

TRANSNATIONAL NETWORK ON PROJECTS FOCUSED ON THE INSERTION OF ROMA PEOPLE

The ESF addresses its actions to facilitate the insertion into the labour market of those people who -due to social exclusion factors-, encounter more difficulties in acceding and maintaining a job.

Particularly in Spain, within the frame of the National Operational Programme "Fighting against discrimination", some institutions have implemented a set of actions aiming at improving and increasing labour opportunities for people who are excluded or in risk of social exclusion (migrants, people with disabilities, Roma people, ex-offenders,..).

This Operational Programme introduced in the 2000-2006 period an innovative aspect: in addition to the relevant public authorities, some NGO's with relevant experience in working with people suffering from exclusion and with management capacity are now included as final beneficiaries of the Programme. The actions launched and implemented under this programme have been considered as good practices at European level; for this reason the Spanish Managing Authority has decided to maintain this programme during the next programming period 2007-2013.

La Fundación Secretariado Gitano has been the operator/final beneficiary in charge of managing the ACCEDER programme, which promotes specific actions focussed on the labour insertion of Roma people all over the Spanish territory. Both, the managing system and the intervention methodology in this particular experience, have been considered by the EU Commission and the Spanish Managing Authority as very positive, and have been disseminated and recommended as good practice to be transferred to other European contexts. This recommendation is specially relevant in an enlarged European Union where the number of Roma ethnic minority increases up to 12 million people.

In this context, the Spanish Managing Authority takes advantage of the next programming period 2007-2013, and under Priority 4 (Transnational and Interregional cooperation) wants to promote the creation of a transnational platform involving both private and public institutions with relevant competence and experience in working with Roma people from those countries with significant Roma population, e.g.: Bulgaria, Rumania, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Check Republic, Poland, Greece, Portugal, Italy and France (this platform is open to other member States willing to participate). It will be too highly desirable to count on the Commission's support.

The main objective of this Transnational Platform would be to share good practices developed under the ACCEDER Programme and promote the exchange of experiences and expertise in this field, and to progress jointly in finding solutions for the Roma community. It is of special importance the participation of Rumania and Bulgaria, countries with an important number of Roma population.

This Managing Authority proposes the elaboration of a project to drive this platform and celebrate in Spain the launching event of this transnational platform in Spring 2007, as a first contact meeting of those European institutions willing to participate.