Restricted Meeting of the Scientific Committee
of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies
for Consultation on Council of Europe Roma-related actions

(Strasbourg, May 22, 2013)

A European Union / Council of Europe Joint Programme

(June 2011 – May 2015)

Report

Event: Restricted meeting of the Scientific Committee of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies for consultation on Council of Europe Roma-related actions

Date: May 22, 2013 (9:30-17:00)

Venue: Strasbourg, Council of Europe, AGORA Building, Room: **B4. 06 C**.

Participants:

a) *From the side of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies:*

- Dr Elisabeth Tauber, Chair of the SC,
- Professor Yaron Matras, member of the SC,
- Mr Ciprian Necula, member of the SC,
- Dr Michael Stewart, member of the SC,
- Dr László Fosztó, secretary of the Network.

b) *form the CoE side:*

- Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues,
- Mr Sixto Molina, Head of the Support Team for Roma Issues,
- Ms Kathrin Merkle, Head of Policy Development Unit, CoE project coordinator of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies,
- Ms Daria Cherepanova, Administrative Assistant, European Academic Network on Romani Studies,
- Ms Aurora Ailincai, project manager of the ROMED and Educational programs for Roma;
- Ms Irene Weidmann, manager of the Art Exhibitions programs and projects on Roma culture,
- Mr Robert Rustem, Executive Secretary of the European Roma and Travellers Forum,
- Ms Clémentine Trolong-Bailly, European Roma and Travellers Forum,
- Ms Ana Rozanova, Programme Manager of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion,
- Mr Huber Denis, Head of the Alliance Taskforce (Head of Service Cooperation, Administration and External Relations Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Regions),
- Mr Nikolai Atefie, member of the Alliance Taskforce, (Project Manager, Communication and Youth),
- Dr Carole Reich, Programme Manager, Remembrance of the Holocaust and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity,
- Ms Eleni Tsetsekou, manager of the Dosta! Campaign, the Roma women projects, and the lawyers' training.

Executive summary:

The agenda for the meeting proposed sharing the results and experiences of the First Phase of Network-project (2011-2013) with colleagues at the CoE; initiate exchanges and collaboration with the Council of Europe's Roma-related actions and discuss the involvement of the Network during the Second Phase (2013-2015) in the work of the CoE.

The two sessions of the day (morning/afternoon) offered opportunities to discuss these issues with twelve colleagues from different divisions of the CoE, among them Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues and Mr Sixto Molina, Head of the Support Team for Roma Issues, Mr Huber Denis, Head of the Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion Taskforce, members of the Roma Support Group and the Alliance Task Force and others (see detailed report). During the discussions concrete opportunities for collaboration have been identified and exact ways of involvement proposed for the Network members in supporting the Council of Europe's Roma-related actions (see action plan).

Detailed report:

The meeting lasted one day. The morning section was composed by two series of meetings (9:30-11:30 and 11:30-12:30); the afternoon comprised of a single section (14:00-16:00) and a concluding discussion.

The early morning session has been reserved to the discussion with Ms Jeroen Schokkenbroek and Mr Sixto Molina. Ms Kathrin Merkle opened the discussions and the session has been chaired by Dr Elisabeth Tauber. The representatives of the Network presented a brief discussion paper (see annexed) which emphasised that following the establishment and consolidation of the **European Academic Network on Romani Studies** a broad range of experts can be accessed by the CoE by appealing to the network membership.

Network members are widely distributed regionally, are highly qualified and specialised in various academic disciplines, represent different generations, field experience, language competencies, and the network also has a balanced gender composition. In this way the Network represents a great resource for the CoE and other bodies in their efforts to improve their Roma-related activities and policies, to develop a new understanding of Roma society and its position within the majority society, and to elaborate and implement more efficient policies. The network is using the Procedure for soliciting Network expertise on policy reports and other documents adopted by the Scientific Committee in order to gather comments and access expertise in a transparent and efficient way.

The Network is not an advocacy organisation and does not seek to represent and speak for Roma communities. It is committed to maintain high professional standards and an academic ethos in vetting its members and their contributions in order to provide academic value that is of a different quality than advocacy oriented 'NGO-scholarship'. In the spirit of academic principles, the Network members are committed to the dialog practices and peer-review of the work-in-progress documents. This practice is also offered to the CoE when seeking to evaluate and improve proposals, policy reports or other kind of documents. In order to make use of the potentials inherent in the Network it is necessary to cooperate closely, so the representatives of the Network proposed to regard truly the network as a project of the CoE, provide the network via the Secretary with information and activity calendars, involve the network more often in the work of the colleagues at the CoE.

During the morning session representatives of the Network engaged in a dialog with the **Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues and the head of the Support Team** (see details http://hub.coe.int/web/coe-portal/roma_srsg-support-team). Ms Jeroen Schokkenbroek and Mr Sixto Molina provided the Network with a report overweening the CoE activities on Roma issues (see attached). Several concrete proposals have been made regarding the future collaboration with the projects based at the CoE: 1) the Network members have been invited to visit the **Database of Policies and Good Practices** (http://goodpracticeroma.ppa.coe.int) managed by Mr Michael Guet and to suggest improvements and completions to the details accessible, it is also possible to expand the list of experts involved in the evaluation and validation of the policies included into the database; 2) it has been suggested to identify and implement ways of participation of the Network in the operations of the **CAHROM – the Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues** (see http://hub.coe.int/web/coe-portal/cahrom1) for example offer external review and commentary on the thematic reports or suggest topics for the further reports; 3) the personal involvement of some of the network members in the thematic visits of the CAHROM; 4) to organise targeted meetings in the future with the SGSR, the Support Team etc. The details for these meetings need to be discussed and decided jointly by the SGSR team and the SC.

The continued morning session comprised meetings with Ms Aurora Ailincai, manager of the **Educational programs for Roma** (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/roma/default_en.asp) and the **ROMED project** (http://coe-romed.org/); Ms Irene Weidmann, manager of the **Art Exhibitions programs** and projects on **Roma culture**, Mr Robert Rustem and Ms Clémentine Trolong-Bailly, from the secretariat of the **European Roma and Travellers Forum** (http://www.ertf.org/). This session has been chaired by Professor Yaron Matras. The discussions concluded in a number of concrete proposals: 1) Ms Aurora Ailincai will analyse the possibility and necessity to complement the existing **Factsheets on Roma** (see http://romafacts.uni-graz.at/) the Network can contribute to expand the available expertise; 2) the resources for teaching about Genocide of the Roma (http://www.romagenocide.org) prepared in collaboration by the Council of Europe and OSCE/ODIHR should be reviewed, the available materials updated, and the members of the Network can be involved in these activities ; 3) Ms Irene Weidmann shared the results of the preparation phase of the project **'Cultural Resources for Roma inclusion'.** During this phase five feasibility studies have been developed. Ms Weidmann proposed to consult members of the Network as an advisors during the implementation phase starting in 2014 of the 'Cultural Resources for Roma inclusion' project (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/romainclusion/Default_en.asp); 4) Mr Robert Rustem and Ms Clémentine Trolong-Bailly will share with the Network and ask for commentaries on the documents and initiatives of the ERTF: a) the **Charter on the Rights of the Roma**; b) a Toolkit on combating anti-Gypsyism; c) members of the Network to support the preparation of a volume commemorating the Roma Genocide and prepare a day for commemorating the victims; d) assist the ERTF with advice and finding expert for preparing a study on the economic costs of segregated education of the Roma.

The discussions continued after the lunch-break. Mr Ciprian Necula chaired the afternoon session. The **European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion** has been represented by Mr Denis Huber, Head of the Alliance Taskforce, Ms Ana Rozanova, programme manager of the Alliance, and Mr Nikolai Atefie, member of the Alliance Taskforce. Dr Carole Reich represented the programs on **Remembrance of the Holocaust and Prevention of Crimes against Humanity**, and Ms Eleni Tsetsekou, the **Dosta! Campaign**, the **Roma women** projects, and the **lawyers' training**.

The Alliance is an initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues and its aim is to develop peer-to-peer relations between the local authorities, and to share knowledge and positive practices between the stakeholders (see: http://www.coe.int/t/congress/sessions/alliance/default_en.asp also its website http://www.roma-alliance.org/). In the near future the Alliance will implement the ROMACT Program involving three main partners: The MERI - Mayors Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion Network hosted by the Open Society Fundation (http://www.logincee.org/newsitem/6052), the ROMED (http://coe-romed.org/) and the Alliance (http://www.roma-alliance.org/).

Dr Carole Reich presented the CoE engagement in the domain of **Remembrance of the Holocaust.** The CoE is a permanent observer in the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and takes part in their regular work. With the help of scientists and artists the CoE is developing educational/pedagogical materials for teachers in order to raise the awareness on the Holocaust (an example of a recent publication is Les victimes du nazisme. Destins spécifiques, by Régis Schlagdenhauffen, Strasbourg, 2012; Editions du Conseil de l'Europe – illustrated by Francine Mayran).

Ms Eleni Tsetsekou presented briefly the **Dosta! – Campaign** and asked for feed-back from the Network members on the toolkit developed (http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/romatravellers/dosta_en.asp). There was a discussion regarding the target audience of such campaigns and the calibration of the tools to the groups targeted. The representatives of the networks suggested that even if Dosta! – is well suitable for the general public, for schools and media, it might be useful to develop additional tools for addressing local authorities and other stakeholders. Ms Eleni Tsetsekou also spoke about the **4th International Roma Women's Conference** which will be organised in Helsinki, Finland in the autumn of 2013 (http://hub.coe.int/roma-women). The following proposals have been made during the discussions: 1) the RAN Network members should be involved in the process of building up the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion by calling upon their expertise, and they could also facilitate contact between the local authorities and research institutes/universities where they are based; 2) members of the Network could also identify further local authorities interested in joining the Alliance and facilitate contacts; 3) Dr Carole Reich recommended for the Network to get in contact with the IHRA Working Group on the Genocide of the Roma chaired by Ms Karen Polak, (http://www.holocaustremembrance.com/joint-subcommittees); 4) the Network members specialised in the History of the Holocaust, remembrance, and connected issues could review and comment on the materials developed and published by the CoE; 5) network members could comment on the Dosta! – toolkit and identify experts interested in anti-discrimination campaigns, and in issues connected to awareness raising; 6) the Network could identify and/or facilitate contact with potential participants of the 4th Congress of the Roma Women.

Action Plan for Collaboration with the Council of Europe's Roma-related actions

Nr	What to do?	Who?	When?
1.	*Contribute to the items in the Database for Policies and Good Practices* (http://goodpracticeroma.ppa.coe.int): ➢ Invite the Network members to visit the database; ➢ Identify experts to be linked to specific good practices (thematic / geographical connections); ➢ Enrich the description of certain good practices with additional details; ➢ Adding / linking independent reviews to existing descriptions of the practices.	SRSG Support Team on Roma • Mr Jeoen Schokkenbroek • Mr Sixto Molina • Mr Michael Guet **Note**: *Requests / invitations / reminders will be shared with the Network members by the Secretary based on the Procedure for soliciting Network expertise.*	As of June 2013?
2.	*Input to CAHROM reports* (http://hub.coe.int/web/coe-portal/cahrom1): ➢ Provide a list of themes of forthcoming issues or anticipation of themes (ex. desegregation; integrated governance) in order to get feed-back on these topics; ➢ Inviting Network members to comment on the existing thematic reports; ➢ Ask Network members to map the relevant issues; ➢ Inviting Network members to overview the existing research in the domain; ➢ Asking for Expert-participants for the meetings; ➢ Commissioning independent Policy papers. ➢ The Chair of the SC to attend the next meeting of CAHROM and present the network.	• Mr Jeroen Schokkenbroek • Mr Michael Guet	As of autumn 2013? October 2013 (Rome, Italy)
3.	*Targeted meetings* ➢ Suggest thematic focus points.	• SRSG Support Team on Roma	Discuss further at the RAN meeting in Marseilles (September 2013)
4.	*Participate in the Alliance actions* (http://www.roma-alliance.org/): ➢ Run a test case with concepts/definitions among the Network members; ➢ Invite input papers on specific topics (e.g. on relocation); ➢ Initiate trainings for stakeholders with the involvement of the Network;	• SRSG Support Team on Roma • The Alliance Taskforce	At request
5.	*Contribute to activities in the domain of education* http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/education/roma/default_en.asp ➢ To introduce peer-review procedure to the production of the Factsheets on Roma; ➢ To identify information in the Factsheets which would deserve revision or update; ➢ To ask for additional contributions for the Factsheets on Roma.	• Ms Aurora Ailincai will decide whether and when to update the sheets (as resources become available)	Ms Ailincai will communicate on time lines

6.	*Resources for teaching about Genocide of the Roma* (http://www.romagenocide.org): ➢ Inviting members of the Network to visit and review the existing list and materials; ➢ Ask for additional contributions, updates for the database.	• Ms Aurora Ailincai	Ms Ailincai will communicate on time lines
7.	*Consultations with the European Roma and Travellers Forum* (http://www.ertf.org/): a) To get feed back on the Roma Rights Charter (2009) ➢ The Charter was presented to CAHROM in spring 2013 that will revisit the text in October; ➢ To request comments and suggestions from the Network membership; b) Gather commentaries on the ERTF Toolkit on combating anti-Gypsyism (to be presented in an ERTF meeting on 1-2 July 2013); ➢ To request comments and suggestions from the Network membership; c) ERTF commissioned a study on the economic cost of non-eradicating segregated education for European countries ➢ To request advise on selecting the experts and the reviewers of the draft study; ➢ Using a peer-review procedure of finalisation of the study. d) Support for the Roma genocide remembrance day (RGMD): ➢ Creating a set of factsheets for the genocide in each country with the contribution of the Network; ➢ Planning and organising a conference on RGMD at the CoE with the involvement of the Network members; ➢ Organising the commemoration of RGMD at CoE on 2.8.2013; ➢ Call for contributions and comments on contributions from the Network.	ERTF Secretariat • Mr Robert Rustem • Ms Clémentine Trolong-Bailly	June 2013? 25 June 2013! TBA By 2 August 2014 (there will be the 70th anniversary!).
8.	Getting involved in Youth Actions ➢ CoE Youth Sector is developing a new toolkit on fighting anti-gypsyism; ➢ To invite Network members to comment on the tools.	• Ms Kathrin Merkle to help with the contact to Mr Nikolai Atefie	June 2013
9.	Getting feed-back on the Dosta! – Campaign (http://www.coe.int/t/dg3/romatravellers/dosta_en.asp) ➢ Identifying Network members interested in issues of awareness raising campaigns; ➢ Gathering comments and suggestions on the existing toolkit of the Dosta!	• Ms Eleni Tsetsekou	June 2013

10.	Roma Women Conference (http://hub.coe.int/roma-women) ➢ Asking for suggestions for participants for the 4th Roma Women Conference.	• Ms Eleni Tsetsekou	July 2013?
11.	*Participate in the actions of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion* (http://www.roma-alliance.org/) ➢ Invite the Network to become a partner to the Alliance; ➢ Ask the Network members to provide information on academic resources in the cities participants in the Alliance; ➢ Ask Network members to identify possibly interested cities to participate in the Alliance; ➢ Invite the Network to identify relevant research.	The Alliance Taskforce • Mr Denis Huber • Ms Ana Rozanova	To prepare from June 2013

Annex:

Draft discussion points for the restricted meeting of the Scientific Committee for consultation on Council of Europe Roma-related actions
Strasbourg, 22 May 2013

1. **Where the Network can add value:**

- Deliver a broader range of expertise than that available so far to the CoE in respect of academic discipline, regional expertise, gender, age, and background. So far CoE has relied on weak academic expertise of insignificant discipline-based reputation and little field experience, limited to few countries of origin and similar generation

- Broader access to a large resources, ensuring transparency in soliciting expertise, providing a more effective service of better ' value'

- Allowing a differentiated and specialised approach to the overall 'vision' on Roma and opportunities to deal with diversity within the CoE umbrella programme on Roma/ and to rely on new understandings of Roma society and its position within majority society

- The network can help we can help improve the quality of CoE activities, publications and information on Roma by ensuring a solid basic academic basis through a system of peer review (peer review college), where reviews are open to public scrutiny

- We aim to provide easy access to reliable information (e.g. through database of experts and expertise reports and public and open soliciting of expertise), offering a unique resource that is not available elsewhere

2. **Our vision for cooperation:**

- Mutual reporting: CoE should report on its activities to the network and advertise how our members can contribute, e.g. comment on draft papers and project proposals (e.g. history projects, fact sheets, mediator programme, etc in which CoE has obvious interest but lacks broad expertise).

- Avoid appointing one individual to write the history of Roma, or to standardise the Romani language, etc; the network can provide reviews and opinions and thus a service giving more resources to choose from and greater transparency

- Exchange of information and meeting attendance with MG-S-ROM

- ERTF is invited to solicit the network's expertise, an opportunity to form new partnerships between Romani NGOs and academics, and for NGOs to draw on the service of academics

- Regard the network as a CoE project, provide us with an activity calendar, involve us more in activity planning; begin by listing information that CoE can supply or involve us in and mapping CoE activities on Roma

- Offer expertise to specialised CoE activities such as language charter, human rights commissioner, national minorities, regions and local authorities etc; break through the divisions within CoE rather than 'belong' to one single domain/directorate

3. Maintaining clear boundaries and definitions

- The network is not an advocacy organisation, it does not have a mandate to, and does not seek to, represent or speak for Roma communities

- There is no 'objective consensus' on Roma issues, and the network does not pretend to speak with a single uniform voice; rather, it provides access to a range of viewpoints and diverse forms of expertise

- The network maintains high professional standards and an academic ethos in vetting its members and their contributions; it provides academic value that is of a different quality than advocacy oriented 'NGO-scholarship'