

Centre For Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)

Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP)

Roma: Connecting with India

New Delhi
5 January 2025

ROMA NEWSLETTER

Issue: 49



The Roma Workforce: Solving Europe's Employment Crisis

European Union's working-age population declined by nine million from 2009 to 2023 and is projected to decrease by more than 30 million workers by 2050. About six million Roma, who reside in the EU, can help in solving the looming work force crisis in Europe. Currently, 56% of two million young Roma are not in education, employment or training, mainly due to the systemic disadvantages that they face. Zeljko Jovanovic, President of the Roma Foundation for Europe informs that seventy percent of Romani children leave education early and only 27 percent actually complete secondary education. This is not only devastating for Roma community but also for European economies. If every Roma child receives a level of education and support that enable them to enter the workforce by 2035 with the skills required to earn the EU's average income, the result would be a €600 billion boost to the EU's economy thereby helping to improve Europe's competitiveness.

Read More at

<https://www.politico.eu/sponsored-content/the-roma-workforce-solving-europes-employment-crisis/>

New Education Programs of Czech Govt. Bring Romani Subject Matter to the School

Czech Education Minister Mikulas Bek presented new Education Programs which is meant to strengthen the link between knowledge and skills as well as reduce inequality in the Czech education system. The new programs for grade first to six would be implemented by the year 2027 and subsequently for all levels of schooling by 2031. Schools might start teaching according to the revised plan on a voluntary basis from September 2025. Czech Government Commissioner for Roma Minority Affairs Lucie Fukova stated that this move was a historical breakthrough and a result of common hard work over a long period of time. Fukova further added that inclusion of subject matter on the culture and history of the Roma into mainstream instruction would be considered at the next phase of drafting models of the school-level educational programs.

Read More at
<https://shorturl.at/3gqtr>

Discovering Cultural Connections between the Hindi and Romani languages

Embassy of India in Slovenia in cooperation with the Roma Association of Slovenia organized a unique conference at the ROMIC Roma Information Center in Murska Sobota, Slovenia on the occasion of World Hindi Day on 20 January 2025. The conference was aimed at exploring interesting connections between the Hindi and Romani languages. On the occasion, the Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Murska Sobota, Jure Lang highlighted the role of the Roma community in shaping history, culture and society, as well as the importance of events that strengthen connections between regions, countries and continents. The Indian Ambassador to Slovenia, Namrata S. Kumar, pointed out that Slovenia was an excellent example where connections between the Romani and Indian languages were very strong. The President of the Roma Association of Slovenia, Jozek Horvat-Muc, recalled the historical connections between Roma and India. Zameer Anwar from Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations-ARSP, made a riveting presentation on the link between Kumbh Mela and Ederlezi Celebration of Roma community especially residing in Balkans or southeastern Europe as well as demonstrated analogy between Hindi and Romani language.

Read More at
<https://shorturl.at/DoDLC>

Spanish Government Declared 2025 as the Year of the Roma in Spain

12 January marks the 600th anniversary of the arrival of the Roma in Spain. Spanish Council of Ministers on 7th January approved 2025 as the Year of the Roma in Spain. King Felipe VI of Spain has accepted to be the Honorary Godfather of the Commemorative events. Since 12 January 1425 when Alfonso V, King of Aragon, granted a safe-conduct authorisation for travel freely on pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Roma have been present on the Iberian Peninsula, contributing their rich artistic expression, their lexicon, art, gastronomy, their crafts. Though six centuries have passed, yet the knowledge of Romani people and their culture is still based on generalisations, negative stereotypes and prejudices, largely due to the fact that the Roma history and culture are still absent from the educational curriculum and from the schools. With the approval of the Constitution and the establishment of democracy in Spain in 1978, the Roma have gradually achieved greater equality and improved their living conditions. However, there are still many challenges ahead: Roma are poorer, and excluded from the public sphere and spaces of power. They have a much lower level of education and face a negative social image.

Read More at

<https://www.gitanos.org/actualidad/archivo/160306.html.en>

The Roma Holocaust, a Forgotten Genocide

Rosa Schneeberger, now 88 year-old, is one of the few Sinti survivors of Roma Holocaust. She was only five years old when she was deported with her mother and siblings to the largest Roma camp of the Third Reich, the Lackenbach site, built in 1940 in annexed Austria, where entire families were subjected to forced labor. She recalled stealing the horses' food, because horses were better fed than humans. Only 10% of the 11,000 Austrian Roma and Sinti survived the Nazi madness. Some 4,000 were deported to Lackenbach, where 237 succumbed to epidemics, cold and beatings. Karola Fings at the University of Heidelberg in Germany coordinated the very first encyclopaedia on the Roma Holocaust. She further asserted that the Roma community was almost wiped out in Estonia whereas Roma were badly hit in Belgium, the Netherlands, Croatia. While in other countries, such as France, Bulgaria or Romania, many survived.

Read More at

<https://shorturl.at/NK2im>

Police Violence Against Roma: News Review by European Roma Rights Centre

Through the Roma Justice Project, the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) continues to expose how structural racism, embedded in the routines and norms of the criminal legal system, maliciously distorts the outcomes in a way that denies the justice to Roma. ERRC launched the Roma Justice Project in March 2024, which calls for an overhaul of criminal legal systems across Europe to deliver justice for Roma. There is nothing new about police violence against Roma as well as the collusion and complicity of state institutions. It evidently exposes when it comes to policing Roma, the scale of abuse goes well beyond. As the Parliamentary Assembly of Council Europe (PACE) Standing Committee states that it is like institutional racism, or systemic racism, of law enforcement authorities against Roma and Travellers. It further remarks that anti-gypsyism is evident in the way Roma are policed.

Read More at

<https://www.errc.org/news/2024-errc-news-review-police-violence-against-roma>

India as a Teacher and Saviour of Roma Community

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations -Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad hosted free and frank dialogue on Roma in Europe with Orhan Galjus who is the Director of the Radio PATRIN Network (Netherlands, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova, Portugal) and chief member of Romani organisations like the International Romani Union, European Romani Union at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi on 7 January 2025. Mr. Orhan spoke at length about identity crisis faced by Roma especially in Europe where mainstream society had gypsyoristic perception about Romani identity. He emphasized the need of fostering cultural relation between Roma and India and called for their protection by India as Roma were considered by Europeans as a social group that has no cultural heritage. Many participants in the dialogue stressed the importance of unity among Roma institutions/ organizations and called for efforts to spread awareness in India about Indian origins of Roma. Secretary General of Indian Council for International Cooperation, Shri Shyam Parande informed about soon to be the launching of virtual courses of Hindi, English and Information & Technology for Roma communities, designed and initiated by Sewa International together with Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations.

Watch Full Talk at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2IUmp45rGw>

Short Films Reveal Suicide Risks in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Community

Jake Bowers from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community produced a series of short movies which highlight the high rate of suicide in the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community who take their own lives. Films were commissioned by the NHS Race & Health Observatory in order to explore the cost of poor mental health within the community. The NHS Race & Health Observatory said the suicide rate in the community has been estimated to be up to seven times higher than all other communities. Mr Bowers said his films featured "powerful stories", including that of his own brother, Danny who took his own life in 2017. He further mentions that there is an epidemic in the Gypsy and Traveller community, known only by the families, who are suffering in silence.

Read More at

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn8y!g4wynvo>

Digital Inclusion of Roma Communities

A new thematic report, Digital Inclusion of Roma: Current Patterns, Trends, and Barriers, has been authored by Mustafa Jakupov and published by the European Commission. The report highlights the systemic digital exclusion faced by Roma across Europe and how structural antigypsyism, socio-economic marginalisation, limited access to infrastructure, and lack of necessary skills prevent Roma individuals from getting access to education, employment, and available online services. The author offers a detailed analysis of current gaps and promising practices, drawing attention to community-led efforts and partnerships with technology companies. The report also provides examples of successful initiatives to address these challenges

Read More at

<https://romacivilmonitoring.eu/new-report-on-digital-inclusion-of-roma-communities-released/>

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