

PRESS RELEASE - Special Report of the European Court of Auditors on Roma integration

Brussels, 28 June 2016

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) welcomes the Special Report of the European Court of Auditors on Roma integration - [EU policy initiatives and financial support for Roma integration: significant progress made over the last decade, but additional efforts needed on the ground](#)¹ – to which ERIO contributed as an expert organisation and given the possibility to support it with specific recommendations. The report assesses whether EU policy initiatives and financial support through the ERDF and ESF had efficiently contributed to Roma inclusion. It gives a very valuable assessment on the Roma situation and the impact of funds spent on Roma related projects between 2007 and 2015 in Bulgaria, Spain, Hungary and Romania.

The report recognises the number of improvements in the recent years but also stresses that additional efforts are required by EU institutions and member states to come to tangible results.

As Mr Henru Grethen, member of the Court highlights in his speaking note on the report's overall conclusion: *"...We found that the Commission has made significant progress in setting out EU policy initiatives promoting Roma integration and that all the Member States had developed National Roma Integration Strategies by 2012. But all this came too late to have an impact on programmes and projects for 2007-2013 and a number of shortcomings remain. They concern the level of funding needed, the lack of attention to anti-discrimination and anti-gypsyism and the need for more active participation by the Roma."*

ERIO's Executive Director stated: *"The findings of this report should be taken into consideration by EU bodies, governmental offices and other policy makers in their future work. The report could be an invitation to the member states to adopt a duty to carry out impact assessments in order to be able to review the impact of laws, regulations, administrative provisions and funding related to Roma. In compliance with this, duty mechanisms also need to be established to monitor and enforce public bodies' compliance with these duties. If the ultimate goal of all Roma inclusion actions is a real change in the field, then a thorough assessment of the funds allocated should be done."*

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Note to the editor:

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.

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¹ http://www.eca.europa.eu/Lists/ECADocuments/INSR16_14/INSR_ROMA_EN.pdf