

Presentation

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gain this year, the FSG Annual Activities Report 2006 details the work carried out by the Fundación Secretariado Gitano throughout Spain and in Europe, and makes a number of references to aspects which have affected, to a greater or lesser degree, the Roma community as a whole in Spain.

As for the institutional context, we can safely say that 2006 has been an historic year for the Spanish Roma community with the final implementation of the State Council of the Roma People, a collegiate and advisory body giving formal status to the participation and collaboration of Roma organisations with the General State Administration. During this period, two other important initiatives have been announced as well: the creation of a national Roma Cultural Institute and the implementation of a new Roma Development Plan for the next five years.

The year 2006 has also marked a milestone in the already long history of the Secretariado Gitano (40 years of work), i.e. the conclusion of the 2000-2006 phase of the Acceder Employment Programme. This was a complex task entrusted by the European institutions to the FSG which has been more than successful both in terms of numerical results (over 30,000 individuals served and more than 20,000 labour contracts signed) and the commitment to and involvement in the project on the part of many public and private entities throughout the whole of Spain.

The Acceder programme is embarking upon a new phase which will probably extend to 2013 and during which we expect to not only continue to consolidate and build upon the results from the preceding phase but also to take advantage of the opportunity to improve working methods and procedures as much as possible; in this endeavour we also have the numerous

indicators provided by the study entitled Roma Population and Employment whose results were made public in March 2006.

Vocational training and employment, along with the other 15 lines of activity carried out by the Foundation (education, health, housing, equal treatment, cultural promotion, communication and social image, etc.), are addressed in this new FSG Activities Report which is supplemented with a block of Annexes furnishing data on programmes, the economic balance sheet, the report from the external auditor and the list of collaborating institutions. The more specific information on the work undertaken by the territorial delegations can be found in their own Annual Reports (one from each of the Autonomous Communities where they operate).

One of the main objectives of this publication is, therefore, to provide information regarding all of the programmes carried out, their budgets and funding sources, with a view to being completely transparent and in keeping with our commitment to the principles and values serving as guidelines for our actions.

Before delving into all of this information, however, we would be amiss if we did not express our thanks to the growing number of organisations and institutions which back and support our activities, the Foundation's workers and that broad social base comprised of programme users, family and friends totalling a very large number of individuals throughout the whole country making the daily work of this joint project possible.

Pedro Puente Fernández / President

