

ΠΟΛΙΤΙΣΤΙΚΟΣ ΜΟΡΦΩΤΙΚΟΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ
ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ ΔΡΟΣΕΡΟΥ ΞΑΝΘΗΣ
«Η ΕΛΠΙΔΑ»



Ref. No.: 019
6.8.2015

To
Ms Isabela Mihalache
Project Manager
Inter-governmental Cooperation, Anti-Gypsyism and Roma Equality Unit

Dear Ms. Mihalache,

Following our meeting recently in Athens, I would like to formally inform you of the initiative undertaken by *The Roma Women's Association of Drosero "Elpida"*. Specifically "*Elpida*" has officially submitted a proposal for the creation in Greece of a new body, in the form of a National Committee or National Council for Roma, whose sole responsibility will be, at the national level, to oversee and control all policies and activities/ issues pertaining to the Roma population in the country. For this purpose it has addressed a formal memo to the government, sent to the prime minister and key ministries, explaining the necessity for the creation of such agency and the manner in which it should be created, at no significant economic expense at these, difficult for the country, economic times. A brief of this official memo, albeit in Greek language, is forwarded to you for your consideration. The complete memo of course may be made available to you if you so wish.

The reaction to our proposal has been positive thus far, as it has been already reviewed at a high level inter-ministerial committee meeting. In this memo, following a general, albeit very concrete description of the dire situation encountered by several Roma communities in the country, concerning all areas of social life, i.e., housing, education, employment, social services, policing, "*Elpida*" proposes the establishment of the new agency as a way of dealing with the problems in a rational and fair for the Roma manner so that a breakthrough make occur which will bring an end to the total, today, social exclusion of the Roma.

The new agency is proposed to have responsibility for:

1. **Data collection** at national level reflecting the actual situation of the Roma communities/settlements across the territory, regarding population, living conditions, financial and educational status,

- employment status, and in general detailed mapping, which is necessary for the planning and adoption of future policies.
2. **Suitability assessment of programmes** submitted by the authorities at national and local level (i.e. municipal plans for relocation of Roma communities will be examined as to their compatibility with existing legislation and their capacity to meet the population needs.).
 3. **Coordination of the activities** of all involved agencies in order to remove communication gaps, bureaucratic obstacles and unnecessary delays and proceed with effective execution of the works (e.g. integration of communities in city plan, completion of infrastructures, etc.)
 4. **Design of policies and supervision of the implementation** of adopted policies and operational plans as well as any other action related to the resolution of problems faced by Roma in every region of the country.
 5. **Feedback collection and evaluation** of each action aiming at the integration of the Roma.
 6. **Acting as national focal point** for Roma, which should operate as a liaison between internal and external authorities, agencies, NGOs and stakeholders for all Roma issues.

We hope and would be grateful for all your support and advice on this matter, officially and personally, so that the effort of “Elpida” to change the situation of Roma in Greece and to bring about a severe blow to the wall of social exclusion of the Roma population in Greece will succeed.

Sabiha Suleiman (President)

“Elpida”, the Roma Women’s Association of Drosero

