



EUROCITIES Social Affairs Forum ‘Inclusive cities: Ensuring social inclusion & well-being for all ages’

22-24 October 2019, Warsaw

WG Roma Inclusion updates

1. WG Roma inclusion policy transfer on ‘Roma access to adequate housing’

On 9-10 April, 35 city officers on homelessness and Roma inclusion from 15 European cities addressed the question of housing support for Roma during a policy transfer study visit in Toulouse. Through discussions with local policy-makers, beneficiaries and practitioners, participants discovered how to transfer some inspiring practices from Toulouse’s policy to support Roma to move out of camps into adequate housing in the city. With the ambition to “do the impossible for better social inclusion at local level”, Toulouse showed their innovative approach which combined housing solutions and integrated social support (including schooling, healthcare, employment, citizen involvement etc.). Four pre-selected ‘transfer’ cities presented their own challenges with regard to Roma inclusion and already took follow-up actions based on the advice received. Read more [here](#).

2. EUROCITIES presents to the Council of Europe good practices from cities on Roma housing inclusion

On 11-12 April, EUROCITIES was invited to present good practices from cities on access to adequate housing and prevention of eviction. This presentation was part of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller Civil Society. It was a good opportunity to present findings from the report mapping the situation of Roma in cities in Europe and share examples of good practices from Berlin, Glasgow and Toulouse. Read more about the good practices [here](#). Read the full report [here](#).

3. WG Roma inclusion present the case of cities during Eurodiaconia hearing on the future EU Roma strategy

On 26 June, Gothenburg (Ragnhild Ekelund) represented the working group Roma inclusion during a hearing on the future EU Roma strategy - proposals for action post-2020. The exchanges resulted in interesting exchanges on the different perspectives on Roma inclusion in different countries. The discussion focused on the key findings of our mapping of the situation of Roma in cities in Europe. The conclusion of the meeting highlighted the future needs for the Roma strategy, especially continuing the work on anti-gypsyism and discrimination. Read the report of the event [here](#).

4. WG Roma inclusion critical friend review on ‘Developing an effective integrated city plan for city Roma inclusion’

On 24-26 September, WG Roma inclusion met in Braga for a Critical Friend Review on ‘Developing an effective integrated city plan for Roma inclusion’. To discover the ‘Plan for action for disadvantaged communities’, 22 local experts from 12 cities joined the meeting. In line with Braga’s Integrated Plan of Action for Disadvantaged Communities (PAICD), the municipality has developed a set of actions focusing on three social neighborhoods: ‘Santa Tecla’, ‘Enguardas’ and ‘Picoto’. Besides the urban and environmental regeneration, activities focus on the overall improvement of the local population’s living conditions and social inclusion.

5. EUROCITIES contribution to the post-2020 EU Roma Framework

The European Commission is currently drafting the future strategic framework for Roma inclusion post-2020. This is a unique opportunity to put forward the EUROCITIES proposals for a more effective EU strategic approach to Roma inclusion post-2020 from the perspective

of cities. In this context EUROCIITIES recently produced a policy contribution to the debate on post-2020 EU Roma Framework. Following its dissemination to all key EU institutions in view of influencing the upcoming Commission proposal, EUROCIITIES was invited to present its views during a bilateral meeting with the unit in charge of non-discrimination and Roma coordination at DG JUST. The key messages shares were that the post-2020 EU Roma framework should:

- **Adopt an integrated approach to Roma integration and involve cities in all stages of policy making** to ensure that the local needs of Roma communities are met effectively.
- **Set up a multi-level governance mechanism for Roma integration** to enable EU, national and local authorities to work together, coordinate and mutually reinforce their strategies and tailor them to the local needs of Roma communities.
- **Improve access of city authorities to EU and national funding** to support the integrated measures and services for Roma inclusion at local level.

The WG Roma inclusion will continue its advocacy work until the adoption of the text. The Commission is expected to release its proposition at the end of 2020. Read EUROCIITIES' contribution [here](#).

6. Cities continue to pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

After the official launch of the campaign 'Inclusive cities for all: Social Rights in my city' in February at the European Parliament, cities continue to pledge to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights. Zagreb presented a new pledge on principle 3 on equal opportunities, leading to a total of 7 cities having pledged on this principle. Both Athens and Malmo explicitly mention Roma in their commitment, while other cities target minorities in general. All new pledges will be presented to SAF members and high-level representatives from the European Parliament and the European Commission during the Social Affairs Forum in October in Warsaw. Find all pledges and learn more about how to pledge [here](#).

Upcoming meetings and activities:

- **European Commission consultation on the European Social Fund in the 2014-2018 programming period, deadline to complete is 19 December.**

EC has launched a 12-week public consultation to evaluate the support to social inclusion by the ESF. The consultation is available online in all official languages of the EU. The information collected will be used in assessing what has been achieved during the 2014-2018 programming period. It will also help the Commission draw lessons on how to reinforce this support in the future, making it more effective and focused. We invite our members to contribute to this consultation. Find all the information [here](#).



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