

A summary of the doctoral thesis titled “Roma people at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century on the example of the Małopolskie province”

The work was written to present the situation of the Roma in the Małopolskie voivodeship at the beginning of the 21st century, with particular emphasis on the activities of Roma associations established and functioning in the said area. It regards the associations founded and run by the Roma, whose aim is to work for the Roma community through various initiatives, ranging from cultural and educational activities, serving to maintain the Roma ethnic identity, as well as promoting the beauty of Romani culture and tradition, and ending with social aspects - counteracting unemployment, improving the living and health situation of the Roma minority.

The question is whether and to what extent the Roma benefited from the opportunities and possibilities created by the Polish state. It concerns the series of activities undertaken since the beginning of the 21st century of which the Roma have become addressees. It was the Roma minority to which *The pilot government program for the Roma community in the Lesser Poland voivodeship for the years 2001-2003* was addressed, continued in the following years as *the Program for the Roma community in Poland for the years 2004-2013*, currently implemented in the form of *the Roma community integration program in Poland for the years 2014-2020*.

The aim of this work is to show the scope and forms of Romani cultural and educational activities in the Małopolskie voivodeship at the beginning of the 21st century, aimed at preventing the marginalization of this population and serving to maintain the Roma identity. As a result, organizations and institutions integrating the Roma, having their headquarters in the largest population centers in the Małopolskie voivodeship, namely in Kraków, Oświęcim and Tarnów, but including other towns where the Roma community lives, were analyzed.

The territorial scope of the work mainly covers the Lesser Poland voivodeship, however, it sometimes goes beyond this area in order to show the analyzed issues more widely.

The chronological framework of the considerations undertaken opens the year 2001 and ends the year 2013, which is obviously not accidental, but conditioned by the implementation of the already mentioned programs for the Roma community. Despite such a chronology, the author referred in her considerations to earlier events, especially in the initial chapters of the work, depicting the origin of the Roma, their arrival in Europe and Poland, as well as highlighting the most important aspects of the history of the Roma community, including the period of extermination, the ban on wandering

and the changes that have occurred in Poland since 1989.

The reference to the past was not the only procedure used at work, as the author also referred to a later period, usually in the case of projects started under the aforementioned Roma programs, and continued after their completion.

The presented work uses a descriptive method and a historical-problem method, important in source research. In addition, the statistical method was also referred to. The analysis used printed documents, studies, articles, periodicals and websites, which contributed to the presentation of the problems in the material and chronological system.

The thematic scope of the work required a wide query of the Roma press, which provided a lot of valuable information ("KwartalnikRomski", "Dialog-Pheniben", "Romano Atmo"), as well as the analyses of the articles published in "Gazeta Wyborcza", issued since 1989, which has also become an important source of knowledge on the topic discussed here. Moreover, the analysis of the annual "StudiaRomologica", "Bulletin of the Committee on National and Ethnic Minorities", and annual reports on the implementation of the Program for the Roma community in Poland, containing a detailed description of the tasks carried out and their effects, were of great importance. In addition, the minutes of the meetings of the Joint Commission of Government and National and Ethnic Minorities and the Team for Roma Affairs of the Joint Commission of Government and National and Ethnic Minorities were also analyzed. A valuable source of knowledge were also the reports presenting the situation of national and ethnic minorities living in Poland, among which one can list, for example, *Reports for the Secretary General of the Council of Europe*.

A special place in this work is occupied by evoked sources, namely the interviews with the representatives of the Roma community, which enabled gathering a lot of valuable information necessary to understand and present the social, educational, economic and cultural situation of the Roma community, as well as showing the changes taking place also among it. What is involved here are the interviews conducted by the author with the activists from the Roma organizations in the Małopolskie voivodeship, including: Zenon Bołdyzer, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Edyta Jaśkowiak and Anna Wachowicz - a Pole who has been the vice-president of the Roma Association in Krakow for over a dozen years. The second group of interviewees were people cooperating with Roma associations and organizations undertaking activities for the benefit of Roma, such as Monika Szewczyk, Paweł Lechowski and Natalia Gancarz. Noteworthy are also interviews with people involved in activities for the benefit of the Roma or in running associations in other regions of Poland, such as Tadeusz "Bosman" Krzyżanowski and his

wife Marlena from Bydgoszcz, Sylwia Maron from Wałbrzych or Maria Łój from Wrocław.

This dissertation has a chronological and material arrangement and consists of ten chapters, divided into detailed subchapters. They show the scope and form of activity carried out by the Roma.

Keywords: Roma, Roma Caravan of Memory, Limanowa, "Gypsy camp", Romani museum.