

# Activities to Improve the Impact of Policies, Programmes, and Projects Aimed at the Social Inclusion and Non-Discrimination of Roma People in the European Union

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*Fighting for Roma rights since 1996*

The European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC) is an international public interest advocacy organisation engaging in a range of activities aimed at combating anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma. The approach of the ERRC involves, in particular, strategic litigation, international advocacy, research and policy development, and human rights training of Romani activists. Since its establishment in 1996, the ERRC has endeavoured to give Roma the tools necessary to combat discrimination and win equal access to government, education, employment, health care, housing and

In response to widespread recognition of persistent discrimination and social exclusion of Roma, stakeholders including European Union institutions, European governments, inter-governmental bodies, funding institutions, and civil organisations focused increasing policy and programming efforts to effect positive change in the lives of Roma.

While overall responsibility for the adoption and implementation of systemic actions to improve the situation of Roma remains within the remit of Member States' national governments, current developments within the various European institutions clearly indicate that the European level of leadership will take on a progressively increasing role in the coordination of efforts across the Union.

The purpose of the study *Activities to Improve the Impact of Policies, Programmes, and Projects Aimed at the Social Inclusion and Non-Discrimination of Roma People in the EU*, commissioned by the **European Commission (EC)**, and undertaken by the **European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC)** in 18 EU countries is to:

- Identify successful models for Roma inclusion policies, institutional set-ups, involvement of stakeholders and financial support structures;
- Identify the characteristics of successful financial programmes and projects, explain if and how they could be transferred to other countries/regions and highlight the difficulties met by the less successful ones; and
- Formulate recommendations addressed to the different levels of actors (local, regional, national, EU, international) in order to inform the preparation of future policies, programmes and projects targeting the Roma population and facilitate access to funding.

The overarching approach to the research and policy analysis undertaken within this project will be based on the principles of anti-discrimination and equality, including gender equality, which will inform the country research as well as the contents of the country reports, the synthesis report and the final report of this project.

In terms of structure, the study is designed to ensure broad participation of key stakeholders, especially Roma professionals with relevant expertise, at various levels in the implementation of the activities; synergy between the separate elements of the study; and a smooth coordination between the members of the team.

The study will be conducted in partnership with the **Roma Education Fund (REF)**, an organisation established in 2005 as part of the Decade of Roma Inclusion with the mission of contributing to closing the gap in education outcomes between Roma and non-Roma. [[www.romaeducationfund.hu](http://www.romaeducationfund.hu)]

# TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

## FEBRUARY '09

Management board and synthesis report writers review the country report templates, methodological guidelines and guidelines for best practices

### **Submission of the inception note to the Commission for approval**

Country researchers start their work

## JUNE '09

Submission of the country reports to the ERRC by the country researchers

## JULY '09

Finalisation of the specialised review

ERRC review of the country reports sent back to the country researchers

## AUGUST '09

Country researchers submit their revised country reports to the ERRC  
Management board reviews the revised country reports

## SEPTEMBER '09

**Submission of the draft country reports to the EC** and to the synthesis report writers

## OCTOBER '09

Management board meeting regarding the validation seminar

## NOVEMBER '09

**Finalisation of the country reports**

**Detailed information regarding the validation conference**

**Submission of the draft structure of the synthesis report to the EC**

## DECEMBER '09

Draft synthesis report submitted to the ERRC

## JANUARY '10

Management board reviews the synthesis report

**Draft synthesis report submitted to the EC**

## FEBRUARY '10

**Validation seminar**

## MARCH '10

Management board meeting regarding good practices

## APRIL '10

Management board review of the draft publication

**Final synthesis report submitted to the EC**

**Conference report submitted to the EC**

**Draft publication submitted to the EC**

## MAY '10

**Synthesis report translations into French and German**

**Publication finalised in English and translated into German and French**

**Activity report submitted to the EC**

## PHASES OF THE STUDY

### COUNTRY REPORTS

This phase includes: a) production of country report templates, research methodology and criteria for selection of good practice; b) research towards the country reports; c) data analysis and writing of the country reports; d) specialised review of country reports and production of thematic papers to be made available for use to the synthesis report writers; and e) finalisation of the country reports.

### SYNTHESIS REPORT

The synthesis report will be based on a structure designed in accordance with the tender specifications. In particular, it will contain the following information: a) identification and presentation of the more favourable combination of policy conditions, policy design, involvement of stake-holders in the design and implementation of policies, and use of financial resources to improve the situation of Roma; b) identification and presentation of the characteristics of successful funding programmes and projects and highlight the difficulties met by less successful ones; and c) recommendations to national, regional, and local authorities, the EU and international donors for future programmes/projects on Roma.

### VALIDATION SEMINAR

The purpose of the seminar is to validate the draft synthesis report with the Commission, the representatives of national, regional and local level authorities and NGO sector including Roma representatives, from all Member States involved in the study.

### FINAL REPORT

The final report will be drafted on the basis of the country reports and the synthesis report. It will present a summary of the main factors identified for the success of programmes and projects for Roma inclusion as well as a compendium of 20 successful projects (mainly medium- and large-sized).

## PROJECT TEAM

The team will be managed by the **project coordinator**, and her work will be strongly supported by the **research officer**. Together they will coordinate the work of the **country report writers** and the **synthesis report writers**.

There are 22 country report writers working in 18 countries involved in the project. The ERRC strongly encouraged highest possible number of Roma professionals involved in the team.

The three synthesis report writers are well known scholars with strong expertise in Roma and minority studies.

The **specialised review team** of 8 professionals will conduct a review of the country reports and feed its results into both the country reports and the synthesis report.

The overall quality control and supervision will be conducted by the **management board**, of which a high proportion are Roma representatives.



### Roma Representation

#### ROMA LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

The design of this project ensures genuine participation of Roma professionals with relevant expertise at various levels and stages including the Management board.

The ERRC also sought to secure maximum outreach of the country research to Roma civil society by involving a large number of individual researchers who are associated with leading Roma/Sinti/Travellers non-governmental organisations in their respective countries and/or have a proven record of cooperating with Roma civil society organisations.

### Quality Control

#### MANAGEMENT BOARD

The management board will provide quality control and overall supervision of the project work. It will be composed of:

- three members of the senior management of the ERRC
  - Tara Bedard  
*ERRC Programmes Coordinator*
  - Andi Dobrushki  
*ERRC Senior Staff Attorney*
  - Savelina Roussinova  
*former ERRC Acting Director*
- two staff members of the Roma Education Fund
  - Mihai Surdu  
*Senior Policy Officer*  
acting interchangeably with
  - Rumyan Russinov  
*Deputy Director, former ERRC board member*
- and four Romani professionals with expertise relevant to the subject of the proposal:
  - Gabriela Hrabanova  
*Government's Council for Roma Community Affairs, Prague*
  - David Joyce  
*Barrister, Dublin*
  - Andrzej Mirga  
*ODIHR Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues*
  - [TBA]

### Specialised Review

#### SPECIALISED REVIEW TEAM

EU projects/programs management:

Ann Morton Hyde, Florin Moisa, Will Guy

International programmes/project management:

Krassimir Kanev, Herbert Heuss

Educational policies and educ. component of employment policies:

Mihai Surdu

Gender mainstreaming:

Ostalinda Maya Ovalle

Anti-discrimination and equality policy:

Andi Dobrushki

### Coordination

#### COORDINATOR

Tatjana Peric

*ERRC Senior Research Coordinator*

#### RESEARCH OFFICER

Stanislav Daniel

*ERRC Consultant*

### Research

#### COUNTRY REPORT WRITERS

Austria Mirjam Karoly

Belgium Lanna Hollo

Bulgaria Krassimir Kanev

Czech Republic Gwendolyn Albert, Ivan Vesely

Finland Christina Johnsson

France Lanna Hollo

Germany Herbert Heuss

Greece Nafsika Papanikolatos

Hungary Frank Zsigo

Ireland Stephen O'Hare

Italy Eva Rizzin, Marco Brazzoduro

Portugal Tiago Ralha

Romania Cristi Mihalache, Florin Moisa

Slovakia Klara Orgovanova

Slovenia Jasminka Dedic

Spain Carmen Reyes Santiago, Ostalinda Maya Ovalle

Sweden Johanna Sjowall

United Kingdom

Scotland Ann Morton Hyde

England and Wales Madeleine Tearse

Northern Ireland Stephen O'Hare

*The team includes 22 researchers working in 18 countries.*

### Synthesis Report

#### SYNTHESIS REPORT WRITERS

Will Guy

Andre Liebich

Elena Marushiakova

### Validation Conference

#### CONFERENCE ORGANISER

Dora Eke

*ERRC Programmes Assistant*

