



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Community Research

The creation of new occupational patterns for cultural minorities: the gypsy case

A policy-informing conference drawing on EU-funded research
Brussels, 29 September 2004

The project. This three-year research project has addressed the following key areas of policy concern for Europe: strengthening social cohesion; the social inclusion of cultural minorities and especially the inclusion of the Romà community through the creation of new occupational patterns for them.

The project assessed the reality and experiences of Romanies from all over Europe. It has opened many avenues for the direct or indirect participation of members of the community through an innovative methodology: the communicative methodology. Our aim was to develop innovative strategies of social and economic development directed towards social cohesion, taking into account that, cultural minorities in general, and the Romani Community in particular, can contribute significantly to European social cohesion.

The final project conference will focus on the following issues:

- The reasons why Romà are excluded from work and ways of overcoming the problem.
- The skills that Romà have developed as a social group and how these skills can contribute to the enrichment of the labour market and the strengthening of social cohesion.
- The connection of research findings with related European policies.
- The urgent need for action leading to the eradication of discriminatory practices.
- The need to launch initiatives that recognize the skills and abilities acquired by the Romà in order to guarantee equal opportunities for all.
- The need for Romani participation in European political decisions.

The conference will be held in Brussels on **Wednesday, 29th September 2004**.
The location of the conference will be confirmed in early September.

For more information:

The project website:

The Conference website:

The project coordinator:

The project Briefing Paper: <http://www.pjb.co.uk/npl/bp58.htm>

<http://www.neskes.net/workalo/indexan.htm>

<http://www.neskes.net/workalo/brusselsconference>

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Provisional Conference Programme

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29 September 2004

- 09.00 - 9:30 **Arrival and registration**
- 09.30 - 09.40 **Opening remarks**
Dr. Angelos Agalianos, European Commission, DG-Research
- 09.40 -10.00 **Overview of the Workaló project**
Dr. Ramón Flecha, project coordinator, Director of the Centre of Research in Theories and Practices that Overcome Inequalities (CREA, University of Barcelona)
- 10.00 -11.15 **Key conclusions from the Romà study: Barriers that impede the labor inclusion of Romani people**
➤ Dr. Nicholas Walters, University of Surrey
➤ Dr. Inês Amaro and Dr. Manuela Marinho, Instituto Superior de Serviço Social de Lisboa
Discussion
- 11.15 - 11.30 **Coffee Break**
- 11.30 - 12.45 **Key results from the Romà study: Facts to take into account for the labour inclusion of Romani people**
➤ Dr. Teodor M. Alexiu, West University of Timisoara
➤ Dr. Marta Soler, University of Barcelona
Discussion
- 12.45 -14.00 **Lunch**
- 14.00 -15.00 **Perspectives from the European Romani Community**
Representatives of the Romani Community in Europe analyse the current situation and present their future perspectives.
- 15.00 - 15.30 Discussion
- 15.30 -15.50 **The inclusion of the Romà in the European labour market: Policy recommendations**
Dr. Jesús Gómez, CREA, University of Barcelona
- 15.50 - 16.10 **Affirmative Action policies in Europe**
Julio Vargas, Director of the Centro de Estudios Gitano, University of Barcelona
- 16.10 -16.30 Discussion
- 16.30 **Final remarks and closing**