



Round-table

ROMA IN BULGARIA : INTEGRATION AND MIGRATIONS

Wednesday, May 12th - French Institute

> Simultaneous interpretation French, Bulgarian, English



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A large number of Bulgarian citizens stems from the Roma community (about 10 % of the population according to estimates from the Council of Europe, i.e. 700 000 persons among the 10 or 12 million European Roma). They suffer from socio-economic marginality, for instance in the field of education. Some European Embassies in Sofia present in early May a series of initiatives to attract public opinion and propose new ideas on Roma issues.

With this round-table, the French Embassy is willing to :

- give the opportunity to NGOs and Bulgarian authorities to inform the international community on progress and difficulties in the field of Roma inclusion in Bulgaria ;
- develop contacts between the International community, Bulgarian decision makers and field experts in order to increase the exchange of good practices ;
- contribute to the emergence and the circulation of new ideas on Roma inclusion in the European Union.

9h00 : Registration of participants

9h20 : Opening comments : Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dimitrov (to be confirmed), French Ambassador Mr. de Poncins and Italian Ambassador Mr. Benazzo

First panel : « How to improve school education among Roma children in Bulgaria ? »

9h40 – 10h20 : Contributors :

- a representative of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education
- Ms. Miranda Vuolasranta, National Finnish Roma Forum
- Ms. Diana Kirilova, Sorbonne University
- Mr. Deyan Kolev, organization Amalipe

10h20 – 11h20 : Discussion with the audience facilitated by Mrs. Antonina Zheliazkova, International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations

11h20 – 11h40 : Break

Second panel : « What is the effect of the freedom of movement on the integration of Roma in the European Union? »

11h40 – 12h30 : Contributors :

- Mr. Milen Milanov, Decade for Roma inclusion, Ministry of Labour (to be confirmed)
- Mr. Michel Guet, Council of Europe
- Ms. Martha Breeze, French Bureau for Immigration and Integration
- Ms. Monika Rózsa, Ministry of Labour of Hungary
- Dr. Olivier Adam and Mr Patrick Comtois, Médecins du Monde (Doctors of the World)

12h30 – 13h20 : Discussion with the audience, facilitated by Mr. Boyan Zahariev, Open Society Institute

13h20–13h30 : Conclusion by the French Ambassador Mr. de Poncins

13h30 – 14h30 : Cocktail on the premises

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