



ROMA AND THE FUTURE OF WORK: A SOCIAL RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

Side Event within the High Level Conference on the
European Social Charter



Presidency of the
Republic of Moldova
Council of Europe
November 2025 – May 2026



AGENȚIA
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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



18 MARCH
2026



15:30 - 17:30
EET



MIMI / JOLLY ALON HOTEL : DIVA ROOM,
Chișinău, Republic of Moldova
str. Maria Cebotari nr. 37, MD-2012

AGENDA

15:30 - 15:45 **High-level opening and welcoming remarks**

H.E. Maia Sandu, President of the Republic of Moldova
Alain Berset, Secretary General of the Council of Europe

15:45 - 17:30 **Moderator:** Aurora Ailincăi, Head of Anti-discrimination Department, Council of Europe

- ▶ Improving the access to education for all
Dan Perciun, Minister of Education and Research, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ Inclusive labour practices in Romania
Ciprian-Nicolae Văcaru, State Secretary, Ministry of Labor, Family, Youth and Social Solidarity, Romania
- ▶ Bridging education and employment: mentorship pathways into public service
Ina Majko, Deputy Minister of Health and Social Protection, Albania
- ▶ Enabling access to the labour market through entrepreneurship and access to finance
Petrica Dulgheru, Executive Director, REDI Fund
- ▶ Successful programmes for inclusive education of Roma
Claudia Craiu, Public Affairs Director, Roma Education Fund
- ▶ Social rights perspective
Kristina Koldinská, Member of the European Committee of Social Rights (ECSR), Professor Faculty of Law, Charles University of Prague
- ▶ Contributing speakers
- ▶ Input from the audience

SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR



H.E. Maia
SANDU



Alain
BERSET



Dan
PERCIUN



Ciprian-Nicolae
VACARU



Ina
MAJKO



Petrica
DULGHERU



Claudia
CRAIU



Kristina
KOLDINSKÁ



Aurora
AILINCĂI



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CONTRIBUTING SPEAKERS

- ▶ **Liliana Grosu**, Member of Parliament, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ **Felicia Bechtoldt**, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova
- ▶ **Veaceslav Reabcinschii**, General Director, Agency for Interethnic Relations, Republic of Moldova

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Rapid technological change, including digitalisation, automation and artificial intelligence, is transforming labour markets and education systems, with important implications for social rights such as equality and decent work. Roma communities continue to face multiple barriers to employment, including limited access to quality education and training, early school leaving, discrimination and digital challenges. Without targeted and inclusive policies, these barriers risk reinforcing cycles of disadvantage, particularly for Roma youth. This side event will explore how education and employment policies can strengthen the transition from education to work and improve access to skills and quality employment. It will also highlight policy gaps, promising practices, and the role of governments, education providers, social partners and civil society in promoting Roma inclusion in the evolving world of work.

OBJECTIVES

The event will:

- ▶ Examine how policies and initiatives in education and employment can advance the social rights of Roma and vulnerable communities, support their inclusive transitions to the labour market, and ensure they have equal access to decent work.
- ▶ Identify the main barriers Roma face in accessing employment, including discrimination, low education and skills, limited local opportunities, and lack of guidance or mentorship.
- ▶ Share experiences and good practices that strengthen education-to-employment pathways, promote equality and inclusion, and inform international discussions on just and inclusive labour markets.