



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,
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European Union*

Newsletter

On Tuesday, December 10, 2024, the 2nd meeting of the Political Committee for the Social Inclusion of Roma, organized by the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (K.E.D.E.), was successfully held. This Committee, formed under the framework of the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma (N.R.I.S.) 2021-2030, is dedicated to developing effective policies, sharing knowledge, and fostering synergies to address the inclusion of Roma within local government's frameworks.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Dimitrios Kofos, President of the Committee. Also in attendance were Mr. Prodromos Pyrros, General Secretary for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty. Besides members of the committee, key Roma representatives including Ms. Christina Halilopoulou, coordinator of the newly formed Roma Forum; Mr. Vassilios Pantzos and Mr. Panagiotis Sampanis, President and General Secretary of the Panhellenic Confederation of Greek Roma "ELLAN PASSE"; Mr. Christoforos Sampanis, President of the Federation of Roma in Northern Greece; and Mr. Konstantinos Paiteris, President of the Union of Greek Roma Mediators, along with their collaborators attended the meeting. These representatives shared the concerns and requests of Roma communities.

The main focus of the meeting was to review the progress of key measures and interventions outlined in the National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma. During the discussions, Mr. Pyrros emphasized the need for municipalities to update their Local Action Plans for Roma inclusion. He stressed that every municipality hosting Roma populations must submit a Local Action Plan, as it is a crucial tool for designing and implementing interventions tailored to local needs. He also highlighted the forthcoming action for facilitating Roma social inclusion policies of the municipalities through a technical assistance program for Capacity Building. Additionally, the importance of updating the Roma mapping, including the collection of data on their socio-economic status was discussed.

Roma representatives highlighted the inadequate living conditions in many Roma settlement areas, pointing out that these conditions have a significant impact on the social and economic well-being of Roma communities. They called for greater focus on employment inclusion, continued support for Roma children's participation in education, and investments in basic infrastructure and housing.

The importance of local governments was also emphasized. As municipalities are in direct contact with local communities, they are best positioned to drive effective actions. However, it was noted that specialized support and tools from the central government are required to carry out their responsibilities effectively.



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

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Mr. Kofos highlighted the need for further developing the collaboration and consultation with Roma representatives and mediators. He reiterated the Committee's commitment to holding regular meetings that will yield tangible and impactful results.

The Political Committee for the Social Inclusion of Roma of K.E.D.E. works in close cooperation with the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs. The General Secretariat serves as the National Contact Point for the EU's efforts on Roma inclusion. In this context, the European project "Development of the National Consultation and Dialogue Platform for Roma Issues" (RomaPlatformEL – CERV-2022-NRCP, GA NO: 101095343) is being implemented to enhance dialogue and cooperation on Roma-related issues.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all participants to continue their collaboration, with the goal of developing sustainable, community-driven solutions that promote social cohesion and inclusion.



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