

# Decade of Roma Inclusion

23rd International Steering Committee  
Meeting

24-25 September, 2012

Council of Europe activities on Roma  
issues –an overview

# I. A Pioneering Role

## 1.1 Parliamentary action

- First Organisation to deal with Roma issues
- The first recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly dates back to 1969
- Latest recommendations and resolutions:
  - Roma migrants in Europe - 2012
  - Asylum seekers in Europe - 2010
  - Situation of the Roma in Europe-2010

# 1.2. Inter-governmental action

## Standard-setting

- Complete set of recommendations on
  - a framework policy for drawing up a strategy for social inclusion
  - standards to be followed in education, health, housing, employment, halting sites, mediation

## 2. Capacity Building and Awareness raising

- The European Roma Mediators Training Programme (ROMED)
- Training of lawyers
- The Dosta campaign

## 2.1.ROMED

- New concept of a mediator, with a rights based approach:
  - - not an agent of the authorities
  - - not an activist of the Roma community
  - - not a paternalistic figure
  - - not limited to conflict solving

# ROMED

- The mediator is a neutral intermediary who
- -assists in improving communication and cooperation between Roma and public institutions
- - stimulates responsibility and involvement
- - empowers the Roma community to take responsibility for their health and their children's schooling

# ROMED

- Tools of the Programme
  - - a Framework curriculum
  - - a European code of Ethics for Mediators
  - - a pool of trainers

# ROMED

- Current beneficiaries:
- Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, »the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia », Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.



## 2.2. Training of lawyers

- Ensure equal and effective access to human rights protection
- Training of lawyers on the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Social Charter
- 120 lawyers trained in Greece, France, Italy, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria
- Online training to be introduced

## 2.3. DOSTA! campaign

- The DOSTA! Campaign is aimed at combating prejudices and stereotypes against Roma
- The campaign is an on-going exercise and has a multilingual website including multimedia and visibility material

# DOSTA! campaign

- Participants: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, « the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia », Ukraine
- Lithuania and Spain will join in 2013

### 3. Analysis, Exchange of policies and good practices

- Data base on policies and good practices
- European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion
- Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma issues (CAHROM)

## 3.1. A Data Base

- To further develop cooperation with national, regional and local authorities and international organisations by:
  - - collecting, analysing, exchanging and disseminating information on policies and good practice on Roma
  - - providing advice and support on the request of national, regional and local authorities

# A Data Base

- - providing practical assistance in the implementation of new policy initiatives
- - providing access to training, capacity-building and educational material

## 3.2. European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion

- Summit of Mayors on Roma, September 2011
  - European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion for exchange of good practice
  - Consultation meeting, with cities, regions and other stakeholders, September 2012

## 3.3. CAHROM

- Intergovernmental body focused on analysis and evaluation of implementation of national policies
- Thematic exchanges of experience and good practice



# CAHROM

- Thematic visits planned:
  - Issues relating to nomadic groups(Belgium)
  - Inclusive education (Prague and Kosice)
  - School drop-outs and absenteeism of Roma girls (Helsinki)

# 4.The Human Rights Dimension

- 4.1 Judicial bodies
  - the European Court of Human Rights  
(political rights)
- Judgments are binding and member states must conform to them

# The Human Rights Dimension

- In 2011-2012, ten judgments on Roma issues covering sterilisation (Slovakia), failure to investigate aggression (Croatia, Czech Republic, Russia), eviction (Bulgaria)
- refusal of asylum (Sweden), racial assault (Slovakia), excessive police force (Hungary)

# The Human Rights dimension

## European Social Charter (social rights)

Out of 86 collective complaints 13 concern the situation of Roma and Travellers directly

Member states must report to the Committee of Ministers on the implementation of the decision

# The Human rights Dimension

- 4.2. Monitoring Bodies

- European Commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI)

- periodic reporting following field visits

- 2011 General policy recommendation on combating anti-gypsyism

# The Human Rights Dimension

- Framework Convention for the Protection of national minorities
  - periodic reporting following field visits
- Commissioner for Human Rights
  - 2012 report on the human rights situation of Roma and Sinti

# Gender Equality

- Biennial conference on Roma women
  - discuss gender inequalities, early marriages, forced sterilisation
  - 3rd meeting held in Spain in 2011
  - 4th meeting will be held in Finland in 2013