



European Network Against Racism
Réseau européen contre le racisme
Europäisches Netz gegen Rassismus

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NEWS FROM ENAR

- **Latest ENARgy on intercultural dialogue**

ENAR has issued the latest edition of its newsletter ENARgy, on the theme “Intercultural dialogue: the European Year and beyond”. The articles in this edition of ENARgy clarify the concept of intercultural dialogue from different perspectives. They provide an overview of initiatives to promote this dialogue at different levels, and show-case various projects and debates undertaken in the context of the Year. The edition also features a face-to-face, spirited debate between two actors in the field of intercultural dialogue. [more](#)

- **Launch of a competition on ‘creativity against racism’**

In the framework of the 4th edition of the Action week against racism which will take place from 19 to 29 March 2009 in Belgium, MRAX, member of ENAR Belgium, and Media Animation are launching a competition entitled ‘creativity against racism’. This competition will be targeted at different media supports and will aim to start a reflection on the fight against racism among the general public, and in particular young people. There will be three categories: photography, posters, and short films. The deadline for inscriptions is 15 January 2009. [more](#) (in French)

NEWS FROM OTHER NETWORKS

- **Alternative consultation on EU justice and home affairs policy**

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the future priorities in the field of Justice and Home Affairs policy. The European Civil Liberties Network has produced an alternative questionnaire to provoke a more wide ranging debate about EU policy and practice. The questionnaire poses different questions about the development and implementation of EU policies and their effect on civil liberties and human rights. The results will be compiled and submitted to the European Commission, which promises to take 'additional contributions' into account. [more](#)

- **Dublin II: A summary of JRS experiences in Europe**

The Jesuit Refugee Service-Europe (JRS) has released a paper on how the implementation of the Dublin II Regulation personally impacts the lives of asylum seekers. As a survey of country offices that accompany asylum seekers caught within the 'Dublin system', the paper answers key questions on what it is like for an asylum seeker to experience the process. It also summarises the reflections of JRS country offices throughout Europe on the faults of the Dublin system and how it may be improved in the future. [more](#)

- **OSCE meeting discusses role of Holocaust remembrance in preventing anti-Semitism**

Representatives of international organisations held a roundtable discussion on the role of Holocaust commemoration in combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance on 10 November. Organised by the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Austrian Chairmanship of the Task Force for International Co-operation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research (ITF), the meeting marked the 70th anniversary of a series of pogroms in Nazi Germany on 9 November 1938. ODIHR's Director emphasised the importance of strengthening partnerships between international organisations to combat anti-Semitism. [more](#)

NEWS FROM EUROPE

- **Polish Foreign ministry condemns racist MP**

Poland's Foreign Ministry has condemned politician Artur Gorski after he said Barack Obama's victory marked the "end of the civilisation of the white man" and called the president, "the black messiah of the new left". Artur Gorski, a member of the opposition Law and Justice (PiS) party, made the remark to parliament on 5 November, a day after Obama's victory as America's first African-American president. He claimed that militant Islamists were delighted by Obama's victory, saying that "(...) al Qaeda are rubbing their hands with glee, as the new president wants peace, not war." The statement provoked an instant response from the Foreign Ministry. "As a general rule, the Foreign Ministry does not comment on the behaviour of individual members of parliament, because they have freedom of expression," reads the department's statement. "This time, however, we find it crucial to express our strong disapproval of Artur Górski's words."

[more](#)

- **UK academics oppose 'spying' on students to nail migrant scams**

Universities are being asked to set up surveillance units to monitor the movements of international students in a government-led crackdown on bogus student immigration scams. New rules to force universities to report overseas students who miss too many lectures to immigration officers will harm the academic-student relationship because lecturers are being asked to act in a "police-like" manner, according to a group of 200 academics and activists opposing the moves. A letter to the Guardian, organised by Ian Grigg-Spall, academic chair of the National Critical Lawyers Group and signed by leading academic lawyers, the head of the lecturers' union and Tony Benn, claims that the rules could breach the European convention on human rights, which guarantees the individual's right to privacy. [more](#)

- **Headscarves new target for Austrian far right**

The Austrian far right is now asking: Should public employees be allowed to wear Muslim headscarves at work? Two women have become the first schoolteachers in Vienna to wear headscarves while teaching. One is also a local centre-left Social Democrat politician. Teachers in other parts of the country already wear headscarves, and there is no law banning public employees from wearing such items as there is in some other European countries. But the two women have now found themselves featured on the front page of the Austrian daily Österreich and have drawn criticism from the resurgent far right, which won a combined one-third of the vote in a parliamentary election several weeks ago. "Headscarves are a symbol of Islamism and female oppression. They have no place in Austria," says Heinz-Christian Strache, head of the far-right Freedom Party. [more](#)

- **School books still too 'white'**

The French equality body, Halde, published on 6 November a survey on stereotypes and discrimination in school books. The results are not disastrous. The first satisfactory result is that visible minorities are ... visible. 10% of illustrations represent "a person of a different colour",

and among these, over half can be perceived as coming from North Africa or the Middle East. In addition, racist stereotypes from the colonial period have disappeared and anti-racist discourse is evoked in the school books. However, some stereotypes continue to appear. According to the Halde, certain minorities are more valorised than others. In addition, geography books in particular, in chapters on the Maghreb and Africa, highlight poverty without also representing positive examples of modernity present in the studies countries. [more](#) (in French)

EU INSTITUTIONS

- **Third EU Ministerial Conference on Integration**

On 3 and 4 November, the third Integration Ministerial Conference took place in Vichy, France. On 4 November, Brice Hortefeux, the French Minister of Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Development, obtained the agreement of his 26 European counterparts on a series of commitments for advancing integration. Integration Ministers agreed to give particular attention to several themes when defining and implementing their national integration policies: promotion of the European Union's fundamental values, the integration process, access to employment and the promotion of diversity, the integration of women and the education of children, intercultural dialogue at the service of integration and integration policy governance. ENAR called on Ministers ahead of the meeting to take a positive approach to integration. [more](#)

- **MEPs vote on Directive introducing sanctions for employers of irregular migrants**

Employers of irregular immigrants should be punished rather than the workers themselves, according to a Parliament report drafted by Italian MEP Claudio Fava (PES), to be presented to the full assembly for approval in December. The document, which was adopted by a clear majority of MEPs in the European Parliament's civil liberties committee on 4 November, will guide negotiations with EU member states on a proposed directive to sanction employers of irregular migrants. The Directive will introduce EU-wide minimum penalties for such employers. MEPs proposed that civil society organisations should be able to help irregular migrants in filing complaints against their employers without facing legal proceedings for assisting them. [more](#)

- **MEPs back controversial scheme for 'highly-qualified' migrants**

The European Parliament's civil liberties committee approved on 4 November the Blue Card scheme for highly-qualified migrants, a European Commission initiative to attract highly-skilled migrants to fill Europe's labour and skill gaps. The amended text approved by the committee contains a compromise definition of 'highly-qualified labour' which is bound to prove controversial. Basic requirements include higher education qualifications or professional qualifications. Migrants will, however, have to secure a contract for 1.7 times the gross average wage of the country where they will be working before their arrival. [more](#)

- **FRA S'cool agenda: 2009 edition available**

The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) presented at the Diversity Day on 10 November the new edition of its S'cool Agenda. This agenda, available in English, German and French, is meant to help young people to learn about fundamental rights issues in Europe while keeping track of their own daily activities and homework. In order to achieve this, it offers a wide range of helpful tools, such as the "human rights temperature" test, a glossary, or tips on how to fight discrimination. [more](#)

UNITED NATIONS

- **UN human rights expert outlines priorities for addressing racism**

The relationship between racism and migration, ethnic conflicts and poverty will all be under the spotlight of the new United Nations independent expert on racism during his time in office. The new Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Githu Muigai, predicted that racism aimed at migrants will be aggravated by the current financial crisis as economic strains and competition for scarce resources will foster more ethnic or racial tensions as migrants are seen as competitors for jobs and welfare. Mr. Muigai said that he would closely monitor how Member States address the issue of poverty and racism and create a “solid body of knowledge” with the aim of eradicating the obstacles to equality and development. [more](#)

ROMA ISSUES

- **Court overturns Czech ruling in Roma sterilisation case**

An appeals court ruled on 5 November that a Czech hospital does not have to pay compensation to a Roma woman it sterilised 11 years ago without her consent. The League for Human Rights sharply criticised the ruling and said it would appeal it to the Supreme Court. The appeals court overturned a lower court ruling that a hospital must pay 500,000 koruna (20,460 Euros) to Iveta Cervenakova for illegally sterilising her without her consent in 1997. The court ruled that the hospital in the north-eastern city of Ostrava does not have to pay the compensation to Cervenakova because the case had exceeded the 3-year statute of limitations. [more](#)

- **MEPs attack Facebook over anti-gypsy hate groups**

Socialist deputies in the European Parliament have condemned Facebook, the popular social networking service, for hosting anti-gypsy groups on its site. Facebook groups attacking Roma people and bearing such names as "Let's burn them all", "Turn gypsies into fuel" and "Useful work for gypsies: testers of gas chambers" have been roundly condemned by the Party of European Socialists. German MEP and Socialist group leader Martin Schulz said: "The existence of these groups is repulsive. I call upon Facebook to remove them immediately." Backed by the leader of the Italian Socialists in the European Parliament, Gianni Pittell, Mr Schulz called on Facebook users to contact the company and demand they close down the groups. [more](#)

- **Chachipe Youth photography contest**

The Open Society Institute (OSI) and OSA Archivum have launched “Chachipe Youth”, an international photography contest for young people between the ages of 12 and 25. The contest is a sequel to the successful Chachipe contest held in 2007. Chachipe Youth invites young people to use photography to present how they see Roma and their lives. The contest has three categories: "My Street, My Neighbourhood," "My Colourful Life," and "What Is Wrong?". [more](#)

- **Roma Rights newsletter on ‘Roma Education: The Promise of D.H.’**

On 13 November 2007, the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights made a landmark decision advancing anti-discrimination jurisprudence in Europe, ruling that the segregation of Romani students in special remedial schools is a form of unlawful discrimination. This momentous decision for Roma across Europe was made in the case *D.H. and Others v. the Czech Republic*. This issue of *Roma Rights* outlines the immediate follow up advocacy on the implementation of the judgment and examines the anticipated impacts of this judgment. Furthermore, this edition aims to spark debate on how the *D.H.* case can be used to fuel the development of the Roma rights discourse and struggle in Europe. [more](#)

- **ERIO survey on ethnic data collection**

ERIO is conducting a survey on ethnic data collection. The purpose is to find out to what extent Roma think ethnic data could help to combat discrimination and more specifically indirect discrimination; and whether they are afraid of disclosing their ethnic background considering it as a danger to be subjected to racism and unequal treatment or believe this will give an answer to many questions which will make Roma equal participants in their society. [more](#)

REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

- **Guide to locating migration policies in the machinery of the European Commission**

The Migration Policy Group (MPG) and the European Programme for Integration and Migration of the European Network of European Foundations (EPIM) have launched the second updated Guide to locating migration policies in the machinery of the European Commission. This Guide not only maps the European Commission's policies related to migration, including the relevant cooperation and consultation mechanisms and funding programmes, it also discusses the issue of the evaluation of policies in terms of impact and effectiveness, as well as the use of indicators.

[more](#)

- **FEANTSA magazine on the right to housing**

The Autumn 2008 edition of *Homeless in Europe*, FEANTSA's tri-annual magazine, has been published. The theme of this issue is "The Right to Housing: The Way Forward". This edition looks at the issue of the right to housing from a number of perspectives and gives practical information on the legal frameworks which promote the right to housing, explains the Council of Europe Collective Complaint mechanism, presents national case studies from Scotland, Finland, France and Spain and provides details on Housing Rights Watch. [more](#)

- **Council of Europe report on policies and practices for teaching sociocultural diversity**

This report underlines that teacher education institutions play an important role, in collaboration with policy makers, in drafting study programmes, but also in defining national policies concerning teacher education. This report is the result of a survey on the initial training of teachers in sociocultural diversity in Europe, carried out in 16 countries within the framework of the project "Policies and practices for teaching sociocultural diversity" launched by the Steering Committee for Education of the Council of Europe in 2006. An analysis of replies from practitioners completes the results of the survey. [more](#)

CONFERENCES & EVENTS

- **Social Platform Conference in Croatia on the role of civil society**

On 24-25 November 2008, the Social Platform is organising a conference with Croatian civil society organisations to discuss the role of civil society in the Accession process to the EU. This is part of a wider networking visit of European Social NGOs in Croatia. During the conference, participants will be able to discuss with European networks of NGOs on what role social activists and civil society can play in the accession to the EU, how the European social acquis can be best implemented and how European networks of NGOs can support Croatian civil society. [more](#)

- **Debate on "the European way to integration: intercultural dialogue and mutual respect"**

The European Economic and Social Committee is organising a debate on "The European way to integration: intercultural dialogue and mutual respect" on 21 November 2008 in Brussels. The debate comes in the framework of the end of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue but also of the EESC's role in the ongoing intercultural dialogue and action process in Europe today.

[more](#)

- **Forum on Intercultural Dialogue at the heart of Europe's cities and regions**

The Committee of the Regions is organising a forum entitled "Intercultural dialogue at the heart of Europe's cities and regions" on 25 and 26 November 2008 in Brussels. The event, organised in cooperation with the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture and Notre Europe, the European think-tank founded by Jacques Delors, is an opportunity to discuss the approach of Europe's cities and regions as regards intercultural dialogue, addressing the debate from a European perspective and highlighting best practice from cities and regions. The three debates of the event will focus on migration and integration, diversity, inter-religious issues and the development of a European identity. [more](#)

WEBSITES

- **European website on integration unveiled at 3rd Ministerial Conference**

The European website on integration featured prominently at the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Integration held in Vichy on 3-4 November 2008 under the French Presidency. As the Conference called for the development of tools to facilitate the integration of migrants, it was pointed that the European website on integration was the right instrument to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and practices between those who make integration work: European institutions, national governments, civil society organisations (including migrant associations and self-help groups) and private sector companies. In the final conference declaration, EU Member States were called upon to promote the website within their respective countries. [more](#)

VACANCIES

- **FRA has three vacancies for Temporary Agents**

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has issued 3 vacancy notices in order to recruit Temporary Agents for the following posts: Head of Communication and Awareness Raising Department, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, and Head of Human Resources and Planning Department. [more](#)

- **Social Platform is recruiting a Policy and Communication Officer**

The Social Platform is recruiting a Policy and Communications Officer. Together with the Director, the Policy Coordinator and Social Platform working groups, he/she will work to build the capacity of member organisations to take an active part in key EU processes, as well as developing and implementing the policy strategies and objectives of the Platform. He/she will also help to implement the communications strategy of the Social Platform, together with Communications and Information Officers. The closing date for applications is 20 November 2008. [more](#)

- **REF seeks Country Facilitator for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia**

The Roma Education Fund (REF), which supports quality education for Roma children, seeks a country facilitator to provide support to requesting and implementing organisations for REF financed projects and to help in the coordination of REF country programmes for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. The deadline for applications is 20 November 2008. [more](#)