



EUROPEAN ROMA INFORMATION OFFICE

E-NEWS 30/05/2008

2008 Call for applications for the European Commission Internship for young Roma university graduates

The European Commission in cooperation with the Open Society Institute, Roma Participation Program, is announcing the *2008 Call for applications for the EC internships for young Roma university graduates* from all new member states (excluding Cyprus and Malta), Croatia, F.Y.R.O.M., Serbia, Kosovo and Montenegro. The internship program will run for 5 months starting with the 1st of October, 2008. For more information please find the Call for expression of interest, application procedures and eligibility criteria, the application form and the CV template on http://groups.google.com/group/Roma_Files/browse_thread/thread/de99c7c77daecdfc?hl

World Bank hiring Decade of Roma Inclusion Junior Professional in Serbia Country Office

The World Bank Country Office for the Republic of Serbia, based in Belgrade, is seeking a Decade of Roma Inclusion Junior Professional for a one-year appointment.

Read the announcement on <http://euyouthspeak.org/roma/?p=5917>

Italy: New commissioner to enforce tough stance on migrants

Rome, 23 May (AKI) - The Italian government is expected to advance its tough stance on immigrants with the formal appointment of Carlo Mosca as special Roma Gypsy commissioner for Rome and surrounding areas. A meeting of the Italian cabinet on Wednesday could define Mosca's precise powers, as well as those of the special Roma Gypsy commissioners to be appointed for the cities of Naples and Milan. Mosca is currently a prefect, or an interior ministry representative. His new powers are expected to include the power to move Roma Gypsy camps and to keep legal Gypsies under constant surveillance. The commissioner will also have the power to implement a series of recent government security measures such as the expulsion of foreigners including European Union citizens convicted of crimes.

Read more on <http://www.adnkronos.com/AKI/English/Politics/?id=1.0.2189369593>

Mob of Nazi youths goes on immigrant rampage in 'tolerant' Rome

Rome, May 25, 2008 – Balaclava-clad gangs, some wearing bandanas emblazoned with swastikas, smashed shop windows with iron bars and baseball bats and beat up shopkeepers in Pigneto, a hitherto bohemian neighbourhood of Rome.

Read more on http://www.eurojewcong.org/ejc/news.php?id_article=1910

Italian children back burning of gypsy camps

Naples, 28/05/2008 – A class of primary school children in Naples has shocked Italy after submitting homework which supported the burning of Gypsy camps. The children, aged between 9 and 11 years old, are pupils at San Giuseppe Bosco, near a camp at Ponticelli that has been repeatedly attacked by a xenophobic mob. Locals first set fire to the camp two weeks ago in retaliation to stories that a Gypsy girl had tried to steal a baby elsewhere in the city. Since then it has been repeatedly attacked, with more petrol bombs launched at its makeshift buildings. Teachers at the school had set the children the task of explaining how they felt about the persecution of the gypsies. The response was an alarming series of drawings and essays, many of which supported the vigilante action.

Read more on <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/2043851/Italy-Italian-children-back-burning-of-gypsy-camps.html>

The politics of fear return to Italy

Rome, 29/05/2008 – Is Italy succumbing to a wave of racism and xenophobia under its new centre-right Government? To Senada Salkanovic it looks that way: as she cuddles her daughter Brenda, 7, on the step of her shack at a Gypsy camp on Via Casilina, on the eastern outskirts of Rome, she wonders where she and her six children will go when the bulldozers arrive. The rubbish-strewn camp, consisting of wood and corrugated-iron cabins and dilapidated caravans, sits next to a disused airfield and is due for demolition as part of a new crackdown on illegal immigration and crime. Already nearly 40 huts have been dismantled, and 150 of the camp's 800 inhabitants have left.

Read more on <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/article4021089.ece>

Amnesty International Report 2008: EU failing human rights at home and abroad

Brussels, 28/05/2008 – Sixty years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) human rights abuses continue to be rife across the globe, says Amnesty International on the day it launches its annual report. The EU and its countries are no exception, with virtually all member states included in this years' report.

'Developments over 2007 indicate that the EU and member states are backtracking in terms of human rights protection,' said Nicolas Beger, Director of Amnesty International's EU Office. 'Complicity in the abuses carried out in the context of counter terrorism is one of the most flagrant examples of this worrying trend,' he added.

Read more on <http://www.amnesty-eu.org/static/html/pressrelease.asp?cfid=12&id=361&cat=4&l=1>

Amnesty International report says Hungary still behind on women, Roma treatment

London, 28/05/2008 - Amnesty International's (AI) 2008 report on Hungary highlighted deficiencies in the criminal justice system, particularly in connection with women who suffer from domestic violence and rape. "Widespread prejudice, lack of political will and deficiencies in the criminal justice system presented

at times insurmountable obstacles for women in obtaining justice or redress in cases of rape and sexual violence," said the AI report published on Wednesday.

Read more on http://www.budapesttimes.hu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7643&Itemid=159

Amnesty International report in 2008: Romania and Italy criticized for discriminating Roma minority

London, 28/05/2008 – The report issued by Amnesty International in 2008, published on Wednesday signals once again the allegations of involvement in secret CIA detentions, doubled by the refuse of authorities to reopen investigations. Romania is also mentioned in issues such as the intolerance and discrimination towards sexual minorities and Roma ethnics. Romanian gendarmes involved in an incident in Kosovo are also pointed at, as well as the precarious conditions in psychiatric institutions. President Basescu and Foreign Minister Cioroianu are reminded due to their racist remarks.

Read more on http://english.hotnews.ro/stiri-top_news-3112213-amnesty-international-report-2008-romania-and-italy-criticized-for-discriminating-roma-minority.htm

ADL Urges Italy To Publicly Condemn Xenophobia Against Roma

New York, 27/05/2008 – The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) today called on the Italian government to "publicly condemn xenophobia against Roma," following recent violence targeting the Roma community in Italy.

"We urge the Italian government to publicly condemn xenophobia against Roma and the anti-Roma rhetoric that fosters an atmosphere in which attacks like those in Milan and Naples can be possible," said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL National Director. "Italy's vibrant democracy will be strengthened by a clear message from the government that it is committed to protecting its Roma residents and all victims of hate violence."

Read more on http://www.adl.org/PresRele/DiRaB_41/5290_41

Roma and Sinti in the Bologna Region: Building Blocks of an Integration Policy

In April 2008, the Municipality of Bologna, the OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, the Istituto per l'Europa Centro-Orientale e Balcanica, and PER organized a roundtable discussion in Bologna on the situation of the Roma and Sinti residing in the Bologna region. The discussion focused on four major topics: security and legality issues; schooling and education; housing and camps; and use of EU funding and frameworks to address Roma and Sinti problems at the local level. The issue of Roma and Sinti integration remains one of the most important and urgent problems in Europe today, and the most important decisions with the greatest impact on these communities are made at the local level. The local authorities in Bologna have taken this challenge seriously and are willing to tackle the issues associated with the presence of a considerable number of Roma coming from Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Kosovo as well as the presence of a number of Sinti communities.

They agreed that scapegoating of the Roma should be avoided and that placing the Roma among the

majority population has more positive consequences than placing them in camps outside populated areas that are isolated and without access to health care and other basic facilities. Some of the participants urged the Italian authorities to work out a comprehensive national policy towards the Roma and Sinti residing in Italy and consider giving them the status of national minority.

The Bologna authorities and local NGOs, Roma and non-Roma, were also briefed by the President of the Roma Agency in Romania, Gruia Bumba, and by the Chairman of the Board of the Roma Education Fund of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, Costel Bercus. The Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues of the OSCE/ODIHR, Andrzej Mirga, and the President of PER, Livia Plaks, also visited two Roma camps in the Bologna area and one Sinti camp.

Source: PER Newsletter

One million euros for Social Inclusion of Roma in the Balkans

28/05/2008 – UNHCR has launched a regional EU-funded project "Social Inclusion and Access to Human Rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians Communities in the Western Balkans". In the remaining of 2008 and first half of 2009 UNHCR in Skopje, Podgorica, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Pristina will help address the documentation and registration gap of Roma.

"Lack of personal documents is a key concern of the Roma population which undermines their full integration into society and access to basic civil, social and economic rights, such as health care, education and work.

UNHCR Skopje in partnership with a Network of NGOs and in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Roma Information Centres will conduct a country-wide survey to determine the scope of the problem and carry out an information campaign to reach out the Roma community. Free legal advice and support will be offered to Roma seeking the services of the NGO Network.

Source: makfax.com.mk

Average Gypsy's Life Lasts 10 Years Less Than Bulgarian's

A project of improving the conditions and integration of minority groups in unequal position starts in Razgrad area (Northeastern Bulgaria). The project is financed by the EU grant program FAR and Bulgarian Healthcare Ministry. Medicine researches show, the people belonging to minority groups live average 10 years less than the other societies in Bulgaria. Most threatening is the possibility of heart shock or brain shock in the age between 40 and 49. The project's actions preview preventive examinations of the minority members by portative medicine cabinet, which will travel round the regional cities. The campaign also includes 100 experts in different areas, each of them trained for the initiative in order to increase the attention towards health care culture in the gypsies' societies and increasing of attention towards health prevention.

Source: international.ibox.bg

Mitrovica lead crisis: *Romano Them* asks for comprehensive information from the UN

Mitrovica, 27/05/2008 – A survey, which was produced by the Institute of Public Health in Kosovska Mitrovica at the request of the representatives of the IDP camps in Northern Mitrovica confirmed previous

allegations, according to which the lead level in the blood of Romani children living in these camps has remained at an alarmingly high level. Out of the 104 children tested, aged between 1 and 16 years, 18 have shown lead levels exceeding the critical ceiling of 45 µg/dL, beyond which doctors recommend chelation therapy. However, if it is confirmed that the indications, "Hi" and "Hi Mnogo" contained in the survey, actually refer to blood levels exceeding 65 µg/dL, the number of children with a critically high level of lead contamination in their blood goes up to 38, or 36.5 percent of the surveyed group.

Read more on <http://kosovoroma.wordpress.com/2008/05/27/mitrovica-lead-crisis-romano-them-asks-for-comprehensive-information-from-the-un/>



The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is an international advocacy organization, which promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing factual and in-dept information on a range of policy issues to the European Union institutions, Roma civil organizations, governmental authorities and intergovernmental bodies.

ERIO cooperates with a network of a large number of organizations and acts to combat racial discrimination and social exclusion through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development.

ERIO
Av. Edouard Lacomblé 17
Brussels 1040
Belgium

Tel: 0032(0)27333462
Fax: 0032(0)27333875

For more information: office@erionet.org // www.erionet.org