



# Dosta! Newsletter



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## Dosta!/Congress Prize for Municipalities



A new Dosta!-Congress Prize for Municipalities is being launched by the Dosta! campaign and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as part of their ongoing work to strengthen the role of local authorities in the field of Roma and minority rights' protection. The Dosta!-Congress

Prize will be awarded to three municipalities from the five participating South Eastern European countries whose creative and innovative initiatives most effectively ensure diversity in community life and the active democratic participation of the Roma.

The top three projects will receive the Dosta!/Congress award during a ceremony in Strasbourg, at the head-

quarters of the Council of Europe.

The **deadline** for submission of applications by participating municipalities is :

**20 July 2007**

For further information, including criteria for participation and application forms, please visit the Dosta! Campaign website:

[www.dosta.org](http://www.dosta.org)

## School and NGO Award: call for applications

The **School and NGO Awards** recognise creative and innovative initiatives of Schools and NGOs in the field of intercultural education, mutual understanding, tolerance and valorisation of Roma culture and history, to break down deep-rooted stereotypes and prejudices towards Roma.

The awards are open to schools and NGOs from the 5 Dosta! Campaign's participating countries which are running, in 2007, projects or initiatives that meet the Awards' criteria.

The submitted projects

or initiatives, both from Schools and NGOs, have to fulfill at least one of the following criteria in order to be pre-selected:

- Raising public awareness on Roma rights and culture, to fight against the stereotypes and prejudices toward Roma;
- Promoting diversity in schools;
- Raising media awareness on Roma issues
- Increasing access to education for Roma children in segregated settlements;
- Promoting intercultural

and interethnic understanding in schools.

Deadline for submitting applications:

**28 July 2007**

For more information and downloading the application form please visit:

[www.dosta.org](http://www.dosta.org)



## Breaking the cycle of Exclusion

The UNICEF Belgrade Office, the Secretariat for Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma and the Council of Europe launched in Belgrade UNICEF's report "Breaking the Cycle of Exclusion: Roma Children in South East Europe" and promoted the Council of Europe/European Commission's "Dosta!" campaign during a special event which took place on 16 May, 2007 at the Media Centre.

The «Breaking the Cycle of Exclusion: Roma Children in South East Europe » report calls for immediate action on social exclusion of children in middle income countries. It focuses especially on Roma children and

covers eight middle income states/entities in South East Europe which share similar characteristics: Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, « the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia (including Kosovo).

The report highlights the severity and the causes of exclusion of children. It identifies the most critical issues that,



if addressed properly in the short, medium and long term, can break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and exclusion and create a new cycle of development, opportunity and inclusion. Breaking the cycle of exclusion does also mean fighting against stereotypes and prejudices against Roma.

The fight against discrimination towards Roma is the main purpose of the Dosta! Campaign which is built around two main axes, one being the recognition of Roma as fully fledged citizens of European countries, and the other being the recognition of the contribution of Roma culture to European cultural heritage.

## Regional Media training on Roma culture and ethical reporting

The Dosta! campaign Regional media training took place in Belgrade, on 15-16 May 2007. It addressed persons involved in monitoring programmes/action plans, and media professionals.

The training focused on ethical communication and reporting, as well as on Roma cultural features and traditions.

Persons in charge of Roma issues (spokespersons) nominated at governmental level were trained by Council of Europe media experts on how to better inform journalists and the majority society about their valuable work, while journalists were trained to approach Roma issues, culture and traditions avoiding stereotyping information.

reotyping information.

The workshop's aims were to help governmental officials, local authorities, media professionals and Roma leaders improve their capacity to address journalists and the majority population about the needs for targeted action for Roma, as well as make Roma and the rest of the population aware of the benefits of these programmes and action plans.

An evaluation session at the end of the training confirmed that the participants had gained many new techniques from the training and were ready to put these into action immediately as part of their work at a national level or in the media. The training was also useful as a way of

building bridges between the different countries involved in the campaign.

It was also the occasion for enabling young Roma journalists to work together with non-Roma journalists and governmental representatives.

The media training was attended by the specific target group (spokespeople and journalists) as well as by colleagues from other international organisations (UNICEF, UNHCR, EC delegation). The Dosta! Campaign team thanks the trainers and the trainees and looks forward seeing new and different articles in the written press!

## Dosta! campaign stand at CoE Parliamentary Assembly

From 16-20 April the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held its meeting in Strasbourg.

An exhibition including the Dosta! campaign's photos and posters was organised at the Council of Europe

on that occasion.

National Delegations of Council of Europe Member States which are not targeted by the campaign had the opportunity to get in touch with its content and messages.



## Dosta! Campaign celebrate 8 of April

The regional Festival “**Art against stereotypes**” was organised by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the European Commission and the Minister of Tourism, Culture,



Youth and Sports of Albania on occasion of International Roma Day, the 8th of April. The Festival took place in Tirana (Albania) at the International Centre of Culture, from 5 to 7 April 2007.

The relevant Ministries of the Dosta! campaign participating countries, as well as Roma experts and artists, had been invited to participate in the Festival to represent their countries in Albania.

The **Opening ceremony** included the presence and speeches of the Minister of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sport of Albania, Mr. Ylli Vito Pango, of Mr. Slobodan Nagradic, Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr. Petar Ladjevic, Director of the Agency for Human and Minority Rights, Republic of Serbia.

The regional Festival included two round tables on “The role of Roma art, culture and identity towards integration and intercultural dialogue” and “The contribution of Roma culture to the European Cultural Heritage”. Roma experts, as well as the National Delegates

of the European Roma and Travellers Forum and the authorities concerned from the participating countries, intervened on these topics. On the second day, the Round Table was opened by Minister Fuad Nimani, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Montenegro. Photos, paintings/sculpture and handicrafts were exhibited and multimedia corners were also available for visitors.

On 5 and 6 April from 18:00 to 21:00 two artistic performances took place bringing together famous artists from South Eastern Europe like Muharem Serbezovski, Silvi Duo Band, Muharrem Tahiri and Hamza Tahirov, Muharrem Ahmeti, Tehemana, and Grupa Europa among others.

Special Thanks to the Dosta! campaign Media partners which reported extensively on the Festival.

To view the photo-gallery or for more information about the artists visit Dosta! Website.



## Statement by Terry Davis on the occasion of International Roma Day

Strasbourg, 08.04.2007



"Ignorance breeds fear, and fear breeds prejudice and intolerance. For centuries, Roma have been discriminated against because of their way of life and because they remain faithful to their traditions. For centuries, Europe has

been treating its Roma population unfairly, and has been depriving itself of the opportunity to understand and enjoy the full extent of its cultural richness, heritage and diversity. Through learning, tolerance and respect for Roma and their culture, we can make Europe a better place for all.

International Roma Day is an opportunity for Roma to express their pride in being Roma and for the rest of us to express our pride in having Roma in our midst."

The fight against prejudice and discrimination is a priority for the Council of Europe, which is currently conducting a campaign in South Eastern Europe with the slogan “Dosta – Go beyond prejudice, discover the Roma!”.

Terry Davis, Council of Europe Secretary General

On the occasion of International Roma Day, 8 April 2007

## There is a shameful "implementation deficit" on Roma rights



Commissioner for Human Rights' viewpoint

[02/04/07] Roma do not get jobs, they are put in a "glass box". This is a conclusion of a survey published by the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) in Budapest. In Central and South Eastern European countries employment discrimination is still endemic and blatant. For Romani job-seekers the vacancies are not

open - they knock their heads against invisible walls preventing them from getting any job at all.

The ERRC study was carried out in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia and there are similar problems in several other European countries. The unemployment rate is high all over the continent. When Roma have jobs this tends to be limited to tasks providing services to the Roma community itself.

However, the key problem is that Roma are discriminated against when they try to enter the job mar-

ket. The study shows that a great number of the applicants were rejected because they could be visibly identified as Roma. Indeed, many of them had openly been told that the reason for their not getting the job was because of their Romani identity.

"Roma job seekers are discriminated against"

Another worrying conclusion of the survey was that the governmental labour offices were of such limited help. In fact, the study exposes negative prejudices and even outright racism among officials in those public institutions. [...]

Read the whole viewpoint on [www.dosta.org](http://www.dosta.org)

## Dosta! campaign TV spot broadcasted in SEE

The TV spot is one of the campaigning tools of the Dosta! campaign. It is the result of a brainstorming meeting organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe Communication Department and some Roma media experts who contributed to its script. It is based on photos taken during a field visit to SEE organized in cooperation with the Association of Roma Students in Novi Sad and has been produced in South Eastern Europe by a local Production Agency. The music is "Dgelem Dgelem", the Roma anthem, kindly authorized by Mr. Saban Bajramovic.

The TV spot exists in two versions, 50 and 25 seconds, in Albanian, BCS, Serbian and Macedonian,

apart from English and French; it is posted on the campaign website and has been distributed free of charge to national televisions to be broadcasted regularly during one month.

Airtime monitoring is being conducted by the Council of Europe Communication Department with the support of the Council of Europe Information offices in the participating countries; Top Channel TV (Albania), RTRS and Federal TV BHTV (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the Macedonian National TV MRT ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") already reported on regular broadcasting as from last March. In addition, the TV spot was

broadcasted on 2nd February by Italian National Television Rai3 during its evening news, as well as aired regularly in 2 cinemas in Turkey from 31 March to 15 April at the occasion of the Istanbul Film Festival.

The TV spot can be requested at: [info@dosta.org](mailto:info@dosta.org)



## ... And the Radio spot!

The Dosta! campaign radio spot in Serbian, BCS, and Albanian is now available online on the campaign's website!

Other language versions are in pre-production in other participating countries.

The radio spot has been distributed

to radio stations in April 2007.

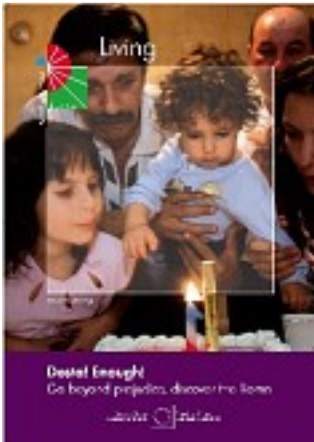


Radio B92 aired it several times per day in April for Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia.

RTRS Radio aired it in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The airing in Albania has been ensured by Top Albania Radio.

Thanks to all partner radios!

## New tools on the Dosta! website

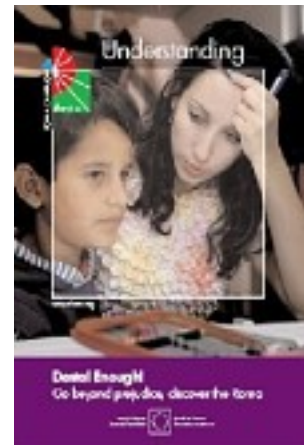


**Poster "Living"**  
Downloadable on the net

Dosta! Campaign posters are available on the campaign website in professional printing quality and in all the participating countries languages plus English and French. E-cards and postcards can also be downloaded.

Promotional material such as pens, ballons, stickers, block notes and tee-shirts with the Dosta! Campaign slogan are being produced in most of the participating countries and can be requested from the Council of Europe field offices.

Two "toolkits for campaigning" have been recently published on the website for enabling citizens and NGOs to build up their own campaign against prejudices towards Roma.



**Poster "Understanding"**  
Downloadable on the net