



**Structural Funds: Investing in Roma**

## **EURoma meeting**

### **How to involve stakeholders for Roma inclusion under the European Code of Conduct on Partnership**

***19-20 September 2013, Sofia***

#### **Rationale of the meeting**

In accordance with Articles 5.1 and 5.2 of the proposed Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) for the European Structural and Investment Funds, each Member State should organise for the Partnership Agreement and for each Operational Programme respectively, a *partnership with representatives of competent regional, local, urban and other public authorities, economic and social partners, and bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting equality and non-discrimination.*

Article 5.3 of the CPR entrusts *the Commission to adopt delegated acts providing for a code of conduct to make sure that partners are involved in a consistent manner in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Partnership Contracts and Operational Programmes.*

The European Commission is already working on the elaboration of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership (ECCP) for the European Structural and Investment Funds that provides the framework for the participation of different stakeholders in the Partnership Agreements as well as in the use of Structural Funds at national, regional and local levels; at the same time, Member States are already working on the elaboration of their respective Partnership Agreements and deciding who should be involved in the different phases of the OPs of the future programming period, to what extent and how. In this context, EURoma considers that we are at a critical moment to review the recent developments of the Partnership Agreements and take this opportunity to reflect on how the ECCP can support more efficient partnerships for Roma inclusion under Structural Funds. In fact, the -second version of- the Delegated Act (June 2013) highlights that specific attention should be paid to groups that *might be affected by the programmes but find it difficult to influence them,* - and explicitly refers to Roma among other vulnerable groups.



## **Structural Funds: Investing in Roma**

Furthermore, **partnership** has been a key issue in the previous and current programming periods of Structural Funds for members of EURoma, as it was highlighted in several meetings of the Network. In fact, EURoma members have drawn attention to the difficulties encountered in building effective partnerships and more specifically in building partnerships for Roma inclusion on several occasions.

For this reason the upcoming meeting will provide members of the Network the opportunity to debate and exchange opinions based on the experience and lessons learned of relevant stakeholders that have been previously involved in the use of Structural Funds. It will be an excellent opportunity to review the different roles and analyse diverse models of partnerships, reflecting on their respective advantages and disadvantages, the required conditions for the establishment of efficient partnerships, etc. in order to contribute to the planning and implementation of the upcoming Partnership Agreements and Operational Programmes.

The next meeting of EURoma will therefore address primarily the issue of partnerships: the new opportunities opened by the European Code of Conduct on Partnership and lessons learned thanks to the contributions and experience of relevant actors during the previous and current programming period with a view to supporting better planning, implementation and monitoring for Roma inclusion in the next programming period.

### **Draft agenda**

**Meeting venue:** Grand Hotel Sofia

Thursday, 19 September

9.00 – 9.30	Welcoming words from host partners
9.30 – 9.45	Presentation of the agenda
9.45 – 10.15	<b>Preparing the new programming period 2014-2020</b>  <b>Recent developments on Partnership Agreements: How can the European Code of Conduct on Partnership for the European Structural and Investment Funds support more efficient partnerships for Roma inclusion?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The current framework</li><li>• New opportunities in the upcoming period: the provisional Delegated Act on the European Code of Conduct on Partnership for the next programming period 2014-2020 according to the EC draft Regulations.</li><li>• State of play of the negotiations.</li></ul>



**Structural Funds: Investing in Roma**

10.15-11.00	Round of interventions and debate among partners: How does your Government foresee the development of the European Code of Conduct on Partnership for the European Structural and Investment Funds for Roma inclusion in the next programming period?
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11.30-13.30	<p><b>How to involve stakeholders for Roma inclusion under the ECCP.</b></p> <p>Taking advantage of the lessons learned in the previous and current programming periods: presentation of different experiences and models of partnerships in the use of Structural Funds for Roma inclusion to feed the debate among partners.</p> <p><b>1. Roma involvement in the use of SF for Roma inclusion</b></p> <p>The case studies will include experiences on the involvement of Roma representatives and Roma NGOs in the different phases of OPs (planning, implementation and monitoring) and illustrating diverse participation models (as beneficiaries, intermediate bodies, implementing global grants, taking part in monitoring committees and/or participating in consultations), providing key information on their role, the preconditions needed for participation, the added value and shortcomings / disadvantages of the different partnerships.</p> <p>Debate among partners to assess advantages and disadvantages of partnership models and how Roma involvement can be improved in the use of SF for Roma inclusion.</p>
13.30 –14.30	Lunch



## *Structural Funds: Investing in Roma*

14.30-17.30	<p><b>How to involve stakeholders for Roma inclusion under the ECCP (continued)</b></p> <p><b>2. Local authorities' involvement in the use of Structural Funds for Roma inclusion under the ECCP.</b></p> <p>Presentation of different case studies to contribute to the debate among partners providing key information on their role, the preconditions needed for participation, the added value and shortcomings / disadvantages of the different partnerships.</p> <p>Debate among partners to assess the added value and the shortcomings of local authorities' involvement and how it can be improved.</p> <p>Coffee break (20 minutes)</p> <p><b>3. Other Stakeholders</b> included in the European Code of Conduct on Partnership (universities, equality bodies, international organisations, etc.).</p> <p>Presentation of different case studies to contribute to the debate among partners providing key information on their role, the preconditions needed for participation, the added value and shortcomings / disadvantages of the different partnerships.</p> <p>Debate among partners to assess the added value and the shortcomings of other stakeholders' involvement and how it can be improved.</p>
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Dinner offered by host partners



## Structural Funds: Investing in Roma

Friday, 20 September

9.00-11.30	<p><b>Country Monograph: Bulgaria</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations of the measures addressed to Roma minority in Bulgaria on behalf of the three Intermediate Bodies (IB) under HRD OP in the context of the current programming period with reference to the future programming period 2014 - 2020;</li> <li>• Presentations on behalf of responsible from the Regional Development OP with regard to the measures aimed at Roma integration, including housing, in the context of the future programming period 2014 - 2020;</li> <li>• Presentations on behalf of the National Council for Cooperation on Ethnic and Integration Issues at the Council of Ministers concerning the Roma Strategy Implementation;</li> <li>• Presentation of study (5 EU member states with higher percentages of Roma population) in the context of Bulgaria;</li> <li>• Presentations on Kavarna town – Good practice from Bulgaria regarding Roma integration;</li> <li>• Presentations of relevant Bulgarian Roma NGOs</li> </ul>
11.30-12.00	Coffee break
12.00– 13.30	<p><b>Internal issues of the Network.</b> Outputs and upcoming activities of EURoma.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EURoma Guide: <i>Tackling Roma needs in the 2014-2020 Structural Funds Programming Period</i>. Follow up and dissemination.</li> <li>• Draft of the EURoma Guide: <i>Making use of Structural Funds for Roma inclusion. Guidance for local administrations</i>.</li> <li>• Updates on the new ESF network "Reinforcing policy learning for Roma inclusion" (<i>EURoma +</i>)</li> <li>• Updates from EURoma members</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Review of key decisions and agreements</li> </ul> <p><b>Farewell words</b></p>
13.30-14.30	Lunch