrimination against Roma, the rights of Roma women and young people, but also above all, the Roma Holocaust, the cultural values of the Roma through the identity and the Roma language. Is a supporter, and one of the founders of several Roma associations and parties in Europe.

From OSF, OSCE ODIHR Warsaw, European Parliament, Council of Europe and other organizations is occasionally engaged in the implementation of projects, speeches at conferences and reports on the situation of Roma in the Balkans and in Europe.

He writes about electronic and print media in Macedonian and Roma newspapers in Europe. From 2003-2006 he was a member of the National Broadcasting Council. He has published two books and is the author of several documentaries.

Organizer of rallies, protests and cultural manifestations for the rights of Roma, origin and traditions of Roma. Supporter and promoter in cooperation with the first Roma MP Faik Abdi, when making the decision to establish the first and only Roma municipality in Macedonia and the world, Shuto Orizari.

GALJUS Orhan

Orhan Galjus, CEO of the Radio Patrino and Patrino News Network. He is also chair of Eurasian Roma Academic Network. One of the most important voice for the Rromani communities.

GITEVA Dilyana

Dilyana Giteva is a human rights lawyer with experience in the field of human rights, Roma rights, children's rights, protection against discrimination, equal access and desegregation. Her work is focused on strategic litigation, human rights education and legal analysis. In the period 2017 – 2019 she was JUSTROM National Coordinator for Bulgaria working on access to justice of Roma women.

GUET Michaël

Since 1st March 2019, Michaël GUET has worked as Administrator in the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and as a Resource Person on Roma and Traveller Issues for the Anti-Discrimination Department, Directorate of Anti-Discrimination in DGII-Democracy. He previously worked for 20 years in the Roma sector of the

Council of Europe and as Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM).

HAVIROVA Zuzana

Zuzana Havirova received her master's degree in social work at the University of Constantine the Philosopher in Nitra in 2006. As a member of the New Roma Generation NGO she participated in drafting proposals of state minority policies (2006). In 2011, Zuzana started working with CVEK, particularly on projects concerned with inclusive education of Romani children. In 2013, she was focused on introducing affirmative action targeting Roma high-school and university students. She has made a professional fellowship about Community Organizing in Chicago in 2015. She is author of first research study about segregation of Romani students at the secondary schools in Slovakia. She is also author of many academic articles about education. Apart from that, she is currently a PhD. candidate at Constantine The Philosopher University in Nitra and chair of Roma Advocacy and Research Centre in Skalica.

ISAEV Ognyan

Ognyan Isaev has knowledge and experience in designing, implementing and monitoring of projects/programs, focused on inclusive and intercultural education, community development and organizing, empowerment of the oppressed communities, overcoming of specific forms of racism, professional debate, ethical Media and journalism and affirmative actions at grassroot, regional, national and international levels. As well as, he is experienced in delivering soft skills trainings on: cultural dimensions, human rights, combating discrimination, communication, negotiation and advocacy. He has publications for several Bulgarian and foreign Media outlets on topics related to: equal opportunities, social justice, and challenges that Roma community in Bulgaria faces. Prior to joining the Trust, Ognyan served as a Country Facilitator for Bulgaria at Roma Education Fund – Budapest, where was responsible for Bulgarian portfolio at Grant program of the foundation. The scope of his work and expertise include: access to quality education, educational desegregation, early childhood development, institutional partnerships, public fundraising, policy analyzes and advocacy, project management, community work etc. national expert (SNE) of the Finnish government. In the period 2013-2015, she became a Policy Officer SNE of Finnish Government to the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

JANCZAREK Szymon

Szymon Janczarek is a former judge in criminal matters, legal officer in the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Council of Europe.

KARAGIANNI Alexandra

Regarding my experience on the topic of the meeting, I'd like to inform you that I have worked as mediator and researcher in projects related to equal access to education for Roma children and as a lawyer I have also cooperated with different primary schools to assist them with the enrollment of Roma children who lack birth certificates and other documents as well other issues related with the socio-economical status of their families. Also, since last April I work as a legal expert for the NRCP of the ministry of labor and social affairs where I often propose policy measures for education, especially this period that the national strategy until 2020 comes to an end and we are working on the next programming period.

KEGYE Adel

Adel Kegye is a human rights lawyer focusing on the right to inclusive education. Adel is the chair of the Rosa Parks Foundation, a grassroots NGO working in Budapest with marginalized children. Currently, she is working on the establishment of a platform in Hungary for inclusive education to promote and support desegregation of schools.

KEMPF Françoise

Françoise Kempf has worked as an adviser to the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights since 2012. In the Commissioner's Office, she is responsible for several files, including the rights of national minorities and Roma and Travellers, children rights, statelessness and freedom of peaceful assembly. Before 2012, she has worked extensively on national minorities, Roma and Travellers' rights and social rights, both within the Council of Europe and outside. She has lived and worked in France, Switzerland and Spain. She is a French national.

KLEMPAR Miroslav

A community organizer in the Czech Republic. Working in Ostrava as a community organizer and consultant in research and advocacy projects concerning the segregation of Roma children in education in the Czech Republic. Member of The Coordination Committee of Parents for Inclusion, invited member of Czech School Inspection and founder of Awen Amenca z.s.

Awen Amenca is organizing Roma community concerning equal access of Romani children to quality education and despite the limited action from the Czech government, the small campaign work in grassroots organizing made a reduction in segregation in Ostrava and we gave the Roma parents the sense, that a change is possible.

LEE Sybil

Sybil Lee is a Romany activist, campaigner and trainer from the UK. She has spent all her life living in a caravan with her family, and in fact still lives in a caravan on the same site her family has lived on for the past 30 years, living a traditional Romany lifestyle and like many other Romanies not gaining qualifications at school. She was the first young Romany from UK to attend conferences in Europe with FERYP (Forum for European Roma Young People). She has participated in numerous European conferences, seminars, events and training and spent 3 months working as an Intern in Budapest for the European Roma Rights Centre. Sybil is a prominent Romani activist, working with young Roma and their families in the UK. She delivers training in Cultural Diversity, Human Rights, Traveller Education and other subjects to statutory and non-statutory organisations and NGOs. She is a fully qualified Romed Mediator and was a facilitator for the University of Lancaster's Peer Project with young Gypsies and Travellers.

MOHACSI Mate

Mate Mohacsi is a former lawyer at the European Court of Human Rights, legal officer in the Department for the Execution of Judgments of the Council of Europe.

OLAH Ondrej

I was born in South Eastern Slovakia 20 years ago. My first school wanted to send me to a special school at the age of 10 for no other reason than that I am Roma. Fortunately, my family refused to accept this and took the courageous step of moving to the UK. There I was fortunate to attend an inclusive school and passed all my examinations at a high level and am now reading

psychology at Leicester University and obtaining high marks. I am not sure where my career will take me, but I know, thanks to education, that I have many choices. I have been involved in raising awareness around Roma issues for 7 years as I am able to compare directly the experiences of education for Roma children in Eastern European schools and the UK.

ÓNODY-MOLNAR Dóra

Ms Dóra Ónody-Molnár is a staff-writer with [168 Óra](#). She joined this outlet after a brief stint at Vasárnapi Hírek, a left-leaning Sunday paper, and after a long period with Hungary's most widely read national political daily, left-of-center Népszabadság. She also writes for a renowned Jewish cultural website [zsido.com](#). Ms. Ónody-Molnár specializes in education, gender issues, human rights and equal opportunities. She has also been writing extensively about women's political representation, women's rights and publishes op-eds related to countering domestic violence as well as equal opportunities in public education. As part of an [international project](#) spearheaded in Hungary by the Center for Independent Journalism, she has recently produced several analyses in Hungarian and in English about various issues in relation to anti-Semitism in Hungary. She has received a number of awards, including in 2010 the prestigious Excellence in Journalism Award sponsored by the British Embassy, the award of the Association of Hungarian Journalists for her articles reporting on unequal opportunities in Hungarian segregated schools, the 2nd prize of the Together against discrimination! EU Journalist Award – a journalism competition for print and online journalists focusing on discrimination and diversity issues in the EU; in 2014, the Zsigmond Márta Award for her work on women's issues and in 2016, the Katalin Bossányi Memorial Prize for her socially-sensitive journalism.

ŠABANI Anesa

Well my humanitarian action was for Roma children in elementary school, we were collecting school supplies for them to make them feel equal to other children. I was also at project "To be different", that is project for children in elementary school, it contains lecture about differences (like blind kids, kids in wheelchairs etc) and practise. Project is for all schools and no for just Roma children, but it's still about some kind of difference between school kids.

SCHOKKENBROEK Jeroen

Mr Schokkenbroek studied law at the University of Leiden (The Netherlands) where he lectured in Constitutional and Administrative Law until 1993.

Other past functions in that period include: President of the Dutch Section of the International Commission of Jurists, representative of the ICJ with the Council of Europe and editor-in-chief of the Netherlands Human Rights Law Journal (NJCM-Bulletin).

Since 1993, he has held various functions in the Council of Europe Secretariat, mostly in the field of Human Rights, including that of Head of the Human Rights Development Department and Head of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly's Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.

In November 2010, he was appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues. From October 2013 to February 2014, he also acted as Director ad interim of the Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation in the Directorate General of Democracy. He subsequently served as Special Adviser of the Secretary General for Ukraine until 1 July 2014, when he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT).

Since June 2018, Mr Schokkenbroek is Director of Anti-Discrimination in the Directorate General of Democracy of the Council of Europe.

TANASIE Carmen

Carmen obtained her first Master's degrees in Sociology with major in Community Development and European Studies from the University of Craiova, Romania. She holds a second Master's degree in Public Policy from the Central European University. Her research interests focus strongly on social justice and equality for Roma. Her passion for social justice and equality motivated her to join ERGO Network in 2016, where she is the policy officer responsible for mainstream employment policies, social policies and anti-discrimination legislation. Previously, she has worked on employment policies for Roma in the European Commission and on non-discrimination and nonformal education at the Roma Education Fund.

TUMENAITE Neringa

Neringa is a member of the Advisory Council on Youth of the Council of Europe, where she represents a human rights network UNITED for Intercultural Action. She has been actively working the implementation of RYAP (Roma Youth Action Plan), and specializes in youth inclusion and countering of hate speech online and offline.

UBEDA Amaya

Amaya Úbeda de Torres is Senior Lawyer at the Secretariat of the Department of the European Social Charter, Council of Europe. She holds a double PhD from both the University Complutense of Madrid and the University of Strasbourg and has published several books and articles, including on the protection of democracy through human rights in Europe and in America, the work of the Venice Commission, on social rights, on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and on the dialogue of judges.

VUOLASRANTA Miranda

Miranda Vuolasranta, Romani woman from Finland is a teacher of Romani language (Kálo-dialect) and history. She worked with educational issues for 18 years in Sweden and in Finland. She has worked on several teaching materials and curriculums in the Romani language and has also participated in many working groups producing guide-books on Romani cultural and characteristics such as: general features of romanipe, family relations and ethics, health care, housing, justice and police, religion and church and education - these guide-books are aimed at majority authorities in different professional fields aiming to foster intercultural relations between majority and minority

Between 2002-2006 she was a Special Adviser in Roma Related Issues in DG III - Social Cohesion, Migration Roma and Travellers Division to the Council of Europe as a seconded national expert (SNE) of the Finnish government. In the period 2013-2015, she became a Policy Officer SNE of Finnish Government to the European Commission in Brussels, Belgium.

She is a founder and a current president of the European Roma and Travellers Forum and the International Roma Women Network "IRWN – Phenjalipe".