

Council of Europe  
Head Office  
Mr Alfonso Zardi, Head of Democratic Institutions  
and Governance Department,  
Democratic Governance Directorate, DGII  
Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075  
Strasbourg  
France,

Friday, February 20, 2015

Dear Mr Zardi

It is with great pleasure, and gratitude to the Council of Europe/European Academic Network Romani Studies, that I submit herewith our report in relation to use of funds provided to facilitate holding two thematic meetings under the "Bridging the Gap between Academics and Policy Makers" funding stream. As is detailed below, as a result of funding received under the first 'call' (and additional funding from the Pro-Vice Chancellor's fund here at Bucks New University) we were enabled in providing two highly successful meetings, one on 'crime, policing and criminalisation' and the other on 'health and social work issues'. Both events brought together a range of UK and European academics, policy makers (including senior officials from UK Government departments) and representatives of Roma/Gypsy/Traveller NGOs with particular expertise in the above areas.

We were able also to co-convene with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on GRT Affairs a one-off special APPG on crime and policing at the Palace of Westminster, attended by parliamentarians and delegates from the seminar.

Whilst the report section headed "next steps" details the follow-up activities to emerge from these activities; in summary, these will consist of the drafting of two relatively succinct but accessible policy guidance documents in the above areas highlighting findings from the meetings/seminars and recommendations targeted at both international and UK specific policy actors/agencies. We anticipate that these will be ready for dissemination in early April following consultation with stakeholders, policy actors who were unable to attend the events and delegates. We will as a matter of course re asking delegates to provide feed-back/complete an evaluation form in relation to these events.

Presentations from the two workshops and photographs from the events will be uploaded onto the IDRICS website [http://bucks.ac.uk/research/research\\_institutes/idrics/](http://bucks.ac.uk/research/research_institutes/idrics/) from January 2015 when we have received final versions of presentations (in some cases edited to ensure confidentiality if specific case studies are discussed) and agreement from delegates in relation to use of photographic images in which they appear.

It is also anticipated that specific policy related funding bids and pilot projects will be developed by a range of academic and NGO delegates as a result of discussions at these specialist 'closed' meetings and it may be that some of these emergent thematic projects will prove of particular interest to various EU agencies and Directorates. A number of small follow-up meetings and Skype discussions between some parties at the events are beginning to take shape and we would anticipate that by March and April 2015 we will have a clearer idea of which agencies/delegates are considering taking the lead on follow-up activities, or are seeking funding in relation to potential activities. We are happy to circulate a request for information to delegates in the Spring of 2015 to



explore anticipated outcomes/developing networks emergent from these events.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information in relation to these two events or the progress of policy guidance development.

Please note that the programme for 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 can be accessed [here](#).

And the programme for the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 [here](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Margaret Greenfields".

Professor Dr. Margaret Greenfields,  
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### Invitations and Special Guests

In total, in addition to IDRICS and Bucks New University staff involved in the delivery of the thematic meetings/seminars we hosted a total of 53 (external) attendees over the two days.

Invitations were initially issued to a total of 68 selected guests but a number of potential participants who had expressed an interest in the event were unable to attend as a result of ill-health or conflicting priorities (these included the Director of the ERRC (Budapest); UK National Federation of Gypsy, Traveller liaison groups; Equalities and Human Rights Commission senior legal team who initially accepted (and who indeed supported our application) but who were unable to attend on the actual dates; senior academic staff including three UK Professors) and Public Health England, Immunisations lead.

It was noteworthy that the crime/policing event attracted the most interest and we could easily have doubled the attendance list on that day (held to a maximum of 35 people including IDRICS staff) by the simple inclusion of PhD students and 'interested but not expert' individuals who had heard of the event from the EARNS mailing list/colleagues of invitees who were unable to attend.

Both workshops operated under Chatham House rules to facilitate open discussion of themes and issues of concern to attendees. Papers and presentations from the event (although not summaries of the discussions/examples drawn out by participants) will be made available on the IDRICS website - along with images of the events undertaken by a professional photographer Mary Humphrey who attended both days of the workshops. Materials will be uploaded (once final consents/versions of presentations have been received) from January.

Thematic Meeting One (3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014) with the theme of "Criminalisation, Policing and GRT communities in the criminal justice system" was hosted at New Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police, under the auspices of the Association of Chief Police Constables (ACPO). The event commenced with a theoretical presentation by Dr Huub Van Baar, University of Giessen, Germany, Amsterdam Centre for Globalisation Studies (ACGS) at the University of Amsterdam and the leading European specialist in this area - on the increase of 'securitisation' and perceptions of GRT communities as 'suspect groups' across Europe.

The Assistant Chief Constable of Cheshire and GRT lead for ACPO then spoke about the need to ensure that policing practice was ethical, reflectively monitored and subject to on-going awareness of both national and international best practice.

Two short academic papers which explored particular cases studies on barriers to access to appropriate legal representation, policing practice and inequality of treatment of GRT communities in the context of Southern Ireland and Germany were then given (see programme above), supporting discussion on similarities and (the at least partial) policy transfer/spread of policing practice and perceptions.

Workshop sessions on a) experiences of policing and barriers to encouraging community cohesion; b) reporting of hate crime and c) GRT communities in the prison/secure estate system followed. Presentations made reference to a range of communities (Roma migrants, Gypsies and Travellers) from the UK and Southern Ireland. Each workshop consisted of short presentations given by a

range of UK and international speakers followed by discussions in small groups and the development of recommendations which will form the basis of the policy paper to be produced and circulated by late March/early April 2015 after consultation/agreement with relevant parties.

Key attendees at this event included representatives from the GRT Police association (UK, Czech and Slovak branches); senior police officers (Asst. Chief Constables; ACPO representatives); legal representatives; a former magistrate who is a member of the Romani Gypsy community; prison/secure estate staff and NGO staff working with GRT populations in community and prison settings. Representatives from the UK Department of Communities and Local Government (government ministerial department) were also present throughout.

The crime and policing seminar was followed by a specially convened All Party Parliamentary Group meeting at the Palace of Westminster at which several of the speakers made short presentations pertaining to the impact on UK approaches of European trends in policing/migration related tensions; issues in crime/policing and community cohesion. A number of MPs and the Shadow Minister for Justice attended the event and political representatives have requested that they receive both the full briefing paper and copies of the presentations from the workshop held earlier in the day.

IMPACT: Following on from this event/APPG we have been asked - along with several other attendees - to work to draft Parliamentary questions to be asked in Westminster (PQs) pertaining to monitoring of GRT in policing/criminal justice statistics (and also in relation to health monitoring see Day 2 of the workshops).

The second seminar (4<sup>th</sup> December, 2014) hosted by a leading philanthropic funder with a history of supporting GRT issues (Lankelly Chase Foundation) had a significantly different, and rather less European feel from the first day. This occurred as apart from the key-note speaker Professor Szilard from the University of Pecs, WHO advisor and convenor of the Roma Health Network, ultimately all attendees (other than a representative from a key Irish NGO) were mainland British, meaning that there was a tendency for the debate to remain largely UK focused.

The format of this event remained identical to that of the previous day (presentations and discussions). Following from the scene-setting EU context debate on GRT health by Professor Szilard, presentations were made by key senior officials from NHS England, and the UK Department of Health on their approach to health inclusion for GRT populations. Government agency attendance again occurred for the entire event.

Workshops took place on maternity care/immunisation; the impact of accommodation on GRT health - sites, housing, impacts on mental health of break-down of communities and discrimination etc. The final workshop of the day which considered social services engagement - particularly in relation to child protection issues experienced by migrant Roma populations excited the most in-depth debates.

The day concluded with a very intense discussion on practice, recommendations and issues of funding/assessing appropriate sustainable programmes to deliver health/wellbeing and social care for GRT communities.

**IMPACT:** A number of discussions have already commenced between NGO staff, Government agency officials and attendees from various academic institutions in terms of drafting up plans for funding of systemic reviews of needs/lacuna in knowledge and cost-benefit analyses of provision of adequate care.

Connections between academic/policy leads from Government agencies and NGOs in the UK/Hungary and Ireland have also commenced.

Similarly, ongoing discussions between German/Dutch and UK NGOs/practitioners/policing specialists have begun to emerge from Day one of the event.

A group discussion forum and circulation of all attendees contact details (from both days) will be developed within the next few weeks to facilitate on-going debate and collaboration in terms of policy and practice development.

**Next steps:** in the next month (January) we will draw together the threads of the different discussion groupings as well as ensuring that we have the recommendations in hand from each of the feed-back sessions and agreement on the key themes which the collective attendees have identified for prioritisation within the policy recommendation paper to be produced by Spring of next year.

Preliminary discussions have occurred with 'cluster leaders' who will assist in drawing together the sections/directions of the policy papers between January-February 2015 and who will aid in drafting key sections based on the group discussions and their specific expertise.

Each paper will incorporate a brief EU focused overview which identifies key shared areas of concern/activity as well as a focus on the recommendations from each workshop and overall priorities for policy/practitioner and political audiences.

The papers will be agreed by the parties to the workshops and signed off for circulation to key agencies by the end of the first week of April. Each policy paper is anticipated to be short enough to have impact and be read by key target agencies/politicians/policy leads with an anticipated length of up to 20 pages.

As noted in the covering letter to this report we anticipate that these events will lead to new academic/policy/NGO clusters seeking to develop projects/pilot practice around a number of themes considered over the two days and within the APPG held on the evening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014.