Roma and Sinti Youth Conference - Call for Papers/ Junior Experts

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The OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues invites interested individuals to apply for up to six junior experts on papers on Roma and Sinti youth initiatives.

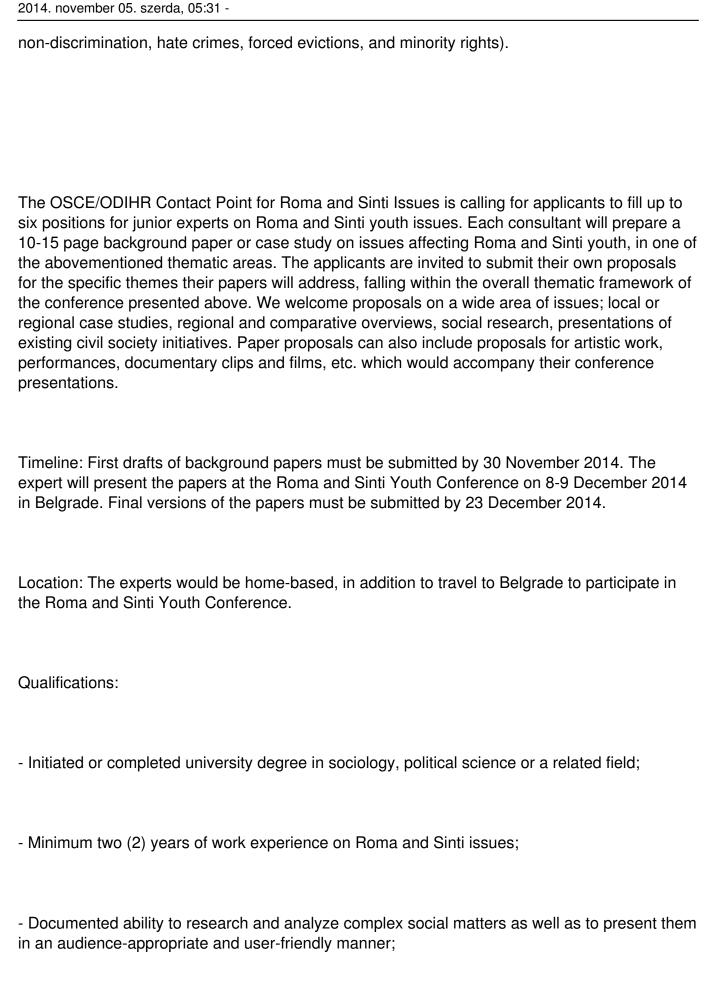
The youth of Roma and Sinti communities represent a demographic of growing importance in many participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). Nevertheless, exclusionary mechanisms due to stigmatization in employment and education stop young Roma and Sinti from developing their full potential. In 2013, in its Decision No. 4/2014, the OSCE Ministerial Council confirmed that Roma and Sinti youth need to be provided with more opportunities to act as agents of change in their communities.

The OSCE/ODIHR Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues continues its engagement on empowering young Roma and Sinti in the OSCE region. Its Roma and Sinti Youth Conference, taking place on 8-9 December 2014 in Belgrade, will bring together youth representatives of Roma and Sinti from across the OSCE region, to discuss engagement of Roma and Sinti youth at local level addressing the following three fields:

- 1. Empowerment and social inclusion of Roma and Sinti communities through youth activism (e.g. influence of youth campaigns, programs and activities on fostering youth activism, mobilization to empower marginalized communities, possible policy measures meant to address challenges, reflections on community building, role models and the personal role and responsibility of individuals to overcome obstacles, key challenges and obstacles that hinder Roma and Sinti youth activism and particularly of Roma and Sinti female youth on grassroots level).
- 2. The participation of Roma and Sinti youth in politics and democratic processes (e.g. the processes that hinder or advance the participation of Roma and Sinti youth in public and political life, the challenges but also opportunities facing young Roma and Sinti women in this area, initiatives aiming to improve the current situation, etc.)
- 3. Roma and Sinti youth and security (within the cross-dimensional understanding of security, addressing the politico-military, economic and environmental and human dimension Roma and Sinti and particularly women from these communities face in the OSCE area, in particular in crisis and post-crisis situations. Possible themes could range from transnational threats such as trafficking or international crime to economic development, tolerance and

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