

“Conflict Resolution, Mediation and Restorative Justice and the Policing of Ethnic Minorities in Germany, Austria and Hungary” (285166)



**Thursday, December 4th, 2014 – Final Conference**

**Brussels**

# **Police and Roma in Hungary**



Brussels, 4.12.14

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## ACHIEVEMENTS WITHIN THE POLICE

1. Independent Police Complaint Board
2. Minority liaisons
3. District attorneys
4. The so-called professional line from 2012, members of a special police unit deal with hate crimes in Hungary
5. Combination of compromise and training (Case of Rimóc)

## Independent Police Complaint Board

was established in 2008. (in 2007 with the modification of the Police Act XXXIV of 1994)

One of the first decisions of this Board is related to the series of killings against Roma happened in Hungary between July 2008 and August 2009.

Tatárszentgyörgy:

„the police infringed the legal provisions of the scene securing as well as of the area restriction”

„these failures might have prevented the success of the investigation”

## Minority liaisons

30th of December 2011 (Chief of the National Police):

- police officers can rely on the assistance of minority liaisons
- minority liaisons are involved into crime prevention programs

## **The liaison's role:**

### **to establish contacts**

with different cultural communities

youth service organizations

the immigration and refugee organizations and

the leaders of social organizations dealing with

realignment of the minorities concerned.

**The minority liaison** - about the gained experiences - has to **organise at least once a year seminars** and the collected information should be shared with the National Bureau of Investigation, the Alert Police, the Airport Police Directorate and the border police offices' workers.

## District attorneys

- important role in the police crime prevention and evaluation activities
- special „bridge” between persons who represents the local minority community and the minority liaison
- agreements with Roma minority self-governments

## Combination of compromise and training (Case of Rimóc)

Northern Hungarian settlement

The notary noticed: offence fines for lack of mandatory accessories for bicycles almost on Roma people.

Equal Treatment Authority and Hungarian Helsinki Committee investigated the case.

(out of the 36 fines, 35 were imposed on persons who (based on their name, mother's name, address) are likely to be of Roma origin.)



The procedure ended with a friendly settlement between the Nógrád County Police Headquarters and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in 2013, which was approved by the Equal Treatment Authority:

- the local police delegated 20 officers to a 3-days anti-discrimination training

Unfortunately the discriminatory fining practice still exists in everyday life (personnel report).

Thank you for your kind attention