



REACT: Awareness raising on Roma issues in a European Context
- Campaign Presentation Seminar -

In October 2010, the European Roma Grassroots Organisations (ERGO) Network started the campaign "**REACT – Making Europe an Equal Place for Roma**". This campaign seeks to raise awareness of general public, media and policy makers on the situation of Roma, challenge negative and prejudiced attitudes, and encourage administrations to take action.

Supported by the European Commission, as part of the pilot 'Pan-European Coordination of Roma Integration Methods on Roma Inclusion', the campaign focuses on actions in Romania, Italy, Bulgaria and Albania. At the same time, the discrimination and socio-economic exclusion of Roma is more than ever being debated at European level. Policy makers, civil society and international organisations search for strategies that can break the deadlock for Roma citizens and communities.

Awareness raising is an indispensable element of such strategies. No awareness – no progress. To present its campaign in the context of the European debate on Roma inclusion ERGO Network kindly invites you for an **afternoon seminar** on:

Tuesday 14 December 2010, 13h00 – 17h00
Mundo B – Conference Room
Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels

The event aims to introduce participants with the campaign actions and objectives, but also to provide an opportunity for policy makers, NGOs and journalists to get an inside perspective on Roma issues from grassroots activists from seven European countries.

- Speakers include: **Jan Marinus Wiersma** (former MEP and chair of ERGO), **Ilona Negro** (European Commission, DG EMPL) **Tsonko Tsonev** (Mayor of Kavarna, Bulgaria), **Niko Peleshi** (Mayor of Korce, Albania), **Alvaro Ancisi**, Member Municipal Council, Ravenna (Italy), **Enrica Chiozza** (European Commission, DG REGIO) and **Martin Kovats** (Birkbeck, University of London).
- Experiences from grassroots organisations from Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Moldova, Serbia and Turkey.
- Photo exhibition, presentations, documentary clips, ..., ...



CAMPAIGN FINANCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Programme

ERGO Network kindly invites you to the seminar: "REACT: Awareness Raising on Roma issues in a European Context" on Tuesday, 14 December 2010.

During the event, ERGO Network members will present their campaigns and place them in the context of the challenges posed by the Europe wide debate on Roma issues and the development of the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. It aims to provide an opportunity for policy makers, NGOs and journalists to get an inside perspective on Roma issues from grassroots activists from seven European countries.

Draft Agenda

12:45 Welcome

13:15 REACT: Awareness raising on Roma issues in a European Context

Jan Marinus Wiersma, former MEP and chair of ERGO Network

Ilona Negro, European Commission DG EMPL

Valeriu Nicolae, Executive Director, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, Bucharest

Andrew Gardner, Editor European Voice

14:00 Thank you, ...?! Campaigning for Local Partnership

Presentation of Local Advocay campaigns (two parallel roundtables):

- Integro Association (Bulgaria), DUR (Serbia) and Intellekt Network (Macedonia)

Moderation: Tanja Lubbers

- Roma Active Albania, EDROM (Turkey) and Tarna Rom (Moldova)

Moderation: Ana Oprisan

15:00 Roma inclusion policies: the importance of local dynamics

Debate with

Tsonko Tsonev, Mayor of Kavarna (Bulgaria)

Niko Peleshi, Mayor of Korça (Albania)

Alvaro Ancisi, Member Municipal Council, Ravenna (Italy) – Committee of the Regions
rapporteur on Roma integration

Enrica Chiozza, DG REGIO

Moderation: Jan Marinus Wiersma

Spoken column:

Martin Kovats, expert Roma inclusion policies (Birkbeck, University of London)

16.00 – 17.00 Reception

Opportunity for informal discussion

Photo exhibition

Presentations of Youth Network "TernYpe" & R.R.O.M.A (Macedonia)

Documentary screenings

Venue

Mundo B – Maison du Développement Durable

Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050 Brussels

(Metro Porte de Namur)

For questions and registration, contact ERGO Network:

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