

European  
Roma  
Grassroots  
Organisations  
Network

# Annual Report 2010

**ERGO**  
Network



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The group of Young Roma Professionals included in the REACT campaign present themselves

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#### Printed by

Drukkerij Efficient, Nijmegen

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### Board members ERGO Network

At the end of 2010 Spolu International Foundation merged with ERGO Network. The board includes new, international board members.

Jan Marinus Wiersma	- President
Ana Oprisan	- Vice President, from December 2010
Tanja Lubbers	- Board Member
Karlien de Ruijter	- Treasurer, from April 2011

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## ERGO Online

At ERGO we are increasingly active online. To stay up-to-date on ERGO's work, visit:

- [www.ergonetwork.org](http://www.ergonetwork.org) gives you information about our work approach, our lobbying efforts, campaigns and activities.
- [www.roma-react.eu](http://www.roma-react.eu) keeps you informed about all the "REACT" campaign activities.
- Facebook: ERGO Network  
Become a fan of our Facebook page for regular ERGO news updates.



# Opportunities and Threats

Foreword by **Jan Marinus Wiersma**, Chair of the ERGO Board

**Spolu International has merged into ERGO Network, thereby creating a new organisation that can operate through its partners at many levels. On the European level, ERGO has a leading role in the European Roma Policy Coalition (ERPC), working together with OSI, Amnesty, ERRC, ERIO and others. This coalition has made great efforts to give Roma a voice in Brussels and the EU institutions.**

In the past year ERGO intensively lobbied for a better and more effective EU Roma Platform and towards the European Commission, when it was preparing its EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. This coincided with the start of the implementation of an important EU pilot project on awareness raising in a number of European countries.

ERGO has become more European – with an office in Brussels – and attracted Roma in the board and staff. This annual report gives a good overview of the many activities of ERGO and the excellent work of its staff.

The growing attention of the EU to Roma issues should be welcomed but we will have to wait and see whether this will have the desired results on the ground. The Member States maintain primary responsibility for Roma inclusion in their country and their record is not good. The European Commission itself used tough words criticising the lack of concrete results so far. Together with our members we will, of course, closely monitor the implementation of the EU Framework. And we will keep insisting that the EU and the Member States also work with the Roma and not only for them.

Our second area of concern is funding. In a time of budget cuts everywhere it is becoming more and more difficult to find money for our work. While there is significant funding available through European Structural funds, they are not used properly by the Member States to improve the situation of the Roma. We will nevertheless continue to appeal to national politics to take the problems of the most marginalised minority of Europe more seriously. In the meantime ERGO has become a very flexible organisation and we hope and expect to survive notwithstanding the difficult situation. One important source of funding is and remains the EU. We trust that the intention of the European Commission to better target EU funds available for social policies and poverty reduction will provide new opportunities for those who try to tackle the Roma issue where it is most urgent.



ERGO members meet in Istanbul for the official voting on the merger of ERGO and Spolu IF

Photo: ERGO Network

# Spolu and ERGO join forces

**At the end of 2010, ERGO joined forces with the Dutch foundation Spolu International and merged into one organisation: ERGO Network.**

The “new” ERGO combines the best of both: the network’s representative character, proximity to daily practice and expertise in European advocacy, and Spolu’s 15 years professional experience and financial track record in supporting grassroots capacity building. By merging our resources and expertise, ERGO Network can make a difference for the situation of Roma across Europe.

ERGO Network has an independent board, an international staff and an advisory council that assembles its member organisations. The staff and board include Roma and non-Roma from different European countries: ERGO Network’s Chair, Jan Marinus Wiersma, is a former Member of the European Parliament; Ana Oprisan, academic and expert on Roma issues involved in Turkish Civil Society since 2002, is Vice Chair. Ruus Dijksterhuis, Dutch senior Roma expert, is Executive Director, and Valeriu Nicolae, Romanian senior lobbyist and Roma expert, is Director for Advocacy. ERGO Network is registered as a foundation under Dutch law.

The merger is a natural step in the development of both organisations. It gives a clear role and position to everyone involved. The “new” ERGO Network consists of Roma member organisations working together on advocacy, campaigning, research and dissemination of information supported by an advocacy office in Brussels and a secretariat in Utrecht. ERGO wants to be a valuable platform for Roma NGOs who have their basis in their home countries and who want to work together through ERGO to strengthen the impact of their work through common activities and advocacy.

## Interview with Ana Oprisan

### ‘My passion is my work’

Ana Oprisan joined ERGO in 2010 as vice-chair of the board of ERGO Network. We interviewed Ana Oprisan about her background and commitment to Roma affairs.

*What is your relation to Roma?*

I have been concerned with Roma activism for a very long time and in many different positions. I have dedicated most of my university career to studying the Xoraxane Muslim Roma minority in Romania and Turkey. Currently I am conducting my PhD research on the Turkish Roma at the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences at the University of London.

*What was your objective to join the ERGO board?*

I was involved with the establishment of ERGO’s partner EDROM in Turkey, and I have been an advisor to ERGO for

a number of years. When they asked me to join the board, I was pleased to say yes. Over the years I have noticed that without grassroots connection, high representative organisations fail to achieve positive results. I appreciate being a part of ERGO because it is the channel between the needs of the local communities and the EU institutions. They challenge the policy makers by bringing the Roma voice to them.

*What are ERGO’s most important achievements?*

There are several things that ERGO does well. One of them concerns the youth activities. I believe that it is of utmost importance that Roma youth is encouraged to invest in their future. Youth should be the driving force of Roma activism. Furthermore, the campaigning activities of the organisation



Photo: Ana Oprisan

are very valuable. Also, ERGO should be praised for the work it has done in the European Roma Policy Coalition (ERPC). Through its structure, ERGO grew in its capacity to really influence Roma policy making.

*What do you consider a large future opportunity for ERGO?*

To involve and to enlarge its organisation with more partners from more European countries.

# The roles of ERGO Network

The mission of ERGO Network is to achieve equal opportunities for Roma in their societies and to encourage them to take an active role in accomplishing respect for Roma rights as equal citizenship. The network supports its member organisations to develop their capacity to become leading civil society organisations in their countries, while maintaining close links with grassroots Roma communities. The network offers its members facilities and support to strengthen their activities, which reinforces the value of ERGO Network as a whole.

Members benefit from their connection to ERGO Network in their advocacy towards municipalities and national governments – through information exchange, back-up, and an international connection. At the European level, ERGO Network expresses its common concerns and aims to bridge the gap between day-to-day grassroots reality and policy making. By providing expertise and knowledge to policy makers and politicians, we contribute to the design of effective approaches to Roma inclusion.



Photo: Virginie Nguyen Hoang

## Inaugural ERGO Platform seminar

On the 14th of December, the inaugural ERGO Platform seminar was organised in Brussels. At the seminar the outcomes of the “Thank you ...?!” campaign were presented, and local and European policy making were discussed.

On the local level, the main challenge within the “Thank you ...?!” campaign was to raise awareness on Roma issues. At the seminar, the results and achievements of this campaign were represented by the participants from Turkey (EDROM), Serbia (DUR), Moldova (Tarna Rom), Bulgaria (Integro), Macedonia (Intelekt) and Albania (RAA).

Furthermore, the representative of the Committee of Regions, Alvaro Ancisi, presented some examples of the effort of local authorities for solving Roma issues. We were pleased that the mayor of Kavarna, Bulgaria, who got the prize of “Most Roma-Friendly Mayor”, travelled

to Brussels to share concrete examples on the Roma integration mechanisms from his own municipality.

The European perspective on Roma issues was brought forward during a presentation that was led by the Chair of the ERGO Board, Mr. Wiersma. At the gathering Ilona Negro (EC) presented the upcoming European Roma Framework

as well as the Article 7 of ERDF. Valeriu Nicolae (PCRM) introduced the new ERGO Network and shared information on the Awareness Raising campaign “REACT”.

Alongside the seminar a photo exhibition was opened showing positive Roma images from Brussels, portrayed by Virginie Nguyen.



Photo: ERGO Network

Speakers at ERGO Platform seminar in Brussels, December 2010

# Grassroots perspectives at the European level

**ERGO Network consolidated its advocacy at the European level in a period that turned out to be a key moment for Europe's involvement in Roma policies (see box: France and the evolution of EU Roma policy). Especially the announcement of European Commissioner Viviane Reding in September that the European Commission (EC) would develop an EU Roma Framework, would appear to overshadow events that took place earlier in the year.**

The year began positively with a public hearing in the European Parliament, which we co-organised under the umbrella of the ERPC (see box). ERGO Network's Valeriu Nicolae was one of the speakers. In the framework of the Spanish Presidency's Second European Roma Summit in April 2010, ERGO Network distributed its recommendations to key policy makers and played a key role in drafting the ERPC statement of expectations.

The ERGO Network also released two discussion papers, setting out its main priorities for advocacy. The EU should pay more attention to making its contributions to policies in local level circum-

stances and take a more honest view of policy evaluations, where not only good practices, but also policy or project failures are analysed. The input seems to have found its way into some of the EC's policy documents on Roma inclusion, recognising the close participation of Roma in policy design and implementation as a key success factor and shifting attention to the actual implementation of existing commitments.

## **Successfully putting forward our perspective?**

In its advocacy, ERGO Network has emphasised four key areas that lie close to the concerns, work and experiences of our member organisations:

- the importance of developing Roma inclusion from the bottom-up, taking into account the obstacles to successful Roma inclusion;
- the development of Roma human resources – so that investments in this field will enable Roma to play an active role in society and decision making;
- support for grassroots NGOs that can independently keep an eye on policy implementation and, crucially, enable communities to take up their role as equal stakeholders in policy design;
- the fight against anti-Gypsyism, which, however you look at it, acts as a brake on the equal integration of Roma in their societies.

During 2010, ERGO Network took up the challenge of translating these issues into concrete work and decided to focus on the reality at the local level; the nexus of all four key issues. This is where concrete challenges need to be translated into action and where the active involvement of Roma communities plays a key role.

Anti-Roma sentiment remains strong and – very often – accepted across Europe. To invest in Roma inclusion measures without taking that into account, will negatively condition the success of policies and may even risk adding to already existing tensions between Roma and majority societies. The EC has rightly acknowledged that the active participation of Roma communities in policy design and implementation is a key success factor. However, it has yet to draw the right conclusions from that recognition – active support for grassroots empowerment, promoting equitable societies and closely involving municipalities are all necessary preconditions. It won't happen automatically.



Protest against Roma violence during EU Roma Platform meeting on April 8th Budapest

## Need for a more coherent approach

Alexandros Tsolakis has been concerned with Roma issues in his function at the European Commission (EC), DG Regional Development, for many years. "Integration is like a marriage; it takes two", Tsolakis suggests that it is key that both Roma and the majority society make progress towards mutual understanding and respect.

The EC presented its framework for National Roma Integration Strategies in April 2011. "Even though it was aware that it was entering troubled waters, the Commission used its right of initiative by arguing about the legitimate need for affirmative and targeted action and by proposing concrete steps towards policies adapted to the specific needs of Roma." Tsolakis recognises that the absence of real policies has challenged Roma and the Roma movement. Over the years organisations have somehow dispersed their efforts. Tsolakis is critical towards this development, "I believe that there is a need for a more specialised and long term approach. ERGO has been successful in finding a clear focus, partly by emphasizing its work on awareness raising. But in general I consider that a lack of direction in the Roma movement has caused it to weaken." Therefore Tsolakis pleads for a more coherent and evidence based approach towards Roma inclusion. "It might limit the imagination, but will increase efficiency."



Alekos Tsolakis in conversation with Roma from Greece

Photo: Alexandros Tsolakis

## Chairing the European Roma Policy Coalition

The European Roma Policy Coalition (ERPC) was established in 2007 with the aim to advocate for adoption of a European Strategy for Roma Inclusion. The coalition's mention in the European Commission's communication of 7 April 2010 is a rare recognition of the role of the ERPC as a key stakeholder in the policy debate, bringing together organisations with a wide variety of perspectives in the field of anti-discrimination, human rights and Roma issues, like Amnesty International, ENAR, ERRC and OSI.

Over the course of the year, it became increasingly clear that the work and actions of the coalition were in need of a new impetus and strategic direction. In light of current developments, it was agreed to take up the formulation of an appropriate EU level response on Roma issues as its key priority. For a fairer sharing of the burden between the coalition members, the ERPC would henceforth have a rotating chairmanship.



The ERGO Networks' offer to take the position of chair from October 2010 until April 2011 was welcomed within the ERPC. Although the efforts were considerable, this period accomplished a reinvigoration of the ERPC's close involvement in European policy debates. The ERPC managed to draft and present a comprehensive input paper for the then forthcoming EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, of which the 'Essential Elements', which remained the most important point of reference of our common advocacy efforts.

## France and the evolution of EU Roma Policy

In late July 2010, the French government stepped up its campaign of dismantling illegal settlements and returning recently migrated Roma to their countries of origin – mainly Bulgaria and Romania. Although the measures were not novel, the self-aggrandising publicity for such 'tough action' sparked a political row at the European level and raised unprecedented media attention for Roma issues.

The ERPC reacted early, on 30 July, condemning the evictions and the stigmatizing character of the measures. In addition, in early September the ERPC wrote, at the initiative of ERGO Network, to the European Commission.

"The current situation", the letter read, "also shows that the discrimination against and lack of opportunities for Roma in their countries of origin does not just stay where it is; social exclusion travels and will continue to do so unless effective action is taken."

In response to the alleged intentionally discriminatory treatment of Roma, the European Commission, led by Commissioner Viviane Reding, investigated possible infringement of France's obligations under European law. It also refocused on the broader question of policy responses to Roma exclusion with the announcement of an 'EU Roma Framework' and establishment of a dedicated Roma Task Force.

Although the actions of the Sarkozy government were once more a lamentable illustration that governments at times have few qualms to breach the integrity of Roma human and civil rights, it paradoxically appears to have been a key accelerator for the policy debate on Roma issues at European level, framing ERGO Network's advocacy for the remainder of 2010.



# REACT: campaigning, learning and evaluating



Banner "REACT" Campaign

**In 2010 the European Commission awarded ERGO to implement the pilot project on Public Awareness Campaigning. The pilot gives new élan to our work and enables us to adapt our approaches in such a way that the basics remain the same but with more effect.**

## REACT

No awareness – no progress. The “REACT” campaign wants to tackle the social exclusion of Europe’s largest minority by creating an understanding of the problems Roma face. We appeal

to a sense of urgency to act and offer perspectives of concrete opportunities for progress. “REACT” starts from the belief that Roma and non-Roma should share the responsibility as citizens to ensure all have an equal place in society. It also wants to convey that governments need to take their responsibility to ensure all citizens enjoy equal opportunities. And we want to make clear that we need an open and transparent attitude towards the problems our societies face and the approaches we adopt to tackle them.

## Learning lessons: Replicable campaign approaches

Awareness-raising of Roma exclusion is a crucial dimension of effective Roma inclusion policies. This requires a long term commitment – and effective approaches. Parallel to the actual campaigns, ERGO invests in building knowledge and expertise on campaigning. The ‘learning and evaluation’ component analyses approaches, methods and results of the different campaign strategies.

## Integro: Is Bulgarian society willing to integrate Roma?

By **Lili Makaveeva**, Director of Integro Association

Europe is actively looking for best practices, models and approaches in the field of Roma inclusion in order to promote and multiply them. Integro’s awareness raising campaign “Thank you, Mayor!”, invests in a model for successful Roma integration and decided to share it within and outside Bulgaria. The mayor of Kavarna – Mr. Tsonko Tsonev, takes a central role in this campaign.

Mr. Tsonev as a good manager and visionary politician hasn’t just stopped the ghettoization of 4000 Roma people from his town but he managed to turn them into capital for the local society: Roma people from Kavarna pay insurance and taxes and spend their earned money in Kavarna by building or repair-

ing their houses and furnishing them with goods from Bulgaria. Tsonev realised that investments are needed for Roma integration, instead of a focus on the difficulty of Roma problems. He actually proved in practice what the World Bank has said: money and resources spent today for Roma integration will return dozens of times more tomorrow in human and economical capital.

To invest in Roma integration requires courage. In a country where the public opinion considers funds for Roma integration as a betrayal of the Bulgarian nation, investing in Roma requires extraordinary bravery. While Mayor Tsonko Tsonev took every opportunity

to include Roma in his municipality as equal citizens, others initiated a petition to collect signatures against their mayor condemning him to tolerate Roma at the expense of the Bulgarians.

Shouldn’t we ask ourselves why on the one hand we talk about the impossibility of Roma integration and on the other hand, when taking real action on it, begin to spew accusations of tolerating someone at the expense of others? If so, are Bulgarians really willing to integrate Roma into Bulgarian society? Does tolerance not mean to allow all to live together and to build a common home of all – Bulgaria.

THANK YOU .... ?!

БЛАГОДАРИМ ТИ,  
КМЕТЕ!

# Campaigning became our working style

By **Mustafa Jakupov**, Director of RROMA

For RROMA the “Typical Roma?” campaign was an opportunity to show that we are doing more than just belonging; we are indeed participating. Through this campaign we were challenged to use our creativity in order to mobilise and empower people to join our campaign. We never thought that creative thinking could be so fun. Campaigning, mobilisation and empowerment through creativity, especially in combination with the usage of new web 2.0 tools, became our new working style.

RROMA was inspired to apply these methods in a creative HIV/AIDS awareness campaign within the Roma communities under the motto “Young generations of Roma are doing that what YOU were afraid to do”. In the beginning, we were scared also, because for the first time an issue like HIV/AIDS was addressed among the traditional Roma communities. But seeing our youth’s motivation in working on this awareness campaign, we can say: We did, are doing and will do the right thing

by empowering and mobilising our youngsters through creativity!

RROMA believes that more creative campaigning from the grassroots level is needed, not only to show the positive side of what has been done, but also to look back and learn from the mistakes of Roma and authorities together, something that is often forgotten.

## PCRM: Love Sport! No Racism! No Violence!

The Policy Centre for Roma and Minorities (PCRM) uses sports as a vehicle for tackling racism. They promote the message of “racism-free sports” and involve sports celebrities and federations. Sports appeal to a broad audience and resonate strongly with fans’ sense of identity; it can be a powerful force for social change. In addition to addressing sports fans, in order to curb racism and violence in the stadiums, the campaign activities promote awareness about negative backlash effects of discrimination, encourage social responsibility in targeted institutions, and raise awareness on possible legal means to help curbing racism.

Popular sports are targeted to promote the message of responsible citizenship. Sports have nothing to do with racism or with violence. The message “Love sports, be responsible citizens and get involved in stopping racism and violence in our societies” is promoted, for instance during the activities in this framework, among which are the 3rd International FIBA Mini-basketball Tournament (including 150 children from 6 countries), the bi-annual football tournament (including 250 Romanian children) and a friendly football match between public representatives on the International Day against Racism.



Football team of Ferentari Roma neighbourhood in Bucharest, Romania

## Media debate and research

In December ERGO hosted a debate between journalists and Roma in the Netherlands. The aim was to provide Roma with understanding of the construction of news about them; to provide journalists with an understanding of the difficulties that Roma face with their media representation; and to provide Roma with handholds to change the negative, stigmatising reporting, regularly seen in Dutch media. The constructive and, at times, passionate debate was well received. All participants were enthusiastic about the initiative, and the participation was above expectations.

The debate was initiated because ERGO witnessed that, as in other countries, stereotypes and stigmas about Roma seemed to be reflected in media reporting. The increased media attention that Roma received in the Netherlands due to President Sarkozy’s practices at the end of the summer reaffirmed this perception. In order to get a better insight in the representation of Roma in Dutch media, research was initiated with the purpose to find ways to construct more balanced media reporting. The research was conducted by Merel Krediet, trainee at ERGO, through the monitoring of newspaper content and conducting interviews with both journalists and Roma. A significant finding of the research was that articles often refer to unjustifiable statistics. Furthermore, it appeared that over 70% of the assessed articles referred to the stereotype that Roma would be criminals. The research suggested that Roma should take a more active stance towards the media in order to influence the stereotype reporting. ERGO can play a role in this by providing more easily accessible information to the media through a resource database on their website. This database is currently under construction.



Photo: ERGO Network

# Focus on Youth

With “Typical Roma?”, the international youth campaign of ERGO Network, young Roma addressed and challenged stigmatization and prejudiced stereotyping. NGOs from Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova participated in the campaign, which promoted a positive image of Roma and strengthened the Roma voice in order to stand up against discrimination and stigmatization.

ERGO can draw positive conclusions about the campaign. We raised awareness about the issue of Roma in many countries. It is difficult to make an exact estimation of the number of people reached through the campaign, but in Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania mass media wrote and broadcasted several issues about the campaign. Further, through street actions and by disseminating materials, thousands of persons were reached. ERGO managed to involve new, young Roma activists in its work.

The closing event of this campaign took place in Cordoba, Spain. In cooperation with our partner TernYpe, the European Roma Youth Summit was organized.

More than 60 young people from across Europe came together to present their vision and their commitment to fight stigmatization against Roma. They got the attention of the political public by creative campaign activities on the streets (see box Youth action in Cordoba).

Also in the awareness raising campaign “REACT” young Roma play a role. At every partner Young Roma Professionals assist with implementing activities to enlarge their work experience (see box Young Roma Professionals). Internationally they are connected to exchange ‘lessons learned’. Youth issues are addressed through debates and other activities.

Other partners of ERGO have been supported through regional exchange. The youth team of EDROM in Turkey has been on an exchange visit to RROMA in Macedonia. Experience was shared on how to enlarge the group of youth volunteers, how to keep good relationships with the youth volunteers and keep them motivated, and how you can facilitate youth actions.



## RAA: Debating Roma inclusion

By **Dritan Ziu**, campaign coordinator at RAA

The Albanian Roma Youth Network (RYN) connecting Roma youngsters from different towns, invests in building a sustainable cooperation with local non-Roma partners through its activi-

ties. This is part of the peer-to-peer component of the “Thank you Mr. Mayor” campaign in Albania. The Roma youth of the network organizes trainings and debates at high schools and universities. The Young Roma Professionals (YRP) are coordinating the activities.

The debates are based on a “Model UN”, a tool that helps in developing the debating skills of the participants. It fosters cooperation among youngsters of different backgrounds. This method is adopted by the RAA team to train Roma and non-Roma youth in debating on specific issues related to Roma inclusion. The method requires team work and negotiating skills, thus imposing the development of mutual under-

standing in the team and developing a common vision. Through negotiations the youngsters can develop their skills in presenting arguments and positions, and to improve their conversational skills. The trainers and facilitators gave the necessary input on presentation skills, formulating position papers, negotiating and preparing a resolution.

In the debates the key actors involved are educational institutions, such as schools and universities, and also other NGOs that provide support to the campaign. The activities were welcomed by the non-Roma youngsters and partners, who emphasized the importance of such initiative, due to the fact that they were never introduced to Roma issues on a professional level.



Young Roma from Albania preparing the activities in the framework of the REACT campaign

# Young Roma Professionals – Skills development

As part of the Pilot Project, ERGO Network started a component called Young Roma Professionals (YRP). It aims to create a model for investment in Roma youth capacity and role models within the Roma community. Twenty young Roma receive trainings and gain work experience at members organisations Roma Active Albania, Integro Association and Policy Center for Roma and Minorities.

Together with their supervisors the YRP have developed an Individual Development Plan defining their learning trajectory. It includes trainings on specific topics, engagement in teams for implementing certain activities, development of individual projects and the



conducting of research. Most important is the hands-on work experience that the youngsters gain and which will enable them to become professionals in the Roma field, for example with community projects, media, intercultural campaigning, and more. Additional to the work experience, the YRP attend meetings at EU level to learn more

about current developments on Roma issues on policy level.

*ERGO believes that “skills development” should be one of the goals of the EU Programmes targeting Roma, because only via that approach of investment in youth capacity an impact on the entire community can be accomplished.*

## Successful youth action in Cordoba

TernYpe is a network of youth and youth associations, which creates space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilisation, self-organisation and participation. It believes in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth. The shared values of ERGO Network and ternYpe – International Roma Youth Network have brought the two together for the “Typical Roma?”



campaign and have resulted in a close cooperation during the 1st European Roma Youth Summit that was organised in Cordoba, Spain on the 7th to the 9th of April 2010.

Jonathan Mack is one of the initiators of the ternYpe network and was present in Cordoba. “The summit was a great success for Roma youth and ternYpe, especially because of the creative ways through which the youth has campaigned”, Mack says. “We wanted to show that Roma and non-Roma youth are actively engaged in constructive discussions and that young people can contribute with their own ideas and visions. The extent to which we were able to have our voices heard, positively surprised us. This was mostly accomplished through the street actions that took place in front of the EU Roma Summit and on different locations in the city on April 8th. As a direct result of this action, we were invited for an informal discussion with the representatives of the Spanish government and the European Commission. The politicians congratulated ternYpe for the successful street campaign and expressed their

curiosity to get to know the youth that stood behind it”.

Through the mutual efforts of ternYpe and ERGO Network Roma youth has gained increased visibility in the European sphere. But Mack points out that the youth efforts needs to continue as networking is a long term process and requires a big investment into empowerment and mobilization on local, regional and national level. The youth network aims to strengthen its structures and wants to extent its membership base. One of the potential new members of ternYpe is ERGO’s Macedonian partner RROMA. Both ternYpe and ERGO are continuously interested in cooperating with each other. Both networks have expressed to look forward to future collaboration.

