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Newsletter

The project "Equality through Difference. Roma Women's Access on the Labour Market" promotes social inclusion of Roma women and young individuals by acknowledging their particular needs and interests. It is funded by the European Social Fund, Operational Program for Human Resources Development 2007 -2013. "Invest in people!" Priority axis and domain field "Equal opportunities and respect."

The project runs for three years, starting in November 2008. The following partner organizations contribute to its implementation: Roma Women's Association "For Our Children" from Timisoara, Desire Foundation from Cluj, Parudimos Association from Timisoara, National Agency for Roma,

the Municipality of Timisoara, Autonomy Foundation (Budapest).

Project activities take place on local, multiregional, national and transnational levels.

Some activities are informative (provide information for Roma communities, or sensitize public awareness on problems encountered by Roma in the domain of labor). Other activities formative (aiming to have a direct impact on target groups we work with, and on the degree our society knows and acknowledges the reality of ethnic and gender discrimination, and the importance of eliminating it. Research and social intervention mutually supports each other.

The 6th issue of the Newsletter presents information on the Transnational activities (visit of the implementation team to Hungary) and Training sessions from Timisoara and Cluj.



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FEMEILOR ȚIGĂNCI
„PENTRU COPIII NOȘTRI”



FUNDAȚIA DESIRE



ASOCIAȚIA PARUDIMOS



PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI
TIMIȘOARA



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
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PENTRU ROMI



FUNDAȚIA AUTONOMIA

ACTIVITIES

Activity 4 Transnational activities

Activity 4.1. Exchanging best practices

Between the 28th and 30th June 2010 the visit of the beneficiary organization to the transnational partner was held in Hungary, activity in the project "Equality through difference Roma women's access on labor market".

20 beneficiaries, 10 women and 10 young Roma people attended this activity selected to be the support-resource of the project. The selection of the beneficiaries was done to maximize the efficiency of the exchange of experience, being selected people from both urban and rural areas, in the future being the promoters of the principle of equal

opportunities in the communities where they are from.

The program began on the 28th of June when the delegation, composed of project team members and the 20 beneficiaries travelled to Budapest, where the first item on the agenda was held at the transnational partner, Autonomia Foundation: the presentation of the successful programs of the partner in the domain of integration of Roma people on the labor market.



Also on the first day, a visit took place at the Kesztyű Gyar Community Center from Budapest, a center with many service located in a poor area of the Hungarian capital, where there were presented models of good practice in the work with Roma communities.

On the second day of the visit, the delegation visited the Kecskemét Civil Center where there were presented training programs for Roma and camps for Roma children. They also visited a Center for Integration on the Labor Market of rural areas, in Paks, where Roma people benefitted the labor market integration services, together with accompanying activities by providing care and education for children.

On last day of the visit consisted of a workshop in which they discussed the information gathered from the visits, the analysis focusing on these visit's effect on communities in Romania.

Following the meeting follow-up activities were set for the beneficiaries, who were interested on project elaborations.



After these meetings another meeting was established where the project implementation team will provide practical information on such issues.

Activity 1.3.

Training sessions

The Roma Women's Association "For Our Children", Desire Foundation from Cluj and Parudimos Association from Timisoara organized 16 training sessions at national level. The main topics of these training sessions were: history, culture and traditions of Roma, Equal opportunities, integration of Roma women in the labor market and intercultural communication techniques. The objectives of these sessions were: presentation of elements of Roma culture and history, communication in an intercultural environment and public policy issues relating to social equality and against discrimination of employees in institutions, media representatives and NGOs.

For these sessions trainers were selected, both academic personalities, experts on the issue of inter-culturality and communication, and experienced practitioners in the field of equality and the combat of discrimination of Roma people.

In 2009-2010 there were held 16 sessions on national level Timisoara, Cluj, Bucharest, Iasi, Constanta and Galati. 378 people attended these sessions, managers and employees of public institutions, representatives of NGOs, employers, media representatives and students.



We believe that these actions led to the strengthening of networks to promote the principle of equal opportunity and combating discrimination against women and young Roma in the labor market, establishing many contacts that will be very useful in future actions.

The topics Equal opportunities, labor market integration of Roma women and intercultural communication techniques have been presented mainly by interactive techniques and exercises in groups, participants actively contributing to these debates. The issues discussed were related to identification and Roma self-identification, the possibility of writing history of Roma, or the existence of their cultures, intercultural communication to the specific question of inter-personal communication and the difficulty in eliminating stereotypes about Roma conditions, which people perceive in their daily life as being

based on mutual prejudices that they are not aware of.

Regarding the issue of equal opportunities, participants revealed that there are many interdependent factors that create inequalities among many groups of Roma and other social groups with a social economical and cultural privileged status.

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"This report does not necessarily reflect the position of the European Union or Romanian Government."

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