

The Economic Empowerment of Roma: Conclusions, Lessons, Perspectives

Economic Empowerment of Roma

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HIGHLIGHTS

Macroeconomic perspectives

- ▶ From the **World Bank, International Labor Organization, United Nations Development Program, Governments of Montenegro and Hungary, Open Society Foundations Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Program**
- ▶ Overview of the labor market situation of Roma
- ▶ Barriers to employment
- ▶ Analysis of policies: public work, activation

Concrete cases of economic empowerment

- ▶ We received and distributed 18 cases. 11 cases were presented by implementers at the workshop.
- ▶ From low qualified jobs (waste recycling) to highly qualified jobs (Integrom)
- ▶ Concept and approach to empowerment, project planning, outputs, sustainability, lessons.

SOME LESSONS

- ▶ Governments could not tackle labor market discrimination effectively: stronger measures and institutions (Equality Bodies) are needed
- ▶ Legalizing income generation activities: waste recycling, Sunday market, etc.
- ▶ Tackling local barriers such as access to public transport
- ▶ Long-term and substantive commitment are required from all parties in order to build trust and to have sustainable results. Short-term pilot projects are often be expensive and non-sustainable.
- ▶ Empowering companies, state authorities, local governments so that they can change institutional culture and use the available opportunities

PERSPECTIVES, FOLLOW UP

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- ▶ Sharing the case studies, presentations, recordings online
- ▶ Facilitating contacts

Opportunities for everyone

- ▶ Learn from established projects, meet them personally
 - ▶ Examples: Social land programs in Bulgaria, Hungary; bio-dynamic gardening in Croatia, Slovakia; Waste recycling in Serbia; Housing rehabilitation in Hungary
- ▶ Support new projects, take part, advocate
 - ▶ Examples: Roma Investment Fund, Project Finally, Youth Guarantee, Integrom