

The FSG in 2006

Foundation activity this year has been characterised by a large number of projects carried out with a view to improving the living standards of Roma through the rendering of services in key areas such as employment, promotion of education and access to housing.

A large proportion of our work has also focused on social awareness-raising actions through the ongoing campaign “Get to know them before judging them”, equal treatment and non-discrimination actions, the training of key agents and the fostering of institutional recognition of the Roma minority.

The year 2006 has also proven to be very productive year in terms of generating a knowledge base on the status of the Roma community. The FSG has undertaken or initiated different nation-wide surveys in the fields of employment, secondary education, health and housing. We believe that these works will have an enormous impact as they will provide reliable data enabling the establishment of priorities and the focusing of inclusion policies on the Roma minority.

The year 2006 is also important for our entity in that it marks the end of the Operational Programme to Combat Discrimination (2000-2006) and the time is nearing to compile results. The positive results of our Acceder Programme have not only borne witness to its capacity to

provide opportunities in the area of employment, acknowledged by the European Commissioner of Employment and Social Affairs, Vladimir Spidla, who referred to it as a model to be followed by other countries in terms of the future planning of the new structural funds, but have also been instrumental in the renewal of the Programme during the upcoming Structural Fund period (2007-2013) in our country.

The year also ended with another piece of good news for the Foundation - the acknowledgement of the work of our President Pedro Puente at the helm of the Foundation in the form of the Government’s awarding of the Civilian Order of the Golden Cross for Social Solidarity.

KEY ASPECTS OF OUR ACTION IN 2006

This year the Foundation has implemented a total of 151 projects touching over 75,000 beneficiaries. The majority of these activities were carried out in 85 cities and municipalities in 14 Autonomous Communities.

The Foundation has had funding from many sources to execute these actions, most coming from public funds and to a lesser degree from collaboration with private entities. We would stress the importance of funding from the European Social Fund and the co-funding and involvement of over 70 municipal and regional administrative departments and subsidies from the national administration, mostly from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

In order to execute these projects, the FSG has inter-cultural teams of professionals and collaborators in the towns and cities where we have ongoing programmes. Fruit of their dedication are the achievements and productive activity undertaken during the course of the year and described in this Report and which are summarised below.

» **The importance of employment for social inclusion**

Just over 60% of the entity's resources are earmarked for this area owing to its high potential to combat exclusion. Having a job or having the skills needed to find one give people autonomy and facilitates their advancement in other areas of their lives.

Here, once again, we should draw attention to the positive results of the **Acceder Programme**. In 2006 over 33,000 individuals were served through this programme and 22,800 labour contracts were signed of which 953 (4.3%) were permanent contracts.

The **Workshop Schools** have proven to be an excellent tool for vocational training and the labour market inclusion of the youngest members of the community. The results of these experiences in Madrid and Leon, the Sestao Trade House and the Employment Workshops conducted in cities such as Avilés and Granada, are examples of these achievements.



DEBATE ON THE STATE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AT THE CONGRESS OF DEPUTIES

Actions fostering self-employment in collaboration with the Un Sol Mon Foundation are developing slowly in Madrid and Valencia but do constitute a promising line of work which we hope to consolidate over the next few years to supplement the Acceder actions.

The study entitled Roma Population and Employment, using the same variables as the Active Population Survey (Spanish acronym EPA), furnishes comparable data on the employment situation of Roma and highlights headway and existing inequalities as well as the need to encourage active measures to facilitate these peoples' access to training and the labour market.

› FSG social action

Another one-third of the projects carried out during the year are actions in the field of education, housing, health, advancement of women and access to new technologies. The renewal of the agreements which the FSG has with the Women's Institute, INJUVE and the Education and Health Ministries, allow us to move forward in these fields.

In terms of Education, the results of the research project entitled *Access of Roma students to compulsory education* have been made public and show the scant presence of Roma at this level of education and the seriousness of the school dropout phenomenon. As a result, we have extended our after-school tutoring and adult education activities to practically all the cities where the FSG has offices. Particularly successful was the scholarship programme with 207 beneficiaries in 2006 (73 of whom were university level and the rest secondary school students) and the signing of an agreement with the ICO

Foundation which will enable us to provide better funded scholarships for Roma students who are accepted into university studies.

Within the framework of the agreement signed with the Ministry of Housing, a think-tank was formed to provide guidelines in this respect, an initiative which coincides nicely with the development of a *Roma community Housing Map* the purpose of which is to gain insight into the housing situation of Roma in Spain and its evolution over the last 15 years.

In this same field, we have rented and purchased second-hand houses in places such as Murcia and Navarre for families who otherwise would be unable to gain access to housing. We have also undertaken social accompaniment activities targeting relocated families in cities such as Madrid and we have intervened in the relocation of Roma families in Vigo.

As a complement to this social action, we would highlight the conclusion of the

COMMISSIONER SPIDLA MAKES REFERENCE TO THE ACCEDER PROGRAMME AS A BENCHMARK TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE FUTURE PROGRAMMING OF STRUCTURAL FUNDS



fieldwork phase (which included the whole of Spain) of *the survey on Health and the Roma community* in collaboration with the Ministry of Health which, based on the same methodology used for the National Health Survey, will provide us with data which can then be compared with that of the general Spanish population.

And lastly, in light of its originality and appropriateness, we would make special mention of the commencement of *the programme Rominet, Roma women and new technologies* being launched with funding through the Avanza Plan and in collaboration with the Esplai Foundation. This programme provides the means by which to enhance the skills and open the door to employment opportunities for young Roma women.

› Social awareness-raising actions

The dissemination of the second phase of the campaign “Get to know them before judging them” continued in different Autonomous Communities. This campaign, seeking to improve the social image of the Roma community and eradicate the stereotypes and prejudices to which

it is subjected, has received important recognition at European level where it was presented this year and served as the model for a similar campaign launched by the Council of Europe.

› Promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination

As for the promotion of equal treatment and

non-discrimination, this year the Report on Discrimination and the Roma Community 2006 was published and disseminated. Our teams gathered and documented over one hundred cases and provided legal advice in some.

It also undertook important work in the area of training and awareness-raising with courses targeting key agents in the promotion of equal treatment: teachers, health-care personnel, legal experts, trade unions and police.

› International cooperation

In 2006, the international dimension of the Foundation was characterised by transnational collaboration and the strengthening of networks with partners working with Roma people throughout Europe.

In this connection we should note projects such as the *Reduction of Health Inequalities in the Roma Community*, collaboration in educational projects within the framework of the *Socrates Programme* and the Roma-EDEM anti-discrimination programme.

We should also highlight the commencement of a project funded by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) in Bosnia and Herzegovina which will allow us to contribute to the development of action schemes which the Bosnian government will present within the framework of the European initiative *Decade of Roma Inclusion*.

› Actions with immigrants

The arrival of Roma immigrant population from Eastern Europe to Spain with major social needs motivated the FSG in 2006 to



deal with this reality in some municipalities of Andalusia, Catalonia, Asturias and Madrid.

Following an analysis of the context and the reality facing the immigrant Roma families, action was taken with 256 individuals consisting of social insertion itineraries focusing on aspects of basic care and access to employment.

These activities were carried out in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Immigrant Integration and other specialised NGOs.

› Political and institutional action

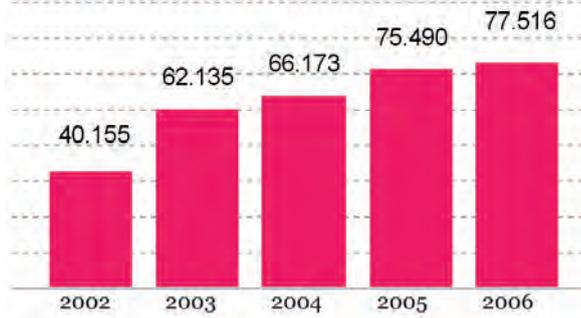
Another important aspect for the Foundation has to do with the objective of exerting an influence on the policies targeting the Roma community or which could have an impact on it. This year, in collaboration with other interested entities, proposals were drawn up for the creation of the aforementioned *Council for the advancement of equal treatment and non-discrimination*, a body which will have clear repercussions on the situations of discrimination suffered by this community in our society.

Similarly, the FSG has paid particular attention to the issue of institutional recognition of the Roma minority. To that end, proposals have been drawn up and submitted for inclusion in the reform of the Statutes of Autonomy which were approved in 2006 or which are at the draft stage.

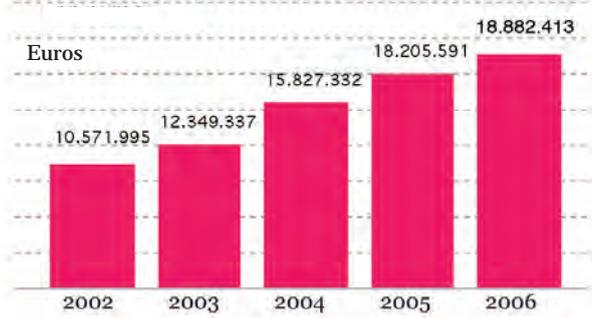
Efforts were also made to promote the conducting of a socio-demographic study of the Roma community which, entrusted to the Sociological Research Centre (CIS) by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, has finally got under way.

The Foundation has become a member of the State Council of the Roma People which was finally born in 2006 and in which we have great hope, trusting that it will play a decisive role in defence of the interests of the Roma community in our country.

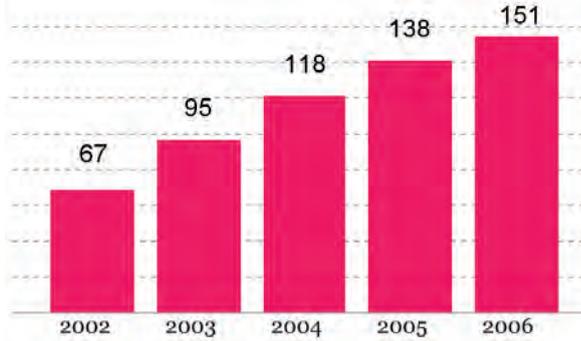
BENEFICIARIES



ECONOMIC RESOURCES



PROGRAMMES



HIRED PERSONNEL

