



Promotion
of Roma/Traveller
Integration and
Equal Treatment
in Education
and Employment

MEETING REPORT

LISBOA (ACIME), 18th NOVEMBER 2005

Agenda:

- PRESENTATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS;
- PRESENTATION OF ROMA EDEM PROJECT;
- DEBATE WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS: MAIN CONCLUSIONS

MEETING REPORT

Concerning the implementation phase of ROMA EDEM project in the field of employment, the following personalities/institutions were invited for this meeting:

- Dr. **Bernardo Sousa** (ACIME)
- Dr^a **Helena Torres** (ACIME)
- Dr. **André Costa Jorge** (ACIME),
- Dr^a **Manuela Carreira** – Instituto de Emprego e Formação Profissional
- Dr. **Francisco Monteiro** - ONPC
- Dr^a **Claudia Rodrigues** – Projecto “Ajuda em Casa”- intervenção no Casalinho da Ajuda
- Dr^a **Joaquina Rosa Correia** – Secretariado Diocesano de Lisboa da ONPC
- Dr^a **Bárbara Ferreira** – Associação Fernão Mendes Pinto
- Dr^a **Carla Coelho** – Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa – Programa de Promoção Social dos Ciganos;
- Dr. **Nuno Oliveira** – CASTIIS – Centro de Assistência Social à 3^a idade e infância de Sanguêdo, Sta. M^a da Feira ;
- Sr. **José Pinto de Sousa** – Associação Ciganos de Hoje
- Sr. **Dinis Seabra** – CIGLEI – Associação Cigana de Leiria
- Sr. **Adérito Montes** – APODEC – Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Etnia Cigana;
- Sr. **Mariano Geménio** – APODEC – Associação para o Desenvolvimento da Etnia Cigana;
- Sr^a **Olga Mariano** – AMUCIP – Associação das Mulheres Ciganas Portuguesas
- Sr^a **Domingas Cabeças** – Cigana e Dirigente Associativa (Associação Vontade de Viver)

Concerning the objectives of the ROMA EDEM project, Dr. André Costa Jorge made an explanation of the project's logic and aims, considering the employment situation among Roma people. After this brief introduction, the experts were invited to a debate, with a special focus on the importance of the experts fieldwork experience.

1. DEBATE WITH ALL PARTICIPANTS: MAIN CONCLUSIONS

After the brief presentation of the project, all participants were invited to intervene in a debate. The aim of the debate was that each participant would share his/her personal experience concerning general discriminatory barriers, in the field of employment and professional training.

Manuela Carreira (IEFP – National Employment Institute) referred that:

- The IEFP has specific programs, addressed to marginalized public;
- The IEFP will implement an employment centre network;
- The IEFP's "Inclusive Labour Market" program has the mission to promote the educational and professional certification.

- At employment level, there are also two programs with the intent to promote personalized solutions:
 - Micro credit;
 - PIMI – (Individual mobilization Programme) addressed to social security beneficiaries;

- Related to the PIMI programme, it's foreseen:
 - Adults educational courses;
 - Integration companies

- It has also been indicated that IEFP will support associations on specific training programmes.

Nuno Oliveira (CASTIIS) presented the CASTIIS project developed since 2003, and indicated that:

- The project was integrated in the POEFDS (INTEGRAR) programme;
- The adopted work perspective was the positive discrimination, and some professional courses were directed to men and women's activities
- Development and promotion of women's employment in the local Roma community.
- The evaluation indicates that:
 - The behavioural development was considered as positive;
 - The employment level is negative, especially in its global results.

- The project celebrated protocols with some companies, to promote professional experiences, with the agreement of the local Roma community;

- The main problem detected is that Roma communities are not consulted to participate in most of the projects related to Roma;
- The employment issues are very close related with living conditions. One can not speak about employment without dealing with living conditions;

The following activities are in progress in the Sanguêdo community:

- The housing Project (the building of about 10 houses) with the participation of the local community, involved also non-Roma volunteers;
 - Entrepreneurs courses
 - Micro Credit;
 - Self-employment;
- International Romani Festival

Carla Coelho – Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa underlined that :

- The Social Promotional Programme of Roma people will start its activities in December 2005 with professional courses.

At this level she indicated that:

- The courses are directed to young people, from 12 to 19 years;
- This courses have an academic correspondence and are programmed to have duration of three years;
- The project “Clique Solidário” has the objective to promote digital inclusion and also permits a minimum scholar certification.

Mariano Geménio (APODEC) referred the importance of Roma mediators.

Olga Mariano (AMUCIP) referred that her association is involved in an Equal project (Pelo Sonho é que Vamos) that promotes:

- Roma women’s social participation;
- Fight against scholar absenteeism;
- Family-work conciliation;
- Seasonal work and training;

Rosa Correia, from Sec. Diocesano de Lx da ONPC, referred that actually some courses are taking place in this organisation, including alphabetisation and other professional courses.

Claudia Rodrigues (Ajuda em Casa Project), indicated that :

- The project started in 2000 and ended in 2005;

- It was supported by the Social Security;
- It involved 65 families;
- The project had a professional incidence, but it was not recognized;
- It has a Sewing workshop (still functioning);
- It favours the insertion of children in the nursery;

The evaluation indicates that the project is not self-sustainable. The neighbourhood still has many unemployed young people and there are no answers at the employment level.

Bárbara Ferreira – Associação Fernão Mendes Pinto, referred that:

The Association FMP developed the project Entreculturas in the Figueira da Foz and in the Nomad Park in Coimbra (with the partnership of the Câmara Municipal de Coimbra)

- The project Entreculturas (Figueira) involved around 150 individuals (11 families);
- The life conditions of the Roma community are lower than the average ones;
- The Social Security is the entity that articulates with the project;
- It developed two pre-training actions directed to 10 persons, beneficiaries of the RSI;
- The training activities were:
 - Music;
 - Basketry;
 - Ambulant Economy.

ACIME will receive a dossier with a report and the evaluation of the activities.

Dinis Abreu (CIGLEI) – referred that even if the Association is located in a neighbourhood with around 200 Roma people, due to the low participation of the community and misunderstandings, the Association was in risk of closing.

F. Monteiro (ONPC) – stucked out the distance of the Roma communities from the Employment centres.

Bernardo Sousa (ACIME) – referred that, in the conclusion of the meeting, the central aspects of the debate focused on:

- The training of technicians;
- The Roma communities and the training (outcomes of the experiences, evaluation...);
- The articulation of the programs/projects with the different entities and the target groups;
- The employability (outcomes of the achieved experiences, micro credit...)

André Costa Jorge