

Housing

We are continuing with the line of action we initiated in 2006 of 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.

Actions implemented in this area revolve around the activities undertaken within the framework of the Collaboration Agreement which the Fundación Secretariado Gitano has with the Ministry of Housing. The agreement signed in 2007 supplements and gives continuity to the actions launched and implemented through the previous Collaboration Agreement which laid down a series of objectives and a framework of actions designed to rectify the situation of disadvantage and discrimination faced by some members of the Spanish Roma community.

We would draw attention to the following main actions carried out in the Area of housing in 2007:

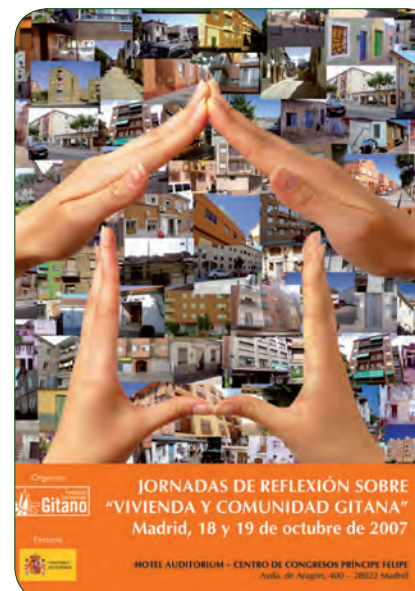
- › In 2006 we commenced the study called ***Housing map of the Roma community in Spain*** which initially consisted of the design and creation of tools and instruments. 2007 was more focused on field work through the Foundation's network of informants and we also had the collaboration of other external entities mainly to obtain information from those territories where the Foundation does not have an office. This was an arduous and painstaking task



A SEGMENT OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY STILL SUFFERS FROM THE EFFECTS OF RESIDENTIAL EXCLUSION

whereby the said network extracted data concerning the Roma population from 1,700 Spanish municipalities. This major effort will provide us with updated and reliable information concerning where and in what type of neighbourhoods and conditions Spanish Roma are living thus making it possible to know the needs and shortcomings which still prevail.

- › ***I Reflection workshop on housing and the Roma community*** especially focusing on public sector decision makers directly related to housing. The aim of this workshop was




to establish a forum for analysis and exchange to improve policy planning and design processes in the area of housing and the Roma community. The conference was held in Madrid in November.

- › Launch of a **Housing Consultation and Guidance Services Network** focusing on the Roma population. This service is run by Foundation professionals in the Autonomous Communities where the Foundation has offices. The network seeks to develop actions to foster housing policies targeting the Roma population with a special accent on eradicating once and for all shanty towns and sub-standard housing. It likewise provides direct assistance to those who are searching for housing with a view to providing a holistic and tailored response to the different needs of our users.

In addition to actions undertaken at central headquarters, the foundation also has important housing programmes in some Autonomous Communities. The common denominator to all of these programmes is 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.

Mention should also be made of the work done in the territories in the area of technical assistance lent to different administrations for the implementation of

 In 2007 the fieldwork for the “Map-Study on housing and the Roma community in Spain” was conducted.

shanty town eradication plans and relocation processes:

§ In **Madrid** the FSG works together with the EMVS (Municipal Housing and Land Authority) in drawing up methodologies and protocols needed for holistic intervention regarding the relocation conditions of the Roma population through the development of the “Neighbourhood Mediation Programme” which monitors relocated families in the municipality of Madrid. In 2007, 57 visits were paid to newly resettled residents from Plata and Castañar, Cañaveral and La Quinta plus a further 917 visits to families relocated previously. The “Perla Neighbourhood Community Intervention Project” was also implemented in the Usera district. This project provides holistic care for 39 relocated families.

- › In **Asturias** actions have been carried out in the shanty town settlements of Luanco, Soto del Barco and Castrillón in the neighbourhoods of Coaña, Muros de Nalón and Oviedo. Work is also being done to alleviate sub-standard housing throughout the Principality. In line with previous years, more than 75 families were helped through social accompaniment programmes focusing on families and neighbourly co-existence. These actions

seek to be holistic by providing basic services, educational support and social accompaniment.

› **Galicia** is one of the Autonomous Communities where the Foundation is the busiest in terms of housing. It undertakes particularly important technical assistance work with the different government teams for the implementation of measures designed to eradicate shanty towns. Work also continued with relocated families in Pau de Navia (Vigo). Social accompaniment work likewise continues in O Bao (Poio, Pontevedra) with 11 families.

› In **Navarre** work continued on social integration housing in the form of direct mediation in the acquisition of homes. We also continued working with the 8 families living in homes owned by the Foundation and are looking to buy more through this same Navarre Government programme. Social accompaniment was also part of the process with all of these families. We would also stress the work undertaken with Roma families in the La Merced de Estella neighbourhood through the Social Urban Planning Intervention Programme.

› Actions were carried out in **Murcia** to promote the social inclusion of

Approximately 100 political decision makers took part in the I Reflection Conference on the Roma community and housing.



FIELDWORK FOR THE STUDY-MAP ON HOUSING AND THE ROMA COMMUNITY TOOK US TO ALL THE PLACES IN SPAIN WHERE ROMA LIVE.

some excluded families through the acquisition of housing, rental and social accompaniment. Intervention begins in the aftermath of relocation with intensive and ongoing social accompaniment from a global perspective addressing the areas of employment and training, education, health and hygiene, basic habits and home organisation, awareness-raising and mediation. Nine families were served in 2007 with a total of 15 adults, 27 minors and 5 children relocated in different municipalities throughout the Region of Murcia.

Lastly, mention should be made of the different housing initiatives being carried out at the different Foundation offices targeting immigrant Roma from Eastern European countries.