



**Eduard** This criticism is an essential part of the work; people are living in Gazela, for example, who have been deported from affluent European countries. This problem is definitely dealt with in the book, even though this is not the reason why we were funded.

But to get back to the previous question: What motivation the funding institutions have for supporting certain projects should be clear; alternatively, it should not be forgotten that projects such as *Kenedi goes Back Home*, which deals with exactly the topic of the deportation of Roma to

The Roma are an extremely marginalized and disadvantaged minority within Serbian society. The discrimination is not only limited to harassment through the lawgivers and public authorities but is expressed most radically in the general societal contempt.

## PREJUDICES AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES

In Serbia Roma are considered to be lazy, dumb, dirty, foul-smelling, primitive, ugly, crooked, deceitful, fraudulent, libidinous, thieving, and lacking in both character and culture. Furthermore, it is a widespread belief that they are happy and satisfied with such miserable living conditions because it suits their nature. In situations in which apartments have been provided for them, they have been accused of over-occupying them, not using the toilets, dismantling the fixtures, removing the windows, using the parquet flooring for fuel and building campfires in the living room. Such stories are used as proof that Roma are not capable of adapting themselves to the norms of society and thus serve as an argument for not helping them.

Prejudices against Roma can be found at all levels of society and are so common and deep rooted that people are not aware of them as such. They are even present among those who are responsible for helping the Roma. The managing director of an international aid organization, for example, expressed the opinion that *“there is a mutual discrimination: Roma are, admittedly, disadvantaged in daily life, but they contribute to this situation themselves because they disrespect the rules and behave poorly. For this reason educational initiatives are very important. Roma do not only need to learn a profession, but also how one behaves in public”*.

The media likewise contribute to the dissemination of the common prejudices. When they have paid a visit to the settlement now and then, journalists usually only ask a few superficial questions and show no respect. There is never, however, a report about how hard the inhabitants have to work to keep their families fed. Instead the journalists twist their words, tear photographs out of their context, lump all Roma into one category, and make them look bad.

Serbia, have also been funded. Perhaps they are financed by other sponsors, but they are funded.

**Sibel** I think you got the money because you showed the inhabitants of this settlement as human beings. It is a fact that racism against Roma is widespread. So I think you will have quite an effect, even though you are only writing a nice book about nice people.