

Submission to the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights for its periodic country review for consideration at the 56th Session (21 September– 9 October 2015).

Comments on question 7 and question 22 in the list of issues in relation to the fifth periodic report of Italy

The Italian National Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma, Sinti and Camminanti communities (NRIS), approved by the Italian government in February 2012, stated that it was time to move beyond “emergency policies” for Roma, clarifying that most Roma in Italy are not nomads and that housing solutions such as “nomad camps” are not adequate or suitable solutions. The document is available at http://109.232.32.23/unar/_image.aspx?id=bfgd9506-da4b-4583-a85e-223a8f6d93a1&sNome=UNAR%20LIBRO%20STRATEGIA%20ROM%20SINTI%20ING.pdf.

However, the ERRC notes the following problems with the implementation of the NRIS:

- **The Italian authorities continue building or refurbishing segregated camps for Roma**

The strategy proposes several alternative solutions that would meet the real needs of Roma. Nevertheless, after its adoption, a new “megacamp”, called La Barbuta, was opened in June 2012 close to **Rome**’s out-of-town airport, Ciampino. The ERRC joined Italian NGOs in challenging the legality of this segregated camp relying on anti-discrimination legislation and other principles. As a result of this action, the on 30 May 2015 the Court of Rome found that the camp amounted to unlawful discrimination. See <http://www.errc.org/article/municipality-of-rome-condemned-for-la-barbuta-camp-for-the-first-time-in-europe-an-official-roma-only-settlement-ruled-discriminatory/4369>.

Another example is the “Giugliano camp” located close to **Naples**. Giugliano is a small municipality that is infamous for being one of the most polluted areas in Europe. A “formal camp” for Roma was established here by authorities in March 2013 and was meant to be temporary. Some 380 people were originally living there, but now most of them have left because of the very difficult living conditions. The camp was supposed to be closed in February 2014 but it is still open (See **Document A**). The ERRC is planning further legal action in this matter.

The ERRC is also following the case of the informal settlement at Cupa Perillo (Naples), where around 800 Roma (among them some 300 children) have been living for about twenty years. In 2013, the Municipality of Naples started to plan the construction of a segregated Roma-only temporary settlement (referred to by the Municipality as “socio-assistance facilities”) near the current location of the Cupa Perillo informal settlement. The project was meant to be funded with some €7M from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2007 – 2013 but the project was halted after that the ERRC, together with local partners, expressed reiterately its concerns and alerted the European Commission. The ERRC is planning further legal action in

this matter. See <http://www.errc.org/article/errc-and-its-partners-sent-a-letter-of-concern-on-behalf-of-the-proposed-use-of-eu-funds-for-a-segregated-camp-in-naples-italy/4335>.

- **Forced evictions continue and no adequate housing alternative is provided in a large number of cases.**

Milan

- <http://www.errc.org/article/milan-authorities-continue-evicting-roma/4254>
- <http://www.errc.org/article/forced-to-be-nomads-milan-prefers-to-evict-rather-than-integrate/4230>

Turin

- The Municipality is implementing a plan called "*La città possibile*" that involves forced evictions from informal settlements where Roma have been living for years without prior consultation and offer of adequate housing alternatives and in some cases moving families into substandard only-Roma housing. See Document B attached.

Rome

- <http://www.errc.org/article/roma-families-forcibly-evicted-against-their-will-in-rome-as-new-administration-fails-to-learn-from-mistakes-of-the-past/4188>

Cosenza

- <http://www.errc.org/article/roma-only-tent-camp-set-up-for-children-and-elderly-in-cosenza/4367>

Please also find information about the issues in relation to the fifth periodic report of Italy at the following links:

ERRC general reports and submissions:

- i. ERRC ECRI submission 5th report on Italy 2015 (Document A);
- ii. <http://www.errc.org/article/errc-submission-to-un-upr-on-italy-march-2014/4258>
- iii. <http://www.errc.org/cms/upload/file/italy-country-profile-2011-2012.pdf>
- iv. <http://www.errc.org/article/racial-discrimination-deprivation-segregation-and-marginalisation-as-a-reinforcement-of-the-practice-of-child-marriage/4294> (1 July 2014)

European Roma Rights Centre
31 July 2015