



## Letter of co-operation in view of establishing the International Task Force for the Education of Roma<sup>1</sup>

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Starting from the conclusions of the evaluation conference of the Council of Europe project “Education of Roma children in Europe” (Brdo, Slovenia, May 2009) and of the 2009 OSCE/ODIHR Human Dimension Implementation Meeting,

Considering the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area (Maastricht MC Decision 3/03) and the newly adopted MC Decision in Helsinki (No. 6/08) and in Athens (No. 8/09) and the Council of Europe Recommendation (2009)4 on the Education of Roma and Travellers in Europe,

Recalling the shared commitment of the Council of Europe, OSCE/ODIHR, UNESCO, UNICEF, European Commission, Roma Education Fund, Open Society Institute to improve the educational situation of Roma, Sinti and Travellers,

Recalling the need to cooperate on issues related to Roma, Sinti and Travellers education,

The international organisations signatory of the present co-operation letter agree on establishing an International Task Force for the Education of Roma (ITFER).

The mission of the ITFER is to develop and ensure close co-ordination of the European and international initiatives regarding the specific domain of the education for Roma, Sinti and Travellers (early childhood care and education, schooling, out-of-school

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<sup>1</sup> The term ‘Roma and Travellers’ used in the present text refers to Roma, Sinti, Kale, Travellers, and related groups in Europe, and aims to cover the wide diversity of groups concerned, including groups which identify themselves as Gypsies.

education, vocational training, adult education...) and to reinforce the co-operation between the members states of the organisations members of the ITFER.

The co-operation between the signatory organisations of the present letter is based on a free flow of mutually useful information, work sharing and allocation of tasks when common activities are launched, while taking into account the different institutional structures, mandates and responsibilities of each organisation.

The co-operation between the signatory organisations is based on the principles of reciprocity and on complementarity in the implementation of their respective programme of activities; the co-operation is focused only on education issues; the joint initiatives and activities are organised taking into account each organisation's mandate and internal procedures, the available financial resources, their priorities and the domain of common interest.

The representatives of the organisations members of the ITFER will meet once a year. The Council of Europe offers to host the annual meeting and to write the report of the meeting. If any other member organisation offers to host one of the meetings this can be done upon agreement.

A permanent exchange of information will be established through the secretariats of the member organisations in order to design joint activities, action plans, guidelines, brochures, reports and any other forms of cooperation in the field of education of Roma, Sinti and Travellers and to avoid the overlapping.

This co-operation letter cannot be interpreted as a legal partnership between the signatory organisations.

Done in Strasbourg, on June 2010.

**Council of Europe:** Olof Olafsdottir, Acting Director, Directorate of Education and Languages

**UNESCO:** Mmantsetsa Marope, Director, Division of Basic Education

**UNICEF:** Steven Allen, Regional Director, Regional Office for CEECIS

**OSCE/ODIHR:** Andrzej Mirga, Senior Adviser, Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

**Roma Education Fund:** Costel Bercus, President of the Board

**European Commission:** Margarida Gameiro, Head of the Unit for Equal Opportunities and Equity, Directorate of Education and Culture

**International Step by Step Association:** **Open Society Institute:**  
Liana Ghent, Executive Director Bernard Rorke



**Fundamental Rights Agency:**  
Morten Kjaerum, Director

**European Wergeland Centre:**  
Anna Perona-Fjeldstad, Executive Director



**European Economic and Social Committee:**  
Leila Kurki, President of the Section for  
*Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship*  
(SOC)



*Has joined in April 2011*