

## Latest EU policies for Roma inclusion and equal treatment

Developed in recent years, the EU Roma policy consists of an EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies by 2020 (NRIS) and a Council recommendation on effective Roma integration. The Framework, adopted by the European Commission in 2011, is a non-binding policy document requesting Member States to adopt NRIS according to some common basic standards across four pillars: education, employment, health care and housing. In an effort to strengthen the EU Framework, the Commission proposed a Council Recommendation which was unanimously adopted by Member States in 2013 making it the strongest EU instrument for Roma inclusion. The Recommendation includes more specific measures not only in the four previous pillars, but also as regards the fight against discrimination.

### More information:

#### EU Framework

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/discrimination/docs/com\\_2011\\_173\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/discrimination/docs/com_2011_173_en.pdf)

#### Council Recommendation

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/139979.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/lsa/139979.pdf)

#### EU and the Roma

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/roma/index_en.htm)

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European Roma Information Office

**From words to practice:  
acting for Roma equality  
and integration**



European Commission DG Justice  
N° JUST/2013/PROG/AG/5124/NGOS



## European Roma Information Office

Founded in 2003, 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 and social exclusion of Roma through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development. Since its creation, ERIO has been actively involved in shaping European policies for Roma inclusion. In 2005, ERIO with other partners such as ERRC, OSI, MPC and IRCHR, proposed to EU institutions to adopt a Framework Strategy for Roma. ERIO is among key stakeholders being regularly consulted by the European Commission when addressing Roma-related issues. In light of recent main EU policy developments (i.e. EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies and Council Recommendation), ERIO has become all the more a strategic partner for the EU institutions in assuring the monitoring of their implementation and in advising for further improvement.

## Project summary

"From words to practice: acting for Roma equality and integration" is a project funded by the European Commission over a one year period (January – December 2014). The main goal of the project is to foster the social inclusion and equal treatment of Roma in Europe.

## Specific objectives

- Advocate to improve the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS) implementation at local level
- Promote the effective implementation of anti-discrimination legislation
- Promote the active equal participation of Roma representatives, especially the young and women, in the NRIS implementation and other anti-discrimination policies as well as in the fight against discrimination
- Raise awareness about the needs and concerns of Roma and the existence of the appropriate tools to address these issues

## Project main outputs

- Mission trips to meet with national/local authorities aimed at ensuring the NRIS transposition, the implementation of the Council Recommendation and the participation of Roma
- Community meetings to identify the needs of and realities for Roma
- Roundtables with local/regional authorities
- Advocacy training for Roma
- Workshop with Equality Bodies

## Project main deliverables

- Template letter for Roma activists to pressure national and local authorities to implement the NRIS, adopt and implement the EC Council Recommendation, and involve Roma
- Advocacy handbook for Roma activists
- Paper "Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategies: challenges and solutions for local authorities"
- Paper "Implementing the Race Equality Directive: challenges and solutions for Equality Bodies"
- 4 newsletters
- Factsheet about the European Year 2014 and the situation of Roma women

## Project beneficiaries

The expected number of beneficiaries will include: Roma, particularly the young and women and European society as a whole – i.e. EU institutions, national, local and regional authorities, Equality Bodies, civil society, journalists, professionals working with/for Roma (e.g. teachers, social workers) and the general population.