

Press Release

Council of Europe Press Division

Ref: 568a07

Tel: +33 (0)3 88 41 25 60

Fax: +33 (0)3 88 41 39 11

pressunit@coe.int

internet: www.coe.int/press



47 members

Albania
Andorra
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Georgia
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russia
San Marino
Serbia
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom

European expert conference plans better education for Roma children

Strasbourg, 04.09.2007 - European education experts are to meet under the aegis of the Council of Europe (Division for the European dimension of Education) and UNESCO to devise policies to help ensure that Roma children receive high quality education in their early years. (UNESCO Fontenoy building, Paris; 10 and 11 September 2007)

The conference focuses on ways to give Roma children access to early education that suits their needs and lifestyle. It will look at innovative methods such as specialised teaching kits, developing a curriculum to reflect Roma children's needs, and the role of the family and the community as developed in the framework of the Council of Europe's project on the Education of Roma children. More information on this project can be found at www.coe.int/education/roma. The conference is also supported by the Roma Education Fund.

An exhibition on the history of the Roma life will accompany the conference, showing the everyday lifestyle and rituals of the European Roma throughout the last century.

Around 10 million Roma people are estimated to live in the Council of Europe's geographical area. They are often subject to discrimination and injustice, and suffer social exclusion as a result. The Council of Europe, with the financial contribution of the European Commission, has launched a campaign in South East Europe entitled "Dosta!" ("enough" in the Romani language) to turn around prejudices and ensure that the Roma gain respect for their contribution. For more information visit: www.dosta.org

Roma children are also a focus of the campaign "Building a Europe for and with children" www.coe.int/children

Press contacts :

- **Council of Europe** : Aurora Ailincăi, Directorate of Education

Tel. +33 3 90 21 53 31 ; Mobile +33 6 82 90 01 95 ; aurora.ailincai@coe.int

- **UNESCO** : Djibril Kebe, Tel. +33 1 45 68 17 41 ; d.kebe@unesco.org

To receive our press releases by e-mail, contact : Council.of.Europe.Press@coe.int

A political organisation set up in 1949, the Council of Europe works to promote democracy and human rights continent-wide. It also develops common responses to social, cultural and legal challenges in its 47 member states.