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CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Roma Youth Advocacy Seminar

Brussels, March 16 until 22, 2019 (including travel days)

This is your chance to raise the voices of Roma youth during the EU Roma Week, hosted by the European Parliament, European Commission and civil society around the International Day against Racism (21 March 2019). Join the 5-days lasting Roma Youth Advocacy Training (16-22 March 2019) in Brussels to learn about European policy-making and civil society advocacy, and to raise young voices to combat antigypsyism and to advance important issues for Roma communities.

This five days lasting training will gather 40 young Roma and non-Roma activists in order to strengthen their capacity as young advocates and leaders to tackle antigypsyism. During the seminar, the group will raise voices against antigypsyism targeting EU level actors, like Members of the European Parliament and European Commission. The advocacy seminar is part of the “EU Roma Week” around the International Day against Racism (21 March) and ahead of the 8 April – International Roma Day. This five days lasting seminar is organized by ternYpe International Roma Youth Network, ERGO Network, Phiren Amenca and the Documentation and Cultural Centre & Central Council of German Sinti and Roma.

Our mission and vision

The organizers aim to empower young Roma to have a voice to become key agents of change, and to foster solidarity among young people! We have a strong vision to make a change in Europe. As young Roma and non-Roma we believe that we can build a European culture based on respect, dialogue, human rights and equal opportunities. We strongly follow our mission to create space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilization, self-organization and participation.

EU Roma Week in the European Parliament

Roma Week 2019 (18-21 March) aims to build on the work done during previous Roma Weeks and build on the landmark own-initiative report that the European Parliament adopted in October 2017 on “Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism” which called upon the European Commission and EU Member States to put the fight against antigypsyism at the forefront of efforts for the social and economic inclusion of Roma. Roma Week aims to do this by raising the voices of people who are affected by antigypsyism.



AIMS & THEMES

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims to strengthen the capacity of the participants to understand the structures and working mechanisms of the EU institutions, as well as the current EU policies concerning Roma and against racism, and to develop advocacy strategies and campaigns raising-awareness about antigypsyism on European level.

The objectives of the activity are to:

- Get to know the European Union institutions and to understand their working mechanisms, and policies towards Roma, in particular of the European Parliament and European Commission;
- Build a dialogue and bring a Roma youth perspective to DG Justice (responsible for Roma policies in the European Commission), to DG EAC (Education and Culture, includes the youth sector in the European Commission), as well as to Members of the European Parliament in particular of ARDI (Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup);
- Learn about the work of the EU umbrella organizations and contribute to their work;
- Raise awareness of the participants about antigypsyism, and the current anti-racism policies;
- Raise awareness of the participants about the Brussels-based civil society structures and their strategies against antigypsyism and racism (in particular ERGO Network, ENAR (European Network against Racism) and the European Youth Forum);
- Develop a youth actions against antigypsyism and on Roma youth perspectives during the “EU Roma Week” of the European Parliament;
- Raise awareness of Members of the European Parliament, European Commission staff and Brussels based advocates about the recognition of the Roma Holocaust and of antigypsyism, which was acknowledged in April 2015 by a European Parliament resolution.

Aims of the EU Roma Week

1. **Platform to raise concerns and knowledge exchange:** To facilitate exchange and capacity building between Roma, civil society, policymakers and officials.
2. **Advocacy for specific thematic areas:** Different thematic areas including a general overlapping anti-racism theme to be covered in the European elections and the next European Union mandate 2019-2024.
3. **Recognition of antigypsyism:** The week will be an opportunity for experts and activists on the issue to advocate European and national policymakers to strengthen the recognition of antigypsyism as well as develop strategic and coherent responses.
4. **Truth, Recognition and Reconciliation Commission:** During the week, there will be discussions to advance the follow-up to the 2015 report of the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues and the 2017 European Parliament Resolution, and in particular to explore possibilities for Europe-level and State-level to address antigypsyism, and to advance truth, recognition, remedy, trust and reconciliation processes in this regard.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Saturday, 16 March	Arrival, joint dinner, welcome Opening, sharing experiences
Sunday, 17 March	Training sessions: the European institutional framework, Roma-related policies; Training sessions on advocacy and antigypsyism: How to build and advocate a better understanding of the multiple dimensions of antigypsyism?
Monday, 18 March	Training on advocacy, preparing the meetings of EU Roma Week Meetings with institutions, and civil society networks Opening event of the EU Roma Week
Tuesday, 19 March	Evaluating the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) Meetings with external stakeholders in small thematic groups: European Commission, European civil society structures, International Organizations European Civil Rights Prize of Sinti and Roma EU Award for Roma Integration 2019 in the Western Balkans and Turkey for Women Grassroots Activists
Wednesday, 20 March	Working Breakfast with various Members of the European Parliament; ERGO conference: Roma and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ARDI Intergroup conference: Combatting racism/discrimination: Evaluating 2014-2019 and recommendations for 2019-2024 Stocktaking Conference: Creating trust through uncovering and recognising the Truth: advancing recognition and remedy for anti-Gypsyism
Thursday, 21 March	Stocktaking Conference: Creating trust through uncovering and recognising the Truth: advancing recognition and remedy for anti-Gypsyism Evaluation, conclusions and follow-up of the event and of the Roma week, Closing dinner
Friday, 22 March	Departure

Stocktaking Conference: Creating Trust through Uncovering and Recognising the Truth: Advancing Recognition and Remedy for Antigypsyism

❖ The Initiative

This initiative aims to combat antigypsyism and to advocate for equality and inclusive, democratic societies by advancing truth, recognition, remedy, trust and reconciliation processes at national and European levels. The initiative is a follow-up to the call of the European Parliament resolution of Oct 2017 to establish truth and reconciliation processes to analyse the roots, manifestations and impact of antigypsyism in the past and present, to advance the recognition of and remedy for antigypsyism, and to build new trust between Roma, institutions and the public-at-large. The initiative builds on experiences with Truth and Reconciliation processes world-wide, as well as on previous structural approaches to recognize antigypsyism.

❖ **Objectives**

- a. Combatting antigypsyism by advancing truth, recognition, remedy, trust and reconciliation processes.
- b. Promoting awareness and recognition of antigypsyism as a specific form of racism against Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others stigmatized as “Gypsies” in the public imagination, and as a root cause impeding sustainable Roma inclusion;
- c. Promoting effective policies and strengthening structures to analyse, monitor and combat antigypsyism, in particular through specific ‘vehicles’ such as truth and reconciliation processes on antigypsyism;
- d. Advocating the recognition and remembrance of the Roma Holocaust, including commemorating annually August 2nd as Roma Holocaust Memorial Day;

❖ **Stocktaking conference on March 20-21, 2019**

In the context of the 2019 EU Roma Week in the European Parliament, and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the partners will hold a stocktaking event in the European Parliament on 20-21 March 2019, focussing on state-of-play and efforts to advance at EU- and State-level the fight against antigypsyism through truth, recognition, remedy, trust and reconciliation processes. The March 2019 event will create a space to bring all relevant stakeholders together, including UN, EU, OSCE, Council of Europe, national governments and parliaments, as well as grassroots voices, civil society and academia.

PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Present will be Roma and non-Roma youth leaders, activists, multipliers, and volunteers who are active in Roma communities and experienced in working with Roma communities and/or Roma youth. We aim to create a balanced group of experience participants and participants who have NOT participated in the training previously, and who demonstrate a strong interest in advocacy and political participation.

Participants must also:

- be able and committed to act as young advocates and multipliers in youth work on the themes of anti-discrimination, combating racism and antigypsyism and promotion of human rights with young Roma, for the benefit of Roma communities and Roma youth;
- be motivated to develop their competences in advocacy, anti-discrimination work, human rights education and youth work and to share their experiences with other participants;
- be actively committed and involved in a Roma (youth) initiative, advocacy group or organization;
- be aged between **18 – 35 years**;
- be committed to attend for the full duration of the course;
- be able to work in English, or check with the coordination that translation can be provided through other participants or team members;
- be resident in one of the following countries: EU Member States + Macedonia

TECHNICALITIES

DATES OF THE ACTIVITY

Arrival: March 16, 2019 (Saturday)

Program days: March 17 to March 21, 2019

Departure: March 22, 2019

LOCATION

The seminar is organised in Brussels.

The conference will take place in various venues. Information is provided with the Info Pack later.

TRAVEL

Participants should organize their travel (arrival and departure) for these dates AFTER the organizers have confirmed their participation. Earlier arrivals and late departures will be exceptions after discussion with the organizers.

COSTS

Reimbursement of travel costs:

The organisers of the seminar cover accommodation and food during the activity.

The maximum of reimbursement of travel costs is € 200 (for French and German participants € 150); if costs are higher they have to be covered by participants or contact the organizers. The reimbursements of travel expenses (based on economical prices, Apex, student price, special price) will take place on the spot during the week in cash or by bank transfer after the activity. Participants should bring with them original invoices to prove the costs of travel as well the tickets.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION

How to apply? Register in the online application form:

<https://goo.gl/forms/Wu0bvHc3yZH4Dmj12>

Application deadline: February 20, 2019 (end of day)

Selection procedure:

If you fit into the participants' profile, you may submit an application until February 20 at midnight Central European Time. The preparatory team will select up the participants on the basis of the profile outlined above, ensuring also a balance between genders, geographical regions, different types of experiences and organizations. Within few days, we will inform the candidates whether their application has been accepted or rejected.

ANY QUESTIONS?

ERGO general contact: info@ergonetwork.org

ternype general contact: ternype@romayouth.com

ORGANIZERS

ABOUT ERGO NETWORK



ERGO (European Roma Grassroots Organizations) Network wants to achieve equal opportunities for Roma in their societies and encourages them to take an active role in accomplishing respect for their rights as equal citizens. ERGO Network connects organisations that share the conviction that Roma can and should participate as active citizens in their own societies. To overcome the antigypsyism that are root obstacles to their equal participation in society, ERGO Network supports civic empowerment, mobilization of Roma at grassroots level and leadership at all levels of society. www.ergonet.org, <http://www.romareact.org>

ABOUT TERNYPE



ternype - International Roma Youth Network was founded in January 2010 and unites Roma youth organizations from around Europe. The mission of the network is to create space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilization, self-organization and participation. We believe in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth. [Http://www.ternype.eu](http://www.ternype.eu), www.2august.eu

ABOUT DOCUMENTATION AND CULTURAL CENTRE OF GERMAN SINTI AND ROMA



CENTRAL COUNCIL [of German Sinti & Roma]

The Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg is one of the leading expert organizations in the research, remembrance and education about the Roma Holocaust and Antigypsyism. The Documentation Center established the first permanent exhibition on the Roma Holocaust in Heidelberg, as well as in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum. The Documentation Centre is the expert organization of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma was founded in February 1982 and represents as the umbrella organization the minorities' interests towards the Federal Government and its institutions, as well as on international level. www.sintiundroma.de

FUNDING & SUPPORT



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