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European Academic Network on Romani Studies

**4TH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF
THE EUROPEAN ACADEMIC NETWORK
ON ROMANI STUDIES
(Brussels, December 13-14, 2012)**

**A European Union / Council of Europe Joint Programme
(June 2011 – May 2013)**

Report

Document prepared by Mr László Fosztó, Secretary of the Network

Event: 4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies

Date: December 13 (14:00 – 18:30) and December 14 (9:30– 17:00), 2012

Venue: Madou Building (*Place Madou 1, 1210 - Saint-Josse-Ten-Noode*), Room 25/46 (on 13 December) and Room 8/SDR (on 14 December)

Participants:

Members of the Scientific Committee:

Victor Friedman (USA), Colin Clark (UK), Jean-Pierre Liégeois (Fr), Elena Marushiakova (Bg), Michael Stewart (UK), Elisabeth Tauber (I), Peter Vermeersch (Be), Enikő Vincze (Ro), Elisabetta Vivaldi (I); Yaron Matras (UK) joined the meeting on Skype.

Member not present: Henriette Asséo (Fr), Ciprian Necula (Ro), Eva Sobotka (A).

Also present: Laura Giulia Cassio (EC), Kathrin Merkle (CoE), Daria Cherepanova (CoE), Roxana Oprea (trainee, DG Education and Culture), and László Fosztó, secretary of the Network (Ro - ISPMN).

Invited participants: Axelle Cheney (DG Justice), Dora Husz (DG Employment), Alekos Tsolakis (DG REGIO), Frank Pierobon (DG Education and Culture), Ivan Ivanov (European Roma Information Office).

Summary

The agenda for the 4th meeting of the Scientific Committee proposed the following;

- a) To welcome the extended Scientific Committee including the two new members elected by the associated members;
- b) Present the Network to the invited officials and representatives of European Commission, and engage the SC members in dialogue with them;
- c) To oversee the progress of the network activities since the meeting in June 2012;
- d) To discuss and plan the activities for the second project cycle, starting in summer 2013.

The main decisions adopted by the SC are the following:

- a) To make the exchange with EU officials and representatives more effective and to enhance the policy orientation of the Network by responding to the invitation of the DG Justice to comment of the progress of the Members States to implement the National Strategies for Roma integration on four selected domains: 1) involvement of regional and local authorities and civil society; 2) allocation of proportionate financial resources; 3) monitoring to enable policy adjustments, 4) fighting discrimination convincingly. Responsible SC members were appointed for each topic; 1) – coordinated by Elisabeth Tauber, 2) – coordinated by Yaron Matras (to be confirmed), 3) – coordinating by Michael Stewart; 4) – coordinated by Colin Clark. They will organise and oversee the collation of the contributions by network members. Contributions should be sent to DG Justice by February 2013 before the next communication on the Roma Strategies will be prepared.
- b) A new position of Chair of the Scientific Committee has been created. The Chair is elected by rotation within the SC during each meeting and he/she is responsible for supervising the implementation of the decisions and the action plan of the network in between two meetings. Elisabeth Tauber has been elected as the Chair for the present period (December 2012 – June 2013).
- c) The rules for internal discussions of the SC has been discussed and agreed upon: the emails of the SC members should not be forwarded to persons outside the Scientific Committee proposals, applications and other documents sent to the SC members should be dealt with confidentially unless there is clear indication that they are destined to outsiders as well. Meeting agenda and reports on the meetings are public but they should be circulated and approved by the SC before posting them on the website or circulated among the membership.

- d) The proposals received under the Supporting Roma in Academia scheme has been evaluated and the following proposals have been offered support:

Research Seminars (3):

- ‘*Roma in the Post-Soviet Countries: History, Ethnography, Policy*’ submitted by Ion Duminica (organised in Chisnov, Republic of Moldova);
- ‘*Gender, Ethnicity and Class in Roma Studies: Whither Intersectionality?*’ submitted by Iulia Haş deu and Cătălina Tesăr (organised in Cluj-Napoca, Romania);
- ‘*Roma Empowerment in Local, National and European Contexts*’ submitted by Andrew Ryder, Marius Taba, Márton Rövid and Iulius Rostas (organised in Budapest, Hungary);

Fieldwork Seminar (1):

- ‘*Resituating Romani Studies: Piloting Archive Research at the Gypsy Lore Society Collections*’ submitted by Celia Donert (organised in Liverpool, UK)

Internships (2+1):

- *Ms Diana Iuliana PIRJOL at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI);*
- *Ms Lia Elena GAUDI at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI); and*
- *Mr Aleksandar MARINOV at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) – pending on the capacity of the institution and the availability for supervision.*

- e) The enhancement of the cooperation with other Council of Europe initiatives (ex. contributions to the new Alliance of Cities and Regions and their Roma strategies, the CAHROMs thematic visits and subsequent reports, the database on good policies and best practices, and ROMED project) has been proposed and it has been decided that the Spring 2013 SC meeting should be organised in Strasbourg in order to intensify the exchange and involve more colleagues from the CoE.
- f) The enhancement of the functionality and usage of the website (romanistudies.eu) of the Network has been decided. Improvements to the advanced search function of the present membership database have been suggested and development of a comprehensive expert database as well as enhanced communication of network members by means of new thematic sections within the network has been decided with the purpose the double purpose of better feeding the database of experts and enhancing communication between members.
- g) It was decided that the creation of thematic groups among the Network members and the participation of the members should be encouraged and facilitated through the website. The creation of ‘national chapters’ of the Network has been proposed. The national chapters could be involved in the dialogue and consultation processes with the National Roma Contact Points (NRCs) in each Member State. The EC will facilitate the interactions with the NRCs (sending the contact list to them, asking for suggestions for potential academics to include into the network etc.).
- h) A new contract for the Network project has been proposed by the EC and CoE for the period of 2013-2015. The redefinition of the terms of reference for this contract has been discussed and the planning the activities for the new project cycle has been decided.
- i) The continuation of forms of support for Early Career Researchers and for Roma Participation in Academia has been decided.
- j) The elaboration of the more detailed procedure for evaluation for the future call for proposals has been proposed (including using application forms and templates for the applications, setting and publishing criteria for the future evaluation) in order to improve the evaluation procedures and enable both applicants and the evaluation committee to improve the quality of the proposals and ensure the transparency of the evaluation.
- k) An event series has been planned for the Networks presence in Marseilles 2013 (European Cultural Capital). Elena Marushiakova has been reconfirmed as the person responsible for organising the content of these public events (under the generic title: What is Roma Culture?) and Jean-Pierre Liégeois will continue to offer practical and organisational support to plan and organise this event (the most likely date for the Marseilles event is 25-26 September 2013).

Detailed report:

13 December 2012

The meeting started at 14:00 with the welcoming of members of the Scientific Committee (SC) in the premises of the European Commission.

Laura Cassio opened the discussions and chaired the afternoon session. Ms Cassio announced the results of the election of the representatives of the associated members in Scientific Committee introducing two newly elected members of the SC; Ciprian Necula (Ro) and Elisabetta Vivaldi (I) both of them young PhD candidates with Romani background. Mr Necula has not been able to attend the meeting because of his other engagement, and the arrival of Ms Vivaldi has been delayed because of a late flight. She joined the meeting later in the afternoon. Mr Colin Clark (UK), who also joined the SC recently after the resignation of Thomas Acton, has been also introduced.

Laura Cassio outlined the goals and the history of the Network and announced that the European Commission and the Council of Europe decided to fund for an additional two years period this joint project (the present project cycle ends in 2012 May and the project will continue in 2013-2015). Laura Cassio invited László Fosztó, the secretary of the network, to present the latest developments in the network. Mr Fosztó talked about the expansion of the membership of the network. The number of the network members approaching 300. He presented the new initiative to increase the presence of Roma in Academia and the efforts that aim to make the network more inclusive and open (the election of the representatives among and by associated members also aimed this). A summer school has been organised in collaboration with Central European University in Budapest the in June-July 2012, a call for proposals for seminars and internships aimed to promote early career researchers of Romani background has been published and a good number of application received. Some shortcomings in the operation of Network have been mentioned. Although the infrastructure of the communication between the members is prepared the interaction and exchange between the members should be improved. The Network also should be more active in the communication with the policy making bodies and authorities.

The introductory presentations have been followed by talks by colleagues from the different services of the European Commission (EC). The presentations have been started by Axelle Cheney (DG Justice). Ms Cheney presented the latest development in the coordination work done by the DG Justice in the field of implementation of the European Strategy for integration of the Roma and the National Strategies (MS) prepared by the Members States. Each MS (with the exception of Malta, claiming that there are no Roma in that country) has submitted a national strategy for the social integration of the Roma. The European Commission has published a communication regarding the strategies submitted and asked for revisions and improvements from the Government. Ms Cheney presented the practice of the EC for bilateral consultation with the National Governments and consultations with the National Roma Contact Points (NRCP) in each country. Ms Cheney offered that the DG Justice will facilitate the communication between the members of the Network and the NRCPs. She also offered to explore the possibility to have the Network presented at the next network of NRCP meeting (date is preliminary fixed on 7-8th March 2012).

Ms Cheney presented that in the spring of 2013 the EC will publish a new communication regarding the implementation of the National Strategies. She invited the members of the network to send their input to one of the four critical areas of which will be analysed in the communication. The areas are:

1) involvement of regional and local authorities and civil society, 2) allocation of proportionate financial resources, 3) monitoring to enable policy adjustments (this includes the role/capacity of the National Roma Contact Points), and 4) fighting discrimination convincingly. These areas are completed by the analysis of the dialogue between the member states and EC which will be reported by the DG Justice.

The second presentation has been delivered by Dora Husz (DG Employment). Ms Husz talked about the general socio-economic targets regarding: 1) employment, 2) education, and 3) fighting poverty and social exclusion. The EU 2020 programme has set statistical targets and that most of the countries with a significant Roma minority are urged that they improve the social inclusion of the Roma population as there is very significant gap between the general population and the Roma. Unless these countries make additional efforts to improve the situation of Roma the general targets of socio-economic indicators cannot be reached. There are important novelties for the EC funds for the next financing period. One of the instruments the EC is introducing to the *ex ante* conditionality which is an element of the funding schemes. This conditionality means that Member States should have a strategy for Roma inclusion and they should implement this strategy which ensures that the EU funding is used along the lines this strategy. The implementation of these strategies will be monitored on different levels and the access and continuous funding in this area will be conditioned by meeting the targets of these strategies. The monitoring of the progress in the four domain of the European Roma Strategy (employment, education, housing, and health) is ensured on different levels and the main target of EU 2020 is closing the gap between the indicators regarding the general population and Roma. Even if this now seems unrealistic the measurement of progress towards closing the gap should be measured.

For measurements of the progress there are monitoring procedures in place. At the macro level statistical surveys carried out FRA together with the UNDP and the World Bank, to provide comparative information on the different countries. At the mezzo level information should be gathered by the National Governments in order to monitor the degree of how much each country is reaching its goals in each domain which have been included into the National Strategies. There are different forums for gathering these information including bilateral communication with the NRCs in each country, the meetings of these contact points and from shadow reporting by the NGOs engaged in this domain. There are initiatives of *shadow reporting* most notably by the Decade for Roma Inclusion. This initiative aims to enable national civil society coalitions to use the template. The detailed template is accessible here: http://www.romadecade.org/ngo_monitoring_template_nov_2012. On micro level (project level) National Authorities have the obligation to report on each project which uses EU funding. It is crucial for all the three levels to define indicators which are most relevant and adequate in measuring the progress in these areas. While there are some areas where the indicators are elaborated more (ex. to measure the progress in the socio economic integration) there are several domain which have no proper indicators (ex. discrimination or rights awareness). The Network is invited to contribute to the definition of indicators as academics have extended experience in working with empirical evidence and use of data.

The third presentation of the afternoon has been delivered by Alekos Tsolakis (DG Regio). Mr Tsolakis based on his experience in the Structural Funds argued that the integrated projects need to be very much locally based and elaborated. He argued that one cannot apply readymade solutions and all the local interventions should be custom-tailored. As an example Mr Tsolakis invoked the Cluj Project (in Romania) where the local authorities are preparing an integrated development project with the assistance of a number of international actors. He emphasised that from his experience the

presence of the Universities are always a very valuable resource and the development projects in the regions and localities where a university is localised are the most successful. As a for a potential future direction of development for the Network Mr Tsolakis suggested that starting to build an institutional network (of Universities and research institutes hosting researchers on Roma issues) would increase the operation and effectiveness of the Network as well as it would ensure the sustainability. Mr Tsolakis invited Enikő Vincze to offer more details about the Cluj Project in which she is actively involved. Ms Vincze described the situation in Cluj as a 'fortunate constellation' where several categories of actors have got involved in order to prepare a development project. These actors are human rights organization like the European Roma Rights Centre or the Amnesty International, international foundations like the OSI – Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma (MtM) and international organisations such as the UNDP. The project is prepared by the municipal authority with the technical assistance of the UNDP and the aim of the project is the preparation of a long term development improving the housing condition of a segregated Roma community complementing the housing project aims to turn the plan an integrated development projects (ex involving educational and employment components which).

The fourth presentation has been delivered by Frank Pierobon (DG Education and Culture). Mr Pierobon presented the ROMED programme which is a joint initiative of the EC and CoE. It is had a budget of 2 million euros for two years and the project will continue and the budget will be increased by half a million. Its scope will be expanded to include the higher education component the 'Romaversitas'. The training of mediators should be adjusted to the idea that the mediator is "a one man orchestra" as his or her work cannot be narrowed down to any one particular function but he/she is fulfilling a whole set of needs. Mediators understand the reality of both the mainstream society and the realities of the Roma communities. Among the results of the project Mr Pierobon mentioned that the initial target to train 1000 mediators has been passed by far approximately having approximately 1600 mediators trained in Europe. The European Code of Ethics for Mediators (<http://www.coe-romed.org/sites/default/files/code%20ethicEN.pdf>) has been elaborated and published. The end of the first cycle of two years programme is marked by the 1st European Congress of Mediators which will be organised on January 17-18, 2013. The second cycle will be dedicated to focus on the role of mothers and girls. Mothers are the 'natural mediators' who can induce a change in the communities. A main issue is the sustainability of the system of mediators for example by encouraging the Members States to use Social Funds to pay for the mediators. The collaboration between the ROMED and Network should be explored and members of the network could play a role in the project on mediators. Mr Ivan Ivanov, who has been involved in the program, asked if there is an intension from within the ROMED to ask for independent evaluation on the program, as it would be beneficial for a realistic assessment of the results and the potential role of the mediators. Elena Marushiakova proposed that the Network could find an occasion to talk about culture, mediation and to discuss the issues related to the ROMED program. Mr Pierobon suggested that the 1st European Congress of Mediators on January 17-18, 2013 could be an occasion for that.

After a short coffee-break the afternoon session continued with the presentation by Ivan Ivanov from the European Roma Information Office. Laura Cassio introduced the session by reminding the participants that the dialogue with civil society is an important aspect of the operation of the Network and organisations like the European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) and the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) might be strategic partners of the Network in pursuing its goals.

Mr Ivanov emphasised that the main benefit for the NGOs to cooperate with the Network is to improve the recommendations they are proposing to National Governments and also increase the

effectiveness of the lobby activity by having an academic background and support for the proposed initiatives. As a particular example Mr Ivanov emphasised that national governments are not very clear how to 'create indicators for Roma', as if indicators for the social inclusion of the Roma would be a separated issue, and the input of academics on this issue could be very beneficial.

Mr Ivanov argued that it would be important to go beyond the national strategies at the on the hand and also look at the practical aspects of using European funds and enable the European Commission to make use of the conditionality of funding. Academics are closer to the field and to the Roma community they work with and this advantage should be used in elaborating the conditionality for funding. For example if EU funding given to inclusive education and it might end up being invested in creating and maintaining segregated schools this is against the intention of the funder. Certain conditionality would be useful here to prevent European funds being invested in maintaining segregated schools.

Mr Ivanov emphasised the importance of the Roma participation in the Network and in the academia. Laura Cassio replied to this aspect by pointing out the recent developments within the Network (ex. the recent elections to the SC) and also that a series of actions are planned for Supporting Roma in Academia during the spring of 2013.

Jean-Pierre Liegeois agreed that one contribution of the Network could be to assist the civil society in different issues. For example the lack of accreditation of the trainings of the mediator in the ROMED program is a drawback. The Network could give some direct input into this direction; improve the quality and promoting the accreditation of the training. Mr Ivanov agreed that accreditation is an important issue and also to introduce the description of the job description of the mediators into the national legislations. Mr Ivanov also proposed that the accreditation or certification of the Romani language translators could be also assisted by the Network.

Elena Marushiakova argued that the academic network could be useful in providing definitions. For example each National Strategy contains different definitions of 'the Roma' and most of these definitions are erroneous as they identify or make confusion between marginalised populations and the Roma. Colin Clark argued that definitions are constantly redefined and the main issue could be for academics would be to decide if they are at the service of the bureaucracies or rather are on the side of the oppressed and powerless. Enikő Vincze argued that we will never reach full agreement within the Network as the membership is so diverse and there will be always different opinions and arguments. For example Ms Vincze would not maintain a sharp distinction between academic and civic spheres.

Elisabeth Tauber argued that she can accept that scholars can be politically intellectual. But if they commit themselves to activism first they should understand as this is the main role of the scientist. Before we apply the knowledge we have to research. In this process the intellectual honesty is crucial. Kathrin Merkle concluded that the 'soul searching' of the Network is important for the whole project on longer or medium term and the thinking and intellectual honesty would qualify the Network for the future.

Elena Marushiakova proposed that, whenever is possible, representatives of the civil society, in special the ERIO and ERTF, should be invited to the meetings of the SC in order to have closer relationship and this collaboration could be mutually beneficial. Ms Marushiakova proposed that both ERTF and ERIO should be offered permanent observer status at the meetings of the SC. Several members of the SC (Colin Clark, Elisabeth Tauber, Jean-Pierre Liégeois) supported this idea, but no definite decision has been taken on this issue.

Before the closing of the meeting printed copies of the proposals received for the Supporting Roma in Academia calls have been distributed to the members of the SC. Those members of the SC who have been included in some form (ex. figured as lecturers in some of the seminars or nominated an intern) in one or more proposals (Colin Clark, Elena Marushiakova, and Elisabeth Tauber) have withdrawn from the evaluation committee in order to avoid the conflict of interest. Elena Marushiakova objected this procedure and argued that there is no conflict of interest as the proposals have been prepared by others and the SC members have been only invited to join, so they are not the main applicants.

14 December 2012

The morning session (9:30 – 11:00) has been dedicated to the evaluation of the proposals received for the Supporting Roma in Academia calls. In addition to the SC members present (Victor Friedman, Jean-Pierre Liégeois, Michael Stewart, Peter Vermeersch, and Enikő Vincze) Yaron Matras joined the meeting on Skype. The meeting was chaired by Kathrin Merkle, Laura Cassio, and László Fosztó also participated.

As a result of the call published on the website and circulated on mail among the membership the following proposals have been received by the secretary:

Research seminars

- **RS 1** Roma in the Post-Soviet Countries: History, Ethnography, Policy, Main applicant: Ion Duminica
- **RS 2** Roma on the Balkans: Borders and Identities, Main applicant: Lilyana Kovatcheva
- **RS 3** Gender, Ethnicity and Class in Roma Studies: Whither Intersectionality? Main applicants: Iulia Haş deu and Cătălina Tesar
- **RS 4** Roma Empowerment in Local, National and European Contexts, Main applicants: Andrew Ryder, Marius Tabă, Márton, Rövid, and Iulius Rostas
- **RS 5** Gender in Gypsy, Traveller and Romani/Roma Studies, Main applicant: Margaret Greenfields
- **RS 6** Empowerment of disadvantaged groups: from theory to practice, Main applicant: Ana Ivasiuc

Fieldwork seminars

- **FS 1** Resituating Romani Studies: Piloting Archive Research at the Gypsy Lore Society Collections, Main applicant: Celia Donert.

Internships

- **i1** Mr Rinaldo DIRICCHARDI MUZGA at the Balkan Ethnology Department of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, nominated by Elena Marushiakova and Veselin Popov;
- **i2** Ms Diana Iuliana PIRJOL at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), nominated by Tove Maloy;
- **i3** Ms Lia Elena GAUDI at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) nominated by Tove Maloy; and
- **i4** Mr Aleksandar MARINOV at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) nominated by Tove Maloy.

The evaluation criteria were in line with the main aim of the calls: which is the potential of the proposed activities to address the issue of under-representation of Roma in academic forums while at the same time maintaining an ethos of scientific rigour and standards of academic quality. The key criteria have been broken down to:

- academic merit,
- explicit inclusion of Roma in the activity,
- the sustainability of impact of the activity,
- how the planned activity brings innovation and has the potential to reaching out for new people,
- in the case of the interns the detail of the research plan and the potential to make use of the institutional environment at the nominating institution.

Each proposal has been discussed and evaluated according to these criteria. Decisions have been taken based on the consensus of the members of the evaluation committee. The evaluators agreed that the budget for the research seminars could be limited to 8000 Euros and the total sum offered for funding should not exceed 38000 Euros in line with the previous plans. As a result of the evaluation the following proposals have been offered funding by the evaluation committee: RS1, RS3, RS4, FS1, i2, i3, and i4 – pending on the capacity of the institution to accommodate him, and the availability for supervision.

As the evaluation has been finalised the members not present in the room have been invited into the room and the results have been presented by Kathrin Merkle. Elena Marushiakova objected the procedure that 3 of the members of the SC were excluded from the evaluation committee, she argued that there was no conflict of interest as the SC members were not the main applicants, she proposed that the evaluation procedure should be reconsidered for the future and not to exclude members who are involved in some of the application but asking them only not to vote on the proposal which they are involved in. Some other members of the SC (Michael Stewart and Elisabeth Tauber) opposed this and argued that for the fairness of the evaluation the process this element of the procedure should be continued and the members involved in a conflict of interest should leave the room during the discussions. Elena Marushiakova and Colin Clark suggested improvements to the criteria setting, arguing that criteria should be published long before the evaluation is planned possible together with the call for application. Jean-Pierre Liégeois asked that for future occasions the applications should be sent to the members of the evaluation committee prior to the meeting in order to enable them to read carefully and prepare a more detailed evaluation. Laura Cassio and Jean-Pierre Liégeois proposed that for future application procedures an application form or a template could be produced which would guide the applicants and elicit more detailed and comparable information. There was a general agreement that the evaluation procedure should be improved for the future call for applications.

After a short break the meeting continued with general discussion on the future activities of the Network. Kathrin Merkle presented the results of her consultations with the other projects at the CoE involving Roma and with Mr Sixto Molina. Mr Molina proposed that the Network should collaborate closely with the initiatives of the CoE. Members of the network has been invited for to participate in the planned activities of the Alliance of Cities and Regions which organises thematic work cycles and meetings with local authorities. The involvement of the Network in the CAHROM has been also proposed including the participation in the process of the thematic visits and Mr Molina proposed that the reports of the CAHROM will be submitted officially to the review of the Network. The involvement in the Database on Good Policies and Best Practices has been also offered at the one hand Network members are invited to propose and submit policies to this database on the other hand the Network could be involved in the qualification and validation of the submitted proposals for best practices.

Kathrin Merkle prepared a list of tasks for the Network. The list has been organised in three categories, I. Reflection, II. Longer-term tasks, III. Short-term tasks. Ms Merkle presented each point on this list (in Annex) and the points have been discussed by the SC.

Yaron Matras has made two proposals; 1) to establish a strategy for communication with the membership, which could make possible to target specific groups and 2) to introduce a mechanism which would ensure the implementation of the action plan and follow the progress of the activities. The solution for this Mr Matras propose to create the office of a Rotating Chair. A new position of Chair of the Scientific Committee has been created. The Chair is elected by rotation within the SC during each meeting and he/she is responsible for supervising the implementation of the decisions and the action plan of the network in between two meetings. Elisabeth Tauber has been elected unanimously as the first Chair for the present period (December 2012 – June 2013).

The network has been invited to provide input to the DG Justice on selected topics. It was decided that as a response the Network will generate comments on the progress of the Members States to implement the National Strategies for Roma integration on four selected domains proposed by DG Justice: 1) involvement of regional and local authorities and civil society; 2) allocation of proportionate financial resources; 3) monitoring to enable policy adjustments, 4) fighting discrimination convincingly. Responsible SC members were appointed for each topic; 1) – coordinated by Elisabeth Tauber, 2) – coordinated by Yaron Matras, 3) – coordinating by Michael Stewart; 4) – coordinated by Colin Clark. They will identify and supervise particular people to produce the comments and organise and oversee the collation of the contributions by network members. The people identified who will carry out the work will be rewarded symbolically (500 Euro). Contributions should be sent to DG Justice by February 2013 before the next communication on the Roma Strategies will be prepared.

Kathrin Merkle opened the discussion on the website and she suggested that it should be rebuilt in a way that it could enable the identification of both thematic clusters (interest groups) and national chapters of the Network. Laura Cassio also emphasised that the first period of the project has been the time of the construction and consolidation, but now it is time to put more dynamism into the communication among the members and also make the expertise of the members visible for outsiders. The enhancement of the functionality and usage of the website (romanistudies.eu) of the Network has been decided. Improvements to the advanced search function of the present membership database have been suggested and development of a comprehensive expert database as well as enhanced communication of network members by means of new thematic sections within the network has been decided with the purpose the double purpose of better feeding the database of experts and enhancing communication between members.

Kathrin Merkle presented initiatives which might be of interest for the Network: the Hotel Gelem network (<http://www.hotel-gelem.net/>) which allows participants to explore precarious living conditions first-hand in different parts of Europe. Ms Merkle talked about the ‘Mapping Roma Narratives’ project which is under preparation at the Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation (IHJR) localised in The Hague, The Netherlands (www.historyandreconciliation.org). This project intends to improve integration of Roma people living in the Western Balkans through including them in the ongoing reconciliation and nation-building processes in that region. Planned project activities include collecting testimonies by Roma students within their communities on the subject of their remembrances, memories and experiences about the wars of the 1990s, the analysis of these narratives with the support of leading Roma and non-Roma scholars and sharing them in innovative and

engaging formats. Members of the Scientific Committee have been invited to support this initiative and became members of the steering committee of the project. Some members of the SC expressed their interest; Peter Vermeersch, Victor Friedman, Elisabetta Vivaldi, and Ciprian Necula has been proposed by the secretary); participation in the ‘Mapping Roma Narratives’ project need to be followed up with the IHJR. Kathrin Merkle also presented a recently published book “The Council of Europe and Roma: 40 years of action (2012)” by Jean-Pierre Liégeois (http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2540).

Under the planning the future activities Jean-Pierre Liégeois presented the opportunity to be present at the Marseilles, European Capital of Culture June 19-20 or June 20-21. Alternatively there is a possibility to organise this event later in September 2013. The event is planned as a two days series of meetings; the first day would be dedicated to the meeting of the SC and the second day would be a seminar ending the day with a public conference. Translation for French and English should be provided. Elena Marushiakova the person appointed by the SC as responsible for the content of the event. The proposed title for the public event is “European dimension of Roma culture: Academic and political discourses”. Ms Marushiakova has presented the outline of the planned event and the SC members made suggestions and agreed to the main lines proposed. The organisation of this event in June is pending on the current budget. In case the Marseilles event will be postponed to September 2013 it can be included under the budget of the next project cycle. In the case the Marseilles will be postponed the next meeting of the SC should be organised in May or June. The members of the SC agreed that the next meeting should be organised in Strasbourg in order to engage more closely with then colleagues at the CoE working on Roma related issues.

Annex

Tasks RAN Network – Prepared by Kathrin Merkle

I. Reflection

- RAN to take sides? A body producing data for the bureaucrats or a body speaking out for the discriminated?
- RAN as a link between the Academia and Policy Making? Or as a link between Academia and Civil Society?
- RAN a bit of everything – with a clear focus on research though!

II. Longer term tasks (Structural effects)

- RAN as policy advisor to the EP, EU, CoE,
- RAN ensuring quality control of research,
- RAN offering “national chapters/groups” within the Network, cooperate with national contact points, and consolidate policy input to the policy (making) process;
- RAN offering thematic chapters/groups” e.g. on indicators + methodology
- RAN to create a network of Universities for inter-University communication;
- RAN to include ERIO and ERTF as (ad hoc?) observers from SC;
- RAN to engage in CoE/EU/Alliance project on cities and regions, help with mapping comment on peer-review reports by CAHROM, submit and validate good practices of CoE database on Good policies and Best Practices.

III. Short-term

- RAN to provide relevant input info to DG Justice’s new report (on dialogue, finance, monitoring, fighting discrimination)
- Contribute to current work by FRA and indicators/methodology
- Contribute to the shadow reporting by Civil Society via templates
- Participate in the Congress of Mediators 17-18. 1. 2013 and define support to / cooperation with ROMED,
- Make RAN’s policy advisory function explicit in the ToR 2013-2015.