

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES IN COMBATING RACISM AND INTOLERANCE AGAINST ROMA/GYPSIES

Roma/Gypsies have long been the victims of racism, racial discrimination and intolerance in Europe.

"Practical examples in combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies" presents selected examples from different member States of the Council of Europe of initiatives set up to combat racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies.

The booklet focuses on the following three priority fields: (a) Roma empowerment, (b) education and youth and (c) policing and justice. A set of main examples of 'good practice' are outlined for each field, and contact details have been provided for further information.

The examples, drawn from across Europe during late 2000 and early 2001, have been selected to illustrate the range and diversity of possible initiatives, rather than to provide a comprehensive overview or appraisal. Priority has been given to initiatives which could be adapted to other local and national contexts.

This publication is intended to accompany ECRI general policy recommendation No. 3 on "Combating racism and intolerance against Roma/Gypsies", which was adopted on 6 March 1998, and which provides guidelines for the development of comprehensive national policies in this respect. The booklet is the latest in the series published by ECRI of examples of current 'good practices' existing in member States of the Council of Europe for combating racism and intolerance in different areas. These compilations are distributed among those circles interested in combating racism and intolerance, to serve as a source of inspiration.

The examples cited have been compiled by an independent consultant, Mr Robin OAKLEY. The consultant also acknowledges the assistance of members of ECRI and of the Council of Europe Specialist Group on Roma/Gypsies (MG-S-ROM); of the Office of the Coordinator of Roma/Gypsy Affairs and the European Youth Centre, and of numerous other individuals and representatives of NGOS and other bodies, for contributing advice and information on which this booklet is based.

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) is a mechanism which was established by the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the member States of the Council of Europe (October 1993). ECRI's task is to combat racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and intolerance at the level of greater Europe and from the perspective of the protection of human rights. ECRI's members are independent experts, nominated on the basis of their moral authority and recognised expertise in dealing with matters related to the fight against racism and intolerance. ECRI's programme of activities covers three aspects: country-by-country approach; work on general themes; activities in relation to civil society.

Visit our web site: <http://www.ecri.coe.int>