

CASE LAW MOSAIC

QUARTERLY INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IN HUNGARY, 2021/2

For 10 years, the Network of Christian Colleges for Advanced Studies for the Roma, which is unique in Europe, has been promoting successful study and degree opportunities for Roma young people in higher education. The network now has eight members, up from four when it was founded a decade ago, and three more public higher education institutions have similar organisations.

In her letter, the Minority Ombudsman said it was exemplary that in 10 years, nearly five hundred students have obtained a degree in higher education as members of the KRSZH. She explained that the scholarships, mentoring, residential opportunities, pastoral care, internships and faith-based programmes offered by the Roma colleges are undoubtedly essential elements to ensure that students not only start but also successfully complete their studies.

Strengthening Roma identity, learning about Roma history and culture, and social awareness-raising on a broad scale all contribute to promoting social integration. The three pillars of the College's work – the cultural, the social and the spiritual approach – play a crucial role in this process.

In her welcome address to the eleven organisations, the Minority Ombudsman stressed her confidence that community organisation based on dialogue and value creation would reach an ever wider section of society, would further promote inclusion and would contribute to increasing the number of young Roma people in education.

With a view to cooperation, the Minority Ombudsman offered the possibility of visiting the Office to all educational institutions whose students would like to learn more about the professional challenges and tasks in the field of nationality rights, and drew attention to the possibility of an internship programme offered by the Office, and stressed that, if invited, she would be happy to visit intellectual and scientific workshops where young people could come closer to understanding that respect for human rights and minority rights is a fundamental interest and value.