



Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indian Roots

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Emergency Hotline for Roma from Ukraine in Germany

The emergency hotline was set up by the Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg in cooperation with the Frankfurt-based Central Welfare Office of Jews in Germany eV (ZWST) and financed by the "Aktion Deutschland Hilft". The hotline offers advice in the native Romani language and support for Roma who have fled Ukraine. The main purpose of this hotline is to assist both Roma who are already in Germany and also members of the minority community in Ukraine who want to flee to Germany. They would be advised on legal, health and social issues. In view of the anti-gypsyism that is deeply rooted in European societies, Romani Rose, Chairman of the Documentation Center, points out that the hotline offers members of the minority a trustworthy contact point where they can also talk about possible experiences of discrimination in a protected environment.

Read More at

<https://www.hagalil.com/2022/07/roma-aus-der-ukraine/?fbclid=IwAR0HrG6jvImSame3EIML9G5jnW8FnF52fSWI-x8BWxxikL3Avv-a9QqB43I>

Catalonia Ensures COVID-19 Vaccine Interventions Including Roma & Homeless

Catalonia's Public Health Department devised a tailor-made vaccine programme to ensure the equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination encompassing all of Catalonia's demographic diversity. The public health officials pointed out that the low vaccination coverage was noted in areas of greater social disadvantage. For reaching the target group like Roma and the Homeless,

the officials made use of the trust between the existing nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and Roma's community leaders to give Roma communities easy access to COVID-19 information and vaccination. Through surveys and consultations, questions about the significance and benefit of vaccination were brought to the attention of officials and answers to these questions were appropriately worded in consultation with Roma community leaders to help proper understanding by the Roma people about seriousness of the pandemic.

Read More at

<https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/04-07-2022-catalonia-ensures-covid-19-vaccine-interventions-leave-no-community-behind>

The Number of Roma Graduates in Bulgaria Increasing

According to a study by the Trust for Social Achievement and Alpha Research, the number of Bulgarian Roma with a university degree increased six-fold from 2011 to 2019. The European Commission 2013 Data shows that Roma in Bulgaria number 750,000, constituting over 10% of the total population. The Bulgarian national census 2011 showed that 66% of Roma are young children and adults up to 29 years old as against a figure of 37% in the same age group for ethnic Bulgarians. Therefore, discrimination of Roma in education is an issue of interest. The Trust for Social Achievement shows that improvements are also being made on a secondary education level of Roma. The data from the Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance, an NGO working on education, health care, social services, and advocacy of Roma community, notes that seven Roma students have graduated from the prestigious American University in Bulgaria with majors in journalism, information technology, political science, and business in the last three years. Roma activists are encouraging a number of young Roma to study by taking advantage of available grants.

Read More at

<https://3seaseurope.com/romani-bulgaria/>

Roma Minority and Diversity in Hungary – Radio Interview

Mr. Shawn Kobb, Cultural Attache of the US Embassy in Budapest, gave an interview to Hungary's only Roma radio station, Radio Dikh. He spoke about Hungarian and American Roma minorities and the importance of diversity and inclusion which are both seen in the U.S. as strengths, making society more creative, and innovative. The Cultural Attache mentioned that

the Roma population in the United States was relatively small, so one didn't hear as much about Roma as a minority as one did in Central and Eastern Europe, where the Roma population was much larger. Nevertheless, the U.S. government places great emphasis on inclusion, integration and diversity which are fundamental American values. During his interview, he also spoke about the exchange programs that were open to Roma youth as well, and informed about re-launching of USA internship program for Roma youth, which was temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. The Embassy aims at reaching out to minorities such as the Roma communities which to be part of the conversation advancing their inclusion, hence contributing to a stronger, fairer society.

Read More at

<https://hu.usembassy.gov/news-roma-minority-and-diversity-in-hungary-radio-interview/>

Serbia, a Home of Roma with the Same Rights and Obligations

At a ceremony in the Serbian Presidency building, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said that Serbia was the home of the Roma, where they have the same rights and the same obligations as all its citizens. He mentioned that country's future depends in a large part on how it works together and collaborate with Roma as they represent 12.5 percent of the workforce of the country. President further listed contribution of Roma in growth of the country. One of the participants of the Barvalipe program, Tamara Askovic emphasized that the message of the President sent a strong message to the Roma that the state was ready to make the extra efforts in order to improve Roma professionally and personally. The Director of the Office of the Roma Initiative of the Foundation for Open Society Zeljko Jovanovic pointed out that these initiatives for Roma development were becoming an example not only for the region but also for the European Union, because Serbia is thus ahead of many EU countries in this field.

Read More at

https://beta.rs/vesti/drustvo-inkluzija/165780-vucic-srbija-je-dom-roma-sa-istim-pravima-i-obavezama-kao-svi-njeni-gradjani?fbclid=IwAR3r9NpfySK_lbEpZd_sYQ2q2lrTs0-8l77Ay1mxCLwd2ezhZ3Jo6gDv1AQ

Human Rights Commissioner of Czech Government Condemns Mayor's Racist Remarks

At a recent local assembly meeting, the Mayor of Podebrady, Czech Republic, Mr. Jaroslav Cervinka, who is affiliated to STAN party, recounted an incident of the year 2001 wherein he

made a remark that he wanted to see a Romani person shot. The STAN party has distanced itself from his remarks. Though, the Mayor later regretted his statement and publicly tendered an apology, which the leadership of STAN has accepted. Despite that the candidature of Mr. Cervinka has been upheld in the upcoming local elections and the party vice chair, Ondrej Lochman, made a statement that the voters should assess the Mayor's candidature based on his works. Human Rights Commissioner Klara Laurencikova Simackova called the mayor's remarks unacceptable and further added that they must take a clear stand against such hateful attitudes.

Read More at

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/czech/leadership-of-mayors-and-independents-party-distances-itself-from-mayor-apos-s-racism-but-he-remains-their-candidate-czech>

The Coalition for the Roma Language Founded in Kosovo

The Ad Hoc Union of Civil Society Organizations has been established for the recognition of the Romani language for official use in the municipality of Prizren, Kosovo. The coordination meeting with civil society organizations of the municipality of Prizren was organized by an NGO "Nevo Koncepti" with the support of the Council of Europe for the promotion of diversity and the Romani language in the municipality of Prizren. The project was presented by the director of Nevo Koncepti, Mr. Osman Osmani, which has the objective of achieving the recognition of statue of the Romani language in official use in the municipality of Prizeren.

Read More at

https://romtegra.com/themelohet-koalicioni-per-gjuhen-rome/?fbclid=IwAROGkKJxvs-K7U6Z_BoaJEvdHeQkh3RiK4Uv4x372TnDOLLadieN4oxkSyc

The Socio-Economic, Cultural and Political Situations of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)-ARSP hosted the fourteenth monthly virtual lecture on 30th June on the theme of "The Socio-Economic, Cultural and Political Situations of Roma in Bosnia and Herzegovina". The lecture was delivered by Mr. Dervo Sejdic, President of Kali Sara-RIC and the Advisor to the Mayor of the city of Sarajevo for Roma and national minorities. Mr. Sejdic said that many Roma hide their identity, because if they declare themselves Roma, they face problems especially in education, careers, employment. He spoke about the visa liberation system when many a Roma from that part migrated to Western

European countries. However, after the promulgation by the European countries that Bosnia and Herzegovina is now not dangerous but safe for living, many Romani families returned to their home countries but that caused huge problems in their rehabilitation. During the Roma Decade (2005 -2015), conditions of Roma improved in the field of education and employment, thanks to Roma Action Plan on employment, education, housing and health. He noted that 35 per cent of Roma people are outside of the system as they did not possess any social security and 40 per cent Romani people are living in the informal settlement where there is no road, electricity and drinking water.

Watch Full Lecture at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5709vYIz4rE&t=23s>