

Call for Papers: Graduate Student Award Competition

Outline submission deadline: July 10, 2020 until 12 p.m. (CET)

Final paper submission deadline: September 11, 2020

Best Paper and awards: September 2020

Center for Policy Studies (CPS) invites recent graduates and continuing students to reflect, analyze and to share innovative ideas on topics related to the civil society voice and participation in shaping Roma equality policies with special attention to civil society monitoring mechanisms. The graduate student paper competition builds-up on the rich knowledge acquired through the [Roma Civil Monitor](#) (RCM) pilot project, and it aims to further enhance the knowledge by providing space to the Central European University's graduates and students to produce scholarly analyses on the Roma integration and monitoring mechanisms.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all graduates of the 2019-2020 academic year and continuing students in degrees and non-degrees programs (Master, PhD, Roma Graduate Preparation Program) within the Central European University.

Possible topics and key questions that may be considered but should not be limited to:

- Debates and experiences concerning the role of civil society in participating in the policy process for Roma equality with special attention to monitoring policy performances;
- How does critical policy monitoring contribute to empower civil society in general and in the case of RCM?
- How does RCM compare to other human rights shadow monitoring mechanisms in Europe and beyond?
- What new ideas the RCM mechanism has brought for reforming or fundamentally changing the European Framework and the National Roma integration strategies?
- What is the contribution of RCM to wider transnational advocacy activity of Roma and pro-Roma civil society?

Application procedure, deadlines & award

Applicants for the paper competition should follow the below steps and submit the respective requirements at romacivilmonitor@ceu.edu:

Step 1 due July 10, 2020 until 12 p.m. (CET):

- submit a two-page (maximum) outline highlighting the main topic to be analyzed and the research methods intended to be used in the paper;
- submit a one-page personal statement of purpose describing how the topic of the paper fits into your academic and professional interest;

The competition awards will be determined by the Selection Committee, consisting of civil society actors and CPS thematic experts who were involved in developing the Roma Civil Monitor reports.

The Selection Committee will review the submitted outline in terms of relevance to the proposed area of research, strength of the methodology and its design, originality of the chosen topic, clarity of writing and the usage of the knowledge within the [monitoring reports](#) developed by the civil society as part of the Roma Civil Monitor. Demonstrated interest in the chosen topic will also be considered.

The list of selected proposals will be communicated by July 14, 2020.

Step 2 due **July 26, 2020** only for the selected outlines:

- submit a detailed research plan;

The plan will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and guidance on how to further continue developing the research will be provided within approximately two weeks from the submission date.

Additional guidance on the written paper will be provided upon the submission of the first final draft and upon individual request. Selected applicants are expected to engage autonomously and to confidently prepare the paper individually.

If needed for the paper development, the authors of the selected concepts will be provided with contacts to the civil society actors participating in the Roma Civil Monitor pilot projects (typically local Roma or pro-Roma NGOs or individual experts) whom they may interview.

Step 3 due **September 11, 2020**

- submit final research paper;

The final paper should:

- be submitted in English
- be submitted by a single author
- be new work or adapted from previous original course work
- be a maximum of 4000-6000 words, following an academic paper format (the total length does not include the cover page, bibliography, footnotes/endnotes, appendices or any charts and figures)
- be submitted in MS Word (formatted with cover page including title, author, word count, author's academic program)

All selected and completed papers will be published at the Center for Policy Studies webpage and the awarded best paper title will also be announced.

Up to five selected papers will be awarded through a one-time award of 300-500 EUR each, depending on the number of selected papers overall.

Assessment criteria completed papers

All paper outlines, research plans and final papers drafts will be assessed against four criteria: originality, knowledge, relevance, and structure (including clarity of writing).

- Originality

- contributes to new knowledge and understanding of the topic analyzed
- takes a well-defined perspective to an issue related to monitoring the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies
- proposes innovative approaches and solutions to new and existing challenges on monitoring the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies and critically reflects upon the old and a new European Framework Strategy

- Knowledge draws from:

- the [Roma Civil Monitor monitoring reports](#) prepared by the civil society
- the [Roma Civil Monitor synthesis reports, thematic and country fiches](#) prepared by the thematic experts based on the national monitoring reports
- the Roma Civil Monitor [guidelines on developing monitoring reports](#)
- additional resources of academic research and relevance

- Relevance

- is forward-looking and if engages with already ongoing debates, does more than replicates already well articulated positions
- identifies the importance of the selected topic, and provides timely and pertinent ideas, practices, or approaches
- demonstrates potential for practical applicability by the civil society in terms of the monitoring mechanism or helps adding empowering outcomes

- Structure and clarity of writing

- is well written and explained, with a logical sequence of ideas
- is succinct, clear, and free from typos and grammatical errors.

Background Roma Civil Monitor

During the past three years, the Center for Policy Studies has been working with more than 90 Roma and non-Roma civil society actors and thematic experts from 27 EU member states on developing a systematic civil society monitoring. Civil society actors have analyzed the progress of the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies in three annual monitoring reports, per country. Each monitoring cycle of the national Roma integration strategies reviewed and focused on analyzing the following:

- 2017: key structural preconditions of successful implementation: fighting discrimination and antigypsyism, governance and overall policy framework (including Roma participation, coordination structures, use of European Structural and Investment Funds), anti-discrimination and fighting antigypsyism, and for the countries with largest Roma communities (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia) also the impact of mainstream education policies on Roma.
- 2018: key policy areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing.
- 2019: blind spots in Roma inclusion policies. Such blind spots include issues that hinder the Roma inclusion but have not been effectively considered or addressed by the Member States.

All monitoring reports are available at: <https://cps.ceu.edu/roma-civil-monitor-reports>.

The privacy of your personal information is very important to us. We collect, use, and store your personal information in accordance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. To learn more about how we manage your personal data during the application/selection process, please see our Privacy Notice at <https://www.ceu.edu/privacy> and CEU's Data Protection Policy at <https://documents.ceu.edu/documents/p-1805>.