



European Foundation Centre - European Forum for Roma Inclusion

PRESS RELEASE

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Foundations propose practical actions to ensure Roma inclusion in Europe

The European Foundation Centre's Forum for Roma Inclusion, has submitted a series of recommendations to the Second European Roma Summit that will be held in Cordoba on 8-9 April as one of the key events of the Spanish Presidency of the EU. The document addresses questions such as early childhood, transition from education to adult and working life and combating anti-Roma stereotypes. The Forum is composed of European foundations, namely Freudenberg Stiftung, Erste Stiftung, Bernard van Leer Foundation and Stiftung "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft.

The recommendations entitled 'From principles to action for the inclusion of Roma in Europe' build on policy recommendations which were developed during an earlier phase of collaboration between foundations. These were presented to the first European Roma Summit held in Brussels in September 2008 in the form of a Weinheim Declaration, which was also transmitted to the EU Institutions and to Member States. Since then, the Forum conducted a further review of the situation of Roma, based on the practical experience of foundations and notably of the Roma Education Fund, the recommendations practical, visible and effective actions which can be appreciated both by Roma and by the general public.

"The Forum welcomes the growing indications of the concern and commitment of the EU institutions and Member States to address this issue, as a follow up to the request of the European Council (December 2007). The Forum considers the holding of this second European Roma Summit in Cordoba in April 2010 as an opportune moment to add momentum to policies and actions which can engage and support Roma, and which make better use of the potential of Roma themselves to share responsibility with mainstream society for making the changes required," reads the statement that accompanies the recommendations.

The recommendations address the issue of Roma inclusion from many perspectives, including local, national and European levels, and identify three priority areas where action is needed: early childhood development; the transition from education to adult and working life; combating anti-Romani stereotypes and promoting Roma rights. Wishing to contribute to the priority of awareness-raising, The Forum intends to develop a flagship transnational project for the training of Roma and non-Roma journalists and media specialists to influence the public on the equal worth of the Roma, change perceptions and promote good relations among Roma and non-Roma while fighting anti Roma prejudice and inequality. This project could also be designed to raise awareness of the need to inform Roma about their rights in the face of discrimination.

To view the recommendations, click [here](#).

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Established in Berlin on 18 September 2009, the idea for setting up the **Forum for Roma Inclusion** originated during the Annual Conference of the EFC in Rome in May 2009 where a group of foundations convened during a session entitled 'Creating equal opportunities for Roma in European societies' reached a decision to come together to take this agenda forward in a concrete and proactive way. The Forum builds on past experience from foundations' work, including previous work incubated under the auspices of the Network of European Foundations (NEF) such as the cooperation with the World Bank and the Open Society Institute in providing support to the Roma Education Fund and the Weinheim Declaration. The Forum aims to collaborate and participate in European initiatives, in particular the EU Roma Platform and the EU Roma Summit in Cordoba, and contribute to the development of the EU common basic principles on Roma inclusion and to the Commission's pilot project on inclusion of Roma. The development of related activities and events where foundations can have a strategic input is also envisaged.

Established in 1989, the **European Foundation Centre** is an international association representing more than 230 public-benefit foundations and corporate funders dedicated to advancing the public good in Europe and beyond. The EFC develops and pursues activities in line with its objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment for foundations; documenting the foundation landscape; strengthening the infrastructure of the foundation sector; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors.