

European  
Roma  
Grassroots  
Organisations  
Network

# Annual Report 2018

**ERGO**  
Network





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**Cover photo:** 10 years anniversary celebration of ERGO Network, 3 December 2018

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## About us

ERGO Network is a young and dynamic organisation established in 2008 by a small group of NGOs who shared the observation that everyday realities of Roma communities were hardly taken into account in policy development and implementation. Today we have almost 30 member organisations all over Europe. Founded on the philosophy of active citizenship, shared responsibility and grassroots empowerment, ERGO Network members aim to convince policy makers that positive change for Roma is possible when antigypsyism is recognised and tackled as the root cause for inequality and when Roma can take part in civic life as equal stakeholders.

To achieve this, we advocate for better policies and policy implementation on national and European level based on evidence-based research, we organise public campaigns, build the capacity of Roma activists and provide spaces for networking and mutual learning.



# Looking back



**ERGO Director**  
**Gabriela Hrabanova**

**2018 was a special year for the network: we celebrated its 10th anniversary, harvesting a long-term investment into the empowerment of Romani individuals and grassroots organizations and celebrating our impact on Roma related policies. Not many people know that ERGO Network's history actually goes beyond these 10 years: it builds on the work of SPOLU Foundation, founded in 1994. This basis helped to establish ERGO as a proud and pro-active network, growing from the bottom up and successfully influencing policies at European, national and local level.**

In 2018, we continued to build a strong ERGO Network secretariat team in Brussels. The implementation of our work programme 'Roma Included in Social Europe (RIISE)', funded through a Framework Partnership Agreement with DG Employment, gave us the space to do so. With this project we also built the capacity of our members to achieve greater impact on Roma related and mainstream policies.

Under the 'Joint Initiative to Empower Roma Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey', coordinated by Roma Active Albania with partners in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey ERGO kept a strong partnership in the region. The 2018 highlight of the project was the selection of the 'Most Roma Friendly Mayor'. Several mayors from the partner countries received an award for their achievements and the energy they spent in advancing the situation of Roma in their municipalities during the EU Roma Week in Brussels, handed over by Roma Active Albania, Members of the European Parliament and DG NEAR.

We also continued to advocate for the recognition of antigypsyism. Thanks to the efforts of the Alliance against Antigypsyism, this specific form of racism was reflected in the Communication of the European Commission towards the European Parliament and in the work of the European Parliament itself, in particular that of Soraya Post. The EU Roma Week once again brought more than hundred Roma from all over Europe to Brussels, joining the plight against anti-gypsyism as well as contributing to the discourse on Roma related policies. Important was also our work on a youth friendly version of the reference paper on antigypsyism that will be finalised in 2019.

Investment into civil society and tackling its shrinking space remained on ERGOs agenda. We continued to work together with the Central European University in the Roma Civil Monitor pilot project, connecting more than 90 organizations to monitor Roma inclusion policies across the EU. We also created transparency and accountability criteria together with a board game that can help NGOs in a joyful way to introduce the criteria in their organizations' structure.

Towards the end of the year, ahead of the Annual Members meeting, ERGO Network welcomed new Roma personalities on our Board of Directors: Soraya Post from Sweden, former member of the European Parliament, became co-chair of the Board and Martin Mata from the Czech Republic became the treasurer. Currently the ERGO board as well as its secretariat are composed of a majority of Romani people.

**We are building our own future and we are doing it together with all of you!**





# 10 year anniversary of ERGO Network

**On the 3 December 2018 ERGO celebrated its 10 year anniversary in the company of members and partners with champagne and music. ERGO Network supporters, former staff and board members highlighted the achievements of the network in the past ten years and shared their best memories.**

The 10 year anniversary was a big milestone for the ERGO team. ERGO was founded in 2004 as an informal gathering of local organizations from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania, Slovakia and Romania, who all began as partners of SPOLU international foundation.

In 2008, ERGO became officially registered as an organization and opened its own office in Brussels with a small but dedicated group of people who wanted to change things, Roma and non-Roma alike. Founding members of the independent network were Integro Association from Bulgaria, Roma Active

Albania and Spolu IF Netherlands. Over the years the network grew to include more than 25 Roma organisations from all over Europe.

Since then ERGO Network has worked hard to develop expertise and gain visibility. The network has exponentially grown as an organisation with the help of members and the support from people who follow ERGO's work. Some of ERGO's defining moments include the wall-free Europe campaign in 2014, the foundation of the Alliance against Antigypsyism in 2016 and the start of cooperation with DG Employment under a Framework Partnership Agreement in 2014.

ERGO would like to thank their dedicated team who work tirelessly for the greater cause, all of the member organisations who make the meetings and trainings possible, and also the people who support the work ERGO has continued to do for 10 years.







# Our team

## Board members

Soraya Post (co-chair since December 2018)

Stanislav Daniel (co-chair)

Biser Alekov

Lili Makaveeva

Adriatik Hasantari

Martin Mata (treasurer since December 2018)

Karlien de Ruiter (outgoing treasurer)

ERGO Network is proud to announce **Soraya Post** as new co-chair of the network. Soraya Post was a Member of the European Parliament from 2014-2019 for the Group of Socialists and Democrats and Co-President of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup. She is one of the most prominent Roma activists in Europe and has advanced the fight against antigypsyism hugely through her work in the European Parliament.



## Staff

Jamen Gabriela Hrabanova (Executive Director)

Carmen Tanasie (Policy officer)

Christine Sudbrock (Programme and Communications Manager)

Jelena Jovanovic (Policy and Research Coordinator)

Jozsef Rostas (EVS volunteer until May 2018)

Athanasios Mitrou (EVS volunteer Feb–December 2018)

Paolo Ferraresi (Financial Manager)

## Advisory Committee

**RROMA**  
North Macedonia

**Life Together**  
Czech Republic

**Integro**  
Bulgaria

**Roma Active**  
Albania

**Policy Centre for  
Roma and Minorities**  
Romania



# ERGO Network members

**The ERGO Network 2018 Annual Members Meeting took place on 10-11 December in Tirana, hosted by Roma Active Albania.**

The ERGO team updated the members about current and future projects and initiatives of ERGO Network and discussed advocacy priorities of ERGO members. Participants met with Marta Garcia Fidalgo, adviser for the coordination of Roma policy at DG NEAR and had a video meeting with Soraya Post MEP, the new co-chair of ERGO Network.

The meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the challenges and successes of the organisation in the last ten years and to discuss the future of the network and a possible formalization as an association under Belgian law. Of course the Annual Members Meeting ended with a party for ERGO Network's 10 year anniversary, prepared by the team of founding member Roma Active Albania.



## ERGO Network members

- Roma Active Albania
- Romano Centro, Austria
- Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms, Belgium
- OTAHARIN, Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Integro Association, Bulgaria
- Slovo 21, Czech Republic
- Life Together, Czech Republic
- Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb Country, Croatia
- Amaro Drom, Germany
- La Voix des Roms, France
- Pro Cseherat, Hungary
- Autonomia Foundation, Hungary
- Pavee Point, Ireland
- Vilnius Roma Community Centre, Lithuania
- Rroma, Macedonia
- Mladi Romi, Montenegro
- Policy Centre for Roma and Minorities, Romania
- Nevo Parudimos, Romania
- Centre of Resources for Social Inclusion, Romania
- Roma Advocacy and Research Centre, Slovakia
- Kaskosan, UK
- National Federation of Gypsy Liaison Groups, UK
- Advancing Together, Kosovo
- Roma Forum, Serbia
- Roma Women Fund Chiricli, Ukraine
- Upre Roma, Italy
- Utrecht Roma Association, Netherlands



# ERGO Network

## CONNECTING SINCE 2008





2018 was the first year of ERGO Network's new 4-year work programme 'Roma Included in Social Europe' (RIISE), supported through a Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission's Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Thanks to this financial support, ERGO Network can implement a rich annual programme focusing on capacity-building of Roma grassroots organisations, advocacy at national and EU level and research.

Besides activities organized on EU-level, the work programme supports research and capacity-building in the 'Big 5', the EU Member States with the highest Roma population (Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic). RIISE aims to ensure that mainstream social policies work for Roma, one of the most marginalised communities in Europe.

In 2018 the focus was on giving input to the EU's post-2020 programming period, in particular to the proposal for a new multi-annual financial framework.

### Objectives:

- ★ To support the development, implementation monitoring and evaluation of EU social policies in order to make them effective for the social inclusion of Roma;
- ★ To offer EU institutions a direct link to Roma grassroots NGOs who provide evidence of social problems on local level;
- ★ To build the capacity of ERGO members and partners to get involved in policy processes on all levels;
- ★ To strengthen the network as a learning organisation.

### Main activities:

- ★ Inputting into the EU policy process through research, participating in civil society dialogues, position papers and creating platforms for dialogue between stakeholders;
- ★ Capacity-building for ERGO members and partners on organisational management, advocacy, EU policies and processes;
- ★ Supporting Roma grassroots NGOs in monitoring of policies, fundraising and participation in local policy processes;
- ★ Raising awareness of social problems faced by Roma and supporting stakeholders in addressing these issues and working with Roma communities;
- ★ Peer-learning between ERGO members in order to develop greater expertise to serve their members and empower Roma.

# JOINT INITIATIVE to Empower Roma Civil Society on the Western Balkans & Turkey

The 'Joint Initiative to Empower Roma Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey' (JIERCSWBT) is a 3-year project funded by the European Commission's DG for Neighbourhood and Enlargement and is coordinated by ERGO Network founding member Roma Active Albania. It sets up a supporting structure for (pro) Roma civil society to actively participate in the local and national policy and decision making process. It addresses the generally weak position of civil society organisations aiming at promoting Roma integration or represent the voice of communities.

The partners are Advancing Together (Kosovo), OTAHARIN (Bosnia and Hercegovina), RROMA (Macedonia), NGO Young Roma (Montenegro), Roma Forum Serbia and Zero Discrimination Association (Turkey). ERGO Network has a supporting and advisory role by bringing its expertise of a European network and project implementation and creating the link between the national work and the European arena.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE IN 2018

### Conference: 'Reintegration' into the Western Balkans: Returnees' perspective with special attention to the Roma community

The conference, held in Brussels on 8 October ahead of the EU Roma Platform, was co-organized by ERGO Network and the European Commission and hosted by MEP Cornelia Ernst (GUE/NGL), MEP Soraya Post (S&D) and MEP Eduard Kukan (EPP). Together the partners managed to move 'the Roma in the Western Balkans' perspective from the margins to the center of the EU Roma Platform's narrative. The event strengthened stakeholders' understanding of the situation, created a space for dialogue between Members of the European Parliament, the European Commission,

international organizations, national authorities, Roma Contact Points and civil society from both the Western Balkans region and EU Member States. Participants of the conference discussed their views of the problems and possible measures to be taken to address them. The participants learned about the results of a study by World Bank and UNDP on returnees in the Western Balkans and related recommendations from the civil society perspective on understanding root causes why people leave the Western Balkans, as well as advocacy priorities and a returnee's experience.



## Most Roma-friendly mayor campaign

Mayors from the Western Balkans and Turkey were awarded a prize as 'Most Roma-friendly mayors' during the 2018 Roma Week in the European Parliament. The eight winning mayors were selected from 49 competing municipalities. Seven independent juries were established in the respective countries, assessing the applications and comparing the facts with the realities. The juries pointed out the progress in having concrete and budgeted Local Action Plans, efforts in creating education-related opportunities, support for social entrepreneurship, improvement of infrastructure in terms of roads, lighting, sewage and water supply, newly built apartments and Roma participation in local authority structures. Some results are also visible in the fields of employment and health as well as in applying holistic approach.

The ceremony was hosted by MEP Soraya Post and attended by Minister of Labor and Social Policy of North Macedonia Ms Mila Carovska and the Director-General of the European Commission DG Near Mr Christian Danielsson. The speakers pointed out the importance of mayors who are committed to Roma inclusion and the fight against anti-gypsyism and highlighted the importance of partnerships between local governments and Roma civil society organisations. The awards were given to: Erion Veliaj (Tirana, Albania); Mićo Mićić (Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina); Blagoj Bochvarski (Štip, North Macedonia); Burim Berisha (Fushë, Kosovo); Snežana Matijević (Tivat, Montenegro); Latinka Vasiljković, Odžaci (Serbia); Osman Genç (Canik, Turkey) and Hayri İnönü (Şişli, Turkey).

## European Parliament reports on Western Balkan countries and Turkey

ERGO Network in close cooperation with the office of Soraya Post MEP proposed amendments to reports made by the European Parliament under the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The proposals are based on the results of the 2017 monitoring reports made by the project partners. Thanks to this contribution we could raise the voice of Romani civil society in the enlargement process, and some of the amendments are reflected in the final reports adopted by the

European Parliament. The amendments were prepared for reports on Serbia, Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey and Montenegro. Amendments were also made for Ukraine in cooperation with the ERGO member Chiricli.

Our input was based on both ERGO Network's expertise, our partner NGOs' expertise and the shadow reports created in the framework of the project.



# ROMA CIVIL MONITOR

Since 2017 ERGO Network is a partner in the pilot project 'Capacity building for Roma civil society and strengthening its involvement in the monitoring of national Roma integration strategies'.

**The pilot project is managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG Justice). It is coordinated by the Central European University Centre for Policy Studies (CPS), in partnership with ERGO Network, the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), the Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) and the Roma Education Fund (REF), and is implemented with active participation of around 90 NGOs and experts from 27 EU Member States.**

The objective of the pilot project is to contribute to strengthening the monitoring mechanisms of the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies through systematic civil society monitoring. Each year, coalitions of local and national NGOs publish shadow reports on the efforts undertaken in their countries and therewith push national actors and the EU to increase their efforts for Roma integration.

The value of the annual civil society monitoring reports also comes from the independent status and the field experience

of participating experts and NGOs. The pilot project aims to enhance civil society monitoring in two key ways: by developing the policy monitoring capacities of civil society actors, and by supporting the preparation of high-quality, comprehensive annual civil society monitoring reports.

The first monitoring cycle focused on governance, and combating antigypsyism, where ERGO Network contributed specifically with their considerable expertise in combating antigypsyism to all 27 country reports (2017). The second (2018) monitoring cycle focused on the key policy areas of education, employment, healthcare and housing, where ERGO Network supported the civil society organisations and experts from Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, the UK, Ireland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania Germany, and Luxembourg in their monitoring efforts.

The reports are available on the website.  
<https://cps.ceu.edu/roma-civil-monitor-report>

# EU ADVOCACY

**In 2018 ERGO Network continued to foster strategic partnerships with the relevant stakeholders in the field of Roma inclusion. ERGO Network regularly takes part in civil society consultations of the European Commission as well as in discussions hosted by Members of the European Parliament and the political groups in the Parliament.**



## Mainstreaming Roma inclusion

In 2018 it was crucial to provide input into the planning of the EU's 2021-2027 programming period, in particular the Multi-Annual Financial Framework that will define how many resources are provided for Roma inclusion and empowerment as well as for combatting antigypsyism.

Besides dedicated policies and programmes directly targeting Roma, ERGO Network lobbies for mainstreaming of social inclusion of Roma across all policy areas. This need for mainstreaming is reflected in the policy paper 'recommendations on Roma inclusion for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework',

which was co-signed by 234 civil society organisations. The recommendations were discussed at the event 'Roma and the post 2020 policy: challenge and opportunities', organized together with the Open Society European Policy Institute.

Through advocacy with the umbrella organisation Social Platform as well as directly through allies in the European Parliament ERGO Network gave input to the proposal for a new European Social Fund (ESF+) and the European Regional Development Fund-Cohesion Fund (ERDF). With great success: in the European Parliament proposals Roma are now mentioned as specific target group.



# EU ADVOCACY

## Combatting antigypsyism

ERGO Network together with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the European Network against Racism coordinate the Alliance against Antigypsyism, a loose network of (pro-) Roma civil society working towards the recognition of antigypsyism as core reason for the social exclusion of Roma, and for better policies tackling antigypsyism. In 2018 ERGO organised a large civil society meeting to discuss recommendations on addressing antigypsyism. These recommendations have already been included in discussions about post 2020 policies among broader European civil society and EU institutional actors.

The Alliance's recommendations were also presented at major events, including an Austrian EU Presidency event in Vienna in November. The Alliance also brought fighting antigypsyism to the spotlight of

the 2018 Fundamental Rights Forum in Vienna in September.

Additionally, ERGO Network and Central Council of German Sinti and Roma were part of the preparatory committee for setting up truth and reconciliation commissions at European and national levels, called for by Soraya Post together with the UN Human Rights Office, deliberating on a strategy to set up such commissions to establish trust between state institutions and Roma.

ERGO and its partners' continuous lobbying in 2018 resulted in the adoption of a European Parliament resolution in 2019 on a strengthened post 2020 strategic EU framework for national Roma inclusion strategies and stepping up the fight against antigypsyism.



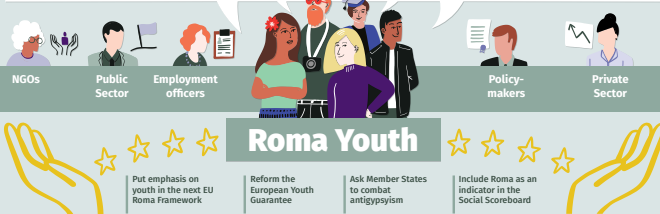
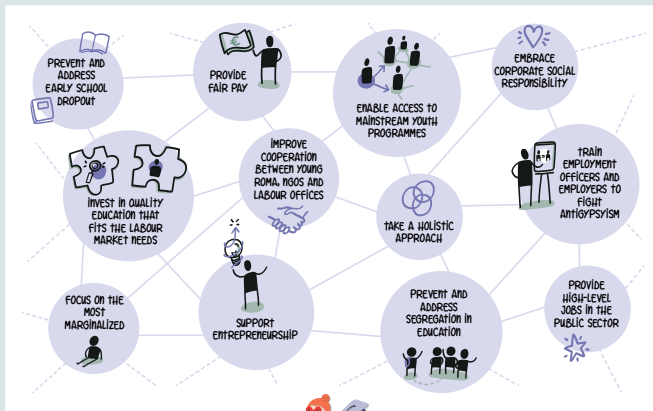
# EU ADVOCACY

## Supporting youth employment

### WHAT WORK(S) FOR YOUNG ROMA



Often we hear that Roma youth are "hard to reach" by employment measures. But what if Roma say what works for them?



with the SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Find out more on how you can act for an inclusive labour market

[www.ergonetwork.org/employment](http://www.ergonetwork.org/employment)



With financial support from the European Union



In 2018 ERGO Network continued to raise awareness of the high unemployment rate among Roma youth and offered recommendations on how to tackle this unacceptable situation.

During the EU Roma Week, ERGO Network together with MEP Javor Benedek hosted the panel debate 'From quality education to decent employment', discussing the proposals developed in the 'What work(s) for young Roma' campaign together with young people.

ERGO Network's policy officer contributed to the expert seminar 'Transition from education to employment for Roma youth as a key step in Roma inclusion' of the Council of Europe's ad hoc committee of experts on Roma and traveler issues and gave input to a European White paper on 'household services, family employment and home care', as an employment opportunity for Roma.

# EU ROMA WEEK

## THE THIRD EU ROMA WEEK TOOK PLACE FROM 8TH TO 12TH APRIL IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

**The EU Roma week has been co-organized by the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee of the Council of Europe together with civil society organisations.**

Before the start of the events in the Parliament, young Roma from all over Europe were invited to attend an advocacy training organized by ERGO Network, TernYpe International Roma Youth Network, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and the Dokumentations-und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma. The training taught young people about advocacy, focusing on the topics of antigypsyism, participation and social inclusion.

Another highlight of the week was a breakfast with Members of the European Parliament and Roma activists to exchange views and learn from each other without any pressure.



ERGO Network with member Roma Active Albania and DG NEAR furthermore co-organised an award ceremony to acknowledge positive examples of local authorities – eight Mayors from the Western Balkans and Turkey. The campaign 'The Most Roma Friendly Mayor' is part of the project Joint Initiative to Empower Roma Civil Society in the Western Balkans and Turkey aiming to mobilize Roma communities and strengthen their existing capacities to engage in a dialogue with public authorities.

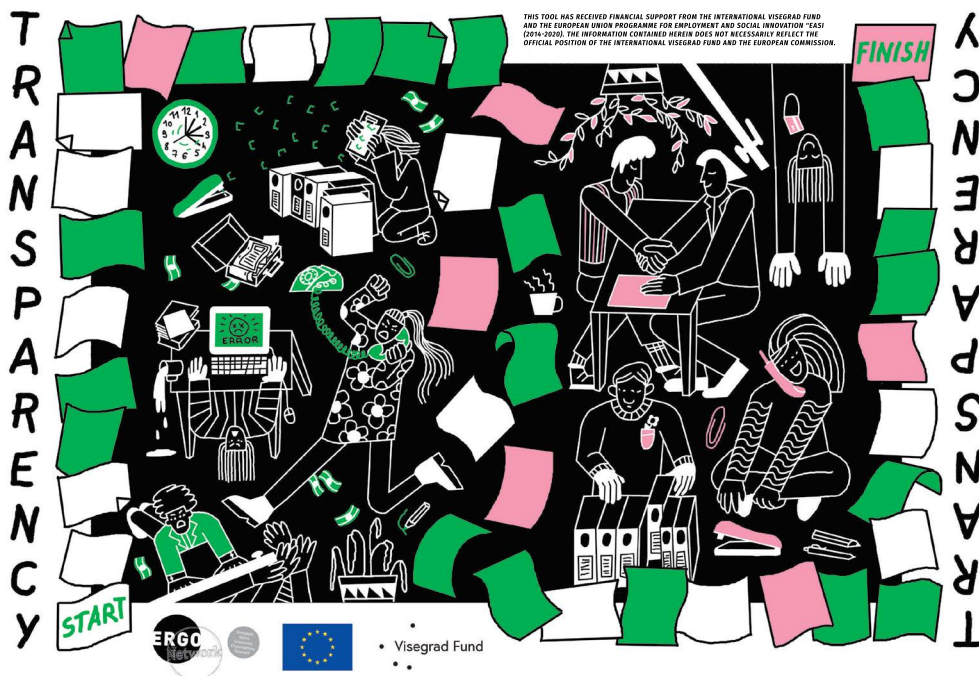
Finally, alongside MEP János Benedek ERGO Network hosted the debate 'From Quality Education to Decent Employment' to present and discuss recommendations on the transition between education and employment for Roma youth. During this event, Benedek summarized the week as follows: "With the Roma Week we aim to celebrate together Roma culture as an important part of our colourful Europe, but also to point out the problems and shortcomings we have, to find better and better solutions."

**Being transparent and accountable are important prerequisites for the effectiveness of civil society that is taken seriously by its institutional counterparts and other partners, and at the same time gives the right to demand transparency and accountability from other stakeholders.**

Therefore ERGO Network developed a set of 'transparency and accountability criteria' and a corresponding capacity-building tool to improve the quality in governance, financial management and performance of grassroots organisations.

The criteria have been developed by ERGO Network members from Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia&Herzegovina and Montenegro and are available in the languages of these partners.

Besides the criteria itself, ERGO Network has also published an attractive board game 'to help you fall in love with the dreadful issues of accountability and transparency', as well as an online self-audit to reflect on how far an organisation is when it comes to transparency.



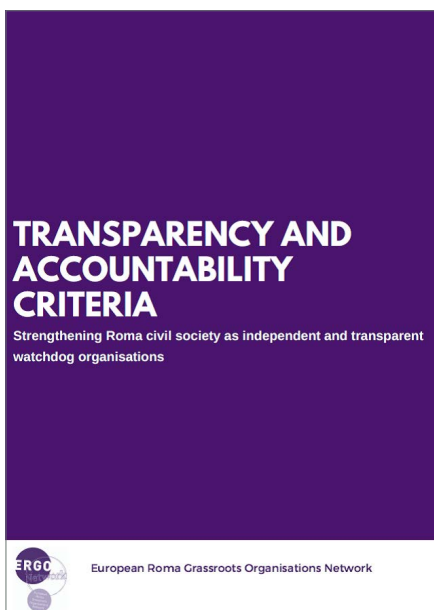


At a round table discussion in the European Parliament on 28 June ERGO Network and its members presented the new tool and discussed the role and responsibility of civil society as watchdog organisations with Members of the European Parliament and civil society partners from Transparency International, Civil Society Europe and the Open Society European Policy Institute.

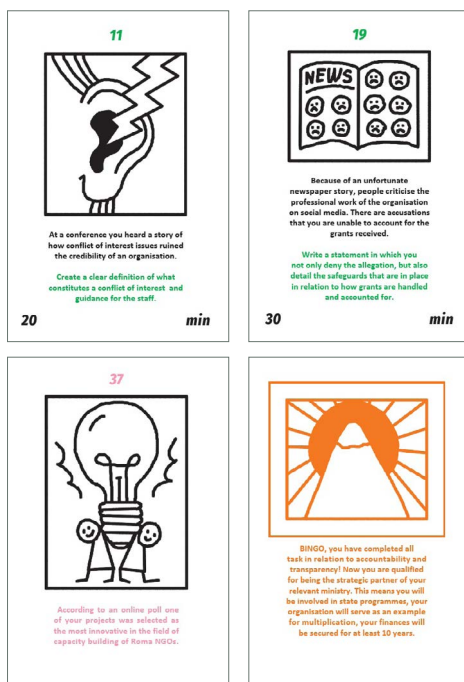


The event was kindly hosted by Soraya Post (Greens/EFA), Peter Niedermuller (S&D), Tomas Zdechovsky (EPP) and Javor Benedek (Greens/EFA).

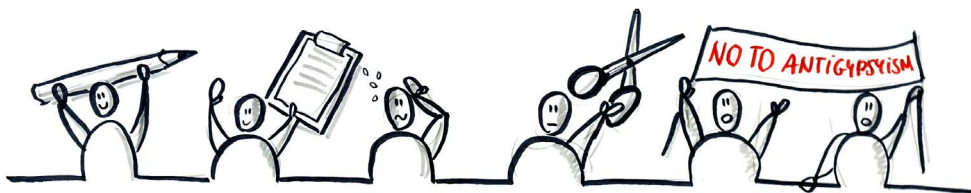
The project was implemented with financial support from the European Commission and the International Visegrad Fund.



You can find the tools here:  
[www.ergonetwork.org/transparency](http://www.ergonetwork.org/transparency)







## STUDY SESSION

# Youth Understanding Antigypsyism

**A study session called “Knowledge is Power – Youth Understanding Antigypsyism” was organized by ERGO Network and TernYPE International Roma Youth Network in cooperation with the European Youth Center Budapest of the Council of Europe from 7 to 13 October 2018. It brought together 20 Romani and non-Romani young people to gain a deeper understanding of antigypsyism through different means of portraying elements of antigypsyism.**

The group supported ERGO Network and Ternype to develop a ‘youth-friendly’ version of the Reference Paper on Antigypsyism that avoids any jargon or academic language and

can be understood by all. Through direct work with the text and with case studies, the creation of visuals and the development of educational methods the activists contributed to achieving a greater understanding of the phenomenon of antigypsyism among young people. They furthermore discussed strategies to counter antigypsyism and shared their experiences with work on the topic.

Besides the concrete work on the paper, the study session was a great opportunity for the participants to learn from each other and to create a strong network of activists from across Europe working towards the same goal.





8 December 2018



## Roma inclusion through local partnerships

**Strengthening Roma participation in all stages of decision-making, from the local to the European level, is one of the founding principles of ERGO Network, and many of ERGO's activities focus on building trust and partnerships between Roma and institutions. ERGO's conference on 3 December 2018 therefore discussed how Roma inclusion can be fostered through meaningful local partnerships.**

After an opening by Romeo Franz MEP and Andor Urmos (DG Regio), former ERGO Network director Ruus Dijksterhuis moderated an engaging panel discussion.

Dijana Pavlovic from Upre Roma (Italy) described the local reality in Italy with an extremely high level of antigypsyism in institutions. Building partnerships is difficult in a climate of fear and hate. Dominique Be (DG Employment) presented the ROMACT programme, a joint initiative between the European Commission and the Council of Europe that assists mayors and municipal authorities to work together with local Roma communities. Maaike Buyst (Eurocities) shared good practices of municipalities across Europe.

Tobias Mayr (Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe) presented the Declaration against anti-Gypsyism of the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers.

Valeriu Capraru (National Federation of Local Action Groups Romania) spoke about opportunities and challenges for Roma inclusion through Local Action Groups in the CLLD process and Andrey Ivanov (Fundamental Rights Agency) presented the new report of the "Local engagement for Roma inclusion" (LERI) project.

Two issues were particularly highlighted: Partnerships need to be backed by proper funding and capacity-building of Roma civil society and local authorities, and antigypsyism needs to be tackled on all levels in order to build trust of Roma towards institutions.

The conference was closed by ERGO board member Adriatik Hasantari together with Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Unit Non-discrimination and Roma coordination in DG Justice, and Marie-Anne Paraskevas, Senior Policy Expert in DG Employment.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF ERGO MEMBERS



On national level, ERGO members work hard to make a change for Roma. Here are some examples of their achievements in 2018.

## Roma Advocacy and Research Centre, Slovakia: Law on obligatory pre-school education

Throughout the whole year RARC contributed to discussions about the need for a law making pre-school education obligatory for all children in Slovakia. As a member of the Roma and Pro Roma NGO Platform for Education they organized a workshop on the importance of pre-school education, against strong opposition from some parties. With 12 other organisations and activists RARC wrote to a member of the political party KDH (Christian Democratic Movement) who said that Roma children would take the place of Non-Romani children in kindergarten.

The work was successful! In June 2019 the National Parliament of the Slovak Republic adopted a law about obligatory pre-school education for all 5-year old children. This is the good step towards real inclusion of Roma living at the edge of the society.



## Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms, Belgium: Education support

In 2018 CMGVR organized conferences on the homelessness of Roma families in Belgium, on the situation of Roma from South Western Balkans and on "light housing" and the organisation of temporary stay for Travellers.



Through a 'mobile school support' project CMGVR provides complementary learning support to Traveller families and children with a focus on reading, writing and calculation. CMGVR also gives school support to Roma children based on the acknowledgement that improving French language skills is a key tool to develop all other competences. French classes are organized mostly in schools buildings, but always outside class hours.

## Integro Association, Bulgaria: Supporting Roma high school students

Integro Association supports Roma high school students from rural areas who often leave their village for the first time when entering high school, who are faced with antigypsyist bullying by their classmates and struggle financially.



Integro Association provides books, supports them financially and connects the students with peers in similar situations. The association also runs a mentoring programme, and language therapists support students with functional illiteracy.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ERGO MEMBERS



### OTAHARIN, Bosnia and Hercegovina: Day care centre

Through workshops in the organisation's day care centre Otaharin raises the awareness of children and their parents about harmful effects of child labour and the importance of education and promotes the centre as a safe place for children and their parents. The Centre also provides laundry and personal hygiene services, offers educational, creative, hygiene and health workshops, organises sports activities, distributes meals and offers psycho-social support to families and children living or working on the street.

Field workers furthermore get in touch with returnees to Bosnia and Hercegovina and support them to access services of the Day Care Centre. In the Centre the returnees from abroad receive first aid in the form of clothes, bedding, help to enrol children in school, textbooks and school materials.



### Nevo Parudimos, Romania: Volunteering

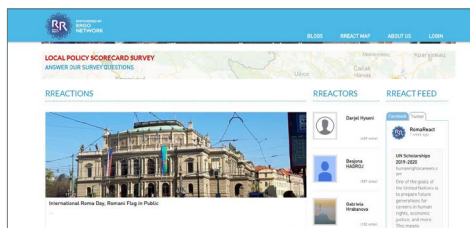
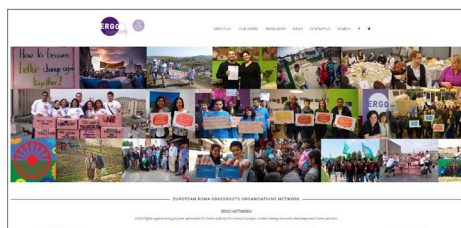
Nevo Parudimos develops volunteering activities at local and international level. The activities have a positive impact on the life of the local community and of the young volunteers and increase the organisation's visibility in the community.



In 2018 Nevo Parudimos hosted 16 volunteers from 8 European countries through the European Voluntary Service (EVS). The volunteers are involved in a myriad of social, educational, youth and cultural activities in Resita, supporting nine different schools, two elderly centres and two foster care homes. For local young people the organisation opened a new youth centre located in the University of Resita.



# COMMUNICATION

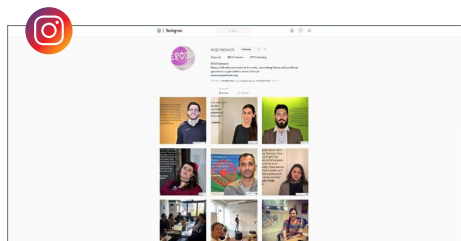


**WWW.ERGONETWORK.ORG** is the main source of information for visitors who are interested in ERGO's work. It provides a thorough overview of ERGO's areas of work and structure, a platform for institutional documents and policy papers and regularly shares news and issues happening in Europe in relation to Roma and antigypsyism.

Through our facebook, twitter and Instagram profiles the ERGO team can quickly share updates, react to political developments and engage with followers.

The website **WWW.ROMAREACT.ORG** with its corresponding social media accounts on facebook and twitter is an important hub for opinion and information sharing among Roma activists across Europe. It is a space for Roma and non-Roma who want to shape the public debate on Roma inclusion, share everyday Roma realities and challenge stereotypes and prejudices. Through RomaReact, more young people are mobilised to actively participate in society, to become agents in their own lives as well as equal and respected citizens.

Everyone can open an account on RomaReact and post their stories in order to change the narrative on Roma inclusion. All blog posts can also be seen on the React Map that let the reader check posts from specific parts of Europe.







# FINANCES

This paragraph provides a summary of ERGO Network's Annual Financial Report 2018, namely the balance sheet, the profit and loss account and the auditor's report, which has been issued by Blömer accountants en advisers B.V.

## SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2018 (IN EUROS)

ASSETS		31 December 2018	PROFIT AND LOSS		2018
Fixed Assets		1.263,26	INCOME		
Other assets		5.320,47	Net Sales		473.966,40
Receivables		89.122,83	Other revenues		-
Cash and Short term deposits		51.542,54	<b>TOTAL Operating revenues</b>		<b>473.966,40</b>
Deferred Charges		-	Exceptional revenues		191,12
Accrued Income		19.355,00	Financial revenues		3,09
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>166.604,10</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>474.160,61</b>
			EXPENDITURE		
			Staff		226.548,54
			Other operating costs		260.014,25
			Depreciation		1.592,30
			<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>488.155,09</b>
			Exceptional costs		80,55
			Financial charges		798,91
			<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>489.034,55</b>
			<b>PROFIT/LOSS 2018</b>		<b>-14.873,94</b>
LIABILITIES		31 December 2018			
Equity (Reserves)		109.309,58			
Result 2016		-14.873,94			
Creditors		28.967,98			
Remuneration and Social charges		41.888,23			
Accrued charges		1.137,25			
Deferred Income		175,00			
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>166.604,10</b>			





## FINANCES

### DONATIONS



**ERGO Network has received an operating grant of the European Commission's EaSi programme for the project "Roma Included in Social Europe".**



**ERGO Network has received a project grant for the project 'Strengthening Roma civil society as transparent and independent watchdog organisations' from the International Visegrad Fund.**



**ERGO Network is a partner of Roma Active Albania in the project "Joint initiative to empower Roma Civil Society in Western Balkan and Turkey" awarded by DG Near of the European Commission.**

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

In accordance with your instructions we have compiled the financial statements included in this report 2018 of Stichting ERGO Network, Utrecht, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2018, the statement of income and expenses for the year then ended and the notes.

#### Management's responsibility

The distinctive feature of a compilation engagement is that we compile financial information based on information provided by the board of directors of the entity. The board of directors is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of the information provided and the financial statements based thereon.

#### Accountant's responsibility

Our responsibility as accountant is to perform our engagement in accordance with Dutch Law, including the professional and ethical requirements applying to accountants.

In accordance with the professional standard applicable to compilation engagements, our procedures were limited primarily to gathering, processing, classifying and summarizing financial information. Furthermore we have evaluated the appropriateness of the accounting policies which are used to compile the financial statements, based on the information provided by management. The nature of our procedures does not enable us to express any assurance on the true and fair view of the financial statements.

#### Confirmation

Based on the information provided to us, we have compiled the financial statements using the accounting policies as included in Guideline RJ 640: Not for profit organisations.

#### Blömer accountants en advisers B.V.

On its behalf,  
Mr. Dres. J.N. Witteveen RA  
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# ERGO

## Network

European  
Roma  
Grassroots  
Organisations  
Network



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