

Conference: Empowering marginalised groups through education and training in the Danube Region

Keynote II & Discussion

Increasing success and sustainability of projects in favor of Roma communities

Dr. Mikael Luciak (Initiative Minderheiten; University of Vienna, Department of Education Austria)

The keynote addressed experiences with and outcomes of various projects funded by the European Union that aim to enhance learning opportunities and social inclusion of Roma. Preliminary results of an ESF funded study on the educational situation of Roma in Austria (ROMBAS 2013-2014) were presented. In this study, the schooling experiences of members of the Roma national minority as well as of Roma migrants of different generations were studied by a group of Roma researchers who conducted 110 qualitative interviews in their own Roma communities. The project illustrates how an inclusive and participatory approach can contribute to empowerment and foster access to marginalised groups. Furthermore, the Comenius project *Teacher In-Service Training for Roma Inclusion* (INSETRom) and the Twinning project (Macedonia/Austria) *Supporting Integration of Ethnic Communities in the Educational System*, with a focus on the training of Roma mediators, were introduced. Based on experiences with these projects, Dr. Luciak highlighted what it may take to increase success and sustainability of measures, which aim to foster equal educational opportunities and enhance employability and social integration of Roma.