

Antigypsyism - combating negative attitudes about Roma in Romania

Romania, Ploiesti, September 6, 2017, Hotel Central

Context

Roma encounter antigypsyism as a specific form of discrimination in Europe and many continue to face a higher risk of exclusion in all domains of public life, including education, employment, housing and health, compared to non-Roma. In Romania, Roma are usually judged based on stereotypes in the minds of the majority population. These stereotypes demonstrate lack of knowledge or ignorance regarding the history of Roma on Romanian territory. At the same time, society does not fight antigypsyism attitudes, and thus discrimination, hate-speech and stereotypes are recreated in our daily life. However, the most serious forms of antigypsyism are institutional ones. These include, for instance, segregation of Roma children in education, spatial segregation of Roma communities. These institutional manifestations have profound repercussions for the effective socio-economic inclusion of Roma community in life domains such as access to housing and education. What makes antigypsyism a special form of racism is the responsibility of the state in the production and co-production of discriminatory norms, knowledge and politics in relation to Roma communities.

The document "Antigypsyism - a reference paper" www.antigypsyism.eu, shows this is the specific racism towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers and others who are stigmatized as 'gypsies' in the public imagination. Although the term is finding increasing institutional recognition, there is as yet no common understanding of its nature and implications. Antigypsyism is often used in a narrow sense to indicate anti-Roma attitudes or the expression of negative stereotypes in the public sphere or hate speech. However, antigypsyism gives rise to a much wider spectrum of discriminatory expressions and practices, including many implicit or hidden manifestations. Antigypsyism is not only about what is being said, but also about what is being done and what is not being done. To recognize its full impact, a more precise understanding is crucial.

Representatives of the European Institutions (European Parliament, European Commission), representatives of the embassies and ministries but also of the national institutions working with and for the Roma, representatives of public authorities, Roma and non-Roma organizations at European and national level and Roma community members will be among the participants and speakers of the event.

The aim of the event is to:

- *Provide a platform for participants to exchange information and ideas about good practices and to discuss possible challenges and solutions to combat antigypsyism at EU, national and local level;*

PROGRAM

Ploiești, September 6, 2017

09.00 – 09.30

Arrival of participants and registration

09.30 – 11.00

Opening the conference

Welcome remarks - Rodica Elena TUDOR, President Center of Resources for Social Inclusion CRIS

I. Plenary session

- **Soraya POST**, Member of the European Parliament
- **Damian DRĂGHICI** , Member of the European Parliament
- **Szabolcs SCHMIDT**, Head of Unit, Non-Discrimination and Roma Coordination, Directorate General Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- **Anneli LINDAHL KENNY**, Embassador, Sweden Embassy in Romanian
- **Matthew JONES**, Political Officer, Embassy of the United States of America in Romania
- **Bogdan Andrei TOADER**, President, Prahova County Council
- **Adrian Florin DOBRE**, Mayor, Ploiesti City

Guests will present the role and activity / institutions they represent in the context of antigypsyism at European and national level.

Moderator: Marius Lucian Tudor – Roma Health Project Manager, European Public Health Alliance

11.00 – 12.00 *Plenary session - possible challenges and solutions to combat antigypsyism at EU, national and local level.*
First part

Antigypsyism have become common word for the current civil movement in Europe and reflect a cruel reality of the status quo of Roma. Irrespective of the numerous national laws adopted, European Commission directives, equality bodies and similar institutions, written reports, awareness-raising campaigns, Roma still face discrimination across Europe, from racist discourse, violent acts, hate speech to murder. The session will examine the current understanding of antigypsyism, with an emphasis on the response of representatives of European and national institutions and civil society organizations to these issues and the areas where they should work.

Moderator – Rodica Elena Tudor

Daniel Vasile	Deputy „ Partida Romilor Pro-Europa”, Vicepresident of the Commission for human rights, cults and problems of national minorities, Romanian Parliament
Asztalos Csaba	President, National Council for Combating Discrimination
Daniel Rădulescu	President, National Agency for Roma, Romanian Government
Aurora Martin	Senior Adviser, Agency for Equal Opportunities among Roma Women and Men, Ministry of Labor and Social Justice, Romanian Government
Gabriela Hrabanova	Executive Director, European Roma Grassroots Organizations Network (Brussels)
Marius Tudor	Roma Health Project Manager, European Public Health Alliance (Brussels)

12.00 – 12.15 **Coffee break**

12.15 – 13.15 *Plenary session - possible challenges and solutions to combat antigypsyism at EU, national and local level;*
Second part

Mihai Neacșu	Executive Director, National Center of Roma Culture, Romanian Government
Gabriela Alexandrescu	Executive President, Save the Children Romania
Ciprian Necula	Founder, Romano ButiQ
Marian Mandache	Executive Director Romani CRISS
Delia Grigore	President, Roma Center Amare Rromentza
Florin Ianovici	General Manager, Light and Life Foundation

13.15 - 14.30 **Plenary discussions. Closing session.**

14.30 Lunch

Languages of the event: Romanian and English.
Simultaneous translation will be provided by organizer.