

DEPART CONFERENCE 4 LABOUR MARKET AND UNEMPLOYMENT OF ROMA PEOPLE

Kremnica, 17th October 2017

Conference report

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 on October 17th 2017.

Short description:

The fourth thematic event is 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 followed, followed by a media presentation of a series of short documents of examples of good practice of integrating the Roma 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.

Conference report:

The conference, organized by the **City of Graz**, **EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS** and the **City of Kremnica** was dedicated to the topic of labour market and unemployment of Roma people.

Conference was opened by **Sissi Potzinger**, local councillor City of Graz, Austria; **Ábel Ravasz**, plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for Roma Communities, USVRK, Slovakia; **Peter Krajňák**, state secretary, The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Slovakia; **Branislav Ondruš**, state secretary, The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Slovakia and **Ján Hero**, member bureau of CAHROM Ad Hoc Committee of Experts for Roma and Travellers by Council of Europe, advisor of state secretary, The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Slovakia.

After opening followed presentation of the first part of the Keynote 1 topic, presented by **PhDr. Helena Jonášová**, representative of the Roma community in Banská Bystrica (Slovakia): "*What would it take to integrate marginalized Roma into the labour market?*".

Branislav Ondruš, state secretary, The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Slovakia was presenting second part of the Keynote 1: „ *Labour market challenges for Roma Citizens in a municipality - Social Enterprises and corporate social responsibility* “

The two above-mentioned presentations have provided many insights into the fruitful panel discussion to the theme “*Is Roma unemployment a cause or an effect?*“ with the participation of **Ábel Ravasz**, plenipotentiary of the Government of the SR for Roma Communities, USVRK, Slovakia; **Mgr. Peter Krajňák**, state secretary, The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Slovakia; **Mgr. Branislav Ondruš**, state secretary, The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, Slovakia; **PhDr. Helena Jonášová**, representative of the Roma community, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia; **Ing. Ján Hero**, member bureau of CAHROM Ad Hoc Committee of Experts for Roma and Travellers by Council of Europe, advisor of state secretary, The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport, Slovakia, Slovakia; **Gejza Adam, PaedDr., PhD.**, founder, Private Musical and Dramatic Conservatory, Slovakia; **Irena Adamová, Mgr.**, director of school, Private Pedagogical and Social Academy, Slovakia; **Lýdia Šuchová, RNDr.**, chairman, EQUITY, o.z., Slovakia and **Jana Tomová, Ing.**, director of school, Private grammar school of Z.J.Malla, Slovakia

The last part of the morning program was the presentation of the Keynote 2 on the operation of EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS, the results of which were briefly presented by **Markus P. Mandl**, EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS Manager, Austria, with the support of a short film document.

After a short cultural program performed by pupils of the Private Grammar school of Z.J. Malla with singing and dancing, participants had a lunch break with highlights from the Roma cuisine, what created a solid ground for networking of the participants.

The afternoon began with the orchestral performance of the Private Music and Dramatic Conservatory in Košice, led by **PaedDr. Gejza Adam, PhD.**

After that followed media presentation of several projects of good practice of Roma integration in the labour market from Slovakia (Kremnica, Čičava, Rudlov, Rošovce, Spišský Hrhov, Dunajská Streda ...), as well as the prized Private Grammar school of Z.J. Malla in Kremnica at Roma Spirit Slovensko 2016 in category - Company, Organization, Employer; and from abroad Graz and Berlin which were nominated for the European Roma Spirit Award 2016 in the category - Municipalities.

The last part of the conference were two workshops:

Workshop 1: *Empowering Roma youth, tackling youth employment* – moderator **Irena Adamová, Mgr.**, director of School, Private Pedagogical and Social Academy, Slovakia
Experts fruitfully discussed with each other, but also with the target group itself. There were also mutual exchange of experience and better mutual understanding of different approaches to solving the problem.

Workshop 2: *Social Enterprises and corporate social responsibility* – moderator **PhDr. Helena Jonášová, PhD**, representative of the Roma community, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia
Experts discussed with the target group about problems in employment and functioning of social enterprises, where people from the target group also presented their own experiences and suggestions. However, problems that complicate the possibility of social entrepreneurship were also analysed.

The whole conference was accompanied by the moderator **Igor André** as an expert on the issue within the Slovak Republic.

Outputs

Examples of good practice from municipalities and NGOs from Slovakia and abroad, presented through a documentary document, were supported by the development of plans to solve MRC sites affected by unemployment with the participation of top state officials from The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR; The Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the SR; the Plenipotentiary of the Government Office for Roma Communities Government, NGOs and foreign partners from EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS.

In Slovakia, the legislative support for the creation of social enterprises for threatened groups is expected in April 2018, what was presented by Branislav Ondruš, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Slovak Republic. There was also a public debate on the proposed law and its comments in order to resolve the conditions for the employment of long-term unemployed Roma as well as to strengthen the education and qualification of Roma youth.

The benefit gained for the participants was the exchange of experience on the international (nominated project Graz at ERSA 2016 in the category - Municipalities) and national level (the award for Private Grammar school of Z.J. Malla on Roma Spirit 2016 in the category - Society, Organization, Employer). It is possible to multiply/transfer programs/projects from one country and implement them in another.

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS, 2017