



MEDIANE

*EEMPs
Training
Output*

MEDIANE

Media in Europe for Diversity Inclusiveness - A 2013-2014 EU / CoE JOINT

INITIATIVE

INCLUSIVE JOURNALISM TRAINING INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE / ACTION TITLE

Roma people in the media: Going beyond the stereotypes

AUTHOR(S)

Kristina Hristova and Martina Chichi

KEYWORDS:

Roma, inclusiveness, stereotypes

TARGET GROUPS

1. Journalists
2. NGO
3. Roma representatives

ABSTRACT

Resume of the interviews made in the frame of the exchange:

Resume of the interviews made in the frame of the exchange in Bulgaria

The Roma people are used by the media to distract the public attention from more important issues: there should be an external enemy so not to see the problems in the internal political life and because there is no such in this moment, let's find this enemy inside the society. The Roma became the victims of the lost transition in Bulgaria. The merger between politicians, big companies and media, resulted in low quality journalism, used for the purpose of those in power, that would easily let the Bulgarians hate the Gypsies instead of looking for the real reasons for the poverty in the country. The Gypsies are also used by nationalists to build their political presence in Bulgaria. These are the main conclusion of the interview with Rumian Russinov, from Public Advocacy Centre.

He said that even if the journalists do not want to speak against the Roma, they had to do it because this is part of the strategy of some media. Rumian is not optimist about working with journalists to change the media image of the Roma, because according to him the media is just an instrument of the oligarchs and if they have decided to use the Roma for specific purposes in the society, this problem could not be solved by working with the journalists' professional conscience.

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe

This opinion was shared by most of the interviewed persons in Sofia in the framework of the preparation of this guide. They claimed that Roma people are presented in the media mostly as a group and not like individual persons. Most of the media put the ethnic origin in the headline of news related to crimes, committed by Roma people even there is no relation between the crime and the ethnic origin. But on the other hand, when a crime is committed by Bulgarian and the victim is from Roma origin (like recently a Roma baby was killed by drunk Bulgarian), the origin of the victim is not mentioned.

Yuliana Metodieva, Marginalia.bg, said that the stereotypes about Roma are inserted even in the heads of the journalists and that is why it is so difficult to fight against Roma discrimination in the media. Even when the journalists go to the Roma ghettos, they go there only to find evidence needed to reproduce the stereotypes, said Dimitar Dimitrov from the Open Society Institute-Sofia. He shared the following experience: he was guiding a journalist, who seems to be friendly to the Roma, in one Roma ghetto but later on he wrote a degrading article about the interviewed persons. That is why the Roma do not want to speak with media, he explained. We made several documentaries about Roma, but no media wanted to promote them, added Dimitrov. This was confirmed by Metodieva, who also shared that very good films about Roma people didn't receive the necessary support to be popularized.

She is also on the opinion that Roma do not want to speak with media anymore, because they are feeling insulted by the Bulgarian racist attitudes and started to capsule themselves. "Please, tell us, what bad the Roma have done, did we created the Atom bomb or started the second war, we are not bad people", she was told by Roma representatives. The Roma people are reluctant to speak with the media, confirms also Irina Nedeva, BNR. They are afraid that this will be used against them. But it is important however to make efforts to include their voice by trying to enlarge your contacts' base, and not to use the comments of Roma politicians that have been discredited in the eyes of the Roma community, advises the journalist.

The journalists do not try to understand the problems, by going to make investigation on ground, most of them are just repeating the press releases of the institutions dealing with Roma, and very often these institutions are using discriminative speech in their message, is the opinion of the journalists Zornitsa Stoilova and Maria Cheresheva.

The official political discourse about Roma's integration is or negative or do not exist, people on high level positions are afraid of confronting the stereotypes so not to lose popularity. On the other hand the populists use the hate speech and there are no balanced representations of Roma in the political discourse, neither in the media, most of them just reproducing the public discourse. Irina Nedeva proposed: when a hate speech is used by a public person and you could not ignore it, just say to your audience: this person said that and this is a hate speech.

Zornitsa suggests that instead of speaking with Roma only on Roma issues, the journalists should contact them for opinions on issues that are important for all the groups in the Bulgarian society.

One very pessimist opinion is shared by all the interviewed – unless the ruling parties do not recognize that the missed Roma integration is a big problem and real efforts and strategies should be implemented, unless there is no political will and resources to put in practices these strategies, the vicious circle of Roma problems related with their isolation and poverty will be used by the media to create more isolation and social distance for this ethnos in the Bulgarian society. But the journalists should understand that by playing part in this vicious circle they are paving the way for more social

instability that is affecting everybody, including themselves.

Resume of the interviews made in the frame of the exchange in Italy

The representatives of the organizations and projects which promote the integration of Roma people (21 Luglio, Il mio nome è Rom, Fondazione Romani) agree that the lack of representation of Roma among the politicians makes difficult to change how media depict them. Institutions are not interested in a change.

Media are focused on few topics regarding Roma, especially those related to nomad camps: the decay of some areas; the costs of the camps; the widespread dissent in Italy regarding the presence of camps and the resulting social issues. Romas are also highly criminalized by media outlets: some news can find space only because they involved Roma people.

On the other side, media totally ignore that Roma can live a “normal life”: stories about Romas who live in an integrated way are not common. NGOs recognized that there is no space for Romas opinions in media. They are not even questioned about news that directly involved them.

When we ask them to find a recent example of a fair and good journalistic work which included Roma people they couldn't find anyone. Even if they want to show an issue related to Romas in a balanced way and from a different point of view they often use stereotypes or pietism. They can't include them as they do with other groups: Romas don't need journalists to speak about them under a positive or negative light, they need to be included and represented the way it happens with other people: in a normal way. NGOs sometimes helped journalists meeting Romas and brought them visiting nomad camps, but the result was always unsatisfactory. Journalists showed only the surface and didn't explain the reasons behind the situation.

Ion Dumitru, Roma representative, points out the importance of showing the Roma as normal person, not as criminals or victims. According to him both this approach have negative effects and promote the radicalization of stereotypes.

We distributed 95 questionnaires among journalists working in different media (printable, radio, tv, online – national or local) and covering different roles (editor in chief, editor, journalist). 85% recognize the existence of stereotypes regarding Roma in media (all of them said that the most common stereotype is that they are depicted as thieves or criminals); the same percentage believe that media make mistakes in representing the Roma community. Among these mistakes, they indicated: generalization, criminalization, stigmatization.

90% of the surveyed journalists think that a different representation of Roma could be useful in order to promote their integration and inclusion. How to do it? 60 indicated as a possible solution a more responsible use of terminology, 20 indicated the reporting of positive stories, 5 indicated a more balanced information. **Only one of the interviewees wrote that the solution is including them as “normal” people, involving them in every kind of debates because they are member of the same society.**

Only 20% of those surveyed have worked on/with Roma at least once in his/her career. All of them experienced some problems in the first approach, due to the suspicion. Only one of the questioned journalists wrote that they were not cooperative and sincere. The others found them, once gained the trust, found them friendly, cooperative and protective.

Roma people in the media: Going beyond the stereotypes

Roma people are often the main characters of bad news and negative stories. Media depict them using stereotypes and stigma. Even in this kind of stories we can't find Roma's point. They don't have a voice.

Roma people are the target of hate speech in 90% of the cases in Bulgaria. The data is from the research of the Open Society Institute - Sofia from 2013. The main sources of the hate speech are the media and the politicians, also according to this research. While in the same time no strategy or policies are implemented for the integration of the Roma people and their segregation is just creating more and more distance between the ethnic Bulgarian and Roma. In this burdensome situation the role of the media is quite problematic - instead of going deeper in the problems of not having state policies for Roma integration, most of the media prefer just to reproduce myths about Roma, showing them as the most evil ethnos in Bulgaria. This is of course just increasing the distance between the two ethnos, putting a whole ethnic group in discriminated situation and creating instability in the society. That is why, we believe that a starting point for social pressure on the state to start real strategy of Roma integration, should be the media destroying their own myths and paving the way for a more objective discussion on the missed Roma integration. This guide is created on the base of interviews with several NGOs, journalists, sociologists and experts on Roma issues.

In Italy the association "21 luglio" recorded 428 cases of hate speech against Roma people between May 2013 and May 2014: 1.17 cases per day. 79% of these hate speech come from political parties and politicians and are reported by media without any criticism. Editors and journalists themselves are often the author of discriminations and hate speech, promoting stereotypes and wrong pictures of the real situation. Because of this approach, the Italian press made serious mistakes: more than once journalists reported crime news which have been proven false with Roma people as negative characters. Consequences, however, were real: fires in the settlements, violence against the Roma communities.

That is why, we believe that a starting point for social pressure on the state to start real strategy of Roma's integration should be the media destroying their own myths and paving the way for a more objective discussion on the missed Roma integration. This is the first step in order to achieve the Roma's inclusiveness in media. This guide is created on the base of interviews with several NGOs, journalists, sociologists and experts on Roma issues.

TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION

November 2014- December 2015

MATERIAL / RESOURCES

What are the main Roma myths in the media?

I. ROMA ARE CRIMINALS AND THEIR CRIMES ARE NOT PUNISHED

Bulgaria - According to the research of the Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD)

(2007) most of the crimes related to the everyday life like thefts are made by Roma people, but as a percentage of the Roma community the criminal persons are the same number as the percentage of the criminal persons in the Bulgarian community.

On the other hand the data from Bulgarian National Institute, cited in a publication of Krassimir Kanev, president of Bulgarian Helsinki Committee (BHK), the Roma people have been always overrepresented in the prisons. Two researches, BHK 2002 and Open Society

Institute 2004, show these respective percentage of the Roma in prisons - 24.8% and 19.6% .

According to Krassimir Kanev the Roma people are deprived from legal help in all the phases of the prosecution process - most of them do not have the necessary finances nor the network to be able to escape the prison. He is asking - think why the bosses of the criminal networks in Bulgaria rarely go to prisons and then try to explain yourself why it is easier to put in prisons the Roma people, mainly because of thefts.

In the frame of the CSD research from 2007, series of interviews with policemen working in Roma residential district were conducted and there is what they say: “10 days before receiving their social security the thefts were sharply increasing while after they have received the social security, the thefts literally stop”.

The Roma are often blamed of stealing metal for selling it for recycling or for illegal lumbering.

According to Rumian Russinov from the Public Advocacy Centre, even if the police and the journalists know that these illegal materials are being sold and even commissioned by legal Bulgarian companies, nobody wants to show the whole network and who is commissioning the thefts, because the truth will not please to the Bulgarian Public.

In conclusion we could say that it is true that the main part of the small size crimes as thefts are committed mainly by Roma in Bulgaria, but they are related with the high level of poverty in this community. On the other part, for the organised crimes for illegal metal recycling or illegal lumbering, the only one that go to prisons are the Roma that are implementing the tasks but not the ones that have commissioned it. The problem is why nobody go to the source of these crimes and try to stop or just show the organisers?

Italy – AEJ Bulgaria and Associazione Carta di Roma ask to 95 journalists to filled in a questionnaire about Roma representation in media. At the question “which is the most common stereotypes about Roma you can find on media outlets?” 85% of them answered: they are depicted as thieves or criminals.

In 2013 the Italian Court of Cassation confirmed that the state of emergency concerning the Roma minority established by the previous Government was illegal, because they don't represent a “threat to public order and public security”. Judges wrote that the emergency was not supported by data, because there are no data confirming an increase of certain kind of crimes which the public opinion commonly related to Roma.

According to a research by the NGOs Geordie in Italy some years ago many Roma children experienced problems with the law ,but they are not unpunished: the most of them spend some time in prison and usually their detention is longer in comparison with the detention of their non-Roma cellmates, because they have no access to a good legal defense.

II. ROMAS ARE POLLUTING THE DEMOCRACY WITH SELLING THEIR VOTES (Bulgaria)

It is true that the Roma population votes more actively than the ethnic Bulgarians. But if we look at the statistics the situation is as follow: we have approximately 800 000 ethnic Roma in Bulgaria (half of them called themselves Turkish) and their electoral activity is around 50%, compared to the electoral activity within the

Bulgarian community – 45%, around 60% for the Turkish community (the data is for the parliamentary elections according to the sociologist Juri Aslanov from AFIS sociological agency). At the same time according to the expert the paid vote is not only Roma phenomena, we have also paid corporate vote within the Bulgarian ethnic group and also paid vote within the Turkish community. Juri Aslanov claims that the paid vote is not ethnic, but just typical for the poor communities, disregarding their ethnos, where people do not expect the politicians to do something for changing their situation.

But the most important problem is that neither the police, neither the journalists are trying to find who is commissioning the paid votes, who is the one that is organising the network for paid voting. Obviously the organisers are the biggest political parties in Bulgaria, which have sufficient resources for polluting the democracy. On the other hands very often those who are selling their votes are not free to choose it. Very often they own money to criminal money lenders or they are under pressure of organized crime network based on feudal relationships in the communities, according to Zornitsa Stoilova from Capital weekly who is working on the Roma issues.

A very symptomatic case about how the media are just trying to reaffirm the myths about the Gypsies and do not show the other face of the Gypsy voter, is the case of the village Dolny Ciber where the population consists mainly of this ethnos. The villagers decided not to vote because the state is not interested by their problems. The case was reported by a lot of media but very few informed that this is a Roma village and no one put in the headline. On the other hand, most of the cases with paid vote, were reported by the media by putting “Roma” in the headlines.

In conclusion we may say that like many people in Bulgaria, Roma individuals and groups sell their votes. Some are coerced into doing so. Some are simply interested in making money. Mainstream Bulgarian parties have relied upon co-opted Roma community leaders to manage the payment of Roma for their votes but the journalists’ and police investigations stop only to those leaders not going deeper to show the main purchaser.

III. THE “INVASION” OF ROMA PEOPLE (Italy)

The perception of Italians about the size of the Roma community in Italy is totally wrong. According to a survey by ISPO the most of the Italians overestimate the Romas presence in Italy. 56% of the people who answered don’t have an idea and one over 3 (35%) believe that Roma population is between 500.000 and 1.000.000. The truth is that in Italy there are about 140.00-150.000 Romas; they represent 0,25% of the whole population, less than in France, Greece or Spain, but only 6% of the interviewed people know it. More than 50% of the interviewees said that Italian Romas don’t exist: actually the half of the Romas are Italian. The others come from several European countries, especially from Romania and from the area of the former Yugoslavia; a few of them are stateless. Media promotes this wrong perception using often terms like “invasion”, especially regarding Milan, Naples and Rome. Actually this is totally wrong: in these cities there are about 3.000, 1.000 and 6.000 Romas, a tiny number compared to the population of these metropolis.

IV. BULGARIA IS THREATENED BY GYPSIES ASSIMILATION BECAUSE OF THE HIGH BIRTH RATE OF THIS ETHNOS (Bulgaria)

According to the data of NSI (1 February 2011) the number of the families with more than three children are 56 017 or only 4.3 percent of all the families with children (http://www.nsi.bg/sites/default/files/files/pressreleases/Census_Family-2011.pdf). The data does not show the ethnos of the families with more than 3 children and it will be difficult

to say that only Gypsies have more than 3 children. On the other hand, the result of this research is obvious – only 4.3 % of the population has more than 3 children and even if this percentage consists only of Gypsy population (what is not true), we are far away of having an ethnic assimilation with such a small number.

In his analysis of the data of NSI Boyan Yourukov , a data base specialist and blogger shows that the Gypsies are having really more children than the Bulgarians, but there is also another very serious problem that nobody is talking about - the highest number of children death-rate in this ethnic group. (<http://yourukov.net/blog/2013/12/19/balgarite-sa-na-izchezvane/>)

V. ROMA PEOPLE ARE NOMADS (Italy)

They are nomads, so they have to live like nomads. The same ISPO report reveals that 84% of the interviewees answered that Romas are nomad. False. Only the 3% of Roma people in Italy are still nomad. The rest of them are settled down.

Only 40.000 Romas live in “nomad camps”. The most of them live in flats or houses. But Italians still think that they live only in nomad camps and link their own idea of “nomad camp” with a nomadic lifestyle; this perception is constantly strengthen by articles which depict them in a summary and incorrect way. Under this point of view information about Romas is very superficial.

VI. THEY ARE LAZY, DO NOT WANT TO WORK, LIVING ON SOCIAL SECURITY

Around 70% of the Roma, that have higher education are employed; between those of them having secondary education 48.8% are employed; 25% are the Roma with primary education that have jobs, and only 14 % are the Roma without education that are having some job. In total around 30% of the Roma people are employed and 70% do not have job, show the results of citizens monitoring carried out by Open Society Institute-Sofia (OOI) in 2012. But in the same time only 6% of the Roma population is living on social security. Most of the unemployed Roma are not registered in the National Employment Agency.

It is obvious that the low level of employment within this group is related with the low level of education. According to human rights defenders and journalists – the main reason, for the lack of education within this community, is the poverty. Some families do not have enough resources even to pay the cloths for sending their children to school. A lot of Gypsies families work abroad, leaving the children to their grandmothers and grandfathers, not having the possibility to send the children to school, or just take the children with them abroad, cutting like this the possibility for school education. Most of them find better paid jobs in countries like France, Italy or Germany than in Bulgaria. Around 46% of the Roma are living in poverty in comparison of only 5% of the ethnic Bulgarian according to the data of the OOI monitoring.

In conclusion – the Roma are once again put in a vicious circle because of the segregation and lack of integration strategy: the poverty leads to low education that leads to unemployment, what leads to more poverty. The media are mostly showing the results of this vicious circle not going deeper of the reasons related mainly to the segregation of this population and lack of political will to integrate the Roma as economically active part of the society.

Italy – In 2012 a research by Casa della Carità and Aaster said that between Romas with more than 15 years, the employment rate was 34.7%, ten points behind the Italians (44.3% according to Istat at the same time). This condition changes dramatically, depending on whether the interviewees were living in proper apartments or in "nomad camps" and caravans or illegal settlements. Between those who were living in “normal” housing, the employment rate was 46%, but it was only 24% in the case of those living in the "illegal" settlements.

Italians think that Romas are too “expensive”. This is true: according to “Campi Nomadi S.p.a”, a research by 21 luglio, the municipality of Rome in 2013 used more 24 millions of euros for the nomad camps of the city. This money are used to maintain camps which strengthen the separation of this minorities and several NGOs are fighting against this approach; actually this money don’t help Romas and they don’t have special benefits, as

the most of the Italian thinks. Casa della Carità and Aester show that - between the interviewed Romas - 19% of households do not have access to electricity, 22% do not have a fridge, 32% do not have hot water and 23%: at least a quarter of the Roma population live in very poor conditions. A quarter of them do not even have the health card or the family doctor, if they need a treatment they can only go to the emergency room; but, once again, among those who live in a “normal” house, 89% have an health insurance card and a family doctor.

VII. ROMA PEOPLE DO NOT PAY THEIR TAXES (Bulgaria)

According to the data of electricity supplier company EVN Bulgaria, presented to the conference “Facts against myths - social distances in the Bulgarian society” on 28.01.2013 г., almost 95% of the bills are paid in one of the biggest Roma residential district in Europe - Stolipniovo in the city of Plovdiv.

This success was achieved thanks to a joint project of EVN Bulgaria and Open society Institute Bulgaria in 2009 to make it easier for the Roma to pay their bills in the same district. According to Dimiter Dimitrov from Open society Roma program, after the success of this project, the media were not interested to show the results, even though before they were focusing a lot on the fact that the population of this district does not pay the electricity bills.

In conclusion – the media are covering mainly the cases of Roma not paying their bills, the positive examples are not of interest for them.

VIII. ROMA PEOPLE KIDNAP CHILDREN (Italy).

In a small town in Northern Italy a man lost his little son during local celebrations. He told the police he saw a “gipsy” running away with the little boy. Local and national newspapers and televisions immediately started speaking about a mysterious and dangerous “Roma kidnapper” . No doubts: it was a Roma. Two days later the Police stated that the man was lying: a camera shown that his story was totally false, he had just lost his children for a while. But the threats against the Roma people of the area were true. According to a research by University of Verona for Migrants Foundation, from 1986 to 2007, no kidnappings have been made by Romas. The research analyze 40 cases (Romas accused of kidnapping): no guilty verdicts have been recorded.

IX. PROBLEMS ARE COMING FROM THEIR CULTURAL IDENTITY, THAT IS WHY THE INTEGRATION PROGRAMS DO NOT WORK

Bulgaria - Most of the integration programs exist only on paper, according to Maya Grekova, a professor in Sociology in Sofia University, working on Roma issues. There is no political will, neither budget provided for their implementation, agreed most of the others interviewed participants in the guide. The only one successful strategy for the educational integration was abandoned several years ago.

In conclusion – Instead of trying to investigate the concrete activities of the state policies and strategies about Roma inclusion, most of the media prefer to confirm the social myth that the Roma culture is to be blamed and no integration is possible because of it, but without showing any facts to prove this conclusion!

Italy – A recent episode shows us something interesting about the integration of Roma people in Italy: in Sardinia two Roma women have been hired by a school as janitors, thanks to the funds of the European Union; even if they are regular employees’ parents don’t want them to stay in the same school of their children. A big slice of the Italian society just refuses to accept Roma and the main reason is ignorance. The interviews with journalists, NGOs and Roma revealed that they are not represented at all in the political backdrop and that some national and local expensive policies just strengthen their isolation from the rest of the society.

Principles and interviews

Interviews with NGOs, journalists and Roma representatives confirmed that the first problem within the representation of the Roma community is that their voice can't find space. Media don't ask their opinion about education, health, social issues, environment etc. Giving them a voice is the first step for a different representation: you should meet them, speak with them, look for their point of view. As you would do with any other group of people.

Principles:

1. **Try to go above the stereotypes about the Roma in the media – criminals or victims**, created both by the popular nationalists from one part and some of the human rights defenders of the other.

When organizing a debate on Roma issues, do not invite only nationalists from one part and human rights defenders on the other. Try to break this stereotype of criminals against victims by inviting impartial participants in the debate. On the other hand, the nationalists point of view is not a balanced one, because we do not have a balanced way of representing the Roma, nationalists' participation will just make the situation harder. Another advice coming from the research - try to involve Roma representatives in the discussions so to have their voice included.

2. **Put data in the context.**

When working with data related to Roma, put it in the context, show the origins and the consequences. On the other hand, If you are journalist, who is trying to fight against Roma discrimination, you will not help, if you try to hide the fact that most of the crimes of the everyday life are committed by Roma. If you do that, you will only hide the truth and will get the readers more frustrated and angry against the Roma people. Again, show the data, but put in context, give also the Roma voice, not only the police, the institutions and the nationalists.

3. **Find the issues that are uniting the ethnic Bulgarian and the ethnic Roma, not only the ones that are dividing them.**

Try to show the problems that are the same for the Bulgarian and the Gypsies do not separate the problems to Gypsies' or Bulgarian. For example the poverty is a social phenomenon, mainly related with Roma, but also a lot of adult Bulgarians pensioners are suffering from it. Try to find for example why those two groups share the same problems, where are the origins?

4. **Speak about Roma people like individual persons, not like a group, do not generalise.**

First of all the Gypsy people are Human beings and have the right to be treated as a human being; when a crime is committed by a Gypsy representative, don't stigmatize all the Gypsies like criminals, putting in the headline the ethnos of the person in case.

5. **Look from different angle on the Roma.**

Do not look for Roma point of view only on problems, related with Roma; look for the Roma experts' opinion on different topics, concerning not only the Roma population - like business environment; scientific topics, education, social system, sport.

6. **Don't be a spokesperson for the politicians and institutions when they are speaking about Roma.**

Most of NGOs interviewed for this guide said that even the representatives of state on high positions tend to discriminate Roma people in their speech. If so, do not just transmit the message, put it in context and when it is a case of hate speech, say it to your audience.

7. **Do not blame a whole ethnic cultural about a given problem, in doing so, you are going into a very dangerous discourse.**

When writing about Roma failed integration, investigate what really has been done by the state programs - show the data, the budgets and the concrete activities if any. Do your journalistic job, not a manipulation. Do not rely on myths about Roma culture as explanation for the missed integration.

8. **Show the positive side of the integration of Roma in the Bulgarian society.**

When speaking about the failed integration and the efforts to be done by the state to end the segregation of the Roma population, show the benefits of successful integration strategy for the entire population; do not separate the problems, because of the ethnos, try to show the positive consequences of involving the Gypsies in active economical live.

9. **Positive discrimination.**

Speak and show good examples of Roma representatives. Because of the massive tendency in the media to present the Roma only in relation with negative stories, efforts should be done to recover the balance of the Roma image in the media. For example, in the Bulgarian universities there are around 3000 Roma students, 120 in medical studies, according to OOI study, try to find and show similar good examples.

10. **Check the information twice.**

Journalists sometimes jump to the wrong conclusion, because of stereotypes. When you are reporting about an episode which reflects one or more myths, be careful: base your story only on the facts and don't generalize.

Useful contacts:

11. Center for the Study of Democracy, <http://csd.bg>
12. Amalipe Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance, <http://amalipe.com>
13. Roma Destiny Association, <http://www.romadestiny.org>
14. The International Center for Minority Studies and Intercultural Relations (IMIR), <http://imir-bg.org>
15. Program Roma, Open Society Institute - Sofia, http://www.osf.bg/?cy=28&lang=1&a0i=222697&a0m=read&a0p_id=69
16. Center for European Refugees, Migrants and Ethnic researches, <http://www.cermes.info/>
17. Fondazione Romani, www.fondazioneromani.it
18. Associazione 21 Luglio, www.21luglio.org
20. Cronache di Ordinario Razzismo, www.cronachediordinariorazzismo.org
21. ISPO (Studies on Public Opinion Institute), www.ispo.it
22. ISTAT (Statistic National Institute), www.istat.it
23. Il mio nome è Rom, www.romidentity.org

COMMENTS

List of interviewed persons

During the exchange, we met or had telephone interviews with several representatives from the NGO sector and journalists:

1. Dimitar Dimitrov, Director, Open Society Roma Program;
2. Yuliana Metodieva, human right activist and founder of Marginalia.bg;
3. Irina Nedeva, editor in Bulgarian National radio and journalist covering human rights problems;
4. Maria Cheresheva, activist from Friends of the Refugees in Bulgaria and journalist, covering human rights issues;
5. Zornitsa Stoilova, journalist covering human rights and social issues from Capital weekly;
6. Yuri Aslanov, sociologist, from Afis sociological agency;
7. Maia Grekova, sociologist, Sofia University, Maya Grekova is Doctor of Sociological Sciences, Ph.D. in Philosophy, Professor in sociology at the Department of Sociology, Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski'.
8. Rumian Russinov, Public Advocacy Centre
9. Ion Dumitru, activist, Fondazione Romani
10. Danilo Giannese, journalist, Associazione 21 Luglio
11. Ludovica Jona, journalist, Il mio nome è Rom
12. Serena Chiodo, activist, Lunaria – Cronache di Ordinario Razzismo
13. Questionnaire filled by 95 Italian journalists from different media and with different positions on September 26th 2014.

Other source of information:

1. Krassimir Kanev, Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, publications in "Obektiv" magazine;
2. Boyan Yuruko, publications in <http://yurukov.net/blog/>;
3. Dr. Svetlosar Kirilov, Professor in sociology at the Department of Sociology, Sofia University 'St Kliment Ohridski', publications about Roma discrimination in media-jouranl.info
4. National statistical institute
5. Tihomir Bezlov, Centre for the study of democracy, “The Roma in Bulgaria Criminal Justice System: from ethnic profiling to imprisonment, Critical Criminology”
6. Open Society Institute-Sofia, Report “Public policies for Roma integration in

Bulgaria”

7. “Terzo libro bianco contro il razzismo”, by Cronache di Ordinario Razzismo, 2014
8. “Antiziganismo 2.0”, by Associazione 21 luglio, 2014
9. “Se dico Rom”, by Naga, 2013
10. “Italiani, rom e sinti a confronto”, by ISPO, 2008
11. “Bambini ladri . Tutta la verità sulla vita dei piccoli rom, tra degrado e indifferenza”, by Luca Cefisi, 2011
12. “Un’altra città è possibile”, by Geordie Onlus, 2010
13. “Rom e sinti un’indagine nazionale”, by Casa della Carità, 2012
14. “Rapiti dai pregiudizi”, by Fondazione Migrantes, 2008

ACTION / INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT

The guide is distributed to the AEJ-Bulgaria members and the Italian journalists through Carta di Roma seminars. The guide will serve for the upgrade of the ethical code of the media in Bulgaria and for the role playing workshops, starting from 2015 in Bulgaria under the title “network against hate speech”. The workshops include journalists, Roma and NGO in an exchange of role in situation related to the stereotypes about the Roma people in the media. The training are planned as a two day workshop with main output – development of network against hate speech in media, including journalists, Roma and experts.

In Italy it will be distributed during the professional training sessions for journalists, focused on the Carta di Roma code of ethics, which take place all over Italy on a regular basis. It will be also disseminated during trainings in school of journalism. Guidelines will be promoted through our website, newsletter, facebook and twitter.