

CATHEDRA FOR ROMOLOGICAL STUDIES

Status. Within the last decade, the countries in the Central and South-East Europe have undertaken some measures and activities in order to improve the position of Roma. In most of the countries the status of the Roma nationality individuals has been institutionalized, social and political participation of Roma has been provided to the certain extent and social integration programs have been established. However, prejudices, stereotypes and animosities towards Roma have not been even alleviated. Furthermore, Roma are getting out of troublesome life at the speed of a snail, they are breaking the bewitched circle of poverty with much difficulty, and they are still the only peoples of the world having the status of ethno-class. *There's no betterment for Roma without mass increasing of educational level, acquiring of high education in most of the professions, and creating the elite to preserve and develop the own language and culture.*

Development of Roma cultural identity and their education should be the relying points for overcoming ethno-centeredness, prejudices and animosities and a precondition for development of stable inter-ethnic relations in a democratic society. The efforts of government and non-government sectors, particularly institutions dealing with education should be directed to observing not only the human rights, but to understanding and accepting the diversities as objective state of art, which must not be obstacles to the multicultural, but the connective social tissue.

Needs. Language, literature, culture, customs and history of Roma are not being studied in any of the groups or cathedra at universities of Serbia and Montenegro, which is not the case with the language and culture of other national minorities. At the University of Belgrade, Novi Sad and Kosovska Mitrovica, for decades there have existed departments and cathedras for studying the language and culture of Hungarians, Slovaks, Russines, Romanians, Bulgarians, Albanians....Many people do not know that in many neighboring and other countries there are cathedras for Romological studies (Romania, Hungaria, Slovakia, Czeck Republic, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, USA...). In both cases, besides the undergraduate courses, there have been developed postgraduate and doctoral studies.

It should be outlined that Roma, although prevailing, are not the only students in all three levels of studies. There are always enough students from the majority nation and other national minorities. *It is in accordance with a double need: the first one, based on the necessity of schooling and upbringing of, up to date, very tiny Romani elite; and the other, which requires a qualified elite to exist among non-Roma, which should be active in studying and spreading of Roma culture, emancipation and integration of Roma.* Without harmonious meeting of these two elites, it is simply not possible to expect a long-term success of any, no matter how quality conceptualized state policy towards Roma.

Recommendation. *There is a room for Cathedra (group/department) for undergraduate Romological studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, Philology or Teachers' Faculty. The postgraduate studies could also be constituted at one of these faculties, although it is a rational solution, having in mind the multidisciplinary character of Romology, to be based on some of the universities. By gathering qualified personnel, it could be responded to constituting and development of Romological studies, although the longer period of time is needed. The majority of students would be Roma, but non-Roma, as well, initially supported by state and social institutions, and partly by international community and foundations. By constituting the Cathedra for Romology our community would confirm that it surely intends to have multicultural society work, that it moves to EU and that it goes towards Bologna process.*