

ERIO Advocacy Training in Rome, Italy

On December 15 and 16, 2017, ERIO organized an advocacy training in Rome, Italy. The training gathered together young Roma activists from all over Italy. The aim of this training was to build capacity and skills among young people. Among the skills taught were the ability to advocate for their rights and equal treatment; have their voice heard on matters linked to their integration; be able to defend their basic rights and participate in consultations with decision-makers on the design and implementation of policies concerning their equal access to different fields in society.

Another objective of the training was to prepare young Roma to cooperate with other civil society organizations as well as local authorities and policy makers in the design and implementation of Roma related policies and programs. Roma will therefore be able to actively participate in the implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) and of the Council's recommendations. At a local level, the training will also empower Roma in anti-discrimination and social inclusion policies. How to develop efficient advocacy strategy to communicate with the proper institutions is key in the empowerment of young Roma.

The advocacy strategy developed by ERIO unfolds in 9 key steps and advocacy principles:

- Identify the advocacy scope (European, national or local)
- Identify the issue or initiative
- Identify audience
- Target arenas of influence
- Develop key messages
- Take action
- Work with media
- Fundraising
- Evaluation of the advocacy campaign

The training also focused on the EU anti-discrimination legislation such as the [Race Equality Directive](#) and the [Framework Directive](#) including practical tools on how to identify indirect discrimination and file complaint to the responsible bodies. A special session was dedicated to the access and management of EU funded projects.

The knowledge and skills received by ERIO network members enabled them to assist Equality bodies to register discrimination cases within the Roma communities, to assist local authorities to overcome barriers making the implementation of the NRIS less effective as well as to assist community members who are victims of discrimination to contact anti-discrimination institutions.



Funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union JUST/2016/RDIS/OG/NETW/9965
This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

For more information, please contact: Tel: +32 273 33 462, E-mail: office@erionet.eu

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is an international advocacy organisation which promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing information to the EU institutions, civil society and governments. Through its wide network, it aims to combat racist discrimination against Roma through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development.