



Romani CRISS
Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies

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I. 2008 for Romani CRISS

Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies – Romani CRISS is a nongovernmental, non-profit organisation established on April 4th, 1993. The founding members of the organisation are: the Roma Ethnic Federation (FER), Research Center of Roma/Gypsies from the Rene Descartes University in Paris, and the Sociology Institute of the Romanian Academy.

Romani CRISS defends and promotes the rights of the Roma in Romania by providing legal assistance in cases of abuse and works to combat and prevent racial discrimination against Roma in all areas of public life, including the fields of education, employment, housing, and health.

At the working session of the United Nations Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations which took place in New York, **in January 2008, Romani CRISS was approved as NGO in Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is the first Roma organisation in Romania and the fifth in our country to be approved in the Consultative Status with ECOSOC.**

At the end of 2008, **Romani CRISS received from the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) one of the awards for personalities noteworthy for their activity on combating discrimination in 2008**, along with Mr. Robin Barnett, Ambassador of Great Britain in Bucharest and Mrs. Maia Morgenstern, actress. “Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies – Romani CRISS is a ‘factory of human resources, of values in the field of human rights’”, declared the president of NCCD, when awarding the prize.

In 2008, Romani CRISS received the Civil Society Gala award for “Defending individual/ collective human rights”, with project “Steps towards tolerance”.

Romani CRISS became *Center of evaluation and certification of professional competencies for the health mediator profession, starting with September 25th, 2008.*

What do validation of previous learning’s results and certification of health mediators’ competencies mean?

In Romania, the health mediation profession has already a 12- year-old history. The first steps for officialising the health mediation practice in the Roma communities and relevant institutions date back in 1996. During the 12 years, the health mediation evolved from a measure to connect the Roma communities with the health institutions into one of the main access ways of Roma communities towards the public health services in Romania.

The profession was enlisted in the Romanian Code of Professions which added value to this new profession. Until the present, according to the law, Romani CRISS and the Ministry of Health have been responsible with training this professional category. The training is finalised with a diploma issued by Romani CRISS, valuable within the organisation’s network and acknowledged by the public health authorities. In Romania, the only certificates acknowledged according to the legislation are the ones obtained within the formal system and as result of evaluation and certification of competencies or as result of a training course delivered by an authorised training provider. In what regards the health mediators, as long as there is an occupational standard and an authorised training provider, the certificates are acknowledged on the labour market.

In 2008, as result of a partnership between Romani CRISS and Pro Vocation in a Phare project, the ***Romani CRISS Center of Evaluation and Certification of Professional Competencies*** was established. Thus, the Roma health mediators and not only them have the possibility to get information, training and to decide upon possibilities of evaluation and certification of competencies for health mediator, in view of obtaining a qualification certificate. This provides the possibility to get a job and rise to the real expectations of the needs of the labour market.

Through the ***Romani CRISS Center of Evaluation and Certification of Professional Competencies***, the promotion of employment opportunities for high risk of social exclusion groups and people is facilitated, focused on life-long active learning measures, as well as recognition of learning’s results by evaluation and certification of competencies.

II. Community intervention

Education: Over 12,000 Roma children, direct beneficiaries of “Need for quality and equality in education” project

The “Need for quality and equality in education” project financed by Roma Education Fund ended in 2008. The project idea took shape in the context of specific realities in Romania, the European state with the largest Roma minority, under the pressure of historical marginalisation and threat of social exclusion. The project approached two components:

1. The issue: elimination of situations of discrimination, segregation, exclusion and differentiated treatment by promoting affirmative measures, integrated and interactive actions of stimulating Roma children in view of increasing pre-school and school participation, as well as of cultural diversity at all school levels and with the active involvement of all interested social actors.
2. The specific level: by solving the problems in different ways, at level of schooling, starting with pre-school education (by adopting the inclusive education principle).

The purpose of the project was to develop competencies of Roma children and youth in Romania in view of ensuring quality education and preserve cultural identity.

The project’s objectives were:

1. To improve the Roma children’s school participation to pre-school education
2. To support the Roma students’ participation to the high school
3. To facilitate the Roma youth’s school participation to universities
4. To promote the Roma specificity and inter-cultural aspects.

A brief summary of the two-year-activities show the following results:

- 19 information and counselling offices, set up within organisations or schools in 19 counties
- 65 mixed communities to work in during the two years
- 25 educational counsellors trained to implement the information campaign in schools and communities
- 10,126 children and parents informed/ counselled during the campaigns (including TV, radio and outdoor) at national level
- 1,971 children enrolled in high school
- 236 children enrolled in college
- 21 summer kindergartens with 500 beneficiaries – children from underprivileged communities.
- 6 kindergartens in Bucharest and Dolj county endowed with teaching materials and participant to cultural activities
- 210 Roma and non-Roma teenagers participant to intercultural camps and workshops. The purpose of the activities was to increase the self-esteem and take on cultural identity of young people.
- 1423 pre-school and school age children involved in intercultural activities in Bucharest and 13 counties
- 17 Roma and non-Roma children with Secondary School nr.153, Giulesti participated in staging a play, adaptation of “About learning” play written by Anton Pann. The directing and adaptation were done by Sorin Sandu, Roma actor.
- Motivation and increase of competence of teaching staff and key actors by organising, with the Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, of six training seminars addressed to teaching staff that work with Roma children and students. 176 teachers attended the seminars, including Roma inspectors and Methodists.
- Three roundtables with public actors (State or civil society actors) that may directly, concretely and efficiently influence school participation of Roma children and improvement of quality of education for Roma children and youth.

The activities implemented in this project will be continued on the component of access to pre-school, school and university education by raising-awareness campaigns on importance of education, on enrolment to

kindergarten and 1st grade, as well as on affirmative measures in education initiated by the Ministry of Education for Roma students.

The activities of Romani CRISS in the field of education are multi-directional, considering activities both at community level and public policies level.

Health: Health mediators

In 2008, the activities of strengthening the network of health mediators were continued, with the support of the Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development and the Ministry of External Affairs, France. Basic and continuous training courses were organised, as well as county roundtables to debate local issues of joint interest, with the contribution of the local authorities.

Romani CRISS continued its tradition (dating since 1997) in delivering basic and continuous training for health mediators, subsequently based upon Ministerial Order 619/2002 on functioning of the health mediator, as well as upon the agreement signed between Romani CRISS, Ministry of Health and OSCE ODIHR- Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues.

Eleven (11) basic training courses for health mediators: Galati, Botosani, Suceava, Brasov, Buzau, Covasna, Vrancea, Bacau, Iasi, Giurgiu and Harghita - 141 participants of which 130 women graduated the course.

Continuous training courses:

- Galati, continuous training course on „Reproductive health”;
- Botosani, continuous training course on ”Importance of prenatal check-up”;
- Vaslui, continuous training course on „Rights of the child”;
- Braila, continuous training course on „Reproductive health”.
- Cluj, continuous training course on „Education for health”;
- Alba, continuous training course on „ Education for health”

Thirteen (13) county roundtables on “Access of Roma communities to public health services” - Buzau; Cluj; Botosani; Vrancea; Braila; Arad; Prahova; Bistrita-Nasaud, Brasov, Covasna, Galati, Roman, Ialomita.

A hundred (100) health mediators were evaluated and certified based on the occupational standard for the health mediation profession, and 13 competencies evaluators were trained, evaluated and certified.

The 8 Romani CRISS regional centres of monitoring and supporting the health mediators’ activity undertook 307 documenting field visits, to every active health mediator in the counties allotted to every regional centre and to the beneficiaries of the health mediators (people from the communities where health mediators work).

Human rights: Documentation and intervention and cases of discrimination, abuse and violence against the Roma

In 2008, Romani CRISS documented and submitted to courts of law and/ or National Council for Combating Discrimination in the following fields:

- Affecting dignity - 3 documented cases;
- Access to education - 2 cases of segregation in education documented;
- Police abuse in Roma communities – 9 documented cases and 1 submitted to court of law;

- Access of Roma to health services – 5 documented cases, court action in 1 case;
 - Access of Roma to adequate housing - 4 documenting cases;
 - Access to public places - 3 documented cases;
 - Access of Roma to employment- 2 documented cases;
 - Administration of justice - 1 action in court of law (continuing the I.R. case of 2007);
 - Interethnic conflict - 1 documented case;
 - European Court of Human Rights – 1 case won and 2 more submitted to ECHR – Noua Dreapta and Miercurea Ciuc.
- **Abuse and violence by law enforcement official: 9 identified and documented cases in 2008 (one case submitted to the court of law) and continuing actions in other 29 cases.**

Strasbourg Court Sanctions Romania over the racially motivated ill-treatment of a Romani juvenile. For the first time, Romania held in breach of the substantive limb of Article 14.

On March 4th, 2008, the European Court of Human Rights delivered its judgment in the case of *Stoica v. Romania* concerning the racially motivated beating of Constantin Stoica, a Romani youth aged 14 at the time of the incident, by police officers in the village of Gulia, commune of Dolhasca, Suceava County, Romania, and the ensuing official investigation. The Court held that Romania is responsible for breaches of the prohibition of inhuman and degrading treatment (Article 3) in conjunction with the prohibition of discrimination (Article 14). The Court has also granted the applicant EUR 15,000 (fifteen thousand euro) in respect of non-pecuniary damage. The applicant was represented by Romani CRISS and the European Roma Rights Centre.

On 3 April 2001 four police officers from the Dolhasca Police Force and their chief, together with six public guards from Dolhasca, at the request of the deputy mayor of the same locality to “teach them a lesson”, started beating on Roma gathered outside a bar in Gulia, a village inhabited primarily by Roma. Constantin Stoica, a 14-year-old Roma boy was also a victim of the officials hitting bystanders indiscriminately, as a police sergeant beat the child until he lost consciousness, despite his previous telling the sergeant about his current head surgery. Several persons, including the applicant's schoolmates witnessed the incident while the deputy mayor and police officers were heard shouting racist remarks. The child was diagnosed as bearing “[...] ecchymoses, thoracic concussion and excoriation, inflicted by a linear blunt instrument, which could date from 3 April 2001”.

On 12 April 2001, the Commission for the Protection of Handicapped Persons established that he had a first-degree disability which required permanent supervision and a personal assistant.

The official investigation that was launched following the lodging of a complaint by Mr. Stoica's father over the racially motivated ill-treatment of his son and which was marred by serious procedural deficiencies, ended with a decision of non-indictment of any police officials as it had not been proved that Mr. Stoica's injuries were caused by police officials.

Upon reviewing the investigation launched by the police officials and the military prosecutor, the Court noted that it had not been established by the Government that Mr. Stoica's injuries could have been caused otherwise than by the treatment inflicted on him by the police officers and held that this amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment. On the basis of the same observations, the Court held that the Romanian authorities had also failed to launch an effective investigation into Mr. Stoica's allegations, in violation of the procedural limb of Article 3. Turning to Mr. Stoica's allegations in relation to Article 14, the Court then noted that all the evidence clearly pointed to the fact that the ill-treatment of Mr. Stoica was racially motivated.

Mr. Stoica, Constantin's father, has expressed his satisfaction that following a long period of time of injustice, the abusive behaviour of the local authorities towards him and his family has been finally condemned. He also stated he hoped the ECHR decision would help eliminate abuse and discrimination against Roma in Romania.

Read the full text of the judgments here:

<http://cmiskp.echr.coe.int/tkp197/viewhbk.asp?action=open&table=F69A27FD8FB86142BF01C1166DEA398649&key=68806&sessionId=5949946&skin=hudoc-en&attachment=true>

On April 23rd, in the context of the ECHR decision, Romani CRISS, in partnership with Suceava county Prefect's office organised the roundtable "Building trust measures for Roma communities and local authorities". The discussions focused on the Constantin Stoica case and on the lessons learned and how to avoid such incidents on future.

- **Violation of equal access to education: 3 cases identified and documented in 2008 and 10 other cases continued**

The kindergarten in Magheru village, Mehedinti County, doesn't enlist Roma children

Starting with year 2004, S.P. tried, at beginning of each school year to enrol his twin children in Magheru village kindergarten, Mehedinti County, where they live. Constantly, the teacher denied them access, stating they were "handicapped" and that they needed a special pre-school. The situation repeated in 2008, when the children's grandmother tried to enlist them. Again the teacher refused and insulted and shoved the woman: "You sot Gypsy, leave and take your sot children with you!".

The children came back accompanied by their father who wanted to clarify the situation, but he faced the same refusal: "the children have special needs", "they have mental problems, are handicapped and swivel-eyed". The father explained the children had medical documents proving they were able to attend kindergarten, but with no result.

The man informed mass media, but the teacher maintained her answer including in front of the TV camera: the children must be enrolled in a special pre-school. Finally, the teacher agreed on accepting the children, after the father promised to bring a table and two chairs for the children to sit at in the kindergarten, teaching materials and the medical documents to prove they were medically fit.

Romani CRISS lodged a complaint to the National Council for Combating Discrimination for violation of Governmental Ordinance no.137/2000 on preventing and sanctioning all forms of discrimination, republished, namely article 11, paragraph 1. The complaint underlined the aggravated circumstance of the successive discrimination acts which were based on two criteria: disability and ethnicity, both of them specified in article 2, paragraph 1 of the Ordinance.

Note that the issue of Roma children's being refused enrolment in regular schools and pre-school and them being referred to special institutions is a practice encountered also in other states of the European Union, such as Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Segregation of Roma children in special school

In June 2008, following the complaint lodged by the Romani CRISS, the National Council for Combating Discrimination ruled that:

"The students of Roma ethnicity that attend 1st to 12th school Dumbraveni, Sibiu county, are treated differentially in comparison to the Romanian ethnicity students, by separating them in the last desks in the classroom, then by not passing them the class 2-3 years in a row and subsequently by moving them to the special school in the locality, not because the children would have special needs, but due to social needs."

Also, "...the Director College of NCCD believes that the evaluation system of the students to be enrolled in the special school, as well as the financial and material support provided to the legal representatives of the children that attend special school's courses produce, in practice, discriminatory effects. Thus, statistically it is clear that the percentage of Roma students in the special school represent the overwhelming majority without having, in all cases, an objective medical reason for them to be placed here."

The presented facts fall under OG 137/2000, republished, namely articles 2, para 3 and 4 and constitute acts of discrimination.

The Director College recommends to the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation to undertake the necessary steps to ensure the implementation of equality of chances in schools, as well as to adopt measures in view of eliminating the discriminatory behaviour applied to the Roma students who have been moved from mainstream schools to special schools based on social-economical needs.

We remind that, in 2006, following the case being made public at a TV show, Romani CRISS undertook a documentation visit in Dumbraveni village. The report concluded that the children that, for 2-3 years in a row,

fail to pass the classes of Dumbraveni 1st to 12th grade school were tested by a commission set up with the agreement of the Sibiu County School Inspectorate. As result of the testing, the commission decides whether the children suffer of mental health problems and, in the same time, it decides the placing of the children to the special school, by issuing them certificates attesting their special educational needs.

As result of the policy implemented by the local authorities, over 90% of the children who attend the special school are of Roma ethnicity and became students here after failing the classes and not because they have special needs. Moreover, the teachers have a different treatment to the Roma students, in comparison to the majority students, by placing them in the back of the class and not providing them attention, so they fail the class and subsequently are transferred to the special school.

The Appeal Court decides that NCCD should proceed to a new investigation of the school segregation case in school no.19, Craiova

In 2006, segregated classes were identified in school no.19, Craiova town, Dolj County, at level of 1st, 3rd and 5th grades. Romani CRISS lodged a complaint to the National Council for Combating Discrimination regarding the different treatment towards the Roma students in 1st, 3rd and 5th grades during school year 2005-2006.

In 2007, School 19 in Craiova sent an address to the NCCD specifying that the school management had changed and that students enrolled in the 1st grade had been distributed to classes in a balanced way in terms of ethnic appurtenance and that the 3 classes of 5th grade became 2, as the students of the 3rd class, most of them Roma, were divided in the other two classes.

On 22.07.2008 the NCCD communicated decision no. 365/16.06.2008 according to which the facts presented by Romani CRISS did not constitute acts of discrimination, without showing what the reasons were for such solution in the case.

Romani CRISS appealed the CNCD decision to the Bucharest Court of Appeal requesting for an integral annulment of the CNCD decision and for the dossier to be sent back to the CNCD in order to solve it. In the appeal Romani CRISS criticised the lack of motivation in the NCCD decision and that the investigation did not regarded the subject of the complaint (the school segregation in school year 2005-2006). Also Romani CRISS contested the reasons invoked by the school, such as late enrolment of the Roma children as reason to form a Roma class, thus, segregation at level of 1st grades, which breaches the current legal stipulations – art.5, letter d of Annex 1 to Ministerial Order 1540 that explicitly regulates this aspect, showing that the representatives of educational units cannot invoke late enrolment as pretext for segregation at level of 1st grades. The school and the Dolj county school inspectorate explicitly admitted the segregated classes in their letter to the NCCD: “three classes were transformed to two, by distributing the students of the 3rd class, most of them Roma student, equally to the other two classes”. They referred specifically to the act reported in the complaint and Dolj County School Inspectorate showed that they had sent a letter to School no.19 to enforce desegregation of 4th and 5th grades.

During the appeal, several documents were submitted to the court, including an address of Romani CRISS regarding the persistence of the segregation situation and annexed the school statistics for school year 2007-2008 showing the segregation situation.

On January 8th, 2009, the Appeal Court Bucharest accepted Romani CRISS appeal, annulled the NCCD’s decision no. 395/ 14.01.2008 and obliged the NCCD to start a new investigation in the case.

- **Violation of the right to housing: 5 identified and documented cases and 10 other cases continued**

Miercurea Ciuc – the people still live near the water filtering station

Romani CRISS lodged a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights in case of Miercurea Ciuc where, through decision no.32/2004, the town local council decided to forcedly evict over 100 Roma people from the center of the city to the outskirts, near the town’s water filtering station, where they were provided 6 metallic barracks to live in, with access to one water tap, placed at the entrance in the community.

Romani CRISS submitted complaints to the NCCD and, subsequently, criminal complaint against the vice-mayor (which consider the situation as positive discrimination of the Roma) for the felony of abuse on duty, by limitation of rights, as per art.247, Criminal Code.

In decision no.366 of 23rd of August 2005, the NCCD ascertained the deed of discrimination and showed that the action of Miercurea Ciuc city hall to move the Roma families from the city near the waste water filtering plant is a violation of the right to private life and, implicitly, the right to a healthy environment. The NCCD sanctioned the Miercurea Ciuc city hall with contravention fine in amount of 4000 RON (approx. 1000 Euro) for violation of art.2, para 1, 2 and 3 and art.17, para 1 of O.G. 137/2000, on banning and sanctioning all forms of discrimination. Due to the fact that the legal deadline was exceeded, the fine was not applied.

In the case of the criminal complaint, in the appeal stage, the Tribunal of Harghita rejected it, as unsubstantiated.

At present the Roma people are in the same situation, living in inhuman conditions, as it is extremely difficult to bear the fetor of the water filtering station, especially during summer, as well as the precarious living conditions during winter. Despite the fact that all their actions failed, the Roma people continue to fight for their relocation.

The complaint to the ECHR done by Romani CRISS regards the breach of several articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, of which: art.2, that protects the right to life – two Roma minors, aged 3 and 4 months died due to the toxicity of the environment; Art.3, that stipulates that no one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment – the separation on ethnic grounds led to these Roma people being subject to a degrading treatment; Art. 6 (everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law_ - the initial complaint did not benefit of an impartial and effective investigation aimed at identifying the culprits and restoring the Roma families to the initial situation; Art 8 (Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home) – by placing the Roma families in inadequate, toxic living conditions.

In the complaint to the ECHR, the Roma community requests the followings:

1. Moral and material reparations in an amount to be established subsequently;
2. Restitution of all trial expenses and related expenses;
3. Reparative measures by adopting and implementing a community rehabilitation program aimed at supporting the social reinsertion process of Roma community there
4. General reparatory measures aimed at avoiding violations of this type I other cases, too, including by amendments of the legislation.

Note that the complaints lodged by Romani CRISS to various relevant authorities registered the following answers:

The Harghita Public Health Directorate, following a visit in the community, ascertained that, although minimum conditions for personal hygiene exist, the location and current state of the location is not appropriate. The location is within the 300 m limit of the water filtering station, which violates the Ministry of Health's Order no.536/1997. However, the huge problem that exists is related to the social problems and the education of the Roma.

The Ministry of Environment and Waters answered that the Miercurea Ciuc city hall had not asked the Harghita Environmental Agency for an environmental approval for the metallic barracks to be placed there, nor for the 7 wooden houses built subsequently by the Roma. The location is within the sanitary protection limits of the water filtering station, as per art 11 of Ministry of Health's Order no.536/1997 and with temporary interdiction to erect buildings until the specialised study according to the Urban Plan Miercurea Ciuc is elaborated.

The National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and the Social Assistance and Child's Protection General Service declared they were not competent to solve the reported case.

- **Violation of the right to health: 5 identified and documented cases in 2008 and other 2 cases continued**

Romani CRISS vs. Tg. Jiu County Hospital – manslaughter and discrimination

In April 2008, a Roma woman was admitted in Targu Jiu County Hospital to give birth. Initially, her brother was informed that everything was normally. In the same night, the woman's health condition worsened and she requested a C-section. Despite her and her brother's insistence, the medical staff did not react and a nurse even used discriminatory language in regard to their ethnical appurtenance, explaining to them that they don't understand anything. Moreover, the women was communicated a diagnostic, then another one and then the medical staff returned to the first diagnostic.

The second day the woman began to feel worse and she was screaming of pain. She told her brother that nobody comes to check up on her. Despite all that, the physician declared everything was alright and that she would give birth in the morning. The next morning, shortly after the woman gave birth to a baby boy, she died in the reanimation section. Although the victim's brother requested the hospital to receive copies of the medical papers, the hospital management refused on confidentiality reasons.

Romani CRISS intervened in the case, lodging a complaint against the medical staff to the Prosecutor's office within Gorj Tribunal for manslaughter and negligence on duty, also invoking the violation of art 14 of European Convention on Human Rights that bans discrimination.

- **Administration of justice - 1 case in court, continuation of the 2007 case**

Six months in prison, without being guilty

R.I., Romanian citizen of Roma ethnicity, mother of four children (two of them with severe mental disability that requires continuous supervision from an adult), left with her family in Italy in 2001, in order to get a job and to establish residence in that country. In 2007, the Prefect's Office of Roma issued a document based on which R.I. prolonged her stay in Italy, with all necessary documents.

In 2005, in Buftea town, Romania, a house got robbed and the main suspects were a group of Roma women. R.I. was one of the persons accused (but not informed of the accusation) of the robbery. The prosecution took place and the case went to court. In 2006, the Buftea Court of Law sentenced R.I. to 3 years of imprisonment, banning of some rights and obligation to pay civil damages to the victim. The court noted that no extenuating circumstances for the defendant. R.I. was not heard, neither during the prosecution, or the trial phase, considering that she had been in Italy for several years. The prosecution considered that she was circumventing the judiciary procedures.

In 2007, R.I. arrived in Romania to renew her passport validity. Then she was arrested for the execution of the decision of imprisonment in 2006. During the six months spent in the penitentiary, R.I. compliant of not getting medical assistance for 3 weeks, despite her heart and respiratory condition that requires special medical treatment and diet; in addition, the penitentiary staff hit her and the director of the penitentiary insulted her on ethnic grounds.

During all this time R.I. continued to declare that she hadn't been in the country when the robbery took place, that she could prove her declaration with evidence from the Roma town Prefect's office and the Romanian Border Police, which attest that R.I. had left Romania before the robber took place and didn't return before it; and, that she cannot stay long separated from her children which required special attention.

Following a series of appeals, carried out inclusively with Romani CRISS assistance, R.I. was acquitted, as she hadn't committed the deed. The expertise report drafting at the final appeal indicated that the fingerprints identified at the scene did not belong to R.I., but to a different person.

The activities were financed by OSI – Human Rights.

Social: Counselling and Social Assistance Office

For nine months, Romani CRISS carried out an Information – Education – Communication campaign in sector 6, Bucharest, in the field of identity papers, housing, education, health and discrimination. The elements of the campaign were designed so that it would reach as many beneficiaries as possible:

- An counselling and social assistance office became functional;
- The project team distributed fliers with information on importance and modalities to obtain identity and property papers, right to housing, to health and medical insurance, right to non-discrimination and where complaints can be lodged, right to education and affirmative measures for Roma;
- A free of charge HOTLINE was set up;
- A radio advertising was elaborated and broadcasted in partnership with Radio Romania Actualitati.

The project registered approximately 300 beneficiaries, people counselled during the campaign, identity and/ or property documents were drawn up for 100 families in sector 6, Bucharest and another 1000 people benefited of the services provided through the Counselling and Social Assistance Office.

The project was implemented in PHARE program RO 2005/017 – 553.01.01 „Accelerating the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Improvement of Roma Condition”.

Training

The training component delivered by Romani CRISS targets two major groups: Roma activists and experts in specific fields (Roma and non-Roma) – physicians, magistrates, lawyers, law enforcement officials, teachers, etc.

In 2008 Romani CRISS organised:

- Training courses for Roma activists on human rights and lobby methods
- Training courses for health mediators
- Training courses for physicians

Training courses in the field of health

Basic training courses for health mediators have been organised since 1996. At present, according to Order 619/2002 of Ministry of Health, Romani CRISS is the only organisation in Romania that can issue *health mediator* diploma, based on which the hiring of the mediator is done. The purpose for which the health mediators are trained in this field and then hired to work in the Roma communities is to contribute to the improvement of communication between the medical authorities and the Roma community, as well as to improve the condition of the Roma communities and their access to social services. Through the knowledge gained at the initial training, the mediators are able to go into the community and disseminate useful information to the Roma. Thus, the health mediators contribute decisively to reducing health problems or social problems, in general of the Roma community members, by proper information dissemination and referrals: where, when and who can help them.

Continuous training courses have the role of perfecting the knowledge of the health mediators. Until the present, Romani CRISS organised continuous training courses on “*Reproductive health*”, “*Importance of pre-natal medical check up*”, “*Rights of the child*”, and “*Human rights*”. Aside from the elements related to the medical field, the mediators are trained also in the field of human rights, thus able to identify an act of discrimination when it occurs and to know whom to address for such a case to be solved. The human rights sessions in this case focus on the health legislation, with the purpose of eliminating the cases of discrimination in hospitals, consulting rooms, etc and to improve access to health care services for Roma ethnics.

To this end, Romani CRISS organised **training for physicians**, focusing on topics such as *cultural diversity, traditions and customs in Romani culture, particularities of medical staff in working with Roma communities*; the aim of addressing these topics is improvement and strengthening of professional relationship between family doctors and health mediators, but also elimination of prejudices and stereotypes towards the Roma people. The course was carried out in partnership with the Perfecting Centre in the field of Health, Bucharest.

Training courses on human rights

Twenty (20) Roma activists participated in a training course on human rights. The specific objectives of the course were to present the role of the human rights local monitor and to provide the tools necessary for monitoring the observance of human rights in Roma communities.

Topics such as international legislation and national tools for protecting human rights and combating discrimination, documentation and monitoring of human rights violation cases in Roma communities. Following the training, several participants were selected to work as human rights local monitors of Romani CRISS.

From 13th to 16th of April and 16th to 19th of April, Romani CRISS and the Institute for Public Policies organised the “*Advocating through proper mechanisms for a more accountable representation of Roma interests in the Parliament*” training course. The training targeted the representatives of Roma nongovernmental organisations, Roma activists and young people who are involved in promoting the Roma minority’s interest in Romania. The main addressed topics were: structure and functioning of the Parliament, relation of the Parliament with the civil society, Parliamentary procedure, nominal vote procedure, uninominal vote. The training was organised within the project with the same title, financed by Balkan Trust for Democracy.

Obtained results:

- 141 people trained as health mediators;
- 95 health mediators beneficiary of continuous training courses;
- 20 Roma activists trained in the field of human rights;
- 40 Roma activists trained on advocacy methods for an accountable representation of Roma interests in the Parliament;
- 7 physicians trained on cultural diversity and improvement of relationship with the Roma community and the health mediators.

Debates

In 2008, Romani CRISS continued the series of debates with young people on human rights issues. If last year the debates addressed to university students, this year the high school students were the main participants. The debate activity benefited from the experience of ARDOR – Romanian Association for Debates, Oratory and Rhetoric, Romani CRISS’ partner.

Why debates? The capacity of the participants to analyse the debated topics is developed through the confronting of pro and against arguments and the prior documentation process helps to eliminating prejudices and stereotypes. In a debate, the participants must use arguments supported by proofs, not opinions.

Some of the motions debated by the students were: “Affirmative measures in education for Roma people in Romania are justified”, “HIV/AIDS infected employees must communicate their medical condition to the employers”, “Xenophobic discourses should be censored”, “Civil marriage between people of the same sex are justified”, “Elimination of religious symbols in schools is justified”, “The Romanian Orthodox church should acknowledge the Roma slavery”, “Romanian State should increase the incentives package for companies that hire disabled people”.

The debates will continue in 2009, too.

Obtained results:

- 1500 high school students participant in debates on human rights topics
- 25 young people participant to an essay contest on human rights topics.

The activities were financed by Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe

III. Reports, studies, researches

National level

Order no. 1540/19.07.2007 on banning school segregation of Roma children is not being implemented – Research report

During the past year, Romani CRISS aimed at monitoring how Order 1540/2007 was implemented, in terms of forming the 1st and 5th grades and drafting an alternative report regarding the implementation of Order's stipulations.

The study was done based on the collected data corresponding to school year 2007-2008.

The sample includes a number of 134 schools in 9 counties of Romania (Alba, Botosani, Brasov, Dolj, Galati, Hunedoara, Iasi, Neamt and Salaj), and Bucharest. In terms of location, the schools were distributed in a balanced manner: 65 school units in urban area and 67 schools in rural area.

The conclusions of the study are worrying:

- ✓ Either the entire school staff or some of the teaching staff, including school principals do not know about Order 1540/ 19.07.2007.
- ✓ Order 1540/September 19th/2007 is not applied in 50% from the total number of schools in the sample, school segregation of Roma pupils being present in these schools at the level of the 1st and/or 5th grades.
- ✓ For most of the segregated schools the isolation of Roma communities is not the cause for the situation of Roma school segregation.
- ✓ 87% of the segregated schools don't have school transportation.
- ✓ In 18% of the segregated schools there is no running water inside the school. 57% of the segregated schools don't have central heating. 56% of the segregated schools don't have any specialized laboratories. In 87% of the segregated schools there are no medical cabinets. In 37% of the segregated schools there is no school library. The condition of the furniture is unsatisfying in half of the segregated schools.
- ✓ In 67.5% of the segregated schools we could find phenomena of unskilled teachers and commuting. In 97% of the schools with segregated classes the presence of staff fluctuation during the last school year is signaled.
- ✓ In the segregated schools every fifth teacher is unskilled, and in the schools with segregated classes of Roma every seventh teacher is unskilled. In the segregated schools 57% of the teachers are commuters.
- ✓ Every third teacher in the segregated schools and every fifth teacher in the schools with segregated classes has changed his/her work place during the last school year.
- ✓ The rate of success of Roma pupils in segregated schools at the capacity exam in the last school year was 14%. In 28% of the segregated schools the rate of success at the capacity exam was 0%.
- ✓ The only type of school competition attended by Roma pupils in the segregated schools or in the schools with segregated classes is the Romani language Olympics.

The distribution criteria of Roma pupils into classes, criteria which lead to segregation, are the following:

- Parents' and/or pupils' preference
- Pupils' school performance
- Prior attendance to kindergarten
- School tests / evaluation tests
- Pupils' non-promotion to the upper grade and the moment of enlistment
- in school
- Distribution depending on the pupil's residence
- Distribution depending on the family name

The report was realised with the support of UNICEF Romania.

Report: „Need for quality and equality in education”. Interculturality – constant activity for Romani CRISS

Starting from the experience of projects developed in the field of education since 1997, Romani CRISS considers that the preschool education should be priority in the strategy to increase the quality of education for the Roma minority group, in terms of preventing school dropout and of combating the segregation and discrimination tendencies and actions. Pre-school education is the phase when basic competencies to integrate in the schooling system is acquired, but also when incipient forms of decrease of motivation of children (and parents) for continuing the studies, for accepting the education as a valuable criterion to society, as argument for social assertion.

This is the basis of Romani CRISS' elaboration of “Need for quality and equality in education” project in 2006. During the implementation period the initial objectives were more clearly understood and tailored so that additional activities were included. School information and counselling offices were established, summer and intercultural kindergartens were organised, roundtables attended by public key actors.

In the last part of the project, the efforts focused on intercultural activities to stimulate communication, mutual acceptance, development and diversification of cultural exchange channels. To this end, partnerships were signed with kindergartens located in mix population areas, more or less affected by segregation; the kindergartens were provided materials and necessary assistance to organise intercultural activities.

The conclusions of coordinators at local level to such activities pointed out the positive effects upon integration of Roma children in the schooling system and upon the mentality of the non-Roma children. In addition, involvement of parents in these activities contribute significantly to changing mentalities, eliminating suspicions and breaking down stereotypes of attitude.

Other intercultural activities consisted in setting up intercultural camps (4 of them) attended by 210 Roma, Romanian, Hungarian and German ethnic teenagers – graduates of middle school and future high school students.

The report was drafted with the financial support of Roma Education Fund.

Report: “Early marriages in Roma communities: state of law, cultural autonomy, individual rights”

First of all, the report aims at representing a working tool and a starting point for discussion on this issue. It presents the concept of “early marriage” and describes the current context where this phenomenon is addressed, the past and current approaches of mass media to this subject and then continues with national and international legislation in the field and presentation of case studies of early marriage.

Romani CRISS intent with this report that completes and continues other already publicised report, is to take a step forward in discussing upon the early marriages in Roma communities in Romania.

On one had the report collected relevant information on the issue (definitions, legislative aspects and responsibility of various actors) and, on the other hand, it tried to create a framework for a first “taking notice” of the conflict of values between the state of law, cultural autonomy and individual autonomy, individual rights (women's and children's).

The report was discussed upon during a roundtable. Representatives of Roma and non-Roma NGOs all over the country, their partners and well-known figures of Roma civil society attended the meeting. The purpose was to identify possible solutions to cease/ prevent such practices, to get recommendations from participants in order to improve the report and to agree upon joint principles of intervention in such cases.

Both the report and the debates (whose conclusions were included in the final form of the report) were considered necessary as proper information and formal discussion lack in connection to this phenomenon.

Other informative materials distributed in communities:

- SASTIPEN magazine - in 2008, Romani CRISS' department on access to health published thee issues of Sastipen magazine addressed to health mediators (2400 copies); magazine no.2 was focused on the Occupational Standard of the Health mediator approved by the National Council for Adult Professional Training in December 2007. The magazine was done with the financial support of CCFD and Ministry of External Affairs – France

- 500 brochures “Right to health: *Does it affect me, too? Why should I know my rights? How do I know if I’ve been discriminated against?*”
- 2000 information brochures on affirmative measures in education for the Roma
- 1600 brochures on importance of identity papers
- 9600 flyers on importance of identity papers.

International level

Report submitted to the Human Rights Council – Universal Periodic Review (2005-2007)

In February 2008, Romani CRISS submitted to the UN Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review (Romania 2005-2007), a report on the situation of Roma rights in Romania.

It includes a short presentation of the general framework in Romania on antidiscrimination and succinct presentations in terms of administration of justice, abuse of law enforcement officials, use of disproportionate/excessive force in Roma communities and use of firearms (including the cases of torture and violence), mechanisms to ensure impunity for the perpetrators, access to education, health and housing and hate speech. In the report Romani CRISS stipulated the number of human rights violation cases documented by the organization, as well as recommendations.

The UN Human Rights Council included the NGOs in Romania’s recommendations related to prevention and sanctioning of all forms of abuse by law enforcement officials against Roma, especially of abuse by police in Roma communities.

The following member states: China, United Kingdom, Andola, France, Ireland, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Filipine, Germany, Japan, Chile, Nederland, Brazil, Canada, Algeria, Tunisia mentioned problems in regard to Roma’s access to education, housing, labor market and health care services.

Report to UN Romani CRISS and Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE)

In partnership with the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), Romani CRISS submitted to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights a report concerning cases of eviction and forced evictions that lead to racial segregation in a number of localities in Romania.

The two organizations expressed their concern that the foregoing cases indicate a pattern and practice of forced eviction and threatened forced eviction of Roma and urge that authorities act to resolve the cases summarized in the document in a manner consistent with the highest degree of respect for the fundamental human rights of the persons concerned. In addition, the submitting organizations urge that any and all necessary amendments to domestic law and/or policy necessary to ensure the end of the pattern of human rights abuses described above, be swiftly undertaken.

Documentation report: *Securitate a la Italiana*

Romani CRISS, Open Society Institute, the Center on Housing Rights and Evictions, the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) and the Roma Civic Alliance in Romania undertook first-hand human rights documentation in Italy in response to recent political and legal developments and the most recent wave of racism and xenophobia against Roma in Italy. The team conducted interviews with approximately 100 Romani individuals living in formal and informal Romani camps in Rome, Naples, Florence, Brescia, Milan and Torino.

The report resulting for the visit “Security a la Italiana” Fingerprinting, extreme violence and harassment of Roma in Italy” includes information and analysis about the implications of Romani migration within the EU, changes in Italy’s political climate since the April 2008 elections, legal and policy developments targeting Roma under the new government, increased levels of police abuse and ill-treatment of Roma and the failure of the Italian government to condemn and prosecute extreme acts of violence and discrimination against Roma by non-state actors.

Hate Crime Report OSCE

In the context of OSCE – Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights elaborates the updated version of *"Hate Crimes in the OSCE Region: Incidents and Responses"*, Romani CRISS contributed by providing information regarding race motivated crimes identified in Romania in 2007.

Romani CRISS expressed its concern about the hate speech/ racial public discourse and mentioned the cases of Traian Basescu (President of Romania), Vasile Dancu (Member of the Parliament), and Calin Popescu Tariceanu (Prime-Minister). Other detailed subjects were the hate speech in mass media, racist attitudes in the on-line environment, as well as law enforcement officials' cases of abuse.

The documenting visit regarding the situation of Romanian Roma immigrants in France

The documenting visit regarding the situation of Romanian Roma immigrants in France, especially in Paris outskirts, took place from 25th of March till 4th of April, with the support of Catholic Committee against Famish and for Development (CCFD).

Its main objective was to carry out an independent documentation of observance of right to free movement, as protected by the community and international law, as well as of local authorities' efforts for social inclusion of Roma in Romania on French territory. This activity may be useful to various social actors in Romania and France and to European institutions.

The documentation continued Romani CRISS' preoccupation with immigration and right to free movement of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity in France, as well as their repatriation. In this context, Romani CRISS had a series of initiatives of which we remind:

- Documentation of Roma repatriation from Germany to Romania, as result to the bilateral repatriation agreement between Romanian and German governments (1993);
- Documentation of Roma repatriation from Poland to Romania resulting in the *"Asylum seeking and its alternatives: case of Roma, Romanian citizens in Poland"*, report, 1999-2000;
- Documentation of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity repatriation from Switzerland to Romania based on the readmission agreement between Romania and Switzerland and Romanian Government's Ordinances no. 112/ 2001 and 119/2002, that resulted in the *"Situation of Romanian citizens in other states: case of Roma people repatriated from Switzerland"* report, 2002;
- *"Case of Romanian citizens in other states: case of Roma in France"* – report of the Roma organizations in Romania delegation (Romani CRISS and Aven Amentza) regarding the monitoring of camps in Ille de France – Paris, Lyon and outskirts, 2003.
- Documentation of unattended minors on other states territory and organization of a debate on the same topic, that resulted in the report *"Protection of unattended minors, Romanian citizens in other states"*, 2005-2006
- Documentation of the situation of camps in Italy where Roma from Romania live, that resulted in the report *"Security a la Italiana" Fingerprinting, extreme violence and harassment of Roma in Italy"*, 2008.

Report: *Black book of discrimination on the labour market in Romania*

Romani CRISS is the partner of the Urban and Regional Sociology Center – CURS, along with the National Institute of Scientific Research in the Field of Labour and Social Protection, Bucharest and Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi within "Discrimination, discouraging and disfavoursing on the labour market. Implications upon use and development of human capital in Romania" project which will end in 2010.

Within this project, Romani CRISS will elaborate the *"Black book of discrimination on the labour market"* report that shall include analysis of conceptual framework, study cases of people subjected to discrimination in employment, such as unemployed and economically inactive people that come from underprivileged groups, identification of best practices to prevent and combat discrimination in employment, at international level, analysis of institutional framework of preventing, control and combat acts of discrimination, selection of occupations and contents analysis of employment ads in central and local press.

IV. Lobby. Cooperation

Review of Order 619/2002 regarding the functioning of the health mediators

In 2008, a number of 6 meetings of the Roma Ministerial Commission of Ministry of Health took place, with the participation of Romani CRISS, which is permanent member. The organisation also tried to have the members of the regional centres of supporting and monitoring the health mediators present to each meeting.

At the 15 of February meeting, Romani CRISS, in partnership with the 8 regional centres (local Roma organizations), proposed the review of Order 619/2002 regarding the functioning of the health mediators. The main changes in the document, made in consultation with the Ministry of Public Health, in the new version of the Order, are:

- modification of the mediators' labour contract from a determined period of time to unlimited period of time
- modification of the selection process of the health mediators, as per the requested standards
- correlation of the Order's language with the occupational standard for health mediators, approved by the National Council for Adult Professional Training (NCAPT)
- introduction of methodological annexes as tools to apply provisions of Order 619/2002.

The Ministerial Commission announced that all modifications proposed by Romani CRISS would be subject of public debate on the Ministry's webpage and of consultation by different services within the institution. The only modification not accepted within the Commission was the changing of the health mediators' labor contract period to undetermined period of time.

The new training curriculum of the health mediator was first enforced in the Iasi training course . The changes include duration of the course (which now is of 3.5 days), new sessions (human rights, basic notions on discrimination, tolerance for cultural diversity among the Roma people).

Aside from the modifications, it was also proposed the elaboration and adoption of a plan of measures for the Ministry of Health to intervene in Roma communities in Romania, according to the Strategy for the Improvement of Roma condition in Romania (HG 430/2001).

The Agreement between the Ministry of Health, OSCE/ODIHR – CPRSI and Romani CRISS regarding the Roma communities' access to health services was extended

In May 2008, Romani CRISS initiated the process of prolonging the Agreement between the Ministry of Health, OSCE/ODIHR – Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and Romani CRISS regarding the access of Roma communities to public health services in Romania.

In July the Agreement established initially in 2001 and then in 2005, was signed and prolonged until 2010, thus resealing the collaboration relations between the three bodies with the purpose of improving the Roma situation in the context of the national policies for Roma and European recommendations.

Romani CRISS continues to underline the necessity of a desegregated education system

Romani CRISS organized the “*School desegregation – an important factor in increasing the quality of education*” roundtable on July 21st 2008, in Bucharest. The purpose of the meeting was to consult the Roma organizations in regard to the school segregation phenomenon and to find a common approach of desegregation modalities.

The meeting was attended by Roma and non-Roma nongovernmental organizations which activate in the field of education or/ and human rights, representatives of the CNCND, UNICEF, the Culture Center of Roma, Roma Education Fund, counsellors within the Information and Counselling Offices, human rights local monitors.

The meeting aimed at being the first in a series of discussions upon school desegregation as means to improve quality of education for Roma children. Because there is the need for coordinating the actions on school desegregation, the visions of all organisations involved in actions to improve quality of education for Roma children must be known.

The meeting was organised with the support of UNICEF Romania and Roma Education Fund, Budapest.

In brief:

- The health mediation system is now implemented in Ukraine too. Romani CRISS received the visit of the Ministry of Health's delegation from Ukraine. Kiev - Romani CRISS participated at the conference of launching the health mediation program in Ukraine. Odessa – Two trainers of Romani CRISS network participated at the first training course of health mediators in Ukraine
- Lyon – „Condition of Roma people in Europe”. The participation to the Lyon conference included the presentation of a document with information about the Roma population in Romania, the situation of the communities in terms of health, education, employment, etc.

V. Networks and partnerships

Romani CRISS network of Regional centres for supporting and monitoring the health mediators' activity

In 2008, Romani CRISS continued the activities aimed at strengthening the networks. Thus, the Access to Health Department organised two meetings of the regional centres for supporting and monitoring the health mediators' activity.

The first meeting of the centres took place in May 2008. The agenda focused on two topics: closing of contracts on 2008 and methodology of monitoring and supporting the health mediators' activity.

The second meeting was held in November. The representatives of the organisations responsible with monitoring and supporting the health mediators had two days to discuss about the situation of the health mediators in counties for which they were responsible and about the decentralising process that already started and shall affect the entire health care system, including the health mediators. An advocacy plan regarding the “Decentralising of the health mediation system in Romania” was elaborated, aiming at identifying solutions for problems in this regard.

The Romani CRISS regional centres of monitoring the activity of the health mediators were actively involved in organising the basic and continuous training courses for the health mediators and the roundtables with local authorities and health mediators' working partners.

During year 2008, the centres participated in the monthly meetings of the Roma health mediators with the coordinator of the Public Health Directorate (PHD).

Awards for the health mediators

For the second year in a row, Romani CRISS recognised the work of the health mediators through awards and diplomas. These were granted out of the organisation's own resources.

This year the categories were: “The most involved mediator”, “Defending human rights Award”, “The most opened to collaboration PHD”, “The most unreliable health mediator” and “The youngest health mediator role model”. The regional centres made the nominations for the awards, based on their monitoring of the mediators' activity in the field.

Romani CRISS wants to create a tradition of these awards and will continue to award the mediators every year.

The “Evaluation of the health mediation program” working group (September – December)

Starting with September 2008, Romani CRISS hosted the “Evaluation of the health mediation program” working group. This group’s meetings took place once a month until December 2008 and were attended by a series of relevant actors experienced in the implementation and evaluation of the program.

The objectives of the working group are:

- to analyse the health mediation program with focus on what the health mediator is, in the present, compared to the initial planning of 1996-1997;
- To elaborate an evaluation methodology for action projects in Roma communities, starting from the health mediator;
- To clarify the interests of various actors involved in the program implementation;
- To carry out a critic analyse of the contents of manuals for the health mediators, focused on the cultural and family planning dimensions;
- To evaluate, quantitatively the impact of the health mediators’ work upon the health condition of the Roma communities;
- To evaluate the cooperation agreement between the Ministry of Health, OSCE/ODIHR – Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues and Romani CRISS;
- To elaborate a policy document in the field of Roma communities’ access to health, document useful both to the State institutions and the NGOs.

At the end of 2008, on behalf of the working group for the evaluation of the health mediation, Romani CRISS sent a letter to Freudenberg organisation, Weinheim in Germania, requesting the presence of Mrs. Pia Gerber (the deputy director of the organisation) in view of organising a training regarding evaluation methods for the members of the working group. The objective of the training would be: how to do program self-evaluation, how to do organisational audit of the program and to acquire capacity to perform an audit at level of Ministry of Health on the health mediation program.

Romani CRISS network of human rights local monitors

In 2002, a monitoring network for combating discrimination against the Roma people has been set up, for the first time in Romani. The initiative was taken by Romani CRISS organisation. The network is one of its kind in Europe and, at present, it includes the following organisations Sanse Egale, Romii in Europa, TRUST, O Del Amenca, Romii Romascani.

After three years of functioning and development of the monitors’ skills in terms of using the domestic and international legal system, Romani CRISS focused on documenting cases of discrimination, abuse or violence in specific fields of actions, such as education, housing and health.

In 2008, Romani CRISS aimed at extending the network by forming a group of Roma activists in the field of human rights and the human rights local monitor’s activity. The training was also attended by three young persons who work at the National Roma Center in Republic of Moldova.

One of the roles of the human rights local monitor is to identify and document cases of discrimination.

ENAR Romania network - Romani CRISS- National Coordination

ENAR - European Network against Racism is an EU-wide network of more than 600 organizations working to combat racism in all the EU member states and acts as the voice of the anti-racist movement in Europe. ENAR is determined to fight racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and

related intolerance, to promote equality of treatment between European Union citizens and third country nationals, and to link local/regional/national initiatives with European Union initiatives. Since May 2008, Romani CRISS ensures, for a 3-year-period, the secretariat of ENAR Romania network, representing the National Coordination. A member of Romani CRISS was designated as Board member by ENAR Romania, whom they represent at European level.

Romanian women lobby network

Romani CRISS is member of the European Women's Lobby, a network of organisations that militate for equal opportunities between women and men. Additional information is available at: www.dearnetwork.ro, www.womenlobby.org.

Antidiscrimination network

Romani CRISS is part of the Antidiscrimination Informal Group formed of the following organisations: Centre for Legal Resources, Pro Europa League, Public Policies Institute, APADOR CH, Open Society Foundation, and Centre Partnership for Equality.

VI. Campaigns/ Voluntary activism

National

Debates with high school students. Are there magical incantations for combating discrimination?

Is there any recipe for a project to produce a reaction against discrimination and racism? Is there any solution to imagine yourself in front of a sidewalk that you cannot climb, in a classroom where you are placed in back or when you are denied employment due to a sexual orientation other than of the majority? There are no incantations and simple solutions, but all attempts are better than indifference, than rejection of problems or fake tolerance.

In 2008, Romani CRISS, in partnership with the Romanian Association for Debates, Oratory and Rhetoric organised 30 public debates in high schools across the country, a series of 6 regional debate championship and 1 national debate competition on issues of non-discrimination focused on Roma minority, HIV infection/ AIDS, LGBT community, freedom of expression, etc.

In the debate competitions, two teams "confront" with for and against arguments, on issues that medium informed people may have different opinions. A jury decides the winning team based on their better documentation, power of persuasion and determination.

Over 1500 people were involved in the debates activity, and the public had access to an online campaign for raising awareness about discrimination, posted on sites frequently accessed by young people.

DiversiFest

DiversiFest

What was DiversiFest? An event whose idea started from the recent statistic data about the public opinion in regard to minorities in Romania: according to the Public Opinion Poll of October 2007 by Soros Foundation, Romania, half of the Romanian population doesn't want neighbours of Roma ethnicity and "the percentage of people who include the gay in the category of undesirable neighbours (60%) is similar to those of people who wouldn't want alcoholic neighbours (67%) or drug addicts (72%). It is also surprising the large number of people which refer to the people with AIDS (42%)."

What did the DiversiFest aimed at? To invite people to know more, learn and think, hear and see together with and about minorities in Romania and/ or disadvantaged groups – Roma people, Jews, Hungarians, Albanese, Macedonians, refugees, LGBT community, people with HIV/ AIDS, disabled people, children, women. Everybody, Romani CRISS, ARDOR, and 27 organisations, institutions and embassies gathered for one day, in a park in Bucharest and attended live concerts of artists of Gloria, Sarmalele Reci, Amaro Del, Vita de Vie and Connect-R, each of them sending a message in favour of diversity and interculturality; an ad hoc library with materials about the minorities and disadvantaged groups in Romania; exhibition and parade of African clothing and accessories; folkloric dance; exhibition of photos and portraits; projection of photos, movies and clips on antidiscrimination and cultural diversity; graffiti contest; racism-meter.

The Racism-meter in the FDAD campaign

Romani CRISS brought the Racism-meter to Timisoara, as part of the campaign “For Diversity. Against Discrimination” initiated by the European Commission. The campaign included a caravan of antidiscrimination in 10 countries, including Romania, with two stops: Alba Iulia and Timisoara. As European citizens that we are we must undertake one of the most difficult operations, to get rid of racism. But an appropriate treatment requires a correct diagnosis. The citizens of Timisoara had the opportunity of testing their civic health with the racism-meter, as it happened with the inhabitants of Bucharest, Craiova and Brasov, last year.

For those suffering of “racial stress” the prescription recommended “Sunbaths for at least a week. The exposure to the sun light shall be done gradually... During the sunbath you must not think of work, home, family, children, football, and money. After one week look carefully to the contact zone between the tanned skin and the white skin, unseen by the sun and answer the question “What has one against the other?” The treatment adjacent to the prescription consisted in reading the brochure “We are Romanians. And them?” – a short history of Roma people in Romania and in using frequently various informative materials.

The European Week of Vaccination - 21-27 April 2008

Romani CRISS was part of the national working group that organised the European Vaccination Week. It’s the second year in a row for this event carried out within the partnership of the Ministry of Health through the public health institutes network, UNICEF, World Health Organisation, Centre for Preventing and Combating Infectious Diseases, Red Cross and Romani CRISS.

20th of February – Abolition of Roma people slavery in Romania

On 20th of February, the day that celebrates the abolition of Roma slavery in Romania, Roma Center “Amare Rromentza”, Roma Civic Alliance of Roma in Romania and Romani CRISS, organized the *Celebration of Roma Slavery Abolition*, at the Romanian Peasant Museum, with the financial support of Roma Education Fund – Budapest.

The first document attestation of the Roma slavery on Romanian territory dates back to October 3rd, 1385. At that date, the Dan Voda prince confirms the donation of “40 Gypsy family groups” to Vodita Monastery by the Vladislav prince. Five hundred years later, the successive abolition of Roma slavery starts in Romanian Principates.

20th of February marks the adoption of the last official document of this long and difficult process of emancipation of the Roma: on 10th of February 1856, “*The order to emancipate all Gypsies in the Tara Romaneasca Principate*” gives back the freedom of the last category of slaves - the ones owned by individuals and provides reparations for the former owners.

8th of April – International Roma Day. A young Roma sings with in Amaro Del band

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, Romani CRISS organized a series of events to underline the importance of the day. The idea of celebrating the International Roma Day took the shape of a common project Romani CRISS – Amaro Del by selecting a young Roma percussionist to sing together with Amaro Del in Romania. The young Roma played for the first time with the famous artists from Serbia at the inaugural concert of April 6th, in the enthusiastic applauds of the public: „*We think it’s better to sing with a future great musician*

from Romania. Thus we will contribute more actively to maintaining the Romani culture alive and to enrich it” says Branko, the band’s leader. The decision of the band represents a natural tribute to the cultural environment from which Amaro Del finds artistic inspiration.

On April 7th, Romani CRISS, with the support and participation of the Embassy of the United State of America in Bucharest, organized the traditional reception on the occasion of the International Roma Day. On this occasion, His Excellency, Mr. Nicholas F. Taubman, Ambassador of the United States declared: “*International Roma Day presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions of the Roma and to recognize the vibrant traditions of Roma culture. But this is also a time to reflect on the challenges that continue to affect the Roma community: discrimination, poverty and lack of adequate access to education and employment.*”

On the same occasion, Romani CRISS celebrated its 15th anniversary.

The 8th of April, celebrated through the selection of the young Roma, concerts with Amaro Del and the reception were promoted and made public by participation in 4 national TV shows, with high audience and reportage on the national television.

10th of December 2008

On December 10th, on the International Human Rights Day, Romani CRISS and his partners organised the “Bottom line of human rights situation in 2008” debate, continuing the similar initiatives of 2006 and 2007. The event was attended by representatives of nongovernmental organisations, public institutions (Ministry of Education, Research and Youth, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Interior), and journalists.

The conclusions of the meeting was that hard times wait ahead, regardless of the field in which the NGOs activate or their target group. If until now the pressure of Romania’s inclusion into the EU led to adoption of legislation favourable to antidiscrimination, the current situation in the countries already members for several years shows that the things worsened. The NGOs cannot afford a time of relaxation and the civil society should form a stronger coalition than in the present.

Campaigns –International

Protest of silence against Italy and Romania in regard to the Roma issue

Following the documentation report “Securitate a la Italiana” drawn up as result of a visit of 10 representatives of Roma and human rights organisations from European countries in May 2008, but especially in the context of the racist and xenophobic actions against Roma people in Italy and the reactions of the Romanian and Italian authorities in these cases, the Roma organisations in Romania protested in front of the Italian Embassy in Bucharest in June 3rd 2008. The action took place simultaneously with a protest of Roma organisations in Spain, in front of the Italian Embassy in Madrid.

The protest of silence was yet another modality to request the Italian government to end firmly the racist actions against Roma and to adopt comprehensive policies to combat xenophobia, racism and social exclusion. Representatives of various human rights organisations participated in the protest.

Protest letters to Italy and Romania in regard to the Roma issue

The protest of silence continued with other forms of protest: letters. Two of them are mentioned below:

June 2008 – Romani CRISS and other human rights organisations and people sent a letter of protest regarding the numerous extremist attacks against the Roma people on Italian soil and regarding the Romanian and Italian authorities’ lack of reaction in terms of condemning and sanctioning firmly the fascist origin actions and violent acts against the Roma. The letter was submitted to the Italian Embassy in Romania and sent to the Council of Europe, OSCE, UN, European Parliament, European Commission, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of Romanian Prime-Minister.

June 2008 – in the context of the press information about the involvement of the Red Cross organization in the Roma census in Italy, Romani CRISS sent a letter to the Italian Red Cross asking them not to get involved in the fingerprinting action and to condemn the Italian Internal Affairs Minister’s actions, bearing in mind the mandate of the Red Cross as humanitarian organization. The official answer of the organization was that they would

carry out a census in the camps regardless of the ethnicity or nationality of the camps' inhabitants, with the purpose to assess the health status, social condition and living conditions. In addition, the Red Cross underlined that the personal data they had collected were confidential and used solely by the Red Cross and that, in a period of tensions, the Italian Red Cross aims at acting as a "cultural mediator".

Leave your fingerprint – TV campaign

From 11th to 15th of June 2008, Realitatea TV station in partnership with Romani CRISS, the Media Monitoring Agency and the "Impreuna" Community Development Agency organized the campaign "Leave your fingerprint". The campaign aimed at carrying out a civic action to be joined by all citizens irrespective of ethnicity, which were invited to leave their fingerprint, thus to express their disagreement with the fingerprinting of nomads on Italian soil and to show solidarity with the nomads.

The purpose of the campaign was to sensitize the public opinion in regard to the situation of the Romanians and Roma, especially, the main group aimed by the Italian Government's measure, which was to fingerprint all nomad Roma from the Italian territory. In addition, the action had as purpose to obtain concrete reactions from the Romanian authorities towards this action of the Italian Government.

The campaign lasted 5 days and consisted in placing a wall in front of the National Theatre in Bucharest. The fingerprinting was carried out with the help of the promoters from the partner organizations. Realitatea TV broadcasted news daily from the "wall of reality", with several updates per day presented at the news and the shows. The viewers were invited to come to the wall and write a message on it about what they felt in regard to the Italian Government's decision to fingerprint the nomads. The fingerprints were collected also in Cluj and Brasov cities, not only Bucharest, with the support of Realitatea TV's local correspondents and of promoters from local nongovernmental organisations, as well as in Italy with the 3G cameras.

Besides the live broadcasts, the campaign was supported by well known people – politicians, artists, sportsmen.

Declaration of the Roma NGOs on the occasion of the Brussels EU Roma Summit

Over 70 organisations and individuals in European and North America supported the declaration of a group of Roma NGOs elaborated on the occasion of the EU Roma summit held in Brussels in September 2008.

The declaration starts from the consideration that the European Commission has created a precedent in blatant violation of European Union human rights standards and that the European Commission fails to fight against and firmly sanction the recent anti-Roma actions and by the decision of the Commission to consider that "Italian authorities in early August showed that no EU principles of human rights protection or non-discrimination were violated";

Through the declaration the signatory organizations asked the European Commission, succinctly, the following:

- 1) To adopt a Framework European Strategy on Roma at the level of EC
- 2) To establish a long term dedicated and funded coordination structure on Roma issues at the level of the European Commission capable to ensure the needed improved coherence and efficacy of its policies.
- 3) To develop an efficient monitoring mechanisms of the internal situation related to Roma in their countries of origin and ask the Member States and EU acceding countries to submit annual reports on the status of the implementation of the national policies towards Roma
- 4) To ensure that the European Statistical System will develop Community data relating to Roma people;
- 5) To support the development of a European academic network of Roma experts
- 6) To support Roma NGOs both at European and national/local level in order to monitor the implementation of policies, programs related to Roma
- 7) Critical situation of Roma Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees from Western Europe should be addressed by a Framework European Strategy on Roma

VII. Budget. Projects implemented and/ or initiated by Romani CRISS in 2008

The total of incomes of Romani CRISS in fiscal year 2008 was in amount of 2.068.439 lei, resulting from non-profitable activities and the realised expenses were in amount of 2.010.967 lei, used for non-profitable activities.

Out of the total received financing, Romani CRISS used a 12.14% to finance the partner organisations in the projects implemented in 2008.

The projects implemented by the organisation and the financing bodies for 2008 are presented in the table below.

Title of the project	Name of the financing body
Need for quality and equality in education	Roma Education Fund
Implementing human rights standards in Romania	Open Society Institute, Human rights and governance. Budapest
Monitoring the enforcement of the legislative framework in the field of school desegregation	UNICEF
Early marriages in Roma communities: state of law, cultural autonomy and individual rights (children, women)	UNICEF
Improvement of the health mediation system in Romania	CCFD France and the Ministry of External Affairs France
Institutional support	OSI - Roma Participation Program
„Advocating through proper mechanisms for a more accountable representation of Roma interests in the Parliament”	Balkan Trust for Democracy
Youth against discrimination	CEE TRUST
Health and Roma community, analysis of situation in Europe	Fundacion Secretariado Gitano (Project where Romani CRISS is partner)
National coordination in Romania of ENAR	ENAR
Acknowledgment of results of learning	Phare 2005/017-553.04.02.03.01.802 (Project where Romani CRISS is partner of ProVocatie)
Equal chances for Roma communities – Identity papers, a necessity	Phare RO 2005/017-553.01.01.49
Discrimination, discouragement and disfavouring on the labour market. Implications upon use and	National Centre of Programs Management – Research Directorate 9

development of human capital in Romania	(Project where Romani CRISS is partner of Centre of Urban and Regional Sociology)
Strategic vision for combating discrimination against Roma	Open Society Institute, Budapest –Human rights and governance

Annexes (financial situation for projects over 75000 USD):

Financial audit of project “Need for quality and equality in education”

Financial audit of “Improvement of health mediation system in Romania”

Financial audit of “Youth against discrimination”

Financial audit of “Equal chances for Roma communities – Identity papers, a necessity”

VIII. Partners

Sanse Egale Association, Zalau

“Generatia 2008” Association

Ketaness Association

“Impreuna” Community Association

Rhoma Heart-Illo Rrom Association, Brasov

Alianta Romilor din Galati Association

“ARTISRROMA” Cultural Association

“Speranta si Incredere” Association

AFER Association

ACCEPT Association

Anti-AIDS Romanian Association

Liga Albanezilor din Romania Association

Association of Macedonians in Romania

Roma Access Association

Roma in Europe Association

ProNobis Association

Civic Alliance of Roma in Romania

Community Association for Social Integration of the Roma, Sebes

ARDOR – Romanian Association for Debates, Oratory and Rhetorics

Active Watch – Media Monitoring Agencu

“Impreuna” Community Development Agency

ARCA – Romanian Forum for Refugees and Migrants

Embassy of United State of America in Bucharest

Embassy of Popular Republic of China in Bucharest

Council of Europe Information Office in Bucharest

CCFD – Catholic Committee against Famish and for Development

CNCD – National Council for Combatring Discrimination

Community Development Centre Neamt

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

Centre on Cirricular Development and Gender Studies FILIA

Centre Partnership for Equality

Legal Resource Centre

Roma Centre “Amare Rromentza”

Romanian National Council for Refugees

Federation of Nongovernmental Organisations for the Child Protection

Jewish Communities Federation in Romania

Fundacion Secretariado Gitano, Spain
"Ion Cioaba" Socio-Cultural Foundation of Roma
Gisti, France
Kindergarten no. 3 Bailesti
Kindergarten no.4 Bailesti
Kindergarten of middle school no. 13 Craiova
Kindergarten no. 35, sector 5, Bucharest
Jasmine Dellal
National Institute for Study of Holocaust "Elie Wiesel"
Public Policies Institute
Pro Europa League
Ministry of Education and Research and County School Inspectorates
Ministry of Health and Public Health Directorates
OSCE-ODIHR/ CPRSI
Observazione Italia
Refugee Women organisation in Romania
ENAR member organisations Romania
ACRR member organisations
Open Society Institute
UNICEF Romania
Radio Romania Actualitati
Middle School no.1 Rasnov
Middle School no.153 Bucuresti
Middle School no.1 Bailesti
Save the Children Romania
TRUST Craiova
UNHCR

Nr	County	Case	Case description	Stage
1	Suceava	Dolhasca	<p>On July 23rd, 2008, representatives of the Dolhasca Police and Suceava County Police searched the buildings inhabited by S.M. and T.M., in the village of Gulia, town of Dolhasca. The inhabitants were not presented with any document revealing a Court's decision for the search to be carried out, although they specifically required it. The persons involved claim that, during the search of the two buildings, they were physically and verbally aggressed. Thus, minor S.M., suffering of a disability affecting his sight, was slapped by the Inspector after giving a negative answer to the question whether he owned a mobile phone or not, and minor D.C. was treated harshly during a body search. During the search of the second building, a Police agent pointed his gun at minor S.M., threatening to shoot him if he did not enter the house. Subsequently, the inhabitants of the building were taken to the Police station to give statements. T.M was threatened and hit with the fist in order to declare what the Police representatives wanted. T.M. was spat and hit with the newspaper on the head during the discussions with Chief Inspector S.O.</p>	<p>Romani CRISS filed a penal complaint against Police representatives involved in the search. The Suceava Court of Appeal decided to forward the complaint to the Prosecutor's Office by the Suceava Court of Appeal, in view of beginning the penal investigation against the defendants for the alleged crimes of abuse on the job against interests of persons, provided by Art. 246 Penal Code (P.C.), and abusive behaviour, stated in Art. 250 P.C. The decision was contested to the court of last appeal – the High Court of Cassation and Justice.</p>

Cases identified and documented by Romani CRISS in 2008

2	Salaj	Zalau Gendarmerie abuse	<p>On March 1st, 2008, a conflict broke out between two groups of persons. After approximately 10 minutes, following a phone call, a team from the Salaj County Gendarmerie Inspectorate (CGI) arrived on the scene, consisting of three Gendarmes accompanied by one of the persons from the second group. A new conflict followed their arrival, both between the two groups and between the Gendarmes and the first group. In this altercation, P.C.M. from the first group was hit on the head with a bottle. Subsequently, the members of the first group were taken to the headquarters of the Salaj CGI to give statements. PC.M. declared that he was beaten until he passed out, and when he woke up he saw his friends crying, being beaten by Gendarmes. When he told them to leave them alone as they did not do anything, he was answered “Just wait, Gypsy, we’ll give you what’s coming to you!” He saw A.A. “beaten in the heap, they were sharing bats, fists and legs around, pounding mercilessly, until A.A. fainted and was covered in blood.” P.C.M., G.F. and R. were taken to the bathroom where they were beaten again with fists and legs in order to write the statements as dictated by Police agents.</p>	<p>Romani CRISS documented the case and contracted an attorney in order to file a penal complaint in the name of the victims to the Prosecutor’s Office. The Military Prosecutor’s Office by the Cluj Military Tribunal decided not to start the penal pursuit against the defendants. At present, the case is pending at the Military Prosecutor’s Office by the Bucharest Territorial Military Tribunal.</p>
3	Satu Mare	Police abuse against Hamza Stefan	<p>On May 23rd, 2008, H.S., aged 21 years, was woken up at 6.00 a.m. by two civilian dressed Police agents, who asked him “who is bold in the building”. After telling them that he did not know, he continued his sleep. After two hours, masked Police agents broke down his door and entered the apartment, hit him with the fists and bats, cuffed him and took him to the Police station. There he was beaten and fainted twice. As he refused to write a statement dictated by the Police, in which to take on the blame for committing a theft that night, he was beaten with an axe hammer and electrocuted three times. Eventually, after the treatment he received, he declared as dictated.</p>	<p>Romani CRISS contracted an attorney and will file a penal complaint to the Prosecutor’s Office.</p>

4	Salaj	Police abuse against a pregnant woman	<p>On February 14th, 2008, a Police unit consisting of two Police agents from the Crasna Police station, travelled to L.R.'s residence to inform her brother, L.C., aged 17 years, to come to the Police station accompanied by his parents, as we has suspected of a theft. They returned after 20-30 minutes and treated L.C. harshly. The scared teenager hid behind his sister and told Police agents that he would come to the Police station accompanied by his parents. The Police agents threatened to hit L.R. and said that they did not care that she was pregnant. The Police agents insulted them and called them "dirty Gypsies". The same Police agent that threatened L.C.'s sister hit her with his knee in the right abdominal side, causing her a bleeding. After this hit she needed to urgently give birth through a Caesarean operation. Her younger brother, aged 7 years, mentally ill, witnessed the acts of the Police agents and had a hysteric seizure. The Police agent who hit L.R. went out into the yard, took out his gun and threatened to shoot all of them in the head. Postal worker L.K. saw the scene and told Police agents to leave them alone.</p>	<p>Romani CRISS documented the case and contracted an attorney in order to file a penal complaint in the name of the victims to the Prosecutor's Office. At present, the case is pending at the Prosecutor's Office by the Salaj Court.</p>
5	Satu Mare	Abuse by Police in Acas	<p>On July 4th, 2008, F.Z. had a conflict with his neighbour. Subsequently, a special forces team consisting of 8-10 persons arrived and physically abused both F.Z. and his wife and minor daughter. Following the physical aggressions by Police representatives, F.Z. was issued a legal-medical certificate recommending 40-45 days of medical care and his wife, three-months pregnant, was caused a bleeding.</p>	<p>Romani CRISS documented the case and contracted an attorney in order to file a penal complaint in the name of the victims to the Prosecutor's Office. A complaint was submitted to the Prosecutor's Office by the Satu Mare Court. The parties are to be heard by the penal pursuit organs.</p>
6	Sibiu	Sibiu Police abuse – fingerprinting	<p>On August 13th, 2008, a group of Roma from the locality of Blajel were taken to the Police station to be fingerprinted. There they were beaten by Police representatives: "We were beaten dastardly to the liver, in the chest and on the back of our heads, not to leave marks."</p>	<p>Romani CRISS addressed an official letter to central state institutions and asked for their official position. At present, the case is in the documenting stage.</p>

7	Giurgiu	Police abuse in Clejani	On August 16 th , 2008, in the commune of Clejani, the mother of a non-Roma girl, disturbed by her daughter's relationship with a Roma boy, appealed to the Police after her daughter decided to live together with her boyfriend. Being a minor, she gave a statement to the Police in the presence of both her mother and her boyfriend's family, as well as of the Deputy Mayor and police representatives, in order to express her consent for her decision. Subsequently, the mother complained to the Police that her daughter was being sequestered. Ten days later, Police and special forces representatives from the Giurgiu county entered the Roma family's house without presenting a search warrant. During the search they exercised acts of violence, fired rubber bullets injuring a child and used tear gas.	The Bucharest Court of Appeal admitted the Romani CRISS appeal and forwarded the case to the Prosecutor's Office by the Giurgiu Court to continue the investigations.
8	Brasov	Gendarmerie abuse in Garcin	On August 29 th , 2008, at 6.00 a.m., a Gendarmerie team consisting of 20-30 persons travelled to G. family's residence in the town of Sacele. The Gendarmes broke the windows and cut the tires of the car in the family courtyard, claiming it was stolen, although they subsequently received the documents of the car from its owner. During this action, the Gendarmes hit a minor with fists and legs, a 72 years old woman with a bat, who fell down and fainted, and the minor's mother. Before leaving the residence of the physically aggressed persons, the Gendarmes broke the windows of the house and pepper-sprayed the inside. The persons involved asked the Gendarmes what the reason for the action was, and they replied: "Shut up Gypsies... feel the power of the Romanian Gendarmerie".	At present, the case is in the documenting stage.
9	Gorj	Administration of Justice	In 2005, B.F., a Romanian citizen of Roma ethnicity, aged 25 years, was arrested in Italy for stealing and condemned to three months of imprisonment. In the letters to his father, the man complains that he is beaten and threatened by death to recognise a crime of murder.	Romani CRISS has supported B.F.'s family up to date, by addressing memoirs to institutions requesting information on the stage of the trial and the man's transfer to Romania, in case a definitive and irrevocable court decision is made.

11	Iasi	Access to health in Podul Illoaiei	<p>On May 18th, 2006, S.M. gave birth to a girl. After approximately two weeks, the baby started having fever, coughing and breathing with difficulty. S.M. took the baby to her family doctor, S.L., to be examined. The doctor said that she was healthy, that she coughed due to breast-feeding and breathed with difficulty due to systolic blow. That afternoon, S.M. took her baby by ambulance to the Sfanta Maria Hospital in the city of Iasi, as her condition got worse. At the hospital, the baby was diagnosed with Interstitial Pneumonia and hospitalized for five days to receive treatment.</p> <p>S.M. mentions that, since birth and until the Pneumonia was discovered, she has gone regularly to her family doctor, S.L., who kept telling her that the baby's condition was fine, although she was feeling gradually worse.</p> <p>At the end of March 2008, the child showed the same symptoms: fever, cough, heavy breathing. The family doctor put the diagnosis of "slightly inflamed throat", after which S.M. took her to a private clinic where the child was discovered with tonsil problems and pus in the throat.</p> <p>At around 10.00 p.m., after the child developed a fever of 40°C, she and S.M. were taken by ambulance to the Sfanta Maria Hospital, where they were committed over night in order for the child to be kept under observation and to be administered treatment.</p> <p>S.M. stated that family doctor S.L. had a cold, repulsive attitude towards Roma patients and that their examinations lasted 5-10 minutes, while she displayed a friendly attitude towards non-Roma patients and their examinations lasted at least 30 minutes.</p>	The case is in the documenting stage.
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12	Dolj	Family doctor's refusal to treat Roma patients	<p>A person of Roma ethnicity from the commune of Vartop took her HIV-infected daughter to the family doctor and asked her to give her a vaccine. The family doctor refused, arguing that she did not have enough serum. Only 15 patients are examined per day, based on order tickets given at the cabinet first thing in the morning. Except for the 15 tickets, no other patient is examined. The Roma are discontent of the doctor's schedule, of the fact that, in case of an emergency, there is nobody to examine/help them. The Roma claim that the doctor has very short working hours at the cabinet, that she misses for days and that, when she comes, she spends only 3-4 hours. Some of the Roma mentioned that they had to pay 3-4 Lei for each injection, when they needed this treatment. Several Roma in the locality say that, every time they go to the family doctor, they are treated superficially, hastily, and that the doctor examines them "when she feels like it".</p>	The case is in the documenting stage.
13	Gorj	Negligence on ethnic grounds	<p>Nine months pregnant V.B. was taken by the ambulance to the hospital to give birth. She was hospitalized for four days and, although she was in great pain, the medical staff did not find any way to relive it, arguing that it was still not the time for her to give birth. In the last day of hospitalization, the woman gave birth to a child who died ten minutes later. After less than one hour, V.B. died, too, on the hospital bed because of internal bleeding. The relatives consider that the medical staff have neglected V.B. Romani CRISS supported the victim's relatives in order to obtain V.B.'s medical record, a request refused by the hospital.</p>	Romani CRISS filed a penal complaint against the medical staff. At present, the case is pending at the Prosecutor's Office by the Gorj Court.

14	Brasov	Wall in the Roma community	In 2007, the Town Hall of the Tarlungeni locality built a fence surrounding a field and isolating the Roma community consisting of approximately 1100 persons, blocking the access way they traditionally used. Consequently, the Roma have to go around 1-1.5 km to get to the locality.	Romani CRISS sent an address to the Town Hall, requesting information on the construction of the wall. At present, the case is in the documenting stage.
15	Cluj	Mentioning the ethnicity in birth certificates	While accompanying a person from the community she works in order to obtain a birth certificate, the health mediator in Arghires found that the chief nurse who had filled in the document wrote “Gypsy” in the field for “nationality”, without asking the concerned person of the nationality. When the health mediator drew her attention, the nurse said that she assumed the responsibility for what she wrote.	The case is in the documenting stage.
16	Dolj	“Roma excluded”	The www.anunturigratuite.com website posted in 2008 two employment adds specifying the exclusion of Roma applicants.	Romani CRISS filed a complaint which is to be forwarded to the National Council for the Combat of Discrimination.
17	Brasov	Discrimination on the job	G.M. was employed at the City Hall. She declares that her work contract was cancelled before the expiration term due to the fact that she did not support the mayor who, subsequently, won the elections.	The case is in the documenting stage.
18	Mehedinti	Restriction of access to education	In the locality of Magheru in Mehedinti county, the kindergarten teacher has refused for several years to enlist two Roma children, arguing that they had mental problems. The case was reported on TV, after the reporters witnessed the teacher’s reaction who declared before the cameras that she couldn’t receive the two children, arguing several reasons.	Romani CRISS forwarded a complaint to the National Council for the Combat of Discrimination.