

International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers:
Guidelines for a common vision, Bucharest, Romania, 4-5 May 2006



Romanian Government



Government of Romania
The Presidency of the
Decade of Roma Inclusion



**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND
HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL POLICIES ON ROMA, SINTI AND TRAVELLERS:**

GUIDELINES FOR A COMMON VISION

Bucharest, Romania 4-5 May 2006

DAY ONE

Morning session

8.30-9.30 Registration of participants

9.30-10.00 **Opening and introductory remarks**

Chair: **Mr. Teodor Baconschi**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania

Opening remarks by:

- **Mr. Marko Bela**, State Minister in charge with Co-ordination of the activities in the field of culture, education, and European Integration, Romania
- **Mr. Ivo Hartman**, Deputy of the Vice Prime Minister, Czech Republic
- **H.E. Philippe Roland**, Belgian OSCE Chairmanship in Office, Belgian Ambassador in Romania
- **H.E. Walter Siegl**, Austria European Union Presidency
- **Dr. Beate Winkler**, Director of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC)
- **Mr. Alexander Vladychenko**, Director General of Social Cohesion, Council of Europe
- **Mr. Rudko Kawczynski**, President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF)

10.00-13.00 **First Plenary Session**
Chair: Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe, OSCE-ODIHR

Topic: Current situation concerning implementation of practices at national and local levels of state policies in the fields of housing, employment and relations with the police: examples of best practices bearing in mind requirements of the OSCE Action Plan for the Improvement of the Situation of the Roma and Sinti and of relevant legal instruments and recommendations of the Council of Europe, the European Union and other international organisations/institutions including the Decade on the Roma Inclusion

10.00-11.00 **General introductory presentations of Conference topics (max. 15 minute presentation)**

- a) **Mrs. Carolina Fernandez**, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) on the Spanish awareness-raising campaign against anti-gypsyism “*Get to know them before judging them*”
- b) **Mr. Vladimir Macura**, Serbia and Montenegro, on the overall framework concerning housing policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers in Europe
- c) **Mr. Jef Helmer** (Spolu International Foundation, the Netherlands and **Mr. Radu Motoc**, Open Society Foundation-Romania, on affordable housing for people in need, with special focus on Roma in Romania
- d) **Mr. Valeriu Nicolae** (ERGO) on the European employment framework and its effects for the European Roma
- e) **Mr. Robin Oakley** (OSCE-HCNM) on the overall framework concerning relations between the police and Roma, Sinti and Travellers

11.30-12.00 Coffee break

12.00-13.00 Reaction and short interventions by participants (States’ delegations and NGOs) referring to concrete good practices in some of the areas below, including the following speakers :

Housing:

- Ms. Klára Orgovánová, Slovakia - legalization of Roma settlements
- Mr. Balan Paustin, Romania - assistance to get property documentation (ownership)
- Mr. László Teleki, Hungary - evictions
- Mr. Csaba Ferenc Asztalos, Romania - the role of anti-gypsyism in access to housing

Employment:

- Mrs. Vesna Peasinovic, Croatia - Roma advisers in local employment agencies
- Ms. Maya Cholakova, Bulgaria -income-generation programmes, capacity-building, ownership

13.00–14.30 Lunch break in Hotel Best Western Park

14.30-18.00 **Three working group sessions held in parallel**

<p><u>Working Group I:</u> Housing Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers: implementation, assessment and harmonization</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Michaël Guet, Head of Roma and Travellers Division, Council of Europe</i></p> <p><i>Rapporteurs:</i> <i>Mr. Florin Moisa, CRCR</i> <i>Ms. Ioana Neaga, CRCR-Romania</i></p>	<p><u>Working Group II:</u> Employment Policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers: implementation, assessment and harmonization</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mrs. Eva Sobotka, Administrator for Communication and External Relations, EUMC</i></p> <p><i>Rapporteurs:</i> <i>Mrs Nicoleta Bițu-Romania</i> <i>Ms Florentina Constantin OSCE/ODIHR</i></p>	<p><u>Working Group III:</u> Relations between the Police and Roma, Sinti, and Travellers: implementation, assessment and harmonization of measures taken</p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe, Special Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE-ODIHR (CPRSI)</i></p> <p><i>Rapporteurs:</i> <i>Mr. Costel Bercuş- Romani Criss-Romania</i></p>
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<u>14.30-16.00 Speakers (max. 8-10 min)</u>	<u>14.30-16.00 Speakers (max. 8-10 min)</u>	<u>14.30-16.00 Speakers (max. 8-10 min)</u>
a) Mr. Samuel Delépine (France) on Roma mahalas and urban planning: facts and proposals	a) Mrs. Rita Izsak (ERRC) on Roma Employment Policies	a) Ms. Magda Matache (Romania) on measures against police violence or discrimination against Roma
b) Mr. Claude Cahn (ERRC) on crisis issues related to the right of adequate housing in Central& Southeastern Europe	b) Mr. Ivan Ivanov (ERIO) on discrimination of Roma in the field of employment	b) Mrs. Miranda Vuolasranta (IRWN) on Romani women's experience with the police, including gender aspect
c) Mrs. Anne-Marie Cukovic (Serbia and Montenegro) on how to regulate the property and legal status of housing facilities, and finalise urban planning regulations in Roma settlements	c) Ms. Isabela Mihalache (OSI Roma Participation Project) on Romani women's experience in accessing employment	c) Mrs. Margareta Flesner (Romania) on the local Romanian experience
d) Ms. Beata Olahova (Slovakia) on segregation, including gender aspects	d) Ms. Theodora Krumova (Roma Diplomacy, Bulgaria) on Phare employment project	d) Mr. Chris Taylor (European Dialogue) on the conclusions of the OSCE-ODIHR funded project on Roma and the Police
e) Mrs. Catherine Beard (United Kingdom) on evictions, including gender and Traveller aspects	e) Mr. Czeslaw Walek (Czech Republic) on fighting social exclusion - preventing evictions of vulnerable Roma households	e) Mr. Gabor Adam (Romania) on the training of policemen on multicultural communities
f) Mrs. Alexandra Radu (Romania) on assistance to get property documentation	f) Ms. Szilvia Rezmüves (PAKIV European Roma Fund) on access to employment: regional perspectives on increasing qualifications	f) Mr. György Makula (Hungary) on the establishment of a national Roma police association
g) Mrs. Mabera Kamberi ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") on legalization of Roma settlements, and assistance to get proper documents	g) Mr. Irinel Marius Stefan (Romania) on vocational training and skill building (IT training, etc.)	g) Mr. Ondrej Gina (ERTF), viewpoint of the European Roma and Travellers Forum on the issues raised above
h) Mr. Balan Paustin (Romania) on local RCEHR experience	h) Mrs. Sofia Daskalova (Slovakia) on enhancing the employability of the disadvantaged job applicants at the labour market	
i) Mrs. Soraya Post (ERTF), viewpoint of the European Roma and Travellers Forum on the issues raised above	i) Mr. Emil Nechifor (Romania) on Valen Est Industries's experience in employing Roma	
	j) Mr. Petru Dandea (Romanian Trade Union Cartel Alfa) on the role of trade unions in addressing the employment situation of Roma	
	k) Mr. Gheorghe Raducanu (ERTF), viewpoint of the European Roma and Travellers Forum on the above issues	
16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break	16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break	16.00 – 16.30 Coffee break
16.30-18.00 Discussion, questions and answers, working group conclusions	16.30-18.00 Discussion, questions and answers, working group conclusions	16.30-18.00 Discussion, questions and answers, working group conclusions

DAY TWO

Morning session

09.00-10.00 Second Plenary Session

Chair: Mrs. Livia Plaks, PER President

Rapporteur: Mr. Dan Doghi (OSCE-ODIHR)

Topic: Do we need a medium and long-term strategy for the social integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo on the model of national strategies that have been developed in several European countries?

[This session will provide also an update on the situation on Kosovo Roma, including the follow-up of the discussion in Warsaw 20-22 October 2006, an oral reporting about the MG-S-ROM visit to Kosovo and the OSCE-ODIHR/CoE/PER side event on Kosovo held the previous day].

Speakers may include *inter alia* **Mr. Henry Scicluna** (CoE Coordinator), **Mr. Ian Naysmith** (Chair of MG-S-ROM), **Mr. Rudko Kawczynski** (ERTF President), **Mr. Andrzej Mirga** (PER) and **Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe** (OSCE-ODIHR).

Comments, questions and answers

10.00-10.30 Coffee break

10.30.13.30 Third Plenary Session

Chair: Mr. Henry Scicluna, Council of Europe Co-ordinator for Activities Concerning Roma and Travellers

Rapporteur: Mr. Gyula Vamosi (Young Hungarian Roma Leader, Decade of Roma Inclusion)

Topic: How to ensure synergies and harmonization of policies for Roma, Sinti and Travellers at a pan-European level, as well as to ensure the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Travellers in the institutional and international policy-making relevant for these groups

10.30-11.00 Working group rapporteurs briefly present the conclusions and recommendations of of the previous day's working group discussions

- Working group 1: **Mr. Florin Moisa (CRCR)**
- Working group 2: **Mrs. Nicoleta Bitu (Romania)**
- Working group 3: **Mr. Costel Bercuş (Romani CRISS)**

11.00-12.00 Presentations (maximum 8-10 minutes each):

1. Role and added value of existing fora where Roma policies are discussed:

a) Mrs. Maria Ionescu, State Secretary, National Agency for Roma. Complementarities of Romanian public policy at the national and international level, on behalf of the Romanian Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015)

b) Mr. Ian Naysmith, Chair of the MG-S-ROM -Council of Europe "Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers" (to be soon renamed "Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers")

c) Mr. Andrzej Mirga, Member of the Experts Group to Promote the Inclusion of Ethnic Minorities in the EU

d) Ms. Mirjam Karoly, Austria Presidency of the European Union

12.00-12.30 **Presentations (maximum 8-10 minutes each):**

2. Viewpoint of international non-governmental actors on the added value of existing for a where Roma policies are discussed

- a) **Mr. Nezdet Mustafa**, Member of the Executive Committee of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF)
- b) **Mrs. Livia Plaks**, President of Project on Ethnic Relations (PER)
- c) **Mr. Ivan Ivanov**, Director of the European Roma Information Office (ERIO)

12.30 -13.30 **Discussion, questions and answers**

13.30-14.00 CLOSING SESSION: Towards Guidelines for a Common Vision: concrete proposals
Chair: Mrs. Maria Ionescu, State Secretary, National Agency for Roma, Romania

Concluding remarks by:

- **Mr. Jonathan Schelle**, Ambassador European Commission Delegation in Romania
- **Ms. Renate Weber**, President of the Open Society Foundation - Romania (*to be confirmed*)
- **Mr. Nicolae Gheorghe**, Special Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues (OSCE-ODIHR)
- **Mr. Alexander Vladychenko**, Director General of Social Cohesion, Council of Europe
- **Dr. Anastasia Crickley**, Chairperson of the EUMC Management Board
- **Mrs. Miranda Vuolastanta**, Vice-President of the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) (*to be confirmed*)

14.00 Lunch and departure of participants