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Meeting of the Italian members of the Network in Bolzano

At the 5th meeting of the Scientific Committee it was decided to initiate a series of meetings at national level. The main idea behind this initiative is that Network members and policy makers including the National Contact Points for the implementation of National Integration Strategies meet and engage in a constructive dialog. Six countries have been selected for the organisation of such meetings: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Romania and Slovakia.

In Italy a preparatory meeting has been organised on 17 March 2014 in Bolzano. Most of the Italian

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Network members attended the meeting where they had the opportunity to discuss social inclusion policies with local authorities and political stakeholders at national level (Senator Francesco Palermo). It has been decided that a follow-up meeting will be held in Rome with the representatives of the UNAR, acting as NCP in Italy.

For more details see the [report on the meeting](#).

6th Meeting of the Scientific Committee

The 6th SC meeting will be organised in Cluj, Romania, in conjunction with the Consortium meeting of the [MIGROM research project](#) funded by the European Commission's FP7 Scheme.

The event will last two days (6–7 April). On 6 April there will be open presentations of the MIGROM partners on the first findings of the pilot studies regarding the migration of Romanian Roma in the UK, France, Italy and Spain, respective the situation in their communities of origin in Romania. These will be followed by exchanges involving practitioners

and local authorities in the respective countries.

The SC will have its regular meeting on 7 April, discussing and deciding on the following issues: news and developments in the work of the EC and CoE regarding Roma, evaluation of the workshop proposals received, renewal of the project website, communication of the Network (Newsletter, email-group, forums etc), evaluating the results of the Membership Survey, and the progress of the Network project bridging the interface between academia and policy making.

Recent publications in the field of Romani studies (reports/volumes/studies)

Reports

- 📖 Marius WAMSIEDEL: *Roma health mediation in Romania: case study*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013, ([Roma Health Case Study Series, No. 1](#)).
- 📖 Vera MESSING (ed.) *From Benefits to Brooms. Case study reports on the implementation of active labour market policies for Roma at local level (Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Spain)*, [NEUJOBS WORKING PAPER NO. 19.3](#), Center for Policy Studies–CEU, 2013, Budapest. Authors: Vera Messing, Alexey Pamporov; Florina Pop; Lucia Mytna Kurekova; Judit Konstekova; Bálint–Ábel Bereményi.
- 📖 [Financial management of Roma families](#) in six countries a transnational report of the FINALLY project needs assessment published by research partners <http://finally.blog.arnes.si/partners/>.
- 📖 Stefano PIEMONTESE (ed.) *'Roma migrants' in five European Countries. Policy Context and National Integration Strategies, 2nd Report of the project REdHNET*. Authors: Zsuzsa Plainier, Laura Bianconi, Desislava Stefanova, Michael Förschner.

Edited volumes

- 📖 Enikő VINCZE and Cristina RAȚ (editors): *Spatialisation and Racialisation of Social Exclusion. The Social and Cultural Formation of 'Gypsy Ghettos' in Romania in a European Context*, [Special Issue of Studia Universitatis Babeş-Bolyai](#), Sociologia (Volume 58 (LVIII) December 2013).
- 📖 Dieter W. HALWACHS (ed.) *Special Focus section on Roma* in the [European Yearbook of Minority Issues, Volume 10](#) (2011), Brill, Nijhoff, 2013.
- 📖 David THURFJELL and Adrian MARSH (editors) [Romani pentecostalism: Gypsies and charismatic Christianity](#). Peter Lang, Frankfurt, 2013.

Studies / chapters

- 📖 Giovanni PICKER: *Sedentarisation and "the right to nomadism". The urban and regional fabric of nomad camps in Italy*, *Zeitgeschichte*, (2013), 40(5): 276–86.

- 📖 Stefan BENEDIK, Barbara TIEFENBACHER, Heidrun ZETTELBAUER: *Die imaginierte "Bettlerflut". Temporäre Migrationen von Roma/Romnija – Konstrukte und Positionen. drava: Klagenfurt / Celovec 2013. 158 p. Including an extensive summary in English and Hungarian.*
- 📖 Marian ZĂLOAGĂ: *Between Primitiveness, Compassion and Criminalization. Discourses on Gypsy Child's Poverty in the Long 19th Century Transylvanian Saxon Culture*, in *In-between Difference and Diversity: Studies of Cultural and Intellectual History*, Astra Museum, Sibiu, 2013.
- 📖 Melanie H. RAM: "European Integration, Migration, and Representation: The Case of Roma in France," *Ethnopolitics*, forthcoming 2014, [Available online](#).
- 📖 Maria-Carmen PANTEA: 'Affirmative action in Romania's higher education: Roma students' perceived meanings and dilemmas' in *British Journal of Sociology of Education*. [Available online](#).
- 📖 Radosveta DIMITROVA, Athanasios CHASIOTIS, Michael BENDER, Fons J. R. van de VIJEVER: 'Collective identity and well-being of Bulgarian Roma adolescents and their mothers' *J Youth Adolesc.* 2014 Mar;43(3):375–86. [Available online](#).

Books

- 📖 David SMITH. and Margaret GREENFIELDS: [Gypsies and Travellers in Housing: the decline of nomadism](#), Policy Press, Bristol, 2013 with a foreword by Judith Okely.
- 📖 Gül ÖZATESLER: [Gypsy Stigma and Exclusion in Turkey, 1970. The Social Dynamics of Exclusionary Violence](#). Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2014.
- 📖 Yaron MATRAS: ["I met lucky people". The story of the Romani Gypsies](#). Penguin, London, 2014.
- 📖 Ioana BUNESCU: [Roma in Europe. The Politics of Collective Identity Formation](#), Ashgate, Farnham, 2014 (forthcoming).

Past and forthcoming events

Past events

- An information meeting with representatives of the civil society, international organisations and academic networks has been organised on 13 February 2014 in Brussels by the Roma Task Force of the European Commission. The Secretary of the Network attended this meeting. The report on the meeting has been published on the website.
- The first national level Network meeting has been organised in Bolzano/Italy on 17 March 2014. (See 1st page). Ulderico Daniele, Sabira Kakouch, Chiara Manzoni, Oana Marcu, Sara Memo, Cecilia Rubiolo, Federica Setti, Santino Spinelli, Elisabeth Tauber, Paola Trevisan, Alice Vezzoli, Elisabetta Vivaldi, Roberta Medda Windischer, Giorgia Decarli, Francesco Palermo, Kolis Summerer, and Sabrina Tosi Cabini attended the meeting; local institutions were represented by Giulio Angelucci, Nadja Schuster and Karl Tragust, and two Sinti in their capacity as representatives of their families: Radames Gabrieli and Claudio Gabrieli. Giovanni Picker and Barbara Giovanna Bello were connected via Skype.

Forthcoming events

- The [3rd Roma Summit](#) will be held on 4 April 2014 in Brussels. Around 500 representatives of EU institutions, national governments and parliaments, international organisations, mayors, civil society organisations (including Roma organisations) and local and regional authorities are invited. The Network will be represented by its Secretary, László Fosztó.
- The [7th CAHROM meeting](#) (Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma Issues) is organised at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg on 14–16 May 2014. The Network will be represented at this meeting by Elisabeth Tauber (Chair of the Scientific Committee) and Yaron Matras (member of the SC).
- Meetings of the Network members with the National Contact Points are under preparation in 6 countries (Bg, Cz, Hu, It, Ro and Sk).

Summary of the Information Meeting with the EC on 11 February 2014

by Network Secretary

Participants from the EC: Lina Papamichalopoulou, Axelle Cheney, Miranda Vuolasranta, Dominique Bé, Frank Pierobon, Alexandros Tsolakis.

The main purpose of this meeting was to update and inform the representatives of the NGOs, international organisations and professional networks invited about recent developments and results of projects funded by the European Commission in the domain of social inclusion of the Roma, and also to present the new priorities and major events planned by the EC.

The priority for the EC in 2014 is: Going Local. The EC will focus on more effective involvement of Local Authorities in all Roma related projects (including the National Strategies for Roma Inclusion).

Two exemplary projects have been presented and discussed: ROMED2 (Joint Project between EC, DG Education and Culture, and the Council of Europe) and ROMACT (Joint Project between the EC, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, the Council of Europe with the support of the Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Inclusion). More information on these projects will soon be available.

Regular meetings are to be continued: officials from different General Directorates of the EC are working together and have created the Task Force for Roma Inclusion. This information meeting was the first in a series of meetings to be organised regularly by this Task Force in the future (approx. every two months) to inform and update the civil society, international organisations and professional networks on the main developments.

The most important event to come is the Roma Summit (held in Brussels on 4 April 2014), a very high profile event (attended by Heads of States, Prime Ministers and National Roma Contact Points).

Read the [full report](#) on the website.

The Decade Secretariat published the updated civil society monitoring reports

by Márton Rövid

In the pilot year of 2012, the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation supported reports from civil society coalitions in eight countries: Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia and Spain.

In the reports, civil society coalitions supplement or present alternative information to Progress Reports submitted by Participating Governments in the Decade of Roma Inclusion and to any reports submitted by State parties to the European Commission on implementation of their National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS).

When the European Commission requested further input in 2012 and 2013, the Decade Secretariat and the Open Society Foundations offered support to the same civil society coalitions from EU Member States to update and streamline their reports. Several members of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies played an important role in the monitoring research and the writing of the reports.

Both the full reports covering 2012 and the streamlined reports covering 2012 and 2013 are available at www.romadecade.org/civilsocietymonitoring

The number of followers of the

Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/romanistudies.eu>

has surpassed 1 000.

You can follow the updates by 'Liking' our page!

The Network Membership Survey

by Network Secretary

An online survey has been carried out among the members of the Network in order to evaluate how the existing infrastructure of the Network is used, while determining the degree of involvement and satisfaction of the members with the communication of the Network.

157 of the 333 members completed the questionnaire, adding up to an overall response rate of 47%, which is a relatively high rate of response for an online survey. Additionally about 70 comments were inserted in reply to the open questions regarding the Network policies for communication.

One of the main conclusions from the survey is that the Network communication is rather inward-oriented, given that the email-group, which is the most active channel, is restricted to the Network membership. Sustained effort to improve the external channels is necessary in the future.

See the [report on the survey](#) for details.

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