



## EUROPEAN ROMA GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS (ERGO) NETWORK

Implementing the EU Roma Strategic Framework

Roma access to decent and sustainable employment

ERGO Network

European Economic and Social Committee

25 November

#ERGONConference2024

### Annual Policy Conference

***Implementing the EU Roma Strategic Framework***  
*Roma access to decent and sustainable employment*

**25 November 2024**  
**09.30 – 16.30**

***European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), ROOM VMA 23***  
*and online*



*This conference is kindly supported by the European Union Programme for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) and by the German Federal Foreign Office.*



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## Concept

### Background

At a time when Europe is still reeling from the aftermath of a pandemic, war at its borders, the ongoing cost of living crisis, and political instability, its Roma find themselves facing worsening poverty and exclusion, dire living conditions, and widespread antigypsyism every day.

**Ensuring access to decent and sustainable employment** is a key dimension of the EU Roma Strategic Framework, a focus of multiple principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and also supported by the Sustainable Development Goals. And yet, only 43% of Roma are in paid employment, while those who do work are overrepresented in low-paid and precarious jobs, and underrepresented in trade union structures. Antigypsyism continues rampant in recruitment as well as the workplace, so many Roma turn to informal work to make ends meet.

With the adoption of the **EU Roma Strategic Framework** up to 2030, Governments developed National Roma Strategic Frameworks in EU Member States and Western Balkan countries in 4 thematic areas and 3 horizontal strategic objectives, including education, employment, health, housing, fighting antigypsyism, combating poverty, and promoting Roma participation. In order to ensure an effective implementation of the ensuing National Frameworks, a robust and continued monitoring of the entire policy process should be ensured.

### Objectives

The **first part of the event** will serve to launch ERGO Network's research report on "**Roma access to decent and sustainable employment**", based on six national case studies carried out in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain, with additional benchmarking from Ireland. A dialogue with key decision-makers and stakeholders will aim to identify positive solutions to support better labour market inclusion for Roma, and to inform the delivery on the EU Roma Strategic Framework, the Social Pillar, and the SDGs.

The **second part of the event** will provide insights into the next steps for the EU Roma Strategic Framework on Equality, Inclusion, and Participation and the corresponding Council Recommendation, in the context of a new European Parliament and European Commission. The session will look at both EU Member States as well as enlargement countries, and a particular focus shall be placed on **combatting antigypsyism as a key cross-cutting priority** of the Framework, including the extensive work done in the context of the Roma Civil Monitor project.

### Participants

The conference will bring together ERGO Network members from the grassroots level, EU policy-makers from across the institutional spectrum, as well as other relevant European and national stakeholders. The event will also be fully live streamed on our Facebook page.



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## Agenda

### **9h30 – Registration**

### **10h00 – Welcome refreshments**

### **10h30 Opening Remarks**

- *Annabel Carballo Mesa*, ERGO Network Board
- *Ákos Topolánszky*, European Economic and Social Committee
- *Hadja Lahbib*, European Commissioner for Equality (video message tbc)
- *Hon. Mélissa Camara MEP*, France, Greens/EFA (video message)

### **11h00 PANEL 1: Roma access to decent and sustainable employment**

**Moderator:** *Robbie Stakelum*, Eurofound

- *Bianca Galusca*, Federation of Roma Associations in Catalonia (FAGiC) / ERGO Network
- *Oliver Mako*, WASCO Roma social enterprise from Slovakia
- *Mercedes Miletti*, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- *Caroline Macel*, EU Public Employment Services (PES) Network
- *Eirini Nikolaidou*, European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs
  
- Exchange with the audience / Talk to your neighbour / Reporting back in plenary

### **12h30 Networking lunch**

### **14h00 PANEL 2: The implementation of the EU Roma Strategic Framework**

**Moderator:** *Julie Pascoët*, European Network Against Racism (ENAR)

- *Isabela Mihalache*, ERGO Network
- *Isak Skenderi*, Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (VORAE), Kosovo / ERGO Network
- *Mustafa Jakupov*, Reporting and Information Centre on Antigypsyism (MIA), Germany
- *Danijel Čubelić*, European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR)
  
- Exchange with the audience / Word cloud / Questions on sli.do / Interactive features

### **16h00 Closing Session**

- *Hon. Krzysztof Śmiszek MEP*, Poland, Socialists and Democrats (video message)
- *Irena Moozová*, European Commission, DG Justice and Consumers
- *Jamen Gabriela Hrahaňová*, ERGO Network Director



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