



[Roma Education Fund](#)

## **Annual Convention 2013 of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion**

### **Workshop 2: "Promoting Roma access to quality inclusive education and labour market" Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at 10:00 – 12:00**

Promoting access of Roma to quality inclusive education (along with the fight against discrimination) is the key precondition to improving Roma employability and access to the open labour market and thus to the success of Roma integration, which is in the mutual interest of Roma and majority societies across Europe.

The recently adopted Social Investment Package under its life-course approach urged Member States to improve access to affordable early childhood education and care services, ensure equal access to quality education, reduce early school leaving, and eliminate school segregation and the misuse of special needs education with a view to breaking the cycle of disadvantage across generations in an integrated way.

In line with the social investment approach several Member States received references to Roma inclusion in their Country Specific Recommendations within the European Semester of Europe 2020. The priorities highlighted underline the urgent need to ensure effective equal access for Roma to inclusive quality education and inclusive labour markets. The European Structural and Investment Funds in the next seven years should focus on policy priorities highlighted within Europe 2020. For the most concerned Member States this implies investing in building inclusive education and inclusive labour markets and promoting effective equal access of Roma to mainstream education and formal employment in the open labour market. These Roma inclusion goals – which, to be effective, must be supported by EU and national budgets in the framework of broader government action – have also been highlighted by the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies.

When implementing and reviewing their National Roma Integration Strategies and planning the use of EU Funds for Roma inclusion Member States (national and local authorities and other prospective beneficiaries) are faced with questions on what approaches to inclusive education and labour markets work best and which one of the targeted or specific approaches are permissible and effective in the fields of education and employment.

The workshop organised in cooperation with the Open Society Foundations, the Roma Education Fund and the secretariat of the Decade for Roma inclusion will include presentations on a comparative

review of national and local approaches to building inclusive education and labour markets for Roma integration, identifying success factors and promising approaches for the use of EU funds. The aim is to have an open debate between European and national policy-makers, stakeholders, experts and civil organisations and draw conclusions on what should be financed from EU funds in the context of Roma inclusion, desegregation and antidiscrimination in education and the labour market.

The workshop conclusions and recommendations will help Member States address their Country Specific Recommendations, plan the use of EU funds for Roma inclusion in the next seven years and contribute to the 2014 European semester.