

The project «*DEPART - Network for Democratic participation of Roma and traveller communities on municipality level - European and local challenges*» was funded with the support of the European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "*Networks of Towns*"

Measure 2.3 "*Civil Society Projects*"

Strand 1 – "*European Remembrance*"

5 events have been carried out within this project:

Event 1

Participation: The event involved 121 citizens, including 69 participants from Austria, 3 participants from Croatia, 1 participant from France, 6 participants from Hungary, 3 participants from Italy, 10 participants from Slovakia, 29 participants from Slovenia

Location / Dates: The event took place in Maribor, Slovenia, from 21/04/2016 to 21/04/2016

Short description: The first thematic event was dedicated to the topic of "Housing provision for Roma and other traveller communities". This is a core task and responsibility of municipalities. The first keynote was held by a stakeholder of Roma community that established and presented the background for discussions and deductions. The morning led to an in depth discussion of the subject, dealt with successful examples and led to new ideas.

Highlights from the Roma cuisine during the lunch break and afterwards cultural Roma singing were the starter for the informative and constructive afternoon sessions. During the afternoon session, some keynotes, a workshop and a panel discussion with stakeholders, representatives out of the target groups and experts in housing, were held. Concrete transfer plans to other countries, regions and target groups were established in the final working groups together with local and EU experts, Roma and other citizens.

Event 2

Participation: The event involved 149 citizens, including 8 participants from Austria, 2 participants from Croatia, 74 participants from Hungary, 65 participants from Slovakia

Location / Dates: The event took place in Pecs, Hungary, from 14/11/2016 to 14/11/2016

Short description: The second thematic event was dedicated to the topic of "Possibilities for education and training especially for Roma communities". This is a core task and responsibility of municipalities. After the first keynote, the morning led into an in depth discussion and working groups which dealt with successful examples and led to new ideas.

Highlights from the Roma cuisine during the coffee break and afterwards cultural Roma singing were the starter for the informative and constructive workshop sessions.

After the lunch break all participants had a guided tour through the Gandhi gymnasium as an example of good practice. One highlight of the conference was the cultural show performed by students of the Gandhi gymnasium followed by a keynote showing the status quo.

Concrete transfer plans to other countries, regions and target groups were established in the final session with local and EU experts, Roma and other citizens.

Event 3

Participation: The event involved 128 citizens, including 90 participants from Croatia, 26 participants from Austria, 6 participants from Slovakia, 5 participants from Slovenia, 1 participants from Italy

Location / Dates: The event took place in Koprivnica, Croatia, from 15/03/2017 to 15/03/2017

Short description: The third thematic event was focusing on "Primary health care services and accessibility for

Roma citizens" as key municipality responsibility. Participants discussed and worked on the main challenges in primary health care with Roma citizens, the problems of accessibility and the deductions from the European public health policy in relation to disadvantaged citizens in particular Roma.

In the afternoon, representatives of the target groups and experts, discussed together with the audience the reasons and possible solutions of the inequality in the health care system. To reduce possible fears of contact a physician demonstrated the basics in routine physical check-ups. The afternoon closed with a keynote on problems with vaccination in the Roma community and solutions. A typical cultural program was implemented during the whole conference.

Event 4

Participation: The event involved 203 citizens, including 1 participant from Albania, 37 participants from Austria, 3 participants from Croatia, 1 participant from Italy and 161 participants from Slovakia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Kremnica, Slovakia, from 17/10/2017 to 17/10/2017

Short description: The fourth thematic event was focused on "Labour Market and Unemployment of Roma people". This is the key role and responsibility of municipalities. In the morning part after the opening of the conference, two lectures on the main topic of Roma integration on the labour market and the functioning of social enterprises followed. This was followed by a panel discussion with stakeholders, representatives of target groups and employment experts. At the end of the first part was a brief presentation of the second main topic.

The first part was concluded by Roma cultural program and tasting of Roma cuisine during lunch break.

After a break, the participants moved to a cinema where the orchestral part of the Roma cultural program was held, followed by a media presentation of a series of short documents of examples of good practice in integrating Roma population into the labour market. Then two workshops were held, where experts discussed with the target group about the problems of employing and functioning of social enterprises. The second workshop brought a fruitful debate on empowering Roma youth. Finally, conclusions from the conference were drawn.

Event 5

Participation: The event involved 180 citizens, including 1 participant from Albania, 54 participants from Austria, 1 participant from the Czech Republic, 3 participants from Croatia, 1 participant from Italy and 120 participants from Slovakia.

Location / Dates: The event took place in Graz, Austria, from 07/12/2017 to 07/12/2017

Short description: The fifth thematic event was focused on "Democratic participation of Roma citizens on Municipality level in Europe". In order to create a solid background for discussion, a keynote at the Square of Human Rights next to the Forum Stadtpark, was held in the morning, where democratic participation challenges were discussed. To follow, a panel with representatives of the target group held a discussion with the participants on the topic. The results and experiences from the other events were presented to create a wider political impact and concrete knowledge, best practises transfer of approaches to other countries and regions were presented.

The first part was concluded by Roma cultural program followed by the lunch break with typical Austrian food.

After the lunch break we took the opportunity to bring participants with different cultural backgrounds and nations together. Going through 3 interactive workshops helped loosing fears of contacts and reduce prejudices within the participants.