



“Roma Genocide, Holocaust Education and Antigypsyism in Youth Work”
International partnership building seminar of ternYpe – International Roma Youth Network
March 10-15, 2013 in Bad Dürkheim/Heidelberg (Germany)

The partnership-building seminar organized by ternYpe International Roma Youth Network will bring together 50 Roma and non-Roma multipliers and youth activists to create a platform of exchange of experiences, practices and methods for young people and youth organizations how to address Holocaust, antigypsyism and human rights issues in grassroots, national and international actions, and how to strengthen the awareness and mobilization of young people for these issues. The four day lasting seminar on March 10th-15th, 2013 is designed to share experiences between the participating organizations, to increase the knowledge and awareness of participants on the Roma genocide, to reflect on the relevance and creation of a culture of commemoration among Roma and non-Roma youth, and in order to strengthen the coordinated efforts to build joint initiatives on grassroots level, as well as on international level towards the commemoration and to challenge antigypsyism and racism in Europe. The seminar will focus on developing follow-up actions such as a campaign, and on coordinating the preparation of the youth conference and commemoration of the Roma Genocide around August 2nd, as a day of commemoration of the Roma Genocide during World War II.

Project Details

- **Dates:** March 10-15, 2013 (including travel days, 4 program days)
- **Place:** Bad Dürkheim/Heidelberg, Germany
- **Participants:** About 50 participants from 30 Roma and non-Roma youth organizations
- **Participant Registration Deadline:** February 8th, 2013

Partners and participants' profile

- **Roma and non-Roma youth organizations** that engage or are interested to get involved in issues of commemorating the Roma Genocide and challenging antigypsyism and racism;
- **Expert and educational organizations** working on the issues of the Roma genocide and campaigning against racism and antigypsyism;
- **All participants** are expected to attend the full duration of the seminar, to be motivated to contribute through their experience, and to engage in a follow-up, taking responsibility in their organization to support the “ternYpe commemoration of the Roma Genocide” initiative.

Aims of the “ternYpe Commemoration of the Roma Genocide” initiative

- Advocate for the recognition of the Roma Genocide and promote the commemoration on European level;
- Strengthen the engagement and awareness of Roma and non-Roma youth and youth organizations regarding the Roma Genocide, antigypsyism and human rights issues;
- Build a Human Rights Platform of European youth organizations to challenge stereotypes and antigypsyism.



Objectives of the partnership-building seminar

- Create a platform of exchange of experiences, practices and methods for young people and youth organizations how to address Holocaust, antigypsyism and human rights issues in grassroots, national and international actions, and how to strengthen the awareness and mobilization of young people for these issues;
- Promote and raise the visibility of the commemoration of the Roma Genocide by young Europeans;
- Inform young people with different backgrounds about the genocide of Roma; Holocaust education has the aim to make young people understand the mechanisms of exclusion, of racism, anti-Semitism, antigypsyism and populist and dogmatic manipulation of people which led to the worst moment of human action in history; critical thinking is a key asset to raise civic courage and active citizenship in the fight against extremism and racism;
- Involve a wide range of youth and civil society organizations into an informal Human Rights Platform that can effectively address stereotypes, stigmatization and antigypsyism within their structures, as well as in society through non-formal education, joint campaigns and advocacy.
- Share, discuss and develop the concept, program and strategy to realize the “Roma Genocide” project;
- Coordinate efforts between ternYpe and other organizations involved in the commemoration initiative, share responsibilities and establish working groups.

**“THE ONE WHO DOES NOT REMEMBER
HISTORY IS BOUND TO LIVE THROUGH IT
AGAIN”**

GEORGE SANTAYANA

Provisional program:

- **Day 1: Sharing experiences in youth work and human rights education** - sharing experiences of organizations and of different practices, input on antigypsyism, working groups on different approaches how participating organizations work on the Roma genocide and antigypsyism;
- **Day 2: The Roma Genocide** - working groups and plenary on culture of commemoration among Roma and non-Roma youth; visit to the documentation centre on the Genocide of Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg (<http://www.sintiundroma.de/zentrum>), discussion with the Central Council of Sinti and Roma about the human rights movement and the struggle for recognition of the genocide;
- **Day 3: Youth activism against antigypsyism and racism** – working groups to strengthen cooperation and follow-up actions (Campaign of Amnesty International, Youth Conference and Youth commemoration around August 2nd, CoE Hate Speech campaign, Roma React);
- **Day 4: Youth activism against antigypsyism and racism** – Working groups to create initiatives on different issues, to share and strengthen our approaches (Roma React: online activism, street activism & campaigning, Human Rights Education, Roma heroes in cartoons, sensibilization initiatives); conclusions, follow-up, evaluation.



Follow-up and expected outcomes:

- **International Youth Conference:** On July 31st and August 1st, an international youth conference on the Holocaust, Antigypsyism and Human Rights issues will gather around 200-300 Roma and non-Roma youngsters, as well as youth organizations in Krakow.
- **Commemoration on August 2nd in Auschwitz:** In the night of August 2nd to 3rd 1944, 2897 elderly people, women and children, the remaining Sinti and Roma of the so-called "gypsy camp" at Auschwitz-Birkenau, were murdered in the gas chambers. On this day we remember in a commemoration event in Auschwitz the countless people who were persecuted and murdered as "gypsies" under the Nazi rule.
- **Grassroots actions:** This event shall serve to share good practices and methods and to inspire youth groups and youth organizations to engage for these issues. We want to take the knowledge and experience of the project to the grassroots levels to mobilize and empower young Roma and non-Roma, and to raise their awareness.
- **Platform:** Create an informal Human Rights Platform of youth and civil society organizations that can effectively address stereotypes, stigmatization and antigypsyism within their structures, as well as in society through non-formal education, joint campaigns and advocacy.

**Background of the “ternype Commemoration of the Roma Genocide” initiative**

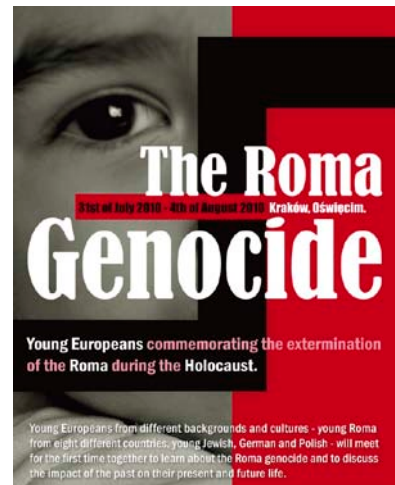
On the **2nd of August 1944**, 2897 elderly people, women and children, the remaining Sinti and Roma of the so-called "gypsy camp" ("Zigeunerlager") at Auschwitz-Birkenau, were murdered in the gas chambers. Knowledge and official recognition of the extermination of Roma during the Second World War is still very limited - especially among young Europeans including the Roma. In 2011 the **Polish Government passed a resolution for the official recognition of the 2nd of August** as a day of commemoration.

For ternype the Roma Genocide project is one of the flagships projects of the network. Since 2010 on August 2nd we have organized a commemoration in Auschwitz for young Europeans, and an international seminar around the event in order to educate young people from different backgrounds on the suffering of Roma in the World War II and on discrimination, antigypsyism and extremism in today's Europe. Young people take an important role and responsibility to construct a peaceful and integrated Europe today and in the future. Therefore, we shall strengthen the voice and participation of young people, as the consciousness about the Holocaust constitutes a key element of our European identity and the founding principles of the European integration. The importance and great impact of the "Roma Genocide" project have been appreciated by the European institutions by selecting it as one of the 27 national winning projects for the **European Charlemagne Youth Prize 2011**. The President of the European Parliament, Jerzy Buzek, supported the ternype publication and annual report 2011 with a foreword: <http://romayouth.com/files/2011ternype.pdf>.

Long-term strategy of ternYpe regarding the initiative

The Roma Genocide project, now in its fourth year of realization, is one of ternYpe flagship projects to be realized every year around August 2nd as the commemoration day of the Roma Genocide. The purpose is not only to spread the knowledge about the Roma Genocide and to promote the commemoration by all Europeans, but we hope to shape the collective historical memory of this event as until today historic knowledge and education on this issue remains scarce in Europe. Therefore, we aim to build up a wide Human Rights Platform of youth and civil society organizations that jointly campaigns to challenge stereotypes and antigypsyism. Each year a conference and seminar address new important aspects, methodological approaches and current issues, such as antigypsyism, human rights education and the rise of extremist (youth) groups.

We advocate for concrete measures and actions on all levels to address antigypsyism and stigmatization as the root causes of social exclusion of Roma, especially in the context of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020. Roma are European citizens. Nevertheless, they face structural discrimination and marginalization and are not accepted as equal citizens. Prejudices and stereotypes are widely spread and remain often unquestioned in the media, in politics and in society. Many young people have difficulties with their cultural background because of the ongoing experience of discrimination. We observe a strong self-stigmatizing mechanism. Many young Roma who manage to successful move forward, feel forced to deny their identity and do not invest their capacity for their community. Young people should have the right and responsibility to shape their own presence and future; however, the majority of Roma youth lacks the space to articulate the Roma youth issues. Striving for a better life for all in one society, we have to stress that not Roma are the problem, but their marginalization, discrimination and bad social situation. This project intends to promote a positive image of Roma as active citizens and to strengthen the Roma voice in order to stand up against discrimination and stigmatization.



Addressing antigypsyism and stigmatization in the “Roma Genocide” project, contributes to the ternYpe mission and strategy to create a space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilization, participation and self-organization. We believe in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth.

ternYpe - International Roma Youth Network

was founded in January 2010 and brings together different Roma youth organizations from Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain and Poland.

Mission

ternYpe is a network of youth and youth associations, which creates space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilisation, self-organisation and participation. We believe in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth.