

Volunteers



Since 2005, both at regional and national level, the FSG has been fostering and developing the Volunteer Scheme paying particular attention to its management and definitions with the participation of intermediate-level personnel and the volunteers themselves. Volunteer actions are being undertaken throughout all of the Autonomous Communities and regions where work is being done in the areas of employment and social integration. This action is only possible thanks to the long-term dedication of the technicians who are in close contact with those from the municipalities who come to offer their services as volunteers thus complementing the actions undertaken by the FSG by taking part in their processes and pathways.

Special mention should be made of the gradual incorporation of very young Roma as volunteers, sometimes for limited summer activities organising children's activities and other times in a more ongoing fashion during the entire year thus reinforcing the growth of volunteerism within our organisation.

Difficulties continue to be found most frequently in the management of actions at regional level and awareness-raising campaigns due to the specificity of the latter. In this connection, we plan to continue forward in the more active involvement of our volunteers by responding to their concerns and individually monitoring their work. This is only possible, however, with greater planning by the technicians in each territory.

98 new volunteers, Roma and non-Roma alike, were brought on board in 2006,



NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS MEETING IN GUADALAJARA

bringing the total to 172. Although this figure is somewhat below that registered last year, length of stay has increased making it fair to say that with each passing day we are increasing the level of commitment of our volunteers; 73 of our volunteers (42.4%) began working with the FSG in past years.

In any case we believe we should:

- › Continue working to raise awareness of and promote volunteerism in the FSG, involving Foundation workers and leaders in this task.
- › Improve the qualifications and/or training of our organisations' volunteers.
- › Make volunteers more visible in order to promote greater participation and to give publicity to their daily work.
- › Foster volunteerism in those Autonomous Communities where volunteer participation is the lowest.

During 2006 we monitored and supported the work of volunteer coordinators and the direct users themselves, getting them involved in the changes and improvements made in our entity's volunteer services.



VOLUNTEERS TRAINING

Roma youth are becoming increasingly interested in volunteer work.

Volunteers were directly involved in the evaluation and improvement of the draft Volunteer Strategy Document – *A strategy for FSG volunteers* and the FSG's Volunteer Management Handbook – *Volunteering in the FSG*.

We continue to make an effort to gradually incorporate the Roma community as an active player within the volunteer programme. We likewise continue to disseminate the programme through the distribution of leaflets and posters especially designed for this purpose.

Among the actions undertaken by our volunteers we should mention the *VI Volunteer Conference* held in Santiago de Compostela on 15 and 16 December 2006 targeting FSG volunteer managers, active volunteers, Roma association leaders and supporters. The conference focused on subjects such as volunteerism and intercultural mediation, introduction to volunteer work in the FSG, volunteering for intercultural education and others.

The initial volunteer training courses and volunteer meetings were held as described below:

- › *I Regional Volunteer Meeting: for an intercultural society, held in Lugo on 13 May 2006.*

Activities report 2006

› The *IV Basic Volunteer Training Course of the University of Santiago de Compostela* was also held in Lugo on 4 November 2006.

› Two volunteer-related activities were held in Vigo: work conferences held at *Chapela* high school and the *III Assembly of the Youth Solidarity Network*.

› A volunteer meeting was held in Oviedo, Asturias in November 2006.

› Two volunteer meetings were held in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia: one in the city of Jerez de la Frontera (Cadiz) on 13 July 2006 and the other in Torremolinos (Malaga) on 1-2 December in collaboration with volunteer organisations from that community.

In support of actions undertaken in the Autonomous Community of Galicia, the FSG team there filmed a video to promote volunteerism which we hope to use as the basis for a state-wide video in 2007.

And lastly, in 2006 the collaboration agreements were renewed in the Autonomous Communities of Andalusia, Galicia and Asturias.

