

14:00 - 17:30 • European Parliament • Room A5G1

12 APRIL 2018 • BRUSSELS

ROMA CONTRIBUTION TO A HEALTHY EUROPE

CO-HOSTED BY MEP MIRCEA DIACONU, ALDE
MEP SORAYA POST, S&D

ORGANISED BY THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ALLIANCE



Concept Note

Inequalities in healthcare and early childhood development should be urgently addressed. Due to antigypsyism, a specific form of discrimination targeting Roma, many of the Roma living in Europe see their fundamental rights violated on a daily basis. Antigypsyism affects the fair and equitable Roma access to public services, including healthcare and early childhood development.

In October 2017, the European Parliament adopted the report “Fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting antigypsyism”, urging both the European authorities and Member States to adopt specific measures in six fields of action, including securing equal rights and fighting antigypsyism, monitoring the National Roma Integration Strategies; and putting antigypsyism at the forefront of an improved post-2020 Strategy.

Doing so will be an important step to further strengthen the contribution of Roma to a Healthy Europe and to Europe’s heritage. With an estimated population of 10-12 million, being the largest European ethnic minority, Roma can draw on a history going back thousands of years, with their own language (Romani čhib, which includes several dialects) and culture, composed of a mosaic of traditions and customs. Just imagine the positive difference that Roma children, able to develop their full potential and creativity, could make to the future of Europe, if we can ensure they can have equal access to quality health and early childhood development services.

THE AIM OF THE MEETING

Taking stock of the past, the event aims to highlight the Roma contribution to Europe’s heritage, while promoting positive practices to overcome inequalities as part of a post 2020 EU Strategy which delivers on health and early childhood development. By contributing to efforts to successfully implement the current EU Framework and the National Roma Integration Strategies, the meeting also aims to provide the European Commission with inputs into the new strategy, which should be adequately resourced and developed to appropriately respond to the challenges of Roma and their families.

The meeting aims to gather different stakeholders: representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission, Member States, European and EU-level civil society, international Institutions and members of the Roma community, to increase understanding about the lessons learned from the implementation of the current EU Roma Framework, discuss key challenges in acknowledging the Roma contribution to Europe’s heritage and tackling inequalities in Roma health and early childhood development. The event is part of the EU Roma week in the European Parliament.

FIND EVENT MATERIALS AND MORE AT
epha.org/roma-contribution-to-a-healthy-europe

Agenda

14:00 - 14:20 WELCOMING REMARKS

Mircea DIACONU, Member of the European Parliament

Soraya POST, Member of the European Parliament

14:20 - 14:35 SETTING THE SCENE

Health inequalities in the context of future EU health policy - the Roma case

Nina RENSHAW - Secretary General, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

Maja JOVANOVIC - Program Coordinator, Public Health Program, Open Society Foundations

Szilvia PALLAGHY - Program Officer, Early Childhood Program, Open Society Foundations

14:35 - 14:50 FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Sorin's story, a 12 year old Roma boy from Romania

Moderator - Marius TUDOR, Roma Health and Early Childhood Development Project Manager, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

14:50 - 16:30 DEBATE

Rodrigo BALLESTER - Cabinet Member, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

Xavier PRATS MONNÉ - Director General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission

Jana BALAZOVA - Policy officer, Non discrimination and Roma Coordination Unit, DG Justice and Consumers, European Commission

Dominique BÉ - Responsible for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion, European Commission

Cosmin BOIANGIU - Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Romania to EU

Agota KOVACS - Senior Sector Officer - Roma Inclusion, Norway Grants

Bianca FARAGAU-TAVARES - Policy Advisor, Eurocities

16:30 - 17:10 Q&A SESSION

Moderator - Marius TUDOR, Roma Health and Early Childhood Development Project Manager, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

17:10 - 17:30 CONCLUSIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS

Rozalia-Dana VARGA - Counselor to the Prime Minister of Romania

Soraya POST, Member of the European Parliament

Mircea DIACONU, Member of the European Parliament

17:30 COCKTAIL AND ROMA MUSIC CONCERT - SALON MEP

Rodica TUDOR - singer

Nicu CIRSTEA - piano player

A close-up portrait of a young boy's face, partially obscured by a semi-transparent red overlay. The boy has dark hair and is looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred, showing other people in a similar setting.

Contact

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