

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Event title

LNOB: Poverty and discrimination among Roma and Diaspora from Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD)

Background and Rationale

Discrimination based on Work and Descent (DWD) affects more than 270 million people worldwide, with about 15 million Roma and other communities DWD diaspora in Europe, such as Dalits and Haratins. CDWD are regarded as the most vulnerable groups in terms of social, economic, and political development. They experience intersectional discrimination and oppression because of overlapping social constructs of ability, age, work, caste, class, ethnicity and gender.

Data from 2022 shows that the number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion in the EU in 2022 was 95.3 million. Some 72.7 million people were at risk of poverty. Looking at the intersection of three conditions, 5.6 million people simultaneously faced all three situations: in other words, they were at risk of poverty, experiencing severe material and social deprivation, and living in a household with very low work intensity. According to the Council of Europe, “racism, humiliation, and exclusion are drivers of poverty, as well as consequences of it. Discrimination, whether based on gender, ethnicity, sexuality, or other grounds, can lead to exclusion and restrict pathways out of poverty. Poverty is more than just a human rights violation”. The SDGs will succeed or fail based on the extent to which they pay adequate attention to leaving no one behind or reaching the furthest behind first.

DWD diaspora communities in Europe and the Roma continue to face significant challenges in eradicating poverty. Although several measures have been taken by different stakeholders, it remains a daunting task to improve the economic status of such communities. The situation is further exacerbated by issues such as discrimination, social exclusion, poor access to education, and inadequate public services and facilities.

To achieve the SDGs by 2030, it is essential that policy initiatives focus the spotlight on areas or groups for whom progress is limited or may even be non-existent. If policy makers do not know which groups in society are benefiting or not, from interventions, they cannot tailor interventions, nor can they address barriers which may prevent certain groups from accessing services or interventions.



Session objectives and expected outcomes

This event aims to:

- spotlight the discrimination and poverty faced by CDWD and to emphasise the importance of addressing multiple layers of discrimination for effective policy formulation and societal change or transformation.
- share practices, innovative steps, and initiatives from a variety of DWD communities
- representatives and stakeholders working on eradicating poverty and reducing discrimination, as a way to accelerate progress on SDG 1.
- create a space for discussing current challenges and areas of improvement in the ECE region with regards to SGD 1 and its linkage to Roma and CDWD.
- scale up cooperation on the larger issue of discrimination and access to decent jobs.
- showcase work at the European and country level that addresses the specific experiences of poverty among CDWD.

Organizers

Lead organizers: Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent

Contributors: The European Roma Grassroot Organizations Network

Agenda and Structure

Welcome and introductory remarks by the moderator

Experience poverty among CDWD communities in Europe

Tools and opportunities for CDWD communities in Europe to escape poverty

Q&A session

Conclusions

List of Panellists

Torotcoi Simona, Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (moderator)

Simona Torotcoi is a Roma from Romania, currently an Advocacy Officer for the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (GFoD CDWD) representing the ERGO Network, where she supports global advocacy processes towards a UN Resolution on tackling work and descent-based discrimination

Swati Kamblé, Action Aid UK (panellist)

Swati Kamblé, is a Dalit woman researcher and activist, with extensive anti-caste activism and intersectional research. Born in Mumbai, Swati is based in Belgium and she is involved in a consultancy with ActionAid UK on Precarity of work in gig economy and right to decent work.

Diko Hanoune, Association of Mauritanian Haratins in Europe (panellist)

Diko Hanoune, is Haratin from Mauritania, currently based in France, and he is the Secretary General of the Association des Haratines de Mauritanie en Europe (A.H.M.E),

Kahina Rabahi, European Network Against Poverty (panellist)

Kahina Rabahi is the Policy and Advocacy Coordinator at EAPN. She has previously worked as director for the European Network on Religion and Belief and as an advocacy officer at the European Network Against Racism and the Collective Against Islamophobia in France. Kahina has a strong background in Economics, Public policy, and International Security. She is interested in Human Rights and advocacy for equality and justice.

Sign-up / Registration Link

https://theinclusivityproject-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwof-GoqTwvE9XNbwcBFKNopEP_mgH3b8cl