

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BULLETIN 3/2008

### 1. POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

#### **The Functions of the National Coordinator of the Decade of Roma Inclusion Recently Determined**

By a decision of 24.07.2008 the Bulgarian Council of Ministers appointed Mr Baki Hyuseinov as National Coordinator of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The decision also determined the functions of the National Coordinator: to represent the country in the sessions of the managing bodies of the Decade, to supply information from those sessions and other events to Bulgarian institutions, to coordinate the activities of the institutions of the executive in implementing the Action Plan on the Decade, to guarantee the participation of civil society in the implementation and monitoring of the Action Plan, to organise activities for strengthening the capacity of Roma organisations, to direct the process of drafting an updated Action Plan, etc. The activity of the National Coordinator is to be supported by a directorate or unit in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

[http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/160908\\_newsletter\\_7%20-%208\\_2008\\_bg.pdf](http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/160908_newsletter_7%20-%208_2008_bg.pdf) (in Bulgarian)

#### **New Call for Proposals on Educational Integration of Children and Youth from Ethnic Minorities**

The *Център за образователна интеграция на децата и учениците от етническите малцинства* [Centre for Educational Integration of Children and Youth from Ethnic Minorities] announced a new call for proposals and awarded funds under four programmes:

**Under Programme 1: Guaranteeing Equal Access to High-Quality Education for Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities**, the Centre supported projects of municipalities, regional educational directorates, kindergartens, schools, etc., directed towards assisting the process of de-segregation and subsequent integration, as well as projects, directed towards the adaptation of children and students, for whom Bulgarian is not the mother tongue, in kindergartens and primary schools. Projects may be implemented together with non-governmental organisations.

**Programme 2: Preservation and Development of the Cultural Identity of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities** supported projects by the same groups of beneficiaries for extracurricular activities for students and training activities for teachers on the subjects of the programme.

**Programme 3: Creating Opportunities for Successful Socialisation of Children and Youth from Ethnic Minorities** supported projects for attracting and retaining in schools students, who have dropped out, projects for extracurricular activities for students and training courses for teachers for socialisation of children and youth from ethnic minorities.

**Programme 4 Supporting the Process of Turning Cultural Diversity into a Source and Factor for Mutual Understanding and Spiritual Development of Youth and Creating an**

**Atmosphere of Mutual Respect, Tolerance and Understanding** supported, *inter alia*, projects for organising debates and discussions on the cultural diversity in Bulgaria.

<http://coiduem.mon.bg/?m=3&p=1> (in Bulgarian)

<http://coiduem.mon.bg/?m=3&p=5> (in Bulgarian)

**The New Framework Programme for Equality and Integration of Roma in Bulgarian Society under Broad Discussion**

The working group on the new Framework Programme for Equality and Integration of Roma in Bulgarian Society, formed in July 2008, worked actively on drafting the document. A number of proposals were submitted by non-governmental organisations to the *Национален съвет за сътрудничество по етническите и демографските въпроси* [National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Demographic Issues]. In the first half of October, public discussions on the draft were held in six Bulgarian towns with representatives of institutions, non-governmental organisations, formal and informal leaders of the Roma community. After these, the document will be discussed by the National Council and submitted to the Council of Ministers.

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=866> (in Bulgarian)

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=870> (in Bulgarian)

<http://www.nccedi.government.bg/page.php?category=73&id=871> (in Bulgarian)

## 2. LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS

### **A Journalist's Award Taken Away for Racist Articles**

Citizens and NGO activists collected signatures for the award of a journalist to be taken away for his racist articles and insisted that the award be taken away in the same public manner in which it was given in May 2008. The journalist, who had received the Chernorizetz Hrabar award in the category "young journalist", became famous for his articles, expressing an openly racist attitude towards the Roma community. The Union of Publishers, giving the award, at first refused to take it away, explaining that it is given for specific articles of an author and not for everything he/she had created, but ultimately agreed to rescind its decision and take the award away, claiming that it stood against the incitement of racial, religious, ethnic or sexual discrimination.

<http://netinfo.bg/?tid=40&oid=1233615> (in Bulgarian)

<http://rc.cega.bg/?id=84> (in Bulgarian)

### **Roma NGOs Trained in Communicating through the Media**

Training on communicating through the media was held for Roma NGOs from North Bulgaria in the town of Veliko Tarnovo. Twelve NGO representatives were trained for five days on how to communicate and convey messages through the media. The domestic and international lecturers presented examples, in which marginalised and discriminated communities managed to create fruitful communication with the media. Through interactive modules, the main tools for preparing press releases and rules for giving interviews in mass media were presented. Representatives of regional and national media shared their experience with the participants. Eleven of the 12 trainees were women.

[http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/160908\\_newsletter\\_7%20-%208\\_2008\\_bg.pdf](http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/160908_newsletter_7%20-%208_2008_bg.pdf) (in

Bulgarian)

### **The Educational Integration of Roma Children – Working Meetings around the Country**

The *Център Амалипе* [Amalipe Centre] and the *Институт 'Отворено общество'* [Open Society Institute] organised in July a national working meeting on educational integration under delegated school budgets. The number of Roma students, dropping out of school, the scarcity of budget funds in small schools and the problems of schools, who would integrate Roma children for the first time next school year, were among the main problems discussed. The 2007 Report of the Open Society Institute on equal access to quality education for Roma and its main recommendations were presented. The other issues discussed were the status of the programme for introducing an optional subject on the folklore of different ethnicities, as well as the effect that the introduction of delegated budgets and the re-structuring of the school network would have on the introduction of intercultural education. The participants agreed to propose to the ministries of education and finance to create a *Национална програма за подкрепа на*

*интеркултурното образование* [National Programme for Support of Intercultural Education] and to add to the allowance for students, given to each school, an additional component for the schools, implementing the *Стратегия за образователна интеграция на децата и учениците от етническите малцинства* [Strategy for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities]. After the working meetings, six smaller meetings were held throughout the country with teachers, school headmasters and educational officials on the issues of educational integration.

[http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/120808\\_Amalipe\\_education\\_special%20issue\\_bg.pdf](http://www.amalipe.com/files/bulletin/120808_Amalipe_education_special%20issue_bg.pdf) (in Bulgarian)

### 3. RESEARCH

#### **Hate Speech. Theory and Practice**

In September the book *Слово на омразата: теория и практика* [Hate Speech. Theory and Practice] by Rositza Stoykova came out. The book attempts to give an answer as to: what hate speech is – expression of opinion or action; what its main objectives and consequences are; how it works on a psychological level and how, from inner conviction, it turns into a role model and into action; whether it is present in Bulgarian media and, if yes, towards which minority groups; what the role of the elites is for its legitimation in the public discourse and how it is related to extreme right political parties; whether hate speech should be criminalised or protected as an expression of freedom of opinion; what the legislative mechanisms are for its decrease and which the most effective way for Bulgaria is. The book gives possible answers to those questions by presenting a variety of viewpoints and scholarly opinions.

<http://www.bgbook.dir.bg/book.php?ID=26213> (in Bulgarian)

#### 4. Official / unofficial statistical data

##### **Special Eurobarometer Survey on Discrimination in the European Union**

The Special Eurobarometer 296 survey was entitled 'Discrimination in the European Union: Perceptions, Experiences and Attitudes' and was carried out among 1,000 people in Bulgaria. According to the survey, 32 per cent of the respondents in Bulgaria think that the skin colour or the ethnic origin would put a candidate for job at a disadvantage compared to other candidates with equal skills and qualifications. At the same time, 76 per cent of the respondents are in favour of specific measures being adopted to provide equal opportunities in the field of employment for people depending on their ethnic origin; 61 per cent would support the monitoring of the composition of the work-force to evaluate the representation of people from ethnic minorities; and 73 per cent would support the monitoring of the recruitment procedures to ensure that candidates from ethnic minorities have the same chance of being selected for interview or hired as other candidates with similar skills and qualifications.

[http://ec.europa.eu/public\\_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs\\_296\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/ebs/ebs_296_en.pdf) (in English)

##### **Forty-three per cent of NGOs Work on Roma Issues**

Youth and the Roma community are among the main target groups of non-governmental organisations in Bulgaria, according a recent survey on non-governmental organisations, conducted by *Асоциация за подпомагане на икономическото развитие и европейската интеграция* [Association for Support of Economic Development and European Integration]. Forty-three per cent of organisations aim at working on Roma issues, while for the youth it is 41 per cent of the NGOs. Out of 27,000 registered organisations, a little more than 2,300 are active. Only 8.33 per cent work on international projects.

<http://rc.cega.bg/?id=84> (in Bulgarian)