

# Baseline situation

The Roma community is an essentially European minority whose population is unevenly distributed throughout the whole of Europe but whose awareness and exercise of European citizenship is still very weak. Roma youth should be the target group on which to build and foster European citizenship<sup>2</sup> given that an estimated 40% of the Roma population is between the age of 16 and 24.

To that end, the *“Roma Youth – European Citizenship”* programme set the goal of building the capacity of Young Roma in the exercise of their citizenship at European level through information and training actions to foster their involvement in European processes and dynamics thus putting them on an equal footing with the rest of Europe’s citizens and young people.

This project, introducing the values of European citizenship and linking them to the exercise of citizenship at local level, could be very attractive to professionals who are beginning to work on this issue with young people.

Following are some of the basic approaches taken in the project: theoretical and practical training accounting for the bulk of involvement on the part of the young participants and project dissemination and corporate image actions.

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<sup>2</sup> Portal on active citizenship: <http://ec.europa.eu/youreurope/>

