

# Forming national Roma youth networks – experiences from Germany





- 1. Roma in Germany
- 2. Conceptual basis
- 3. Activities
- 4. Requirements



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#### 1. Roma in Germany

- ~ 15th. Century: Sinti
- ~ 19th. Century: Roma

More than 70.000 Sinti and Roma with German citizenship

- 1960s: work related migration
- since 1990s: war refugees

More than 50.000 Roma without German citizenship

- → Different origins, nationalities, languages, religions, legal status, traditions
- → Diverse groups and multiple identities



#### 1. Roma in Germany

- Important dates:
  - 1933-1945: Roma Holocaust
  - 1982: Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
  - 1995: Recognition as national minority
- Problems:
  - Education, labour market, discrimination, legal status



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## 2. Conceptual Basis



- Empowerment through
  - networking & team working
  - self-organization
  - self-expression
  - positive role models
  - mobilization
  - information



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#### 3. Activities

 National youth meeting once a year (changing locations)



Workshops

Exchange

**Cultural Festival** 

Networking

**Getting to know each other** 

**Planning further activities** 



#### 3. Activities

- Meeting of local youth leaders every three-four month
- Non-formal education activities for multipliers (summer academy, theater and media workshops, Youth in Action)
- Communication and networking with other youth NGOs and youth associations



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#### 4. Requirements

- By young people for young people
- Long term process → step by step & consistency
- Equal partnership → no partial dominance
- Strong partners & members with fundraising experience
- → Roma movement + youth movement = Roma youth movement



# Thank you very much!

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