



European Roma Information Office



European Economic and Social Committee

ERIO CONFERENCE INVITATION

Media: a key tool to fight hate speech and anti-Gypsyism

Brussels, 23 June 2015

The European Roma Information Office (ERIO) invites you to attend the conference **“Media: a key tool to fight hate speech and anti-Gypsyism”** which will be held on **23 June 2015** at the European Economic Social Committee, **room TRE 7701 (7th floor), 74 rue de Treves, 1040 Brussels from 09:00-17:00.**

Media represent a strong communication tool in shaping the opinion and behaviour of Europeans on a daily basis. Roma are subject to discriminatory and racist discourses in the media whose reports continues to identify them as ‘outsiders within’ and as a threat to the fabric of the European society. Media tends to reinforce and reproduce existing stereotypes of the Roma and constructs them as useful scapegoats in times of economic crisis. These representations greatly influence individual attitudes and strengthen racist discrimination against this community, prejudice, xenophobia and even incitement to ethnic hatred.

There is an urgent need to address these issues. Due to the significant impact of media on European societies, journalists should take a special approach once informing about vulnerable groups such as Roma, who constitute the largest European ethnic minority. We should invert the role of the media as a tool for anti-Roma sentiment and use it to fight anti-Gypsyism. The media has a crucial role in combating racism and stereotypes about the Roma. This can be achieved with an ethical and critical journalism which aims to raise awareness and provide a greater understanding regarding Roma issues.

This conference will focus on finding appropriate and effective ways to sensitise journalists to Roma culture in order to overcome media negative stereotyping while discussing the role of the media in combating anti-Gypsyism. It will provide a platform for participants to exchange information and ideas about good practices and to discuss possible challenges and opportunities in tackling negative stereotypes and hate speech in the media.

This conference will be in English.

Registration:

You can register by email or phone by giving your name, surname, title and the organisation you are working for. The deadline for registrations is **19 June 2015 at 15:00** (Brussels time). For registration or any other queries, please contact:

office@erionet.eu

Tel: +32 (2) 733 3462