

4th session for the Forum on Minority Issues

Council of Europe on Item VI

Thank you madam Chair,

Roma population does not always enjoy the same health, status or access to healthcare, as the majority of the population while the health situation of women can be alarming. On behalf of the Council of Europe, I would like to present three examples of national good practices in health policies.

European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance the Council of Europe noted that measures to improve health and care and access to healthcare for Roma have been included in some government action plans to help improve the situation of this category of population for example even Bosnia and Herzegovina the action plan for Roma health developed as part of the Decade of Roma inclusion and includes positive action measures to ensure that Roma are able to enjoy fully the right of access to healthcare as well as awareness raising and preventive health measures such as [Humanisation] programs in Serbia the authorities have also taken a number of initiatives to improve Roma access to health care, among which are projects entitles health mediators aimed at improving healthcare for Roma especially women and children. In Poland, action to overcome difficulties faced by Roma in the field of health have been taken under the program for the benefit of the Roma community with free medical consultations and professionals called health visitors offering targeted assistance and advice among others to women and families. Thank you.