

Cities Promoting Equality and Solidarity



Uppsala | 18 – 19 November 2010

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Introduction

Racism and discrimination are global phenomena. No country or region can claim to be free of them. Europe is no exception: In recent years, these social ills have again increasingly shown their contemptuous and inhumane effects throughout our continent. People who are particularly vulnerable to racism and discrimination include Sinti and Roma, members of African, Jewish and Muslim communities, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and other national, ethnic or religious minorities. And in many European countries extreme right-wing and populist parties, groups and politicians propagating racist and xenophobic ideologies are gaining influence. They proclaim the inequality of human beings, portray immigrants and other minorities as a threat and thus promote the politics of fear.

In 2009, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights published a survey which reveals that racism and racially motivated violence, discrimination and harassment against ethnic minorities and immigrant groups are far more widespread in the European Union than recorded in official statistics. This survey as well as the reports of other organisations document that for millions of people across the continent, racism and discrimination are a daily experience. These are alarming developments. The struggle against racism, discrimination and exclusion has, therefore, become one of the main challenges Europe is facing today.

Yet, we have made progress in recent years. The legal basis for enforcing equal rights for all in the European Union is much better now than it was in the past. However, we still need to make sure that people are aware of their rights, and that these rights are put into practice for all. In this respect, much remains to be done. And here, the local authorities come in. Cities play a particularly important role in combating racism and discrimination effectively. Since they have become a focus

of ethnic and cultural mixing, they are therefore a prime area to counteract inequalities and make fundamental rights a reality for all.

The General Conferences of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR) offer an opportunity for municipal policy-makers and employees, for experts and representatives of civil society organisations to discuss key challenges in the struggle against racism and discrimination at a local level in Europe and to work out strategies to promote equality in diversity. These conferences are intended to pool knowledge on racism and discrimination and to share experience as well as good practices, to develop a research-based approach to decision-making and practice, and to build partnerships at a local level.

The 2010 General Conference hosted by the City of Uppsala in Sweden is focussed on the question how local authorities can counteract racism and discrimination on the basis of ECCAR's Ten-Point-Plan of Action and promote the development of an inclusive urban society based on equality and solidarity. The conference programme includes a Round Table and five working groups. The Round Table provides an opportunity to draw a picture of the current situation regarding populist racism in European cities and to discuss strategies how to counteract this troubling development. Three working groups will deal with main challenges cities are facing today, as for example the question how municipalities can co-operate with other local stakeholders in the struggle against racism and discrimination, and how to combat discrimination in health care treatment for persons without a health insurance, particularly with regard to people without a legal residence status. Two further working groups are intended to strengthen ECCAR's co-operation with young people and non-governmental organisations.

The organisers cordially invite European cities, civil society organisations and all interested persons to participate in and contribute to this conference in Uppsala.

Dr. Hans Hesselmann
President of ECCAR

Programme



Wednesday, 17 November 2010

14.00 – 16.00 h: Meeting of the Steering Committee

17.00 – 19.00 h: Closed Session of Member Cities

Thursday, 18 November 2010

09.30 – 12.30 h: **Opening Session of the General Conference**

Gunnar Hedberg
Mayor of Uppsala

Erik Ullenhag
Minister for Integration, Ministry of Employment (Stockholm)

Maria del Pilar Álvarez-Laso
Assistant Director General of UNESCO
for Social and Human Sciences (Paris)

Irena Guidikova
Head of Division on Cultural Policy, Dialogue and Diversity,
Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

Dr. Hans Hesselmann
President of ECCAR (Nuremberg)

Presentation of a Film on Populist Racism in Europe

Moderator:

Helena Rojas-Lundgren
Vice-President of ECCAR (Botkyrka)

10.30 – 12.30 h: **Round Table**

Challenging the Rise of Populist Racism in European Cities

Introductory Statement:

John Kellock

Head of the External Relations and Networking Department,
European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna)



Panel Debate and Plenary Discussion with

■ **Dr. Ágnes Daróczi**, Vice-President of the Phralipe Independent Roma Organisation; Scientific Associate of the Hungarian Institute for Culture (Budapest)

■ **Liz Fekete**, Director of the Institute of Race Relations (London)

■ **Prof. Dr. Charles Husband**, Professor of Social Analysis, University of Bradford; Fellow, the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (Bradford)

■ **John Kellock**, Head of the External Relations and Networking Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (Vienna)

■ **Paul Lappalainen**, Head of Equality Promotion, Office of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman (Stockholm)

■ **Dr. Rifa'at Lenzin**, Islamic Scholar, Federal Swiss Commission Against Racism (Zurich)

Moderator:

Soledad Piñero Misa

Founder of the Consultancy and Training Firm Diferencia (Stockholm)

12.30 – 14.00 h: Lunch

14.00 – 15.15 h: **Assessing Racism and Discrimination and Monitoring Municipal Policies: ECCAR's Human-Rights-Centred Model of Indicators**

Presentation:

Dr. Klaus Starl, European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (Graz)

Moderator:

Marcello Scarone Azzi

Chief of Fight against Discrimination and Racism Section a.i., Division of Human Rights, Human Security and Philosophy, UNESCO (Paris)

Discussion

15.30 – 18.00 h: **First Session of Parallel Working Groups**

Working Group 1: **Implementing the Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism: Building Local Partnerships**
Coordination: Botkyrka, Gent, Karlsruhe

Working Group 2: **Implementing the Ten-Point-Plan of Action Against Racism: How to Develop a Local Action Plan**
Coordination: Bologna, Graz

Working Group 3: **Combating Discrimination in Health Care Treatment for Persons Without a Health Insurance**
Coordination: Nuremberg, Liège

Working Group 4: **Constituent Assembly of the Youth Council for ECCAR**
Coordination: Botkyrka, Cair, Nuremberg, UNESCO (Paris)

Working Group 5: **Co-operation for Change – Moving Towards a Non-Discriminatory Society**
Forum for Non-Governmental Organisations
Coordination: Uppsala, Botkyrka, Office of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman (Stockholm)

Friday, 19 November 2010

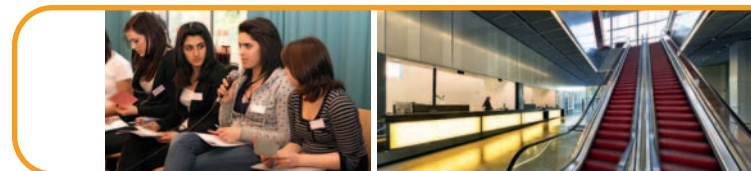
09.00 – 12.00 h: **Second Session of Parallel Working Groups**

12.00 – 13.30 h: Lunch

13.30 – 15.30 h: **Closing Session of the General Conference**

13.30 – 14.30 h: Presentation of the Recommendations of the Working Groups

Discussion



14.30 – 15.00 h: Film Spots Against Racism and Discrimination

15.00 – 15.15 h: Presentation of a Conference Declaration

Discussion and decision

15.15 – 15.30 h: Final words

Gunnar Hedberg
Mayor of Uppsala

Dr. Hans Hesselmann
President of ECCAR (Nuremberg)

Moderator:
Jean-Paul Makengo
Vice-President of ECCAR (Toulouse)

15.30 h: End of conference

Saturday, 20 November 2010

10.00 – 12.00 h: Steering Committee Meeting

Practical Information



Conference Venue

Uppsala Konsert & Kongress

Vaksala torg 1 • Uppsala • Sweden

Tel.: 0046 (0) 18 727 90 00

Fax: 0046 (0) 18 727 90 95

Website: www.ukk.se/In-English/

How to get there

From Arlanda Airport:

There is a good public transport link to the conference venue. Take the bus "Flygbussarna" to Uppsala. It takes you 20 minutes.

By car:

It takes you 40 minutes to get from Stockholm to Uppsala. There are parking garages nearby the conference venue, for example "Centralgaraget".

By train:

The conference venue is close to Uppsala Central Station. It is only a few minutes to walk.

Enrolment

Please register via the online form at the following link:

<http://eventus.trippus.se/eccar2010>

Please enrol before Friday, 12 November 2010.

A confirmation will be sent to you by e-mail.

You may collect your conference badge at the registration desk which will open at 8 a.m. on Thursday, 18 November 2010.

If you should be prevented from attending the conference, please send a note to the conference organisation.

There is no conference fee. Lunch on 18 and 19 November and dinner on 18 November are provided by the City of Uppsala.

Conference languages

The conference languages will be English and French. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Accommodation

We have made reservations for conference participants at several hotels. You find a list of these hotels on <http://eventus.trippus.se/eccar2010>. Please book your hotel room when you register for the conference. A confirmation will be sent to you by e-mail. Payment for the booking will be settled by creditcard when you register.

Conference chairman

Dr. Hans Hesselmann, President of ECCAR (Nuremberg)

Conference organisation

If you have any questions, please contact the conference bureau:

Meetagain Konferens

Caroline Knies

Tel.: 0046 (0) 8 664 58 00

Mobile: 0046 70 92 98 500

E-mail: eccar2010@meetagain.se

Before the conference starts, you can also contact the Administrative Secretariat of ECCAR in Nuremberg:

Doris Groß

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Organisers

European Coalition of Cities Against Racism

City of Uppsala

UNESCO (Paris)

in co-operation with

the Cities of Botkyrka (Sweden), Bologna (Italy), Cair (Macedonia), Gent (Belgium), Graz (Austria), Karlsruhe (Germany), Nuremberg (Germany), Liège (Belgium) and the Office of the Swedish Equality Ombudsman (Stockholm).



Published by

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