

**Background of the project:**

According to the police, judicial and statistical data and according to the report of the people concerned, the severity of legal penalties and the practice of the police aim to educate and regulate primarily the citizens living in Roma ghettos. Our aim is to raise the awareness of the public, and draw the attention of the policymakers to the fact that there is no economic and social advantage of disrupt these families. We also like to demonstrate that extreme poverty shouldn't be punished by making more and more severe punishment but with the tools of social policy.

**Target group:**

The target group of the project is the public opinion in a wider sense and the Roma families facing extreme poverty who are concerned the most by the regulations getting more and more severe. In Hungary the risk of poverty and social exclusion has been growing since the economic crisis. Since 2008 the percentage was 28, 2 % , till in 2011 it grew to 31 percentage, and went to 32,2 last year. So last year there were 3, 2 million people were concerned in the risk of poverty and social exclusion. /Eurostat 2013/

The most shocking and absurd cases were collected for 50 disadvantaged settlements ( Concretely: Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County, Békés County, Heves County, Nógrád County, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County). At the same time these settlements are empowered by publishing the information provided by them.

**Implementation:**

The problem was observed by a systematic data collection in the disadvantaged regions. By our communication campaign we managed to hit the “threshold of sensation” and reach many people with our interviews. We also successfully raise the awareness of the policymakers as well regarding the problem.

The project has started with the foundation of the activists' network in the spring 2014. After editing a uniform information sheet, the volunteers have started to collect and monitor the unreasonable and extreme cases and punishment in the most disadvantaged regions for three months. Based on the information collected the RSK has made a database. On the most absurd case an interview has been broadcasted in the mainstream media. The readers could vote for the most bizarre punishment ever, the Golden Dashboard Award went to acting police station of the case in July. After the publicity a civil legal working group was formed which meet and work regularly on the proposals regarding the infraction procedure. By the offers of the bike company we donate equipment for the families in every two month preventing them from the prison because of lacking a ringer.

**Together:**

The size of the cooperation is unexceptional since the media, the non-governmental organizations, activists and the companies are trying to change together the unreasonable infraction procedure and policies which mostly concern the poor people.

**Objectives:**

The objective of the campaign is to combat the criminalization of poverty by publicity in the forums of mainstream media. Our mission is to provide publicity for the unpublished and individual cases to inform more and more people. In many cases following and due to the media coverage the municipality or the police have changed its punishment procedures. We believe that media and publicity have retentive power, and many unreasonable local policies can be changed, and by information about good examples many settlements can implement projects. Many settlements and initiation would be introduced which can be good examples. For example: permit to collect twigs and firewood, or producing biobrickett, etc. We would like to demonstrate that there are some politicians and policymaker that helps the people in deep poverty instead of make their situation even more difficult.

**Future:**

By involving human rights watchdog Ngo's a proposal on the ethic profiling practice of the police will be devised. Beside the donations with the assistance of the Bike Association and companies we would like to open bike services as well.

## Roma Press Center:



The goal of the Roma Press Center is - besides the daily reports presenting the life of roma people - to draw attention to the social and economic advantages of coexistence and tolerance. We believe that despite the difficulties there are always something or somebody to be proud of. Our objective is to show that gypsies in Hungary are still an integral part of the Hungarian society in spite of the persistent exclusion. The differences are less than the similarities!