

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
to take place during the
SUPPLEMENTARY HUMAN DIMENSION MEETING ON:
Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti

7-8 November 2013
Vienna, Hofburg

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 OSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on OSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, NGOs, governments, and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting. The 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.

Thursday, 7 November	Thursday, 7 November
<p><i>Title: The way forward: Empowerment of Roma and Sinti Youth</i> <i>Convenor: Association Slovo 21, Association Gypsy Eye, Association Romea Cz., Association Popica Onlus, Association Kamira, TernYpe International, ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues</i> <i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i> <i>Venue: Ratsaal</i> <i>Language: English, Romanes</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Ongoing human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in view of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan</i> <i>Convenor: European Roma Rights Centre</i> <i>Time: 13.00 – 15.00</i> <i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i> <i>Language: English</i></p>

Friday, 8 November	Friday, 8 November
<p><i>Title: Young Roma Professionals – How to prepare Roma to work in government institutions?</i> <i>Convenor: OSCE/ODIHR Project on Best Practices for Roma Integration, Young Roma Professionals</i> <i>Time: 12.00 – 14.00</i> <i>Venue: Ratsaal</i> <i>Language: English</i></p>	<p><i>Title: Mainstreaming Romani Women’s Priorities</i> <i>Convenor: Phenjalipe: Romani Women Policy and Empowerment Initiative</i> <i>Time: 12.00 – 14.00</i> <i>Venue: Segmentgalerie I</i> <i>Language: English</i></p>

Friday, 8 November
<i>Title:</i> Protection of the rights of Roma children – best practices and challenges: experience of NGOs in Russia and Kosovo
<i>Convenor:</i> ADC Memorial (Russian Federation) and Iniciativa 6 (Prizren)
<i>Time:</i> 12.00 – 14.00
<i>Venue:</i> Room 525
<i>Language:</i> English

**OVERVIEW OF SIDE EVENTS
as submitted by the organizers**

Thursday, 7 November

Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: The way forward: Empowerment of Roma and Sinti Youth
Convenor: Association Slovo 21, Association Gypsy Eye, Association Romea Cz., Association Popica Onlus, Association Kamira, TernYpe International, ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues
Language: English, Romanes

Summary: In 2013, ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI) launched the Roma youth initiative. The programme was designed to provide opportunities for civic organizations to stimulate Roma youth groups as agents for change in their communities through voluntarism at the grassroots level. Throughout the year ODIHR CPRSI and its implementing partners realized activities that empower young Roma migrants living in camps in Italy, engage Roma youth in promoting equal access to education in Czech Republic and Romania and build capacities of young Roma women in Spain. In addition, ODIHR co-sponsored the “Dik I Na Bistar” (Look and don’t forget) Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative of ternYpe International Roma Youth Network, which brought together over 430 young Roma and non-Roma from 18 countries in the former Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau, for the 2nd of August commemoration on the Roma genocide.

The initiatives of Romani youth organizations remain an important issue for ODIHR as part of its capacity-building mandate under the Roma and Sinti Action Plan adopted in 2003, with education being at the core of its efforts. The meeting will reflect upon the opportunities available for Roma youth to reconnect with their communities and be able to work for their betterment. Simultaneously the debate will take into consideration the environmental differences regarding Roma youth, reflecting on the challenges faced by Roma youth with a migrant background.

During the Side Event, ODIHR’s implementing partners will highlight the key achievements of the projects implemented under the Roma youth initiative programme supported by ODIHR. Presentations will be followed by discussions focused on the role of Romani youth in shaping youth and education policies and enacting positive change in their communities.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13.00 – 15.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: On-going human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in view of the implementation of the OSCE Action Plan
Convenor: European Roma Rights Centre
Language: English

Summary: ERRC research in the Czech Republic, France, Italy, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Slovakia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine outlines that major issues are yet affecting Roma communities across Europe. The ERRC reports conclude that despite some efforts to improve the situation of Romani individuals and communities, they are still denied basic human rights.

The side event will present current major human rights challenges faced by Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region and raise awareness about the wider negative impact on these communities. Moreover, this side event will stimulate open discussion between representatives of the OSCE participating States and civil society about the effective implementation of policy on Roma and Sinti in order to call attention to the need for increased efforts on the part of participating States to step up implementation of Roma-related policies.

Friday, 8 November

Time: 12.00 – 14.00
Venue: Ratsaal
Title: Young Roma Professionals – How to prepare Roma to work in government institutions?
Convenor: **OSCE/ODIHR Project on Best Practices for Roma Integration, Young Roma Professionals**
Language: English

Summary: The purpose of the Young Roma Professional programme is to increase the participation of Roma in public life and to bring young Roma with diverse academic backgrounds closer to state institutions. Four Young Roma Professionals will present objectives, aims as well as impact of the programme at the SHDM with their own statements and audio-visual materials. Their supervisors from the OSCE Field Operation and a government institution will give their views on the traineeship. Participants at this side event are welcome to share their experiences and knowledge on this topic. Together we will try to conclude if this is an experience that should be replicated for other young Roma and what modalities and support are needed for that.

Currently the programme provides 25 young Roma from the Western Balkans region a five-month placement in an OSCE Field Operation followed by five months in a government institution. The programme was designed to give young Roma opportunities to be trained and prepare to take up leadership positions and plan for a future engagement in policy planning and implementation for the benefit of their communities.

The Best Practices for Roma Integration project is funded by the European Union and supported by the OSCE participating States, implemented by ODIHR and the OSCE Field Operations in the Western Balkans.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 12.00 – 14.00
Venue: Segmentgalerie I
Title: Mainstreaming Romani Women's Priorities
Convenor: Phenjalipe: Romani Women Policy and Empowerment Initiative
Language: English

Summary: The Side Event will take stock of various initiatives on Roma and gender equality and analyze to what extent they have included a Romani women's perspective. It will also look into ways to ensure adequate mainstreaming and focus on Romani Women's rights.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 12.00 – 14.00
Venue: Room 525
Title: Protection of the rights of Roma children – best practices and challenges:
experience of NGOs in Russia and Kosovo
Convenor: ADC Memorial (Russian Federation) and Iniciativa 6 (Prizren)
Language: English

Summary: Anti-discrimination Centre Memorial (St.Petersburg, Russia) works on protection of Roma rights, with special focus on the rights of the child for over 10 years. The monitoring data show that Roma children, especially those who live in isolated Roma settlements, suffer from multiple discrimination, in particular by being segregated at schools in so called "Roma classes" and receiving education of poor quality. The presentation will focus on both some positive changes in the regions of Russia as well as examples of segregated education existing in many schools. The presenters will also discuss how the newly adopted Action Plan on Roma (adopted in 2013) does not address the most acute problems that Roma children are facing. NGO Iniciativa 6 will present its experience of protection of the right to education for children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Prizren.

Refreshments will be provided