

DOSTA! GO BEYOND PREJUDICE, MEET THE ROMA!



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN ON ROMA

■ Note: The term “Roma” used at the Council of Europe refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale and related groups in Europe, including Travellers and the Eastern groups (Dom and Lom), and covers the wide diversity of the groups concerned, including persons who identify themselves as Gypsies.

Why an awareness raising campaign on Roma?

■ Dosta means “enough” in the variant of the Romani language spoken in the Balkans where the campaign was initiated. It is also a Council of Europe awareness raising campaign which aims to bring non-Roma closer to Roma citizens by breaking down the barriers caused by prejudices and stereotypes.

■ Although Roma have been in Europe since at least the 14th century, they are not always recognised by the majority society as a fully-fledged European people. Many Roma communities today live in very difficult conditions, and their participation in public life is extremely limited.

■ Over recent years some progress has been made for improving the economic and social development of Roma in Europe.

■ However, these efforts are often facing severe obstacles caused by deeply-rooted beliefs and prejudices.

**Stereotypes and prejudices are both filters
which modify our view on what the reality is.**

■ "Dosta!" means that we want to stop prejudices and stereotypes not by denouncing them but by breaking them, showing who the Roma are. They are not perfect, of course, but «who is perfect?».

■ What is sure is that Roma are European citizens: they form a group of about 12 million people and can be found in almost all Council of Europe member states; in several Central and Eastern European countries, they represent between 5 and 10% of the population.

■ Being European citizens means that Roma have not only duties but also rights and aspirations like everybody else, and therefore their citizenship and human rights must be recognized. In addition, Roma culture is fully part of Europe's cultural heritage: it has always contributed to the enrichment of European societies. It is now time to recognize this contribution.

A better life is everyone's right! Let's think differently!

Campaign objectives

- ▶ Fighting stereotypes and negative prejudices against Roma;
- ▶ Combating anti-Gypsyism in the framework of policies/actions against racism and discrimination;
- ▶ Raising awareness about Romani culture, language and history.

■ Although European countries have different policies towards the Roma, different cultural patterns and social standards, the messages that «Dosta!» wants to convey are the same for all European countries.

When and where?

■ The Dosta! campaign started as part of a wider Council of Europe and European Commission Joint Programme "Equal Rights and Treatment for Roma in South Eastern Europe" started being implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and "the former



Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” during 2006 and 2007, and then in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in 2008-2009. The “Dosta!” campaign raised the interest of other Council of Europe member states. Consequently, in 2008, the Council of Europe opened it to all member states. Romania, and Slovenia joined the campaign in 2008, followed in 2009 by Latvia and Croatia, in 2010 by Bulgaria, Italy and various French municipalities, in 2011 by Greece and, under a separate joint EU/CoE project, by Kosovo* and in 2013 by Lithuania, Spain and the Slovak Republic.

Ignorance is the main factor of prejudice!

Dosta! material and main activities

- ▶ Interactive and multi-language Internet site;
- ▶ Radio and TV spots;
- ▶ Poster and Photo Competition for combating anti-Roma stereotypes;
- ▶ School competition;
- ▶ Awards for municipalities and journalists;
- ▶ Exhibitions, films and documentaries;
- ▶ Music, art and youth festivals against racism and discrimination;
- ▶ Public debates and TV talk shows;
- ▶ Training for media professionals on Roma culture and ethical reporting;
- ▶ Training for lawyers, teachers, school mediators and assistants, social workers or police officers;
- ▶ Promoting successful stories and role models;
- ▶ Testimonials by Roma and non Roma, including the patron of the Dosta! campaign, French actress and film director Fanny Ardant.

* All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



How to join the campaign

■ Dosta ! campaign is not conceived as an exclusively Council of Europe action. We warmly welcome all Europeans, Roma and non-Roma, civil society representatives and public officials, who share the objectives of the campaign to join and contribute to it.

■ If you want to participate, there are plenty of ways for supporting the campaign, starting from spreading its messages and fighting stereotypes!

■ If you are interested in promoting the campaign messages in your country please contact us. You can also support the campaign by contributing both in kind or financially. Official launching requests must be addressed by state/ local authorities to the Support Team to the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues, c/o Dosta! campaign Secretariat.

The future? Let's build it together!

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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