

**ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE  
OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS  
Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues**

**Memorandum of understanding  
regarding  
the Strategic Initiative on Roma and Policing in Romania**

The Ministry of Administration and Interior, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation / Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies, hereinafter called MAI, OSCE/ ODIHR – CPRSI and Romani CRISS, the signatory parties of this Memorandum of understanding;

Considering the Romanian Government's preoccupation with the improvement of the situation of Roma minority,

In accordance with the provisions of the Romanian Constitution, republished,

Considering the provisions of the Romanian Government's National Strategy for improving the situation of Roma, as well as of the Governing Plan for 2005-2008 that ensures the equality of chances for citizens,

Considering the Action Plan for the Improvement of the Situation of the Roma and Sinti within the OSCE Area, adopted by the Ministerial Council of OSCE from its Maastricht Decision nr.3/2003, hereinafter called OSCE Action Plan,

Reaffirming the right of any minority, including Roma, to actively participate in the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of public policies regarding that minority,

The signatory parties of the herein agreement agree to the following:

**1. Timeframe**

The co-operation will be effective from June 2005 to December 2005, with the possibility to be prolonged until June 2006, by the agreement of signatory parties. The prolongation shall be requested by one of the signatory parties at least one month prior to the cease of the present Memorandum of Understanding.

**2. Objectives**

The main objectives of the present Memorandum of Understanding are:

- a) To assist MAI in the implementation of the objectives under directive "Justice and Public Order" of the Romanian Governmental Strategy for improving the Situation of Roma.
- b) To develop a good practice model in order to implement in Romania the recommendations on Police in the OSCE Action Plan, and to disseminate this model across the OSCE Area.

### **3. Activities**

The objectives will be fulfilled through the following activities:

#### **a) Systematic Assessment of Police policies and practices towards Roma**

A systematic assessment of current Police policies and practices towards Roma in Romania will be developed in order to identify existing strengths and weaknesses in relation to the recommendations on Police of the OSCE Action Plan. The assessment will consider the information obtained through interviews, documents analysis and the result of regional consultative meetings and it will be carried out by the MAI – the Romanian General Police Inspectorate, in cooperation with Roma non-governmental organisations.

#### **b) Capacity Building for the Roma governmental organisations**

Training seminars for the Roma non-governmental organisations will be organised in order to build their capacity to participate as partners of MAI in the systematic assessment and other practical initiatives to improve relations between Roma and the Police, especially at the local level.

#### **c) Police Training at the Local Level**

Training for police officers at the local level will be conducted initially as a 'pilot project' in four counties, in view of developing communication skills in the relations between police and Roma.

#### **d) Setting up a Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee will be formed out of representatives of the signatory parties. Within the Steering Committee the signatory parties shall inform each other and ensure co-ordination of the deployed activities.

Other relevant specialists may be invited to attend the meetings of the Steering Committee.

### **4. Responsibilities of the Parties**

#### **a) the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe/ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues:**

- provides advice and support for activities of systematic assessment of current Police policies and practices towards Roma in Romania, as described in the point 3.a.
- ensures the presentation of the results of this analysis as a good practice model in view of dissemination across the OSCE area;
- provides support for the fund raising effort to support the practical implementation of activities mentioned in point 3.b) and 3. c);
- assigns a representative in the Steering Committee.

#### **b) the Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies - Romani CRISS:**

- manages the budget allotted by the OSCE/ODIHR - CPRSI in Romania for implementing the activities at point 3 a);
- participates at fund raising effort for implementing the activities described at points 3.b) and 3.c);
- ensures the implementation of activities related to the training process for Roma non-governmental organisations;
- ensures the collaboration relations with the representatives of the Roma civil society at local level;
- assigns a representative to take responsibility for these activities and to act as the representative of Romani CRISS in the Steering Committee.

c) The **Ministry of Administration and Interior:**

- carries out, the systematic assessment of current Police policies and practices towards Roma in Romania, at level of Romanian General Police Inspectorate;
- ensures the information and support of MAI structures concerning this initiative and participates at the activities, including at county level;
- assigns a police officer within Romanian General Police Inspectorate – Institute for Crime Research and Prevention, to act as co-ordinator of the activities unfolded by the Ministry of Administration and Interior within this initiative and as representative in the Steering Committee;
- identifies the four counties where the training courses for police officers shall take place

**The present Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Bucharest, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 2005, in three original copies; each copy in Romanian and English, all copies being equally authentic**

Representative of the Ministry of Administration and Interior

State Secretary  
Chief-Quaestor  
Ph. D. FLORIN SANDU

Representative of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation/ Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues

Adviser for Roma and Sinti Problems  
NICOLAE GHEORGHE

Representative of Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies - Romani CRISS

Executive Director  
COSTEL BERCUS