

Empowering marginalised groups through education and training in the Danube Region

OeAD Haus
Ebendorferstrasse 7, 1010 Wien

October 2nd, 2014 (9:30am – 5pm)
October 3rd, 2014 (9:00am – 1pm)

The EU Danube Region Strategy's Priority Area 9 "To Invest in People and Skills" focuses on education and training, labour market and marginalised communities. Specific aims are: to promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship through education and training (work area 5).

Creating equal opportunities in learning can contribute to social inclusion of individuals from vulnerable groups, especially the Roma communities. This includes preventive approaches towards drop outs, strategies on early childhood education and literacy skills for pupils and adults. Also vocational education and training (VET) plays an important role to enhance employability and social integration of Roma and Sinti in the Danube Region.

The thematic integration of the topic is based along several strategies: the EU Strategy for the Danube Region, the strategy EU 2020, the strategic framework Education and Training 2020 and the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies. In this context, the EU Strategy for the Danube Region is a crucial interface to non-EU member states as a vast majority of Roma and Sinti live in the Danube region.

The joint event between the OeAD - the Austrian Agency for international mobility and cooperation in education, science and research – Department National Agency of Lifelong Learning and the Austrian Ministry of Education and Women's Affairs (BMBWF) as Coordinator of Priority Area 9 of the EUSDR shall serve as platform in order to initiate meaningful synergies between political strategies and to support the beginning of transnational activities in the Danube Region within the European Programme Erasmus+.

Emphasis will be put on the integration of socially disadvantaged pupils in primary and secondary schools – particularly Roma children's access to education in the Danube Region countries. Vocational education and training will be addressed in the workshops as well as the topics of reduction of early school leaving and education interruption, early childhood education literacy skills and family education.

Discussions, awareness raising and forming networks should be the main aim of the conference. Participants from Austria and countries of the Danube Region will be offered an opportunity to gain insight into existing and completed projects emphasizing on the topic within the Lifelong Learning Programme. Mutual learning on best practices shall promote activities in this specific area. Further, the Erasmus+ program (call in spring 2015) will be highlighted as possibility for continuing the international activities.

Programme

Thursday
October 2nd, 2014

09:00 - 09:30

Registration

Setting the Scene

Presenter:

Sabrina Kopf, University of Vienna, Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology

09:30 - 09:45

Welcome OeAD
Stefan Zotti, OeAD

09:45 – 10:15

Welcome and Introduction into the topic EUSDR
Jürgen Schick, BMBF, Austria

10:15 – 10:30

Introduction into the topic European Executive Agency
Emilia Venot, EACEA, Brussels

10:30 – 11:15

Keynote I & Discussion: "Roma participation and leadership in education reforms"
Tünde Kovacs-Cerovic, University of Belgrade; former State Secretary of Ministry of Education, Serbia

11:15 – 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 12:30

Keynote II & Discussion: "Increasing success and sustainability of projects in favor of Roma communities"
Mikael Luciak, Initiative Minderheiten, University of Vienna, Department of Education Austria

12:30 – 13:00

Interview with a good practice multilateral project
Marlies Auer, bfi OÖ, Project "RE-Chance"
Karl Andrew Müllner, National Agency, Erasmus+

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

Workshops

14:00 – 17:00 **4 Parallel Workshops**
Presentations of multilateral Roma projects and discussion
Elaborating new project ideas
Coffee break during Workshop

Evening Programme

17:15 – 20:00 "Michl's Social Club"

Friday
October 3rd, 2014

Continuation of the Conference (2nd day)

08:30 – 09:00 Registration/Coffee

09:00 – 09:30 **Keynote III**
Susanne Pfanner, Austrian Roma Contact Point, Federal Chancellery

09:30 – 11:00 **Continuation of development of project ideas in the Workshops**
Coffee break during Workshop

11:00 – 11:30 **Presentations of project ideas from the Workshops**

Wrap-up and Future Prospects

11:30 – 12:15 **Final Plenary Session**
Ernst Gesslbauer, Head of National Agency, Erasmus+
Jasminka Marković, Centre for Education Policy/ERI-SEE
Susanne Pfanner, Austrian Roma Contact Point, Federal Chancellery

12:15 – 12:30 **Closing Remarks**
Jürgen Schick, BMBF, Austria

12:30 – 13:00 Farewell with refreshments

Workshops

Participants in the four workshops will have the opportunity to exchange experience and good practice. Experts from NGOs, Stakeholders and from ongoing and recently completed projects related to the topic are invited to share their know-how. New synergies may be initiated and project ideas can be formed. The results of each workshop will be presented and discussed in a final plenary session.

Workshop 1 – Early Childhood Education & Early School Leavers

Facilitator: Martin Gradl (OeAD/National Agency)

This workshop will focus on strategies aimed at reducing educational disadvantages within marginalised communities. Early school leaving among Roma shall be prevented by qualifying them adequately through the use of innovative educational plans. Special methodologies, taking into account Roma children's cultural background, that aim at integrating individuals in the school environment will be introduced.

Best-practice projects:

- **“TERNO - Teachers’ Education for Roma New Opportunities in School”**
Lead partner: Action Synergy, GRE, 2012
Presenter: Roza Vajda (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Sociology)
- **“Empowering Roma-children in Viennese Schools through Roma-School mediators and learning assistance”**
Institution: Romano Centro, AT
Presenter: Ferdinand Koller (Romano Centro, Austria)

Workshop 2 – Literacy skills and participation in family education

Facilitator: Karin Hirschmüller (OeAD/National Agency)

In this workshop participants will learn about projects that focus on promoting and improving reading and literacy skills among adults and children belonging to marginalized communities. Experiences concerning strategies for integrating families into the education process of children will be introduced.

Best-practice projects:

- **“MS4ROW: A mentoring system for Roma teenage girls and women on their vocational and educational path”**
Lead Partner: CIK Trebnje, SI, 2013
Presenter: Patricija Pavlič
- **“Literacy Cubed”**
Lead Partner: Consorțiu International LSDGC, RO, 2013
Presenter: Ariana-Stanka Vacaretu

Workshop 3 – Vocational Education and Training focussing on Roma

Facilitator: Ida Karner (OeAD/National Agency)

Vocational education and training (VET) plays an important role to enhance the living situation of Roma and Sinti in the Danube Region. Creating equal opportunities in learning can contribute to social inclusion of individuals from vulnerable groups. This includes preventive approaches towards drop outs on one side and upskilling initiatives on the other side.

Best-practice projects:

- **“ERNE - European Roma Integration good practice exchange and policy network”** (2012)
- **„Fair Future Garlic”** (2014)
Institution: European Neighbours, AT
Presenter: (both projects) Joachim Rodler (European Neighbours)
- **“ROMA Initiative THARA”** (2005 – ongoing)
Institution: Volkshilfe Österreich, AT
Presenter: Lydia Anstiss, (Volkshilfe Österreich)

Workshop 4 – Awareness Raising and Networks focussing on Roma

Facilitator: Doris Bammer (OeAD/National Agency)

Certain networks have already been established. Projects focusing on the promotion, dissemination and exchange of existing work in the field of Roma inclusion shall be introduced and discussed.

Best-practice projects:

- **“e-Roma Resource”**
Lead partner: Development and Education Centre Novo mesto, SI, 2013
Presenters: Ana Granda Jakše, Marjeta Gašperšič
- **“SEDRIN – School Education for Roma Integration”**
Lead partner: Action Synergy S.A., GRE, 2012
Presenter: Maria Panagiotopoulos