

## **ROLE OF MASS MEDIA REGARDING CERTAIN SECURITY ASPECTS OF ROMA PEOPLE IN THE EU**

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**Abstract:**

*STEREOTYPE IS THE NUMBER ONE ENEMY OF THE ROMA PEOPLE'S IMAGE IN ALL SOURCES OF DAILY INFORMATION; MASS MEDIA DOES NOT DISREGARD THESE STEREOTYPES WHICH HAVE FORMED AROUND THIS PEOPLE WITH THEIR OWN VAGUE AND SOCIAL CULTURE, WITH BIG DEFICIENCIES THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO CORRECT. OFTEN THE CULTURE OF THE ROMA PEOPLE EVERYWHERE IS SOMEHOW TREATED AS A CURIOSITY OR AS AN ANOMALY OF THE CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY, AND THE MEDIA LEVERAGES THIS TO GET RATING POINTS WHILE MISSING A NOBLE PRIMORDIAL PURPOSE TO HELP THEM.*

*DUE TO MANY UNDESIRED FACTORS, YET PROMOTED BY CONTEMPORARY JOURNALISM, THIS OFTEN LEADS TO THE SOCIAL DOWNFALL OF MINORITIES BY ALTERING THEIR IMAGE AND MARGINALIZING THEM OR, ACCORDING TO HISTORY, ISOLATING THEM IN COLONIES AND DEPRIVING THEM EVEN OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.*

*MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, THE REACTION IS NEGATIVE AND UNWANTED, EXEMPLIFIED BY MASS IMMIGRATION OR HIGH CRIME RATE IN AREAS INHABITED BY THE ROMA PEOPLE.*

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**KEYWORDS:** EUROPEAN UNION, SECURITY, MINORITIES, MEDIA, ROMA PEOPLE

Somewhere between 10-12 million Roma people are currently living in Europe, a number greater than Austria's population; hundreds of thousands of them were exterminated by the Nazis, yet they are still the largest minority in Europe and the continent's most unwanted people. Roma people have been living on the European continent for about a millennium and yet they are still facing racial discrimination which has come to be perceived by them as routine, although they are excluded from different areas where the majority population is allowed to participate freely. There have been debates about the "bold" idea that racial discrimination against the Roma people has been fueled by their ongoing exclusion from educational programs, employment and insufficient development of the Roma people's social inclusion policies in these specific areas. "Ghettos" on the outskirts of European metropolises like Miskolc -Hungary<sup>1</sup>, Vidin - Bulgaria<sup>2</sup>, Rome<sup>3</sup>, Milan and Naples -

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<sup>1</sup><http://budapestbeacon.com/news-in-brief/demolition-miskolc-roma-ghetto-begins/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

Italy<sup>4</sup>(*and many more*) –areas which are often inadequate in terms of a living environment – are also considered a contributing factor to the dissemination of negative stereotypes regarding hygiene, attitude, character and activities of the Roma people. There is a need for consistency in waving a red flag at those responsible for the social development of the Roma community in each European country. *The difficult situation in which we find a large portion of the Roma people is due to their “fall” in the “poverty trap”, as described by Professor Cătălin Zamfir*<sup>5</sup>.

## 1. ISSUES OF THE ROMA MINORITY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION.

Over time, the assimilation of Roma population has been a process introduced into widespread use, a process adopted by countries that were facing the issues of Roma minority, as a saving solution to solve specific problems of this ethnic group, but it turned out it was not a viable form of assimilation or social integration that would ensure social standardization. Integration as a phenomenon in their case is seen as an action that aims primarily at preserving the cultural Roma identity, without renouncing the specific cultural heritage, under the conditions of an appropriate economic or socio-cultural inclusion that would provide real long-term solutions.

The solution of integration and assimilation of the Roma people into the economic system involves an active participation of the Roma population within the socio-cultural system, through training in a large share both in terms of education and health, but also an active participation in the social and political life. The exogenous perception of crime was carefully analyzed contextually as well as the crime's manifestation in Roma or predominantly Roma communities. The presence of this minority in the study area did not cause an insecurity due solely to this ethnic group; the study was carried out by extracting statistical data from the EU, from the National Statistical Institutes of EU member states, and from NGOs. However, poor living standards and social maladjustment is not resolved but only regulated, yet for various reasons these regulations regarding minorities are implemented only partially, if at all; several European countries had a desperate attempt to raise the entire minority to a new status through education and training programs which unfortunately did not have the expected result, *dropout and non-attendance risk is still significantly higher than the average of the entire population. Sometimes the peculiarities of the Roma population prevent their access to social benefits. For Roma groups, which show different degrees of nomadism, the welfare system is unable to provide any form of support*<sup>6</sup>.

## 2. INFORMATION HIGHWAY

A new territory with borders impenetrable by us until a few decades ago – hereinafter called the virtual environment or cyberspace (*not to be confused with “the Internet”*) – has taken a new form that requires every state, the European Union and the world to take action in order to regulate not only its security but also the strict monitoring of information that is carried by this new means of communication, or information highway. Although, currently, there are national, European and international laws with clear jurisdiction in this field, they

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.dw.de/bulgarian-roma-life-behind-the-wall/a-18365997>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>3</sup>[http://roma.repubblica.it/cronaca/2013/08/30/news/rom\\_in\\_150\\_scrivono\\_al\\_sindaco\\_marino\\_non\\_vogliamo\\_p\\_i\\_vivere\\_nei\\_campi-65551687/](http://roma.repubblica.it/cronaca/2013/08/30/news/rom_in_150_scrivono_al_sindaco_marino_non_vogliamo_p_i_vivere_nei_campi-65551687/), visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>4</sup><https://placesjournal.org/article/the-roma-of-rome-heirs-to-the-ghetto-system/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>5</sup>Janina Micu, „Integrarea socială a rromilor” (“The Social Integration of the Roma”), <http://www.etnosfera.ro/pdf/2009/1/02.pdf>, visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>6</sup>Cătălin Zamfir, Situația sărăciei în România – dimensiuni, surse, grupuri de risc (The Poverty Situation in Romania - Dimensions, Sources, Risk Groups), 2001, 10, [http://adatbank.transindex.ro/html/cim\\_pdf385.pdf](http://adatbank.transindex.ro/html/cim_pdf385.pdf), visited today, May 9, 2015.

are still interpretable because development in and through this virtual environment is constantly expanding with too many legal unknowns and loopholes. This expansion brings along a multitude of benefits without which some countries would be severely affected, at least economically, such as Estonia. For example, in order to make a point regarding this information increase, we can highlight the fact that along with the expansion of means of communication there was the inevitable reach of a dead end, namely the Internet could no longer support the number of users who wanted to have access to information; the maximum number of stations allowed and connected to such a network was technically too much for the communication protocols, being limited to 4.3 billion IPs. It is obvious that information increased exponentially which of course led to an increase in its flow due to higher demand and higher supply. In our case, without making a difference in the quantity/quality ratio of information regarding minorities, this information is abusively used as a tool to denigrate persons or minorities and scarcely used in order to promote culture, customs, language or other valuable aspects of minorities.

### 3. MASS MEDIA – IMPACT AGENT OR INFORMATION MANIPULATION.

Mass media plays a critical role in raising awareness regarding Roma people's problems and in highlighting primary factors that prevent the integration into society of Roma people.

Unfortunately, mass media does not have a clearly defined precinct at the EU level, because at the same time it acts both online and offline via cable TV or in writing through journals, magazines, newspapers or other daily sources of information addressing the various social classes or focusing on specific areas of interest. Having relied for some time on political nuance, journalism – the “*eyes and ears*” of the society – is as strongly developed as it is manipulative and rarely objective regarding truly vital information that should reach the internet user, reader, listener or viewer. Above freedom of expression there is one's security, a fundamental need that unfortunately is not practiced at its true necessity even by developed countries such as Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, France, Germany and Romania. Unfortunately this journalistic freedom of expression, most of the time translated bluntly by opinion formers, is not always true, too often causing social unrest, frustration and retaliation or even riots or terrorist attacks. No terrorist attacks have been imputed to the Roma minority yet, but the desperate situations of these people throughout Europe nowadays cannot exclude such a desperate behavior, even in the near future.

Mass media plays quite an important role in the integration of Roma people but unfortunately it is almost absent; instead of emphasizing the stringent problems of Roma communities or minorities in order to apply efficient state policies for their integration, as easy as possible, into the functional system of communities where they live, most of the time – so as to get a higher rating, to achieve an offbeat sensation or to create myths which would become themselves a source for other “*shocking*” prime time news or front page headlines, about the alleged negative “*innate*” characteristics of the Roma people – contemporary journalism and media will prefer to denigrate, oppress or label under these already famous pejorative, deprecatory titles: *gypsy, țigan, gitano, cikán*.

Roma stereotypes are inoculated into our minds precisely by irresponsible journalists of respectable media trusts (exactly through the obsessively and frequently used expressions to separate *us* from *them* or crime-related phrases like, *apparently a Roma offender*), these are some of the reasons why it is so difficult to fight against Roma discrimination in any spectrum of mass media. We bring to your attention a few news headlines from different parts of Europe that drew our attention regarding mass discrediting of this minority: *TheDailyBeast*

–*Roma Immigrants Have Set France on Edge*<sup>7</sup>, BBC News–*How Gypsy gangs use child thieves*<sup>8</sup>, *Corriere della sera* –*Via gli zingari, fanno scappare i turisti*<sup>9</sup>, *Gypsy Child Thieves*<sup>10</sup>, broadcasted in September 2009 on BBC 2, *The Secret Lives of Britain's Child Beggars*<sup>11</sup>, an ambiguous documentary aired on BBC 1 in October 2011, or other strong reactions of extremists who are not recognized by certain countries but, at the same time, they are active through acts of violence against the Roma people, and we are referring here to examples like the Hungarian Guard<sup>12</sup> which is a racist, paramilitary, extremist organization, and was officially disbanded by the Hungarian courts of law in December 2008 for activities that infringed the Roma's rights to freedom and security; there is irrefutable proof that this organization is still active and recruiting, this information having been taken and investigated by FXB Center for Health & Human Rights and Harvard School of Public Health, after which a report was filed with the results<sup>13</sup>.

#### 4. SOCIAL MEDIA– INFLUENCES ON THE ROMA POPULATION.

Illiteracy is one of the huge problems most of the Roma population faces, therefore written materials are not effective in transmitting information, the only channels of communication towards a Roma person are audio and visual ones (*radio and television*). Currently there are about 25 studios for recording, editing and broadcasting programs in the Romani language in Europe, without counting those of the NGOs focused on helping minorities and implicitly the Roma people. Among the most important non-governmental organizations cooperating with and supporting the spread of the Roma minority's culture, language and values in Europe we can mention the Open Society Institute<sup>14</sup> and Medienhilfe<sup>15</sup>.

Also, Internet access is available only to Roma elites because, as previously mentioned, the dropout and non-attendance risk makes its presence felt<sup>16</sup> therefore the use of devices with Internet access is very low, the economic factor stepping in here because both these devices and the access itself to Internet resources have a cost that most of them cannot afford for now. However, some web references<sup>17</sup> are found in the virtual environment about the activities of Roma communities<sup>18,19</sup> via websites run by educated Roma<sup>20</sup> as well as discussion forums<sup>21</sup> and private discussion groups<sup>22</sup> among historians, artists, collaborators

<sup>7</sup><http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2013/10/04/roma-immigrants-have-set-france-on-edge.html>, visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>8</sup><http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8226580.stm>, accesat astăzi 09.05.2015.

<sup>9</sup>[http://archiviostorico.corriere.it/1994/agosto/12/via\\_gli\\_zingari\\_fanno\\_scappare\\_co\\_0\\_9408125410.shtml](http://archiviostorico.corriere.it/1994/agosto/12/via_gli_zingari_fanno_scappare_co_0_9408125410.shtml), visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>10</sup>Sutcliffe T., “*Last Night's Television: This World – Gypsy Child Thieves, BBC2*”, The Independent, 3 September 2009, <http://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/reviews/last-nights-television-this-world-ndash-gypsy-child-thieves-bbc2-1780881.html>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>11</sup>*Irish Traveller Movement of Great Britain, News Release: ITMB press release ITMB lodge complaint with BBC re- garding the public lynching of the Travelling Communities*, 1 February 2012.

<sup>12</sup><http://www.gardamozgalom.org/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>13</sup>François-Xavier Bagnoud, *Accelerating Patterns of Anti-Roma Violence in Hungary*, Boston, 2008, [http://fxb.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/02/FXB-Hungary-Report\\_Released-February-4-2014.pdf](http://fxb.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2014/02/FXB-Hungary-Report_Released-February-4-2014.pdf), visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>14</sup><http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/>, visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>15</sup><http://www.medienhilfe.ch/index.php?id=1&L=1>, visited today, May 9, 2015.

<sup>16</sup><http://fra.europa.eu/DVS/DVT/roma.php>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>17</sup><http://rroma.org/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>18</sup><http://www.unionromani.org/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>19</sup><http://www.icfoundation.ro/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>20</sup><http://www.romanothan.ro/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>21</sup><http://www.romani-online.co.uk/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

and experts of the Roma language and culture worldwide. Although there is almost no direct presence of Roma minority, propaganda materials against them can be found on every social network. Unfortunately, underage youth are most affected by this, who surf the Internet and accumulate altered information followed by stigmatization and then by negative stereotypes deeply impregnated into the minds of future responsible citizens of the European Union.

One of the most dangerous games in which social media is involved is the game of promoting distorted images of the Roma life, their unwritten law, the customs and traditions of these people who have formed a tessellated identity due to originally being a migratory people, and we have no right to judge them in any way. However, mass media trusts are usually institutions informed by their own set of rules and criteria which are rarely aligned or related to the concerns and needs of minorities. In our attempt to tackle the issue of the responsibility and accountability of media in a broader perspective, we are bound to first provide a picture of the daily reality of Europe or why not international journalism.

National TV stations (*public and private*) hardly ever broadcast programs for the Roma minority, compared for example to the Hungarian minority in Romania, a country which is among the few to even have television channels exclusively in a minority's language.

Of course, local or national radio stations, public or private, have the same behavior as TV stations, let alone written press material where we can find a true cultural and informational phenomenon. But coming back to online broadcasters we would like to mention several examples of stations that are broadcasting right now, noting that they are not as professional as the properly budgeted national radio or TV stations, as follows:

- TV LORIAN ROMANI TELEVIZIJA-CH: <http://lorian-tv.beepworld.de/>
- TV SUTKA: <http://original.livestream.com/tvsutka>
- Radio PATRIN: [http://salto.nl/streamplayer/radio/wereldfm\\_live.asp](http://salto.nl/streamplayer/radio/wereldfm_live.asp)
- Radio ROMANO: <http://sverigesradio.se/sida/avsnitt/541706?programid=2122>

We can find reliable resources in terms of information integrity and authenticity on certain websites, too, where they endeavor to promote the image of the Roma everywhere, and they can be accessed from any Internet-connected device that has the ability to display text, audio and video files; references are few but the emphasis is on the quality of materials collected from all around the world, and two of them are:

- Mundi Romani website: <http://www.mundiromani.com/>
- Romea website: <http://www.romea.cz/en/>

In the same virtual environment, in the vast Internet we can find a relatively very small number of communication or discussion groups, public or closed, with the aid of well-known online social channels like Facebook (*RROMANI*, *Rromani Resistance*, *Limba romani*), Youtube (*Rroma Anthem*, *KALE DOR KAYIKO*, *GipsyRomanoTube*), Google+ (*Lumijakere Rroma*, *Romani Online*, *Romania Rromani Asociación*), Yahoo Groups ([https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Plan\\_of\\_Action/info](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Plan_of_Action/info), <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/rromcultureandethnicromans/info>)<sup>23</sup> and many others.

When we're talking about the Roma culture in fact we are also talking about the Roma music culture; the Roma minority totally identifies with the lyrics, images, acoustics and emotions conveyed through songs that are interpreted and displayed for us in the virtual environment in the form of audio moments or videoclips. The beauty of these songs is that even if one does not know their language, one can easily empathize with them while passively

<sup>22</sup>[https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Romanian\\_Roma/conversations/messages?messageStartId=2500&archiveSearch=true](https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Romanian_Roma/conversations/messages?messageStartId=2500&archiveSearch=true), , visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>23</sup>Note: *The names in parenthesis should remain exactly in this form in order to be found.*

participating by listening to these songs. Examples of their beloved music which can be found in the vast ocean of information are “Gelem gelem” (*We Keep Going – the international Roma anthem*<sup>24</sup>), Loli phabay (*The Red Apple*<sup>25</sup>) or Ederlezi (*Ederlezi=The Spring Festival*<sup>26</sup>).

We can also appreciate the fact that although it is of late, the Romani alphabet is young yet very well standardized with a well established and still deeply studied, excellent grammar, and in recent years this language has been present in the curricula of schools that have numerous minorities, but only in the education institutions of certain EU member states. A huge disadvantage is the fact that we cannot find a standardized set of characters (*font*) in the virtual environment for fluent writing in this language or online dictionaries and online translation engines such as those provided by Google Inc<sup>27</sup>. A good database with the Romani language vocabulary can be accessed on the ROMLEX website <http://romani.kfunigraz.ac.at/romlex/lex.xml> but for the keen and curious there are books, compendia, magazines, journals and research materials for the language, literature and culture of the Roma minority developed by language specialists of which we can recall Professor Dr. Gheorghe Sarău, Delia Grigore, Matéo Maximoff, Mehmed Merejan, Rajko Đurić, Ronald Lee, Louise Doughty and John Bunyan who wrote "The Pilgrim's Progress", a beautiful allegory of the Christian spiritual journey, between 1678 and 1679, considered a masterpiece of the English literature.

## 5. POSITION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Out of the 10-12 million Roma people who live in Europe, about 6 million live inside the EU area, where most of them have EU citizenship.

The European Union's position is quite clear, officially advocating for the inclusion of Roma people, and this attitude which can be seen in the *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS- Social and economic integration of the Roma people in Europe* in Brussels in 2010<sup>28</sup>, then continued during 2014 through a strict monitoring and steadfastness of programs for social integration/inclusion of Roma people in all the particularly deficient aspects of each country starting in 2011, highlighted in the *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS-Report on the implementation of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies* in Brussels in 2014<sup>29</sup>. Although slow but decisive, steps are being taken towards a uniformity of identity and a better social security of the Roma population inside the EU, the inclusion of this minority is not only the job of EU institutions, but each EU country should make it a common goal.

The European Commission adopted in 2011 a Communication to compel the drafting of national strategies for the inclusion of the Roma which particularize clear policies and measures to be taken, namely the *COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL*

<sup>24</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oj4yQlkjEDQ>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>25</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wM99NAKkc4Y>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>26</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ep1PSG2rwzc>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>27</sup><https://translate.google.com/>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>28</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52010DC0133>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>29</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1431242243493&uri=CELEX:52014SC0121>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

*COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS - An EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020* in Brussels in 2011<sup>30</sup>.

Therefore each EU Member State has created a Roma strategy or a set of integrated policy measures that have been assessed by the European Commission in a Communication adopted in 2012 through the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS - *National Roma Integration Strategies: a first step in the implementation of the EU Framework* in Brussels in 2012<sup>31</sup>. The European Council adopted a Recommendation on effective Roma integration measures in Member States on December 9, 2013<sup>32</sup>.

The assessment report published in 2013 through the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, COUNCIL, EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND COMMITTEE OF REGIONS - *Steps Forward in Implementing National Roma Integration Strategies* in Brussels in 2013<sup>33</sup> focused on the structural prerequisites necessary in each country. These annual reports (*which will be done until 2020*) contain information provided by each EU country, NGOs, international organizations and the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA<sup>34</sup>). As a result, the *Report on the implementation of the EU framework for National Roma Integration Strategies*<sup>35</sup> was drafted in 2014.

Within the *Europe 2020 Strategy*, in a COMMUNICATION OF THE EUROPE 2020 COMMISSION - *A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth*<sup>36</sup>, the European Commission highlights the fact that more efforts are necessary in order to ensure the inclusion of Roma people.

Something else to mention here is *the Roma Inclusion Decade*, a Pan-European initiative aiming to eradicate racial discrimination aimed at Roma people and initiate human development solutions that contribute significantly to the integration of Roma people in the societies in which they live.

*The participating countries putting forward this initiative are: Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The program runs from 2005 to 2015 and is expected to affect significant developments in the areas of education, employment, health and housing as a way of eliminating racial discrimination and bringing about Roma integration*<sup>37</sup>.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

The problems of the Roma people will certainly not disappear, but due to the culture differences between the Roma people and the communities in which they live, certain actions seem more than necessary in order to support the minorities: guidance and control activities, but also activities to increase the acceptance level of the foreign civil society that will assimilate them.

<sup>30</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0173>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>31</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0226>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>32</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32013H1224%2801%29>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>33</sup><http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0454>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>34</sup><http://fra.europa.eu/en>, visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>35</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma\\_implement\\_strategies2014\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_implement_strategies2014_en.pdf), visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>36</sup>[http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm), visited today, May 10, 2015.

<sup>37</sup>Nicolina Markidou, „*Media Coverage of Roma Issues*”, <http://www.advocacynet.org/>, visited today, May 9, 2015.

*Radio and television broadcasting programs in the Romani language* are way too expensive to be supported by organizations focused on helping minorities or by the Roma population itself. As financial support keeps diminishing, the Roma journalists say they are in a constant struggle with no assurance of success. The current trend is for these media studios to be taken over by other trusts or to merge with other studios in order to be able to offer a minimum of information at a regional, not national level, or ultimately to be forced to close down. This initiative to populate the information area with radio and television stations in the Romani language is not a viable solution for the promotion of services or products, therefore self-financing is almost impossible.

*The journalistic environment* must reach maturity; it is unacceptable that after so many years of experience regarding the Roma worldwide, both traditional journalists and those behind the monitors would not see beyond the stereotypes that they have created themselves, over time, for various obviously subjective reasons. One relevant suggestion would be that— before they put down their words in the final shape — the opinion formers should look deep into the problems or cases they are going to write about and then they should be thoroughly objective.

*Contemporary society* will not gain security in any area unless they find a balanced coexistence with the Roma people and other minorities. This harmony will not happen out of the blue, without hard work, therefore if not for our generation then for those ahead of us, we are obliged to do everything we can to solve this interpersonal and social problem.

*Minorities* of all types— but particularly the Roma — will have the difficult task of accepting to be modeled and adjusted for total assimilation within the population of EU member states. We are putting it so bluntly because nothing comes without a cost and typically those who ask are required to pay more; one should not delete or dilute the identity of minorities but those incidence points which prevent evolution towards a better and safer future must be removed or a consensus will not be reached, and history shows that the consequences of such a failure lead to greater frustration, followed by real crises that often can no longer be controlled.

*The European Union* and its entire system of government alongside Member States are more than required to mediate between minorities and the society they wish to blend in for equal rights and obligations. A filter that would synthesize and analyze information regarding minorities in the virtual environment would be more than welcome since most of the cases exhibited in the media are not thoroughly tested or are knowingly altered. It is necessary to have such a tool that would be in close contact with the legal jurisdiction of Member States and also European institutions - an instrument with a legal basis.



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