

International  
cooperation in respect  
of ethnic minorities  
FSG's experience

[Projects undertaken](#)

Bosnia and Herzegovina's National Strategy for Roma. The FSG will contribute with its experience and know-how in the drafting of preliminary Schemes and by participating in working groups and organising seminars to review the said Schemes ultimately leading to their approval. In addition to helping to improve the living standard of the Bosnian Roma population, the FSG's contribution will enable this country to take part in the "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015" initiative.



## Lessons learned and project success factors

The FSG has always recognised the added value of participating in projects with a European dimension and considered these a learning process further enriching the experience of our organisation. International cooperation has given the Foundation the perspective of other contexts and work approaches which have allowed us to compare and contrast our progress and limitations.

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## Lessons learned and project success factors

In general terms, project success factors can be summarised as follows:

### Innovation

The European context provides the ideal framework for innovation and allow for experimentation with new approaches to old problems or new approaches to new problems. Many pilot projects have ended up taking root as political measures at national level. Both the type of activity as well as the results of many European initiatives have set the stage for the subsequent development of other national projects.

### Partnership

Joint endeavours with other entities, i.e. over and above mere association or collaboration among entities, has been an enriching learning process for the FSG both at national and European level. The sharing of information, methodology and experience with other entities working in the area of social action with the same target group, i.e. the Roma population or other vulnerable groups, has allowed us to create stable networks as these partnerships become more consolidated.

### Transnationality

For us, transnationality is a process whereby Community added value is incorporated into the joint actions of entities from different countries with shared objectives. Different political, institutional and social contexts contribute to making transnationality a complex process requiring a systematic methodology enabling participating entities to meet the objectives established. The Foundation's experience has proven, however, that transnationality also implies numerous advantages in terms of access to information concerning processes, approaches, policies, etc. being implemented in other countries. This transnational exchange of information and experience also implies vital "baggage" for all participating organisations which also benefit from the incorporation of a common project management system.

### Inter-institutional Cooperation

Cooperation is not only vital between entities working in the same field but also between the latter and all of those other players who, in one way or another, can influence social action (government administrations, research centres, the media, etc.). Hence, one of the keys to success in the implementation of FSG projects has always been to join forces with all areas involved and very especially to engage the different government administrations in our actions.

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#### Lessons learned and project success factors

##### **Transferability** □

One of the key factors in the development of international projects has been the identification of experiences and initiatives which, depending on their characteristics, can be transferred to other contexts. Learning from the key elements accounting for the success or failure of other experiences has turned out to be very positive both in terms of evaluation and the multiplying effect that a single project can have.

##### **Visibility** □

A clear visibility strategy is another key factor of our international projects allowing us to disseminate not only FSG's experience but also Spain's experience in general (institutional mechanisms and processes, entities and government administrations involved, etc.). Conveying what we do and how we do it has also led to an increase in the number of requests for support and assistance.

# Annexes

- a. Table of projects
- b. List of partners and collaborating entities