



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Social Cohesion
and Family Affairs
General Secretariat for Social Solidarity
and Fight Against Poverty



**Central Union of
Greek Municipalities**



*Co-funded by the Citizens,
Equality, Rights and Values
(CERV) Programme of the
European Union*

Newsletter

On Friday, June 28, 2024, the first meeting of the Political Committee for the Social Inclusion of the Roma of the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (K.E.D.E.) took place, under its new composition. The Political Committee was established in the context of the operational management at the local level of the National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS) 2021 – 2030 and aims to formulate policies, exchange know-how and practices as well as promote synergies and special interventions on key issues for the Roma social inclusion.

The meeting was attended by the General Secretary of K.E.D.E., Mr. Dimitris Kafantaris, the General Secretary of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty, Mr. Prodromos Pyrros, the President of the Committee Mr. Dimitrios Kofos, the Vice President Mr. Kleantich Kotsakiachidis, and other appointed members.

Mr Pyrros informed the committee on the current priorities of the Ministry of Social Cohesion in the context of the implementation of the NRIS. Mr. Pyrros also pointed out the available financial tools for the implementation of programs that will contribute to the social inclusion of the Roma in Greece, as well as the need to draw up targeted Local Action Plans by the country's municipalities with high compilation of Roma.

Mr. Kafantaris referred to the previous experience of the members of the Committee and the challenges faced by the Local Government in the social inclusion process of the Roma emphasizing that the next efforts should focus on children and young people, through facilitating education and training programs.

Mr. Kofos referred not only to the necessity for consultation with the community but also the importance of cooperation with Roma mediators, pointing out the Committee's intention for regular meetings that could produce tangible results.

All participants agreed on the common challenges that need to be addressed in the process of social inclusion of Roma citizens, underscoring that emphasis should be given on Roma children and youth, through monitoring systems in the fields of education, health, housing and employment. It is also important to promote targeted local interventions for Roma social inclusion, within the priorities set by the National Strategy. Finally, the important role of community centers and Roma branches was mentioned by many.

The operation of the Political Committee of K.E.D.E. is expected, among other things, to assist the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family, in its role as the National Contact Point of the E.U. for the Social Inclusion of Roma within the framework of the project of the European program "Development of the National Platform for Consultation and Dialogue on Roma Issues of the National Contact Point for Roma", RomaPlatformEL —CERV-2022-NRCP (GA NO:101095343).



This project was funded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) (2021-2027)

The content of this document represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility. The European Commission does not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains."