

Advancement of Roma culture



The path towards full citizenship of the Roma community is hindered by the situation of exclusion in which an important percentage of this community finds itself and also by the lack of recognition of its cultural identity and the discriminatory processes that it has historically suffered.

The absence of specific policies focusing on the Roma community is especially notorious in the cultural sphere. Despite the fact that the Spanish Constitution recognises the autonomous regions and Spain's different peoples and groups as well as the latter's contributions, history and cultural specificity, the Roma minority has not enjoyed even a minimal degree of cultural recognition. On occasion, its cultural reality has been denied or reduced to aspects related with poverty and discrimination.



POSTER ANNOUNCING "ROMA CULTURE MONTH" IN CASTILLA LA MANCHA

The permanent exhibit entitled "*Sharing cultures – Roma today*" was visited by 1,300 people.

For these reasons the Foundation's Area of Cultural Advancement, working through the different territorial centres, is making a concerted effort to achieve recognition of this culture, our ultimate goal being that of fostering preservation, knowledge and dissemination of Roma culture throughout all of Spain's Autonomous Communities.

The most salient cultural advancement activities undertaken in 2006 were:

► **Cultural conferences.** Activities on gastronomy, music, art, etc. Here we would stress the Roma



CULTURAL MODULE AT THE EXHIBIT ENTITLED "SHARING CULTURES" IN ASTURIAS



LEAFLET ANNOUNCING ROMA CULTURE DAY IN ZARAGOZA



NEW EXHIBIT "ROMA WOMEN PARTICIPATING"

Workshops on the *Recovery of Roma trades*, Young artists and the Photography exhibit in Albacete.

- › Exhibit *Sharing cultures: Roma today*.
- › *Celebration of festivals and participation in fairs*. The holding of fairs related with social and/or cultural aspects is becoming increasingly common: Associationism fairs, Expojoven, Volunteer fairs, Cultures of the world, etc. The FSG has participated in these by sponsoring stands.
- › Meetings, seminars, campaigns, forum cinema, participation in talks, audiovisual activities. Fora for reflection and debate among different segments of the population (women, youth, minors...) brought together to address the issue of Roma culture..
- › Cultural weeks and workshops on Roma culture. Organisation of different activities relating to Roma culture, especially in schools and/or cultural centres.

In 2006, over 24,000 people took part in our cultural activities organised in more than 25 locations throughout all of Spain with a total of over 80 performances.

Preparation of and participation in many of these activities had the backing of the resources and services of the FSG's Documentation Centre which has become a focal

point for information and a benchmark for our entity and other institutions when putting together any sort of performance. The Centre handled a total of 543 in-person queries and requests for bibliography and responded to information requests via telephone, post, e-mail and fax.

The exhibit entitled *Sharing cultures, Roma today* is growing in importance. The permanent part of the exhibit is located at the Adalí Calí Centre in Madrid's Vallecas neighbourhood while the mobile part travels around the whole of Spain upon request. The aim of the exhibit is to foster inter-culturality based on knowledge of the history and culture of the Roma people with a view to favouring cross-cultural enrichment from a perspective free of any discriminatory attitudes. In 2006 a total of 54 groups (1,293 people) received a guided visit of the exhibit. The mobile exhibit has been lent out on 21 occasions.

We would lastly like to stress the support and interest in the new design and panels of the exhibit *Roma women participating*.

Over 24,000 people took part in our cultural activities in 2006 through more than 80 events.