

Education without Barriers

Roma Children in the Czech Republic

The conference is co-organized by the European Roma Rights Centre, Roma Education Fund, Open Society Fund and the Coalition of NGOs "Together to schools" for the Czech Republic, and sponsored by the Open Society Institute and the Roma Education Fund.

Under the patronage of: His Excellency Mr. Ondřej Liška, Minister of Education, the Czech Republic

Prague, November 12 – 13th, 2008

Venue: DORINT DON GIOVANNI, Vinohradská 157a, Praha 3

Wednesday, 12 November 2008	
Time:	Activity
08:45-09:30	Registration of Participants
09:30-10:00	<p>Opening remarks Venue: Donna Elvira Room Languages: English, Czech.</p> <p>Dušan Lužný, Deputy Minister of Education, Youth and Sport Rumyan Rousinov, Deputy Director, Roma Education Fund Robert A. Kushen, Managing Director, European Roma Rights Centre Ms. Marie Kopecka, Executive Director, Open Society Fund Prague</p>
10:00 -11:00	<p>Session 1: One year after: What has changed? <i>This session will provide an overview of the recent European Court of Human Rights Judgment, D.H. and others v. the Czech Republic and its implications in the national and international contexts. In addition, it will present a summary of the REF/ERRC report: In the Blind Side of School Reform: Persistent Segregation of Roma in the Czech Education System, the Concept Paper of the Ministry of Education highlighting government's commitment in view of the recent concept paper on education reform and describe its programme, as well an introduction of the Coalition 'Together to Schools'.</i></p> <p>Speakers: James A. Goldston, Executive Director, Open Society Justice Initiative Tara Bedard (ERRC); Edita Stejskalová (ZŠvule Prava) Klára Laurenčíková (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Director of Department of Equal Opportunities) (tbc) Gabriela Hrabanova, Office of the Council for Roma Community Affairs Jindra Pařízková - introduction of coalition "Together to schools" Chair: Andi Dobrushí (ERRC)</p>
11:00 -11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 -12:30	Session 1 Continuation / Discussions
12:30 -14:00	Lunch
14:00 -15:30	<p>Session 2: Overcoming structural barriers to equal education 4 Panels. <i>During this session the participants will break in four panels to discuss areas of particular relevance to a comprehensive approach to educational reform, namely, Legislative reform, Curriculum in former special schools, Assessment and use of standardized tests; and Structural Issues – position of former special schools in the Czech education system and financial costs of maintaining it.</i></p> <p>Speakers: 1. Legislative reform: Iveta Němečková, (Department of Equal Opportunities, Ministry of</p>

	<p>Education, Youth and Sport) (tbc) Kateřina Hrubá, Zřívule Práva Michal Čermák, Ombudsman's office Chair: Marta Miklušáková, UNHCR office Rapporteur: Jan Stejskal ,</p> <p>2. Curriculum in former special schools Helena Balabánová Pavel Košák, People in Need Chair: Bořena Virágová Rapporteur: Jarmila Balážová (tbc)</p> <p>3. Assessment and use of standardized tests Meisnerova; Ivana Rosová (tbc) Tomáš Nikolai, People in Need Chair: Kateřina Dubská Rapporteur: Jan Červenka, (Head of Romani Studies Department at Charles University) (tbc)</p> <p>4. Structural Issues School achievements of Roma pupils integrated in mainstream education in Bulgaria. Rumyan Russinov, Deputy Director, Roma Education Fund Pavla Polechová, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Analyses and Strategy Department Chair: Gabriela Hrabanova Rapporteur: Margita Wagner (tbc)</p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-16:45	Presentations from the group rapporteurs
16:40-17:30	Discussions
19:00	Dinner - Restaurant TEATRO

Thursday, 13 November 2008	
Time:	Activity
09:00-10:30	<p>Session 3: Positive practices in the reform of special education system <i>This session will focus on positive practices from the region in the areas of Legislation, Educational measures and Reform aimed at improving the equal access to education. The participants will break in two panels to discuss domestic and international experience and positive practices in the education reform.</i></p> <p>1. Legislative reform Legislative reform in Hungary and Romania and other Council of Europe member states. Victoria Mohacsi, MEP, European Parliament Henry Scicluna, Council of Europe Chair: Mihai Surdu (REF) Rapporteur: Sophie Latraverse (HALDE)</p> <p>2. Educational measures. John Bennett, Chief OECD Researcher Czech Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport or regional/local authority Chair: Beata Olahova (REF)</p>

	Rapporteur: Eben Friedman (REF)
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-11:45	Presentations from the group rapporteurs
11:45-12:30	Discussions
12:30 -13:00	Concluding remarks - Ondřej Liška, Minister of Education , Youth and Sport Laura Cassio, EC , DG Education and Culture
13:00	Press Conference