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Newsletter

Newsletter

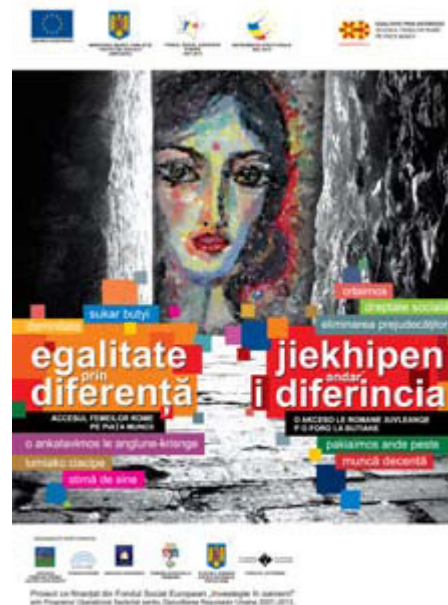
No. 1

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 Programme 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).

This first issue of the Newsletter presents project activities and results of the first year.

Project activities take place on local, multiregional, national and transnational levels. Due to its results, our project can become a model of best practice to be applied in other contexts. 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).



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FEMEILOR ȚIGĂNCI
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FUNDAȚIA DESIRE



ASOCIAȚIA PARUDIMOS



PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI
TIMIȘOARA



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
AGENȚIA NAȚIONALĂ
PENTRU ROMI



FUNDAȚIA AUTONOMIA

Project activities

1.

PROMOTING THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON- DISCRIMINATION

This activity aims to promote the principle of equal opportunity and non-discrimination among a wide audience, particularly of some socio-professional categories that work with Roma communities, among them representatives of central and local government, media, NGOs, and employers.

3.

SOCIAL INCLUSION

This activity means direct intervention that involves Roma women and youth, social inclusion actions designed to combat inequalities based on gender and ethnicity regarding access to employment. Inclusion comprises activities such as providing information, counselling, mediation and placement of Roma women and young individuals in training programs or finding jobs for them (these activities take place in Western Region).

5.

MANAGEMENT

Project management is ensured by the project leader, Roma Women's Association "For Our Children", which works with teams of partner organizations in coordinating all aspects of the project.



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2.

RESEARCH, STUDIES, ANALYSIS

By research we intended to gather and interpret different types of information about the issues raised by the situation and access to employment in the case of Roma women and young persons. These are applied, action researched.

4.

TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Transnational activities have two main objectives: knowledge of positive action models regarding employment of Roma, actions that have been implemented by project partners in Hungary, but also in other European countries in recent years; initiating and implementing joint activities that contribute to meet project objectives on international level ("Nevi Sara Kali" Journal).

6.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

On the one hand the activity is a consequence of every other project activities; on the other hand it supports the latter by promoting them and producing materials that ensure visibility of the project in different mediums of communication.

ACTIVITY 1

PROMOTING THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

1.1. Information material

Objectives

Information guides in Romanian, and brochure and poster in Romanian and Romani aim to better understanding of the right to equal opportunities and non-discrimination of Roma women and youth, and to raise awareness of social inequalities and deeply rooted stereotypes and attitudes of discrimination towards Roma.

Results

The results of these sub-activities, the three volumes printed in a total of 1,000 copies, and the poster and leaflet printed in 1000 copies each, have contributed to one of the additional output indicators (number of guides, distributed leaflets and posters).



1.2. Information campaigns

Objectives

Information campaigns conducted in the first year of the project aimed to promote the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, to promote project results by information activities provided for people in our target groups such as the media, NGOs, students, municipalities and prefectures in Cluj and Timis counties, and by disseminating information materials.

Results

In dissemination campaigns, partner organizations have distributed 1049 copies of guides, leaflets and posters, and 260 copies of the journal. By the 10 actions within information campaigns organized in Cluj and Timis we provided information for 229 people, whom we distributed 360 journals and 815 copies of posters, leaflets and guides.

1.3. Training sessions

Objectives

Training sessions were effective opportunities to promote the principle of equality and non-discrimination among public authorities, media, NGOs, employers.



Results

In this first year of the project, eight training sessions were held in the cities of Cluj, Timisoara, Iasi and Bucharest for about 160 participants. We distributed to them the publication of the project in electronic form and 86 copies of the journal and 384 copies of project information materials (guides, posters, leaflets) in hard copy.

1.4. Collaboration with County Committees for Equal Opportunities

Objectives

Working with the committees intended to establish partnerships on local level to ensure mutual support in promoting equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

Results

Participation of COJES representatives in project actions such as training sessions and group interviews during research. Delivering a presentation about equal opportunities for children by coordinator of ANES / Timis. The presentation took place at the Roma Women' Association "For Our Children" in Timisoara. Roundtable held in October 2009 at the Desire Foundation. Distributing 104 copies of guides, leaflets and posters and 50 copies of journals for representatives of public institutions included in COJES Cluj and Timisoara.

ACTIVITY 2

2.1. Sociological survey

Objectives

Sociological survey was conducted in the cities of Cluj, Timisoara, Iasi, Bucharest and several places next to these major urban centers on a sample of 1003 people who self-identify as Roma. The survey was conducted from February to August 2009.

<http://www.femrom.ro/anchetasocio.html>

2.2. Focus group

Objectives

Group interviews sought to disclose the attitudes and experiences related to work, set in motion in relations between Roma people (among them women and youth) and people from the majority population.

<http://www.femrom.ro/focusgroup.html>

<http://www.femrom.ro/cercstudianalize.html>

RESEARCH, STUDIES, ANALYSIS

Results

The main result of the sociological survey is a research report that includes statistical data about the demography, family, socio-economic situation, education and employment of Roma people, and recommendations on public policies for Roma.

Report on the public policies for Roma
Research report on the sociological survey

Results

Eight recorded group interviews, each about two hours, and a research report. After conducting group interviews, participants were informed about project objectives and activities and were invited to become beneficiaries of the project activities (in Timisoara), or participate in counseling to receive advice on similar projects (in Cluj).

Report on group interviews

Report on research conducted in the first year of the project with recommendations for activities and public policies for Roma inclusion

2.4.

Collecting information about employment opportunities

Objectives

Collecting information about employment opportunities in the Western region has sought to provide our beneficiaries continuously updated data on available jobs. In designing these sub-activities we have started from acknowledging the need to provide such services as part of a package of affirmative measures designed to eliminate disadvantages Roma people face on the labor market. As such, gathering information about available jobs was designed and managed as a service that improves the knowledge and skills of disadvantaged people, all of them required for employment in the formal economy. The information collected are also means of information activities for assuring social inclusion.

Results

The main result of this activity is an electronic database, accessible also from the project's website. The database can be used as a mean to meet output indicators such as number of Roma women and young persons informed or assisted in developing their careers.

<http://www.femrom.ro/colectinfopiatamunca.html>

ACTIVITY 3

3.1.

Informing

In the three years of project implementation the activity aims to inform over 3,000 Roma women and youth enhancing their integration into the labor market. Informing activities take place in over 100 sessions held in various localities in Western Region.

In the first year meetings with Roma women and young were held in Nădlac, Pecica, Sântana, Igriş and Arad from Arad County; Timișoara, Lugoj, Buziaș, Igriş, Răcășdia, Grabăț, Pesac, Recaş, Pădureni, Saravale, Checea, Satchinez and Dudeștii Vechi Timiș County; Petroșani from Hunedoara County; Reșița and Caransebeș Caraș-Severin County. With these information sessions, and with individual information, at the headquarters of Roma Women's Association "For Our Children" and Parudimos Association, 1241 persons were informed.

ACTIVITIES FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION



3.2.

Psychological Counseling

Counseling activities dedicated to Roma women and young aimed at establishing vocational profile and increasing self confidence, self-respect and self knowledge. Two psychologists specialized career counseling offered their services to 224 people, 110 Roma women and 114 young persons at the associations in Timisoara.

3.3.

Mediation

Through this activity we design personalized action plans appropriate for each beneficiary (for example, women with low educational level or no education, for women who return from abroad, for women who seek employment after a long period of children rearing, qualified women but unemployed, and women and young Roma men facing unemployment). In the first year of the project 147 people have benefited from these services.

3.4.

Accompanying children

Accompanying activities (dedicated to taking care and educating school-aged children), as affirmative action, provides mothers an opportunity to reconcile work and family. Accompanying has a daily schedule at the Roma Women' Association "For Our Children". 40 children benefited from these activities during the first year of the project.



3.5.

Placement in (re)qualification courses

Out of the informed and counseled people, 34 persons have benefited from placement services, they are enrolled in hairdresser, manicure, pedicure, computer literacy, masonry, and security guard courses, 27 requests were submitted for vocational courses organized by AJOFM Timiș and 8 recipients have submitted application for the ICT courses offered by this project.

3.6-3.7

ICT Training

ICT training activities aimed at training support/resource people among beneficiaries, Roma women and youth so that they identify updated information about the labor market on local, regional, national and European levels that could be of interest for ethnic Roma.

In the first year of the project we organized and held 3 series of ICT courses. 30 people were selected as beneficiaries, of which 29 completed the course and received accredited diplomas in ICT.



3.8.

Job fairs

Job fairs seek to find employment for Roma women and young. During job fair we mediate between employers and persons looking for a job. The project intends to organize the event each year from now on in counties of Western Region. In the first year the job fair was held in Timisoara on June 26, 2009. 96 Roma people and 10 employers participated at this event. Employers offered over 100 jobs.



ACTIVITY 4

4.1.

Visit of transnational partner

In the first year of project, the collaboration with project partner from Hungary, Autonomy Foundation Budapest, consisted their of participation at the first meeting of the project team organized in Timisoara, and the visit of representatives of partners from Romania in June 2009 at the Autonomy Foundation.

4.4. International Journal of Roma Women

Objectives

The main objective is to create and sustain transnational and transethnic solidarity between Roma and non-Roma women. Our aims are to create a public space where silence on the situation of Roma women is broken; their activism in different parts of the world is voiced and affirmed. The editors of the journal and its international board support these ideas and through their prestige they help increase the chances that this journal will continue to be published after we launched the first issue. They also help the world wide dissemination of the journal.

TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

<http://www.femrom.ro/nevikali.html>



Results

The first issue of Nevi Sara Kali. Roma Women's Journal (257 pages), comprises articles, abstracts and authors' presentations in Romanian, English and Romani. It was printed in 1000 copies. Much of these copies was distributed by the end of the first year of the project (including in October 2009) to authors, contributors, partners, public libraries and research institutions from Romania and abroad and during information campaigns. Distribution was made on the basis of acknowledgement of receipt.

ACTIVITY 6

6.1.

Logo and Website

This sub-activity aims to establish the essential elements of the project's visual identity (logo, letterhead paper, website), in accordance with the Visual Identity Manual of the funder and project content. The website promotes project results and provides specific means to meet project objectives.

INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY

6.2.

Promotion materials

We aim to promote project results in local and central written and audio-visual media. Promotion materials are not only tools of information, but also means of raising awareness regarding social exclusion and discrimination faced by Roma (particularly in the domain of labor). In the first year of the project 4 articles were published in the central media, 9 articles in local newspapers, and there were launched 12 press releases. Project members participated on 4 radio interviews and 4 TV shows.



6.5.

Film

The film made over three years intends to be a visual history of the project. It will disclose images and narratives of and about the project activities, present problems of Roma communities and speak about the relationship between implementation teams and project beneficiaries. In the first year we made three videos and the first documentary entitled "A project for social justice."

<http://www.femrom.ro/videoclipuri.html>

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



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