



European Roma Information Office

REPORT

ERIO's 7th Workshop with Equality Bodies
“Ending Discrimination of Roma in Housing and Health: The Role of Equality Bodies”

14 November 2018, Brussels

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The **European Roma Information Office (ERIO)** is a European advocacy organisation that 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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Opening and Introductions

Ivan Ivanov, ERIO Executive Director

Ivan Ivanov welcomed the participants and explained the aim of the workshop would be on the discrimination suffered by Roma communities in the access to housing and healthcare services. Ivan started by stating that the importance of housing and healthcare is not only how much these two aspects constitute basic rights but also the underlying discrimination coming from other sectors, so when trying to analyze the situation of Roma in accessing healthcare and housing we must keep in mind a global view and take into account the intersectional discrimination they face in other sectors.



He explained with the increasing events happening at a European level it is important to identify challenges faced by Equality Bodies in implementing legislation and the importance of a strong cooperation with the civil society at a national level. He emphasised the important role played by the Equality Bodies' function not only as the implementation of legislation but also as key holders of the implementation of strategies and welcomed further cooperation with them.

Anne Gaspard, EQUINET Executive Director



Anne Gaspard explained the important work done by the network of national Equality Bodies in an often hostile context where issues like hate, race discrimination and a negative public sentiment are present. She explained the focus of the network is on enhancing capacity, exchanging experiences across grounds of discrimination along with achievements and challenges in order to support and build a common ground where EU's equality legislation can be efficiently implemented. In regards of EQUINET's and other civil society organisations' work with

housing and healthcare issues, the main challenges rely on the intersectional discrimination faced by Roma specially in the case of women and children.

Presentation available [here](#)

Els Keytsman, Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities UNIA Director

Els Keytsman emphasised the importance of prioritizing Roma rights and the fight against anti-Gypsyism and discrimination in the European agenda as it is crucial to develop an inclusive society. She also commented on the importance of working with allies at a national and international level in order to build a strong network capable of fighting important challenges like underreporting or the difficulty to find allies in the Roma community itself. In regards to healthcare, ECRI is a partner on the Roma platform visiting Belgium next year. This will be a great opportunity to give visibility to important issues faced by the Roma community when wanting to access healthcare. One of the most important topics they work on is facilitating an address which is a main criteria in Belgium to access medical attention.



Ronald Lucardie, President of ERIO's board

Ronald explained how important it is to disseminate ERIO's work at a grassroots level, as there is a tendency to work on human rights mainly at an institutional level. He also mentioned the role of the organization in the European context stating that ERIO started as part of the broader EU agenda, a very difficult context to work on as there is pressure and priorities that often becomes an obstacle. As a final remark he mentioned the persistence of discrimination problems in the sectors of housing and health, but he stated that the context in which this discrimination takes place is changing. There is more work done by the EU in these highly-privatized sectors in order for minorities to get equal treatment and rights.



Panel 1: Setting up the context, EU and international levels

Moderator: Ivan Ivanov, ERIO

Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Non-Discrimination policies and Roma coordination Unit, DG Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission



Szabolcs Schmidt thanked the Equality Bodies and the civil society for their contribution and emphasised the importance to work at an international level and keep into account not only what happens at an EU level, but also at a grassroots level. In the EU, Roma inclusion has been flanked from two directions. The first direction lies on the fact to acknowledge the importance of the creation of the Racial Equality

Directive since it is very unique and it puts a significant focus on discrimination. In relation to Roma, we must acknowledge the effort made by European institutions in changing the situation of the communities by creating a framework for inclusion not existing for other minorities. Unfortunately, he emphasised that effort needs to keep being made to tackle the challenges as the situation has not changed significantly.

Data shows 80% of Roma still live below poverty line and 30% still do not have access to sanitized running water. Although the EU Framework works very well adding value and helping coordination of functions at an EU level, it needs to improve its effectiveness and work at a closer level taking into account a broader range of circumstances, especially when it comes to women and children.

The second direction is focused on the cooperation with member states to collect equality data in order to have reliable sources to help understanding the problems of our society. Although there is still a long way to go since there is a lot of resistance from member states.

Sheena Keller, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Research Officer

Sheena Keller explained the importance of working in data collection related to Roma and working closely with partners when dealing with inclusion projects. She commented on different actions that can be taken by the Equality Bodies in terms of legislation.



On an international level, focus need to be made on recalling international standards like the International

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC). On an EU level, focus needs to be made on ECHR and article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights as well as on secondary EU law like the Council Framework Decision on Racism and Xenophobia.



She explained how, despite the efforts, discrimination is still a huge problem that has not faced a significant improvement. In regards to housing, there are problems with space, overcrowding and a lack of access to basic facilities. The situation with healthcare shows a similar tendency and a need to focus on those who fall out of the system is needed.

She also explained how reporting discrimination is another big issue that needs to be addressed as 95% of Roma are not aware of organizations that offer advice on discrimination. Only 38% are aware of the existence of Equality Bodies and 36% of Roma know about legislation that protects them from discrimination.

Some suggestions given to improve the situation of Roma in housing included the need to improve housing conditions, ensuring non-discriminatory access to housing and public utilities and infrastructure and assistance against forced eviction. In regards to healthcare, improved access to healthcare is needed, raising awareness and training among healthcare professionals and focusing on preventive healthcare looking on Roma women, children and disabled Roma.

Presentation available [here](#)

Claude Cahn, United Nations Human Rights Office, Human Rights Officer

Claude Cahn started his speech commenting on the current political situation and the need to create partnerships at a European and national level. According to him, there still is a lot of work to be done, especially on gender issues and fighting anti-Gypsyism. He explained how important it is to take into account historical and cultural context when trying to fight anti-Gypsyism. This was exemplified with the Swedish case, where the government looked at the history of the Roma community in their country, finding cases of forced sterilization or



children in state care. Including the historical fact was important to broaden the understanding and make population support the policies created. He considers this example as a practice that needs to be taken by all the member states in order to tackle discrimination and anti-Gypsyism efficiently.

Discussion

A brief discussion followed the initial panel. Responding to Sheena Keller's premise about underreporting and a lack of equality data, Ivan Ivanov explained how data collection is very time consuming but overall possible and underreporting constitutes a big issue that needs to be fixed with more awareness from the Roma community about support organisations and the creation of surveys that keep monitoring the situation. The Greek Equality Body representative ended up the discussion adding the importance of emphasizing structural problems and helping and pushing for a higher effort from states that are not collaborating.



Thematic Workshop 1 – Housing

Claude Cahn, (OHCHR) stated that superficially, housing looks like an easy field to tackle discrimination, as it is not based on the expertise and complicated system we find when dealing with the health sector. However, when you look further into the issues Roma face when trying to access housing, they are very diverse which makes the creation of common practices to achieve global solutions a very difficult task.

Ahmed Ahkim (ERIO GA member, Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des



Roms en Wallonie) spoke about different types of discrimination existing and how in the case of Roma and Travellers, discrimination can be suffered from multiple grounds. Specially in the housing field, discrimination can be rooted to economic means, but when we look closely at very specific cases, we find out that most of the times negative response and discrimination comes from the fact of being Traveller or Roma, regardless of the socioeconomic situation. This multiple grounds of

discrimination are interesting to understand the elements that cause these communities to be in a more vulnerable position compared to other affected groups.

Participants were then split in two groups to discuss the key challenges experienced by Equality Bodies and civil society in tackling housing discrimination against Roma and to find solutions to overcome them. Some examples and good practices were shared.

GROUP ONE – Moderated by Claude Cahn (OHCHR)

Iva Sisul Brdar (Office of the Ombudswoman) started the discussion by stating that the Equality Body in **Croatia** works closely together with NGOs and members of the parliament to tackle the issue of discrimination of Roma in housing. By going to the field and visiting affected Roma they get the information they need. This year they are conducting a project and survey which goal is to identify the needs of



the Roma community. Often Roma live in isolated areas, often far away from the city without local transportation available. Iva mentions one Roma family she knows that lives in the woods. The Croatian Equality Body does not get many complaints, underreporting is a big issue. In a [survey](#) that included 1.550 households, the biggest issues found were illegal constructions and complications in the legislation of their properties. Many Roma do not know how to legalize their places, they have financial problems and often are not working. 11% of households for instance do not have access to electricity while 43% of households do not have running water.

Rumyan Russinov (Public Policy Advocacy Centre) explained the situation in Bulgaria where there is a lack of legal documents and where the most important aspect lies within the legalisation of properties. The problem comes already back from the socialist time but is now increasing, as the government turns a blind eye on it. In many cases, the supply of electricity and water is a big problem. This also became a political issue in the last years and fascist parties use it as propaganda, by building anti-Roma campaigns, especially in urban areas. In 80% of housing, a legalisation is possible and Roma are willing to buy the land, but there is no governmental action. He also pointed out the upcoming elections in Bulgaria next year, where this topic will be surely used. He mentioned that governmental action and legislation is needed, involving all actors (government and Equality Bodies). Depending on the municipality, there is already a legislation strategy but not a concrete plan and in general the willingness is lacking.

Luigi Gioja (Eurocities) referred to a [study visit](#) Eurocities conducted in Timisoara, Romania this year. The results confirmed that the issue of housing is related to legalisation and identity cards, two elements interlinked with each other that make the process of accessing housing very difficult. In one neighbourhood where a Roma community is concentrated, the houses they lived in belonged to them but the ground was owned by the state. Since they do not have documents proving that they live in those houses, they do not get identity cards and therefore do not have access to social services. *“The focus should be more on legislation and it is*

mainly a political problem” Luigi said. Eurocities is working with the social services department which helps to give all people one unique address in order that they can get an ID.

Lavinia Banu (DG Justice, European Commission) added that European Commission reports show that although there are funds available, administration officials in Bulgaria lack in expertise and know-how to use funds and there is no sustainability in actions and plans. For instance, if one mayor leaves, the new one often does not follow. Often it happens that local authorities want to do something but they do not know how to access the funding which is additionally coupled with a lack of political will.

According to **Claude Cahn (OHCHR)**, there is a need for a top-down approach to legalise and solve ID issues, especially when 80% of Roma want to legalize their property and are ready to buy the land. He gave an example of a Roma that was in prison. During his entire childhood he was not able to go to school because he did not have a legal document. When he committed a crime, suddenly the police was quickly able to provide him with an ID. He also stressed the need to differentiate between legalisation and personal ID questions which are different things, although both start by breaking the cycle of punitive thinking.

Tamás Kádár (EQUINET) referred to the [OPRE joint statement](#) on evictions of Roma and Travellers. According to him, *“although if we point out to member states to find solutions, it is important that we first agree between ourselves, before we go out and convince others.”* Further legalisation of property is a national competence.

Daniela Novac (Diogenes) brought up the task of mediators which help Roma in the process of finding housing and solving ID issues and sees it as part of the solution to many issues discussed before. Further, she talked about the situation of Roma in Brussels and stated that many come hoping to find work and housing, but unfortunately there are not good strategies for them in Belgium. In order to stay here, they need to register and in order to be registered, an address is necessary. Therefore many Roma live in the streets.



To illustrate a challenge faced by the Belgian Equality Body, **Rik Reusen (Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities UNIA)** mentioned an example, where they were contacted by an organisation when 200 people were told by the municipality of the city of Bruges that they will remove their addresses. The Roma and Travellers were complaining but did not want to report because they were afraid about the consequences. Therefore there was no single file of complaints about this incident. However, in the end, the Equality Body managed that the Travellers and Roma communities could keep the address.

Miroslava Novodomcova (Slovak National Centre for Human Rights) described the situation in **Slovakia**. Despite bad hygiene standards, lack of electricity, roads and public lightening in some areas being common, there are no complaints. Miroslava agrees that many Roma do not want to report, because they are afraid of consequences. She further highlights the fact that everyone knows that there are cases and therefore it is important to act.



The Equality Body is trying to cooperate with NGOs to solve the issue of underreporting.

A problem for the Bulgarian Equality Body is the lack of knowledge of Roma on how to file complaints. **Kremena Lazarova (Commission for Protection against Discrimination of the Republic of Bulgaria)** stressed the importance of awareness-raising to break stereotypes. The Equality Body counts in total two discrimination cases of Roma in housing.

Claude Cahn (OHCHR) stressed the need to empower Roma to ensure they feel more comfortable with reporting cases of discrimination. As a reaction to this, **Daniela Novac (Diogenes)** mentioned that Roma prefer short-term solutions and do not like complaints because the procedure is too long and bureaucratic. However, not every participant agreed with this.



Judit Varga (Equal Treatment Authority) described the situation of Roma in **Hungary**. The Hungarian Equality Body investigates cases and some are about forced evictions. However, direct discrimination cannot always be identified. An example given was a case where the local government wanted to demolish a slum without new plans or resources, where 900 people were threatened and had to move to another

slum. This case was proved as indirect discrimination.

GROUP TWO - Moderated by Ronald Lucardie (ERIO)

Andriani Papadopoulou (Equal Treatment Department of Greece) explained how the Equality Body faces the issue of solving individual problems that root from a systemic cause: the difficulties that the Roma community have to access quality housing come from discrimination and isolation in other areas like employment or education.

She explained how the Greek Equality Body decides to work on three levels when dealing with eviction: first, pacifying the angry citizen to gain more time and delay the eviction, then, exposing the situation to the municipality so they contact the social services to give more detailed information about the specific case and finally, they involve the Secretary for Roma to prevent the



eviction and later occupation of another house. She also stated that even with access to social services that provide housing, public institutions remain one of the biggest obstacle, as the administrative procedures often require documents and criteria that do not adapt to the situation in which the Roma communities are living, leaving the community marginalized.

In regards to data, Andriani considers data is part of the National Roma Integration Strategy and the main problem relies on the implementation and action once you have the data. She then explained the importance for local governments to take actions to improve access to housing in order to achieve social cohesion.

Saska Jovanovic (Association Romni Onlus, ERIO GA member) commented how the failings of public institutions in Greece to improve the situation of housing for Roma communities have been used as a good example in Italy. She also explained that legislative changes made by Prime Minister Salvini have further aggravated the situation by reallocating Roma in inadequate camps and criminalizing occupation of any empty shelter with prison sentences.

Ronald Lucardie stressed the importance of having allies and how it can represent a crucial difference in the success of implementation of policies. In regards to data, it is important to get it from civil society and organizations rather than governments as it can be easily manipulated to support political agendas.

Javier Suarez (Fundación Secretariado Gitano) emphasised the need of relevant data to tackle the problem correctly. In Spain, they used a national network to gather data to create a housing map to localize Roma settlements. This caused a significant decrease of Roma living in slums (only 2% compared to 10% twenty years ago). Data collected is also used to break stereotypes. For example, in Spain, the stereotype that Roma live in slums was deconstructed with data showing that 92% live in normal housing. With this data, FSG started a combined strategy with the government to reduce slums and resettle people in better conditions. More information can be found [here](#).

For **Ahmed Ahkim (Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms en Wallonie, ERIO GA member)** the problem is in the decision making process and implementation of policies. There are different needs for various situations. In contexts where decision makers are willing to make changes, they are in need of equality data in order to understand the

situation and be able to make the pertinent changes. In contexts where there is means and financial support from institutions but no will from governments nothing changes on the ground because the implementation is not well designed.

According to **Edina Tordai (Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights)**, Equality Bodies can easily access data, even if it is not created for housing as they needed for other social services. She explained that there needs to be a legacy of this data, through examples or recommendations that can be used for governments to guarantee an effective implementation of policies.

Thematic Workshop 2 – Healthcare

This session was opened by **Marius Tudor (EPHA)** who referred to a [survey](#) carried out by EPHA in 2017 which showed that almost 67% of Roma in Romania face discrimination in healthcare based on their ethnic origin. This finding suggests a close connection between poverty and discrimination and how difficult it is for Roma to live in a society filled with stereotypes and prejudices. 80% of Roma still live



below the poverty level. Moreover, they have difficulties in finding a job and in getting proper education. **Ivan Ivanov (ERIO)** gave some examples of anti-Gypsyism as a specific form of racial discrimination. Twenty years ago he was sent by the European Roma Rights Centre as one of the first to prepare a report of forced sterilisation in Slovakia, where he found out that a significant number of Roma women were wrongly induced by doctors to have caesarean sections and were sterilized during surgery. This cruel practice was held in many countries, to the whole community. For him, the fact of not having access to basic healthcare also leads to the creation of stereotypes and prejudices. As housing and healthcare are closely interlinked, it is necessary to look at both issues together. He highlighted that only a close collaboration between Equality Bodies, civil society and other human rights institutions can lead to a successful fight against anti-Gypsyism.

Participants were then split in two groups to discuss the key challenges experienced by Equality Bodies and civil society in tackling healthcare discrimination against Roma and to find solutions to overcome them. Some examples and good practices were shared.

GROUP ONE – Moderated by Marta Pinto (ERIO)

Describing the situation of Roma in **Italy**, **Saska Jovanovic (Association Romni Onlus)** mentioned a visible difference between the housing and health situation of Roma in Italy.



Although she considers the housing situation of Roma to be worse than the healthcare situation, there are some current problems that need to be addressed. One problem mentioned, was the fact that most of the time, Roma women do not visit a gynaecologist or have difficulties to get adequate support due to language barriers. Further challenging, is the ineffectiveness of the Italian Equality Body. Often money they receive is

sent back to the European Commission and not used properly. The NGOs working on the topic, do not get enough financial support and even sometimes do not receive money at all. This is why they often cannot offer more help. As an example, she stated that at the meeting for the National Action Plan on Roma Strategies in Europe, many participants even did not come prepared to the meeting and not much happened in the areas of housing and education. Saska is worried that with the new government in Italy the situation will get worse.

While looking at the situation in **Romania**, **Illie Dinca (National Council to Combat Discrimination)**, stated that although a few years ago there were 700 health mediators available, nowadays there are only 300 left. **Marius Tudor (EPHA)** added as two major problems, the lack of willingness and capacity. Often by putting pressure on officials, they suddenly start to act. Although National Roma Integration Strategies exist, the weakness relies within their non-binding character. Marius proposed that every single member state should provide in their national budget a specific allocation for Roma integration equivalent to the magnitude of the problem. Further, he stated that the budget should be implemented not by the ministries but by the local authorities and in the meantime a monitoring body should be in place to check if and how the money is spent. Another suggestion to the European Commission was to have another European directive that can force member states to have National Roma Integration Strategies with a binding character as working on the implementation is an essential element to guarantee the success of policies.

In **Spain** the situation is different. The Spanish Equality Body works closely together with the **Fundación Secretariado Gitano**, which records cases and assists victims. **Javier Saez** stated that 178 cases in all areas were registered, some of them in the area of health but not many. Since healthcare is a universal right, it does not happen often that Roma do not have access to healthcare. Mostly negative comments or stereotypes from professionals, nurses or doctors were found. There are cases where the ethnicity of patients was illegally recorded. FSG is also doing research on health of Roma families, and have





found that the quality of health of Roma is lower than the health of the average population, which is related to poverty. As a good practice the NGO is promoting healthy habits and sports.

The situation in **Portugal** is similar to the situation in Spain. **Marisa Horta (High Commission for Migration)** stated that there are not many cases where Roma do not have access to healthcare. Most of the cases are about the illegal collection of the ethnicity of

Roma in reports. Further they receive complaints from health care personnel because of problems in communication. The Equality Body tries to solve this problem by providing Roma mediators. She added that Portugal has a new National Roma Integration Strategy in place.

Iva Sisul Brdar (Office of the Ombudswoman) stated that although **Croatia** has a National Roma Integration Strategy and 92% of Roma have health insurance, there are discrimination cases of Roma. According to her, the problem lies at the local level where municipalities are not sensitive about Roma issues. Most of the cases they receive, are cases where social, welfare workers discriminate Roma. Most of the health cases are connected to housing, since a lot of settlements are close located to polluted areas and factories. The main challenges faced by the Equality Body are problems with municipalities. Additionally, Roma often do not have enough information concerning access to healthcare. A further problem is when Roma prisoners come out of jail, they have lost their health insurance and have to apply again.

Ivan Ivanov (ERIO) mentioned underreporting as a major problem. Root causes hereby can be that Roma do not trust institutions and they are afraid to file complaints. Often they also lack knowledge and many Roma do not know that they can make complaints and that Equality Bodies exist. Around 90% of the Roma think that to make a complaint they need a lawyer and many do not want to wait the long procedure.



Judit Varga (Equal Treatment Authority) talked about the situation in **Hungary** and mentioned that often they do have cases where Roma report that they cannot get medical treatment.

GROUP TWO – Moderated by Tamás Kádár (Equinet)

Andriani Papadopoulou (Equal Treatment Department of Greece) explained the direct discrimination faced by Roma women when wanting to access medical assistance in a public institution. They are often put in separated areas and marginalized, but there is a lack of proof that makes the cases hard to report in front of police and public institutions. The biggest health issue with the Roma community is strictly related to the conditions they are forced to live in. While living in camps, they get exposed to diseases and danger. The lack of education also plays a role because they ignore their health issues in the first place, which makes it almost impossible to ask for help. Another big issue is the wrong prescription of psychotropics which are later used for with recreational means.

Kremena Lazarova (Commission for Protection against Discrimination of the Republic of Bulgaria), said that the access of Roma to healthcare is a challenge because it involves doctors, which are professionals with a high level of expertise and trusted by the patients, so it is hard for them to report violations of human rights. The Bulgarian Equality Body has proved this violation and has urged for strict decisions to be taken by the Ministry of Health in regards of the unequal access to healthcare. Another problem is that Roma do not have access to health insurance which includes them in the health system. Therefore, there is a tendency for Roma mothers to give birth without being socially insured, which leaves them in an unprotected situation.

Daniela Novac (Diogénes) shared a personal case of discrimination when wanting to access health services. She explained the transportation struggles to reach the hospital and the refusal from doctors to give her an adequate treatment. She expressed how, despite the clear discrimination, the local administration did not allocate the funds received to make changes in the area effectively. She then exposed the main factors creating the overall problem: residence, lack of sewage, lack of close health centres and lack of transportation. The European Commission should evaluate if the funds are being correctly allocated to implement the policies.

Conclusions and Closing

Tamás Kádár (EQUINET) concluded the workshop by mentioning that the work done by the speakers of the last group was quite ambitious and it was possible to find strategies which could solve the problem. At the same time he mentioned that as a group it is not possible to tackle the whole issue, but still it was possible and important to collect strategies, snapshot about cases and problems and good solutions. Although it would have been great to discuss further, it was a very important and useful workshop. On this behalf, Tamás thanked ERIO for organizing the event and for bringing the Equality Bodies and civil society together, for organising the discussion and this interesting agenda.

As closing **Ronald Lucardie (ERIO)** added that the board meeting prior to the workshop was very helpful as it helped to set the priorities and important topics that were discussed during the workshop. He pointed out a further good partnership between all actors, Equinet and ERIO in order to communicate and reflect the changing environment together. He thanked all the participants for the effort and participation.

Appendix I – Workshop Agenda

09:00 - 09:15 Registration

09:15 - 09:30 Opening session

Ivan Ivanov, Executive Director, European Roma Information Office

Anne Gaspard, Executive Director, Equinet

Els Keytsman, Director, Interfederal Centre for Equal Opportunities UNIA

Ronald Lucardie, President of ERIO's Board

09:30 - 10:00 Setting up the context: EU and international levels

Moderator: Ivan Ivanov (ERIO)

Szabolcs Schmidt, Head of Non-discrimination policies and Roma coordination Unit, DG Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, European Commission

Sheena Keller, Research Officer, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights

Claude Cahn, Human Rights Officer, United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR)

10:00-10:30 Discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Thematic workshop 1 – Healthcare

Moderators: Tamás Kádár (Equinet) and Marta Pinto (ERIO)

Kick-off speakers: **Marius Tudor** (EPHA) and **Marie Pichault** (Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms en Wallonie, tbc)

Participants will be split in two groups. They will address the key challenges experienced by Equality Bodies in tackling healthcare discrimination against Roma.

12:30-13:00 Reporting back from group discussions

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:30 Thematic workshop 2 – Housing

Moderators: Ronald Lucardie (ERIO) and Claude Cahn (OHCHR)

Kick-off speakers: **Claude Cahn** (OHCHR) and **Ahmed Akim** (ERIO GA member, Centre de

Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms en Wallonie)

Participants will be split in two groups. They will address the key challenges experienced by Equality Bodies in tackling housing discrimination against Roma.

15:30-16:00 Reporting back from group discussions

16:00 - 16:30 Conclusions by Equinet and ERIO