



EUROPEAN ROMA GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS (ERGO) NETWORK

Annual Policy Conference

Implementing the EU Roma Strategic Framework

Roma access to quality and affordable housing

ERGO Network
European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network

28 November
Time: 10.00-13.00
#ERGONConference2023

Implementing the EU Roma Strategic Framework
Roma access to quality and affordable housing

28 November 2023
10.00 - 13.00

Full Circle, Chaussée de Vleurgat 89, 1050 Brussels
and online



This conference is kindly supported by the European Union Programme for Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) and by the German Federal Foreign Office.



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Concept

Background

While Europe battles multiple crises such as the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the spike in inflation and energy prices, its Roma find themselves facing worsening poverty and exclusion, dire living conditions, and widespread antigypsyism.

Ensuring access to housing and to adequate services is a key dimension of the EU Roma Strategic Framework, an important principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights and also covered by the Sustainable Development Goals. And yet, many Roma still live in informal settlements and segregated neighbourhoods, in inadequate dwellings and disastrous living conditions. Unable to meet ever-rising housing costs or to prove legal ownership of their home, they endure forced evictions, homelessness, and antigypsyism from local authorities, landlords, and neighbours.

With the adoption of the **EU Roma Strategic Framework** up to 2030, Governments developed National Roma Strategic Frameworks in EU Member States and Western Balkan countries in 4 thematic areas and 3 horizontal strategic objectives, including education, employment, health, housing, fighting antigypsyism, combating poverty, and promoting Roma participation. A particular focus was to be ensured in the area of housing and environmental issues.

Objectives

The **first part of the event** will serve to launch ERGO Network's research report on "**Roma access to quality and affordable housing**", based on six national case studies carried out in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Spain. A dialogue with key decision-makers and stakeholders will aim to identify positive solutions to support better housing inclusion for Roma, and inform the delivery on the EU Roma Strategic Framework, the Social Pillar, and the SDGs.

The **second part of the event** will provide insights into the status of implementation of the **National Roma Strategic Frameworks** both in the EU and enlargement countries and their alignment with the EU Roma Strategic Framework on Equality, Inclusion, and Participation and linked Council Recommendation, with a particular focus on housing and environmental justice from EU institutions, national governments and civil society organisations.

Participants

The conference will bring together ERGO Network members from the grassroots level, EU policy-makers from across the institutional spectrum, as well as other relevant EU and national stakeholders. The event will also be fully live streamed on our Facebook page. Following the event, kindly fill in the [evaluation survey](#) of the CERV Programme (project reference: 101104354; activity: ERGO Network Policy Conference).



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Agenda

10h Opening Remarks

- *Dr. Zuzana Havírová*, ERGO Network Vice-Chair (Roma Advocacy and Research Center, Slovakia)
- *Annelisa Cotone*, Cabinet of Helena Dalli, European Commissioner for Equality
- *Hon. Peter Pollák MEP* (EPP, Slovakia)

10h20 PANEL 1: Roma access to quality and affordable housing: Launch of the research report and recommendations

Moderator: *Edit Lakatos*, Housing Europe

- *Florin Botonogu*, Policy Center for Roma and Minorities (Romania) / ERGO Network
- *Simona Barbu*, FEANTSA
- *Claudia Singer*, Eurocities
- Exchange with the audience

11h20 Comfort break

11h35 PANEL 2: The status of implementation of the National Roma Strategic Frameworks in the area of housing and environmental justice

Moderator: *Isabela Mihalache*, ERGO Network

- *Marek Hojsík*, Roma Civil Monitoring project coordinator
- *Diego Marin*, European Environmental Bureau
- *Bianca Galusca*, FAGiC (Spain) / ERGO Network
- *Dragan Joković*, OTAHARIN (Bosnia and Herzegovina) / ERGO Network
- Exchange with the audience

12h45 Closing Session

- *Alejandro Gil* – Presentation of a summary of the day through graphic recording
- *Paul Divakar Namala*, Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent
- *Jamen Gabriela Hrabaňová*, ERGO Network Director

13h Lunch (for on-site participants)



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