

**Fostering Cooperation and Institutional Capacity for Roma Integration in the Danube Region**

**Vienna, 9-10 October 2014**

**Venue: Federal Ministry for Employment, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection Stubenring 1 A-1010 Vienna**

**High-level meeting to foster cooperation and institutional capacity for Roma integration at the interfaces of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR), the National Roma Strategies and the European Structural and Investments Funds (ESIF)**

Both the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the National Strategies for Roma Integration are a considerable contribution to European integration and in order to reach the targets of the EU2020 Strategy on the local, national and macro-regional level, especially with regard to the headline target “Fighting poverty and social exclusion”, but also in relation to the targets related to education and employment. The vast majority of European Roma lives in the 14 countries of the Danube Region. Roma integration is also one of the main aims of the EUSDR. Moreover, the EUSDR can provide an interface towards third countries in the Danube Region and towards the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). At the beginning of the new multiannual financial framework, the main aim of the meeting is to bring together key stakeholders of European Strategies and of Managing Authorities of the ESIF and other funds and to thereby provide a much focussed approach of policy and project development related to Roma Inclusion in the Danube Region.

Goals of the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Foster the discussion on how to improve the situation of the Roma in the Danube Region through better spending of ESIF</li> <li>- Gain insights into specific national challenges; exchange of experience with regard to the four main topics of Roma inclusion (housing, employment, health, education)</li> <li>- Discuss targeted measures, mainstreaming of measures</li> <li>- Include Roma who are third country nationals and analyse situation in third countries in the Danube Region, esp. on the Western Balkans</li> <li>- Identify potential to increase absorption rates in order to improve the situation of the Roma in the Danube Region</li> <li>- Identify macro-regional challenges and transnational needs and challenges</li> <li>- Showcase and assess projects and best practice</li> <li>- Analyse how to create close links between policy/project development and funding</li> <li>- Create transnational synergies to step up institutional capacity with regard to the aforementioned considerations and aspects</li> </ul>
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Organisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Federal Chancellery of Austria; National Roma Contact Point (NRCP)</li><li>- City of Vienna, Priority Area Coordinator 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation” of the EUSDR</li><li>- Federal Ministry for Employment, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection, Priority Area Coordinator (PAC) 9 “People and Skills” of the EUSDR</li></ul>
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- NRCs of EU-MS in the Danube Region (AT, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, RO, SI, SK)</li><li>- Government officials responsible for Roma inclusion from third countries in the Danube Region (BA, MD, ME, RS,UA)</li><li>- Representatives of European institutions dealing with Roma integration (e.g. DGs Just, Empl, Regio, Elarg, CoR, EESC, CoE/ROMACT etc.)</li><li>- Representatives of Management Authorities of ESIF, especially the ESF</li><li>- Representatives of the EUSDR (NCPs, Priority Area Coordinators (PACs))</li><li>- Other key stakeholders in the context outlined above, e.g. donors</li></ul>

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