



PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, July 09 2024, in the context of the National Strategy for the Roma Social Inclusion (NRIS 2021 – 2030), the 2nd meeting of the Advisory Committee was held with the participation of new members. The mission of the Committee is the study of special and/or urgent issues of high priority and the provision of expertise in the fields of equality, socio-economic inclusion and equal participation of the Roma. The Roma Advisory Committee has a dual role, making policy proposals both to the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty and to the Governmental Committee for Roma Social Inclusion.

The meeting was attended by the chairperson of the committee, Ms. Foteini Vlahaki, Deputy Head of the Autonomous Department of Documentation, Evaluation, Support and Specialization for Roma issues, her deputy, Ms. Evangelia Zerva, Deputy Head of the Department of Planning, Coordination and Policy Monitoring for Roma social inclusion issues of the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family. The Committee includes representatives from co-competent bodies, such as the Department of Special and Vulnerable Groups and Equality of Public Employment Service (DYPA), the Department of Work Integration of Vulnerable and Special Groups of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security, the Department of Human Rights of the General Secretariat of Equality and Human Rights of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and the Family, the Research Center for Equality Issues, the Institute of Educational Policy of the Ministry of Education, the Department of Social Issues and Combating Racism of the Directorate of State Security of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, the Hellenic Network for the Right to Housing etc. The collective bodies of the Roma are also represented, namely HELLAN PASSE and the Union of Greek Roma Mediators and their Partners.

The purpose of the Committee's work was to inform the members on the part of the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty on the course of implementation of the NRIS. Mrs. Vlahaki informed the members about the priorities that have been set for the near future, about the Indicator System for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the NRIS 2021 - 2030 as well as about the necessity of improving data collection with regard to the inclusion goals of Roma for the period 2023-2024.



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The members of the committee expressed their will for their active participation and pointed out some key challenges that must be prioritized, such as improving labor market participation for the Roma but also the promotion of targeted interventions in the programs and actions that are currently being implemented. It was agreed to hold regular meetings as well as to carry out individual collaborations of the members to study and process proposals that require a cross-sectoral approach.

It should be noted that the General Secretariat of Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family is the National Contact Point of the E.U. for Roma Social Inclusion. The function of the Advisory Committee of the NRIS is expected to be strengthened within the European program implemented by the National Contact Point entitled "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).



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