

▶▶ The FSG in 2008

The year 2008 was marked by several relevant aspects affecting all of the Foundation's activities. Intense work was undertaken in putting together our next Strategic Plan which will guide the Foundation during the next five years. This year also marked the culmination of the cycle which began in the year 2000 with the implementation of the *Acceder* Programme within the framework of the European Social Fund's (ESF) Multi-Regional Operational Programme to Combat Discrimination and the commencement of a new period which will take us through to 2013. Several new opportunities for work at international level have likewise arisen.

However, this year was also marked by a profound economic crisis which will surely affect all of our activities, those related to the *Acceder* programme and the rest of the areas of activity and management of the FSG meaning that we will have to renew our efforts in the future to tackle this new situation and to review, think, discuss,

compile and transmit new guidelines to our teams which will be useful in handling this new situation facing Roma in the cities where we work.

These are some of the milestones marking this intense year.

ACCEDER PROGRAMME

Acceder 2000-2006

This year marked the close of the Programme with a total of **40,743 people** served and **30,176 employment contracts** signed. Hence, this year we took stock of the programme and drew up and disseminated the results of the impacts achieved, a task which began in 2007 and continued with intense work during the first half of the year in all of the cities where we are working through the presentation of the reports compiled for each of the Autonomous Communities.

In our country and beyond national borders, *Acceder* has become a benchmark programme for the socio-labour intervention with Roma. It is safe to say that it is the only European programme which has proven effective in facilitating access to training and employment for Roma throughout Europe and in contributing to a change of mentality amongst Roma families and government administrations who have changed their view and expectations as concerns intervention with the Roma community. The Programme's conceptualisation and methodology and its management have made these results possible. With a view to reinforcing this recipe for success, this year a document on the *Acceder methodological model* has been drafted and



PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 DISCRIMINATION REPORT.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE FSG, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE HOUSING MAP.

will be published and disseminated next year for the purpose of increasing awareness of the programme's work methodology therefore promoting better adaptation in different contexts.

› **Acceder 2007-2013**

During the course of the year work has continued on enhancing this action project both in terms of labour market integration as well as the definition of education activities and services for Eastern European Roma, the two new lines of action incorporated into the Programme in this new period.

During the new *Acceder* programme's action preparation and implementation process for the period 2007-2013, we have engaged in intense political and institutional work for the purpose of renewing collaboration with co-funding entities and public and private partnerships. Special mention should be made of the Secretariat of State for Social Policy which has recognised the relevance of this Programme and the fall in funding and has approved a €1 million subsidy through the new income tax programme thus becoming the number one co-funder of the *Acceder* Programme.

FSG SOCIAL ACTION

In the area of services and programmes which we have grouped under the heading of "Social Action", we draw attention to the most important national and European projects.

› **Implementation of the Housing Agreement**

Within the framework of this Collaboration Agreement, the development and publication of the Housing Map was concluded this year and presented at national level with the participation of the Minister of Housing. The document produced by the Group of Experts was likewise published and disseminated and an analysis and recommendation document was drawn up on the situation of the Roma community and housing.

› **Education**

In addition to the normal activities carried out through the scholarship and educational mainstreaming programme in different territories, this year an educational intervention scheme called the *Promociona Programme* was developed within the framework of the new Multi-regional Operational Programme Fight Against Discrimination for the purpose of implementing pilot initiatives in several cities aiming to reduce early school leaving at the compulsory level of education.

› **Health and the Roma Community.**

Two elements should be highlighted in this field: The nationwide study we carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Health whose final report will be published and presented next year and the implementation of the European health project which will replicate this study with partners from five countries in 2008 and 2009.

› **Promotion of equal treatment**

Our Foundation has been playing an important role in this line of work. In 2008 we presented our fourth report on Discrimination and the Roma Community (in Spanish and English). The "equal treatment" Technical Seminars have been developed and are being implemented in 13 Autonomous Communities thanks to the partnership between the Fundación Secretariado

Gitano and the Luis Vives Foundation. Training courses and a consultation and defence service for victims of discrimination have also been set up.

› Gender equality

As part of the agreement which the FSG has signed with the Women's Institute for 2008, activities included the "XII National Conference on Roma Women" focusing this year on the image of women.

› Youth

Work continued this year on the European project "Roma Youth - European Citizenship" funded by the European Commission's EACEA and involving partners from Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

› Action with Roma from Eastern Europe

This work has been undertaken within the scope of the Operational Programme. We organised the "First National Seminar on Roma from the East" with the aim of serving as a forum for reflexion and debate on the situation in Spain of Roma from Eastern Europe and to address the intervention models which best contribute to

creating the conditions for the social inclusion of these individuals. In this connection, the FSG is already working in eight cities: Valencia, Aviles, Oviedo, Barcelona, Cordoba, Seville, Malaga and Madrid with a variety of educational and labour-related activities and basic services from which over 2,000 people have already benefitted.

OUR ACTIVITY IN THE TERRITORIES

In 2008 the Foundation's territorial implementation has remained intact in all of the towns and cities where we work and we concluded the year with the enlargement of a small team in Santander (Cantabria). In short, the presence of our Foundation in 76 cities and towns bears witness to the FSG's territorial consolidation giving it a truly national character.

In addition to the spread of our presence, we would draw attention to how consolidated the FSG is in these cities. Today our teams are key players in the cities and Autonomous Communities where we are established. Today this is where the most innovative and diverse initiatives are being implemented and where

there is clear evidence of remarkably united institutional action and, in some cases, a relevant increase in institutional support.

Special mention should be made of strong growth in territories such as Andalusia, the Autonomous Community of Valencia and Catalonia characterised by a great diversity of projects and high social relevance of the Foundation.

Galicia is another example of marked growth and expansion



THE I WORK SEMINAR WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN ROMA HELD IN BARCELONA.



THE FSG-ALICANTE TEAM POSES WITH THE "BOX", THE MAIN ELEMENT OF THE CAMPAIGN ENTITLED "EMPLOYMENT MAKES US EQUAL".

into new towns where we should highlight the relevance of initiatives such as the eradication of shanty towns which the administration is undertaking in collaboration with the FSG.

- › The Communities of Extremadura and Castile-La Mancha are areas where there is still room for greater growth and consolidation.
- › Our teams in the Communities of Aragon and even more so in Murcia and Asturias have suffered from the reduction in *Acceder* Programme funding and these are also areas where a great deal of diverse and direct activity is undertaken with Roma families.
- › In Castile-Leon it has also been necessary to adjust the size of the teams at the same time that governmental requests have prompted us to open new services in cities such as Segovia and Zamora. Similarly, in Navarre the good work being done has resulted in greater support from the regional government.
- › In Madrid a significant reduction in the Agreement which we have with the City Council has forced us to reduce the size of the intervention teams and seek new channels.
- › Lastly, in the Basque Country we should mention the forthcoming opening next spring of a new centre in San Sebastian with the collaboration of the Provincial Council of Guipuzcoa.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

This area of activity has been among the most active this year. Today the FSG is widely known and respected by the European institutions having to do with policies targeting the Roma people not only due to the positive assessment received by some of our initiatives such as the *Acceder* Programme, but also thanks to the approach of our action model: more focused on effective inclusion in the design of Roma policies. In this connection, we should draw attention to two of the most important initiatives we run:

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

This initiative, negotiated with the Romanian Government ESF Unit and finally signed in November, presents a great challenge for Foundation action outside of Spain. The FSG participates as a partner of 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.

› **European Network for the social inclusion of Roma within the framework of the Structural Funds.**

The EURoma network was launched at the initiative of our Foundation and has been picked up and supported by the Spanish Government. The FSG is in charge of the Network's Secretariat and, as the manager of the Technical Assistance Operational Programme, manages the funds which the Ministry of Labour has earmarked for it. The Network has 12 partner countries along with the active participation of the European Commission and the support of the Administrative Unit of the European Social Fund (UAFSE) in Spain. The Network has become very relevant and has raised important expectations since, in practical terms, it is the only European platform in which the administrations from the

different States with competences in Roma policy can share experiences and common objectives. Three Network meetings have been held this year in Seville, Bucharest and Greece and working groups have been formed, a specific web page made and an e-bulletin developed.

We are also continuing with the project launched in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and which has been renewed this year by the AECID meaning that we will continue to work in the city of Sarajevo with a view to implementing a pilot initiative based on the *Acceder* Programme and engaging in capacity-building at a local Roma association which, in the future, could be entrusted with managing programmes of this sort.

It is also important to point out the importance of the presence of our Foundation in European fora and seminars related to the increased attention which European institutions are giving to the *Roma issue*: Hence, we were invited to take part in meetings organised by the Socialist and Popular Groups in the European Parliament and in the European Roma Summit held last September.

Other important involvement at European level includes the FSG's participation in the recently created NGO Platform acting as interlocutor with the European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) and in the *European Roma Policy Coalition* (ERPC) which links important European social organisations and those defending human rights.

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

In addition to our permanent activity in publishing the magazine *Gitanos*, *Thought and Culture*, e-bulletins and the Web page, this year intense work was done in pursuit of a dual

objective: dissemination of the results of the 2000-2006 *Acceder* Programme with a view to giving the government administration, co-funding institutions, companies, Roma organisations and the society at large the product of what the Foundation has been doing these years with the resources obtained for this Programme; and the awareness-raising campaign "employment makes us equal" through which we have continued to work along the same lines initiated in 2004 when the first social awareness-raising campaign was launched. In this case, coinciding with the close of the first *Acceder* period, the focus is on employment. The campaign was designed and presented in 2007 and then disseminated during 2008.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL ACTION

Important activity was also carried out this year in this field 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, the Platform of Social Action NGOs, the EAPN Anti Poverty Network and the Platform for Quality.



SARA GIMÉNEZ, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EQUAL TREATMENT AREA DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 DISCRIMINATION REPORT

Cooperation and support relations have been maintained for the implementation of activities of the Roma Cultural Institute since its start-up in March of 2007.

In addition to participation in these fora, other political or institutional activities have been undertaken such as: drafting and submission of proposals for inclusion in the new Roma Development Plan, participation in the drafting process of the National Plan for Social Inclusion 2008-2010, participation in the First European Roma Summit (Brussels, 16 September) and meetings with members of the Government to support defence of Roma inclusion policies in Europe and to make the latter a priority during the Spanish EU presidency in 2010.

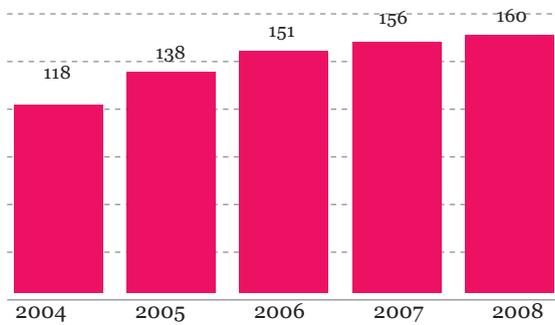


LETIZIA ORTIZ ROCASOLANO WITH MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DURING THE AUDIENCE THEY WERE GIVEN.

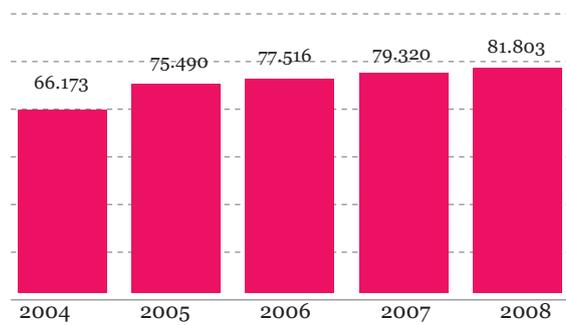


THE PRESIDENT OF THE FSG WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL POLICY AND SPORTS.

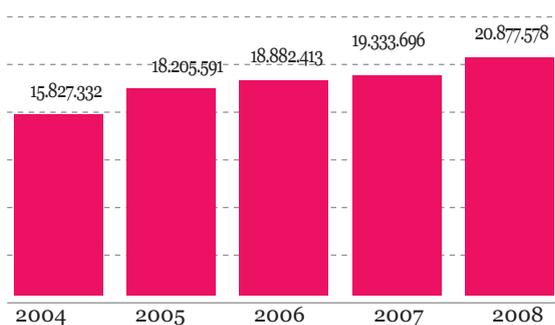
PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED



PERSONS SERVED



ECONOMIC RESOURCES



HIRED PERSONNEL

