

PRESS RELEASE

More measures tackling discrimination and anti-Gypsyism are urgently needed

Brussels, 6 December 2018

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) welcomes the European Commission's (EC) evaluation report on the implementation of the current until 2020 National Roma Integration Strategies which not only highlights the positive progress on Roma inclusion but also stresses the limitations which are found in all basic criteria: relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency.

We especially welcome the EC's recommendations on fighting anti-Gypsyism and discrimination which are in line with what ERIO is promoting since the adoption of the European Framework and the National Roma Integration Strategies (NRIS). The report suggests that *“Member States should be encouraged to implement more measures tackling discrimination and antigypsyism, e.g. according to the evaluation, NRIS should include targeted measures aimed at preventing and countering bias motivated hate crime, hate speech and stigmatisation caused by antigypsyism (such as updating education curricula, inter-ethnic community building, trainings sensitising employers, educational, health and housing authorities, as well as police, prosecutors and judges)”*.

As ERIO's Executive Director, Ivan Ivanov says: *“ERIO is happy to see that our concerns raised on the effectiveness and impact of the current NRIS have finally been officially recognised in the Commission's Communication. The highlighted limitations on the implementation of the NRIS should be seriously taken by the responsible national authorities and strictly followed as suggested in the report. We have been always promoting the idea of having NRIS with a strong anti-discrimination dimension. Without fighting anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma even the best inclusion strategies will be ineffective. In this regard, ERIO as anti-discrimination network will continue its cooperation with Roma and non-Roma NGOs working in this field, with Equality Bodies and other key players to make sure that EC recommendations are successfully applied in the post-2020 Roma inclusion strategies. This Communication should be seen as a good guidance for national authorities to improve Roma's equal treatment and social inclusion.”*

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

Note to the editor:

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) is a European 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.