

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Conference

Warsaw, 26 September- 7 October 2011

Working session 14 – Enhancing the implementation of OSCE commitments regarding Roma and Sinti

Effective responses to intolerance directed at Roma and Sinti: the role of public discourse, the media and civil society

Contribution of the Council of Europe

European Academic Network on Romani Studies

The European Academic Network on Romani Studies is a new two-year CoE/EU joint project (June 2011- May 2013) whose overall aim is to facilitate intercultural dialogue and support efforts towards the social inclusion of Romani citizens in Europe. To contribute to this goal the Network will:

- increase the visibility of the existing scientific research outside the academic community and enable a more informed decision-taking and policy planning on issues related to Roma at the level of European institutions;
- strengthen the presence of research related to Roma in mainstream academic and policy-related events.

Young/early career researchers will be encouraged to join the Network. More senior members of the Network will offer advice and guidance for the younger researchers and there will be a scheme of travel grants aimed at supporting their participation in international conferences. The activities as a whole will be defined and steered by a Scientific Committee currently composed of 12 members, with the assistance of the Secretary of the Network and a support assistant.

As part of the 2011 agenda of the Network, there will be a participation of the Secretary of the Network in the Summit of Mayors on Roma “Building mutual trust at the grassroots” organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on 22 September in Strasbourg.

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Roma Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

The Council of Europe supported, jointly with the European Commission, “Call the Witness” - the Roma Pavilion organised in the framework of the 54th Contemporary Art Biennale in Venice in 2011. The pavilion brought together a series of “testimonies” by Roma and non-Roma artists through works of art, performances, talks, and conversations. Raising the awareness of the general public and the media present at the Biennale the platform “*Call the Witness*” is a contribution to the fighting of negative stereotypes and prejudices against Roma. The project’s digital platform www.callthewitness.net will be maintained in the future.

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www.callthewitness.net