

PRESS RELEASE

## Strategic EU framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma launched

- *EVZ Foundation welcomes new Strategic EU framework against anti-gypsyism*
- *Framework officially recognizes anti-gypsyism as a specific form of racism against Sinti and Roma*
- *EVZ Foundation: people with Romani backgrounds must be involved in national inclusion strategies*

*Berlin, 8 October 2020.* The European Commission launched the Strategic EU framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma yesterday.

“The launch of the framework under the German EU Presidency emphasizes Germany's special responsibility for the rights of people with Romani backgrounds in Europe“, commented Dr. Petra Follmar-Otto, Director, Foundation “Remembrance, Responsibility and Future” (EVZ). “The EVZ Foundation welcomes the framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma. It officially recognizes anti-gypsyism as a specific form of racism against Sinti and Roma. It prioritizes the fight against it through effective European and national legislative and political measures.“

On the occasion of a conference regarding the framework for Sinti and Roma, human rights expert Follmar-Otto demands “Effective equality and inclusion of people with Romani backgrounds finally requires a paradigm shift. People with Romani backgrounds must be actively involved in the development and implementation of national inclusion strategies - involved from the outset and at all levels. All measures taken must acknowledge and reflect the diversity of people with Romani backgrounds.“

### **EVZ Foundation – Focus on self-organizations**

The National Socialist regime deprived Sinti and Roma of their rights and subjected them to systematic persecution and genocide. 500,000 people were cruelly murdered. In post-war Germany, for far too long, Sinti and Roma have had to fight for full acknowledgment of this racial persecution and genocide.

The EVZ Foundation supports local and international projects that commemorate the victims and provide support to survivors. It funds coalition building against anti-gypsyism and projects that aim to empower people with Romani backgrounds in Germany and Central Eastern Europe.

The key goal is strengthening the access to education for Sinti and Roma. In particular, the EVZ Foundation supports the self-organizations of Sinti and Roma in its funding. The foundation also supports projects to empower girls and women and train school mediators.

### **About EVZ Foundation**

The EVZ Foundation is an expression of the responsibility borne by society as a whole for the injustices committed during the National Socialist era. The EVZ Foundation is currently providing funding in the following areas: Critical examination of history, working for human rights and commitment to the victims of National Socialism. 309 projects in 20 countries were supported in 2019.

The EVZ Foundation was established in the year 2000 to provide compensation for forced labor during the period of National Socialism. The compensation programs were completed in 2007. 4.4 billion Euros were paid out to 1.66 million former forced laborers and their legal successors. Half of the foundation's assets were contributed by more than 6.500 German companies and the other half by the German Government. From the beginning, part of the assets was earmarked as a capital endowment for project funding to meet Germany's historical responsibility in the long term.

### **More information**

#### **Strategic EU framework for equality, inclusion and participation of Roma**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/new-eu-roma-strategic-framework-equality-inclusion-and-participation-full-package\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/new-eu-roma-strategic-framework-equality-inclusion-and-participation-full-package_en)

#### **Funding programs by the EVZ Foundation**

Facing Antisemitism and Antigypsyism

<https://www.stiftung-evz.de/handlungsfelder/handeln-fuer-menschenrechte/facing-antisemitism-and-antigypsyism.html>

Strengthening the participation and self-organizations of Sinti and Roma in Germany - an initiative of the Freudenberg Foundation and the EVZ Foundation

<https://www.stiftung-evz.de/handlungsfelder/handeln-fuer-menschenrechte/engagement-fuer-sinti-und-roma-in-deutschland.html>

LATSCHO DIWES – Program for survivors of the Nazi genocide against the Roma

<https://www.stiftung-evz.de/handlungsfelder/engagement-fuer-ns-opfer/latscho-diwes.html>

#### **Press Contact**

Katrin Kowark

EVZ Foundation

Phone: +49 (0)30 25 92 97-24

E-Mail: [kowark@stiftung-evz.de](mailto:kowark@stiftung-evz.de)