The project "New solutions to old problems – exchange of new type of approaches in the field of Roma integration" is funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA and Norway Grants Fund for Regional Cooperation.

Funding of bottom-up approaches: Ways forward to support Roma inclusion

9 December 2021
10am – 12pm



Concept Note

Background

In the past 20 years, Roma communities across Europe have seen very few improvements to their living situation, even though many public and private, international, and national funding programmes were aimed at Roma inclusion and empowerment. One of the reasons for the lack of success of such funding programmes is the application of a top-down approach that does not consider the realities and voices of Roma at the grassroots level and comes with a heavy administrative burden.

All evaluations of the last EU Framework for National Roma Integration acknowledged that Roma communities needed to be involved in project design, implementation, and evaluation to bring

about change. This now needs to be translated into better funding programmes and regulations of public and private donors, including using more national resources for smaller projects, a prioritization of bottom-up approaches, and more support for Community-Led Local Development (CLLD).
With this event, we aim to raise donors' awareness of the importance to give more support to bottom-up approaches, to finally improve the living situation of Roma communities on local level.

Objectives

The event will serve to launch ERGO Network's new **Analysis of funding for bottom-up approaches to Roma inclusion**, shedding light on the importance of bottom-up approaches and assessing funding programmes targeted at Roma inclusion. The main findings and recommendations aim to kick-start a debate with policy makers, donors, and civil society on how to design more effective funding programmes that can lead to a real change for local Roma communities.

Participants

The conference will bring together EU policymakers from across the institutional spectrum, donors, ERGO Network members, civil society from the grassroots level, as well as other relevant EU and national stakeholders.

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Agenda

10:00 Opening remarks

- ***Jamen Gabriela Hrabaňová***, ERGO Network Director
- ***Peter Pollák MEP***, European Parliament, EPP
- ***Daniel Grebeldinger,*** Nevo Parudimos, Coordinator New Solutions to Old Problems

10:15 Why grassroots efforts are important - the role and impact of donors at national level?

Moderator: *András Nun* / Autonómia Foundation, Hungary

- ***Marko Pecak,*** ERGO Network – Presentation of the main findings of ERGO Network's „Analysis of funding for bottom-up approaches to Roma inclusion"
- ***Sheena Keller,*** EEA and Norway Grants – The need for grassroots measures in designing Roma funding programs
- ***Teresa Epalza***, DG EMPL, European Commission- ESF+ support to Roma inclusion
- ***Marcos Andrade,*** Council of Europe – Local governments and funding for Roma inclusion
- Q & A with the audience

11:00 ***Funding for Roma: consequences and ways to reduce inequalities***

Moderator: Bojana Jovanović/ Women's Association 'Romkinja' Bijelijna, Bosnia & Herzegovina

- ***Liliya Makaveeva*** / Integro Association, Bulgaria – Reality check: Funding of bottom-up approaches is the way for Roma inclusion
- ***Veronika Remišová***, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic – Regional policies and guidelines for disadvantaged communities. (TBC)
- ***Laurent Ruedin***, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – Funding approach to the social inclusion of Roma
- ***Otilia Ciobanu*****,** Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development, European Commission – ERDF support for Roma inclusion
- Q and A with the audience

11:45 Closing Remarks

- ***Elvis Memeti,*** Adviser to the Prime Minister on Roma issues, North Macedonia
- ***Szabolcs Schmidt***, Non-Discrimination and Roma Coordination, European Commission