



Romanian Government



Government of Romania
The Presidency of the
Decade of Roma Inclusion



10th of March, 2006, Bucharest

Dear Sir/ Madam,

It is our pleasure to invite you to the **“International Conference on the Implementation and Harmonization of National Policies on Roma, Sinti and Travellers: *“Guidelines for a Common Vision”*** to be held in Bucharest, Romania, on 4-5 May 2006.

The conference is organized under the aegis of the Romanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, by the Romanian Government and the National Agency for Roma, under the auspices of the presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, in joint co-operation with the Council of Europe, the European Roma and Travellers Forum, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium as the Chair-in-Office of the OSCE, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, the European Commission, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Presidency of the European Union, and the Project on Ethnic Relations Regional Center. Other international bodies are invited to take part in the organization of this event.

The conference will focus on concrete measures taken by the member states in order to implement the Council of Europe’s recommendations on Roma and Travellers, the Action Plan for Improvement of the Situation of the Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, the European Union’s relevant standards, as well as the national strategies/action plans, including those undertaken in connection with the “Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2005-2015”.

The Conference should aim to develop a set of commonly agreed criteria to measure the progress in implementing the aforementioned policies/action plans with a view to improving inter-agency cooperation and synergies of the relevant actors at both national and international levels. The participants will share their experience, best practices and lessons learnt over recent years, including those under the Decade of Roma Inclusion, to ensure effective participation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers in implementing and assessing the impact on the grass root communities as main beneficiaries of policy-making.

At the same time, as a follow-up of the “Joint International Conference on the Implementation of Policies/Action Plans for Roma, Sinti and Travellers, and Measures against the Anti-Gypsyism Phenomenon in Europe,” which was held in Warsaw, Poland, 20 – 21 October 2005, the Conference will tackle the appropriate modalities through which states, NGOs and international community could better contribute to combating racism and intolerance faced by Roma, Sinti and Travellers.

The meeting, organised under intergovernmental auspices, aims to improve the inter-agency cooperation at the national and international level, in order to obtain a better political planning of actions “with Roma, for Roma”.

The main participants and speakers of the Conference are governmental and non-governmental representatives from the States that adopted a national policy/action plan for Roma, Sinti or Travellers, or from the ones in the process of doing so (*see the proposed agenda*), as well as representatives from partner international organizations. Other interested states and organizations are welcome to participate.

In the afternoon of the 3rd of May, participants are invited to take part in the public hearing of the Group of Specialists on Roma, Gypsies and Travellers of the Council of Europe (MG-S-ROM), on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. The public hearing will address in particular the situation of Roma and returnees in Kosovo.

We kindly ask you to confirm your participation **before 10 April** to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, to the attention of Mr. Nicolae Nastase (nicolae.nastase@mae.ro) and/or phone +40 21 319 21 89, fax +40 21 319 23 67), mentioning the “Roma Conference in Bucharest”. Logistical details will follow your confirmation of attendance.

Yours sincerely,

Markó Béla, Deputy Prime Minister



Government of Romania

Mariea Ionescu, State Secretary



Roma National Agency
Government of Romania