

## Call for Papers: Graduate Student Award Competition

**Outline submission deadline: 30 October 2020**

**Detailed research plan submission deadline: 15 November 2020**

**Final paper submission deadline: 15 January 2021**

**Awards: January 2021**

The Center for Policy Studies/Democracy Institute (CPS/DI) invites graduates and current students to reflect, analyze and share innovative ideas on topics related to civil society's role, voice and participation in shaping Roma equality policies, with special attention to civil society monitoring mechanisms. The graduate student paper competition builds on the rich knowledge acquired through the [Roma Civil Monitor](#) (RCM) pilot project, and it aims to further enhance that 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 alumni who graduated in the last five academic years (2016-2020) and currently enrolled students in degree and non-degree programs (Master, PhD, Roma Graduate Preparation Program) within the Central European University.

### Possible topics and key questions that may be considered, but not 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 empowering civil society in general, and specifically in the case of RCM?
- How does RCM compare to other human rights shadow monitoring mechanisms in Europe and beyond?
- What new ideas has the RCM mechanism 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 activities of Roma and pro-Roma civil society?

### Application procedure, deadlines & awards

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

#### Step 1: Due **30 October 2020**:

- 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 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 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 4 November 2020.

Step 2: Due **15 November 2020** only for the selected outlines:

- Submit a detailed research plan including the description of the types of the empirical data to be collected. The plan will be reviewed by the Selection Committee and guidance on how to further continue developing the research will be provided within approximately one week from the submission date.

Additional guidance on the written paper will be provided upon the submission of the first draft and upon individual request. Selected applicants are expected to engage autonomously and to 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 **15 January 2021**

- Submit final research paper;

The final paper should be:

- submitted in English
- submitted by a single author
- new work or adapted from previous original course work
- a minimum of 4000 to maximum 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)
- submitted in MS Word (formatted with cover page including title, author, word count, author's academic program)

The awarded best paper will be announced internationally, and the CPS/DI will seek the most suitable outlet(s) to publish selected and completed papers.

Up to five selected papers will be awarded through a one-time award of 300 net EUR.

### **Assessment criteria completed papers**

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

- Originality

- contributes with 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 strategies and the new [strategic framework for the equality, inclusion and participation of Roma in EU countries](#)

- Knowledge draws from:

- the [Roma Civil Monitor monitoring reports](#) prepared by 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
- [EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020](#)
- [EU Roma strategic framework for equality, inclusion and participation 2020-2030](#)

- 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 civil society in terms of the monitoring mechanism

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

### **Background of the 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 strategy. 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 the 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 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>.