The Open Society Public Health Program is pleased to invite you to apply to participate in a special seminar on **Ethnicity and Health Equity: Health Status of Roma in Europe**, to be held from March 24 to 30 at Schloss Arenberg in Salzburg, Austria. The seminar is co-organized by the Open Society Public Health Program and European Public Health Association (EUPHA).

Despite various policy initiatives and targeted interventions in many European countries, progress has been limited in reducing health inequities endured by Roma. Substantial evidence suggests that the health status of Roma is significantly less favorable than that of the general population independent of the country in which they live. Limited and unequal access to health insurance and health care services does not fully explain this gap in the Roma health status. Their comparatively worse health status is also significantly determined by their living environment, social support, and the political and socioeconomic context under which they live. A narrow approach to defining the problems faced by Roma without links to other social determinants of health, a lack of focus on rights within policy design and implementation, and a problematic definition and construction of the target population are several important issues when it comes to the shortcomings of the policy process towards Roma in healthcare settings.

This unique course will provide an opportunity for public officials, public health professionals, medical experts, academics, and civil society representatives in Europe to: (1) raise the profile of Roma health as one of the most important public (inclusion) policy area in contemporary Europe, (2) share expertise and resources relevant for improving Roma health and to define future collaborative interventions to support efforts at Roma inclusion in national health policies, and (3) develop inclusive health-policy consultation strategies enabling Roma advocates and Roma civil society to influence the policy and monitor its implementation.

The course will cover the following topics:

- Roma health policy making and gaps;
- Antigypsyism - racism and discrimination against Roma and its role in policy making;
- Understanding research and data collection on Roma;
- Privacy and ethics;
- Access to health insurance and other administrative challenges in accessing health services;
- Patients' rights and health practitioners' rights;
- Health indicators and needs-based approaches;
- Disparities in access to healthcare;
- Reproductive health;
- Drug use, sex work and HIV policies;
- Social accountability and legal empowerment approaches to improving Roma health.
The course is intended for public officials, civil society and activists and academic experts whose work and interests are in public health, health equity, Roma health, social determinants of health, and social participation in policy-making. It will help participants to:

- understand the mechanisms of exclusion of Roma from health services;
- understand and analyze the needs-based and rights-based approaches in policy making for Roma health— from the perspective of Roma equity and inclusion;
- analyze access to healthcare through the intersectionality of experiences and through multiple angles such as social determinants of health status, health indicators, and healthcare inequalities and exclusion.

The course participants are expected to gain the following competencies:

- Ability to critically analyze measures and policies on Roma and to identify policy gaps in health;
- Understanding of and capacity to adopt Roma-centred policies, using a rights-based approach grounded on principles of non-discrimination and equity;
- Skills to initiate and draft policy recommendations on the social inclusion of Roma, and develop health and social inclusion plans using a rights-based approach;
- Ability to understand research and data on Roma health topics;
- Participants will also appreciate diversity, human rights, equality and inclusion as values governing policy making on Roma.