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CENTRAL COUNCIL of German
Sinti & Roma

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

Roma Youth Advocacy Seminar

Brussels, March 23 until 30, 2017 (including travel days)

Join us in Brussels to learn about European policy-making and civil society advocacy, and to raise young voices in front of the European Parliament, European Commission and other stakeholders to combat antigypsyism and to advance important issues for Roma communities.

This six days lasting seminar is organized by ternYpe International Roma Youth Network, ERGO Network and the Documentation and Cultural Centre & Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. It 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 run a youth campaign 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” ahead of the 8 April – International Roma Day.

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 2017 takes place from 27th March to 3rd April 2017 in the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg to mark the occasion of the International Roma Day on 8 April 2017. Roma Week 2016 resulted in the Slovak Presidency having two Council Conclusions on Roma with reference to the European Parliament’s 2015 resolution on antigypsyism and for the recognition of the Roma Genocide.



Objectives of “Roma Week”

Roma week 2017 is designed with the aim of bringing together Roma activists from the European Union to engage with key stakeholders in order to participate at the mid-term review of the EU Framework for the National Roma Integration Strategies and to engage in the advocacy strategy for EU Roma Policy post 2020. The objectives of Roma week will be mainstreamed into that strategy. Rather than having a Roma week geared towards public awareness, Roma week 2017 focuses on facilitating capacity building, networking and advocacy for Roma activists around five thematic areas: Antigypsyism, Employment, Monitoring, Youth and Women.

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 the ARDI Intergroup (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, ENAR (European Network against Racism) and the European Youth Forum);
- Develop a youth campaign against antigypsyism and on Roma youth perspectives during the “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.

THEMATIC GROUPS

Participants are asked to indicate already in their application their preference for one working group. During the training-course the participants will work in small groups of 10 to 15 participants around this theme.

- **Participation:** focus on political participation of Roma and of young people, participation in mainstream political parties, as well as youth structures, such as National Youth Councils, European Youth Forum;
- **Antigypsyism:** focus on the policy debate on combating antigypsyism, antigypsyism as a horizontal priority within the EU Roma Framework, with a special focus on youth, impact of antigypsyism on youth, role of youth in combating antigypsyism;
- **Inclusion:** with a special focus on the midterm review of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, prospect for the post-2020 European approach and shrinking space of civil society.

DRAFT PROGRAM

Thursday, 23 March	Arrival, joint dinner, welcome
Friday, 24 March	Opening, sharing experiences Training sessions: the European institutional framework, Roma-related policies
Saturday, 25 March	Training sessions on advocacy and antigypsyism
Sunday, 26 March	Work in thematic groups: Participation, Antigypsyism, Inclusion Preparation of the Roma Week activities Meeting with experienced EU advocates and activists
Monday, 27 March	Meetings with external stakeholders in small thematic groups: European Commission, European civil society structures, International Organizations Join the opening of the Roma Week
Tuesday, 28 March	The thematic working groups (Participation, Antigypsyism, Inclusion) participate and engage in various activities of the EU Roma Week in the European Parliament
Wednesday, 29 March	Working Breakfast with various Members of the European Parliament; The thematic working groups (Participation, Antigypsyism, Inclusion) participate and engage in various activities of the EU Roma Week in the European Parliament; Evaluation of the event and of the Roma week, Closing dinner
Thursday, 30 March	Departure

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.

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: **Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia**

TECHNICALITIES

DATES OF THE ACTIVITY

Arrival: March 23, 2017 (Thursday)

Program days: March 24 until March 29, 2017

Departure: March 30, 2017 (Thursday)

LOCATION

The seminar is organised in Brussels.

Accommodation is provided in Hotel Aviation, Square de l'Aviation 20, 1070 Bruxelles

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/rIG7GTA4jIZFqxli1>

Application deadline: February 26, 2017 (end of day)

Selection procedure:

If you fit into the participants' profile, you may submit an application until February 26 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?

Contact person: Carmen Tanasie

e-mail: c.tanasie@ergonetwork.org

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 discrimination and stigmatization 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.ergonetwork.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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