



Newsletter

3rd Meeting of the Government Committee for the Social Inclusion of Roma

On Wednesday, December 18, 2024, the 3rd Meeting of the Government Committee for the Social Inclusion of Roma was held with the participation of relevant General Secretaries or their representatives. The meeting was coordinated by the President of the Committee, Mr. Prodromos Pyrros, General Secretary for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty. Collaborators from the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Fight Against Poverty, specializing in Roma-related issues, also attended.

The primary focus of the meeting was to assess the progress of Roma social inclusion initiatives and to review actions undertaken by each ministry within its area of responsibility. An introductory presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the current situation and the advancement of the Roma National Strategy for Social Inclusion 2021-2030.

Following the presentation, the committee members engaged in discussions aimed at identifying synergies in key areas of Roma social inclusion. For instance, housing and living conditions are critical factors for increasing participation rates in education and employment. Efforts to improve living conditions were discussed in detail, with particular emphasis on collaborating with the Ministry of the Interior to enhance infrastructure in Roma communities.

Education was also a focal point, with discussions on the high rates of school dropouts -despite the progress that has been made- and the need to increase Roma participation in compulsory education. The Ministry of Education outlined its priorities for training teachers to facilitate Roma inclusion in schools. In the context of vocational training and lifelong learning, the role of second-chance schools in Roma-populated areas was examined, alongside a proposal to introduce targeted specializations in vocational education and training schools to better serve Roma communities.

With regard to employment, special reference was made to the Public Employment Service (DYPA) and the programs in place, aimed at supporting vulnerable social groups.

Insofar as healthcare services for Roma is concerned, emphasis was put on strengthening collaboration with community mediators to improve communication and foster trust within local Roma communities.

Throughout the meeting, the importance of data collection and the promotion of positive role models from the Roma community was underscored. Participants expressed a strong commitment to accelerating the implementation of measures to improve housing conditions,



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



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enhance education and employment opportunities, and foster systematic collaboration with municipalities and local communities.

The Government Committee for the Social Inclusion of Roma works closely with the General Secretariat for Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty of the Ministry of Social Cohesion and Family Affairs, which serves as the EU's National Contact Point for Roma Social Inclusion. In this context, the European program "Development of the National Consultation and Dialogue Platform for Roma Issues" (RomaPlatformEL – CERV-2022-NRCP, GA NO: 101095343) is being implemented. This program aims to strengthen dialogue and cooperation among stakeholders involved in Roma inclusion efforts.

The meeting ended with a shared belief in the essential role of collective efforts from all stakeholders in ensuring the success of the National Roma Inclusion Strategy.



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