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Centrul de
Resurse pentru
Comunitățile
de Romi



A quarter century after - Regional conference on Roma and discrimination

Cluj Napoca, September 29th -30th, 2015

Background

"Many of the estimated 10-12 million Roma in Europe face prejudice, intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion in their daily lives. They are marginalised and live in very poor socio-economic conditions. This is not acceptable in the European Union (EU) at the beginning of the 21st century.

The EU's Europe 2020 strategy for a new growth path – smart, sustainable and inclusive growth – leaves no room for the persistent economic and social marginalisation of what constitutes Europe's largest minority. Determined action, in active dialogue with the Roma, is needed both at national and at EU level. While primary responsibility for that action rests with public authorities, it remains a challenge given that the social and economic integration of the Roma is a two-way process which requires a change of mindsets of the majority of the people as well as of members of the Roma communities." (EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020)

*The **Regional conference on Roma and discrimination** will look constructively and also critically to the last 25 years of Roma public policy and programming and challenges for the future. The event will bring together a diversity of actors involved in the area - civil society organizations implementing projects in the Roma field, NGO Fund Programme Operators, representatives of European institutions (European Commission, European Parliament, Council of Europe), experts and researchers in antidiscrimination, public policy, NGO development, alongside funding organizations in Central and Eastern Europe.*

We aim to provide a framework suitable for exchanging views and good practices of Roma and non-Roma organisations which are active in the policy influencing and in addressing community problems, as well as to identify areas towards which policy makers and donors should direct their actions in the upcoming years.

Subsequent sessions are designed to debate public policy issues, the active participation of the Roma, Roma youth development, discrimination, participation of Roma women, migration, issues tackling education, health, employment and housing for the Roma. National and local perspectives from Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria will be in particular highlighted during the presentations.

The Conference is organized by the Resource Center for Roma Communities in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, with financial support from the NGO Fund of the EEA Grants and Norway Grants.

PROGRAMME

Cluj Napoca, September 29th - 30th 2015

Tuesday, September 29th, 2015

Until 9.30	Arrival of Participants and Registration
9.30 – 10.45 <i>Location:</i> <i>Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall</i>	Opening session/Plenary: A quarter century after. Regional Conference on Roma and Discrimination Welcome message: representative of the young Roma activists group, on challenges for the next quarter century (Marius Tudor, Cristina Tanase) Moderator: Ionut Sibian , Civil Society Development Foundation, Romania, Executive Director, NGO Fund in Romania
Elsbeth Sande Tronstad	State Secretary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
Ciprian Necula	State Secretary, Ministry of European Funds, (Ro)
Lina Papamichalopoulou	European Commission, Head of Unit, Non discrimination policies and Roma coordination
Florin Moisa	Resource Center for Roma Communities (RO)
Description: The guests will present the main challenges related to the antidiscrimination of the Roma in the European context and specific actions that each foresee for the coming years.	

10.45 – 11.15 **Coffee Break**

11.30 – 13.00 <i>Location:</i> <i>Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall</i>	Plenary session: National Roma Inclusion Strategies – from political desirability to coherent public policies and the role of civil society organizations
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The “EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020” EC Communication to member states generated a new stage in public policy formulation across the European Union, in a context in which the Roma migration from the new member states became a growing difficulty for the target countries. The EC’s attempts to generate effective policy documents is not yet bringing about the desired change, as long as the generous “10 common basic principles for Roma inclusion” are still to be applied into practice. The most frequent criticisms coming from the civil society organizations, especially from the Roma ones, were related to the lack of political will, transparency, limitation of relevant funding mechanisms etc. The principle of participation of Roma during the entire public policy process is still a heated subject.

The session will present some of the most important issues related to the participation of civil society organizations in the elaboration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the results of the national Roma integration strategies. We focus on identifying good practices if existent, methods to improve processes and reasons for what is working or not, what should we change or do in practical terms.

Lina Papamichalopoulou	European Commission, Head of Unit, Non discrimination policies and Roma coordination
Romania	Iulius Rostas, OSI Fellow, Lecturer Corvinus University Budapest

Bulgaria	Rumyan Russinov
Hungary	János Wagner
Check Republic	Jakob Hurrle
Slovakia	Lydia Gabcova
Moderator: Marton Rovid	Coordinator of the Civil Society Monitoring the National Roma Integration Strategies project

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 Parallel sessions: How to overcome the eternal challenge - Roma participation

A1 Improving the NGOs' strategic approaches to policy formulation - from the local, regional and national level to the European level

Location: Forum Hall

The session will address the issue of public policy formulation and the role of NGOs, especially the Roma ones into the process. Topics for discussion:

- role of the NGOs in setting the public agenda;
- strengths and weaknesses of NGOs in the process of public policy formulation;
- ways to improve the capacity to participate in setting the public agenda at **local, regional national and international** level;
- best practices of the NGOs' participation in the public policy formulation process.

Marek Hojsik	Open Society (CZ) Making the Most EU Funds for Roma. Participation of Roma in programming of the EU Funds' 2014-2020
Zora Popova	'Roma' Policy Making: Key Challenges & Possible Solutions Senior Research Associate, ECMI
Ann Morton Hyde	Think International (GB) Community engagement - is it common practice in the public policy forum?
Enikő Vincze and Simona Ciotlăuş	Babes Bolyai University (RO) The limits of project-based 'poverty eradication' in the context of public policy shortages
Mihai Neacsu, Adrian-Nicolae Furtuna	ROMANO KHER- Roma National Culture Center Ethno educational inclusion - its role in the social inclusion process
Moderator: Marian Daragiu	Project Manager, Roma Education Fund Romania Co-Founder Ruhama Foundation (RO)

B1 Community development - the effective engagement of the Roma in multi-ethnic communities

Location: Ambassador Hall

When discussing the participation of the Roma in the community life, probably the highest level of participation is defined by the community members' capacity, including that of the Roma, to jointly generate decisions and transform them into actions for the benefit of the entire community. The session will focus on the challenges faced by the Roma in fully participating in the life of the local

community, with examples of best practices coming from Roma and non-Roma civil society organizations.

Tibor Beres	Autonomia Foundation (HU)
Oana Luiza Taba	Romani CRISS (RO) Empowerment and rights awareness for Roma
Cveta Petkova	Health Mediators and their key role in community development process - the Bulgarian experience (BG)
Daniel Radulescu	Sastipen (RO) Community development through community centers
Oana Mihaiescu, Georgiana Enache	Amare Rromentza (RO) Effective involvement of Roma in multi-ethnic communities
Marius Jitea	Council of Europe ROMACT programme
Luca Mirabela	Association for Promotion of Social Inclusion, APIS
Moderator: Costel Bercus	Center for Education and Human Rights Association (RO)

C1 Looking for the future of the Roma movement – the young generation

Location: Foyer Hall

The last 25 years of Roma activism were impressive and we witnessed the rise and the decline of several generations of Roma who made a difference and clearly influenced the status-quo of the Roma communities. The session will debate the status of the young generation of Roma activists and their involvement in the life of the local community, but also at national and international level. Sharing experience of working with young Roma, presentation of flagship projects for promoting the young Roma generation, results and challenges of affirmative action measures will be addressed.

Duka Andrea Annamária	Uccu Foundatio (HU) The involvement and engagement of young Roma activists into the methodology and use of informal education as a dialogue creating tool
Aura Benea, Daniel Alexandrescu	PACT Foundation Rural Roma Youth empowered by community engagement
Lucian Gaman	Apollo Resource Center (RO)
Marius Tudor	Resource Center for Social Inclusion CRIS (RO)
Catalina Olteanu	“Impreuna” Agency for Community Development Foundation “What do you want to be when you grow-up”
Cristina Tanase	Save the Children (RO) The work of Save the Children Romania
Moderator: Dan Pavel Doghi	Roma Education Fund, Budapest

D1 Empowerment of Roma women

Location: Diplomat Hall

The multiple discrimination of Roma women is well recognized and the few attempts to bring the issue on the public agenda at national or European level are not sufficient, as long as statistics are showing significant gaps in education, employment, health, housing etc. The situation of Roma women remains difficult, but new initiatives of civil society organizations are bringing about a timid but important change in the participation of Roma women into the life of the larger community. The session will explore these challenges, with focus on successful examples of involvement of Roma women in projects implemented by Roma and Non-Roma civil society organizations.

Crina Moretanu	TBC
Carmen Gheorghe	E-Romnija (RO) Models of local participation for the interest of Roma Women
Andreea Braga	FILIA Center Violence against Roma women - An invisible problem for the public agenda
Mihaela Gheorghe	Center for Education and Human Rights Association (RO) Challenges for school education of Roma girls
Moderator: Nicoleta Bitu	Executive Director, Romano Buti-Q (RO)

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee Break

16.00 - 17.30

Location: Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall

Plenary session: **Lessons learned from the waves of migration of the Roma in Europe. Where next (destination)?**

The recent Roma migration created challenges to several Member States across Europe. Their difficulties in managing the integration of the Roma are increased by the negative response of the population where the Roma reside, by the media presentation of the problem or the politicians' discourse looking for votes. With very few efforts to integrate the migrant Roma, perceived many times as looking only for social benefits, the strategic response is simple – move the problem as far as possible. Therefore, we witness actions such as Roma settlements being destroyed, Roma families being sent back to their origin countries, violent attacks or threats initiated by the local population, etc. The debate will focus on the most recent developments related to Roma migration, challenges for their integration and possible solutions at international level.

Andrey Ivanov	Fundamental Right Agency
Andrew Ryder	Corvinus University (HU)
Joanna Kostka	Migrating poor: The case study of Romanian Roma migrants in the city of Wrocław NOMADA Association for Multicultural Society Integration
Valeriu Nicolae	Roma activists
Ciprian Necula	Ministry of European Funds, Romania
Rumyan Russinov	Public Policy Advocacy Centre (BG)
Iulius Rostas	OSI Fellow, Lecturer Corvinus University Budapest
Moderator: Bernard Rorke	Roma Education Fund (HU)

20.00 - 21.30 Reception

Location: Urban Culture Centre Casino Cluj, Central Park Cluj Napoca

Welcome addresses by:
Florin Moisa - Resource Center for Roma Communities (RO)

Wednesday, September 30th

9.30 - 10.30

Location: Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall

Plenary session: **ANTI...what? Antidiscrimination, anti-gipsysm in Europe**

Anti-Gipsyism ... "can be defined as a form of dehumanisation, because prejudice against the Roma clearly goes beyond racist stereotyping whereby the Roma are associated with negative traits and behaviour. Through dehumanisation, the Roma are viewed as being less than humans; and, being less than human, they are perceived as not morally entitled to human rights equal to those of the rest of the population". (Valeriu Nicolae, Towards a Definition of Anti-Gipsyism, 2006)

Antidiscrimination, Anti-Gipsysm became common words for the current civil movement across Europe and reflect a cruel reality of the Roma status-quo. Irrespective of the many pieces of national legislation adopted, European Commission Directives issued, equality bodies and similar institutions created, reports written, awareness campaigns implemented, the Roma are still facing discrimination all-over Europe - from the very soft to much flagrant type of racist discourse, violent acts, hate speech and crime.

The session will explore today's challenges related to discrimination of Roma and anti-Gipsysm, with focus on the response of the civil society organizations to these issues and areas where donors and policy makers should act.

Bernard Rorke	Roma Education Fund (HU) Combating anti-Gypsyism: what is to be done?
Catalin Berescu	Architect, Frontal Association (RO) Settlements of Exclusion. Old patterns of housing discrimination and new European policies
Enikő Vincze	Babes Bolyai University (RO) Fighting against structural discrimination through the strategy of inclusive school network
András Ujlaky	Executive Director, ERRC (HU) <i>Litigation experience of school segregation of Roma children and the resulting infringement procedures by the EC</i>
Moderator: Dezideriu Gergely	Antidiscrimination Expert (RO)

10.30 - 10.45 Coffee Break

10.45 - 12.15 Parallel sessions:

A2 Roundtable: No data, no policy, no responsibility. Role of research and data collection for Roma public policy formulation

Location: Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall

The last decade created a movement of data collection on Roma issues, from the Census to sociological pieces of research with more or less representative samples of Roma population. Accordingly, several reports and research publications are presenting detailed situations of the Roma population in different countries, even comparative data between countries or periods of time. Still, the data collection is not a systematic process nor followed by a flow into the public policy formulation process.

The session will explore the main challenges of data collection and policy formulation processes, it will present different country experiences and methods and will collect recommendations for the policy makers at national and European level.

Andrey Ivanov	Fundamental Right Agency
Lazslo Fozsto	ISPMN (RO) SocioRoMap
Daniela Tarnovschi	Foundation for an Open Society (RO) No data, no problem? Importance of research and data collection for public policy formulation
Adam Kulman	Expert, former MtM/OSF Budapest Policy lessons from independent assessments on large scale EU funded programs
Eugen Baican	Babes Bolyai University (RO) Roma Social Inclusion in the European Societies; Beyond Multiculturalism
Enikő Vincze	Babes Bolyai University (RO) Faces and causes of the Roma Marginalization in Local Settings. Contextual inquiry to the UNDP/World Bank/ EC Regional Roma Survey 2011, focusing on Hungary, Romania, Serbia
Laura Marin	Human Catalyst Association for Education and Social Justice Roma public policy formulation with Roma researchers – a step toward a vision
Moderator: Dan Chiribuca	Sociology and Social Work Department, Babes Bolyai Univ. (RO)

B2 Roundtable: Monitoring, reporting and prosecuting hate crimes against the Roma

Location: Napoca Hotel, Ambassador Hall

Roma are one of the most common targets of hate speech throughout Europe and the utmost consequence of the proliferation of this type of speech is the encouragement of hate crimes. Much like hate speech, hate crimes are difficult to count due to varied reporting procedures, from country to country, or total lack thereof, in some cases. This session will discuss the efficiency of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, while also investigating successful judicial proceedings against hate crimes perpetrated upon the Roma population.

Stefan Luca	ERRC (HU) Strategic Litigation at the European Roma Rights Centre
Marian Mandache	ROMANI CRISS (RO)
Istvan Haler	National Council for Combating Discrimination (RO) From hate speech to discrimination. Experiences of the national Equality Body
David Martín Abánades	Diversity Manager Representative, Fuenlabrada Police Service, Spain Diversity Management Team Fuenlabrada Police Service, Fighting and monitoring Hate Crimes
Dezideriu Gergely	Antidiscrimination Expert
Moderator: Delia Nita	Centre for Legal Resources (RO)

12.15 - 12.45 Coffee break

12.45 - 13.45 The ideas shaping the future decade (of Roma inclusion)

Location: Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall

Starting with 2005, the Decade of Roma inclusion promoted four main areas– education, health, employment and housing, together with the transversal area of antidiscrimination.

These areas were afterwards taken over by almost all of the new international initiatives, including that of the European Commission, which involved asking the member states (through the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020), to develop new strategies for the inclusion of the Roma population. The session will bring together some of the most exciting examples in the area, facilitating the know-how transfer and exchange of good practices.

a) Education	Maria Kovacs – RWCT Romania LIT3 - Literacy cubed project
b) Employment	Nicoleta Bitu – Romano Buti-Q Mestesukar Butiq project
c) Housing	Lorin Niculae – Foundation for an Open Society, Romania Arhipera project
d) Youth	Ana Duminica , “Impreuna” Agency for Community Development Foundation Roma middle class
Moderator: Florin Moisa	Resource Center for Roma Communities (RO)

13.45 – 14.15 Closing session. Final remarks

Location: Napoca Hotel, Forum Hall

Florin Moisa	Resource Center for Roma Communities (RO)
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14.15 – 15.30 Lunch

15.30 – 18.00 Field visit

- Given the administrative arrangements that need to be settled upfront, the interest and availability to attend the field visits should be expressed upon the registration to the Conference, basically for the international participants in the conference.
- 3-4 projects and communities within a 30 km distance from Cluj Napoca may be visited, organized in 3-4 separate groups of up to 6 people.