



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

31th October 2006 MEETING REPORT – Education and Employment in Bragança Roma community

Starting from the knowledge of the situation on Roma communities in Bragança (Trás-os-Montes Region), The Secretariado Diocesano de Bragança da Pastoral dos Ciganos in coordination with ACIME as Roma EDEM project promoter in a national level, organised a meeting with the aim to debate with local entities and find articulated forms to promote education and employment on Roma communities.

Considering that the integration and equal treatment of Roma communities can be better improved and supported by local level dynamics, this meeting was targeted to administrative and social institutions workers, Ong's and local associations and entities involved in local activities and projects with Roma population.

This meeting was integrated in the implementation phase of the Roma EDEM Project regarding the promotion of Roma/Traveller integration and equal treatment on education and employment.

Considering the thematic and the participants experience in the field of Roma communities, the meeting was based in a workshop form, where the participants were invited to debate, considering the agenda that follows:

1. Presentation of the participants/entities and brief description of the activities of the Roma EDEM Project and fieldwork;



2. Identification of the obstacles to the integration and access to citizenship of Bragança's Roma community:

General living conditions of Roma community;
Access to Education and Employment;

3. Identification of articulated strategies to promote Roma inclusion at local level:

Interinstitucional cooperation (how to promote involvement of social and administrative technicians and e entities in this fieldwork);

Teachers and technicians training in Roma culture and intercultural education;

The role of Roma associations in the fight against discrimination and the promotion of education and employment, and it's articulation with public institutions and private entities;

Presentation of Roma EDEM's best –practices on education and employment booklet.

MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS

- a) The main conclusion from all participants is that the meeting was very positive and all entities were quite sensitised to Roma community situation in Bragança and above all, all entities agreed in the need in gathering efforts to act in this area;
- b) All entities agreed that the most urgent problem regarding Roma communities in the Bragança district was the lack of housing conditions and the need to achieve better housing conditions;
- c) The municipality, represented by the town councillor, also agreed that the improvement of social housing was the principal need for intervention with Roma population in Bragança;
- d) The Secretariado Diocesano de Bragança, in articulation with the local social network and the municipality propose a constitution of a workgroup in order to promote the integration of the Roma community. The workgroup will articulate with the social security fieldworker's and with teachers in schools in order to follow the educational and social needs, specially the most urgent cases.