

## **11<sup>th</sup> International Metropolis Conference, Lisbon 2006**

Workshop ‘Social Housing, moving people into business and interaction’: Contribution on Roma involvement from an NGO point of view, focusing on European standards and local practices, presented by Peter Jorna <sup>1</sup>.

I am grateful to have the opportunity to reflect on ‘the Roma-case’ <sup>2</sup>. Especially here: identifying this particular issue for a cosmopolitan and multi-disciplinary conference, with an audience composed of academics, public functionaries, policy makers as well as representatives of the civil society. This week we have the opportunity to work towards a cross-sector approach, to exchange views on how to address the problems and challenges inherent to a globalized and urbanized environment: how to develop, design or project a ‘Metropolis’ in which immigrants, minorities, newcomers and outsiders feel at home, forming an integral part of a sustainable livelihood.

To my opinion the ‘Roma-case’ -not the Gypsy- ‘problem’, mind you - I referred to, should be part of that complex issue. The Roma form a transnational minority. Migratory and mobile, even when settled for ages in a particular country or nation-state. They are neglected, generally, rather unknown at best, and puzzling us how to be approached. They are part of Metropolis, in short.

‘Paths and Crossroads: Moving people, changing places’, as the Conference underlying motto is, is quite appropriate a phrase in the particular case of the Roma. Imagine the approximately 8-10 million Roma, a ‘true European Minority’, being here

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