



EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions

Agenda

Cities and regions - joining forces for inclusion of Roma populations

31 May, 10.00-16.45

Committee of the Regions, room JDE 51

The seminar will look at the new Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies (EC Communication published in April) from the perspective of local and regional authorities, and identify potentials and obstacles of its implementation on the ground.

Until now, the role of cities and regions in Roma inclusion in Europe has not always received the attention it deserves. A recent shift in emphasis and growing expectations of cities and regions to become more involved meets with initiatives of the European institutions to have a better impact on the ground, offering a unique opportunity to trigger real change. With this background, the seminar will confront presentations from local and regional authorities on the situation in the field of Roma inclusion with presentations on the opportunities that the new EU-framework and existing EU- and transnational initiatives can offer. The seminar will also address the availability and use of EU-funding under the current framework and the reform of structural funds post 2013.

10.00-10.30

Opening session

Mr. Miklos Csomós, Deputy Mayor of Budapest

Mr. Alvaro Ancisi (IT/EPP), Committee of the Regions, ECOS commission, Rapporteur on the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies

Mr. István Makai, President of the Roma Minority Municipal Government of Budapest

10.30-12.30

Panel I: Situations and Challenges around Roma inclusion - spotlights on local and regional situations and the role of European networks

- Mr. Furio Honsell, Mayor of Udine, Roma-Net URBACT II project
- Mr. Daniel Termont, Mayor of Ghent, EURO CITIES-Taskforce on Roma inclusion
- Ms. Ilona Pavlicová, Manager of EU projects, Brno municipality
- Mr. Dušan Šlosár, Košice Self-Governing Region, Crisis Management, Occupational Safety, Health and Community Development

- Mr. Biser Alekov, Policy and Advocacy Officer, ERGO Network
- Questions and answers

Moderation: Ms. Ann Hyde, Lead Expert of Roma-Net URBACT II project

12.30-12.40 **Opening of the exhibition “We are here”** by Mr. Miklós Csomós, Deputy Mayor of Budapest - foyer 5th floor

12.40-14.30 Sandwich lunch + Networking space Roma Inclusion (foyer 5th floor)

A number of Initiatives on Roma inclusion will be presented and give participants the opportunity to explore possibilities for cooperation

14.30-16.30 **Panel II: Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and funding opportunities for Roma inclusion**

- Ms. Livia Járóka, MEP
- Ms. Györgyi Vajda, Social inclusion policy, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the European Union
- Mr. Alexandros Tsolakis, Policy Analyst, DG Regional Policy, European Commission: Article 7 of ERDF regulations
- Ms. Szilvia Kálmán, Policy Officer, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission: European Social Fund support for Roma integration
- Ms. Carolina Fernández, EURoma Technical Secretariat : Guide on Roma Social Inclusion for Local Administrations
- Mr. Costel Bercuş, Chair of Board, Roma Education Fund
- Questions and answers

Chair: Mr. Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for equality, DG Justice, European Commission (tbc)

16.30-17.00 **Closing session**

- Mr. John Warmisham, rapporteur, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Mr. Miklós Csomós, Deputy Mayor of Budapest

Simultaneous translation: English/Italian/Hungarian

The seminar is co-organised by the City of Budapest, EURO CITIES and the Committee of the Regions, under the aegis of the Hungarian presidency of the Council of the EU.

Registration by 25th May 2011