



# Youth polices and their emphasis on Roma

by Ramiza Sakip

# Youth polices at European level

- The youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at “...providing young people, i.e. girls and boys, young women and men, with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society”. (Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe)
- Youth in Action is the Programme of the European Union which has been set up for young people. It aims to inspire a sense of active European citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.

# Why Roma Youth Polices ?

- ❑ To improve the situation of the Roma young People;
- ❑ Access to social rights for Roma Young People ;
- ❑ Lack of Roma Youth policy at local ,national and European level;
- ❑ Lack of information and opportunities for Roma Young People at local, national and European level;
- ❑ To motivate the Roma Young People to participate actively at all levels;
- ❑ Strengthening the Roma youth on working with Roma Youth issues (capacity building);

# Youth policies for Roma

The basis of this policies should :

- Take into consideration that the Roma Youth have specific needs, which might bring different challenges and the policies should be prepared to answer to these challenges;
- Be bases on real need assessments of the Roma Youth and to help and assure participation of Roma young people ;
- Provide opportunities for Roma young people to develop competences in order to become active citizen;
- Recognize the work done by different Roma Youth NGO`s and structures in this area and involve the representatives from Roma Youth NGO`s to active participate in the creation and implementation of the policies (as a method to do it is that the policies should encourage local and national authorities to organize regular and systematic meeting with Roma Youth NGOs);

# Youth polices for Roma

The basis of this policies should :

- Provide mechanisms of participation for non-organized Roma youth, for instance, by offering flexible and informal activities for their participation and influence in decision making;
- Ensure appropriate establishments (e.g. youth clubs, youth centres etc) providing a fix space in each neighbourhood for Roma young people to meet and to develop different educational activities – as a youth centre ;
- The policies should promote also the idea of mobile youth work – the youth workers (social workers) should be encourage to leave their office and to go where the Roma young people are – in the neighbourhood;
- Avoid the creation of new Roma neighbourhoods and encourage the integration of the people from the existing ones by mixing the population ;

# Recommendations to the Local and Regional authorities

- Involving monitoring actions as insurance of monitoring mechanism;
- Roma youth leaders should be involved in creating the policies in all levels (local, regional, national, European);
- Encouraging Roma young people from Roma neighbours to become multipliers;
- Providing educational opportunities in the field of youth participation and social inclusion to local authorities (through the cooperation of the Roma young people with the persons from the local authorities);
- Supporting coaching and mediation – the policies should encourage the local institutions / authorities to provide for the Roma young people coaching programs and even to implement the system of “youth mediator” – as it already exists the system for “Roma Mediators”, supported by the Council of Europe
- Training provision on the human rights for Roma young people (and any other topic approached) have to go beyond awareness and embrace a holistic approach for the development of the person;

# Recommendations to the Governments

- Put stronger emphasis and elaborate specific policies on Romani Youth issues in their national policies /strategies/ action plans on the inclusion of the Romani communities. Ensure that relevant information regarding these policies is communicated appropriately to local levels;
- Governments should ensure the respect of any relevant ratified legal agreements and implement international recommendations on Roma and Romani Youth issues in particular;
- Support establishment of Romani Youth structures and initiatives at local and national levels aimed at enhancing the participation of the Romani Youth as well as at further development and strengthening of the Romani Youth work;
- Ensure and facilitate access of Romani Youth in relevant decision-making bodies and processes;
- Organise relevant campaigns in mainstream media addressing racism and various forms of discrimination against Roma;
- Support the political representation of Romani Youth in election processes;
- Ensure the Romani Youth representation in any governmental structure for Romani issues;
- Monitor and promote the access of young Roma to social and human rights;
- Develop assessment indicators to evaluate the results from policies and programmes implemented in favour of Romani Youth issues;

# Recommendations to the international institutions and organisations:

## **General:**

- To support the institutional development and sustainability of the European Youth Romani Networks and platforms;
- To ensure the access of the European Youth Romani Networks to relevant policy and decision-making processes;
- Use the networks as a consultation panel for any policies or strategies;
- To support programmes and activities aimed at capacity building of Romani Youth organisations including development of competencies for participation in political life;
- To establish a European Romani Youth Fund aimed at providing support for projects and initiatives of organised and non-organised Romani Youth;
- To initiate and support relevant training programmes in the field of Human Rights Education, Intercultural learning, Participation and Citizenship, etc;





**THANK YOU !!!**