

## INTRODUCTION

The following Progress Report concerns the activities currently organised and evaluated in the framework of the granted project **“Roma Youth – European Citizenship”** registered by the reference: **131042-51XI-ES-2006-R1**. This Progress Report includes activities organised in the period from 15/12/2006 to 15/4/2008. This Progress Report contains the information about the technical implementation of the activities planned until the date mentioned and it also includes the current expenditures of costs incurred so far. The Final Report will complement this report and will add more detailed information in order to complete the information of the project.

In the economic field, the figures include the expenditure of costs at present day regarding the developed activities. However, some activities organised after March 2008 haven't been evaluated yet because it is planned to do it during the fourth Steering Committee that will be held in Spain next September 2008. As it is described in the Work Programme, the Steering Committees are the main evaluation and follow-up space where all the partner organisations contribute to evaluate the activities already implemented, in this sense, it will be necessary to celebrate the IV Steering Committee to know about all details of the activities developed during 2008.

Regarding the summary of the project available in our application, this initiative is aimed to favour the capacity of young Roma in the exercise of their citizenship at European level, informing and training young Roma to encourage them and to involve them in the European processes and dynamics, placing them in equal conditions as the rest of the European youth and citizens.

In general lines, this Progress Report is aimed to give a general brief of the activities that have already been implemented and how the project is reaching the objectives proposed at the beginning. The activities that are still on-going or in course, will be included as well, in the Final Report.



The collaboration of the partner organisations of the project in the compilation of this report reflects the important role they are playing in the project development.

It is also needed to be mentioned the support received by the public administrations that are cofunding the activities included in the Work Programme in some cases and actively cooperating in others with the development of the action.

According to the guidelines proposed in the template for the Progress Report that must be filled detailing the information resulted in the implementation of the activities of the project, the information is compiled as follows:

#### **A. Activities**

Please give a general description of the activities (context, theme, etc.) so far. Present the latest work programme and timetable for the entire project; use the table “Work Programme” on the next page of this form.

As soon as the Project was agreed by EACEA, and we received the notification, the actions mentioned in the project started according to the foreseen calendar.

The Work Programme is characterized for being constant and progressive which facilitates the attainment of the marked main objectives, because all the activities planned are defined with the aim to be complementaries each other.

One important thing in this period has been to get informed the partner organisations involved in the project and to the cofunding administrations who signed their official involvement in the project development.

The first activity marked in the Work Programme and one of the essential parts of the good way of the project is the administrative and management organisation in order to design and apply the main tools in the accountant and administrative area that will favor the internal coordination of activities and its implementation within the leader and with partner organisations.

Several tools and templates have been created for the transfer of funds allocated for the partner organisations and also templates aimed to gather the information needed for the elaboration of the Progress Report and in future the Final Report.

Regarding the Work Programme, the results of the activities implemented can be described as follows:

### ***0. Internal Management and Project administration***

As it is mentioned in the introduction, several financial tools have been designed that will make easy the management of the project. There are several parts involved in this issue:

In one hand the Accounts Department of FSG, which must control the totality of the accounting of the project. That is a long and hard task to do, and it needs to be defined, clarified internally and requires the elaboration of accounting tools, communication documents and templates to justify all the costs incurred.

Secondly, the partner organisations have allocated a budget for the development of the activities to be developed in their countries. During the first Steering Committee and even before, internally in the FSG staff was considered that funds will be requested and transferred per activity. This will make easy the control of the contability of the budget, and it will ensure the commitment of the organisations involved in the project with the aim to duly justify the expenditure of costs. This implies a long-term difficulty due to the different kinds of currency between countries, because invoices received that duly justify the costs are in different language and different currency as just mentioned. During internal management and project administration, there were created several administrative tools that will face this kind of problems.

After this Progress Report is submitted, FSG staff and the National Coordinators of the project will design new tools with the aim of tackling this kind of problems encountered for the compilation of the current interim financial statement.

It will take place in IV Steering Committee that will be held in Spain next September, because one of its objectives is start to prepare the Final Report.

### ***I. Project Steering Committees:***

The Steering Committees are a main tool of coordination, planification, follow-up and communication between partner organisations. According to the duration of the project, it was foreseen to hold four Steering Committees, two for year, in order to establish a mechanism for the short-term planning of activities, its evaluations, its contents and so on.

Each partner organisation designated a National Coordinator, who is the main interlocutor between the leader organisation and the partner one. National Coordinator also undertakes the task of preparation, planification, evaluation and follow-up processes within their own organisations.

In some cases, the National Coordinator of some partner organisations have changed, what means a short-term difficulty in the implementation of the activities, because the person who left did not always transfer all the information to their own organisations. The time needed for the arrival of a new person who takes on the responsibility of the project must also bear in mind.

Luckily the activities have not been cancelled at any moment in any partner organisation and the project is well working but with a little bit delay that not implies in any case more than an incident for the project activities in the country.

In each Steering Committee has been set the short-planning for the next activities, then, regarding the coordination of the project and answering how to ensure the development of the project, it must be mentioned the importance that Steering Committees are playing in the development of the action granted.

In each Steering Committee it has been discussed about the next one, establishing the programme of each Steering Committee with the aim that everyone knows in advance what it will be dealt in each meeting.

Following, here is the information detailed of the three Steering Committees that have already been organised.

The first Steering Committee took place in Madrid, Spain, from 28th February to 4th March 2007 and it was focused on the initial managing of the project and short-term planning for 2007, specially for Europe Day's Festivity 2007.

It was the first time the team of National Coordinators and Transnational Coordination met, and it was also supposed to be the first activity of the project which involved all the partners organisations at the same time. In this way the programme of the meeting was organised including official receptions with the main cofunder of the project, the Spanish Youth Institute, where we were informed about the involvement of the administration in the project, and other activities that are implemented addressed to young people.

Financial issues and long term planning was also discussed with all the National Coordinators who attended on behalf of their own organisations. In this sense, it was approved by each participant the templates that were going to be used in the implementation of the project, specially when partner organisations will need funds for the activities planned.

It also was agreed about the short term planning of the activities to be implemented during the following months. In this sense, National and Transnational Coordinators of the project agreed to organise the whole programme of activities with the same scheme of contents, with the aim to implement similar actions in the five countries involved in the project. The same methodologies applied, the same profile in depth of participants, the same intended impact and visibility.

The second Steering Committee took place in Sofia, Bulgaria, from 8th to 12th September 2007. The main objective in this Steering Committee was to evaluate the first training course implemented before and to plan the first Study Visit that took place in November 2008.

Internal coordination of the project has been discussed among partners in order to facilitate from the very beginning the evaluation that FSG, as main partner, has to do of the methods used for the internal management, so that we can check if these methods are effective or not, and in this case, they should be modified. The evaluation and follow-up of the project is one of the essential parts to bear in mind in this kind of transnational initiatives, thus in each Steering Committee there has been some time devoted to do it.

Regarding the programme of the second Steering Committee the main objectives were to evaluate the Europe Day 2007 and the first Training Course, and in the other hand it was planned the second Training Course and the first Study Visit. Then in brief it was also established in general lines the long-term planning of the activities to be implemented in 2008.

The third Steering Committee took place in Romania, last 12th to 16th March 2008, in Bucharest. The aim of this meeting was to organise in depth the activities to be developed in 2008 and to evaluate the actions developed in 2007 in each country. The main focus was to analyse the achievements the project was starting to get, and how the partner organisation should continue the work in view to ensure the impact of the project and multiply the effects.

The organisation of the Europe Day 2008 and third Training Course was dealt on April 2008. It must bear in mind that it is planned to evaluate in depth the results obtained in each activity during last and next fourth Steering Committee to be held in September 2008 in Spain.

In the Final Report, we will provide with detailed information resulted from the Steering Committee, where will be compared the methodology applied, the obtained results and achievements.

## ***2. Project Dissemination***

The first initiative of the young Roma regarding their involvement in the proeject was the design of the logo of the project. It wasn't foreseen in the development of the actions, but this was an idea that arise from the group of young people, and it was accepted by the team to design a logo of the project.

The dissemination of the project has been an essential part to get the intended impact. As it is mentioned in the project, there have been also used the internal newsletters, electronic bulletins and written magazine “Gitanos, Pensamiento y Cultura” with the updated information of the project in FSG channel.

Partner organisations have also contributed in the dissemination of the project information using their own internal resources such as sending it to their contacts. In the websites of partner organisations the information of the project has been periodically updated.

During 2008 it is still being prepared the website of the project which will contain all the contents of the project and will be useful to get all the activities results, pictures, working methods and everything that partners consider should be disseminated.

It had also been foreseen to design an informative leaflet and posters of the project. The leaflets and posters were agreed by all the partner organisations and theyinclude all the activities to be implemented in the framework of the project, as mentioned in the initial draw.

During 2007 the main objective the partner organisations agreed in the first Steering Committee was to publicly present the official launching of the project. All partner organisations organised this activity with the aim to present officially the content of the project and also to celebrate the Europe Day festivity (9th May 2007).

In each country it was organised the activity in a similar way, similar programme, with properly objectives and trying to gather the initial group of young people that will be participants in all the phases of the project.

In this sense, the Europe Day’s Festivity 2007 served as first contact with part of the young people who will attend the whole work programme

Europe Day’s Festivity 2008, as agreed during third Steering Committee in Romania, was intended to be the first activity implemented completely by young participants.

Europe Day’s Festivity 2008 is still needed to be evaluated and there is no available information to add in this Progress Report. We will inform of it in the Final Report after the IV Steering Committee will be held in September 2008 in Spain.

### ***3. Training in European Citizenship***

The training courses have been the fundamental part in the development of the project. If it is established in the project to promote the European citizenship and to bring to young Romas information related to the European Union, the training courses are the activities chapter that is in charge of this objective.

This training programme was intended to be carried out in 4 sessions each lasting four and a half days and involving at least 12 young Roma participants per country whose selection were based on their capacity, skills and basic knowledge regarding youth empowerment and active participation.

This training programme also includes two Study Visits giving young participants a first-hand view of the main European enclaves which will have positive effects on their development. Entities, organisations and individuals from the main European institutions will collaborate in the organisation of these visits.

The aim of these sessions is to offer training and experimentation opportunities regarding active European Citizenship with a view to facilitating access to available resources on an equal footing and to likewise foster interest in political and institutional issues (decision-taking at the European level, the role of their representatives at European institutions, participation in elections, etc.).

In the Steering Committees it was decided to follow a common work programme for the whole sessions. In each one there have been combined activities that will strengthen the group created with official receptions, theoretical contents with practical dynamics.

The first Training Course was developed in June 2007, under the title “Values and Identity Signs of Europe and European Union”. This training was focused on providing information to the young Roma participants in all countries about why Europe was created, its mission and objectives, its signs of identity such as the flag, the common currency, the anthem...

During the first Training Course has also been explained in depth about all the content of the project and they started to realise their role in the project. They learnt that they will be participants in activities during 2007 with the aim to be more active participants and key actors in 2008.

Participants in each country involved in the project have been aware of their possible participation in the Study Visit to be held in Strasbourg in November 2007, and the group of participants in each country started to prepare their own candidature to be selected by the others to represent the whole group of participants.

The second training course took place in October in each of the countries; under the title “Structure and Composition of European Union” was focused in the learning of the composition of European Union, how many countries are members of the European Union, how many are candidates, and what are the criteria procedure for accepting new members in the European Union.

During the second Training Course, there was time devoted to evaluate with the group of young people about the contents advanced in the first session, with the aim to remind the knowledgements of the young people who were repeating their attendance in the second Training Course, and to show to the new ones how the theoretical content was going on.

The third Training Course was expected to take place in countries during April 2008, then it can not be evaluated yet and included in this Progress Report because it is foreseen to evaluate it in depth in the IV Steering Committee to be held in September 2008 in Spain.

At this third Training Course, under the title “Bodies comprising the European Union”, the group of participants learned about the five institutions that compose the EU. In the Final Report will be included more detailed information about this activity.

#### **4. Study Visits**

It was planned to organise after each training course phase a Study Visit in order to see and deal in practice about the content of the training courses held before. Strasbourg and Brussels were the venues chosen to give to a representation of the group of participants composed from all the countries involved in the project the opportunity to keep in touch at once.

This kind of Study Visits were planned in order to put in practice the theoretical knowledge obtained in the two initial training sessions. From National Coordinators and Transnational Coordination was in mind the importance this kind of Study Visits had.

In this sense to get in touch representatives from Council of Europe and European Union was very important for the impact and visibility of the project, and also for the achievement of the main objectives of the action. This contribute to the innovation of the initiative, because it was the first time young Roma people from this countries visited the Council of Europe, the European Union offices and its representatives.

In November 2007 it took place the I Study Visit to Strasbourg, from 21st to 25th November. This was the first activity where young Roma that are participating in the project from all the countries involved gathered all together. The aim of this Study Visit also was to interview with representatives from Council of Europe and to visit at once the main buildings where these institutions establish their headquarters.

According to the multiplier effect and the impact of the project, it must be mentioned that to get in touch 20 young Roma people from the countries involved in the project is a great achievement of the activity.

About the programme developed in the Study Visit in Strasbourg, during the second Steering Committee held in Bulgaria, it was agreed by the team of organisation of the project to separate the programme in three main blocks: working groups for discussing about the activities of the project the group is involved, visits to main buildings that exist in Strasbourg and receptions and interviews with representatives of Europe.

In Strasbourg there were programmed several working groups who discussed about the activities of the project should involve young participants such as: website design and internet forum, the Europe Day 2008 festivity and the second phase of the training courses to be held in 2008.

The group of participants visited the Main Building of the Council of Europe, where they were explained about the mechanism of work of the institution, what kind of meetings take place in the Hemicycle and how are represented, specially, the countries involved in the project. It was not possible to visit the European Parliament and the European Court for Human Rights because there was no answer to our request.

Regarding the interviews with representatives of Council of Europe, we can specify that advisors of Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (European Commissioner for Human Rights) received the group of participants and encouraged us to get in touch with institutions in order to be in alert about possible cases of discrimination by ethnical reasons.

The group of participants was also received by Mr. Michael Guet, from the Roma Division of Council of Europe and he encouraged to the group of participants for being more active European Citizenships and become really leaders in the community to fight against discrimination cases.

During 2008 will be held the second study visit to Brussels. It has been discussed by the staff that it is necessary to delay the dates of the organisation of the visit, because we realised that Study Visit should be done after the IV Steering Committee and IV Training Course, then, November will be the real date of organisation of the meeting. We will inform the Executive Agency duly in order to be authorised to include this change in the activities work programme.

##### ***5. Compiling of the guide “Roma Youth – European Citizenship”***

It was planned to develop this activity from May 2008 till December 2008. It has been discussed in the III Steering Committee in Romania with all the partner organisations and during the Study Visit in Strasbourg with the group of participants about the operative objectives this material will try to achieve.

The objective of this guide is to facilitate the work in European Citizenship field. The main structure the guide should follow is to include all the activities of the project as good practices. It will include personal opinions of participants and the guide will be written also by themselves.

During IV Steering Committee will take place in Spain next September will be defined the calendar to follow for the publication of this material.

It is foreseen to edit this material in December. It will include some official presentation in the framework of some activity of the project.

## **B. Preparation**

Please explain what kind of preparation you did for the project and the extent of the involvement of your partner organisations. State whether there were any preliminary meetings (indicate type, frequency and any impact on the organisation of activities).

The preparation the project had is mentioned in the development of the Steering Committees as an essential part of planification in short / long term, evaluation and follow-up activities.

In each partner organisation were designated a National Coordinator of the project. He/She has been the person in charge of the project and the responsible to implement the activities following the calendar and the Work Programme agreed in the Steering Committees.

The Steering Committees are being useful to plan in short term the activities and to ensure the good way in the activities.

The involvement of the partner organisations is necessary in this kind of projects because is needed a really involvement that makes easy the management of the projects and to ensure the objectives planned in the project.

In the activities part Steering Committees it is provided further information for the preparation of the project. It can also be consulted the activities part Internal Management of the project.

In order to facilitate the development of the project, from the leader organisation always has been sent an initial proposal of contents for the activities, with the aim to establish discussion and open a making process to decide about the general scheme of the activities to be implemented.

### C. Practical organisation

Please describe the logistic, the practical organisation of the activities and the support provided (transport, accomodation), mentioning any difficulties encountered and measures taken to face them.

This kind of transnational projects implies a great plan of logistic organisation. Travel and accommodation are the main blocks that require a big effort in the organisation and control. The design of several tools in this fields has facilitated the organisation and control of the whole project. This details are explained in the chapter destined to Internal Management of the project.

To ensure the objectives of the project, all the partner organisations wanted to reach the highest number of participants as possible, for this reason, participants from all cities have been contacted and are participating in the activities now. In this way, regarding the transport and accommodation there have found several difficulties, because the project established the same figures for all the countries in elegible costs, and during the project we realised that costs are not the same in all the countries.

In other words it is not the same cost for a train within Romania, from Bucharest to Craiova, for example, than a train in Spain from Barcelona to Madrid, but the project foreseen that it should be the same eligible costs for a train in Romania as in Spain. After consulting this issue with EACEA by email, we received the authorisation to move the budget from Travel (2A costs) to Travel Spain (2A costs).

About the accommodation, in order to reach more participants than we mentioned in the project we have got the collaboration of other organisations and administrations in the development of activities. For example, in the cases of training courses, we had collaboration of Youth Hostels for reserving more places than necessaries, in order to gather young Roma people in the activities and to contribute in the impact and the multiplier effect mentioned in the project, and specially, to increase the number of participants that are involved in the action, instead of the initially marked in our application.

#### **D. Working methods**

Please describe the methodology employed in the activities implemented so far.

The current development of the project seeks to adapt the information regarding Europe, i.e. its message and organisation, to the target population by designing and developing training programmes on Europe, on European citizenship and to empower and encourage the participation of Roma youth. This Training Sessions includes Study Visits organised for and with the young participants to two of Europe's principal enclaves, Strasbourg and Brussels, in order to gain first-hand knowledge of European institutions and organisations, including interviews with political representatives, well-known entities, etc.

Another working method applied in this project is the coordinated work with the public administrations responsible for youth issues at the local, regional and national levels and which are participating as collaborating entities and/or co-funding agencies.

The cofunding organisations are also cofunders in other FSG programmes focused in the promotion of the social participation of young Roma in Spain. Some of this public administrations that are cofunding the current project were invited to join this action with the aim of involving them in the development of this kind of project that needs to involve them. During the development of the project many meetings took place with cofunders in order to explain them about the course of the actions. A brief presentation of the project was prepared in order to explain to this organisation about the content of the project, the partners organisations, the work programme, the visibility and impact their contribution to the project will have and so on.

As it is mentioned in the chapter related to PREPARATION, from FSG always has been sent a proposal of work programme, that has been discussed with the partner organisations in order to agree a common work programme adapted to all needs and bearing in mind all the proposals received by the partner organisations.

As a result of this collaboration, recommendations have been made and action models disseminated enabling the implementation of measures, plans and programmes whose objective is to foster active citizenship among youth in general and Roma youth in particular in all of the participating countries, especially those with the most experience in working with government bodies in this way.

The group of participants is playing an important role in the methodology of the project used. They are taking part in the making process actively, from how to ensure the visibility of the project to who must represent the group in the Study Visits planned.

The group of young people in each country received explanation about the whole programme of the project, all the objectives, and the methodology proposed. In this sense, young Roma decide about how the Training Sessions should be developed or what specific objectives will be developed regarding their expectations, discussing about the venue of the activity, the dates (in order to make easy their participation, but respecting the proposed work programme).

In all the activities of the project different mass media were invited, and some of them attended to the activity. Young Roma participated in interviews, press reports and some articles. The project also has been outlined in different bulletins and magazines that will be included in the Final Report as an Annexe.

As it is mentioned in the Activities part / Training Courses, they were prepared with a similar scheme of contents in all the countries involved in the project, bearing in mind to include theoretical content and a practical part, being consequents with the complete development of the work programme planned.

## **E. Achievements**

Please explain what you have achieved so far in relation to the objectives mentioned in your application form.

The achievements in relation to the objectives mentioned in the project can be described as follows:

The main result is a sense of European identity among Roma youth incorporating it as an additional part of their already existing identity. As anecdote it can be mentioned the fact that they are already aware of their European Citizenship when they watch TV and they see about the European Commission, or European Parliament news, they are already realising that this information is related to their own citizenship.

The group of young Roma participating in the project are being encouraged, who would then serve as role models and introduce other Roma young people first-hand to European cooperation and participatory mechanisms and resources on the local and regional levels. In this sense the group is helping other young from its own experience who may be interested in the issues relating the EU.

Information, training and experimentation opportunities are being offered regarding active European citizenship to young Roma people with a view to facilitating access to available resources. Several training offer and information about events related to young people arrives to National Coordinators and Transnational Coordination email. It is forwarded to the group of young Roma people with the aim to involve them in activities that are not in the framework of the project and to encourage them in this kind of activities destined to young people in general.

The promotion of the creation of mechanisms and strategies to encourage cooperation with and support of public bodies responsible for youth, Roma youth organisations and the networks in which they participate. The group of participants are encouraged to participate in local, regional or national events destined to design Youth Plans or Youth

Policies, bearing in mind the impact will result for Roma Community in each country if this kind of young people get involved in the development of the social life.

Another achievement the project is getting is to join professionals who are working with other young people through social entities in the activities of the project, as well as trainers, or as interested people in the activity.

#### F. Beneficiaries

Please explain who were the direct beneficiaries of the project so far and who will benefit from it in an indirect way (target groups, sectors, etc)

The project's target population is Roma youth who is playing an active role in the planning, design and implementation of the different activities. In fact, some of the National Coordinators in the partner organisations are Roma young people themselves thus guaranteeing their participation in the definition of objectives and design of actions.

A group of young Roma from each country are the direct beneficiaries of the project. These youth has been trained as leaders and social agents with the task of empowering Roma young people in the exercise of active European Citizenship.

Roma community members in general are also indirect beneficiaries because working with Roma young people who will potentially become youth leaders empowering European citizenship among Roma youth, will help put their community on an equal footing with the rest of society in terms of access to and use of social participation resources at European level which, up to now, have remained beyond the reach of the vast majority of the Roma people. Moreover, these young leaders are starting to become positive role models within their communities and for other young people encouraging social participation and cooperation.

In the Europe Day's Festivity 2007 participated around 50 people in each of the countries involved in the project.

In the Training Courses held in 2007 participated between 15 and 19 young Roma in each country per session. It is expected to increase this figures in 2008 because of the good managing of the budget.

In last Study Visit took place in Strasbourg participated 22 people, 3 young Roma per country plus the group of National Coordinators and Transnational Coordinator of the project.

#### **G. Evaluation and feedback**

How are you ensuring the evaluation, follow-up and a sustainable impact of the project? Please give details regarding evaluation during the project and participant's feedback. Do you have any plans for follow-up activities or further contact with the partner organisation(s)/group(s)?

All the activities of the project organised within this period have been evaluated. Each activity has been evaluated with a similar scheme with tools designed in each partner organisation. The description of the evaluation has been made within this period is the following:

-At the beginning of the activities, the programme is explained in detail, the main objectives, and the expected results. At the end of the activity this part is evaluated again, with the aim to see if the work developed has achieved the expected results.

-Venue, timetable, facilities and aspects related the logistical are also evaluated for each member (staff and/or group of participants) with the aim to continue organising what is working and to change what doesn't work.

-The activities are also long-term evaluated in a qualitative manner. i.e. During the II Training Course it was evaluated the I Training Course again, with the aim to ensure the coherence of the project. It also ensures that the group of participants are aware about this coherence and to make them easy the understanding of the whole content of the project.

From the beginning of this project participants have been given a main role to play in all actions, make them easy their contribution to the project development during all the time.

The Europe Day's Festivity 2007 as the first public activity of the project served as the official launching of the initiative in the 5 countries. It was explained the whole content of the project and the expected results of the initiative. The main achievement this activity obtained was the creation of the groups of participants that would be maintained for the rest of the activities till now developed in each organisation.

During the first training course it was possible the reinforcement of the created group, which was taken advantage by the National Coordinators to strengthen the cohesion of the groups, in order they could feel the project as own, and to interfere much more in the execution of the action. All the suggestions and ideas the groups showed to the Coordinators were bore in mind, with the aim to meet their requests.

This process of feedback has been carried out during all the project activities and the groups of young participants in each country are involved in the process of the capture of decisions, such as who will represent the group in Study Visit, how to organise the remaining training courses, how it should be the website of the project, or suggestions about something they would like to do with other young Roma/non Roma people.

Likewise, the groups of participants are the main beneficiaries of the project, but they are also who start the multiplier effect, moving the theoretical skills and the practical experiences obtained to the other young Roma.

One of the general objectives of our project is to create a European Roma Young People Network. In this fact during the I Study Visit to Strasbourg young Roma people from the five countries involved in the project had the chance to work together and it supposed the first contact between them.

The exchange of experiences has resulted profitable for the group of participants because they got to know the situation of other young Roma from other countries, their difficulties and needs, which can be the same or different respecting their own situation.

The interest showed by them for living the experience of being with other young Roma people shows that working groups facilitates the aimed creation of a group.

On the other hand, visiting the European Institutions in Strasbourg and the interviews with representatives within the structure of Europe has made possible the learning of the theoretical courses have been completely based. The level of knowledge demonstrated in this activity by participants makes us to think that the training methodology method has been the correct one since in the practice results can be observed.

In 2008, second half of the project, the groups reached maturity to develop an action as monitors with other younger teenagers aged between 12 and 16 years old, in the development of Europe Day's Festivity.

At present day there have been established stable groups of at least 12 persons in each country involved in the project, who keep periodic contact. From National Coordinators role, they have included them into information networks, sometimes they take part in local, regional or European activities called from organizations and platforms of participation different than our project.

Up to now and with the forecast of continuing doing it until the end of the project, in each activity programmed there have been reserved spaces where young participants could evaluate, add ideas or suggestions for future activities, that means the very important role the young people are playing in the development of this initiative.

#### **H. Impact and visibility**

Please describe how you ensured the visibility of your activities.

Activities dissemination is being a transversal axis addressed at the different stages and through project content. In order to ensure the visibility of the project, activities were carried out such as: construction of a project web page and the design of a debate forum as part of that page and the publication of different dissemination materials such as posters and informative brochures for each entity (in all of the partner country languages plus English and Romany, the Roma language), support material for Europe Day festivities and the Teaching Guide “Roma Youth: European Citizenship” translated into the languages of the partner countries plus English. All project-related products include the logos of the participating entities plus the European Commission and Youth Programme logos. It is also clearly stated on these products that they were developed as part of the 5th call for actions under the corresponding YOUTH Programme.

The project’s collaborating entities and co-funding organisations are contributing to the dissemination of these materials by including them in all of the actions in which they are participating and/or organising with respect to project topics, furnishing opportunities for the distribution of the material to other young people and their own web pages and habitual channels of communication with other youth entities and other young people.

Moreover, project partner entities commit themselves to disseminate all materials within the framework of the programme through their habitual channels of communication with a view to wider distribution. All of the partner entities have developed work networks with their administrations regarding youth, professionals and social entities which will be used in a special way to disseminate project products and activities

The Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) is making a concerted effort to make available all internal and external media at our disposal as well as the different informative bulletins habitually distributed with a circulation of over 1,500 including different Spanish social entities and a number of public administrations. Materials are also being disseminated



through the bi-monthly FSG magazine entitled “Gitanos: Pensamiento y Cultura” (Roma Thought and Culture) with a circulation of over 3,000.



### **I. Perspectives**

Please describe specific difficulties you have encountered in implementing your project so far (including financial).

As it is mentioned in the other parts of this Progress Report numerous difficulties have been found in the implementation of the project. They are detailed as following, as well as how they were faced.

#### **REGARDING THE INTERNAL MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT:**

The coordination of the activities of a project like the current one is very hard, because it is necessary to ensure the running of the action in all the partner organisations. It is also necessary to make a team in the staff of the project that will ensure this kind of collaboration with the partners and internal organisation.

At FSG we think that the leader organisation has to get the initiative of the project in the activities, in the proposal of contents, dates of activities, communication and so on. That makes that leader organisation should dedicate more efforts in order that the project works in a proper way.

#### **REGARDING THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:**

Although project is also going on thanks to the partner organisations, who are doing the best for the good development of the project, there have been several facts that changed the main course of the work programme.

Initially, during the first Steering Committee it was defined a staff of the project, composed by one National Coordinator per country plus the Transnational Coordinator. In one of the partner organisations, one different person has participated in each Steering Committee. This supposes a lost of the information of the project in the partner organisation, and therefore a delay in the development of the actions.

There was necessary to contact again with the partner organisation and contact with the new coordinator by email, and being at disposition whenever the new person would need more information about the project and activities.

#### REGARDING THE FINANCIAL ISSUES

Within this chapter it can be mentioned as a main difficulty the different kind of currencies involved in the project. That influences, specially, in the control of the financial area, because the partner organisations send the economical report and invoices in their own language and currency.

Obviously it was necessary to design financial tools that ensure the good exchange of the information. These templates have been used to compile the actual Progress Report in its financial statement and detailed information added.

It would be useful if Executive Agency will design this kind of tools with the aim to make easy to the youth organisations the management of this kind of projects in the financial area, bearing in mind that different currency supposes a serious obstacle in the internal coordination of a project.

#### REGARDING THE YOUNG ROMA PEOPLE

The main difficult in the development of the project regarding the main target group, the young Roma people, is to ensure their continuity in all the phases of the project. It has been achieved that several young Roma people that composes the group of participants in each country repeat a Training Course session, but is difficult to ensure a group of participants as bigger as proposed in our application.



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**PROGRESS REPORT**



## ANNEXES

The annexes to this Progress Report are the following ones:

- Updated Work Programme of the project
- Work Programmes of Steering Committees already organised
- Work Programme of I Study Visit to Strasbourg
- Template for fund request used by partner organisations
- Representative Pictures from activities already implemented

**All documents including the Technical Report, Summary Report and Financial Statement are included in an attached CD.**