



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna, Austria, 8 - 9 October 2018

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 8 October

Time: **13:00-14:45**
Venue: **Room 532**
Title: **Millennials and digital era education and awareness re-conceptualization**
Convenor: UNITAS Fund
Working language: English

Summary: Millennials and Digital era changes of livelihood have developed a need for a re-conceptualization of the approach towards the targeted audience. The focus of the side event is to open a discussion between the participants from the NGO and public sector as to what tools and methods can be fused to provide the most vulnerable with the basic knowledge and information on their human rights. Awareness, prevention and education being the key, with a focus on trafficking prevention.

Tuesday, 9 October

Time: **13:00-14:30**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: **Access to quality education for Roma and Sinti children and youth**
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English

Speakers:

- Mr. Miko Michal, Director, RomanoNet organization (Czech Republic).
- Ms. Anasztazia Nagy, Senior Program Officer, Roma Education Fund (Hungary).
- Mr. Marius Taba, Lecturer, Corvinus University of Budapest (Hungary)

Moderator: Dan Pavel Doghi, Chief of the CPRSI, senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues

Objective: To raise awareness of challenges faced by Roma and Sinti children and youth throughout Europe with regard to their access to quality and non-segregated education at all levels, as a means to catalyze action as pledged by OSCE participating States in their commitments towards Roma and Sinti

Summary:

Education in its many aspects is essential for the development of pluralistic, inclusive and democratic societies, and for enabling effective participation of all citizens, including of those who experience social exclusion and discrimination, such as Roma and Sinti. Equal access to quality education for all, including for Roma and Sinti children and youth, is a pre-requisite for their social inclusion and their effective participation in public affairs.

Many Roma children continue to experience serious obstacles in their access to education, including educational segregation, in a number of OSCE participating States.¹ Participating States have acknowledged the important role that equal access to education can play for Roma and Sinti children and youth as a means to prevent social exclusion and marginalization (OSCE Action Plan on Roma and Sinti, Maastricht MC Decision 3/03; Helsinki MC Decision 6/08). At the same time, they have committed to take active measures to ensure equal access to education for Roma and Sinti youth and children at all levels of State-provided education, to address the high dropout rate for Roma and Sinti secondary school students, in particular girls, and to renew efforts to eliminate segregation of Roma and Sinti in education at all levels (Kiev MC Decision 4/13).

Efforts to promote dialogue and understanding among diverse groups, including through education curricula and awareness-raising activities regarding the contribution of diverse groups to the development of societies, can contribute to enhancing social cohesion and tolerance. As to the Roma and Sinti, this is particularly relevant in view of current challenges they face in connection with racism, discrimination, hate crime and violence. Ensuring equal access to quality education for all should go hand in hand with human rights education,

¹ European Commission, European network of legal experts in gender equality and non-discrimination, written by Isabelle Chopin, Catharina Germaine and Judit Tanczos, Roma and the enforcement of anti-discrimination law, 2017, pp. 13-18, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/document.cfm?action=display&doc_id=47560

including educational programmes promoting human rights as well as adequate reflection of Roma and Sinti within the mainstream educational curricula, in view of promoting respect for diversity, tolerance, peace and social cohesion.

Questions to be addressed:

- What measures and policies have OSCE participating States undertaken to ensure equal access to education for Roma and Sinti children and youth and with what results?
- How do participating States ensure that Roma and Sinti children are not precluded by legal, administrative or structural obstacles, including educational segregation, from exercising their right to education?
- What policies and measures can participating States implement to promote comprehensive human rights education programmes, including to promote tolerance, non-discrimination and diversity, and knowledge-sharing regarding Roma and Sinti history and their contribution to the development of their societies?