UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ

GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI
ŞI PROTECŢIEI SOCIALE
AMPOSDRU

Fondul Social European
POSDRU 2007-2013

Instrumente Structurale
2007-2013

Newsletter

No. 4

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 4th issue of the Newsletter presents information on the social inclusion activities in the project.

ASOCIAȚIA FEMEILOR ȚIGĂNCI „PENTRU COPIII NOȘTRI"

FUNDAȚIA DESIRE

ASOCIAȚIA PARUDIMOS

PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI TIMIȘOARA

GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ PENTRU ROMI

FUNDAȚIA AUTONÓMIA

ACTIVITIES

Activity 3

Assuring social inclusion

This activity is a direct intervention action for Roma women and youth, social inclusion action is designed to combat gender-based inequalities and ethnicity on access to employment. Inclusion activities include direct approaches to information, advice, mediation and placement of Roma women and youth in qualification / requalification programs and available jobs (carried out in the Western Region).

3.1.

Information

This work aims, in the three years of implementation, to inform over 3,000 Roma women and young Roma and their integration into the labor market, 100 groups of information sessions conducted in many localities in the Western Region.

Between January - April 2010 there were held 15 information sessions in urban and rural communities in the counties of Timiș, Arad, Hunedoara and individual information sessions in Roma communities in Timișoara, involving 578 Roma people. Information sessions for Roma women have been organized by the Roma Women's Association "For our children" in the areas:

Jimbolia, Timiș county (20/01/2010) Variaş, Timiș county (29/01/2010) Giulvaz, Timiș county (02/26/2010) Cenad, Timiș county (03/16/2010) Bencecul de Jos, Timiș county (19/03/2010) Sânicolau-Mare, Timiș county (20/04/2010) and Vinga, Arad county (27.04.2010).

Information sessions for young Roma were held in localities by the Parudimos

Association: Orăștie Hunedoara County (01/15/2010) Racoviţa, Timiș county (01/21/2010) Săcălaz, Timiș county (04/02/2010) Bucovat , Timiș county (09/02/2010) Chevereşu Mare, Timiș county (02/11/2010), Gelu, Timiș county (18/03/2010), Liebling, Timiș county (03/26/2010) Chevereşu Mare, Timiș county (31/03/2010).

3.2
Psychological counseling

Counseling activities dedicated to women and young Roma have sought to establish the vocational profile and increased self-confidence, esteem and knowledge of self. In counseling activities in these months, 86 women and young Roma started the steps of the vocational profile. Psychological counseling for women and young Roma is a service held at the applicant and Parudimos Association, and follows a weekly schedule (at Roma Women's Association "For our children"- Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 13 to 18 for Roma women and at the headquarters of Parudimos Association - Tuesday and Thursday between the hours of 14 -19 and in group meetings with the beneficiaries.

Services were held on the general package developed by the two hired psychologists, which was updated and adapted for each individual counseling. Between January - April there were a total of 44 women and 42 youth.

3.3
Mediation

Through this activity personalized action plans are developed appropriate to the needs of each beneficiary in part (for example, women with low school education or no education, for women returning from abroad, for women who want to commit after a long period of educating their children, women qualified but unemployed and for young Roma men and women facing unemployment).

In mediation activities in this period there

were included 60 beneficiaries, of which 24 young people, 24 women and 12 men of Roma origin, 60 social assessment and 60 individual mediation plans were developed. Between January and April the persons included in this work received mediation services for inclusion, which is reflected by the personalized action plans. Mediation actions involve each beneficiary's social evaluation, followed by achieving individualized plans of mediation (in consultation with the vocational profile developed by the psychologists). The beneficiary may choose vocational training, employment or both. Depending on the options, the social worker and counselor explore employment offers, and inform the recipient and assist them in their efforts.

3.4.

Accompanying

Accompanying activities (dedicated to the care and education of school-aged children), as affirmative action, provide mothers an opportunity to reconcile work and family. The accompanying program is conducted daily at the Roma Women's Association "For our children". Groups of school-aged and pre-school children benefiting from the educational programs at the Roma Women's Association "For our children" are both girls (18 beneficiaries) and boys (17 beneficiaries). Ensuring their access to these activities creates the opportunity to have access to educational support, and helps to increase their opportunities to work and achieve income.

This program is conducted daily at the Cultural Center - Education for Roma children, providing homework support children in basic subjects, various club activities, drawing, painting, social programs, festivals, analysis meetings with parents, teachers, students and volunteers.

At the headquarters of Roma Women's Association "For our children" the assistance program worked for students and children, with activities of "school after school", socializing, for a number of 35 children in the reported period provided by a preschool education and a mathematics teacher, student volunteers and a Romanian teacher.

Between January and April 2010 an educational program was provided 10 hours a week, attended by registered students, with an average of 15-20 children per day.

3.5.

(Re) qualification programs

This activity aims to, both women and young Roma, access to professional qualification who are looking for a job. Enrolling them in these training programs, unskilled people can have a chance to find more secure and better paid jobs. People, who have lost their jobs, may have a chance to obtain qualifications to help them in seeking other employments.

3.7.

TIC Training

TIC training activity aims to create support / resource for beneficiaries, Roma women and youth, to identify updated information about the local, regional, national and European labor market, interest for the ethnicity representatives.
Between January and April 2010 40 Roma women and youth participated in TIC courses, 33 of them promoting the final exam.
Also, in the business information field, operators have developed individual information actions, which are made mainly in the communities in Timișoara, but also in communities where there were previous visits of the team to achieve group information sessions.
During this period there were three TIC courses, the first course took place between 09.02. - 22.02. 2010, the exam taking place on 03/05/2010. This course included 15 beneficiaries, Roma women and youth out of which 13 passed the exam. The

second course took place between 03/18 - 03/30/2010, 12 Roma women and youth. The examination was held on 31.3.2010, 11 of them promoting it. The third course was held between 04/20 - 05/03/2010, the exam was held on 06.05.2010. In this course there were originally 13 people enrolled, Roma women and youth, of which nine persons were promoted at the end of the course.

Therefore between January and April 40 beneficiaries were enrolled in TIC courses out of which 33 have completed and passed the courses.

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Title: Equality through Difference. Roma Women' Access on the Labor Market.

Material Editor: Roma Women's Association "For Our Children" and Desire Foundation

Release Date: May 2010

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

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