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Joint COE/EC Programme “Equal Rights and Treatment for Roma in SEE”, 2006-2007

Update on the activities of the awareness raising campaign

”Dosta!/Enough!: Go beyond prejudice, discover the Roma”

15 December 2007



The Programme Background:

“Equal Rights and treatment for Roma in South Eastern Europe” is the third joint Council of Europe/European Commission programme on Roma in the region.

Two previous joint programmes on Roma were implemented there, from 2000 to 2005, especially for addressing social key issues like access to housing, employment, education and health, all of them fields in which Roma are still facing severe difficulties.

In fact, during the last decade the Roma populations, in particular in South Eastern Europe, have been hit by instability: they have been the victims of forced migration and many are still today refugees or displaced persons. Their social and economic situation already precarious has been deteriorating throughout this period with serious consequences on education of children and employment.

Though in most cases, the Governments realised the necessity to improve the situation of Roma, a comprehensive policy involving all relevant actors, and first of all the Roma themselves, has been usually lacking. As a result of the two previous joint programmes, most of the countries which have participated in their implementation have adopted National Strategies for Roma, at the instigation and/or with the assistance of the Council of Europe. This comprehensive framework of policies has recently been completed by the adoption of National Action Plans for Roma within the framework of the Decade for Roma inclusion.

However, in an internal evaluation exercise carried out by the Council of Europe Roma Division, it was recognised that the efforts made by the participating governments are often frustrated on the one hand by the lack of effective and appropriate monitoring techniques which could allow identifying gaps in the national strategies for Roma, and on the other hand by deep-rooted prejudices and discrimination practices among the local authorities and the local population.

This third Joint Programme “Equal Rights and Treatment for Roma” is the logical consequence of the two previous programmes; it will be implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” in 2006-2007 and it aims at:

- assisting both governments and Roma representatives in enhancing their capacity to participate together in the effective monitoring and evaluation of the National Strategies for Roma in order to ensure their effective implementation;
- conducting an awareness raising campaign on Roma culture focused on combating prejudices, stereotypes through the promotion of a positive image of Roma.

The programme will also contribute to the establishment of communication channels to help governments in giving more visibility and a proper justification as to why a specific range of policies must be put in place in favour of Roma; as a side effect, we expect this programme to help governments in reporting to international monitoring bodies/mechanisms, including Council of Europe bodies, thus creating synergies to reduce the burden on the governments and making their reporting duty much easier.

An Evaluation of the two previous joint programmes for Roma will also be conducted by an independent consultant.

This third Council of Europe Joint Programme is indirectly strengthened by the third Summit Action Plan, Chapter three: “Building a more Human and inclusive Europe”, in which the Heads of States and governments of the Council of Europe member states confirmed their *“commitment to combat all kinds of exclusion and insecurity of the Roma communities in Europe and to promote their full and effective equality. We expect that the European Roma and Travellers Forum will allow Roma and Travellers to express themselves with the active support of the Council of Europe. Steps will be made to establish co-operation among the Council of Europe, the European Union and the OSCE in this field”*.

This joint programme –as was the case for previous joint programmes- is also a strong signal of the willingness of cooperation expressed by the Council of Europe, the European Commission, and the OSCE-ODIHR.

The Awareness raising campaign

1. The challenge

When thinking on Roma, a big collection of stereotypes comes out: Roma gain their life by begging or stealing, they do not like working, they do not want their children to attend schools, they do not want to integrate the societies in which they live, they prefer living in shanty towns, they are the main actors of the trafficking in human beings.

These negative beliefs can be stereotypes, i.e. preconceptions and clichés, or prejudices, i.e. irrational feelings of fear and dislike; both lead to discriminatory attitudes that may impede Roma from having access to citizen, human and social rights.

Prejudices and stereotypes are often so strong that they are also reflected in some expressions of our language. **But they are as strong as they are wrong.**

There is a need for changing the status quo towards Roma.

Dosta! communication and awareness-raising campaign, targeting the local level in participating countries, helps to break down prejudices and stereotypes by bringing together Roma and non-Roma citizens.

2. Basic considerations

- The campaign addresses very deep-rooted beliefs and prejudices. This campaign should be considered as the first step of a long process to be continued through future projects.
- The campaign architecture stimulates first of all cooperation with other concerned Council of Europe bodies; it addresses national, regional and local partners, who “translate” and multiply the campaign message. The local dimension has been taken into account and specific cooperation at local level has been encouraged.
- The campaign covers five countries with different policies towards Roma, different cultural patterns and social norms, and different development levels of civil society; **nevertheless, the campaign messages are the same for all European countries.**

- The campaign is conceived as a tool for the Roma representatives and the governments for changing the status quo. It is built up with the contribution of the Roma, through the Council of Europe Roma network, but also with the contribution of the European Roma and Travellers Forum. The name “Dosta!” was suggested by Mr. Valeriu Nicolae, when he was Deputy Director of the European Roma Information office. “Dosta” has the same meaning in most of the languages of the participating countries but also in the Romani dialects of this region. This is the first sign of the influence of local culture on Roma culture. “Dosta” is therefore a word that brings together Roma and non-Roma from the Balkan area.

3. Target groups

The campaign targets “society at large”, by identifying target groups that are most likely to “cascade” and multiply the message, such as journalists, teachers in primary and secondary education, youth, members and organisers of civil society organisations, or members of local and regional parliaments.

4. Campaign messages

People usually pay more attention to messages that are unusual, loud and exotic. Negative messages that implicitly criticise the audience, attack its self-esteem or openly arouse fears, are usually ineffective and may even be counter-productive.

Therefore, Dosta! campaign conveys two basic **positive** messages:

- (a) A socio-political message: Roma have rights and aspirations like everybody else. They are citizens of the countries they live in and they have to be recognized as such, in the full respect of their citizenship and human rights.
- (b) A cultural message: Roma culture is part of Europe’s cultural heritage and it has contributed to the enrichment of European societies. It is now time to recognize this contribution.

5. Campaign tools

Website development: Dosta! multi-language internet site is the platform for the promotion of all other campaign’s activities, as well as for the collection of audio-visual material, eventually to be used also in other European countries. The website is conceived as an interactive tool allowing users to register and log-in for posting comments, forum’s topics or downloadable material. The main pages are in English but specific sections in all the participating countries’ languages are also published.

Web address: www.dosta.org

Creative visuals and slogans: The visual and slogans are elaborated in cooperation with the Council of Europe Roma network as well as with the Council of Europe Communication Department. They are to be used on material such as leaflets, posters, promotional material (tee-shirts, mouse pads, etc.) and audiovisual products.

The most recently created visuals concern the branding of visibility products such as pens, stickers, balloons, block notes, tee-shirts and the maxi-hoarding that is going to advertise the campaign in front of the Council of Europe for the following 3 months.

Audiovisual products:

The TV spot is one of the campaigning tools of the Dosta! campaign. It is the result of a brainstorming meeting organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe Communication Department and some Roma media experts who contributed to its script. It is based on photos taken during a field visit to Serbia organized in cooperation with the Association of Roma Students in Novi Sad and has been produced in South Eastern Europe by a local Production Agency. The music is “*Dgelem Dgelem*”, the Roma anthem, kindly authorized by Mr. Saban Bajramovic.

The TV spot exists in two versions, 50 and 25 seconds in Albanian, Bosnia and Herzegovina local languages, Serbian and Macedonian, apart from English and French; it is posted on the campaign website and has been distributed free of charge to national televisions to be broadcasted regularly during one month.

Airtime monitoring is being conducted by the Council of Europe Communication Department with the support of the Council of Europe Information offices in the participating countries; Top Channel TV (Albania), RTRS and Federal TV BHTV (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the Macedonian National TV MRT (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”) already reported about regular broadcasting as from last March. In addition, the TV spot has been broadcasted on 2nd February by Italian National Television Rai3 during its night news, as well as aired regularly in 2 cinemas in Turkey from 31 March to 15 April at the occasion of the Istanbul Film Festival.

A radio spot has been produced in Albanian, Bosnia and Herzegovina local languages, and Serbian; the radio spot has been already broadcasted by Top Albania Radio (Albania), RS Radio Bosnia (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Radio B92 (for Montenegro and Serbia).

Both the TV and the Radio spot are available on the campaign website (www.dosta.org) and on the Council of Europe website main page (www.coe.int).

The Dosta! campaign’s leaflets have been printed out in each country, and describe the background and the activities of the campaign. These leaflets have been massively spread during March and April in public places such as schools, post offices, national employment agencies, in cooperation with the relevant Ministries in each country. In “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”, the leaflet will be distributed mid-June by accompanying one of the daily issues of the newspaper “Dnevnik”.

Posters: two different posters have been produced in March and printed out in France (all the campaign languages), Albania (all the campaign languages), Serbia (Serbian) and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (Macedonian). They have been produced by the Council of Europe graphic designers on the model of the Dosta! Campaign graphic line.

Media pack for journalists: it includes a video kit in DVD and BETA SP format with interviews to senior Council of Europe officials, video-interviews to testimonials, a Euronews report on Roma, the Dosta! campaign's television spots, the video which won the Dosta! campaign video competition, a document on "How to fight stereotypes towards Roma", the list of NGOs and contacts in the participating countries.

Photographic support: Photographic images to support the campaign have been gathered by the Council of Europe photographer in one of the participating countries. A selection of them is published on the campaign website. All the photos are available upon request. They have recently been asked by the European Commission for illustrating one of its reports.

VIP testimonials: The Council of Europe Roma Division has invited personalities with popular mass appeal and recognition to provide statements in favour of Roma, to break the barriers caused by prejudices. These statements are published on Dosta! internet site and the testimonials are provided free of charge to national media.

Media Outreach: A press officer is allocated the task of following the campaign and preparing press releases, fact files and other written material for the media. Press Service support is sought for individual events.

6. Campaign Activities

6.1. Video competition –July-November 2006

Through an open competition, art academies/schools, artists and agencies in the participating countries have been invited to produce a short video promoting the basic campaign message(s).

The videos had to be filmed in any of the languages of the participating countries or Romani, but had to be subtitled in English. Selected productions have been posted on the campaign website. A jury composed of Mr. Tony Gatlif, Roma film-maker (President of the Jury), Mrs. Alexandra Raykova (FERYP), Ms Livia Jaroka (MEP), Ms Claire Stephan (journalist at ARTE, international television) and Mr. Jim Werner (Eurimages), chose the best videos and revealed the names of the winners during the Fortnight of Roma cinema, in Strasbourg.

The winning productions are aired during major campaign's events. All the relevant information concerning this activity is available through the campaign's website.

6.2. Fortnight of Roma cinema, 1-14 November 2006

The Fortnight of Roma cinema was, first and foremost, a means for the Roma themselves to acknowledge and promote their culture, and for the general public to discover and become acquainted with a culture that suffers too often from stereotypes.

The event took place in Strasbourg from 1st to 14th November 2006 at the Cinema Odyssee.

7 films were screened, one per day for the whole period. Three of them were also screened for a young audience in the morning.

4 special evenings were organised: experts, including members of the Roma communities and the film makers, among whom Mr. Tony Gatlif were present throughout the event to lead the debate and answer any specific questions on Roma history and culture or directly linked to the film.

On 7 November, the special evening included the projection of the movie "Latcho Drom", by Tony Gatlif, followed by a debate animated by Mr. Gatlif and the Prize giving ceremony for the Dosta! video competition under the auspices of the Council of Europe Secretary General, Mr. Terry Davis.

A photo exhibition organized in the context of the Dosta! campaign was open to visitors on the 1st floor of the cinema Odyssee. The photos have been taken by Sandro Weltin, Council of Europe photographer, during a field visit to Serbia on 24-29 September. The photos are also available through Dosta! photo gallery (www.dosta.org).

6.3. Week on Romaphobia, 17-22 November 2006

The week on Romaphobia took place in Strasbourg, from 17 to 22 November 2006.

This weeklong Conference took place in the framework of Dosta! Campaign as well as of the European Youth Campaign “All different, all equal” and was a follow-up of the study session in 2005 “Roma Youth – Situation and Perspectives 10 years after the RAXI Campaign”.

The Conference was planned as an opportunity for FERYP to bring together young Roma to discuss the new challenges faced by the Roma in Europe in relation to the themes of the European Youth Campaign – Diversity, Human Rights and Participation.

The project has been implemented in close co-operation with the Roma and Travellers Division (DG3).

6.4 Official Launch of the Dosta! campaign TV spot in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4 December 2006

Dosta! TV spot was presented in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 4 December during a press conference which took place at the Common Institutions Building in Sarajevo. The Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees hosted the Press conference, which was also attended by European Commission, UNHCR and OSCE officials, as well as by representatives of the Roma Council.

As a result of the Press conference, the Dosta! campaign TV spot was broadcasted by the Federal TV, BHTV and RTRS, together with the contributions of the Council of Europe representative.

6.5 Official Launch of the Dosta! campaign TV spot in the Republic of Serbia, 28 February 2007

After initiating the project “Equal Rights and Treatment for Roma in South-eastern Europe” in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,” the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission launched the awareness-raising campaign in the Republic of Serbia.

Encouraged by the recent election of Roma citizens Rajko Djuric and Srdjan Sajin to the Serbian national parliament and Serbia’s signing in January of the “Guidelines for Improvement and Legalization of Roma Informal Settlements in Serbia” – to which the Council of Europe contributed – a press conference marked the launch of the “Dosta!” Awareness raising campaign, at the Belgrade Media Centre. On that occasion, the Dosta! campaign TV spot was presented to journalists.

The event was reported in several media, including TV stations; press articles were published on *Danas* (February 24, 2007 Page 6 and March 1, 2007 Page 7); *24 sata* (March 1, 2007 Page 4), *Blic* (March 1, 2007 Page 11), *Politika* (March 1, 2007 Page 12), *Pregled* (March 1, 2007 Page 4), *Press* (March 1, 2007 Page 11). A video report was broadcasted also by TV Kosava Telemaster, on February 28, 2007

6.6 Official Launch of the Dosta! campaign in Montenegro, 2 March 2007

The “Dosta! campaign” was also launched in Montenegro, at a press conference on 1 March in Podgorica, hosted by the Ministry for protection of human and minority rights. Mr. Sabahudin Delic, Deputy Minister, Ministry for protection of Human and Minority Rights, and Mr. Veselj Beganaj, Roma leader, made several statements to media in support of the campaign. The topic of displaced Roma in Montenegro was also raised as they face severe difficulties in accessing basic human rights such as housing, health care, employment and social welfare; the Council of Europe informed the press about its willing to address such topics in a seminar to be jointly organised with the UNHCR in Montenegro later in the Spring.

6.7 Regional Festival “Art against stereotypes” –5-7 April 2007

The regional Festival “Art against stereotypes” was organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission and the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports of Albania within the framework of the Dosta! campaign and in occasion of the International Roma Day, the 8th of April.

The Festival took place in Tirana (Albania) at the International Centre of Culture, on 5-7 April 2007.

Being a regional activity, the relevant Ministries of the Dosta! campaign participating countries, as well as Roma experts and artists had been invited to participate in the Festival and to represent their countries in Albania. The Opening ceremony counted with the presence and speeches of the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport of Albania, Mr. Ylli Vito Pango, of Mr. Slobodan Nagradic, Ministry for human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr. Petar Ladjevic, Director of the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, Republic of Serbia.

The regional Festival included two round tables on “The role of Roma art, culture and identity towards integration and intercultural dialogue” and “The contribution of Roma culture to the European Cultural Heritage”. Roma experts, as well as the National Delegates of the European Roma and Travellers Forum and the authorities concerned from the participating countries intervened on these topics. The second day Round Table was opened by Minister Fuad Nimani, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Montenegro.

Photos, paintings/sculpture and handcrafts were exhibited at the International Centre of Culture, where multimedia corners (Dosta! campaign photo exhibition, the videos which were

pre-selected for the Dosta! campaign video competition, and clippings from the artists) were also available for visitors.

On 5 and 6 April from 18:00 to 21:00 two artistic performances took place bringing together famous artists from South Eastern Europe like Muharem Serbezovski, Silvi Duo Band, Muharrem Tahiri and Hamza Tahirov, Muharrem Ahmeti, Tehemana, and Grupa Europa among others. Hundreds of citizens came for the concerts, and a maxi screen had to be installed outside the International Centre of Culture for those people who could not enter.

The Media partners¹ extensively reported about the Festival on 8 of April at the occasion of the International Roma Day.

6.8 Dosta! campaign at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, 16-20 April 2007

An exhibition including the Dosta! campaign's photos and posters was organised at the Council of Europe, on the occasion of the Spring session of the Parliamentary Assembly.

6.9 Regional Media training on Roma culture and ethical reporting, 15 -16 May 2007

The Dosta! campaign media training addressed persons involved in monitoring programmes/action plans, and media professionals.

The aim of this training was to improve the visibility of governmental actions and efforts for Roma, as well as to suggest to journalists how to avoid stereotypes when dealing with Roma; it focussed on communication and reporting, as well as on Roma cultural features and traditions.

Persons in charge of Roma issues (spokespersons) nominated at governmental level were trained by Council of Europe media experts on how to better inform journalists and the majority society about their valuable work, while journalists were trained to approach Roma issues, culture and traditions avoiding stereotyping information.

Such a workshop was meant to help governmental officials, local authorities, media professionals and Roma leaders to improve their capacity to address journalists and the majority population about the needs for targeted action for Roma, as well as make Roma and the rest of the population aware of the benefits of these programmes and action plans.

An evaluation session at the end of the training confirmed that the participants had gained many new techniques from the training and were ready to put these into action immediately as part of their work at a national level or in the media. The training was also useful as a way of building bridges between the different countries involved in the campaign. It was also the

¹ Top Channel TV and Top Albania Radio (Albania), Federal TV and RTRS (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Radio Televizija Crne Gore (Montenegro), Radio Beograd and RADIO TELEVIZIJA SRBIJE (Serbia), Macedonian Radio Television ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

occasion for enabling young Roma journalists to work together with non-Roma journalists and governmental representatives.

The media training was very much appreciated not only by the target group (spokespeople and journalists) but also by colleagues from other international organisations (UNICEF, UNHCR, EC delegation). Therefore the training helped, as a side effect, to foster cooperation with international actors in the region.

6.10 Promotion of the Dosta! campaign at the EX-Yu Rocks Festival, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 27-28 July 2007

In Cooperation with the Youth Partnership Movement the Dosta! campaign's messages have been one of the themes of the “Ex-Yu Rocks” Festival, which took place in Banja Luka on 27-28 July 2007 and which promotes the values of peace, tolerance and the respect of the rights of ethnic minorities in former Yugoslavia region. The Roma band “Roma Kal” should have been the Dosta! campaign 'testimonial', but was finally replaced by the band GYASS, due to illness of Kal's Band leader. However, the concert has showed being a good platform for the promotion of the campaign's messages: the TV spot has been broadcasted during the concert, and the Dosta! campaign visibility and information material has been distributed by volunteers from the Youth Partnership Movement. A positive echo mentioning the partnership between Kal and the Dosta! campaign has been conveyed by several newspapers from the region.

6.11 Summer Camp and Festival “Roma are Europe too”, 21-25 August 2007, Ohrid, “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”.

In co-operation with the Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP), and the All Different-All Equal Campaign, a Youth festival and Roma Summer Camp was organised in Ohrid for promoting the campaigns' messages and raising awareness about Roma culture. This festival was a follow-up of the study session which took place in 2005 “Roma Youth – Situation and Perspectives 10 years after the RAXI Campaign” and the Conference “Romaphobia and Anti-Gypsyism – old phenomenon and new challenges in Europe” and the study session “Campaigning for Roma Rights and Equality of Opportunities”, both supported by the Dosta! campaign. An impact as a result of the activity is expected not only locally, but also at European level, through the involvement of membership of FERYP as well as organisations and institutions active on Roma issues. The reports of the activity and a documentary movie has been distributed through the Dosta! campaign network and its website.

6.12 School and civil society projects competition –March-October 2007

The Dosta! campaign School and Civil society awards recognise creative and innovative initiatives of schools and NGOs in the field of intercultural education, mutual understanding,

tolerance and valorisation of Roma culture and history, to break down deep-rooted stereotypes and prejudices towards Roma.

The awards were open to schools and NGOs from the Dosta! campaign participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", that were running or had run, in 2007, projects or initiatives that meet the Awards' criteria.

The School competition aimed at promoting successful projects/initiatives run in 2007 in the education field, by giving visibility to the work of the selected schools as well as to present it as an example of good practice.

The best school initiative in each participating country have been awarded with a prize of 1500 euros (i.e. 5 prizes have been awarded).

The NGOs competition aimed at awarding the best projects/initiatives run in 2007 by national NGOs in the participating countries focussed on the fight against stereotypes and prejudices towards Roma.

The best three projects have been awarded with prizes consisting in:

First prize: 3000 euros

Second prize: 2500 euros

Third prize: 1500 euros

Selected projects to both competitions have received a Council of Europe/European Commission recognition, consisting in a certificate and the right to use the logo of the award on their websites/communication material. Selected projects have also be supported by the Council of Europe and documented on the Dosta! campaign's website as examples of good practice.

The projects or initiatives submitted by schools and NGOs had to fulfil at least one of the following criteria for being pre-selected:

- Raising public awareness on Roma rights and culture, to fight against the stereotypes and prejudices toward Roma;
- Promoting diversity in schools;
- Actions aiming at raising media awareness on Roma issues;
- Actions aiming at increasing access to education for Roma children in segregated settlements;
- Actions aiming at promoting inter-cultural and interethnic understanding in schools.

Priority has be given to those projects which were innovative in their field of action, which involved the local authorities and which can be disseminated as examples of good practice.

The winners have been announced on Dosta! campaign website on 15 October

6.13 Dosta! Campaign at the Council of Europe Open Day: 16 September 2007

The third annual Council of Europe Open Doors event took place on Sunday 16 September, as part of the European Heritage Days. Held at the new building of the EDQM, the event attracted approximately 3 000 visitors. There were three parts to the concept for the day, among which an emphasis on the work of the institution generally, highlighted within the Council's four campaigns as well as the Council of Europe/European Commission Dosta! campaign for Roma.

The Dosta! campaign stand had been conceived as a place for consulting documentation on Roma, as well as for being informed on Roma culture and history. 1000 Dosta! campaign leaflets were distributed in English, French and German version. The campaign posters, balloons pens and block notes were also at the disposal of the people who stopped in the stand and asked for more detailed information.

6.14 Youth Video project for Young RAE, Plementina, Kosovo, August-October 2007

The YVPM started on 1st September and will continue till 15 November, in Plementina, Kosovo (Serbia). Through the Youth Video Project Plementina young people who have spent a significant part of their lives in an IDP camp will produce a 15-20 minute documentary. The themes addressed in the documentary will be determined by the young people involved, but will be about their lives in their community. The project will encourage young people to be active, whilst giving them an opportunity to express themselves. Young people in the camps do not have access to university or school and they face many social problems. This project will teach them to work together as a team; the participants will gain film-making and basic journalistic skills. Through the training and working experience that participants receive, they will be able to develop new documentary film projects of their own in the future. The three-month project will include post-production and the promotion of the documentary.

6.15 Dosta! – Congress Special Prize for Municipalities engaged in the promotion of Roma political rights – June -November 2007

The Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities has been launched by the Dosta! campaign and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as part of their ongoing work to strengthen the role of local authorities in the field of Roma and minority rights' protection. The Dosta!-Congress Prize will be awarded to three municipalities from the five participating South Eastern European countries whose creative and innovative initiatives most effectively ensure diversity in community life and the active democratic participation of the Roma. The deadline for submitting applications has expired on 20 July. The Jury² deliberated by end October. A side event was organised on 20 November 2007 on the

² Members of the Jury are : Mr. Skard, President of the Congress and Mr. Scicluna, Co-ordinator for Roma issues, in their capacity of co-Presidents ; Ms Jaroka, European Parliament Member ; Ambassador Prica, Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Mr. Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. Luka, Member of the Congress Commission on Social Cohesion.

occasion of session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in order to reward the winners of the competition. The three cities winners of the "Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities" were represented by Dragoljub Davidovic, Mayor of Banja Luka, Vlado Alilovic, Mayor of Vitez, and Snezana Mushitski, from the Municipality of Novi Sad. On this occasion, Congress President Halvdan Skard also handed them the Congress Medal, in recognition of their initiatives for Roma communities.

6.16 European "Romani" Anthem, November 2007

A new initiative has been undertaken by the Council of Europe Directorate General of Social Cohesion, in cooperation with the Directorate of Communication, for closing these first two years of the Dosta! campaign: a CD containing 5 different arrangements of the European Anthem in Romani language and style was released on 20 November. The artists contributing to this project come from France, Serbia, Albania and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". The project counts with the contribution of Mrs. Esma Redzepova, known as the "Queen of Gypsy Music" and nominated twice for the Nobel Prize for Peace. Her performance at the Council of Europe for the launching event which took place during the Prize giving ceremony of the Dosta! Congress Prize for Municipalities was very much appreciated.

More information concerning the Dosta! Awareness-raising campaign at: www.dosta.org