



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI  
MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI  
ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE  
AMPOSDRU



Fondul Social European  
POSDRU 2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale  
2007-2013



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI  
MINISTERUL MUNCII, FAMILIEI  
ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE  
OIRPOSDRU REGIUNEA VEST

# Newsletter

NO. 12

The project "Equality through Difference. Roma Women's Access on the Labor 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 12<sup>th</sup> Newsletter presents information about the activities of inclusion, collaboration with Cojes Timis, Nevi Sara Kali Journal and the International Conference**



ASOCIAȚIA  
FEMEILOR ȚIGĂNCI  
„PENTRU COPIII NOȘTRI”



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PRIMĂRIA MUNICIPIULUI  
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## Activity 1

### Promoting the principle of equal opportunities and non-discrimination

#### 1.4. Collaboration with COJES

In Timisoara, a workshop was organized at the Timiș County Prefecture on "Equal opportunities - reality or utopia" former COJES members were invited, representatives of local authorities, NGO representatives and mass media. The FEMROM project was presented, the achievements and obstacles, the efforts of the Roma Women's Association "For Our Children" to integrate Roma women in the labor market, the authorities and employers to overcome prejudices and stereotypes about the Roma people, the role of partnerships and affirmation of women in public space.



The need to re-open a structure in the county to work on equality issues was discussed, steps were initiated for setting up "a Working Group for Equal Opportunities". The next group meeting was set for February 23 at the University of the West from Timișoara.

### Activity 3 Assuring social inclusion

Social inclusion activities include a wide range of actions aimed at the equality of disadvantaged groups (Roma youth and women) regarding access to employment.

In January, during these activities 187 people from Roma communities have been registered in Dudești, Timis county, Nadlag, Arad county, Grădinari, Arad county and Sinteia Mare, Arad county. Out of these, 32 Roma women and youth attended counseling sessions in order to establish the vocational profile and 30 were supported by actions in order to sign up for mediation to training courses or finding a job.

Also in January, 149 persons, women and young Roma, were selected for vocational training courses organized under the project.

Training courses will begin in March-April, organized in the communities of the beneficiaries, each person to complete the courses will benefit grants from the project budget.

### Activity 4.1.

#### Call for papers Nevi Sara Kali. Third issue

Dear colleagues and friends,

The Roma Women's Association 'For Our Children' from Timisoara and Foundation Desire from Cluj, Romania, launches its call for the third issue of the journal **Nevi Sara Kali. Roma Women's Journal. Revista Femeilor Rome. Romane 3uvleance 3urnal0.** You may find our former issues at:

<<http://www.femrom.ro/nevikali-2009.html#2000>>;

and

<<http://www.femrom.ro/infopub/2010/Nevi%20Sara%20Kali-nr2.pdf>>. This publication

was initiated within the project „Equality through difference. Roma women's access to the labor market” ([www.femrom.ro](http://www.femrom.ro)) financed by „Invest in People” European Social Fund, Operational Program for the Development of Human Resources 2007-2013. Its first issue was kindly supported by the „Romani Women's Empowerment Grants” Initiative of the Roma Participation Program/Open Society Institute. The third issue also enjoys its support.

Our journal addresses the complex and complicated topic of “Roma women” at the intersection of their geopolitical position, ethnicity, social and economic status and age with the aim to represent the socio-cultural diversity of Roma women, seen in their immediate communities, and in the context of their relationship with both Roma men and non-Roma women. Crucial for us is the understanding of how they are subjected to multiple and intersectional discrimination, but also how they are acting as powerful

agencies by fighting for the enhancement of the society within which they live, and for improving their own life conditions but as well as of other subordinated and disadvantaged social categories.

In the third, upcoming issue, our aim is to publish the major results of the "Equality through difference" project. At the same time, in the spirit of our approach described above, we would like to give space for debates around the subject of "multiple discrimination". Furthermore, we continue publishing academic articles of approximately 10-12 pages; essays of 3-5 pages; interviews and other types of creative writing that give voice to Roma women of different social status; shorter articles presenting different associations and organizations involving Roma women from Europe and projects related to our subject; book reviews; brief announcements regarding upcoming events; photo-journals. We are expecting your precious contributions till the end of March 2011. The journal is published in English, and, if necessary, we ensure the translation of Romanian or Hungarian texts into English. The third issue of *Nevi Sara Kali* is expected to be published in June 2011 to be launched at our international conference "Roma women for equal opportunities" scheduled for July 2011. We would appreciate if you could let us know as soon as possible about your plans of publishing in the third issue of the journal.

**Activity 6.4.**  
**International conference**

Announcement

International Conference "Equality through difference. Roma women's access on the labor market"  
July 2011

Draft January 2011

The Conference **Equal Opportunities for Roma women** is organized within the project "Equality through difference. Roma women's access on the labor market". The project is implemented by the Association of Roma Women "For Our Children", from Timisoara in partnership with Desire Foundation from Cluj, Parudimos Association, Roma National Agency, Mayor's Office in Timișoara, and the Autonomia Foundation from Hungary. The project is co-funded by Operational program for the development of human resources 2007-2013 "Invest in people!" European Social Fund [<http://www.femrom.ro/index.html>]. One of the major objectives of the project is to promote equal opportunities and discrimination among the different instruments and different social groups. Of course, we not only wanted to raise awareness for a broader public about what these principles are, but also, through social inclusion activities, we provided services for increased disadvantaged young Roma and Roma women in their effort to enter the labor market. We believe that providing equal opportunities needs to be addressed at the intersection of multiple axes that generate inequality (gender, ethnicity, age, social status, sexual orientation), and the

need for integration of this principle in all public policies.

The perspectives of vulnerable Roma women requires and makes at least two approaches possible: based on their experiences, we can understand how multiple discrimination and intersection works, identifying the problems they face, we realize that their solution can only be provide through integrated actions (access to decent work is influenced by access to schools, adequate housing, and vice versa). Therefore, our conference wishes to discuss equal opportunities in terms of these Roma women. Finally, it provides a framework in which we wish to show that Roma women are doing for themselves, but for the whole society, through the fact that they are committed to the implementation of universal values such as equality.

The Equal Opportunities for Roma women conference goals are: promotion of project "Equality through difference. Roma women's access on the labor market" and providing a space for interdisciplinary, inter-regional and transnational social issues addressed in the debate in our project.

Under these goals, the conference will run over three days in six workshops, as follows:

Day 1:

I. Promoting equal opportunities  
II. Research on Roma access to employment / decent work / employment  
First year film

Day 2:

III. Social inclusion of Roma: issues, strategies, results  
IV. Roma women and civic activism (journal of Kali Sara Nevi)  
Second year film

Day 3:

V. Structural Funds for Roma projects  
VI. Visual representations of Roma (video, photos):  
Third year film

At the conference will attend: the project team "Equality through difference. Roma women's access on the labor market" and collaborators from Romania and abroad in various fields, and also representatives of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Institute, the Ministry of Labor, ANES, COJES , POSDRU and many organizations that work in related fields with the theme of our project will be invited.

Newsletter No. 12

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: January 2011

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

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