Forming national Roma youth networks – experiences from Germany
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1. Roma in Germany

- ~15th. Century: Sinti
- ~19th. Century: Roma
- 1960s: work related migration
- since 1990s: war refugees

→ Different origins, nationalities, languages, religions, legal status, traditions

→ Diverse groups and multiple identities

More than 70,000 Sinti and Roma with German citizenship

More than 50,000 Roma without German citizenship
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)
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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