

On the occasion of the Austrian EU Presidency Romano Centro in co-operation with European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network and the House of the European Union in Vienna

Invites you to a panel discussion

Diversity in the European Union – The case of Roma in Europe

Thursday, November 8th, 6.30 p.m.

House of the European Union, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna

Welcome

Georg Pfeifer, *Head of the European Parliament's Liaison Office in Austria*

Rabie Perić-Jasar and Mirjam Karoly, *Romano Centro*

Panelists

Gabriela Hrabanova, *Director ERGO Network*

Sheena Keller, *Research Officer, FRA*

Ciprian Necula, *Scholar (Sociology), Romania*

Péter Niedermüller, *Member of European Parliament, Hungary*

Dijana Pavlović, *Activist, Italy*

Alfiaz Vaiya, *Coordinator ARDI (Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup)*

Presentation

Peggy Piesche, *Scholar (Literary and Cultural Studies), Berlin*

Interpreting service German-English provided

Please register at office@romano-centro.org.

Roma are the largest ethnic minority in Europe. As a result of century-old antigypsyism in mainstream society Roma women and men are disproportionately affected by racism and discrimination, poverty and social exclusion. In order to improve the living situation of Roma women and men and to provide equal opportunities and rights to all EU citizens, in 2011 the European Commission adopted the Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020 (EU Roma Framework) that obliges all EU Member States to develop and implement national strategies for Roma in the fields of education, employment, housing and health. Since then EU Member States have set national goals and committed financial resources to foster social inclusion and anti-discrimination of respective Roma populations.

At the same time, in recent years we witness a rise of populist and right wing groups and political parties in Europe - inside and outside the EU - and public discourse scapegoating migrants, refugees, faith communities and other minorities such as Roma. These groups are made responsible for social problems and become target of populist hate speech and hate crimes.

The recent violent attacks against Roma, for example the stabbing of a Roma man in Ukraine, the killing of a young Roma girl in Greece this June, the racist attack against a Roma man in Slovakia, or the anti-Roma rhetoric of the Italian Minister of Interior Salvini, who announced a census and deportation of Roma migrants, are only few examples of this trend.

Two years before concluding the EU Roma Strategy in 2020 and in the middle of deliberations on the next EU programming period 2020-2027, we take the opportunity of the Austrian EU Presidency to look at the results so far and the challenges encountered, and to discuss how widespread antigypsyism obstructs the achievement of equal rights and opportunities for Roma in Europe.

