



MigRom: The immigration of Romanian Roma to Western Europe: Causes, effects, and future engagement strategies

In partnership with Manchester City Council



Manchester's Roma set up a community group: "Roma Voices of Manchester"

Manchester's Roma have set up a community group: "Roma Voices of Manchester". It will provide advice and support to Manchester's Roma and take the lead on initiatives to give the community a public voice. The community group is being launched in partnership with Manchester City Council, the Big Life Group, and the University of Manchester's Romani Project. It will receive support from the European Roma and Travellers Forum, an organisation that represents the Roma at the Council of Europe. The initiative is facilitated by the MigRom project as part of the deliverables of its community engagement work. MACC and TS4SE Cooperative provided advice for the formation of the group.

Ramona Constantin, Outreach Worker on the MigRom project and one of the group's founders, said: "We have many young people in our community who are talented and motivated. One of our goals is to help them identify opportunities to develop their skills."

Afzal Khan MEP said: "The Roma are Europe's largest minority. They continue to suffer exclusion and discrimination. The community group is an excellent initiative. It will help make Manchester a model for the integration and participation of Roma in the European Union."

Fay Selvan, Chief Executive of the Big Life Group, said: "Our organisation has been supporting training and capacity building in the Roma community for several years now, and we are looking forward to working together with Roma Voices of Manchester to continue this work."

Dr Julian Skyrme, Director of Social Responsibility at The University of Manchester, said: "The MigRom project is an excellent illustration of how world-leading research in the University can make a difference in our most local communities. Our expertise on linguistics, migration and culture has been used to successfully engage local Roma communities, build their skills and ultimately enhance social cohesion and integration across Manchester."

The group can be contacted directly at romavoicesmcr@gmail.com



Manchester City Council's *Citizenship and Inclusion Overview and Scrutiny Committee*, minutes of meeting from 14 October 2009: "The Chair referred to an increase in the presence of the Roma community ... He felt that community cohesion would be strengthened where community leaders could be identified and the Council could begin to communicate with them."

MigRom project description and contract with European Commission, December 2012: "The [project's] outreach workers will support Council officials in setting up and running a regular consultation forum within the local Roma community which will act as a clearing house for issues with local services, authorities and non-Roma residents."

Manchester City Council Roma Strategy (2011-2014) future priorities (March 2013): "Need to establish Roma Consultation Forum as part of EU project [MigRom]; Outreach Workers on the EU project to develop Roma Consultation Forum"

Manchester City Council's *Communities Scrutiny Committee*, minutes of meeting from 13 November 2013: "The Lead Member for Race emphasised the importance of including the Roma community in any consultations and encouraging them to take the lead."

MigRom ('The immigration of Romanian Roma to Western Europe: Causes, effects and future engagement strategies') is funded by the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme call on 'Dealing with diversity and cohesion: the case of the Roma in the European Union' (GA319901). MigRom is approved and monitored by the University of Manchester's Committee on the Ethics of Research on Human Beings (Project Ref. 12412) and by the Ethical Review in FP7 Protocol (Proposal ID 319901)

Project Manager: Charlotte Jones
Project Coordinator: Prof Yaron Matras

Contact: romani@manchester.ac.uk, +44 (0)161 275 5999
Research Associate: Dr D. Viktor Leggio

<http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/migrom>