



DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION 2005 – 2015
PRESIDENCY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



International Conference
DESEGREGATING EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE:
INCLUSIVE APPROACH – GOOD PRACTICE AND THE WAY FORWARD

Prague, 28 May 2011

The participants of the international conference “Desegregating Education in Central and Eastern Europe: Inclusive Approach – Good Practice and the Way Forward” reached a joint conclusion in that **the segregation of Romani children in education is a violation of human rights that cannot be tolerated.**

More than three years after the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *D.H. and Others vs. the Czech Republic*, the segregation of Roma in education remains a problem in the Czech Republic. Furthermore, it remains a problem in most of the other countries of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. Recent country studies further document that Roma are often not only separated from their non-Romani peers, but also placed in special schools or classes delivering reduced educational content which limits not only the possibilities for (re-)integration to standard education, but also options for further education as well as employment prospects.

In regard to the Czech Republic in particular, the participants express their concern at the absence of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports at the expected level from the discussion of good practice in desegregation in the Decade countries and call on the Minister of Education to take immediate action to realize the Czech Republic’s obligations under international treaties as well as the decision of the European Court of Human Rights. The participants further encourage all governments of the Decade countries to make and implement firm commitments to dismantling desegregation and promoting inclusive education.

The participants urge the Council of Europe to follow up on the execution of the judgment delivered by ECHR in the case of *D.H. and Others vs. the Czech Republic*.

Finally, the participants also urge the Government of Czech Republic to request assistance from the Council of Europe in the form of technical assistance, regular workshops for addressing specific aspects of implementation and sharing best practices from successful efforts in desegregation and inclusive education. Given the urgent need for implementation of the decision, the Government should make this request before the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers on 7-9 June 2011, when the case of *D.H. and Others vs. the Czech Republic* will be debated.