

Press Invitation

The European Danube Academy welcomes members of the media and press to the **OpenDanube Conference on Roma Inclusion in the Danube Region**. The stakeholder conference for Civil Society representatives and respective experts and representatives will take place between **April 6th and 8th 2017 at the Andrassy University Budapest**, Festetics Palais (Pollack Mihály tér 3., H-1088 Budapest)

The inclusion of the Sinti and Roma community is one of the major challenges of the Danube Region. About 80% of the 12 million European Roma live in Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Hungary, and Serbia – mostly in the poorer and more remote regions of the Danube Region. The European Danube Academy has initiated a comprehensive Roma inclusion programme called **DUNA ROMANI LUMA** (The world of the Roma People at the Danube) to create a project platform for the promotion of Roma inclusion. The OpenDanube Initiative is a direct derivative of the DUNA ROMANI LUMA umbrella project. The project aims at providing a platform of dialog and exchange for civil society initiatives that promote Roma inclusion. Moreover, it offers incentives for institutions of all kind to implement small projects that foster Roma inclusion in their field of activity. The OpenDanube Project consists of two elements:

- A **conference** offering a space of exchange for representatives of Roma communities and institutions that work on an inclusive society in the Danube Region.
- A **price competition** for small and hands-on project ideas for Roma inclusion in the Danube Region.

The European Danube Academy has received 47 project applications for the small project competition from 8 different Danube Countries. Five projects will be awarded with a small project funding contribution. The competition award ceremony will take place during the conference on **Friday, April 7th, at 2 pm**, in which the representatives of the winning project teams will receive their certificate and symbolic check.

For further Information please have a look at the website: www.opendanube.eu

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