



Synopsis, 2nd SRDA-PAL Roundtable Group Discussion (11.15-11.50), 12 June 2017

by Dr Arthur Pober, SRDA Vice-President

“IMPROVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARGINALIZED ROMA IS NOT ONLY A HUMAN RIGHTS IMPERATIVE, BUT ALSO GOOD FOR THE COUNTRIES’ ECONOMIES.”

Carolina Sanchez-Paramo, World Bank Poverty Global Practice Manager

The 2nd SRDA-PAL Roundtable Forum and Discussion **‘BARRIERS TO LABOUR MARKET, IT IS A VICIOUS CIRCLE’**-- “Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism in education and employment in the EU”-- is a culmination of a programme that has sought to encourage and enlighten the EU countries and the Roma population as to how best to approach this ongoing and critical issue.

As many of the recent studies have shown-- over 70% of Roma live in the European Union States in Central and Eastern Europe-- Roma is one of the fastest growing community groups, with a general population that is about 30% under the age of 15.

Much of the PAL project’s workshops and work-throughs have focused on providing strategies and tools to bridge the gap between members of the Roma community and key stakeholders within the EU member states, with the specific goal of clearly defining the need to educate and focus on skills to foster better social inclusion and opportunities to function in the current labour market.

As a result of the feedback and evaluations of the programme, the overarching conclusions are the basis for the main topics of the group discussion on 12 June.

Specifically, addressing how we approach overcoming obstacles such as discrimination, what are some of the education and employment interventions needed, and the kind of schemes that can better support the Roma EU citizen in the local labour markets.

Among the **questions** that will be posed are

- **HOW CAN WE BEST, ACTIVELY, CREATE THESE COMMUNITY ALLIANCES?**
- **WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO BREAK DOWN BARRIERS OF COMMUNICATION AND BUILD TRUST?**
- **USING SPECIFIC CASES AND EXAMPLES OF BEST PRACTICES – HOW TO REPLICATE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY?**
- **WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES THAT HAVE RESULTED, AND WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES?**

