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Written Contribution

Republic of Moldova adopted in 2011 the Action Plan 2011-2015 regarding the support of Roma in Moldova. Despite the commitments of the government to improve the situation of Roma and the acknowledgment that Roma face discrimination in the access to education, employment, health and social services, the government did not undertake adequate actions to redress the condition of Roma in Moldova, specifically in the areas provided by the action plan: education, employment, health and social security, culture and mass-media, public administration, order and documentation, promoting community mediators.

An alarming issue is the class segregation of Roma children in schools, and namely in the case identified in Otaci city. Although a Roma NGO¹ brought the case to the attention of the authorities, the situation did not change and the Roma children still study in separated classes. At the same time, the new law on optimization of educational institutions affected the small schools, which have been closed, thus, having a negative impact on Roma children studying in the respective schools. Such unfavorable cases have been recorded in several villages compact populated by Roma: Parcani village, Calarasi, Stejareni (Lozova), where the Roma children do not have the possibility to attend any other school. The low quality of education in those schools it is also an issue to be addressed as it further influences the future of the Roma children and namely it precludes them from an equal start comparing to non-Roma children.

Another issue to be addressed is the particularly vulnerable situation of Roma women and youth who should be provided equal opportunities and access to services in all spheres of public and social life.

¹ Roma National Center brought the case to the attention of the Ministry of Education, the school administration and other relevant authorities.
More info at: http://www.publika.md/liceul-din-otaci--impartit-in-doua--elevii-romi-invata-in-clase-separate-de-ceilalti-scolari_1134071.html

At the same time it has to be highlighted the lack of Roma representatives in the political life and decision-making. This concerns the entire Roma population in Moldova as they cannot participate in designing of policies and laws that directly affect them. At the moment there are up to 4 Roma representatives in local councils and only one Roma who is the adviser to the prime-minister on Roma issues. Comparing this number of representatives with the total number of Roma population residing in Moldova, officially 12.000 and unofficially up to 150.000, this indicates a lack of Roma representation in the decision-making bodies and public life. Thus, Roma do not have the possibility to voice out their demands or participate in the electoral process on local and national levels.

Furthermore, Roma in Moldova are often subject to discriminatory political discourse. In 2012 a politician from Moldova used discriminatory and offensive language against Roma during a press-conference criticizing the political opposition and one week ago, another public figure and namely a candidate to the upcoming elections, used negative and stereotypical language against Roma directed to another politician, the former prime-minister of Republic of Moldova, calling him “dirty, stinky gypsy” during a press-conference. Through this act, there were emphasized the stereotypes against Roma and imposed a public opinion against an ethnical minority living in Moldova. Nevertheless, none of the governmental representatives condemned the discriminatory discourse and only after the intervention of Roma National Center who asked public apology, the politician did so.

Recommendations:

In the light of the mentioned above the government of the Republic of Moldova is urged to:

1. Enhance the implementation of the Action Plan regarding the support of Roma during 2011-2015;
2. Provide trainings to professors regarding inclusive education;
3. Undertake effective measures to ensure inclusive education and provide qualitative education to Roma children;
4. Enhance the efforts to eliminate discrimination and marginalization of Roma in all areas of social, economic, political life;
5. Enhance the access of Roma women and youth to education, employment, health and social services;

6. Ensure the effective participation of Roma in political life and decision-making process, taking into consideration the principle of representative democracy;
7. Include Roma consultative groups in decision-making process and the design of policies directly affecting them;
8. Train the judges, prosecutors and law enforcement bodies on adequate investigation and sanctioning of hate crimes and hate speech;
9. Condemn the discriminatory political discourse against Roma and adequately sanction such incidents.

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