

«Development of the National Roma Platform for consultation and dialogue exchange of the Greek NRC»

Newsletter 3

May 2017

The project "Development of the National Roma Platform for consultation and dialogue exchange of the Greek NRCP», was concluded. Its aim was the consultation and the development of a dialogue culture between the Roma community and the non-Roma community.

To achieve the above mentioned aim a series of tools, conferences, meetings at national, regional and local level, experiential workshops, and a digital platform, were used to promote the dialogue on issues of social inclusion of Roma.

In this dialogue, partners from all the involved sides took place, i.e. stakeholders from Ministries, Educational Institutions, Hospitals, Church, all the Regions, most Municipalities with Roma population groups, as well as Roma Unions and the civil society partners, like NGO's and representatives from the private sector.

On the special for the Roma website www.roma-ekka.gr, which is currently in operation by our organization (EKKA), all the relevant to the project's data are uploaded. The digital platform for consultation, which is a product of our project, is also connected to this site. It is expected to play an important role in the consultation process, since all the stakeholders may continue to express ideas, opinions and comments on Roma issues thus the Greek NRCP will have a valuable instrument to formulate policies on Roma social inclusion.



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<http://www.ekka.org.gr/> <http://www.roma-ekka.gr/>

*“The project
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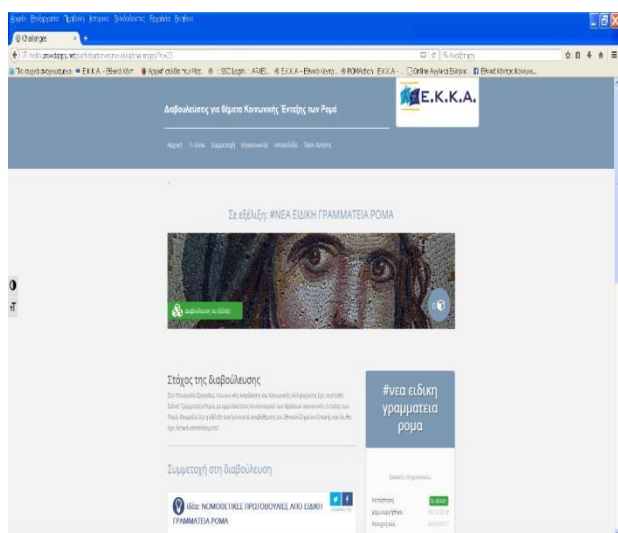
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ACTIONS' REVIEW

The Greek National Roma Platform project, in one look:

- **Athens' Press Conference**
- **Athens' Conference for launching the project**
- **Two (2) Regional Conferences**
- **Three (3) Experiential Workshops**
- **Local meetings in six major cities**
- **A Guide of good practices on communication of Roma and non-Roma people**
- **E-platform for consultation & dialogue**



THE ROMAS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIONS

Roma people's participation in all of the project's actions was impressive, unexpectedly massive and well-organized. Representatives from the Roma Hellenic Confederation "ELLAN PASSE" and major Regional Roma Federations participated in most of the events. Furthermore, a large number of local Roma organisations, as well as many Roma individuals, were among the participants of the events making their presence most visible.

The Roma participants took the chance to speak from heart about all the problems they're facing: unhealthy living conditions, lack of employment and shortage of goods, poor health and difficult access in education for their children, existing racism and prejudices towards them.

They spoke about their struggle to survive under a difficult situation, ameliorate their living conditions and make a better future for the young Roma.

Despite their frustration and among complains, many Roma participants had a positive point of view for their future, as they realize that a serious effort is ongoing by the new Special Roma Secretariat of the Ministry of Labor.

Suggestions on measures of social Roma inclusion and useful criticisms on several matters were presented by the Roma participants.

Most important was the role of the Hellenic Union of the Greek Roma Mediators, as its members participated in all the events and namely in the experiential workshops, highlighting the role of mediation in building a positive relation among Roma and non-Roma communities.

PARTICIPATION OF AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Representatives of all the relevant stakeholders, both of public and private sectors, participated in the project's events, namely representatives of:

- The Special Roma Secretariat
- The Ministries of: Labor & Social Solidarity, Health, Education, Interior and Foreign Affairs
- All Regional Authorities and the Managing Authorities of Development of Sectoral & Regional Programmes, Universities & Research Centers
- Seventy (70) Municipalities across the country in total
- Educational staff and social workers
- All the major agencies of the civil society and many local organizations acting on the field of the Roma issues



ATHENS' AND REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Apart of the **Athens' Conference** on 21st of October 2016, two Regional conferences took place, one in the city of **Larissa** which is in the central Greece (7/12/2016) and one in the city of **Thessaloniki**, in the north of the country (31/3/2017). So, there was a wide spread representation of all Regional Authorities and Municipalities, as well as of Roma and local civil society.

EXPERIENTIAL WORKSHOPS



Implementing the project, the role of Experiential Workshops as a good practice of communication between the Roma and non-Roma communities was tested and the results were positive. Through discussions and dialogue, team games, drawings and other activities, a relation based on trust and understanding was built among participants who in their majority were members of local authorities and Roma citizens and mediators.



Three workshops - in **Athens**, **Larissa** and **Thessaloniki** - took place in relevance with the conferences, so practically there was a two-day event in each city which stirred a great interest of people to attend them.

Also, an experiential exercise was combined with the local meeting in the Municipality of **Chalandri** (21/11/2016) in the Region of Attika.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Local meetings' basic outcome was that the discussion focused on the situations of each area and that participants proposed measures confronting the various problems which exist from place to place. In each meeting, along with other local authorities and the civil and Roma society, several Municipalities were brought to the dialogue:



- ✓ **4** in **Chalandri** (in the east of Athens) - 21/11/2016
- ✓ **10** in **Elefsina** (in the west of Athens) - 3/2/2017
- ✓ **8** in **Tripoli** (Region of Peloponnese) - 28/2/2017
- ✓ **1** in **Rhodes island** (Dodecanese) - 5/5/2017
- ✓ **8** in **Lamia** (central Greece) - 16/5/2017
- ✓ **7** in **Patra** (Region of West Greece) - 23/5/2017

