

## **Participation in ERIO's 'Information Day and Roundtable on the Social Economy of Roma in Belgium'**

On 3 March 2017, SRDA participated in the '*Information Day and Round Table on the Social Economy of Roma in Belgium*' event held in Brussels, hosted by ERIO (European Roma Information Office) with the purpose of presenting the SerCo project (Social Entrepreneurship for Roma Communities) and explore the topic of Social Economy for Roma people in Belgium.

The SerCo Project, is a project financed by the European Union under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme to address the problem of social and economic inclusion of Roma communities in the member states. This two-year project is a partnership of eight partners covering six European countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Romania and Spain. The project's main objective is to streamline Roma social entrepreneurship creation in the National Roma Integration Strategies, as recommended by the European Commission. The key project target group are the Roma, especially mediators and community leaders, policy-makers, and public administrators. Activities of the project include: comparative analysis and assessment of the impact of social economy within Roma communities, specific policy recommendations at national and EU level, development of practical guidelines and resources promoting social economy initiatives in Roma communities, training programme for Roma mediators, establishment of a establish a Network for Roma Social Economy e.a.

Mr Dennis Stokkink, representing the organization 'Pour la solidarite' presented findings from the publication '*Social inclusion policies in the EU: what impact for the Roma?*' as well as experiences from his work with Roma people. The guests had the chance to work in groups and explore the challenges, obstacles and possible solutions with regard to social entrepreneurship for Roma people in Belgium.

The event raised awareness on Roma employability through social entrepreneurship and provided valuable insights on possible interventions for social economy creation in Roma communities through mutual learning, exchange of experiences and ideas.

More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

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