



PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 8th April 2014

International Roma Day 2014

Life-cycle approach to address older Roma's multiple discrimination

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, AGE and ERIO join efforts and publish a common statement aimed to guide Roma integration policies so that the issue of older Roma is not left out of the equation.

Remarkable progress has been made in recent years towards a greater inclusion of both Roma and older people within European societies. These developments are best exemplified on the one hand by the EU Council recommendation on enhancing effective Roma integration measures in the Member States and on the other hand by the Council of Europe recommendation on the promotion of human rights of older persons. Still, an integrated life-course approach towards older Roma continues to be largely absent in those policy developments.

“Roma integration policies should take into account the vulnerable situation of older Roma persons, who are often subject to multiple discrimination and are one of the most excluded groups of society. A life-course approach is necessary for the effective integration and improvement of the living conditions of older Roma”, says Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Secretary General.

Although acknowledging the importance of the existing European instruments, AGE and ERIO joint statement underlines the lack of a mainstreamed ageing dimension focused on older Roma within European and national-level policies and proposes specific recommendations in key areas of discrimination and exclusion of older Roma, including health, employment, education, housing, poverty reduction, participation and empowerment. Only a true life-course approach in designing, implementing and monitoring inclusion policies can result in an effective integration and improvement of the living conditions of older Roma.

END

Useful links

- [AGE and ERIO joint statement 'The socio-economic discrimination of older Roma should be included in Roma integration strategies'](#)
- [AGE and ERIO 2011 publication on 'Improving the situation of older Roma in the EU: Executive summary of interviews with older Roma in summer 2010'](#)

Note to the editor



About the European Roma Information Office (ERIO)

ERIO is an international advocacy organisation which promotes political and public discussion on Roma issues by providing information to the EU institutions, civil society and governments. Through its wide network, it aims to combat racist discrimination against Roma through awareness raising, lobbying and policy development. www.erionet.eu

About the AGE Platform Europe



AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisation of people aged 50+ and represents over 30 million older people in Europe. AGE aims to voice and promote older people's interests in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. www.age-platform.eu