



IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE YOUTH DEPARTMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE



the European  
“Boogie Man” complex

PHIREN AMENCA STUDY SESSION ON **CHALLENGING ANTIGYPSYISM**

OCTOBER 14 - 20, 2012 | EUROPEAN YOUTH CENTRE BUDAPEST

**OUTLINE OF THE STUDY SESSION**

## 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](http://www.rgdts.net) for more info.

## BACKGROUND OF THE ACTIVITY

Each spring and fall Phiren Amenca hosts in cooperation with member organizations and this time with Council of Europe 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.

**The European “Boogie Man” Complex: Phiren Amenca Study Session on Antigypsyism** 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 study session 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
- strengthening the development of critical thinking of the participants regarding antigypsyism and the situation of Roma in Europe, with a special focus on the modern context and through historical exploration, as well as on the current political crisis in Hungary and France;
- exploring different good practices in Budapest/Hungary;
- 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 antidiscrimination 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
- be resident in a member state of the European Cultural Convention<sup>4</sup> of the Council of Europe.

## WORKING LANGUAGE

English

## DATES OF THE ACTIVITY

**Arrival: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (Sunday)**

**Departure: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (Saturday)**

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

## PARTICIPATION FEE

For this activity **the participation fee is 50 Euro**. The amount will be deducted from the travel reimbursement of the participants.

### Reimbursement of travel costs:

The accommodation for the activity is provided at the European Youth Centre Budapest and is covered by the organisers of the session. 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 **20<sup>th</sup> September 2012 (Thursday)**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

The application form should be sent to the following e-mail address:  
**[info@rgdts.net](mailto:info@rgdts.net)**

**Study Session Application Form available at [www.rgdts.net](http://www.rgdts.net)**  
**Deadline: 20. September 2012.**

## QUESTIONS?

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