

**ROMANINET- A MULTIMEDIA ROMANI
COURSE FOR PROMOTING LINGUISTIC
DIVERSITY AND IMPROVING SOCIAL
DIALOGUE:
*REPORT ON ROMANI LANGUAGE***

CONTENT

REPORT ON ROMANI LANGUAGE	2
1. Spoken Dialects	2
2. Geographical spread	8
3. Users - by group and number	11
4. The place of the language in the European curriculum	13
5. Educational materials and other information sources available in Romani language	18

REPORT ON ROMANI LANGUAGE

1. Spoken Dialects

A. Origins and attestation

Romani is the only Indo-Aryan language that has been spoken exclusively in Europe since the middle ages and whose vocabulary and grammar are related to Sanskrit. It is part of the phenomenon of Indic diaspora languages spoken by travelling communities of Indian origin outside India. The name Rom or Řom has related cognates in the names employed by other travelling (peripatetic) communities that speak Indic languages or use a special vocabulary derived from Indic: the Lom of the Caucasus and Anatolia insert Indic vocabulary into Lomavren, their variety of Armenian. The Dom of the Near East, originally metalworkers and entertainers, speak Domari, one of the most conservative modern Indo-Aryan languages. In the Hunza valley in the north of Pakistan, the population called the Dum, who are also metalworkers and musicians, speak a central Indic (i.e. not a local) language¹.

In Europe, the first words written in Roma language are dating from 1547 when Andrew Borde published in „The First Book of introduction of knowledge”, 13 phrases translated in English.

The 13 expressions are²:

Original text	Expresion in English
Lach ittur ydyues!	Hello!
Cater myla barforas?	How far is the nearest town?
Maysta ves barforas!	Welcome to (the) town!
Mole pis lauena?	Do you drink wine or beer?
A vauatosa	I'll come with you.
Hystelen pe!	Sit down and drink!
Pe, pe, deue lasse!	Drink, drink, for God!
Achae, da mai manor la vene!	Hey, girl, give me bread and beer.
Da mai masse!	Give me meat!
Achae, a wordey susse!	Hey, girl, come here and listen!
De mai paba la ambrell!	Give me apples and pears!
Iche misto!	[So], goodbye!
Lachira tu!	Good night (to you)!

B. Evolution

¹ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/11_origins.shtml

² Gheorge Sarău – „Roma, India and romani language”

Because the earliest documentation of Romani dates from the mid-sixteenth century, the scientists depend on linguistic reconstruction and comparison in order to interpret the earlier history of the language. Although there is no record of earlier forms of Romani, nowadays Romani can be compared with various stages of development in the languages of India for which there is textual attestation.

Three phases are distinguished in the historical development of Romani:

- ✓ Proto-Romani (pre-European)
- ✓ Early Romani (Byzantine period)
- ✓ Modern Romani dialects (from the 14th-15th century onwards)³

Following the decline of the Byzantine period in the late fourteenth century, Romani-speaking populations began to emigrate from the Balkans, settling in Central and in Western Europe during the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. Differences among the speech varieties of the various Romani populations emerged during this period, resulting in a split into dialectal branches. The different internal developments in morphology, phonology and lexicon were accompanied by the influences of various contact languages on the individual dialects, the most significant of those being Turkish, Romanian, Hungarian, German and various Slavonic languages. The earliest attestations of Romani are usually in the form of groups of short sentences and wordlists, dating from between the mid-sixteenth and mid-seventeenth centuries. These sources represent dialects from Western Europe, Southern Europe, and the Balkans. There is an abundance of sources dating from the eighteenth century, documenting Romani dialects from all over Europe. The linguistic features attested in these documents already conform rather closely to the type of dialectal variation found in Romani today. Thus, by the eighteenth century, the formation of the different dialects of Romani had already been completed.⁴

C. Present day dialects

There is no "easy" way to classify dialects of the Roma language. One must first select the criteria on which a classification is to be based. Sometimes dialect classification is based strictly on geography, sometimes strictly on the structural features - lexicon, phonology, morphology - of the dialects. In the latter case, it is necessary to select those features that are of global relevance and that can be used as a reference grid to compare the different dialects and to determine the relationships among them. Scholars often disagree on which features should be given greater attention as a basis for a classification. As a result, it is not unusual to find different classification models. There is also an objective difficulty: some dialects may share "typical" features with two distinct dialect branches. Such transitional dialects are part of any linguistic landscape. It is therefore almost impossible to postulate clear-cut divisions between dialect groups or "branches".

Several factors are responsible for dialect differentiation in Romani language⁵:

- ✓ The migration of Romani-speaking populations throughout Europe, in different periods
- ✓ The geographical spread of structural changes, creating "isoglosses"
- ✓ The influence of contact languages

³ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/11_develphases.shtml

⁴ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/11_presentday.shtml

⁵ <http://romafacts.uni-graz.at/index.php/language/dialects-i/dialects-i>

- ✓ Specific changes that are limited to the structure of individual dialects

Based on these criteria, the main dialects of the Roma language are⁶:

1. **The Balkan dialects**, called “*Southern Balkan*” are spoken in Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Romania, Ukraine and Iran. Dialects belonging to this group include **Arli** (Macedonia, Kosovo, Greece), **Erli** (Bulgaria), **Mečkar** (Albania), **Sepeči** (Greece, Turkey), **Ursari** (Romania), **Crimean Romani** (Ukraine), **Zargari** (Iran) and others.

The diagnostic of characteristic features of this group of dialects include:

- ✓ “sine” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “ov”, “oj”, “on”,
- ✓ shortened possessive pronouns “mo” for “my”, “to” for “your” ,
- ✓ demonstratives “akava” and “adava”, sometimes “akavka”,
- ✓ loan verbs are usually adapted with “-in”, future tense in “ka”, sometimes in “ma”.

2. **The Balkan zis-dialects**, called “*Drindari-Burgudži-Kalajdži*” are spoken in northern and central Bulgaria and Macedonia. They include the dialects of the **Drindari/Drindari**, **Kovački**, **Kalajdži** and **Burugdži**.

Diagnostic features that contrast with the rest of the Balkan group include:

- ✓ demonstratives “kaka” or “kəka”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-iz”, “z” in “zis”= day and “zi”= soul, “c” in “buci”=work and “cin”=to buy,
- ✓ reduction of “e”- “kerela” as “kerla”=she/he does.

3. **The Southern Vlax dialects** are spoken in Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, southern Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Albania, and Turkey. They include the dialects of the **Gurbet** or **Džambazi** and groups known by other names such as **Kalburdžu** and **Čergar**.

Their diagnostic features include:

- ✓ “seha” or “sesa” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “vov”, “voj”, “von”,
- ✓ possessive “mənro”= my, “čo”= your,
- ✓ demonstrative “gava”,
- ✓ nominal plural endings in “-uri”, “-ura”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-isar”, future tense in “ka”,
- ✓ negation in “in” or “ni”

4. **Northern Vlax dialects** are spoken in Romania, Moldova, Hungary, Serbia, as well as in migrant communities worldwide. The most widespread and well-known Northern Vlax dialects include **Kelderaš (Kalderaš)**, **Lovari**, **Čurari** and the dialect of the **Mačvaja**.

Their diagnostic features include:

⁶ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/12_dialect_classify.shtml

- ✓ “sas” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “vov”, “voj”, “von”,
- ✓ possessives “muro”=my, “čiro”=you,
- ✓ nominal plural endings in “-uri”, “-ura”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-isar”, “-osar” or shorted forms “-i”, “-o”,
- ✓ negation in “či”.

5. **Southern Central dialects** are spoken in Hungary, Slovakia, northern Slovenia, eastern Austria, Ukraine and Romania. They include the dialect of the **Romungri**, **Vend** and **Burgenland Roman**.

Their diagnostic features include:

- ✓ “sina” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “ov”, “oj”, “on”,
- ✓ demonstratives in “ada”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-in”
- ✓ imperfect in “-ahi”.

6. **Northern Central dialects** are spoken in Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, and Ukraine. They include **East Slovak Romani** and the dialect of the **Bergitka Roma** of Poland.

- ✓ Their diagnostic features include:
- ✓ “ehas” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ “hin” for “he/she is”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “jov”, “joj”, “jon”,
- ✓ demonstratives in “kada”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-in”,
- ✓ imperfect in “-as”.

7. **Northwestern dialects** are spoken in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium and Finland. They include the **Sinti-Manuš** dialects of Germany, France and surrounding regions, as well as **Finnish Romani** or **Kaale** dialect.

Their diagnostic features include:

- ✓ “his” for “he/she was” (Sinti only),
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “jov/job”, “joj”, “jon”,
- ✓ demonstratives in “kava”,
- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-av”, “-ar”.

8. **Northeastern dialects** are spoken in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

Their diagnostic features include:

- ✓ “isys” for “he/she was”,
- ✓ 3rd person pronouns: “jov”, “joj/jej”, “jone”,
- ✓ demonstratives in “adava”, “dava”,

- ✓ loan verbs are adapted with “-in”.

9. Other dialect groups

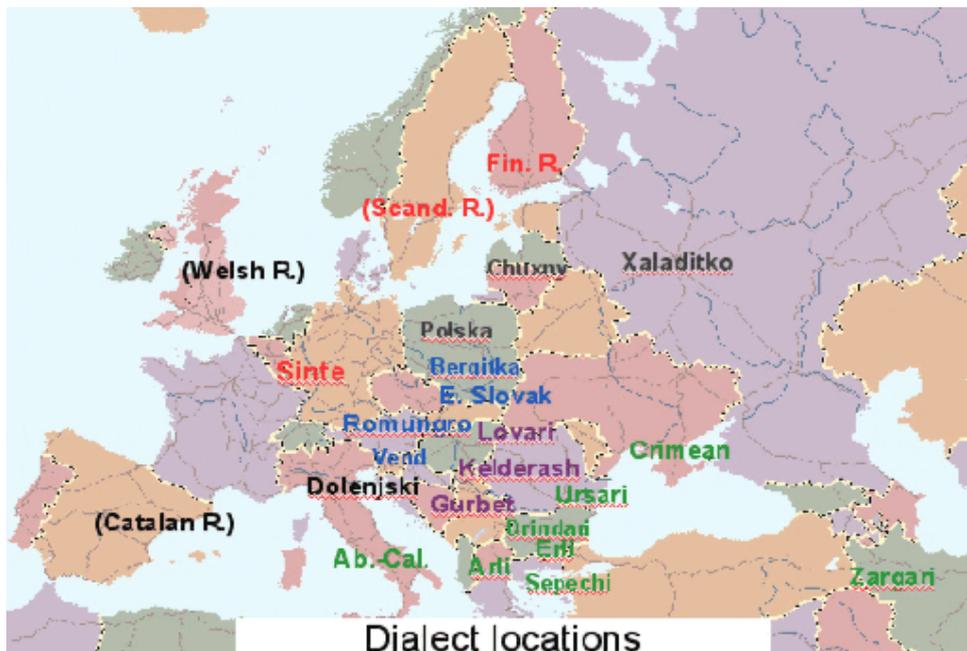
Some additional dialects show their own distinct features. This is due either to a period of isolation from other dialects or to the development of features shared with several different dialectal branches. As separate groups we can define the following:

- ✓ **British Romani**, including English Romani and Welsh Romani (now extinct, and surviving as a vocabulary only, known as “Angloromani”)
- ✓ **Iberian Romani**, including Spanish Romani, Catalanian Romani, and Errumantxela (Basque Romani), all extinct and surviving as a vocabulary only, known as “Caló”
- ✓ The Romani dialects of southern Italy, including **Abruzzian** and **Calabrian Romani**
- ✓ The **Slovene Romani** dialect known as Istriani, Hrvati or Dolenjski
- ✓ The Romani dialects of Iranian Azerbaijan, **Zargari** and **Romano**

2. Geographical spread

Romani dialects have been grouped mainly on the basis of their geographical location.

The conventional classificatory grid recognizes a Northwestern, Northeastern, Central, Vlax (centered around Romania and neighbouring regions) and Balkan group, of which the latter three are each further sub-divided into a northern and a southern sub-group.



Here is a map depicting some of the better-known dialects of Romani and their geographical spread over Europe⁷

As regards the geographical spread of different Roma dialects in the countries involved in the ROMANINET project, we have the following situation:

In Bulgaria⁸, the spoken dialects are the Balkan and the Wallachian Roma:

1. Wallachian Roma
 - ✓ Northern group of dialects

Typical for them there is the strong influence of the Wallachian language. Dialects of speech of kaldarashi and lovari belong to the northern group of Vlax dialects. Single families of these groups are found in all lowland areas around the country, but in more compact groups they are spread in northern Bulgaria. Kaldarashi are more numerous and Lowara are significantly less than them and are concentrated mainly in north-eastern Bulgaria, in the areas around Varna.

- ✓ Southern dialects group

⁷ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/12_dialect_classify.shtml

⁸ Кючуков, Х. 2003. Кратко описание на ромския език в България. Изд. „Делфи”, С.;

Костов, К и Д. Илиев, 2004. Ромска граматика въз основа на ерлийския ромски говор в София. Изд. „Тилиа”, С.

The southern group includes all Thracian tinsmiths and laho-groups - kalburdzhii (sitari, djambazi and reshetari), zagondzhii and dassikane Roma. Thracian tinsmiths inhabit the regions of Pazardjik to Karnobat and the rest of Roma belonging to laho-groups live in all regions of South Bulgaria.

2. Balkan dialects

They are heavily influenced by Greek, Turkish and Bulgarian languages.

✓ Yerliyski dialects

Well localized is the yerliyski dialect, spoken in Sofia and the area around it. Similar and close to it is the dialect of Kyustendil Jerlii. Close to it is the Jerlii dialect in Blagoevgrad and the region, Yakoruda Bathroom, Belitsa Razlog, Gotse Delchev and its surrounding villages. The dialect spoken by jerlii Roma in Chepinska Valley (Western Rhodopes) - Rakitovo, Velingrad and surrounding villages has more serious distinctions. It was heavily influenced by local Bulgarian Rhodope dialect. Due to the remoteness of the region in this dialect there have been preserved Roma specific vocabulary and some interesting pronunciations.

✓ C-dialects

Spoken by Sliven and Kotel Roma (known in the scientific literature as drandarski dialect), "the musicians" in north-eastern Bulgaria (Shumen and Razgrad), and by "the tinsmiths" from north-western Bulgaria (Montana, Vidin and Lom).

✓ Horahane dialects

They are spoken in some regions of North, Central and Southern Bulgaria and are close to the jerlii dialect, but much more strongly influenced by the Turkish language.

In Romania, the spoken Roma dialects are:

- ✓ North Vlach dialects, spoken by Kalderași and Lovari groups mostly in the central part of the country (Transylvania) but also in Banat, Moldova and partially in Oltenia
- ✓ Balkan dialects, spoken by the Ursari in the Southern part of Romania and in Dobruja
- ✓ Southern Vlach dialects, spoken in Oltenia and Southern part of Romania
- ✓ Southern Central dialects, spoken by Romungri in the Northern Transylvania and Maramureș

In Britain, the historical sources from the 17th and 18th centuries document an inflected dialect of Romani that is very similar to the Romani variety spoken in continental Europe, especially to the varieties of the language found in northern Germany, Scandinavia, and to some extent, Finland.

It appeared that a split took place between two varieties of Romani, perhaps towards the end of the eighteenth century. They resulted in a northern **Welsh dialect**, which remained conservative, and an **English dialect**, which absorbed more and more influences from English and lost many of its old features. The Welsh dialect continued to be spoken by several families until the early twentieth century, but was eventually given up. The English dialect is best documented in material from Cheshire in the North West of England, dating from the mid-nineteenth century. This represented Romani as spoken by the last generation of speakers in England, and already contained many English words and grammatical features. Within one further generation, the majority of English Gypsies had shifted to English as their everyday language. However, a Romani vocabulary has been retained in their variety of English and is used among Gypsies in domestic and intimate conversations. This

mode of speak - inserting Romani words into English sentences - is still referred to by the English Gypsies as Romanes.

In the present days, as a result of the growing immigration of the Roma from central and Eastern Europe many English Romanies have been learning the Romani dialects of recent immigrants from Romania, Slovakia, Poland and elsewhere.

In Spain, Caló (Kalo) is the speech of Spanish gypsies and, although some linguists suggest that it is a dialect, most scholars recognize that it should not be classified as such; it uses the Castellano grammar and other Spanish language structures, introducing a limited number of Romani words into the vocabulary. That is to say Spanish gypsies speak the languages of the Spanish state but with the introduction of a few words of Romani language in them. Their use was essentially an element of identification among the Spanish gypsy and a way to codify messages so as not to be understood by non-Roma.

As well as in England, as a result of the immigration from the past years, an important number of Gypsy immigrants from Central and Southern Europe are using their native dialects in Spain.

In Portugal, the dialect spoken in the past by the Gitanos, the Caló, assimilated words from Castilian, Catalan and Portuguese but now it is extinct and only survives as vocabulary.

3. Users - by group and number

There are no reliable figures about the number of speakers of Romani, either in Europe or on other continents (to which speakers have primarily migrated since the late 19th century). The most conservative estimate would suggest that there are upwards of 3.5 million speakers in Europe. The actual number may be much higher. This makes Romani the largest minority language in the European Union since its enlargement in May 2007, after Romania and Bulgaria joined the Union. The largest speaker populations are found in Southeastern Europe, especially in Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Macedonia, and Serbia and Montenegro, as well as in Greece, Slovakia, Moldavia and Hungary. Sizeable Romani-speaking populations exist in most other countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Romani communities that settled in the Western most "fringe" countries, such as Portugal and Spain, the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries (with the exception of Finland), some 5-6 centuries ago, have abandoned Romani and have adopted the majority language (albeit retaining some Romani vocabulary in internal-group conversation). Speaker communities in these regions consist predominantly of later immigrants from Central or Eastern Europe.⁹

A roughly estimated number of the speakers by country can be found in the following table:

Country	Estimated number of users	Groups
Albania	80,000-100,000	Mečkar, Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Austria	22,500 - 150.000	Romungri, Vend, Burgenland Roma Kalderasi, Lovari (from immigration)
Belarus	40,000-60,000	Chuxny
Belgium	10,000-25,000	Sinti-Manuš
Bosnia and Herzegovina	40,000- 400,000	Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Bulgaria	270,000 - 310,000 - Balkan dialects ~80,000 - Wallachian Roma	Erlii, kalaydzhii, drandari Kalderasi, Lovari, kalburdzhii, zagundzhii, dasikane roma
Croatia	35,000 - 300,000	Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Czech Republic	220,000 - 225,000	East Slovak Romani
Denmark	1,500 - 5,500	
Finland	10,000	Kaale
France	400,000 - 1,200,000	Sinti-Manuš Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, (from immigration)

⁹ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/14_numbers.shtml

Germany	100,000 - 210,000	Sinti-Manuš Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, Gurbet (from immigration)
Greece	200,000 - 215,000	Arli, Sepeči, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Hungary	350,000 - 600,000	Kalderasi, Lovari, Čurari, Romungri, Vend
Ireland	8,000 - 35,000	Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, (from immigration)
Italy	90,000 - 140,000	Abruzzian and Calabrian Romani Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar (from immigration)
Latvia	8,000 - 11,500	Chuxny
Lithuania	3,000- 4,000	Chuxny
Luxembourg	100-300	Sinti-Manuš
Macedonia	5,000-165,000	Arli, Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar, Drandari/Drindari, Kovački, Kalajdži, Bugurdži
Moldova	20,000 - 85,000	Kalderasi, Lovari
Montenegro	2,500- 20,000	Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Netherlands	22,500 - 35,000	Sinti-Manuš
Norway	6,500	Kaale
Poland	15,000 - 40,000	Bergitka
Portugal	45,000-100,000	Čiganos Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, (from immigration)
Romania	500,000 - 1,900,000	Kalderași, Lovari, Čergari, Curari, Romungri
Russia	450,000-725,000	Xaladitko
Serbia	400,000 - 600,000	Arli, Kalderași, Curari, Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar
Slovakia	92,500 - 420,000	Romungri, Vend
Slovenia	3,000 - 8,500	Romungri, Vend
Spain	600,000 - 650,000	Calo Kalderasi, Lovari, Rudari, Gurbet, Kalburdžu, Čergar (from immigration)
Sweden	15,000 - 45,000	Kaale
Switzerland	30,000 - 35,000	
Turkey	1,900,000 - 200,000	Sepeči, Gurbet, Kalburdžu,

		Čergar
Ukraine	40,000 - 225,000	Crimean Roma
UK	40,000 ¹⁰	English and Welsh travellers

¹⁰ http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/files/14_numbers.shtml, Prof. Yaron Matras , “Romani today”

4. The place of the language in the European curriculum

Roma population has a high proportion of young people aged less than 20 years. Roma children face two obstacles in education: they have difficulties participating in regular classes; they are often placed in special schools for children with learning difficulties or are segregated de facto in common schools. This situation contributes to the feeling that Roma children are excluded and therefore they leave school early. The member states of the European Union have made some progress in terms of inclusion of Roma children in schools, removing the separate schooling system; the European Social Fund has helped in many ways to achieve these results¹¹.

The European Parliament showed interest in the plight of Roma communities and improved it. Thus, resolutions were adopted for developing measures for minority languages and cultures. In 1984 the European Parliament adopted a resolution regarding education of children whose parents do not have a permanent address.

In 1986, a report called *Schooling of Roma children and Travellers* is published in five languages by the Office for Official Publications of the European Community. The report presents a comprehensive analysis of the school situation.

On May 22nd, 1989 the Resolution no 89/C 153/3 from 22.05.1989 is adopted, regarding the Education for Gypsy children and Travellers and it is acknowledged that for the Roma and travellers “the culture and their language is part of five centuries of cultural and linguistic heritage of the Community.”

In 1992 the Committee of Ministers decided to open for signature by EU Member States the “European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.”

In the Recommendation number R(200)4 of the Committee of Ministers to the member states regarding education of Roma children in Europe, adopted in February 2000, “the urgent need to put a new foundation for future educational strategies for Roma in Europe, mainly driven by high illiteracy or semi-illiteracy existing in this community, the extent of school failure, the low proportion of young people who finish primary school and persistent absenteeism due to several factors.” it is recognized.¹²

Ministers consider that „the unfavourable position of Roma/Gypsies in European societies can be resolved only if equal opportunities in education will be guaranteed to Roma/Gypsies and the education of Roma/Gypsy children should be a priority of national policies for Roma/Gypsies.”

In 2005, nine countries in Central and South Europe in cooperation with the World Bank, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), Open Society Institute and Roma NGOs, launched the Decade of Roma Inclusion, engaging to improve the living conditions of Roma and to combat discrimination against them. Subsequently, three other new states joined the initiative, including Spain, the first veteran EU state. UNICEF¹³ officially joined in 2007. Activities in the Roma Decade are focused on national action plans aimed at four priority areas: housing, jobs, health and

¹¹ www.ec.europa.eu/roma

¹² ¹² Jean Pierre Liegeois – “Roma in Europe”

¹³ www.unicef.ro

education. All are important areas for Roma, but many people largely ignore a number of fundamental issues such as discrimination and unclear nationality status of many Roma families.

Although they represent the largest part of Roma population, children and young people are covered by the education and somewhat by the health field, but they should be the subject of a comprehensive strategy and should become a priority in order to escape the cycle of deprivation in which many Roma communities are caught.

Roma issues are integrated in all EU activities. Thus, inclusion of Roma can be supported by activities financed by different EU funding mechanisms. One of the sources of community support for Roma is the European Social Fund that supports improvement in living conditions and employment of Roma, particularly through investments in education and skills development.

The Curriculum Framework for Romani¹⁴ has been developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe as part of the Council's comprehensive approach to Roma and Traveller issues. The Curriculum Framework for Romani draws on the descriptive categories and common references levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages and in doing so it aligns itself with the wider policies that shape the Council of Europe's work in language education.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages was developed to provide "a common basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses, curriculum guidelines, examinations, textbooks across Europe."

The Curriculum Framework for Romani is designed to accommodate with three different socio-linguistic situations: the teaching of Romani to children who do not speak Romani at home, children who are not fluent in Romani, though they may hear their parents and grandparents speak the language and children who are fluent in Romani but who need to develop their skills in using the language as an instrument of formal learning (Romani as language of education.)

At national level, in the European countries, we have the following situation:

- ✓ Macedonia, in its constitution of 1992, recognizes Roma as one of the nationalities in the state, whereby the right of nationalities to make official use of their language and alphabet is also recognized. Macedonia was one of the first countries to sponsor a consultation on the codification of Romani and also in 1992, to adopt guidelines for a national written standard, and to accept Romani as one of the languages in official government documents.
- ✓ In 1993 Austria recognized Roma as a minority in accordance with its Ethnic Minority Law, which foresees financial support for cultural activities and the right to use the minority language in interaction with officials. In 1998, an amendment was passed to the Law on Protection of Minorities in the Burgenland province, guaranteeing the particular group of Burgenland Roma additional school instruction in Romani (Romanes).
- ✓ In 1995 the Finnish constitution gave Romanies (alongside Sami and "other groups") the right to "maintain and develop their own language and culture". In addition, the Education Act was amended in 1999 to include Romani as one of the possible languages of instruction.
- ✓ The Hungarian constitution of 1997 recognized the rights of minorities to education in their native languages; Roma are recognized as a minority, though a larger proportion of Hungarian Roma in fact speaks Hungarian as their first language.

¹⁴ www.coe.int/lang - A Curriculum Framework for Romani

Furthermore, of the eighteen states that have ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, ten apply it to Romani: Austria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, the Netherlands, Norway, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, and Sweden. In many of these countries, however, concrete implementation of the Charter in respect of Romani is yet to be achieved.

- ✓ Croatia for example includes Romani in the list of minority languages, but in practice it does not implement recognition, claiming difficulties resulting from the fact that the language is not standardized, and that Romani pupils have difficulties learning Croatian.
- ✓ In Netherlands, which has a Romani-speaking population of only several thousands and where formal recognition has not led to any practical measures in support of the language, the situation is similar.
- ✓ In its report on the implementation of the Charter from May 2005 Norway distinguishes between “Romanes” (i.e. inflected Romani as spoken by a small population of several extended families belonging to the Lovara group), and “Romany”, which is claimed to be spoken by a few hundred or a few thousand Travellers. The latter refers to the Romani derived vocabulary used occasionally within Norwegian conversation
- ✓ In Germany, most practical measures in support of Romani, including the provision of translators in court proceedings and other public offices, had existed at the local and regional levels even before ratification of the Charter; the privileges granted by the Charter, such as the freedom to use the language in local elected assemblies, have so far not been claimed.

It appears that among the signatories of the Charter, the most intensive governmental efforts to promote Romani have been carried out in Finland and in Austria, both countries with relatively small Romani populations. In both countries, the government has funded large-scale projects involving community representatives and experts in order to compose teaching materials and to train language teachers, supported Romani-language publications and, albeit to a limited extent, radio broadcasting, supported linguistic research and documentation of Romani, and enabled the adoption of Romani into the school curriculum at the local level. In Finland, a Romani Language Board has been set up, consisting of officials, linguists, and community representatives, whose task is to draft Romani language policy. In Sweden, the right to receive Romani-language instruction is guaranteed, and the government has supported the creation of some teaching materials, radio broadcasting, and the creation of a Romani Council to consult it on language and other policies relating to the Romani minority.¹⁵

In **Romania**, many concrete initiatives aimed at bringing the Romani to school and educate them. Thus, during 1949-1951 was founded the first school of Romani language in the west part of the country. In 1991, The Ministry of Education recognized the official, common, international Alphabet of Romani language and officially inserted it in the schools where Romani language and literature was studied.

In the period of 1991-1994, Gheorghe Sarau elaborated two types of curriculum to study Romani language and literature, with the approval of the Ministry of Education: The Romani

¹⁵ Yaron Matras - The status of Romani in Europe. Report submitted to the Council of Europe’s Language Policy Division, October 2005

Language and Literature Curriculum for the teachers of Common Schools (grades IX-XIII) and The Curriculum to Study Romani Language and Literature (grades I-XIII).

In 15th April 1998, The Ministry of Education elaborated The Order No. 3577, which supported the access of the Romani pupils and youngsters into the university level, through real and affirmative measures. There were given 144 distinct positions for the Romani candidates (occupied in a proportion of 85%). In May-August 1998, due to the request of Romani Party and the Professor of Romani language, Gheorghe Sarau, The Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures and The Faculty of Letters, with the support of The Bucharest University and of the Ministry of National Education, the department of Romani language and literature has been founded, as a B section.¹⁶

In primary schools, 200 Romani and non-Romani teachers teach Romani language and the number of students studying this language is over 11.000. In 24 counties of the country, Romani language is taught three up to four hours a week.

In **Bulgaria**, teaching Roma mother tongue was organized as optional discipline in the 1993-1994 school year with a maximum of four hours per week. Now it is realized as the closest part of the linguistic and literary study of the cultural educational field called "Bulgarian language and literature" introduced in the general education system. Curriculum of Romany mother tongue is implemented in the first grade within 124 hours per year and comprise Primary Literacy (3 hours a week for developing skills of listening comprehension, language training, speech and communicative skills) and Literary training (one hour a week for art and aesthetic perception of literary work). Curriculum of Roma mother tongue for the second - fourth grade and fifth - eighth grade were developed by working groups comprising experts from MOMN and acting teachers and are published on the website of MOMN under "Programs" section. They are intended to be mandatory optional courses held 2 hours a week, but they are subject to regulatory requirements and can be implemented as an elective training with up to four hours weekly workload.

In **Spain**, the current situation is that Caló is almost lost for the youngest generations of Spanish gypsies. In the school curriculum there is no mention of learning any gypsy language, neither Caló nor standard Romany. The Gypsy Culture Institute is preparing learning materials for standard Romany. Their objective is to prepare Roma people to disseminate and teach the Roma language in the (hopefully near) future.

In **The United Kingdom**, in recent years, various teaching and learning materials for English Romanes have been produced by the Traveller Education Services, by missionary organisations, and by the Romani Project at the University of Manchester, which also maintains an online dictionary of the language. Growing immigration of the Roma from central and Eastern Europe has prompted a new interest in the Romani language among British Romanies, many of whom are keen to revive the speech of their ancestors, or at least to learn the closely-related Romani varieties of continental Europe. To this end, CDs and other learning materials have been produced and have proved to be quite popular among English Gypsies.

In **Portugal**, the Romani language is nonexistent in the national curriculum.

¹⁶ "History of Roma education", Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports, 2001

5. Educational materials and other information sources available in Romani

Information regarding the available educational materials and other information sources for the Romani culture and language can be found below:

A. TV and Radio Shows, Newspapers and magazines

Country	TV Shows	Radio Shows	Newspapers and magazines
Austria		Radio Romano Centro	Magazine "dROMA" http://www.roma-service.at
		Gypsy Radio online http://streema.com/radios/Gypsy_Radio	Magazine for children "Mri nevi Mini Multi" http://www.roma-service.at
			Magazine "Romano Centro" in Romani http://www.romano-centro.org
Albania		Roma Radio in Albania	
Bosnia and Hertzegovina			Daily Magazine "Romski Informativni Centar" in Romani
Bulgaria	<i>"Romano Dunyas" / Roma World on Bulgarian National Television - Bulgarian and Sofia erliyski dialect</i>	<i>"Sharen Kon" on Bulgarian National Radio, broadcasted in Bulgarian language and Roma dialects from across the country</i>	Newspaper "Drom -dromendar" (Way of the Road ") in Bulgarian and often materials in Sliven Roma dialect (drandarski).
	<i>"Jah-Jah" / "Go-Go" on Cable TV-2001 - Bulgarian, and Sofia erliyski dialect</i>	<i>"Aver" on RadioRakovski, broadcasted in Bulgarian language.</i>	Newspaper "Akan" (Now) in Bulgarian and often materials in Sofia Ehrlich
	<i>"Vordon" on TV "Armtex" Bulgarian and local erliyski dialect</i>	<i>"Alternative" on Radio Stara Zagora, broadcasted in Bulgarian language and Roma laho-dialect</i>	Magazine "Andra"(From inside) in Bulgarian and often materials in Sliven Roma dealekt (drandarski).
		<i>"Lumiya" on Radio Alma Mater broadcasted in Bulgarian and Sofia Roma erliyski dialect</i>	Newspaper "De facto" published in Bulgarian and English
		<i>"A nation which does not know its history, has no future" on Radio "Dobrich"(1997-2005), broadcasted in Bulgarian language and drandarski Roma dialect</i>	Magazine "Zhitan" published in Bulgarian
	Television "Roma" Bulgarian and Kalaydzhiyski	<i>"Studio Roma" on Radio Astra (1997-2003) broadcasted in Bulgarian</i>	Magazine "O Roma" (Roma) published in Bulgarian and often literary material in Romani -

	(drandarski) dialect	language	mostly Sliven drandarski and Sofia yerliiyski dialects. Magazine "Studii Romani"
Croatia		Muzika Radio	
		Radio Sveriges International	
Czech Republic	Nova Television	Radio Rota	Romano Vodi online Journal
			Romano džaniben. Časopis Romistických Studií
Finland			News magazine "Romani Posten" (also Romaniposten)
France			Revue "Estudes Tsiganes" - http://www.etudestsiganes.asso.fr/
			Magazine "Interface"
Germany		Radio Multikulti Romanes	
		DW-RADIO/DW-WORLD.DE http://www.dw-world.de	
Hungary	Reality Show "Gyozik" which portrays the life of the lead singer of the gypsy pop band Romantic	Radio Cerenja	Publication Rom Som
	Mundi Romani Online in English, Magyar, French and Romani	Radio C in Budapest - the first independent radio station for gypsies	Romnet - Romani language news Roma Press Center
Italy			Magazine Lacio Drom
			Magazine "Thèm Romanó"
Lithuania			Newspaper "Atsakingasis"
Macedonia	"Tv Sutel" Romani television in Macedonia		
Netherlands			Newspapers "O Drom"
			Press Rromani Nevipengi Agencia
Poland			Newspapaer "Rrom po Drom"
Romania	"TV show in minority languages -Romani language" Romanian National Television in Bucharest for 60 minutes and in Timisoara for 4	Roma show on Radio Horion Craiova - http://www.horion.ro/ and on Radio Meridian Rimnicu Valcea	Newspaper "Asul de trefla" Ace of Clubs
			Newspaper "Romano Lil"

	minutes Online television for gypsies Light Channel Tv http://www.vinosivezi.tv/ in Romanian		Magazine and minority publishing “Aven Amentza” School Magazine “Ethnos”
	“Taraf TV”- music television wich plays also Roma music	Radio Reșița show for Romani people	Magazine “Agero Stuttgart” http://www.agero-stuttgart.de Online Magazine “Interactiuni etnice” http://www.interactiunietnice.ro/ “Inforrom” Roma news reports and media monitoring Press Agency “Roma News”
Serbia	Tv station in Vojevodina with programmes in Romani	Radio Khrlo e Romengo/ Glas of Roma/Voice of Roma	Newspaper “Them” News “Rominterpress” in Romani and Serbian
		Radio Vojevodina with programs in Romani	Newspaper “Romano Nivepe” Newspaper “Romani Yah”
Slovakia			
Spain		Radio Yes Fm, songs of the Gypsy Artists	Magazine “I Tchatchipen” articles about romani
			“Nevipens Romani” article about Gypsy Grammar
			“Gitanos” Magazine - Fundacion Secretariado Gitano
			“Anales de Historia Contemporanea”- article about “La comunidad gitana de Espana y region de Murcia: entre la integracion y la exclusion”
			“Anuario de la imigracion en Espana”
			Anuario Estadístico de Inmigración
			Magazine “Refugiados”(Refugees)
			Magazine “Las Romi de Valdejalón” for roma women
Ukraine			Newspaper “Romani Yah”
UK	BBC Kent’s Romany Roots	Rokker Radio is presented every Sunday evening on BBC Radio Suffolk	Magazine “Travellers Times”
			Magazine “Gypsy Roma Traveller”
			Magazine “Rokker” is a

			magazine made by Gypsies and Travellers addressed to young people
			Internet news BBC Romany Roots
			Journal of the Gypsy Lore Society

B. Books and dictionaries:

Austria

- ✓ “Über die Mundarten und die Wanderungen der Zigeuner Europa's”, Franz Miklosich, Wien
- ✓ “Die Südbalkanischen Dialekte (SB I) des Romani und ihre innere Gliederung, Boretzky”, Petra Norbert & Birgit Iglá, 2008. Graz: Institut für Sprachwissenschaft.

Albania

- ✓ “Gramatika e gjuhës rromë, vëll. I: njohuri të përgjithshme, fonologji, morfologji”, Marcel Cortiade, Tiranë

Bulgaria

- ✓ Бечева, А. 2002. Моята болка // Meri dukh. Изд. на „БФМОР”, С.
- ✓ Бечева, А. 2004. Да бъдем умнички // Те оvas gozaver. Изд. „БФМОР”, С.
- ✓ Рамар, Т. 2000. Открадната любов / Chordo kamipe. Изд. на „БФМОР”, С.
- ✓ “Bulgarian Gypsy vocabulary”, Tzvetan Vassilev, Eniovche, S., 2007
- ✓ “Romani miologia”, S. Ibrahim “Romano kulturako centros ELITI”. S., 2004
- ✓ “O rom dzhanel o drom”, L. Kovacheva “Skorpiov”, С., 2000
- ✓ “Amari Romani Lumia”, 1 Kotor, X. Kjucukov. Sofia. “Business Bridge Ltd., 1997
- ✓ “Amari Romani Lumia”, 3 Kotor, X. Kjucukov - Romane gilja e tikne çhavorengë “Laçi gili šužarel o ilo”. Iktus, Sofia, 2001
- ✓ “Amari Romani Lumia” 4 Kotor, X. Kjucukov - Romane gogjaver thaj garavde lava. Iktus, Sofia, 2001
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- ✓ “Roma tales. II / / Romane paramisya”, J. Nunev, “Stigmati, S., 2003
- ✓ “Practical course in Romanes”, Stefka Popova, Team Plus Ltd.. S., 2002
- ✓ “Roma folklore in Upper Thrace / / Romano Folklori ki purni Trakiya”, ed. J. Nunev D. Nuneva. IC “Stigmati, S., 2003
- ✓ “Roma choral songs and romances”, J. Rushev “Kuna”. S., 2003
- ✓ “Roma-Bulgarian-English dictionary”, S. Savchev, “SDS”. S., 2004
- ✓ “Studies Novels: T. 1. Composition, Preface Line and note by Marushiakova E.”, V. Popov. S., Klub'90, 1994, parallel English text.
- ✓ “Studies Novels: T. 2. Composition, Preface Line and note by Marushiakova E.”, V. Popov. S., Klub'90, 1995., Parallel text in English.
- ✓ “Studies novels: Song of the bridge. T. 3-4. Composition, Preface line and note by Marushiakova E.”, V. Popov. S., timpani, 1997, Parallel text in English language

- ✓ “Studies novels: Snake ring. Languages and folklore of Sofia Ehrlich.” T. 5-6. Composition., Predisl. Line. and note Marushiakova E., V. Popov, B. Iгла. S., timpani, 1998, parallel English text.

Czech Republic

- ✓ “Odkud kam se ubirá "kirvo"? (etymologická esej), "Romano džaniben", Václav A Černý,. 1994

France

- ✓ “Nouvelles recherches sur l'apparition et la dispersion des Bohémiens en Europe”, Paul Bataillard, ,Paris: Bibliothèque de l'Ecole des Chartes, 1849
- ✓ “Les derniers travaux relatifs aux Bohémiens dans l'Europe Orientale”, Paul Bataillard, , “Revue critique d'histoire et de littérature”, 1870
- ✓ “Moeurs des Bohémiens de la Moldavie et de la Valachie”, Bernard, H., Paris:Maisonneuve et Cie, Libraires-Éditeurs, 1869
- ✓ “ Grammaire, dialogues et vocabulaire de la Langue rommane des sigans pour faire suite à L'Histoire vraie des vrais bohémiens par /.../”, J.-A Vaillant,.Paris: Typographie Pilloy
- ✓ “Grammaire, dialogues et vocabulaire de la langue des Bohémiens ou cigains par /.../”, J.-A Vaillant, Paris: Maisonneuve et Cie
- ✓ “Grammaire du Tsigane kalderash” Andre Barthélémy,Paris, 1983
- ✓ “Dictionnaire du Tsigane Kalderash”, André Barthélémy,Paris
- ✓ “Žanés romanés?. Manuel de conversation Tsigane (Dialecte kalderaš)”, A Barthélémy, Paris
- ✓ “A first Romani-English Glossary of Neologisms, Internationalisms and less known Words as Introduced after the Amsterdam + Munich Revisions of the Sarajevo Glossary”, Marcel Courthiade, 1994, Saint André de Sangonis
- ✓ “La diaspora romani - aspects linguistiques, "Pluriliguismes", Marcel Couthiade, 1994, Paris

Germany

- ✓ “Zigeuner: Roma, Sinti, Gitanos, Gypsies, Zwischen Verfolgung und Romantisierung”, Rudiger Vossen, Ullstein Sachbuch, 1983
- ✓ “Was ich noch sagen wollte. Festschrift für Norbert Boretzky” - Iгла B, Stolz T, Munchen, 2001
- ✓ “Die Zigeuner. Ein historischer Versuch über die Lebensart und Verfassung, Sitten und Schicksale dieses Volks in Europa, nebst ihrem Ursprunge”, Grellmann, H.M.G. 1783, Dessau und Leipzig
- ✓ “Sepečdes Romani Grammatik, Texte und Glossar eines türkischen Romani-Dialekts”, Petra Cech, Mozes F. Heinschink, Harrassowitz, 1999
- ✓ “The dialect of the English Gypsies”, Bath Charles Smart, Berlin
- ✓ “Die Sprache der transsilvanischen Zigeuner. Grammatik,Wörterbuch von /.../”, Dr. Heinrich von Wlislöcki Leipzig: Wilhelm Friedrich Königliche Hofbuchhandlung
- ✓ “Grosses Wörterbuch der Zigeunersprache (romani tšiw).Wortschatz deutscher und anderer europäischen zigeuner dialecte”, Siegmund Wolf, Mannheim: Bibliographisches Institut

Hungary

- ✓ “A'czigány nyelv elemei” Bornemisza [Breznyik], János, Pest, 1853
- ✓ “A' tzigán nemzetnek igazi eredete, nyelve, története” György Enessei, 1798
- ✓ “Egy Komárom megyei tudós a febvilágosodás korából”, Előd Ercsey, 1971
- ✓ “A classification of Gypsies in Hungary”, Kamil Erdős, "Acta Ethnografica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae, 1958
- ✓ “Zigeunergrammatik”, Josef Erzherzog, Budapest: V. Hornyánsky, 1902

Italy

- ✓ “Mie osservazioni /.../ sui Valacchi specialmente e Zingari Transilvani”, Felice Carroni, Caroni in Dacia. Milano, 1812
- ✓ “Gli Zingari. Storia d'un popolo errante” Adriano Amerigo Colocci, 1889

Macedonia

- ✓ “Romani gramatika”, Kepeski, Krume & Jusuf, Šaip Skopje: OOTZ “Naša kniga”, 1980

Portugal

- ✓ “Os Ciganos de Portugal”, Adolfo Coelho Lisboa, collects some Gypsy words

Romania

- ✓ “Manual de alfabetizare în limba Romani pentru copii, tineri și adulți”/ Literacy manual in Romani for children, youth and adult people, Ghe. Sarău, Camelia Stănescu, Ed. Vandemonde, 2002
- ✓ “Abecedar în limba Romani”/ABC in Romani, Olga Mărcuș, Leontina Boitoș, Casa de Editură Mureș, 2002
- ✓ “Vocabular trilingv român-maghiar-rrom”/ Trilingual vocabulary Romanian-Hungarian-Roma, Elena Nuica, Murvai Lazlo, Ghe. Sarău. Ed. Vandemonde
- ✓ “Dicționar rrom-român”/ Rom-Romanian Dictionary, Ghe. Sarău. Ed. Sigma, 2006
- ✓ “Limba și literatura rRomani clasa I,II, III, IV”/ Romani language and literature for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th class, Ghe. Sarău, Ed. Sigma, 2005,2006
- ✓ “Culegere de texte în limba Romani”/Texts in Romani language, Ghe. Sarău, Ed. Didactica și Pedagogică, 1995
- ✓ “Ghid de conversație român-rrom în graiul căldăresc”/ Conversation guide Romanian-Roma in kalderash dialect, Lazăr Cărjan, Nicolae Bițu, Ed. Curtea Veche
- ✓ “Ghid de conversație român-rrom în graiul spoitoresc”/ Conversation guide Romanian-Roma in Spoitori dialect, Lazăr Cărjan, Nicolae Bițu, Ed. Curtea Veche
- ✓ “Manualul ABC Anglutano Lil”/ ABC Anglutano Lil Book, Mihaela Zătreanu, Ed. Veritas, 2001
- ✓ “Curs de Limba Romani”/ Romani Language Course, Ghe. Sarău, Ed. Dacia
- ✓ “Ghid de conversație roman-rrom”/ Conversation guide Romanian-Roma, Ghe. Sarău, Ed. Kriterion, Colecția Biblioteca Roma
- ✓ “Cele mai iubite cântece rrome”/ The most loved roma songs, Ghe. Sarău, Ed. Orientul Latin
- ✓ “Abecedar de limba Romani pentru clasa I”/ Romani ABC for 1st class, Paula Mailat, Olga Mărcu, Fundația Casrom Romania, Tg. Mureș
- ✓ “Curs audio de limba și cultura rromilor”/ Audio class for Roma language and culture, Delia Grigore, Ed. Centrul Romilor pentru Politici Publice
- ✓ “Roma, India and romani language”, Gheorghe Sarau, Ed. Kriterion, București
- ✓ “Romani Language”, Gheorghe Sarau, Ed. Didactica și Pedagogica, București

Spain

- ✓ “Aprendemos Caló. Caló Sinela”, Centro de profesores Juan de Lanuza Glossary of Caló vocabulary for the classroom, for children and adults
- ✓ “Roma: intercultural educational document.” Junta de Andalucía, Self published.
- ✓ “Rukun goes to school”, Eric Hill / Rromani Baxt. Information manual for standard Romany initiation for young children. Published in Spanish / standard Romany / Portuguese
- ✓ “Conversation Manual in Romano-Kalo”, Juan de Dios Ramírez-Heredia

UK

- ✓ “The Traveller Gypsies”, Judith Okely, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press
- ✓ “We are the Romani people”, Ian Hancock, Centre de Recherces Tsiganes, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2003
- ✓ “Learn Romani”, Ronald Lee, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2007
- ✓ “Romani, A linguistic Introduction”, Yaron Matras, Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge, 2002
- ✓ “The Gypsies”, Angus Fraser, Blackwell publishing, 2003
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- ✓ “General and applied Romani linguistics: proceedings from the 6th International Conference on Romani Linguistics”, Barbara Schrammel, Gerd Ambrosch, Dieter W. Halwachs, Lincom Europa, 2005
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- ✓ “Kalderaš”, Dieter W. Halwachs, Mozes F. Heinschink, LINCOM Europa, 2001
- ✓ “Roma/gypsies: a European minority”, Jean-Pierre Liégeois, Nicolae Gheorghe, Minority Rights Group, 1995
- ✓ “Gypsy Jib - A Romany Dictionary” - James Hayward
- ✓ “Romani in contact: the history and sociology of a language” - Yaron Matras, John Benjamin publishing
- ✓ “Lithuanian Romani”, Anton Tenser
- ✓ “The Indo-Aryan Languages”, Masica P., Colin, Cambridge: University Press, 1991
- ✓ “The Position of Romani in Indo-Aryan”, R.L Turner,., Edinburgh: The Edinburgh University Press

C. WEB sites

http://www.radoc.net	www.dosta.org
http://www.ric-bg.info/bg/	http://www.roma-lom.org/
http://www.defacto.hit.bg/	http://www.rrommedia.net
http://drom-vidin.org/	http://romastudents.org/
http://frdroma.org/	http://www.largo-kn.com/
http://www.dzeno.cz	http://www.romano-centro.org
http://rmy.wikipedia.org/	http://www.rrommedia.net/romani/
http://www.errc.org/Romani_index.php	http://www.bhric.ba/rom/

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