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DIRECCIÓN GENERAL  
DE SERVICIOS PARA LA FAMILIA Y LA  
INFANCIA

S.G. DE PROGRAMAS SOCIALES



## DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION 2005 – 2015 PROGRESS REPORT 2011

### SPAIN

#### 1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Please indicate whether in 2011 the government acquired new data concerning:

- *Estimated total number of the Roma population in the country*
- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line*
- *Total number of population living under the poverty line*

- **Estimated total number of the Roma population in the country**

As we noted in our 2010 Progress Report the statistical data referred to race, ethnicity, sex, religion or other economic or social circumstances, are considered protected data, so socio-demographic variables about Roma population do not appear in government statistics of population, employment, education, social protection, households, etc. There's not either an official census with data regarding ethnic origin.

Roma people have been present in Spain since the 15th century, and, as in the rest of Europe, their history has been marked by persecution, attempts at adaptation, and phases of social exclusion. Currently, the Spanish Roma population stands at around **725,000-750,000**, figures that have been used by European institutions in their estimates on the Roma populations for the whole of Europe. However, certain caution must be observed with respect to these figures as the real size of the population is not accurately known, with estimates of overall figures having been made using a variety of methods (projections from previous studies, in addition to local data being calculated in a number of ways, studies on housing conditions that did not consider Roma people who do not live in densely Roma populated areas, etc.). Therefore, estimates may range from 500,000 up to 1,000,000 people.

### Spanish Roma population in general

In spite of the limitations in determining the total scale of the Roma population in Spain, it is accurately known that the Roma people are distributed across the national territory, with a most concentrated presence in Andalusia, where around 40% of Spanish Roma men and women reside, as well as in Catalonia, Valencia and Madrid.

Although their history has been associated to rural life and geographic mobility, the current trend is for prolonged, stable settlement in urban areas, which consolidated in the 1950s, 60s and 70s to coincide with the general wave of domestic migration between rural areas and cities.

All social demographic studies carried out show that it is a young population, wherein around a third are aged below 16 years, and with birth rates substantially higher than the population average, although in the last decade this disparate rate has begun to reduce.

The Roma profile is heterogeneous and diverse; it is a common error to associate a given ethnic group to situations of material deprivation, social exclusion or self-exclusion. Many Roma people enjoy medium to high socio-economic levels and are fully integrated into society. Moreover, a substantial amount of Roma have seen progress in the last decade, although they still manifest, to varying degrees, social shortcomings and inequalities with respect to the rest of the population. Lastly, a third, minority sector exists, comprising the severely excluded who have seen little progress in terms of their social inclusion. It must be taken into consideration that the current negative economic climate and deterioration of employment in Spain is taking hold throughout the general population, but particularly so for socially vulnerable population groups, as is the case for many Roma people; it is essential that social inclusion processes for these people receive continued support in order to avoid stalling or even regression.

Lastly, it must be stressed that the quantity of Roma people in Spain has increased with the arrival of Roma principally from Romania and Bulgaria who, above all since 2002 (when visa requirements for the two countries were lifted) and once again since 2007 (when they joined the EU) have chosen Spain as their country of destination. The number of Roma people of Romanian and Bulgarian nationalities who, as EU citizens, exercise their right to free circulation and residence in Spain is difficult to quantify given that they are included in the large contingents of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens temporarily or permanently residing in Spain, and due to the lack of registries that record the ethnic origin of foreign nationals in Spain.

- **Number of Roma living under the poverty line. Total number of population living under the poverty line**

There are no recent data concerning the number of Roma living under the poverty line.

In this regard, the Spanish NRIS states the following: “Lastly, there is currently no data available that allows mid-term quantitative targets to be set in order to reduce the risk of poverty and social exclusion of the Roma. However, the Strategy aims to incorporate indicators in its followup with regard to relative poverty, material deprivation and intensity of household employment, in line with the European 2020 Strategy and the National Reform Programme”.

## 2. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

- *Is there a structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / National Roma Integration Strategy?*
- *Please, describe any planning for the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020 to address Roma inclusion/integration. Please, describe how experts and Roma NGOs are involved in the planning of the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020.*
- *What are the main institutional and procedural supports envisioned to ensure that EU funds will be used effectively for Roma inclusion (e.g. equal opportunities unit, simplification of funding procedures, technical assistance for beneficiaries)?*
- **Is there a structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / National Roma Integration Strategy?**

The institutional support for the Roma, at the state level, has been given mainly by the administrative unit Roma Development Program, that is attached to the general Direction of Services to Family and Children, that depends on the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

The main lines of action of the Program are:

- **Collaboration with the Autonomous Communities and, through them, with the Local authorities.**

In the Spanish State, the Autonomous Communities have their own administration, with broad responsibilities in their respective territories, in terms of social action, social services and other policies that may affect the full social and economic inclusion of the Roma, such as health, education or housing.

On the other hand, municipalities and other Local Authorities are the public administrations that are working more directly with the Roma in various fields of activity and also have expertise in the area of social services.

Therefore, it is essential to have a close cooperation between the different levels of administration administrations in order to join efforts and resources for social intervention projects directed to improving living conditions of the most disadvantaged Roma communities and to promoting social development.

The collaboration is implemented through co-financing of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, the regions and the local authorities that will manage the co financed projects for the attention to, prevention of exclusion and inclusion of the Roma.

The financing agreement provides that the Autonomous Communities and / or local corporations provide at least an amount equal to two thirds on the Ministry assigned to each region. Projects are approved jointly by state and regional administrations, and should be promoted and managed by the autonomous communities and local authorities.

They key feature is the integral approach, so that they must perform simultaneous activities of social

intervention in the areas of social action, education, training and employment, health, housing and habitat, all coordinated by the public institution responsible for carrying the project.

The total amount of the credit for these programs, in 2011, coming for the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality was that €1,065,160.00. In 2011, the total amount, including the cofinanciation of the regions and local authorities, was of 3.101.128,75 €. As regards other data about this program, in 2011, the number of funded projects was 76, and the projects were managed as follows: 5 directly by the autonomous community and the rest by local authorities.

As concerns the structures responsible of managing Roma-aimed programs, they differ in each municipality or local government. Some of them have created units specifically dedicated to manage the projects under the Roma Development Program, but in most of the cases, these programs are managed by the social services unit. In the case of the regions, it is more common the option for the creation of specialized units, normally under the areas of social welfare or social services. Barcelona has a Roma council, and at the regional level Roma Councils can also be found in the regions of Cataluña, País Vasco and Extremadura.

As regards the *National Strategy for the Social Inclusion of Roma people in Spain* (2012 – 2020), (for now on NRIS), the process of elaboration was coordinated by the General Directorate of services to Family and Children, (Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality). To facilitate its adoption, the Ministry established a participative drafting process which began with a meeting of the State Council of the Roma People wherein the first draft was presented, along with the foreseen working method. The Strategy was approved on 2012, but the main drafting phase took place during 2011.

The process of creation of the Strategy took place by way of meetings and consultation. It involved the line ministries of the State General Administration, as well as the autonomous communities, and the local level, through the Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, and civil society organisations represented in the State Council of the Roma People. As the strategy states, the aim in the following years is to, as regards the cooperation with the autonomous communities, to the role of the Social Affairs Conference, ( which gathers the ministers and the regional ministers) to intensify inter-institutional cooperation and implement joint measures. · Likewise, information exchanges will be improved within the committee of general directors on social affairs, boosting the cooperation in all affairs concerning Roma; likewise, special attention will be paid to coordination with action plans specifically targeted at Roma at autonomous community level (Catalonia, Basque Country, Extremadura, Navarre) as well as those which may come into effect in future.

The Strategy was approved by the Spanish Government at the Council of Ministers.

This National Strategy is going to coexist during 2012 with the *Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population 2010 – 2012*, which is currently in force.

Once the execution period of this Plan has come to an end, successive three year plans are planned to follow it, in which measures and actions will be set out to contribute to the achievement of the Strategy's targets. These three year plans will be rolled out with a methodology that will allow for participation of all ministries and autonomous communities, local level as well as Roma entities and other agents. Furthermore, linkage with autonomous and local plans will be strengthened, and specific methods to strength this cooperation are foreseen.

- **Please, describe any planning for the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020 to address Roma inclusion/integration. Please, describe how experts and Roma NGOs are involved in the planning of the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020.**

In relation to the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020 to address Roma integration we have to point out that Spain has allocated Structural Funds to the social inclusion of Roma since it first began receiving them in 1986. Initially, these funds benefitted the Roma via National Professional Training and Insertion Plan courses (PTI Plan) and the Workshop and Trade School Programmes and, since 2000, via the dedicated programme (*Acceder*) under the framework of the ADOP (anti discrimination operational programme).

Currently, Structural Funds are used to favour social inclusion of disadvantaged Roma preferentially via the European Social Fund, both by way of regional operational programmes managed by the ACs, as well as via the ADOP.

This latter programme has allocated 42 million euros for Roma-specific measures for the period 2007-2013 (total eligible cost). Under the framework of the Strategy, these funds are trying to be increased in the short and medium term.

The Strategy foresees actions for the short- term (current programming period), and for the medium-term (future programming period 2014 – 2020).

**In the short-term** (current programming period 2007 – 2013) the following actions are planned:

- Analyse together with autonomous communities and foster, via operational programmes, the use of the ERDF in accordance with the possibilities offered by Article 7.2 of its regulations (reconstruction of housing and eradication of segregated settlements thanks to comprehensive projects).
- Strengthen, under the ESF, the amount of funds dedicated to Roma from both the ADOP (through its re-programming) and from regional operational programmes, with a special effort on measuring the impact of these on Roma.
- Strengthen the transnational aspect during 2012-2013. In this regard, key political players from a number of countries will be invited to work on criteria and formulas to roll out coordinated action during the next programming period.
- Create and circulate methodological guidelines to programme actions in benefit of the Roma for the future programming period.

**In the medium-term** (future programming period 2014 – 2020) the following actions are planned:

- Intensify actions for Roma with ESF support, in line with the proposals of draft regulations to dedicate 20% of funds to the fight against exclusion.
- Align the Partnership Agreement and future operational programmes with the EU2020 Strategy / NRP, which has special resonance with the Roma in three specific areas: education (reduction of early school leavers), employment (increase employment rate) and the fight against poverty and social exclusion.
- Study the advisability of mechanisms that offer future regulations in order to strengthen investment in Roma, specifically: Joint action programmes among various funds, large scale projects, the use of subsidies and the use of technical assistance. In this regard, an inter-fund committee is planned for development (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD) focused on the use and follow-up of Structural Funds in

actions concerning the Roma.

- Continuing driving forward transnational actions and strengthening partnership with other countries on the basis of experience in the programming period with the EURoma network.
- Study mechanisms to identify and report more suitably on the scope of Structural Funds on the Roma, in terms of the number of beneficiaries and the relationship between investment and results obtained.

- **What are the main institutional and procedural supports envisioned to ensure that EU funds will be used effectively for Roma inclusion (e.g. equal opportunities unit, simplification of funding procedures, technical assistance for beneficiaries)?**

The Strategy includes the intention to create an inter-fund committee (ESF, ERDF, EAFRD) focused on the use and follow-up of Structural Funds in actions concerning the Roma.

This committee would be composed by representatives of the administrative units from the different funds: FSE, FEDER and FEADER. Its main goal would be to coordinate the programming, monitoring and evaluation of activities focused on the Roma population.



### 3. EDUCATION

- *Please identify the key barriers that limit educational chances and access to quality education for Roma,*
- *Please list the policies and programs that were designed and implemented to support Roma education in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*
- *What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in education. Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

*Please provide information about list achievements in the following fields in 2011:*

- *Number of Roma children attending pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education; number of Roma children not in school*
- *Number of Roma teaching assistants in pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma children moving from segregated “Roma” pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, to mainstream schools*
- *Number and proportion of Roma children in special schools/classes*
- *Number of Roma children attending preparatory class before elementary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Access to counseling services for Roma families with children.*
- *Inclusion tools in elementary and secondary education (teacher assistants, individualized education plans, tutoring, other inclusion measures),*
- *Dropout rates of Roma in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*
- *Number of Roma in primary and secondary Adult education education*
- *Number of Roma students receiving scholarship and other support in primary, secondary, and tertiary education*

First of all, we shall highlight that no new data on education of the Roma were obtained in 2011. The most recent data, (2010), were included in the progress report submitted last year to the Decade.

Taking into account the most recent data available, we can say that they show clear progress in terms of Roma children's pre-school and primary school completion. Pre-school completion rates are low for the Roma population as a whole, yet they have risen considerably in recent years (Between 1994 and 2009 the number of Roma children enrolled in Pre-School Education prior to compulsory education rose nearly 30% (to 87% in 2009). -FSG (2010)- In the case of primary education, completion by Roma children is practically at normal levels, although absenteeism and early school leaving continue to be cause for concern; these phenomena are more common in secondary school stage (12-14 years), wherein the problem become more acute for Roma girls.

The presence of Roma youngsters in post-obligatory education is still uncommon and the gap with respect to the rest of the population group wide, although a slight upward trend has been noted. Therefore, the Roma adult tends to have a lower level of studies, including illiteracy levels higher than the population as a whole, as we noted in the previous report.

Addressing these gaps should be understood as a responsibility of the various social sectors, especially with the current system of transfer competence to regional administrations. In this context the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, within their current areas of expertise, have developed lines of action that refer to various aspects and difficulties of standardization education of Roma people.

As for the key barriers that limit educational chances and access to quality education for Roma, the Action Plan identifies as the main differences between Roma and non- Roma the higher rates of absenteeism, of school failure, early school drop-out, which leads to lower rates of access and completion of the secondary studies and a reduced number of Roma students with an university degree. The Plan points out some causes of these data. As refers school truancy, the Plan states that they differ among female and male Roma students. Factors such as the pressure of their community, the negative perception of secondary schools by the families, the commitment to housework and childcare, and the idea of the role of Roma women have a greater influence among Roma female students, while a lack of motivation and their full-time dedication to remunerated work are the main factors affecting male students. On the other hand, the lack of examples of Roma individuals with intermediate and high education levels and medium and highly skilled jobs and the scarce economic resources of Roma families have a negative impact on the academic continuity of Roma students

In our *Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population 2010 – 2012*, the main goals for the Educational Area (number 2) are the following:

1. Normalise the enrolment rates of Roma population in pre-school education.
2. Normalise the enrolment rates of Roma population in primary and secondary education.
3. Facilitate university entrance and permanence of young Roma.
4. Carry on with literacy teaching and education of Roma women and men from the age of 16 to the adult age in order to promote the eradication of illiteracy.
5. Train teachers to develop an intercultural education where the Roma culture is equal to the rest of cultures in Spain.
6. Encourage the incorporation of a reference to Roma population in the



curriculum of Compulsory Primary and Secondary Education.

7. Continue to promote the knowledge of the situation of the Roma population with regard to education.

Within the **Roma State Council** (created by Royal Decree 891/2005 of July 22), a **working group on education** was established, integrated by representatives of Roma NGOs, representatives of the General Administration of the State and experts on Roma issues,. This group shall address all matters relating to providing education to the Roma (editing of teaching materials on Roma culture, intercultural mediation, training teachers and other professionals who work with Roma students, etc ...). In the year 2011, this group has met once.

The **Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport launches different calls for grants** to private non-profit organizations to carry out actions directed to the attention of students who need educational support and compensation for inequalities in education. The priorities for these programs are the monitoring and control of absenteeism, socio-cultural insertion, non formal socio-educational programs and mediation between families and school. In the year 2011 the amount dedicated to programs affecting or aimed directly at Roma students was 86.900 euro, distributed among 7 associations.

The Ministry of Education also created **the Plan PROA**, (Reinforcement, Guidance and Support Program).It is conceived as a project of territorial cooperation between the State and the regions, that aims to tackle needs associated to the socio-cultural context of the students, through support programs to school centres, in primary and secondary education.

It aims to reduce inequalities in education, guarantying that the system provides attention to the most vulnerable groups in order to improve their qualification and prevent the risk of social exclusion. It offers resources to centres so as to achieve a quality education for all, to enrich the educational context and to involve the local community.

This program targets centres of Primary and Secondary Education with a significant proportion of educationally disadvantaged students associated with their socio-cultural environment: belonging to families of low educational level or economically disadvantaged, limited supply of educational resources, ethnic minorities, immigrants, etc.

One of its most important goals is to improve educational outcomes of schools centres, both in quantity and quality of learning and in school integration of students. The credit for this Plan was 59.700.000 €in 2011.

The **Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality** also carry out activities related to the education of the Roma population in the framework of technical and financial collaboration with the autonomous communities and local authorities as well as non profit organizations.

One of it's main specific lines of work for Roma is the credit for social intervention projects for the attention to , prevention of exclusion and inclusion of Roma people (Roma Development Plan),which had in 2011 a budget of 1.065.160 € Projects are selected jointly by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality and the regions. The projects selected have a holistic dimension, performing simultaneous activities of social intervention in the areas of social action, education, training, employment, health, housing and habitat, and are coordinated by the institution responsible for carrying out the project.

The other main specific line of work is the annual call for grants to non profit organizations from the 0,7% of the Personal Income Tax (IRPF).

Through this channel we fund two different kinds of programs: employment programs and Social integration ones. Among the priorities of the latter we can find:

- programs to promote early childhood education (0-6 years) and compulsory education (6-16 years) of Roma children and adolescents and to promote social support activities with Roma families in this field,
- innovative programs and comprehensive prevention of absenteeism and dropout rates, with special emphasis on girls and young Roma and support programs and extracurricular educational support,
- programs that facilitate the continuity and permanence in school at a higher level of education,
- adult literacy programs that include learning activities for social participation and facilitate access to knowledge of technology information
- basic and social skills for Roma women.

The amount allocated in 2011 to education programs (within the social integration ones) was 1,387,328.00 €

Finally we have to point out that the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality has been co funding the annual editions of the expert **master in social intervention with Roma**, which takes place at the University of Navarra in collaboration with *Fundación Secretariado Gitano* (FSG). In this master 30 students received a scholarship, most of them are Roma.

Within the initiatives that are not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect them, we have to mention the Plan **Educa3**. The main objectives of this Plan are to promote territorial cooperation programs with the aim, among others, to achieve educational goals and to contribute to inter regional solidarity and regional balance in the compensation of inequalities, promote the creation of enough places for the first cycle of early child education. In the years 2010 and 2011 the fund has been provided with 100.000.000 € each year.

Another initiatives that we can mention in this area, related to Roma education, are the following.

The Ministry of Education created the Resource Center for Attention to Cultural Diversity in Education CREADE ( former IFIIE), to promote awareness on cultural diversity , including the situation of Roma children in the area of education. This centre, that provides resources to teachers, among other activities.

In 2011 the following study was published: Gamella, JF (Dir). *Success Stories: models to reduce dropout in Roma adolescents*. Madrid: IFIIE-CREADE-Ministry of Education.

On May 20, 2011 the Council of Ministers approved the proposal of the Ministry of Education in order to create the specialty of Flamenco in Higher Art Education Degree in Music, because of the importance of Flamenco as cultural state heritage, extraordinary cultural influence internationally. Flamenco recently joined the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. The new specialty of Flamenco aims to train specialists in this complex art, which have the characteristics of Singing and performing the guitar with a theoretical and humanistic value added. This Royal Decree establishes the specific competences, the corresponding professional profile and content of the new specialty.

Finally, we can also mention some specific programs managed by Roma NGOs. Among the many

NGOs that manage educational programs, financed by the State or the regional or local authorities, we can highlight, since it is a quite new program, which aims to prevent school drop-out and increase performance in secondary school, we can mention the Promociona Program, managed by the Fundación Secretariado Gitano. To this end the Promociona Programme, supported to a large extent by the European Social Fund and the Spanish Ministry of Health and Social Policy through the allocation of income tax funds, targets the different players taking part in the educational process of young people: the students themselves, their families, schools and other social and educational professionals. The Promociona Programme seeks to promote the educational mainstreaming<sup>1</sup> of Roma students with a view to achieving higher academic standards at the end of primary education and throughout the compulsory secondary level of education and to promote continued middle and/or higher studies and vocational training. The Specific objectives are, first, to facilitate the transition between Primary and Compulsory Secondary Education, permanence in the educational system and advancement on to higher studies. Second, To generate and enhance the conditions needed to achieve academic success within the Roma community and, in general, of the entire educational community through work with the different stakeholders: students, families, schools and other social agents. The main actions of the Promociona Programme target Roma students and their families in the final stages of primary education (years 5 and 6) and in compulsory secondary schooling (years 7 to 10) in the areas of action. Collaboration with schools and joint work with teachers constitute another of the essential pillars of the implementation of actions.



#### 4. EMPLOYMENT

- *Please provide the average unemployment rate on national level, and unemployment rate of the Roma population.*
- *Please evaluate the position of Roma in the labor market - access to regular jobs, and barriers preventing the Roma employees from successful integration in the labor market.*
- *Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plans or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).*
- *What are the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of employment? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

- *Successful measures tackling discrimination of Roma in the labor market*
- *Use of active labor market measures for improving the situation of Roma in the labor market and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs (participation in re-qualification courses, public work programs, etc),*
- *Improved labor market skills of long-term unemployed Roma*
- *Improved employment rates of long-term unemployed Roma*

The most recent data are from a report on Roma and Employment conducted by FSG and funded by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality which is scheduled to be published in the first semester of 2012. This report shows the impact of the economic crisis in relation to employment data of the Roma population, ( a stronger impact compared to the already important impact that this crisis has had in the employment rates of the majority population), compared to those offered by the previous study, done in 2005.

First, the activity rate in Roma (68.9% for group of 16 to 65 years) is slightly higher than the majority population. This data provides an interesting argument to combat the stereotype of a Roma community away from the values of work, as the Roma population incorporates to the labour market at a younger age than the majority population, having also a longer working life. The employment rate (43.8% for

the same age range) is four points lower than the general population, while unemployment (37.5%) is sixteen points higher than the general population.

The alternative of wage employment as a definitive indicator of labor market integration, preferably played by younger people, is also minority (only accounts 38.5% to 83.6 of the whole population). Furthermore, access to the labour market is too marked by underemployment and temporary, which makes the insertion process highly vulnerable.

It should be noted that among the occupied Roma population nearly 26% say such an occupation the "working family economic activity" which shows a non-standard situation.( against 0,8 % majority population).

Street trading is still today the most developed activity on their own among the Roma population (49.7% of employed) but does not guarantee a sufficient income to live, keep the business in the medium term and regular contributions to the security social. The options for the new generations of Roma to stay in street are quite small.

In general terms, Roma occupation is characterized by high job insecurity in relation to the whole population: 42.3% of employees have part-time jobs, while for the whole population the rate is 14.1%. The rate of temporary jobs also differs, affecting 53.4% of Roma versus 25.5% in the general population. The street trading (mostly), and scrap collection are activities where the underemployment is more extended.

The key points on which we can observe the evolution of employment in the Roma population comparing data from 2005 with those of 2011 are the following ones:

- Spanish Roma active population is better educated/trained in 2011 than in 2005 as we can see on data: the rate of illiteracy, (13,1 in 2005 vs. 8.7 in 2011) and the number of uneducated Roma (-7.9 points), and the percentage of Roma population with first and second grade studies has also increased, (+3.7 points and +1.9 points).
- The activity rate has remained stable over the years (69.3% in 2005 and 68.9% in 2011)
- The unemployment rate has increased by 22.6 percentage points, or put in another way, in 2011 , the unemployment rate of Roma population is 2.6 times higher than in 2005, having increased from 13.8% in 2005 to 36.4% in 2011.
- The employment rate has fallen 16 points in line with rising unemployment.
- There is an increase in self-employment, from being presumably just under a quarter (23.8%) to exceed one-third (34.7%) of total jobs.

The Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population 2010-2012 also includes the Employment and Economical Activities Area, in which the ministries involved are the Ministry of Employment and Immigration, (today Employment and Social Security) and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

The main objectives of this area are the following ones:

- ⇒ Promote the training of Roma population for their access to employment, retention and advancement.
- ⇒ Establish the priority action guidelines for the access of Roma population to self- employment and to the labour market.

- ⇒ Improve information and data collection, disaggregated by gender, on the employment situation of the Roma population.
- ⇒ Mainstreaming of gender, equal treatment and non-discrimination in all policies on employment access, retention and advancement of the Roma population.

The Government of Spain, with the intention of tackling this reality, has launched several action plans for employment of the Kingdom of Spain, including specific measures for promoting employment and a better training for the most vulnerable groups, including Roma. In addition, we have to note the fact that the Roma population has been included as a specific target group in the National Action Plans for Social Inclusion of the Kingdom of Spain.

As regards the use of structural funds in the area of employment, we have to make a special mention to two initiatives:

- On the one hand, the EUroma network, an European Network made up of representatives of twelve Member States, that is determined to promote the use of Structural Funds (SF) to enhance the effectiveness of policies targeting the Roma and to promote their social inclusion. Spain is not only part of this initiative but
- The Social Inclusion Network, which is a national framework aimed to boost the exchange and dialogue between different stakeholders, financed and promoted by the ESF. Its goals are to promote different ways of cooperation between public administrations and social action organizations, to exchange best practices, ( specially as regards active inclusion, as the main axe of the labour market) and to analyze the impact of the ESF in the improvement of social inclusion. As for the members of this network, we can mention the Ministry of Employment and Social Security, the Spanish Managing authority of the ESF, the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, the regions and local authorities, and , among others, the Fundación Secretariado gitano, as intermediate body in the POLCD ( fight against discrimination OP), and one representative of the Roma State Council.

It should be noted that Roma population benefit from **general employment policies**. In this sense, Spain has carried out several reforms of the labour market and employment policies in order to promote the recruitment of people with difficulties in the access to employment and in order to improve the effectiveness of employment policies.

These reforms are:

- ⇒ Royal Decree Law 3/2011 of 18 February, which provides a catalog of services to be provided to citizens in all public employment services, stressing the individualized profile diagnosis, personalized itinerary of employment and the provision of vocational training offers.
- ⇒ Royal Decree 1/2011 of 11 February, on urgent measures for the transition to stable employment and professional requalification for unemployment people, sets a requalification program called PREPARA for people who exhaust their unemployment benefits and are not entitled to any further allowances established by law, which involves the reception of financial assistance and participation in measures of active employment policies.

- ⇒ The Spanish Strategy for Employment 2012-2014 was also adopted in 2011, which sets coherent targets with the 2020 European Strategy and the commitments assumed by Spain in its National Reform Programme.
- ⇒ Royal Decree Law 3/2012 of 10 February, for urgent actions to reform the labor market. This law encourages full-time permanent contracts for young people by firms with less than 50 workers who will benefit from a series of tax incentives and reductions in social security contributions.

Along with this, we can mention specific measures aimed at the Roma, specially those part of the lines of financial and technical cooperation of the Central Administration with the regions and, through them, with local authorities, namely the **Roma Development Programme**. Within this collaboration, it is especially relevant the co-financing among the Ministry and the Autonomous Communities for the development of Social Intervention Projects for Comprehensive Care, Prevention of Marginalization and Integration of the Roma. Projects must be integral, so that they include simultaneous activities of social intervention in the areas of social action, education, training, employment, health and housing and habitat, coordinated by the institution responsible for carrying out the project. In 2011 It had a total credit of 1,065,000 €

Also, annually, there is a call for grants to NGOs for carrying out volunteer and social cooperation programs under the personal income tax (IRPF). Within the programs for the Roma Population, employment programs are funded, which aim to improve the employability and employment of socially excluded Roma without access to training activities or standardized labor market, in collaboration with the public social services and / or employment network.

The priorities of this Programs for Roma employment are the following: training courses, preferably for women and young Roma, specialized interventions adapted and directed to improving the access of the Roma to employment, with pre-training work, and information-guidance, support and monitoring in the process, training programs for intercultural mediators in the fields of social action, employment, education, housing, housing and health, programs focused in the access to information and communication technologies that enable the development of occupational skills, and finally awareness programs on equal treatment in access to employment.

In line with the importance of **self-employment** for the Roma population, it is also necessary to make a reference to a series of measures taken in this field in Spain:

Spain has gave a big impulse to the regulation of individual and collective rights of self-employed workers with the Law 20/2007 which regulates the Statute of these workers and that, among other things, establishes a guarantee regulation for Economically Dependent Self-Employed workers (TRADE) and the mandate for the establishment of a protection system in case the freelancer ceases his work. The recent labor market reform operated by Royal Decree-Law 3/2012, introduces new features in the regulation, permitting e unemployed young people under 30 who wish to establish themselves as self-employed to perceive, in a single payment, 100% of the amount of the benefit.

During the years 2010 and 2011 and in order to promote self-employment and the social economy in the street trade sector, which is the main economic activity of the Roma population in Spain, the government established reductions of a 50 percent in the contributions to the social security for the members of worker cooperatives and self-employed workers.

Some NGOs manage training and employment programs. We can mention the ones co-financed by the

European Social Fund and the Spanish government, specially the Acceder Program, within the OP Fight against Discrimination, (2000-2006/2007-2013) managed by FSG.

The Acceder Program includes personalized itineraries of labour insertion: specific advice, training activities and awareness raising measures to combat discrimination, etc... Since its beginning in 2000, more than 63,000 people have benefitted from it. About 70% of users are Roma (44,000) these include not only Spanish citizens but also Roma from Eastern European countries. Women represent over 53% of the users. 43,000 contracts has been signed since 2000, 70% for Roma. The gender distribution of the contracts shows that women continue to get more jobs than men and they have obtained 52% of jobs. It has 50 “offices” throughout the territory of Spain.

In December 2011 FSG was authorized by the Central Administration (by the State Employment Public Services) to operate as an employment agency in Spain.





## 5. HOUSING

- *Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or the housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plans and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable),*
- *Please describe the housing situation of the Roma population, especially in excluded communities (e.g. quality and price of housing, accessibility in general, development of a concept for social housing on the local level for disadvantaged families) and identification of obstacles that prevent access to acceptable housing conditions,*
- *What are the outcomes of policy or programs that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of housing? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries. Where ERDF is used, how is the 2010 amendment of the ERDF regulation utilized?*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

*Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:*

- *Number of Roma benefited by infrastructural development. How is desegregation, a priority issue in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, dealt with in infrastructure development?*
- *Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programs*
- *Number of Roma affected by colony / settlement elimination / development programs*
- *Number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes*
- *Number of Roma affected by evictions*
- *Number of Roma included in social housing programmes*

There are no recent data about the housing situation in Spain. The most recent ones are reflected in the Spanish NRIS, ( and also in the NAP).

In terms of housing, the most recent studies show a significant improvement in residential conditions of the Roma in recent decades. Many Roma families have had access to apartments in city neighborhoods populated by the general population; access to housing has occurred both by means of public and private means, normally in standardised neighborhoods with a low socio-economic profile.

In accordance with the most recent study carried out *Map on housing and Roma community in Spain 2007*, which analyzed housing conditions of more than 90,000 Roma homes, 88.1% of Roma people resided in normalised housing, and only 3.9% in slums, although a further 7.8% live in deteriorated or sub-standard housing. These results represent clear progress with respect to those obtained in the previous study, in 1991, when 10% of Roma housing was in slums, and 21.4% was substandard housing. Likewise, housing basic services have also improved considerably. However, in addition to the need to definitively eradicate slums, other problems persist such as the high occupancy of housing, precariousness of services and deterioration, both in terms of the housing itself and urban surroundings.

The Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Community 2010-2012 also includes the Housing Area; the ministry involved is the Ministry of of Development, through the Department of Architecture, Housing and Land.

The main objectives of this area are the following ones:

- ⇒ Promote access of Roma population to normalised quality housing.
- ⇒ Propose measures to eradicate shantytowns.
- ⇒ Lead a policy on the housing inclusion of the Roma population
- ⇒ Uphold an information system on housing and the Roma community.

From the Roma Development Programme activities related to access to decent housing and the relocation of the Roma population are funded ,through comprehensive social programs of information, advice, support in the process of moving and adapting to a new home or refurbished substandard houses, relationship with the local environment, school support, community obligations, etc.

With regard to housing, **the State Housing and Rehabilitation Plan 2009-2012**, still in force, includes in its main targets “contribute, together with other administrations, to the eradication of sub-standard housing and slums”, for which reason a series of assistance measures to eradicate precarious and irregular settlements is in place for the population at risk of or in a situation of social exclusion, with serious deficiencies in terms of sanitation, overcrowding and safety and living conditions far below minimum acceptable levels. The actions funded include new public housing construction, rehabilitation and renovation of urban areas or, among others, the provision of public for the building of social housing.

Unfortunately, the outcomes of this Plan, although available, do not permit to identify the Roma beneficiaries of the actions, but, since they can still be relevant, we include them, particularly the following actions under the plan :

- Newly built social houses ( to be offered in an ownership status) : 95,054 performances.
- Newly built social houses for rent. 31,349 actions, and in 2010-2011 5225 protected and

subsidized tenancies aimed to most vulnerable groups of people and some specific groups..

-Projects under the Program for aiding tenants, with 42,748 performances.

- Rehabilitation and urban renewal of districts and degraded areas.

The total number of actions in the years 2010 and 2011 amounted to 147,873, of which over 113,000 are included under the line *Renove*, for the refurbishment and improvement of energy efficiency in homes and buildings.

- Areas of integral rehabilitation.

To improve run-down neighborhoods, historic centers and rehabilitation in rural areas, with more than 30,000 performances.

We have to highlight that this is a state plan. Housing falls under the responsibility of regions and municipalities, where most actions are undertaken. Hence, many others programs, plans and action are put in practice, some of them specifically affecting the Roma, (to eradicate shantytowns, to improve living conditions, to promote the emancipation of the young people, etc) In many of this local projects the number of Roma families can be exactly determined.

The Ministry of Fomento is working on a Vulnerability Map, identifying the most vulnerable areas in Spain, through the analysis of official statistical data from the Census referred to the level of education, unemployment, immigration and the minimum living conditions in houses.

Finally, we have to point out the activities of the municipalities and autonomous regions, in exercise of its competences for housing and urban development have programs affecting the Roma population in this area. We can mention, for example, the activities of the IRIS-institute for Re-Housing and Social Inclusion from the Community of Madrid, among many others, (san Cosme Barcelona, the on-going activities in Avilés and its plan for the eradication of shanty towns, Galicia plans for the eradication of shantytowns, etc).

IRIS received the third prize Dosta! from the Council of Europe on October 19, 2011, as an example of good practice in social integration of Roma slum population. It annually serves more than 10,000 people with an annual budget of more than 20 million euros



## 6. HEALTH

- Please describe the health situation of the Roma population and identification of major obstacles that the Roma are facing in access to quality health care services.
- *Please list the policies and programs that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2011 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable)*
- *What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2011?*
- *Please specify if there are health mediators employed. If so, please specify what type of contract the health mediators have, how often do they have to renew it. Are there any trainings for health care providers in addressing the needs of Roma.*
- *Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.*
- *Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.*

Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:

- *Number of Roma who can benefit from the insurance system.*
- *Number of fully immunized Roma children*
- *Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population*
- *Number of Roma women receiving pre and post natal health care; number who should receive such care but do not*
- *Roma life expectancy*

In terms of health, the results of a study comparing results of the Spanish National Health Survey (SNHS) with regard to Roma and the general population in Spain<sup>1</sup> highlights that Roma show poorer results in a variety of indicators compared to both those of social groups in a better socio-economic situation and those in a poorer situation, with differences in terms of health condition, lifestyle and access to certain services. Some of the most pronounced are: perception of own health,<sup>2</sup> the greater prevalence of certain chronic illnesses, and the greater frequency of dental, visual, hearing problems and accidents. For example, 33.4% of Roma men aged 55 years and over describe their health as “good” or “very good”, compared to 52.3% of men in the general population (class V: 44.6%; class I: 73.2%). In Roma women: 10.5% compared to 38.2% of women in the general population (class V: 32.8%; class I: 59.6%). Within the Roma population itself there are large differences when breaking down data into social class, level of education or housing type; for example, 72.8% of Roma women who live in slums or substandard housing describe their health as “poor” or “very poor” compared to 39.2% of those who live in normalised housing.

Likewise, a higher frequency of unhealthy lifestyles was also detected. With respect to tobacco consumption, 54.9% of Roma men smoke daily compared to 31.6% of men in the general population (class I: 20.7%; class V: 36.6%) The difference among youngsters is even greater: 56.2% compared to 30.5% (class V) and 12.4% (class I).

In terms of the access and use of the healthcare system, although nearly 100 % percent of Spanish Roma do have access to the Health system, based on the principle of universal access to all the population, some facts reveal differences in terms of use. Namely, the low use of preventative gynaecological services by Roma women is worthy of note.( Cytology is provided to 47% of Roma women compared to 52.4% (class V) and 81.1% (class I) of the female population as a whole)<sup>3</sup>

As regards the Plans, Reaching healthcare equality means that people may reach their greatest condition of health for their social position or other circumstances determined by social factors such as belonging to an ethnic minority. In October 2008, the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs rolled out the National Committee to Reduce Social Inequalities in Healthcare in Spain. In May 2010, the Committee presented a report with recommendations on the political strategies that, from various levels and sectors of the Administration, should be rolled out or boosted in order to reduce healthcare inequalities in Spain. Of these recommendations, the current MHSSE has prioritised nine measures grouped into four strategic channels, which are the basis of the **National Health Equality Strategy** that is developing:

- Information systems on health equality that guide public policies.
- Promotion and development of inter-sector knowledge and tools to strive towards “Health and Equality in all policies”.
- A comprehensive support plan for infant and adolescent health attempting to achieve equal development opportunities for all children, regardless of the status of the parents.

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- A political visibility plan for the Health Equality Strategy and Social Determining Factors for Health.

The prioritising of the nine measures was endorsed by the Health Promotion Working Group in September 2010 and by the Public Health Committee of the Inter-territorial Council of the National Healthcare System in the very same month.

Appart from that, the Ministry of Health has put in practice and specific **National Strategy for Equity in Health aimed at the Roma**, established in 2003 , which continues to be implemented by the Area of Health Promotion of the Ministry. Since 2006, the Strategy is developed in collaboration with the working Group for Health of the Roma State Council , in which all members are actively involved deciding courses of action to follow.

Specifically, as part of this strategy, in June 2010 the committte of DGs of Health of the State and regional administrations were informed of the contents of the National Action Plan for the Development of the Roma 2010-2012. As a result of this meeting, several regional governments appointed a contact point in each region, for the coordination of measures and the development and monitoring of the area of health Action Plan. On March 30, 2011 the first meeting of this contact points took place in Madrid, gathering this contact points and the working group of health of the Roma State Council.

Other activities in the framework of the Strategy aimed at the Roma have been:

- Monitoring and support of the Roma Health Network, that involves different NGOs that develop programs in the area of Roma health promotion, they are financially supported by 0,7 % of the personal income tax call for grants, (2010, 155,900 euros, 2011 203,858 euros).
- Advocacy work to continue the analysis, evaluation and monitoring the health situation of Roma, with and special emphasis on the need to hold the next National Survey of Health of the Roma;

More information can be obtained in the following web site :

<http://www.mspsi.es/profesionales/saludPublica/prevPromocion/promocion/desigualdadSalud/comuGitana.htm#saludComuGitana>

The most recent data on Health of the Roma population in Spain are thos coming from the aforementioned National Survey of Health. The Ministry of Health, Social services and Equality is currently pursuing the realization of a new edition of this survey.