

▶▶ Training

Many studies and different institutions have verified the need to improve the quality and increase the number of initiatives and strategies designed to eliminate discrimination and to diminish inequality affecting the Roma community in Spain. The implementation of quality training targeting professionals in charge of managing teams and programmes is one of the basic tools underlying the creation and development of this strategy.

To do that we need to actively invest in the professional development of Roma men and women within the sphere of social intervention, the associative movement and other public and private institutions. The idea of building societies which are equipped to manage the growing degree of diversity requires, in the case of the Roma community, greater presence of Roma technicians with the right skills to effectively play the different roles required of social intervention. It is therefore necessary to implement vocational training and information measures and disseminate best practices for the stakeholders and transfer the know-how and experience acquired in this line of work.

The FSG has been stressing this aspect of the professional qualifications of Roma through

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the Training Programme it has been managing for several years with the support of Income Tax allocations from the Ministry of Health and Social Policy, especially focusing on mediation and dispute settlement skills in contexts of cultural diversity. In 2009 the FSG saw that the time was right to intensify these results and use them as a lever and guide in the training of Roma technicians and mediators.

The *On-line graduate course "Expert in social intervention with the Roma community"* revolves around quality academic training which is updated and based on the most widely accepted diagnostic and intervention experiences. The course awards a diploma giving a professional advantage to those who successfully complete it and is especially tailored to the needs of active Roma social intervention professionals.

It was launched in the 2009-2010 academic year as a Degree Programme at the Public University of Navarre (UPN) thanks to collaboration between the FSG and the UPN with the support of the Ministry of Health and Social Policy (formerly the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports) under the umbrella of the 2008 call for subsidies granted from Income Tax allocations.

This is a 750-hour on-line course whose content is organised by modules and subjects together with an active and participatory learning methodology. In order to achieve one of the main objectives of the course, the training of Roma professionals, the Fundación Secretariado Gitano granted 24 scholarships to cover part of the university fees



ON-LINE GRADUATE COURSE
"EXPERT IN SOCIAL INTERVENTION
WITH THE ROMA COMMUNITY"

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thanks to a subsidy received in the call for aid granted from Income Tax allocations.

BROCHURE OF THE UPN-FSG-MINISTRY EXPERT COURSE

Professor Miguel Laparra, Director of the Social Work Department of the UPN is in charge of the academic administration of the course. The teachers comprising the team are from different spheres: social action with the Roma population or groups in situations of exclusion, academic-university and political, and all have proven professional experience and are prestigious teachers. The following are just some of the experts who have worked on the course: Antonio Gómez Alfaro, Fernando Rey (University of Valladolid), Valentín Suárez, José Manuel Fresno, Daniel La Parra (University of Alicante), Jesús Loza and others.

Course content is organised around five modules:

- › **Module 1.** Historical development, current situation and trends towards change in the Roma community.
- › **Module 2.** Advanced social policies and their application to the Roma community.



ON-LINE GRADUATE COURSE “EXPERT IN SOCIAL INTERVENTION WITH THE ROMA COMMUNITY”. THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY OF NAVARRA AND THE FSG.

- › **Module 3.** Social intervention with the Roma community in the areas of equal opportunity in employment, education, housing and health.
- › **Module 4.** Equal treatment and combating discrimination: fundamental rights, interculturalism, conflict resolution, social participation and social awareness-raising in culturally diverse contexts.
- › **Module 5.** Management and development of social action programmes.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT IN MEDIATOR TRAINING

The FSG has continued in its line of mediator training work helping public and private entities involved in the development of training projects and/or social-labour market integration actions with the Roma population which envisage the figure of the mediator as a member of the professional teams.

In 2009, technical consultation actions were carried out on the subject of mediation and mediator training as were dissemination actions through periodic FSG publications uploaded to the Foundation’s web page. This has provided visibility to a number of successful innovative experiences concerning intervention with the Roma community in the areas of labour market integration and intercultural mediation, information regarding resources, conferences, seminars, etc.

The FSG’s resource and documentation centre has responded to many requests for information and resource material on mediation processes, mediator training, social integration and the figure of the mediator.