



OPENING CONFERENCE  
**ROMANI/PLURILINGUAL  
POLICY EXPERIMENTATION**

**CONCEPT NOTE  
AND PROGRAMME**

**Date & Time:**

Wednesday,  
23 March 2022  
09.30-17.00 CET

**Place:**

KUDO Platform

**Format:** Online

**Working languages:**

English, Greek,  
Slovak,  
Slovenian



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs



MINISTRY  
OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE,  
RESEARCH AND SPORT  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION,  
SCIENCE AND SPORT**

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

# CONCEPT NOTE

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## **Background**

Despite the Council of Europe's decades-long engagement with Romani issues, the educational inclusion of Romani children and adolescents continues to present major challenges. Successive recommendations from the Committee of Ministers are clear about the political principles and social values that should shape policy, and equally clear about the outcomes that policy implementation should achieve. Only very few of them, however, concern themselves with those aspects of policy that shape classroom practice.

In 2018-19 a Council of Europe expert group set out to elaborate more detailed guidance, proposing new ways of managing the educational inclusion of Romani children and adolescents. The group's proposals, which have implications for the educational inclusion of other linguistic and cultural minorities, are based on the Council of Europe's concept of plurilingual and intercultural education, which is the focus of the Recommendation recently approved by the Committee of Ministers.

## **The policy experimentation**

The purpose of the policy experimentation is to test these practical proposals and refine them in the light of experience. Currently in preparation, the experimentation will run for three school years (2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25) and will involve four or five primary schools in three Council of Europe member states: Greece, Slovakia and Slovenia. The experimentation is managed by a steering group that comprises Council of Europe experts led by Professor David Little (Ireland), three national co-ordinators, and representatives of the ministries of education in the participating countries. In participating classrooms, the experimentation will be shaped by two principles that are fundamental to the Council of Europe's work in language education: (i) language learners of all ages are also language users, social agents with an agenda to fulfil; and (ii) language education should take account of all the languages present in a particular educational context and help learners to develop integrated plurilingual repertoires.

# PROGRAMME

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09.00

## REGISTRATION

09.30 – 10.15

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

- ▶ **Villano QIRIAZI**, Head of the Education Department, Council of Europe

### Opening remarks

- ▶ **Matjaž GRUDEN**, Director of Democratic Participation, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Jeroen SCHOKKENBROEK**, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Council of Europe
- ▶ **Alexandros KOPTISIS**, Secretary-General of Primary, Secondary and Special Education, Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, Greece
- ▶ **Svetlana SÍTHOVÁ**, State Secretary for the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
- ▶ **Damir OREHOVEC**, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia
- ▶ **Timea JUNGHAUS**, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

10.15 – 10.30

## INTRODUCTION TO THE POLICY EXPERIMENTATION

- ▶ **Michael REMMERT**, Head of the Education Policy Division, Council of Europe

10.30 – 11.00

## ROMANI LANGUAGE: SOME KEY ISSUES

- ▶ **Helena SADÍLKOVÁ**, **Diana SIMA** and **Zuzana BODNAROVA**, Council of Europe Experts

11.00 – 11.15

## BREAK

11.15 – 11.45

## THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S PLURILINGUAL AND INTERCULTURAL APPROACH TO EDUCATION

- ▶ **David LITTLE**, Council of Europe Expert

11.45 – 12.15

## THE PLURILINGUAL AND INTERCULTURAL APPROACH IN ACTION: AN EXAMPLE FROM IRELAND

- ▶ **Déirdre KIRWAN**, formerly principal, Scoil Bhríde (Cailíní), Blanchardstown, Dublin

12.15 – 12.30

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

12.30 – 14.00

## BREAK

14.00 – 14.50

## GREECE: INTRODUCTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION OF ROMA AND PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- ▶ **Theodora-Doretta ASTERI**, National Co-ordinator

14.50 – 15.40

## SLOVAK REPUBLIC: INTRODUCTION TO THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION OF ROMA AND PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- ▶ **Kálmán PETŐCZ**, Department of National Minorities and Life Long Learning, Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic
- ▶ **Gabriel KRIŠKO**, National Co-ordinator

15.40 – 15.55

## BREAK

15.55 – 16.40

## SLOVENIA: INTEGRATION OF ROMA IN SCHOOL SYSTEM AND PRESENTATION OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

- ▶ **Natalija KOMLJANC**, National Co-ordinator

16.40 – 17.00

## CLOSE OF THE OPENING CONFERENCE