Theoretical training

The best methodological proposal to achieve the project's main objective, i.e. "Train and inform Roma youth about aspects related to Europe and the European Union", was to organise training around four courses.

The aim of this training part of the project was to offer training and experimentation opportunities regarding active European citizenship with a view to facilitating access to available resources on an equal footing and to likewise foster interest in decision taking at European level, to take a closer look at the role of their representatives at European institutions, participate in elections, etc.

The basic content of the training courses was the historical context and recent development of the European Union, the institutional framework of the European Union, the key concepts on the European agenda and strategies for active participation in the European context.

This training programme was broken down into four courses each lasting two and a half days and involving between 10 and 15 young Roma participants per country whose selection was based on their possessing special skills and basic knowledge regarding youth empowerment and active participation.

A fundamental and innovative aspect of the training was the inclusion of official visits with decision makers in the area of youth at local and regional level in each country and hence the inclusion of the values of citizenship in all of the training courses organised in this part of the project.

Following are details of the content of each course along with some practical information:

Training Course I

Title:
"Values and Identity of Europe"

Objective:
- Explain to participants how Europe emerged;
- Learn about the symbols identifying Europe;
- Foster knowledge of the values Europe stands for.

Methodology: See annex 2
The technical part of the training was supplemented by institutional visits stressing the values of citizenship at local and/or regional level.

Contents:
Teaching block on the European Union
- Introduction to the concept of the European Union
    - History of Europe
    - EU history (50 years)
    - European Union. Introduction
    - Values of the European Union

*This teaching block responds to the question:
    - Why Europe? Why was Europe built, Europe today

Teaching block on Roma history
- European values and identification of European identity - Roma
- History of the Roma people in Europe
- Values of the Roma people

*This teaching block responds to the question:
    - Situation of Roma in Europe, past and present
    - European values in Roma culture

Participants:
15/20 young Roma men and women with communication and youth empowerment skills.

Duration:
Two days of training

Training Course II

Title:
"Structure and makeup of the European Union"

Objective:
- Teach participants what countries comprise Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe;
- Learn about the European Union accession mechanism;
- Present the symbols of the countries forming Europe.

Methodology: See annex 1 and 3
This course was taught using a knowledge-pooling group dynamics exercises. Participants worked with information sheets putting in order the different accession process steps which a country must go through to become a member.

Insight into the countries Comprising Europe, the European Union and the Council of Europe was achieved by group dynamics exercise called "Flags" or "Silhouettes".

Content
- Structure and makeup of the EU
    - Review of what the EU is: institutions, organisations, duties, aims;
    - Number and list of EU member countries today;
    - Different enlargements the EU has undergone;
    - Entry of Spain into the EU, special political situation;
    - Entry of countries with a significant Roma population into the EU, list of countries and approximate populations.

- European Council member countries, number of votes, political representation.

- EU accession:
    - Criteria determining the EU accession process: human rights, economic growth, democracy, etc.
    - Application process which countries must undergo to become candidates → members.
    - Difficulties and opportunities characterising the EU accession process.
    - Tools facilitating the incorporation of countries into the EU: subsidies, economic instruments, accession interlocutors for the EU.

"Roma Youth – European Citizenship"

- Structure and makeup of the EU II
  - Internal organisation of the institution: EU posts (not people, only posts), organisations and coordination mechanisms.
  - Political tools of the EU: Directives, Recommendations, Agreements, etc.
  - EU representation around the world: in member countries and on other continents.
  - Duration of mandates, objectives, political system of the EU, elections, etc.

Participants:
15/20 young Roma men and women with communication and youth empowerment skills.

Duration:
2 days of training

Training Course III

Title:
"Bodies comprising Europe and the European Union"

Objective:
- Teach participants what institutions constitute the European Union;
- Learn about the main bodies working in benefit of the Roma community in Europe through the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Methodology: See annex 4
The course was designed to be interactive to make the content more attractive and practical for the participants. A lecture on the bodies and institutions is not a very practical approach and we therefore recommend using interactive group dynamics fostering an active climate of participation among the participants.

Contents:
- "Bodies comprising the EU" I "main bodies"
    - Operation and objectives of the European institutions (European Parliament[5], European Commission[6], European Council[7], Court of Auditors[8] and the Court of Justice[9])
- Bodies comprising the EU II "Youth policy bodies"
    - Description, objectives and operation of bodies affecting the development of youth policies in Europe in general.
- Bodies comprising the EU III "Bodies related to the Roma community"
    - Description, objectives and operation of the bodies related with the development of social policies targeting the Roma community in Europe in general.

Participants:

15/20 young Roma men and women with communication and youth empowerment skills.

Duration:

Two days of training

---

[5]   European Parliament: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/
[6]   European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/
[7]   European Council: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/
[8]   Court of Auditors: http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/auditors/index_en.htm
[9]   Court of Justice: http://europa.eu/institutions/inst/justice/index_en.htm

Training Course IV

Title:

"European Construction"

Objective:

- Familiarise participants with the resources for youth;
- Teach them about the current situation of the Roma community in Europe;
- Present the organisations working in favour of the Roma community to motivate young people to take part in initiatives.

Methodology: See annex 5

This course was taught by the project coordinators of the different partner organisations given that they have the resources needed to carry out this training action.

Outside support was also available to basically present the programmes of the European Youth Foundation[10] and the Youth in Action programme[11].

Contents:

- An overview of Roma in today's Europe.
    - Roma policy strategy
    - EU Roma Summit

- Initiatives under way
    - European Roma Policy Coalition (ERPC[12])
    - Decade of Roma inclusion[13]
    - EU Roma[14]

- Youth resources

- Youth in Action 2007-2013

- European Youth Foundation

- EU/CoE scholarship-internship programme

Participants:

15/20 young Roma men and women with communication and youth empowerment skills.

Duration:

2 days of training

---

[10] For further information on the European Youth Foundations see: http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/
[11] All information can be found on the programme website: http://ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.htm
[12] http://www.romapolicy.eu/
[13] http://www.romadecade.org/
[14] http://euromanet.eu/