



## NEWS REPORT

**Date:** 8 April 2009  
**Expert:** Manuel Malheiros  
**Title:** Roma mediators in Town Halls  
**Country:** Portugal

### Context

**Issue at stake:** Participation of Roma as mediators in Town Halls  
**Ground of discrimination:** Race or ethnic origin  
**Source:** Newspapers: Jornal de Notícias, Expresso, Destak  
Television: RTP, SIC, TVI  
**Field:** Access to goods and services

### Content

The High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACIDI I.P) launched a pilot project for Town Halls which aims to appoint Roma mediators in 10 Portuguese Town Halls. These ten Town Halls will be chosen after the finalisation of the selection procedure by the ACIDI. The mediators will be at the disposal of Town Halls whenever they are needed; their task will be to offer their assistance in solving conflicts arising for instance among the residents and the police forces. The project will last for one year and is addressed to every town with Roma inhabitants; it is expected to be implemented in these towns the Roma community has got a greater impact. It began on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2009– the International Roma Day. The number of mediators is proportional to the number of residents. There are no registers indicating the number of Roma population in every Town Hall.

Mediators should preferentially be of Roma origin, have completed 9 years of education and residing in the area. The selection will be made by the Town Halls.

ACIDI through GACI – Gabinete de Apoio às Comunidades Ciganas (Roma Communities Support Cabinet) is also going to coordinate the formation on Institutional rules, Mediation and Communication for the mediation procedure.

The existence of Roma mediators will improve the access of Roma communities to services, such as Town Hall facilities, healthcare centres, hospitals etc. and will promote communication between the Roma community and the other inhabitants.

Internet link source and additional information:



<http://www.ciga-nos.pt/Default.aspx?tabindex=3&tabid=10>