The Decade of Roma Inclusion is one of the most important organisational projects in which European Union (EU) member and candidate countries have been working to improve the living conditions of their Romani populations. Among the EU candidate countries, the only country that has not joined this initiative is Turkey.

The Decade of Roma Inclusion aims towards the integration of Roma with the general public; a declaration by governments regarding the formulation of democratic, just and lasting resolutions to the problems of Roma in the spheres of education, employment, health and housing and the adoption of the necessary steps within the framework of a national programme.

The 12 countries currently taking part in the Decade of Roma Inclusion are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain. A thirteenth country, Slovenia, has observer status.

In light of the experience that the participating countries have accumulated, it is clear that Turkey’s participation to the Decade of Roma Inclusion will provide the impetus to tackle issues that Roma face in our country. Joining the Decade of Roma Inclusion will also make a valuable contribution to Turkey’s ongoing membership negotiation process with the EU.

We, the Roma NGOs who are the signatories of this declaration, call on the State of the Republic of Turkey to take the necessary steps to become a party to the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

Ankara, April 2009

SIGNATORIES IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER

Ankara Romanlar Derneği
Bartin Romanlar Derneği
Dikili Roman Derneği
Diyarbakır Dom Derneği
Edirne Roman Derneği
Edremit Romanlar Derneği
Ege Roman Dernekleri Federasyonu
İpsala Romanlar Derneği
İstanbul Gazi Osman Paşa Roma Girişimi
İzmir Çağdaş Romanlar Derneği
İzmir Roman Derneği
İzmir Roman Ateşi Halk Oyunları Derneği
Keşan Romanlar Derneği
Kırklareli Romanlar Derneği
Kırıfaz Roman Derneği
Lalapaşa Romanlar Derneği
Lüleburgaz Romanlar Derneği
Mersin Romanlar Derneği
Roman Dernekleri Federasyonu
Sulukule Romanlar Derneği
Tekirdağ Malkara Roman Hamallar Yardımlaşma Derneği
Tekirdağ Malkara Romanlar Derneği
Tekirdağ Muratlı Roma Derneği