Empowering Roma through participation: After the EU elections, what’s next for Roma?

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Finland’s EU Council Presidency Priorities

- Strengthen common values and the rule of law
- Make the EU more competitive and socially inclusive
- Strengthen the EU’s position as a global leader in climate action
- Protect the security of citizens comprehensively
Priorities in the Social Dimension

The Economy of Wellbeing

• The Economy of Wellbeing means that economic growth is pursued in line with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable growth can be achieved through measures that benefit people’s wellbeing and the environment, but not at their expense.

• Inequality in society must be reduced to achieve sustainable economic growth in terms of wellbeing. Let’s keep all on board!

• Finland’s aim is that the Council adopt conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing in October
Roma Inclusion during the Finnish Presidency

- The Economy of Wellbeing is a common theme throughout all the thematic areas by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, including the Roma inclusion
- Mainstreamed approach to the Roma inclusion
- The discrimination of the Roma as a discussion topic in the EPSCO
- Roma inclusion and the Economy of Wellbeing – workshop planned
Parameters for the political participation of the Roma

• Political and civil rights not fully reckoned in Roma policies

• Under-representation in electorate bodies

• Obstacles within electoral systems

• Hate speech and discrimination

• Gaining political know-how
Tools to increase the political participation of the Roma 1/2

• Support empowerment programs targeting the Roma both as voters and as candidates.

• Support elected Roma to further succeed in their electoral capacity

• Take full advantage of mixed groups and social movements

• Facilitate peer-to-peer support of the politically active Roma including Roma women and youth

• To come up data on political participation of the Roma
Toolkit to increase the political participation of the Roma 2/2

• To encourage Roma, from all genders, ages and background, to join and benefit from the different social and political movements and create mixed groups of interests.

• strong policies against hate speech and anti-discrimination

• mainstream political rights of the Roma into the mainstream policies and program on enhancing civic and political rights;
  a) mainstream policies and program on enhancing civic and political rights;
  b) Roma policies and strategies;

• to build capacity of the by supporting Roma NGOs and grass-root initiatives (= support the participation to the public discussion)

• to invite parties to mentor Roma who are interested in policy making
Aftermath of the EP–elections May 2019 – What there is for the Roma

• Political support for the renewed Roma policy initiative
• Integration of the Roma inclusion to mainstream policies
• Fundamental rights and social rights at the heart of all policies in all-encompassing manner
• Roma activists’ and movements’ alignment with mainstream initiatives, movements, institutions and policies
THANK YOU
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