

Investing in our future:

What work(s) for young Roma

Public Event ERGO Network

November 27th, 2017 09:00 – 12:30 (followed by networking lunch)

Venue: Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels (Mundo B, Conference Room)



Introduction

Equality of employment opportunities for young Roma is fair and just, but also a smart economic choice: It is an effective way to improve growth prospects and respond to the demographic challenge of rapidly ageing populations in EU Member States. Investing in young Roma breaks the cycle of poverty, discrimination and exclusion. It can yield high returns and can deliver the kind of lasting change that many policies and programs have so far failed to achieve.

According to the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), 19% of non-Roma and 58% of Roma aged 16 to 24 are not in employment, education or training. Different actors responsible for implementing employment policies and measures, like employment offices, training consultancies and education centers, are not equipped to reach out to Roma and/or are affected by Antigypsyism. On average, 38% of Roma job seekers indicated that they were discriminated against because of their ethnicity at least once in the last 12 months when looking for work. For other groups, the rate of discrimination when looking for work was: 22% for Sub-Saharan Africans, 20% for North Africans, 12% for Turkish respondents, 11% for Central and Eastern Europeans, and 8% for Russians and for former Yugoslavians.

At ERGO's Public Event, we will ***discuss how mainstream employment policies can support young Roma, present research done by ERGO members*** in five EU member states on youth employment measures and we will ***launch a campaign to mobilize support for investing in employment opportunities for young Roma.***

ERGO Network explored useful and promising employment measures and practices for young Roma in different kinds of contexts to inspire practitioners and policy makers to invest in employment opportunities for young Roma. For this, we invested in fact-finding to map barriers, opportunities and measures, exploring what employment opportunities for young Roma are realistic and fit with the local context.

The campaign will be centred on views and messages of young Roma themselves. We aim to convince decision-makers to support employment of young Roma and break the stigma that Roma do not want to or cannot work. The campaign aims to make clear that young Roma want to work and can have opportunities, if sufficient investment is done and if they receive the right support.

ERGO Network

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Programme

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening Panel: Mainstreaming policies to invest in Roma

- Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova, Executive Director ERGO Network (*opening remarks and moderation*)
- Livia Járóka MEP, Group of the European People's Party
- Emmanuelle Grange, Head of Unit, Disability and Inclusion, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission
- Thorsten Afflerbach, Council of Europe, Head of Division for the Roma and Travelers Team
- Lili Makaveeva, Board member ERGO Network

10:30 Break

10:45 Investing in our future: What work(s) for young Roma

- Stanislav Daniel, Board member ERGO Network (*Introduction and moderation*)
- Simona Torotcoi, Phd candidate Central European University: results of ERGO Network's research "What work(s) for Roma"
- Melinda Kassai, ProCseherat Hungary: Insights into ERGO's research and best practice example - Pro Ratatouille project
- Sergio Aires, President European Anti-Poverty Network: Investing in youth - breaking the cycle of disadvantage
- Mustafa Jakupov, RROMA Macedonia: Promising practices

11:45 Open floor debate

12:15 Conclusions and recommendations to bring to the EU Roma Platform

- Stanislav Daniel, Board member ERGO Network
- Dominique Bé, Policy Officer, DG Employment and Social Affairs
- Soraya Post MEP, Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats, Vice-chair ARDI Intergroup

12:30 Networking lunch

For further information, please contact info@ergonetwork.org, tel+ +32 2 893 10 49



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