

Mrs. Nicoleta Bitu

Curriculum Vitae – Resume

Born in 1970, Mrs. Nicoleta Bitu is currently Program Coordinator at the Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies (Romani CRISS) in Bucharest. Mrs. Bitu graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Bucharest. Her graduation thesis dealt with interethnic conflict resolution and Roma community development in Romania.

The area of competence of Mrs. Bitu, accumulated during her 18 years of human rights activism, includes gender equality; social intervention in education and health in post-conflict situations; leadership training and mentoring; and income generation projects in Roma communities. Throughout her career, Mrs. Bitu combined research on Roma issues with activism in the civil society.

Her experience varies from working with local Roma communities in post conflict situation to international lobby and advocacy in promoting Romani women's rights on the agenda of different international organizations as well as on the agenda of Romani activism.

The results of her work are visible through the recognition of the gender equality and Romani women's human rights as a priority in addressing the situation of Romani communities.

She previously worked as an independent consultant for the Open Society Institute, New York (2000-2001), as project manager for Romani CRISS (2001-2003), as designer, trainer and facilitator for the regional workshop of Open Society Institute Network Women Program and ERRC (2004), and as senior policy consultant for the Joint Roma Women Initiative, Network Women Program and Roma Information Office of the Open Society Institute (2005-2007). Mrs. Bitu's list of publications includes "Report on the Situation of the Romani/Gypsy Women in Europe" (Council of Europe. September 1999); "Political Participation of the Romani Women" (background paper for the OSCE – Romanian Parliament International Conference); and "Policy Making on Roma in Central and Eastern European Countries: Inventory, Challenges, Commitments, Good practices, and Weaknesses" (co-author; in the book of the International Expert Symposium on Roma Questions. January 2000: Cluj-Napoca, Romania).

In 2003, Mrs. Bitu delivered a speech in the Hungarian Parliament in front of 5 Prime Ministers from countries in the region. In 1999 and 2000, she made presentations in the Council of Europe Specialist Working Group on Roma/Gypsies. Also in 2000 and 2005, Ms. Bitu participated, as NGO delegate, to the review of the United Nations General Assembly on Beijing Platform for Action on Women Rights, to the Stability Pact Task Force for on Human Rights and National Minorities (Ljubljana, Slovenia), and to the

gender equality expert group of the UN Division on Advancement of Women, for the preparations of the Durban Conference .

Mrs. Bitu speaks Romanian and Romani as native languages, and is fluent in French and English. Her computer skills include MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Outlook) and Pegasus. She has a remarkable ability to transfer knowledge, and is competent in policy strategy writing; building partnerships and networks; and managing advocacy campaigns. The abilities to work in a team and under stressful conditions are particularly outstanding.

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Area of competence

Mrs. Nicoleta Bitu graduated in 1997 from the University of Bucharest with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. Her graduation thesis dealt with interethnic conflict resolution and Roma community development in Romania. Mrs. Bitu's area of expertise includes gender equality; social intervention in education and health in post-conflict situations; leadership training and mentoring; and generation of income in Roma communities. Beside the theoretical knowledge on the aforementioned issues, throughout her career Mrs. Bitu acquired the ability of developing and coordinating projects aiming to improve the condition of Roma people.