



## **Briefing note: Roma and vulnerable groups**

The vast majority of European Roma lives in the 14 countries of the Danube Region. Roma integration is one of the main aims of the EUSDR.

The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) as well as the National Strategies for Roma Integration and the decade of Roma inclusion are a considerable contribution, especially with regard to the target "Fighting poverty and social exclusion", but also in relation to the targets to education and employment.

Nevertheless, as the Roma inclusion index shows, the Situation of the Roma in the 14 countries of the Danube Region did not change very much and many Roma and other vulnerable groups leave their home with the aim of Western Europe in search of a better future.

Two leaders and social activists from Romania and Germany will conduct the workshop: Tina Bing, head of the association "Viscri incepe", a women's project concerning self-help, pupil support, homework support...currently vice-chairperson of the association, social worker in a youth project funded by the Baden-Württemberg-Stiftung. Head and coordination of a project for consultancy and continuing education of people with disabilities at the foundation "Aktion Mensch" and "Europas Kinder Pirna e.V." in Rupea, Romania. Founder of a self-help group.

Gabriele Gottschall, since 2009, project manager at the "Institute Soziale Projekte e.V." responsible for monitoring long-term unemployed people in Germany and for various projects in Germany and abroad, especially for the projects "Jugendhaus Alte Spinnerei" and "Bunatati din Viscri". (Education and livelihood security in the mainly Roma inhabited village Viscri / Romania) funded by the Baden-Württemberg-Stiftung.

With more than 6 Million people, the Roma are the largest minority in the 14 countries of the Danube Region. Most of them are discriminated and marginalized.

Although there are many people of the major society living in precarious conditions, there is still a vast gap between the major society and Roma in the regard of participation in educational system, the health care, the labor market and housing.

There is a variety of reasons for this and some of them are going round in circles. Low levels of education and discrimination for example are some of the reasons, that many of the Roma are unemployed. This in turn leads that many Roma children leave school without a school-leaving

qualification to work for their family's welfare, because of poverty. Besides this, many Roma Children leave school because of discrimination and segregation and because their parents simply have not the money to cover the expenses that accumulate with a regular school attendance.

To solve these problems, coordinated, integrated and long-term concepts are necessary.

In the view of this, and based on experiences from NGO`s and civil society the subject of the workshop is:

Fighting poverty and social exclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups: experiences, possibilities, successes, needs, problems and obstacles.

In addition, we want to discuss, how we can get experiences, needs and problems by fighting poverty and social exclusion of Roma more visible and involved in the implementation of the EUSDR.