

# Housing

The Roma minority's access to housing is an unfinished process and, to a large degree, has been neglected or abandoned altogether. We would note that situations can still be found which are an affront to the rights of individuals and which pay no heed to the recommendations of international organisations regarding social rights. We should also refer to the emergence of new problems that the lack of sustained action is producing and which, in some cases, leads to the erosion of gains made years ago by many families.

The FSG's Area of Housing and its actions have made significant progress in 2006. The July signing of a Collaboration Agreement between the Ministry of Housing and the Fundación Secretariado Gitano

“The Collaboration Agreement signed with the Ministry of Housing allows us to gain insight into the housing status of the Roma community and aids in the subsequent formulation and design of action policies.

opened the door to the implementation of an action plan providing the Roma community with access to housing. This plan envisages a battery of objectives and a framework of actions which will serve to correct the situation of disadvantage and discrimination to which members of Spain's Roma community are subject.

The shared objective of the different actions is to keep gaining greater insight into the housing situation of the Roma community and to set the stage for the subsequent formulation and design of action policies. The specific objectives are organised around major actions:

- › The conducting of a diagnosis to move forward in the identification of needs and the development of intervention proposals in the area of housing with the Roma community through a profound analysis of that situation serving as the basis for the development of both policy and technical measures. The main



action was the formation of a **think-tank on housing and the Roma community** able to contribute in the form of analyses and recommendations regarding the problems suffered by the Roma community in this area.

› The conducting of a **Geographical Study regarding housing and the Roma community in Spain**, providing reliable data on the location and distribution of the Roma population so as to be able to assess its evolution over the last 15 years and the current conditions of its habitat and detect still existing needs and shortfalls. This study is the re-edition and improvement of the study conducted by the FSG together with the PASS Group in 1991. It aspires to being a thorough study furnishing updated information on where and in what types of neighbourhoods and conditions the Spanish Roma live today. Having completed the study's methodological design, in 2007 we will address the difficult task of extracting data collected from a sample of over 1,700 municipalities spread over the 52 Spanish provinces.

We would likewise stress the important programmes which the Foundation manages in some Autonomous Communities in the area of housing. The common denominator to all of these programmes are the social accompaniment actions for families undergoing relocation; a key factor in achieving successful social inclusion. This accompaniment not only takes the form of measures related with access to a new home and co-existence with neighbours, but also entails other parallel measures focusing on educational mainstreaming, labour market integration and access to and use of health-care resources.

› In Madrid, the FSG runs the *Neighbour Mediation Programme* through which families relocated by the Municipal Housing and Land Company are monitored. Visits were paid to the 120 families relocated in 2006 with a total of 564 interventions.

› All of the housing initiatives undertaken in Asturias are in line with previous years in terms of family social accompaniment programmes and neighbourhood co-existence. Accompaniment was provided for 6 families relocated in the municipality of Castrillón and we participated in the Shanty Town Eradication Scheme. Seven families received support and were monitored in Corvera. In Gozón, we worked with two relocated families. We would also like to draw attention to our active participation in the Avilés Shanty Town Eradication Scheme which this year was included among the European Union's best practices.

› In Galicia, work continued with relocated families in Pau de Navia (Vigo). The work undertaken in Lugo consisted mainly of technical assistance to the local government team for the implementation of suitable measures for the eradication of shanty



SIGNING OF THE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING

towns. As for intervention in the town of O Bao (Poio, Pontevedra), we would stress the social accompaniment of 11 families and the assistance lent for the eradication of the settlement.

» In Navarre work continued on social integration housing in the form of direct mediation in the acquisition of homes. In 2006 the FSG acquired 8 homes which it then rented to families being resettled. These homes are rented with a purchase option. We then mediated in the acquisition of 3 more homes. We also provided social accompaniment services for 27 families. Here we should point out the major work done with the 200 Roma families from Estella through the social-urban planning Programme in the La Merced neighbourhood.

» Actions were carried out in Murcia to promote the social inclusion of some excluded families through the acquisition of housing, rental and social accompaniment. In 2006, work continued with the 8 families which acquired housing. Once the resettlement process has commenced, we launch intensive and ongoing social accompaniment from a global perspective. In 2006, 13 families relocated in different municipalities throughout the Region of Murcia were also served.



INSIDE THE HOME OF A ROMA FAMILY IN MADRID