

# Institutional activity

The Fundación Secretariado Gitano also assumes its responsibilities in terms of institutional presence in Spain and throughout Europe by taking part in forums, platforms and networks working in the area of social inclusion, the advancement of the Roma community and the development of more pro-active policies in this regard.

It participates as a member of different institutional bodies and councils through which it promotes policies and developments affecting the Roma community in Spain and throughout Europe. It is a member of the State Council of Social Action NGOs and of the Social Action NGO Platform. Specifically in the area of the Roma community, it is a member of the State Council of the Roma People and the Advisory Commission to the Roma Development Plan. It also takes part in different Roma participatory bodies set up in some Autonomous Communities such as the Basque Country, Extremadura, Madrid and Barcelona.

Its institutional activity also focuses on the promotion of and participation in network initiatives with Roma entities as well as others working in the field of exclusion, rights, health, etc.: European Anti poverty Network-Spain, forming part of the executive committee and participating in the networks



created on the regional level; The REIIES European Network (European Network of Initiatives for Economic and Social Integration); and Sastipen (European Network for Drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention in the Roma Community).

As part of the ongoing effort to consolidate institutional relations with different entities and administrations, framework agreements were signed with different national, regional and local administrations in 2005. A significant example in this connection was the signing of a collaboration agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science. Concurrently, and providing continuity to specific lines of work, a close relationship is maintained with the European Social Fund and its administrative office in Spain (UAESF) and with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Attention should be drawn to the priority given to undertaking projects in collaboration with private entities. In 2005, collaboration agreements were arranged with 18 private entities for the development of private partnership initiatives.

This year the ESF conducted an interim evaluation of the multi-regional initiatives undertaken as part of the Multi-Regional Operational Programme to Combat Discrimination. The said evaluation identified the *Social Awareness Campaign* known as “*Get to know them before judging them*”, forming part of the FSG’s actions with Roma, as a “Case of Best Practice”.

The FSG continues to incorporate quality and transparency aspects into its daily activities. The latest report by the Loyalty Foundation published in 2005 evaluates the FSG. We also continue to work in collaboration with other entities forming part of the NGO Quality Network for the development of quality strategies, management tools and standards.

