

## **Right of Reply by Romania**

### **OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting**

#### **Working Session 17: (specifically selected topic) Roma and Sinti**

Thank you, Mr Moderator

We wish to exercise our right of reply to concerns raised by civil society organisations and briefly present a recent important legislative evolution in Romania: in July this year a new piece of legislation was adopted which foresees the possibility of identifying and legalizing informal settlements. The law provides specific regulation for facilitating the access to housing for inhabitants living in informal settlements and establishes concrete responsibilities for local authorities in case of relocations or evictions following a court decision. Prior information and consultation of residents in relocation situations are requirements in the new piece of legislation.

The National Agency for Roma is also currently in the process of revising the National Strategy for Roma Inclusion. Since December 2018 a **task force on housing** has been created, with the participation of relevant ministries and experts. The role of this task force is to develop procedures based on the current legislation to avoid negative side-effects of evictions and to create the possibility for the Roma and vulnerable population to have access to social housing. We pay particular attention to Roma children in this process. Local authorities participate in this task force.

At present Romania has an integrated approach in the area of housing, which involves local authorities and is results-oriented.