

demystifying Roma

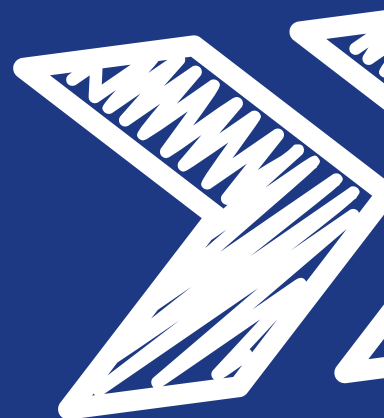


CHALLENGING STEREOTYPES AND NARRATIVES



phiren amenca volunteer seminar
may 12-19, 2013 | florence, italy

seminar outline



IN CO-OPERATION WITH ROMÀ ONLUS AND CSD DIACONIA VALDESE
THIS ACTIVITY IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE.





ABOUT PHIREN AMENCA

Phiren Amenca is a network of Roma and non-Roma volunteers and voluntary service organizations creating opportunities for non-formal education, dialogue and engagement, in order to challenge stereotypes and racism. Visit www.rgdts.net for more info.

BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

Each spring and fall Phiren Amenca hosts in cooperation with member organizations, this time specifically with Roma Onlus and CSD Diaconia Valdese, a one week seminar for current volunteers and volunteer candidates from around Europe focusing on the exchange of experience and on Roma history, antigypsyism, discrimination, stigmatization, xenophobia, identity and culture; globalization and migration; as well as youth engagement and Roma initiatives in Europe.

“Demystifying Roma: Challenging Stereotypes and Narratives about Roma” Phiren Amenca Volunteer Seminar will be a key event in the network’s goals of creating opportunities for non-formal education, dialogue and engagement to challenge stereotypes and racism. The seminar will also further enhance co-operation and learning among member organizations and external partners. Also the seminar will serve to further strengthen the network’s platform of volunteers and former volunteers, serving to strengthen their role as multipliers and promoters of voluntary service and engagement. Phiren Amenca (formally named the Roma-Gadje Dialogue through Service Initiative) has existed as an informal network for the past 10 years, offering 1-3 seminars per year for Roma and non-Roma volunteers serving in long and short term placements across Europe and North America.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The seminar aims to raise the awareness and youth activism to challenge stereotypes, and antigypsyism, as well as to support the work of young Roma and non-Roma volunteers as they engage to tackle discrimination and promote inclusion in diverse voluntary service placements from across the world.

The seminar aims to support this in several ways, including by

- Encouraging dialogue and exchange of experience;
- offering resources, information, and raising awareness of issues related to youth voluntary service as a powerful response to xenophobia, stereotypes, and racism;
- Demystifying Roma and challenging stereotypes and narratives about Roma; engaging in an active dialogue with Roma activists, artists and writers;
- strengthening the development of critical thinking of the participants regarding antigypsyism and the situation of Roma in Europe, specifically in Italy by visiting camps;

- engage in a public campaign for Roma rights and to challenge stereotypes with street and creative actions, as well as participation in the **Civil Society festival Terra Futura** www.terrafutura.it;
- acting as a powerful international networking tool to support these young activists through a sense of encouragement, strength of community, and introducing them to the services and support of the Phiren Amenca network;
- promoting engagement, mobilization, and local initiatives to challenge stereotypes and racism beyond the period of voluntary service abroad;
- sharing information on different organizations, stakeholders and actors relevant in the field with a special focus on the Roma Youth Action Plan.

PROFILE OF THE PARTICIPANTS

Roma and non-Roma volunteers, volunteer candidates, youth leaders

The course is designed for participants who are:

- active in Roma communities and experienced in working with Roma communities and/or Roma youth
- activists and youth leaders with a multiplying role, namely in a position to work in their organizations on access to human rights for Roma young people, as a response to situations of discrimination and antigipsyism

All participants must also:

- be able and committed to act as multipliers in youth work on the themes of anti-discrimination and promotion of human rights with Roma young people, for the benefit of Roma communities and Roma youth
- be motivated to develop their competences in anti-discrimination work, human rights education and youth work and to share their experiences with other participants
- be aged 18 – 30 (exceptions are possible)
- be committed to attend for the full duration of the course, including the project Implementation phase
- be able to work in English, or check with the coordination office that translation can be provided through other participants or team members
- be resident in a member state of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe.

WORKING LANGUAGE

English

DATES OF THE ACTIVITY

Arrival: 12th May 2013 (Sunday)

Departure: 19th May 2013 (Sunday)

Participants should organise their travel (arrival and departure) for these dates. Earlier arrivals and late departures will be exceptions after discussion with the organisers.

PLACE

From May 12 to May 17, the seminar program will take place in Casa Cares (www.casacares.it)

From May 17 to May 19, the whole group will move to Florence, meet there with an international volunteer group of CSD Diaconia Valdese, and stay in Casa Santo Nome di Gesù (www.fmmfirenze.it)

PARTICIPATION FEE

For this activity **the participation fee is 50 Euro**. For participants of Phiren Amenca member organizations the travel costs will be fully reimbursed. Non-member organizations have to cover their own international travel costs, in exceptional cases contact the coordination office for support. The participation fee will be deducted from the travel reimbursement of the participants, or shall be paid during the seminar.

Reimbursement of travel costs:

The accommodation for the activity is provided in the Casa Cares and in Casa Santo Nome di Gesù and is covered by the organisers of the seminar. The reimbursements of travel expenses (based on economical prices, Apex, student price, special price) and visa will take on the spot during the week in Euro or by bank transfer after the activity. Participants should bring with them original invoices to prove the costs of travel (ticket and visa) as well the tickets.

To be reimbursed participants should take part at least 80% in the activity.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The preparatory team of this activity will select 35 participants. According to the profile specified above, but also ensuring geographical and gender balance (as far as possible) in the overall group composition.

The deadline for the receipt of applications is set for **12th April 2013 (Friday)**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

The application form should be sent to the following e-mail address:

info@rgdts.net

APPLICATION FORM DEADLINE: 12. April 2013.

QUESTIONS?

Phiren Amenca

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