



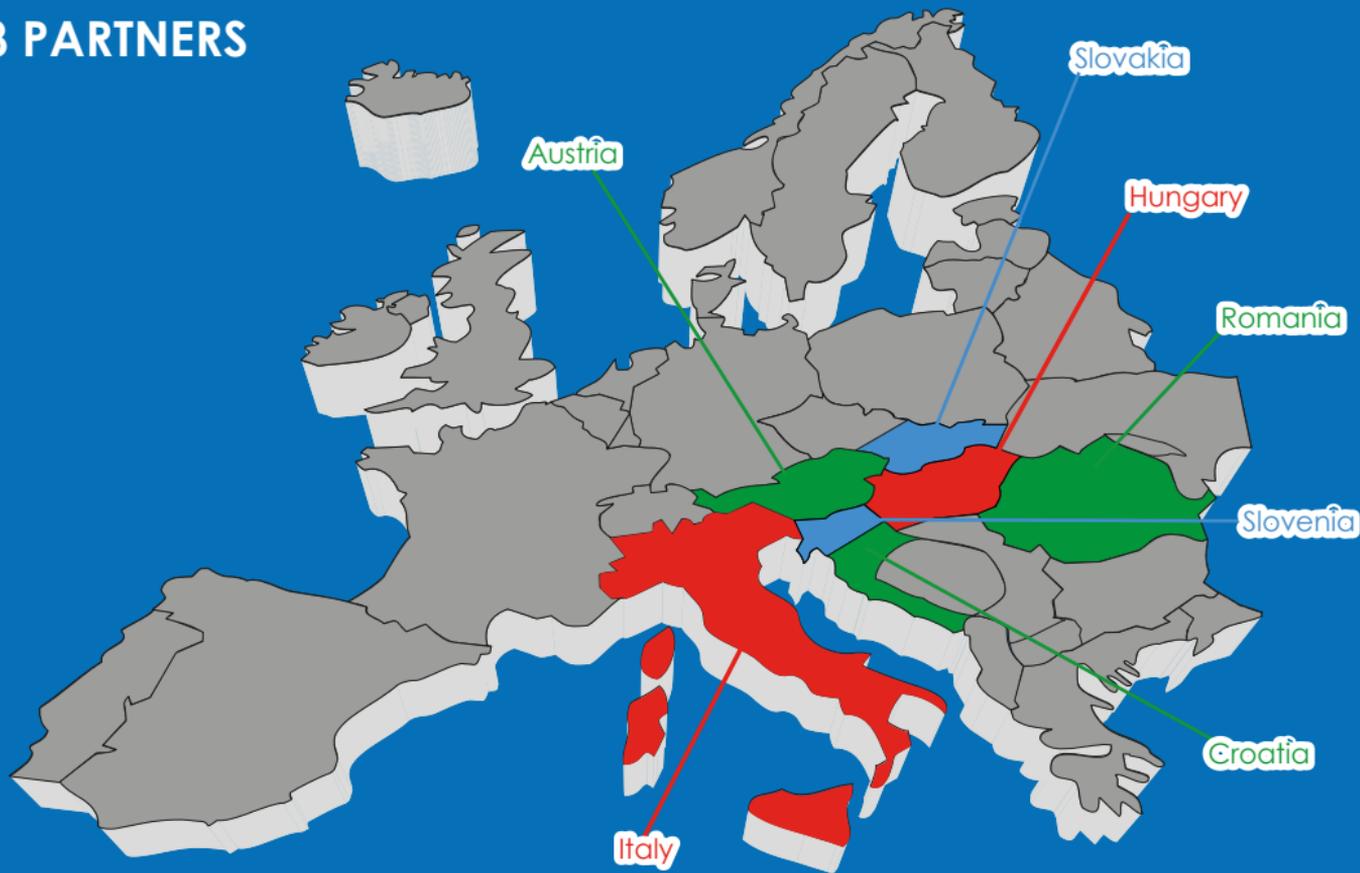
Network for Democratic participation of Roma and traveller communities on municipality level European and local challenges

Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union



This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

8 PARTNERS



7 COUNTRIES



THE PROJECT

DEPART - The project will focus on the issue of integration of Roma and traveller citizens into the local communities which is still a crucial, difficult and important issue. During a series of events and workshops different aspects of integration from housing, education, social affairs, employment etc. will be analysed and good practices from partner organisations will be exchanged and transferred together with newest and broadest social research results. Working methods include presentations, discussions, excursions, good practice exchange as well as larger public and

social events. Moreover the co-operation of municipalities as responsible local authorities with the local and regional civil society organisations will be put in the focus of the project since this appears to be one of the most crucial issues for successful integration. The project will be co-ordinated by the municipality of Graz (AT) which is the only certified Capital of Human Rights in whole Europe where integration of minorities has a top priority. Other partners are municipalities from HR, SI, SK, RO, IT, HU who are all deeply concerned by the common thematic focus.

The European Commission has asked all European members states to provide plans for the integration of Roma citizens and municipalities are the core element of these strategies. This network project will be a considerable contribution to this process on local and communal level. The direct involvement of representatives of the target groups - local authorities, civil society organisations, the Roma community itself, and citizens in general - into the discussions is also an important task of the project. Finally a network should be developed that consists of municipalities that are discussing, exchanging experience and good practices and mutually learn from each other at regular basis and related to different topics. All activities during the project duration and those planned for the future are well directly embedded in the local context.

5 CONFERENCES

MARIBOR - The first thematic event is dedicated to the topic of housing provision for Roma and other traveller communities. This is a core task and responsibility of municipalities. The first keynote will be held by a stakeholder of the Roma community and establish and present the background for discussions and deductions. The morning will lead to an in depth discussion of the subject and two workshops will deal with successful examples and lead to new ideas.

Highlights from the Roma cuisine during the lunch break and afterwards cultural Roma dancing and singing will be the starter for the informative and constructive afternoon sessions. After some keynotes a panel discussion with stakeholders, representatives out of the target groups and experts in housing will be held. Concrete transfer plans to other countries, regions and target groups should be established in the final working groups together with local and EU experts, Roma and other citizens.



PECS - The 2nd thematic event is focusing on the possibilities for education and training especially for Roma communities from a European to a local perspective. Education statistics will be discussed together with European policies and programmes for improving the educational background of Roma people. Trends on didactical level related to the needs of the target group will be analysed. The morning session will end with workshops showing the whole education spectrum from primary school up to VET.

The venue – the city of Pecs – leads to the visit of the famous Roma gymnasium called Gandhi, presenting a successful way of integration of young Roma pupils and showing an inspiring and transferable example for other municipalities. The day will conclude with an intercultural performance of the students.



KOPRIVNICA - The 3rd thematic event is focusing on primary health care services and accessibility for Roma citizens as key municipality responsibility. Participants will discuss and work on the main challenges in primary health care with Roma citizens, the problems of accessibility and the deductions from the European public health policy in relation to disadvantaged citizens and in particular Roma.

In the afternoon representatives of the target groups and experts will discuss together with the audience the reasons and possible solutions of the inequality in the health care system. To reduce possible fears of contact a physician will demonstrate the basics in routine physical. The afternoon will close with a keynote on problems with vaccination

in the Roma community and solutions. A large cultural public event will be implemented in the end with broad participation of target groups and citizens.

PRATO - In the morning session of the 4th thematic event the issue of labour market and unemployment will be discussed. Finding and keeping appropriate employment turns out to be one of the biggest challenges especially during a time where there is already a lot of pressure on the labour markets. The role of municipalities and the integration function of employment for the target group is in the focus of discussion. The closing of the morning session will be an inspiring multimedia presentation.

In the afternoon partners will discuss and work on the transferability of projects and programs. The presentation of a good practice in the sector of agriculture will be followed by workshops dealing with economic empowerment of Roma. The cross cultural dialogue will be intensified with highlights from the Roma cuisine during the lunch break and traditional Roma dancing and singing after the coffee break. Concrete transfer plans should be presented at the end of the event.

GRAZ - In the morning of the final conference one keynote will form the background for discussions and democratic participation challenges will be discussed - Graz the City of Human Rights will touch the topic from this perspective. A panel discussion with representatives of the target groups and municipalities will give the possibility to involve local and international participants.

Moreover, the results and experiences from the other events will be presented to create wider political impact. Finally, concrete transfer plans of approaches to other countries and regions will be presented. After the lunch break we take the opportunity to bring participants with different cultural backgrounds and nations together. Passing interactive workshops will help in losing fears of contacts and reduce prejudices within the participants.



fair-future.com



graz.at



gymkremnica.sk



dgaspchr.ro



koprivnica.hr



comune.prato.it



maribor.si



pecs.hu

INFOS & DETAILS >> WWW.DEPART-PROJECT.EU