

The FSG in 2007

The year 2007 was a year of frenetic activity and a degree of complexity for the Foundation. We were immersed in a cycle change which began in the year 2000 with the launching of the *Acceder* Programme and the commencement of a new period which will take us to 2013. This year (and most likely next year as well) has been a transition involving the closing of the first period and the taking on of new initiatives and setting the stage for the future development of the Foundation.

The 2000-2006 balance sheet of the *Acceder* Programme, the negotiations to ensure the future of the new Programme and its planning, the social awareness-raising campaign, the work involved in drawing up our next Institutional Strategic Plan, the dimension of the projects approved and being implemented, the activities undertaken in the areas of housing, health-care and equal treatment and the new work opportunities at international level are just some of the milestones characterising this intense year described in this section.



STATE PRESENTATION OF THE AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN IN MADRID

ACCEDER PROGRAMME

The Programme continued to bear positive fruit this year and we will finish with over 38,671 beneficiaries and 27,370 jobs.

In Spain and abroad, *Acceder* is becoming a benchmark for intervention with Roma in the words of the European Employment and Social Affairs Commissioner.

2007 was the year to begin to take stock of progress made and to compile the results of the impact achieved. This task began with the November presentation of a general programme report and an information video and will continue through the first half of 2008 in all of the cities where we are working with the presentation of the reports drawn up for each of the Autonomous Communities.

In 2007 we secured the future of the *Acceder* Programme until 2013 and during the year we drew up the draft framework for the new programme and work is under way on the definition of educational activities and care for immigrant Roma, the two new lines of action.

FSG SOCIAL ACTION

The number and relevance of services and programmes under the heading “Social Action” was also significant in 2007. Following are the most important national initiatives and European projects.

Within the framework of the Agreement signed with the Ministry of Housing, we have created a think-tank and drawn up an analysis and recommendations document on the housing situation of Roma and an important national seminar was held in

October. Work also commenced this year on the *Roma Community Housing Map*, a study which will be presented next year.

Having regard to health-care, mention should be made of the national study we conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs. Our Foundation continues to play a leading role in the promotion of equal treatment. In 2007 we presented our third Annual Report on *Discrimination and the Roma Community* (in Spanish and English) and organised 15 training courses for jurists, police officers, journalists and other professionals involved in the fight against discrimination. We also advised and defended victims of discrimination and filed a lawsuit in the so-called “*Caso de la Nena*” before the European Court of Human Rights.



RECOGNITION BY THE ANDALUSIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE WORK DONE BY THE FSG FOR THE HOLISTIC ADVANCEMENT OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY AND THE BOOST GIVEN TO LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION.

In the area of youth the first phase of the European project “Roma Youth – European Citizenship” funded by the European Commission’s EACEA and ending in December 2008 was implemented. Project partner countries are Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

As part of the agreement which the FSG has with the Women’s Institute for 2007, special mention should be made of the XI State Conference on Roma Women entitled “Another Perspective” which was attended by 186 Roma women representing all of the Autonomous Communities.

OUR ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORIES

Although the territorial situation is very heterogeneous, in line with the trend which began years ago Foundation activity at local and regional level is becoming increasingly intense and very consolidated, a situation borne out by the volume of programmes, over and above the *Acceder* employment programme, which have been implemented and the important institutional activity being undertaken.

In 2007 in some cities such as Valencia, Malaga, Barcelona, Madrid and Zaragoza, the social work project of the La Caixa Foundation’s children’s programme has been implemented and is giving us access to new families which we had no contact with previously. Housing initiatives in regions such as Navarre, Galicia, Murcia and Madrid are also promising insofar as they establish our Foundation as the reference organisation in this area.

The provision of services to immigrant Roma is also becoming relevant in a number of cities and is likely to receive greater attention over the next few years.

Special mention should be made of some new initiatives arising in some of the territories and which are a sign of our active implementation there and the creativity of our teams (cleaning project *Uzipen*, new kiosk at the University of Navarre and clothing store *Nabut*, the gardening programme in Asturias called *Vedelar* and others).

OUR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

This is one of the areas which concerned us the most two years ago and where in 2007 a number of very important initiatives were implemented with important implications for the future of the Foundation insofar as they guaranteed our presence in Europe carrying out actions in the field and increased our presence at the institutional level translating into the greater likelihood that our approach to Roma policies will take hold in other countries.

» The European Network on Social Inclusion and Roma under the Structural Funds.

This initiative which was first conceived last year came together during the last few months of 2007. In the spring we organised the first seminar together with the Spanish ESF Managing Authority involving 11 countries. The official launching of the Network took place in January 2008 and our Foundation will take charge of the Technical Secretariat. The aim of the Network is to provide a forum for the identification and

sharing of approaches and best practices targeting Roma and to generate joint actions.

› **Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

This project was approved in 2007 by the AECID and will take us to the city of Sarajevo to implement a pilot project based on the *Acceder* employment programme.

› **Strategic project for the transfer of the *Acceder* Programme in Romania.**

This initiative, negotiated with the Romanian Government ESF Unit and which may be implemented in May 2008, presents a great challenge for Foundation action outside of Spain. The Romanian Government has proposed that we participate as partners with the *National Agency for Roma* within the framework of that country's Human Resources Operational Programme. Our aim is to transfer our *Acceder* programme and implement it in eight Romanian cities.

SOCIAL AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIONS

In addition to our permanent activity in publishing the magazine *Gitanos*, e-bulletins and the Web page, this year intense work was done in pursuit of a dual objective: presentation of the results of the 2000-2006 *Acceder* Programme and the awareness-raising campaign entitled "Employment makes us equal" which is a continuation of the initiative dating back to 2004 with the launching of a social awareness-raising campaign, in this case coinciding with the close of the first period of *Acceder*, focusing on employment.

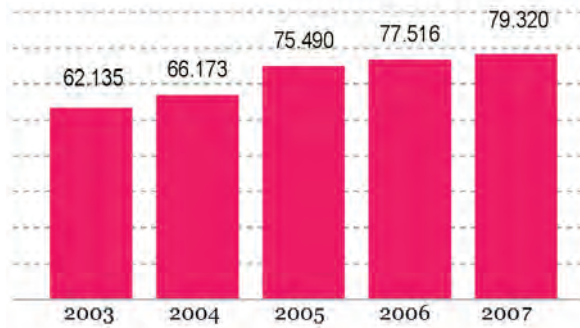
POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTION

Important activity was also carried out in this field in 2007 where we maintained our active participation in the different platforms and institutions where we are present: The State Council of the Roma People, the State NGO Council and the Social Action NGO Platform.

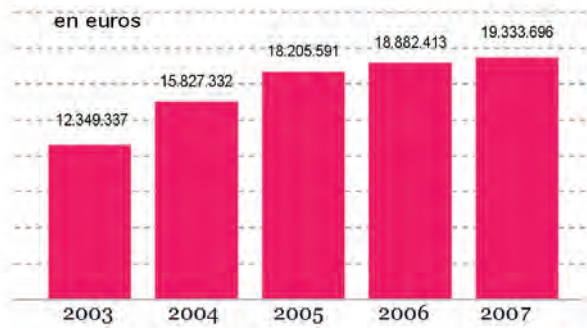
The launching of the Roma Cultural Institute in 2007 was one of the milestones in gaining recognition for the Roma community in our country and our Board of Trustees has agreed that the FSG should maintain a relationship of cooperation and support for the development of the activities of this Institute.

In addition to participation in these fora, in 2007 other political and institutional activities have been undertaken such as the compiling of a proposal and allegation document concerning the Decree creating the Council for the advancement of equal treatment and a proposal document addressed to the political parties for the 2008 general elections.

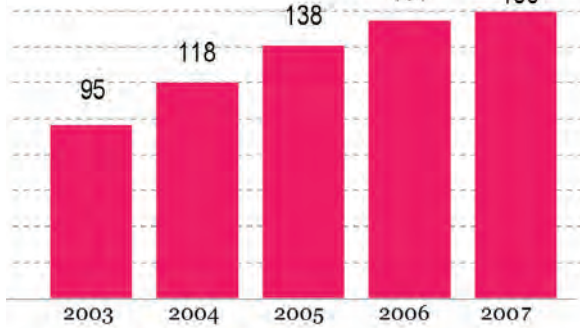
BENEFICIARIES



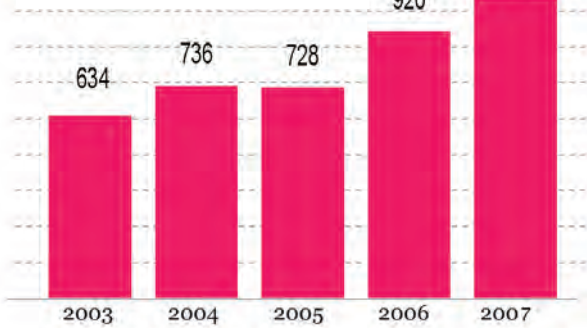
ECONOMIC RESOURCES



PROGRAMMES



HIRED STAFF



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: JESÚS CALDERA, MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS; VLADIMIR SPIDLA, COMMISSIONER FOR EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION; AND ISIDRO RODRÍGUEZ, DIRECTOR OF THE FSG, AT THE TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION SEMINAR FOCUSING ON THE ROMA COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION.