

## Second meeting of the National Roma Contact Points, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2013

European Commission  
Borchette Centre – Meeting room 0A (ground floor)  
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Brussels

### Agenda

*Working languages: English, French and German.  
The meeting is taking place under the Chatham House rule<sup>1</sup>.*

#### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

8.45 - 9.00 Registration

9.00-9.15 Welcome and introduction by Mr. Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Equality, European Commission (DG Justice)

9.15-12.45 **Session 1 – Funding: some solutions for matching policy commitments with resources**

This session aims at answering the National Roma Contact Points' request upon information on the EU funding possibilities for Roma integration. It will identify the challenges/good practices in the use of EU funds for Roma integration until now, and share information on the future possibilities and the point reached regarding the preparations for the next programming period for the EU Structural and Investment Funds (2014-2020). Adequate time will be provided to questions - responsible Commission officials from the services in charge of the funds will be available to answer all needs from NRCPs.

9.15-10.45 Direct management possibilities:

*Moderator: Massimo Serpieri, European Commission (DG Justice)*

- Introduction to **EU funding possibilities under direct management** – by the Unit on Non-Discrimination and Roma Coordination, European Commission (DG Justice)
- Focus on the **Fundamental Rights Programme**– by Ms Martine Parmantier, European Commission (DG Justice)
- Focus on the **Europe for Citizens Programme** – by Ms Cécile Le Clercq, European Commission (DG Communication)
- Focus on funding schemes in education for Roma (**Lifelong Learning and Erasmus for All programmes**) – by Mr Frank Pierobon, European Commission (DG Education and Culture)
- Open floor

10.45-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.45 Shared management possibilities

*Moderator: Ilona Negro, European Commission (DG Justice)*

- The **European Social Fund** - by Mr Dominique Bé and Mr Gabor Toth, European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)
- The **European Regional Development Fund** - by Mr Diego Villalba de Miguel, European Commission (DG Regional Policy)
- The **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development** - by Mr Fernando Fonseca, European Commission (DG Agriculture and Rural Development)

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<sup>1</sup> When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed.

- **Lessons learnt and proposals** on how to tackle Roma needs by using the EU Structural Funds in 2014-2020 – *by Ms Carolina Fernandez, EU Roma Technical Secretariat*
- *Open floor*

12.45-14.15 *Lunch*

14.15-17.30 **Session 2 - Going local: bottlenecks, solutions and possible ways forward for National Roma Contact Points**

Going local in the implementation of the national Roma integration strategies is a priority for the Commission but also for Member States. The aim of this session is first of all to reflect upon the lessons drawn from the past experiences and identify the bottlenecks and solutions for the local implementation of Roma integration, highlighting the role and various approaches possible for National Roma Contact Points in the process of bringing the strategies down to local realities. On a second hand, it will highlight existing practices of trans-national cooperation at the local level, as a possible way forward to enhance effective results on the ground.

14.15-14.20 Introduction: the need to go local - *by Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea.*

14.20-15.45 **Bottlenecks and solutions for a local implementation of Roma integration**  
*Moderator: Jana Balazova, European Commission (DG Justice)*

- What can make a project successful at the local level and what role for the National Roma Contact Points? – *by Mr Jose Manuel Fresno, independent expert*
- Hands-on feed-backs from two local authorities:
  - Challenges and solutions in Budapest, Hungary - *by Ms Gizella Matyasi, Municipality of Budapest (Mayor's Office), Lead Partner of the Roma-Net, URBACT II project*
  - Challenges and solutions in Ghent, Belgium - *by Mr Jan Balliu (Mayor's Office) Municipality of Ghent, Founding Member of the Eurocities Roma Task Force*
- Remarks on challenges and solutions for a smooth translation of the national strategies to the local level – *by Mr Alexandros Tsolakis, European Commission (DG Regional Policy)*
- *Open floor*

15.45-16.00 *Coffee break*

16.00-17.30 **Trans-national cooperation as a way forward for local Roma integration**  
*Moderator: Axelle Cheney, European Commission (DG Justice)*

- Challenges and solutions from an example of trans-national cooperation launched in Lille, France – *by Aurélien Dierckens, La Sauvegarde du Nord.*
- Working together across borders: the Danube Strategy - *by Ms Daniela Urschitz, City of Vienna Executive Office EU-Strategy for the Danube Region and Mr Roland Hanak, Ministry for Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection.*
- Trans-national local perspectives of Roma integration – *by Mr Sixto Molina, Head of the Support team of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Roma Issues, Council of Europe*
- Lessons and key messages from a trans-national network of local authorities – *by Ms Ana Feder, Eurocities*
- *Open floor*

*Dinner is not organised.*

## **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

### **9.00-15.00 Session 3 – Proposal from the Commission for Council Recommendation on enhancing the effectiveness of measures**

A pilot group of Member States' national Roma contact points has worked in November and December 2012 on the main policy issues that should be put forward at European level. This work formed the basis for drafting a Commission's proposal for Council recommendation on enhancing the effectiveness of measures to achieve Roma integration in the Member States, foreseen to be officially proposed by the Commission in late spring 2013. The aim of this session will be to share the content of this proposal and discuss it.

9.00-9.15 Introduction – *by Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea, Director for Equality, European Commission (DG Justice)*

9.15-10.15 Discussion of substantive policy issues – *by the Commission and open floor*

- 1) targeted policy measures
- 2) education, employment, health, housing
- 3) funding

10.15-10.30 *Coffee break*

10.30-12.00 Discussion of structural measures – *by the Commission and open floor*

- 1) Monitoring and evaluation
- 2) Local action
- 3) National Roma Contact Points
- 4) Transnational cooperation

12.00-12.45 Discussion of horizontal policy measures – *by the Commission and open floor*

- 1) Protection of women and children
- 2) Anti-discrimination
- 3) Registration and civil rights

12.45-14.15 *Lunch*

### **14.15-14.45 Session 4 – Commission's assessment report**

The Commission will adopt in late Spring 2013 its second progress report on the implementation of the EU Framework for national Roma integration strategies in the Member States. The aim of this session is to share information and exchange on the planned content and impact of this Commission's Communication.

- Information on the forthcoming Commission's assessment report on progress in the Member States on the implementation of the EU Framework - *by Mr Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea*
- The role of social inclusion in this process – *by Ms Emma Toledano Laredo, Head of Unit Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)*
- *Open floor*

14.45-15.00 Information on the work of the Fundamental Rights Agency's Working Group of Member States on monitoring - *by Mr Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos, Head of Equality and Citizens' Rights Department, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights*

15.00-15.25 Suggestions and proposals by Member States on the next steps for the network of National Roma contact points – *Open floor*

15.25-15.30 Conclusions – end of the meeting – *by Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea*