

► Youth



FSG PARTICIPANTS AT THE ADVISORY MEETING ON MIGRATION ORGANISED BY THE FERYP IN VALENCIA

One of the Roma community's major challenges is social participation which should play out not only in specifically Roma environments and structures but especially in shared areas together with all other citizens.

In this connection, Roma youth are important as positive role models for the community and majority society which is why in 2009 the FSG has carried out youth activities under the banner of fostering social participation among Roma youth.

The following is a summary of the main actions that the Area of Youth carried out:

THE “CHAVÓS NEBÓ – JÓVENES DE HOY” YOUTH INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION NETWORK

2009 marked the 10th anniversary of the implementation of the Network. Today there are 26 youth information services in operation distributed throughout all of Spain: Albacete, Alicante, Almeria, Badajoz, Barcelona, Burgos, Caceres, Ciudad Real, Elche, Granada, Huelva, Jerez de la Frontera, La Línea de la Concepción, Leon, Madrid, Merida, Murcia, Oviedo, Palencia, Pamplona, Puertollano, Seville, Talavera de la Reina, Valencia, Valladolid and Zaragoza. All are recognised by their corresponding local/regional administration and are included in the State-wide Youth Information Network.

Activities organised within the framework of the Network can be classified as follows: youth information, dissemination, training, awareness-raising and empowerment and include cultural excursions, music and sports, youth meetings, ITC courses, emotional/sexual education, entertainment and free-time, etc.

In 2009 the priority in empowerment work with Roma youth was on the implementation of a project addressing emotional/sexual education. In order to facilitate the decision-taking process facing Roma youth, we created a think-tank which collaborated with the Area of Youth in the action plan for youth on this topic. While certain activities were actually implemented at some point in the Network, this was more of a pilot experience which will continue in the future as one of the lines

of action of the Roma youth intervention programmes.

The training course entitled “Toma la Palabra” (take the floor), financed by the Youth in Action Programme and also within the framework of the Youth Network was organised jointly by the Castile-Leon Regional Government in Palencia and the Palencia Youth Information Service. Approximately thirty Roma youth took part in that course and were exposed to the Community Programme with a view to promoting the participation of young Roma in Youth in Action.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER YOUTH ORGANISATIONS, PARTICIPATION IN FORA, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For the last several years we have been collaborating with other organisations, taking part in fora organised by other organisations and providing technical assistance for the purpose of putting the Roma youth issue on the agendas of other organisations and/or platforms.

This has been possible thanks to the existing relationship with the Spanish Youth Council (Spanish acronym CJE), a platform to which the FSG has belonged since 2002 through a collaboration agreement.

**The 10th anniversary of the implementation of the “Chavós Nebó – Youth Today” Information and Participatory Youth Network.**



STUDY SESSION ENTITLED “DIVERSITY WITH AND WITHIN THE ROMA COMMUNITY” ORGANISED BY THE FERYP IN BUDAPEST

In 2009 we participated in statutory activities of the Spanish Youth Council and in the actions organised by the CJE through the Specialised Committees on Rights and Equal Opportunities and on Participation and Associative Advancement within the framework of the Citizenship Working Group and Social Movements.

We have also collaborated with other organisations and institutions in an advisory and technical assistance capacity through the Area of Youth. In this connection we collaborated with the Youth Institute in the conference entitled “Jóvenes e Inclusión Social” (Youth and Social Inclusion) and with the Directorate-General for Youth of the Cantabrian Regional Government for the purpose of analysing the key factors affecting the social inclusion of youth in risk of social exclusion. At this conference we had the opportunity to present to over 150 people the work being done by the Area of Youth and also to stress the main issues which should be taken into consideration when implementing intervention programmes with Roma youth.

We also participated with the Youth Institute in the conference entitled “Jóvenes.

6 The training course entitled “Take the Floor” contributes to the European dimension of the Area of Youth.

Panorámica de una realidad” (Youth, overview of a reality) held in Seville with the aim of analysing the results of the *2008 Spanish Youth Report* which contains data on the way Spanish youth perceive the Roma population. At this forum designed for discussion with the authors of the study, over 300 young people had the possibility to express their opinions.

TRANSACTIONAL COOPERATION AND EUROPEAN PROJECTION OF THE AREA OF YOUTH

As in past years, the FSG's Area of Youth also sets its sights on Europe when drawing up its annual plan. In this connection, and thanks to the existing relationship with the Forum of European Roma Young People - FERYP, in 2009 we collaborated in several activities organised by this platform.

The first activity was an advisory meeting on the topic of *Roma migration - challenges and opportunities from a youth perspective* which met in Valencia and brought together over 35 Roma youth from all over Europe. The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate another initiative carried out by the FERYP in 2004 and the conclusion reached was that Roma migration is perceived as a challenge instead of as a resource and it was therefore suggested that we continue with this study but from a youth perspective. The FSG

participated as part of the Advisory Meeting's training team and was involved in the design, planning and evaluation of the work sessions and we also had the opportunity to contribute actively as participants.

Also, the study session entitled “Diversity with and within the Roma Community” organised by the FERYP was held at the European Youth Centre in Budapest. Over 30 Roma and non-Roma youth attended that session which explored possible approaches to promote respect for diversity with and within the Roma community in order to enhance the development of significant activities for youth and Roma youth organisations in Europe. The work sessions thoroughly addressed issues such as gender equality, identity and culture, sexual diversity and social exclusion mechanisms having to do with the diversity with and within the Roma community.

As in the other activity organised by the FERYP, the FSG participated by collaborating on the training team and in the design of the activities programme. It also played an active role in the coordination of the activities undertaken and by participating in the evaluation and monitoring of the study session. It was likewise instrumental in fostering the participation of Roma youth from the different programmes run by the FSG.



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ENTITLED “TAKE THE FLOOR” HELD IN PALENCIA.