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BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Please provide any update data, including where possible disaggregated data (by age, sex, etc.), and collected in 2013, concerning:

- *Estimated total number and proportion of the Roma population in the country;*

As noted in previous progress reports, regarding the statistical data on socio-demographic variables on the Spanish Roma population, there is an issue of particular importance: the data set belonging to a group about race, ethnicity, sex, religion or other economic or social circumstances, are considered as **protected data**, and these variables do not appear in government statistics of population, employment, education, social protection, or households. And there is not an official census with data regarding ethnic origin.

Having said that, we could say that, 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, as pointed out, 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.**¹

In recent years, several investigations have been carried out and give us a very realistic view of the situation of Roma in our country, both in relation to the number, as in the situation with regard to education, health, housing or employment. These investigations and studies carried out both by NGOs and universities, (often at the request and with funding from the Public Administrations), and from the administration itself.

Obtaining data in various fields has been a goal of the previous Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population 2010-2012 and is one of the complementary action lines of the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012 -2020, which includes a section on the Improvement of knowledge about the Roma Population, where the following actions are envisaged:

Support studies to extend the socio demographic knowledge of the Roma population, fostering collaboration with government bodies responsible for official statistics.

¹ Laparra, M. (coord.) (2007): *Informe sobre la situación social y tendencias de cambio en la población gitana. Una primera aproximación*. Madrid, Ministerio de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales.



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- Improving health information systems at the local, regional and national levels to identify needs and inequalities of the Roma population, and maintaining a line longitudinal study on the health of this population.
- Promotion of studies and research to assess the progress and difficulties of the educational situation of Roma students.
- Supporting the development of studies and periodic statistics to analyze the situation of Roma in the labor market, as well as analysis of the pathways for conversion and modernization of street vendors.
- Support the development of tools, materials and methods of specialized intervention, and dissemination of those who have been successful.
- Supporting the development of studies and research that help to improve the knowledge about discrimination exerted on the Roma.
- Promoting the dissemination of best practices and the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge between different territories and entities, with focus on local initiatives.

- *Number of Roma living under the poverty line and the proportion to the overall population living under the poverty line.*

In terms of the social situation, 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.

1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

- *Please describe (if any) changes in 2013 in the participation of Roma in decision-making processes/arrangements and public administration structures.*



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During the year 2013 there has been no significant change in public administrative structures as well as the participation of the Roma population in the decision-making processes.

The participation of Roma associations in the process of decision-making **at state level** is given primarily through participation in the **State Council for the Roma People**, which was established in 2005, that has been functioning since 2007 under the auspices of the Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality. It is a collegial body composed of 20 representatives of the associative Roma movement, in equal composition with the General State Administration. Its mandate includes assessing policies, projects and legislation on the Roma community, proposing measures and projects to improve the situation and making proposals for the use of funds. It is also conceived as a consultative body between the administration and Roma civil society.

Representatives from the associative Roma movement are selected on the basis of a public call of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, to which diverse associations present their candidacy. The Ministry selects 20 organisations to be part of the Council following criteria established in the call: representativeness, field of action, activities and programmes implemented, economic capacity, and participation in other forums and councils. At least two of the representatives of the associative Roma movement must be Roma women organisations and another two Roma youth organisations. The selection of the council representatives seeks to be gender balanced. Currently, there are three Roma women organisations (actually federations of women organisations) represented, in the Council.

The State Council for the Roma People is fully involved in the elaboration of relevant policy documents that affect Roma community, such as the Action Plan for the Roma Population for 2010-2012, the Comprehensive Strategy against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration (2007-2010 and 2011-2014) and the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020. The Council is also fully involved in the implementation of these strategies and programmes. It has been consulted in the drafting of the Partnership Agreement for the period 2014 2020 in Spain, for the use of EU Funds.

As mention above, consultation bodies also exist at the regional level, in Catalonia, in Barcelona (City), Extremadura, and the Basque Country.

The civil society organisations that are currently members of the State Council for the Roma People are:

- Unión Romaní.
- Fundación Secretariado Gitano.
- Federación de Asociaciones Culturales Cristianas de Andalucía (FACCA).



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- Federación Andaluza de Mujeres Gitanas (FAKALI).
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña (FAGIC).
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas Extremeñas (FAGEX).
- Federación Autónoma de Asociaciones Gitanas de la Comunidad Valenciana (FAGA Valencia).
- Federación de Asociaciones de Mujeres Kamira.
- Asociación Nacional Presencia Gitana.
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Aragón (FAGA Aragón).
- Asociación de Promoción Gitana de La Rioja.
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Navarra Gaz Kalo.
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Castilla y León.
- Federación Regional Gitana de Asociaciones de Castilla La Mancha.
- Federación Conciencia Gitana de Extremadura (FECOGEX).
- Asociación de Mujeres Gitanas Alborea.
- Asociación de Enseñantes con Gitanos.
- Asociación Socio Cultural de Minorías Étnicas Unga.
- Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas para la integración laboral y social, promoción y desarrollo del Pueblo Gitano Kali.
- Plataforma Romanés

In addition to this, two representatives of the Roma associative movement from two Roma organisations that are members of the Council, Fundación Secretariado Gitano and Unión Romaní, are also members at the **National Council for Social Action NGOs**.

In the field of equal treatment and non-discrimination, it is worth mentioning that the **Council for the Promotion of Equal Treatment and Non-discrimination on Racial or Ethnic Grounds** was established in 2010 as an independent body in charge of monitoring the situation in the field of discrimination and raising awareness of these issues in society as a whole. The Council established a **Network of assistance to victims of discrimination**, operating at the local level with the support of various NGOs. Two nationwide Roma NGOs are represented in the Council, Fundación Secretariado Gitano and Unión Romaní. Both of them are also represented in the National Council for Social Action NGOs. Juan de Dios Ramírez Heredia, President of Union Romaní, is The Vicepresident of this Council.

• *Please describe briefly the process of monitoring and evaluation of policies targeted towards Roma. How do you measure the impact of these policies (through field visits, surveys, independent evaluations, etc.)?*

In the **Action Plan for Development of the Roma Population 2010-2012** there was a chapter dedicated to monitoring and evaluating. In this chapter several reports were



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foreseen: annual monitoring reports to be presented to the State Council of the Roma People, an intermediate report of the Plan (which was presented in 2011) and a **final evaluation report**.

It has been during the year 2013 that the Spanish Government has undertaken the evaluation of this Action Plan (Plan de Acción para el Desarrollo de la Población Gitana 2010 – 2012).

This evaluation report has been prepared taking into account the actions outlined in the intermediate evaluation report. The General Directorate for Services to Family and Childhood (Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality) wanted at least to make a qualitative report containing the opinion of relevant agents involved in the development of the Plan, as were the line Ministries in the areas of action of the Plan, Education, Employment, Health, Housing, Social Action, Equality and non-discrimination, and all Roma organizations of the State Council. The views of these key players were collected through a survey done for the purpose by the General Directorate and was distributed to ministries and Roma NGO's, giving them time to answer. The final report is based primarily on the results of this survey.

This evaluation report established that it is necessary to continue what is currently being done in the field of Roma integration and that it is necessary to record knowledge, practices and lessons learnt from the activities that are being implemented. Such a central recording of knowledge remains a challenge due to the administrative decentralisation of the State and difficulties in data collection on the ethnic background of people benefiting from programmes targeted at the entire population. A better alignment of strategies and prioritisation of policies are subject to the availability of funds that have been limited in recent years due to budget cuts related to the economic crisis.

On April 8, 2014 (International Roma Day) the State Council of the Roma People approved the first **Operational Plan 2014-2016 in the framework of the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012 to 2020**. This Plan has been coordinated by the General Directorate of Family Services and Childhood, as Contact Point of the National Strategy. This plan stems from the Strategy, which states, in the chapter about its implementation that 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 elaborated and implemented with a methodology that will allow for participation of all ministries and autonomous communities, as well as Roma entities and other agents. Furthermore, linkage with autonomous and local plans will be strengthened. The Strategy's targets will be updated accordingly with these plan and their evaluations, and the measures proposed will be revised in order to adapt them to the needs and priorities detected.



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At national level, several departments have been consulted, among others those responsible for the areas of education, employment, health-care, housing, anti-discrimination, gender equality, culture, etc.

At regional level, the process of consultation with the seventeen regions plus the two autonomous cities (Ceuta and Melilla) was via their respective departments responsible for Roma issues through the *Roma Technical Cooperation Working Group*, which met on November 23, 2013 and in March 25th, with several written contributions having been sent to the drafts of the plan. This Group includes representation of Central, Autonomous and Local Administrations (via the FEMP, the federation of Spanish provinces and municipalities); its duties are those of mutual information concerning Roma related policies implemented at the three administrative levels and the cooperation and follow-up of measures that require involvement from all three levels (central, autonomous and local). As said before, the last meeting of this group was last March 25, 2014, when it met jointly with the standing committee of the State Council of Roma People, in order to set appropriate comments and amendments to the plan.

Roma organisations are consulted through the State Council for Roma People (Consejo Estatal del Pueblo Gitano), which was also engaged in the evaluation of the previous Roma Action Plan 2010 – 2012.

In order to measure the meeting of targets set in section two of the National Roma Integration Strategy, and without prejudice to other inputs and outputs and impact evaluations of the mainstream and targeted policies which will aid the achievement of these, the strategy foresees that several surveys will be carried out both at mid term and at the end of the period of the strategy, that is 2015-2016, and 2020. This will allow making comparisons between the situation of the Roma and the Spanish population as a whole in a historical perspective, before the came into force of the strategy, during and at the end of the strategy. Specifically, the development of statistical studies is being envisaged which will verify the degree of achievement of targets identified in the Strategy and the planning of new ones.

- The socio-demographic study carried out by the Centre for Sociological Research (CSR) in 2007 is planned to be repeated.
- The Spanish National Health Survey for Roma is currently being replicated (started in 2013), and the results will be available in 2014.
- The employment study carried out on two occasions on indicators compared with the Active Population Survey (APS) is due to be repeated.
- The Roma Housing Map in Spain is due to be repeated, which provides comparable data on results from previous maps.



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- Studies carried out on education will provide data for diachronic analysis, as well as the comparison of indicators of the State System of Indicators of the Ministry of Education.

The studies planned by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights may contribute to improving the Strategy follow-up, and will facilitate complementary information.

Consequently, the follow-up and review of the Strategy with regard to the meeting of targets will be based on *result* or *impact* indicators provided for the Strategy itself. Conversely, the follow-up of execution of the specific actions carried out to reach targets will be based on the *process* or *activity* system of indicators agreed under the framework of the Action Plan for the Development of the Roma Population.

Within the framework of the Technical cooperation working group with the regions, new efforts have been made to increase the level of knowledge not only about the different policies currently being implemented throughout the territory, but also about the Roma population, sharing information gathered, surveys or studies referred to an specific territory or area, etc, along with best practices and advices regarding data collection.

In addition to this, the Government regularly reports to the European Commission as well as to other international organizations such as United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe or the Council of Europe, among others.

- *Please describe how and to what extent you have been cooperating with Roma civil society organizations, including the Decade Focal Point in your country, regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of your Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy.*

Cooperation with Roma civil society organizations regarding the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the National Roma Integration Strategy occurs through the State Council for the Roma People, which was established in 2005 and has been functioning since 2007 under the auspices of the Ministry for Health, Social Services and Equality. It is a collegial body composed of 20 representatives of the associative Roma movement, in equal composition with the General State Administration. Its mandate includes assessing policies, projects and legislation on the Roma community, proposing measures and projects to improve the situation and making suggestions as to the use of funds. It is also conceived as a consultative body between the administration and Roma civil society.

As we said above the State Council for the Roma People is fully involved in the elaboration of relevant policy documents that affect Roma community, such as the Action Plan for the Roma Population for 2010-2012, the Comprehensive Strategy



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against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration (2007-2010 and 2011-2014) and the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020. Currently it has participated in the Action Plan for Development of the Roma Population's Final Evaluation Report as one of the key agents and now is in the Operational Plan for the period 2014-2016 (from National Strategy) design process.

The State Council for the Roma People work in Plenary, Standing Committee and in Working Groups established for that purpose. Currently there are six working groups operating in the council: 1. Education, 2. Health, 3. Housing, 4. Employment, 5. Social action, non-discrimination and European agenda and 6. Culture.

- *What is the total amount and percentage of the 2013 national budget dedicated to the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country?*

No budget estimation was included in the NRIS, neither has been in the Operational Plan of the Strategy, due to the difficulties to make accurate estimations of the percentage of budget that will benefit the Roma coming from mainstream policies, key element for their full inclusion in all areas.

- *What kinds of funding sources (local, national and international) are considered for the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country?*

With regards to the sources that are considered for the implementation of the Programme, the Strategy is simultaneously based on access for Roma to general tools and programmes (i.e. those which are not exclusively conceived for Roma) and on the development of specific measures. The financing of actions carried out to achieve targets shall, consequently, come from two different channels: (a) from the budgets of universal policies, plans and programmes in each area indicated in the action plans, from which Roma and citizens in general will benefit; and (b) the specific budgets for the benefit of Roma preferentially.

Within the specific budgets for the benefit of Roma population we can find the **Roma Development Programme**, managed by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality of the General State Administration from the year 1989, that has continued to foster Roma social development through different initiatives, to improve their quality of life and promote their participation in public and social life, fighting discrimination.



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The Programme has strengthened **cooperation with Autonomous and Local Administrations**, which are co-responsible with the General State Administration in Roma issues, assigning a specific and relevant budget to it.

It implies the cofunding of integral projects for the attention, prevention of marginalization and integration of the Roma, with a simultaneous social intervention in the areas of social action, education, employment and training, health, housing and environment. Regions and municipalities are committed to supplement the allocation made by the Ministry providing at least three-quarters of national funds. Total funding in 2011 was of 3.177.436,81 €. In 2012 the amount was 2.337.124, 17 €. In 2013 the amount was 1.437.653,43€. The main feature of this program is that it implies a commitment of all three levels of administration of including every year in their budgets a specific consignment for Roma targeted programs, apart for being integral programs.

On the other hand, we can mention the economic support for Roma and non Roma NGOs working for Roma inclusion through the annual call of funds linked to the 0,7 % of the Personal Income Tax (social intervention programs). . The total amount in 2011 was of 7.614.735 €, in 2012 was of 7.515.715, 18 € and in 2013 was of 7,382.207€. These data only include the projects awarded within the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality; other ministries also award projects, (for instance, Ministry of Employment and Social Security, as regards projects to do with immigrants). It is worth mentioning also the call of funds for the maintenance of Roma NGOs, with a total amount of 655.230,00 in 2011 and of 584.324,00 in 2012 for Roma and pro Roma NGOs. In 2013 the amount of this call of funds was of 506.470€.

For example, in the year 2012, one of the projects awarded within the latter was the creation of a network, Plataforma Ketané, which aims to create news dynamics of cooperation inside the Roma associative movement and the public administrations; internal coordination and the improvement of the training of the managers of the Roma NGOs. It is formed by 13 of the 20 NGOs that are part of the State Council for the Roma People. In the year 2013 the amount that was destined to this Platform increased to 10.000€.

- *What has been done to ensure that EU Funds will be allocated for Roma inclusion in the 2014-2020 periods? Please estimate the budget of planned measures in the context of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy for 2014-2020 (please indicate which of the 4 key areas, or which other area, is planned to benefit from the referred funding) from EU funds, and other sources.*



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Spain has managed to establish a model of relative success in the use of structural funds for the Roma population during the last two programming periods 2000-2006 and 2007-2013.

A key factor in this model was the innovative decision made in 2000 by the government of Spain, unprecedented in other Member States that implied a public-private partnership. A model that has been recognized as good practice in various forums, and that, after 13 years of functioning, has already shown more than positive results. The decision implied the recognition as intermediate bodies in the managing of EU funds of a number of non-profit organizations.

Nowadays, the Multiregional Operational Program Fight Against Discrimination, is one of the 22 programs of the European Social Fund ESF in Spain in the period 2007-2013. The program is managed by ten public and private entities², one of which works specifically with the Roma. Within this OP, Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) manages projects in the areas of employment and training, i.e.s, “Acceder” and “Promociona”.

We are currently in the phase of preparing and programming for the new programming period 2014- 2020 of the Structural Funds (FFSS). The National Contact Point (NCP), as responsible at national level for promoting inclusion policies with the Roma, has paid special attention to the use of FFSS in the sake of this community.

The general lines of actions on this subject have been defined in the Strategy and were noted in the previous Decade Progress Report. This is perhaps the main novelty of this period, and also the main strength, as the perfect timing is allowing us to establish standards and guidelines for planning and programming in this new period, and aligning the objectives of the strategy with the use of funds .We reckon essential that there is a strong connection between those designing the inclusion policies, (general and targeted for the Roma), to combat poverty and achieve social inclusion, with those responsible for the programming and management of European funds. This is the main reason behind the creation of the Interfund Committee under the National Strategy, with representatives of the ESF, the ERDF and the EAFRD, with the aim of coordination the programming, follow-up and review of activities focused on the Roma.

That means a reinforcement of this link, that now exists in forms such as the participation in the committee of continuous evaluation of the Fight Against

² Four of these intermediate bodies are NGOs: Spanish Red Cross, Fundación ONCE, Caritas Española and FSG.



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Discrimination OP, or through the membership in the Social Insertion Network, a joint initiative of the ESFMA and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality.

In Spain the participation of stakeholders is also a priority. The Fight Against Discrimination OP itself is an example of direct participation of civil society in the management of funds. And in this sense it is aligned with the provisions of the ECCP, that seeks for a participation not only as a consultative process in the first stages of the planning process, but throughout the entire process: programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Currently, Spain is still working on the Partnership Agreement, which will reflect the proposals made by the State Council for Roma People, which has been consulted twice, early in 2013 and in 2014.

2. EDUCATION

• *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented at national or local level to support Roma education in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: improving early childhood education and care, reducing early school leaving, encouraging Roma participation in secondary and tertiary education, desegregation measures, inclusive education, teacher training, etc.*

Some of the measures mentioned below are specifically targeting Roma while others are addressing vulnerable groups, including Roma (Plan PROA, Territorial Cooperation Programme and Awarding of Prizes).

- Granting of subsidies to Roma associations or organisations that assist Roma students to reduce inequalities in education. (financed both by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports and the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, the latter by the call of funds for NGOs linked to the 0,7 % of the Personal Income Tax. We can mention, among many others, Promociona, managed by FSG; Educarrómí, by FAKALI, in Andalusia; support to schooling of Roma students, by Kamira, a romani women association; projects by Fundación Pere Closa, in Catalunya, several projects by Unión Romani, in different municipalities throughout Spain; etc.)
- Development of educational support plans and school accompaniment (Plan PROA) as well as programs to finance textbooks and teaching materials and computers.



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- Progressive reduction of early school dropout and increased enrolment in secondary education through Territorial Cooperation Programme for the Reduction of early school and training dropout.
- Activities carried out jointly between the Departments of Education and associative movement organisations to promote the treatment of the Roma population in the school curriculum, as well as activities with Resource and Teacher Training Centres with the aim of developing an intercultural education.
- Awarding of prizes to schools that perform activities to reduce inequalities in education among students in unfavourable social situations, as well as dissemination of good practices.
- Publication of several studies on different aspects regarding education and the Roma population, dissemination of materials and good practices through educational portals (Resource Centre for the Attention to Cultural Diversity in Education - CREADE), and using material on the Roma population in teaching units that are shared via the web.

We can mention a project implemented in the region of Andalucía: 'Gender mainstreaming in Roma Education' (Transversalidad de género en la educación de la población gitana) BARABAL, under the UE Program for Permanent Learning. It is a common project of the government of Andalucía, Unión Romaní, PERIPHERIE, Institute of Practice-Oriented Gender Research de Austria, and Roma Women Organization 'Roma Media Center' from Eslovaquia, Roma Women Association Drom Kotar Mestipne, España and the Center for Education and Social Development from Rumania. The aim of this project is to improve the access and permanence in the constant learning of girls, youngsters and women in a social disadvantaged situation of through gender mainstreaming in policies, programs and methodology related to the improvement of the education of the Roma population in a station of social exclusion.

As expressed in the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2010-2020, the Spanish Government has set itself a series of objectives in the field of education and is committed to achieving these targets for the Roma population. In order to reach these objectives a set of strategic lines of action have been established.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports is about to approve an Action Plan on Coexistence and Human Rights, that includes Roma students as a target group.

The Spanish Government has currently approved the Operational Plan for the period 2014-2016 in the framework of the National Roma Integration Strategy. This Plan



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will provide concrete steps on how to achieve the 2015 mid-term targets and is therefore in line with the National Roma Integration Strategy.

• *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of the measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

Studies about the educational situation of the Roma population show that there is a significant progress in some areas, particularly in schooling in Preschool and Primary Education, if we compare it with the situation of few years ago.

Enrolment rates in early childhood education are lower than for the general population, but have increased significantly in recent years.³

In the case of primary education, the schooling of Roma children is practically normalized, although the frequency of school absenteeism and early school leaving remains a concern, these phenomena are intensified in the first cycle of compulsory secondary education, where the situation is worse in the case of Roma girls.⁴

The presence of young Roma in post-compulsory education, although is perceived as a growing trend, it is still rare and the gap relative to the whole population is profound, as a study carried out in 2013 shows..⁵ Thus, the adult Roma population has lower levels of education, including a much higher rate of illiteracy than that of the population as a whole.

Due to Spanish Constitution and legislation on personal data protection which confers a special protection to data related to ethnicity there is a lack of concrete figures referred to the Roma community. Fortunately, more accurate data is becoming accessible through studies, surveys and reports.

³ Between 1994 and 2009 there has been an improvement of almost 30 percentage points of Roma children who attended pre -primary education to compulsory schooling (87% in 2009). FSG (2010): *Evaluation of the educational standards of the students and Roma pupils in primary education*. Madrid, IFIIE / Institute for Women.

⁴ FSG (2013) : *The Roma students in Secondary School: a comparative study*. Madrid, CNIIE / Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Health , Social Services An Equality and Unicef-España..

⁵ FSG (2013) : *The Roma students in Secondary School: a comparative study*. Madrid, CNIIE / Ministry of Education Culture and Sports, Ministry of Health , Social Services An Equality and Unicef-España...



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Taking this into account, we present here some indicators of the positive developments generated in the education during the past years, according the last study presented in the educational area and carried out by Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG), with the cooperation of UNICEF Spain : *Roma Students in Secondary School: a comparative study*:

<http://www.gitanos.org/upload/92/20/EstudioSecundaria.pdf>

- The educational level of the Roma population are below those of the general population, with 64,4 % of young Roma from 16 to 24 who have failed to obtain the certificate of completion of compulsory secondary education (ESO) (compared to 13,3 of the general population)
- If we look at the maximum level of education of the Roma young people from 16 to 19, 62,7 % only have primary education; 24, 8% has finished compulsory secondary education (ESO) and only 7,4 % has managed to finished non compulsory secondary education (upper secondary education or “*bachillerato*” and vocational training equated to secondary education (“*formación profesional de grado medio*”))
- Up to 14 years, the levels of schooling of the Roma population are very similar to those of the whole population. It is from the age of 15 and beyond when this level drops significantly. Noteworthy are the high levels of absenteeism of Roma students in ESO, rising to 14.3 %, being more pronounced in Roma girls (16 %) than boys (12.8%).
- In relation to post-compulsory education in the age group 20 to 24, there are significant differences with the general population, because only 8.9% % of Roma youth in this age group have completed upper secondary education (bachillerato) or vocational training equated to secondary education and 2.2 superior studies, compared to 39.9 and 21.5 among the general population. In any case, although the percentage of Roma girls in school at this age is lower than in the case of boys, they are the ones who mostly choose to continue their studies in high school.
- As to the rate of early school leaving, 63.7% of the Roma youth between 18 and 24 years old, have left school or training before completing compulsory secondary education, which is 38.7 percentage points higher than in the general population.

3. EMPLOYMENT

- Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan or the National Roma



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Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: tailored job search assistance, first work experience programs, targeted activation measures, measures supporting self-employment and entrepreneurship, measures promoting employment of qualified Roma civil servants, eliminating barriers, including discrimination, to entering the labor market, etc.

Some of the measures mentioned below are specifically targeting Roma while others are addressing vulnerable groups, including Roma people:

- The labour market situation in Spain has increased the rates of unemployment up to 26% among the general population and over 50% among young people. The crisis has also worsened the employment situation of the Roma as it has had higher negative effects among low-skilled workers. As a response, the Government has allocated new funds to the Acceder Programme.
- The Acceder programme⁶– funded by the ESF together with State, autonomous and local administrations and managed by the FSG – remains one of the most effective measures of labour insertion. In 2012, the programme managed to keep hiring levels equal to those before the beginning of the crisis.
- A budgetary restructuring of the Multiregional Operational Programme Fight against Discrimination in 2012 allowed the allocation of an additional 10 million euro to facilitate labour insertion mainly focusing on young Roma.
- Between 2010 and 2013, social security contributions for members of cooperatives working in the street vending sector were reduced by 50 per cent. This still on-going measure has a positive impact on the employment situation of the Roma population, as street vending is one of their most important sources of employment.
- The Government of Spain has continued to finance projects for employment of the Roma managed by NGOs through the call of funds linked to the 0,7 % of the personal income tax. E.g. project Empleakalí, by FAKALI, operated in the region; project kerav- butji by FAGIC, in Catalunya; or several labour insertion projects managed by Unión Romaní. etc.

In this area we want to highlight **Empleakali** partnership program from the Roma Women association Fakali. It is a program that has been functioning for several years now. It implies performing actions that promote integration into the labor market of social excluded Roma women, including:

⁶ <http://www.gitanos.org/que-hacemos/areas/employment/acceder.html>



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1. The planning of actions by involving public institutions and the private sector, through contacts, prospecting and attracting clients.
2. Theoretical and practical training through self-esteem raising, literacy activities, social skills and awareness of social participation workshops, as well as sessions with entrepreneurs and freelancers.
3. Phase of evaluation and monitoring of labor practices or insertions, holding mentoring meetings with the trainees and the companies.

The number of users in 2013 was 120 and the program received a grant of € 36,672 €, and it takes place in five provinces of Andalusia.

Another important employment program we want to highlight is **Kerelo Buti** from Unión Romaní, a reference program among the Roma communities for its high practical content.

This program is developed through training and guidance activities to encourage the employment of participants. There are training workshops, and they help to activate job search by the participants in these workshops, getting the participants in some cases to reach full employment. In 2013, 15 workshops were held, most of them related to the services sector, with a profile according to the conditions and needs of the users.

This program has been developed in three provinces of Andalucía (Sevilla, Granada and Córdoba) and 397 people have benefited from it. In 2013 has received a grant of more than 16.000€.

As expressed in the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2010-2020⁷, the Spanish Government has set itself a series of objectives in the field of employment and is committed to achieving these targets for the Roma population. In order to reach these objectives a set of strategic lines of action have been established.

The Spanish Government has currently approved an Operational Plan for the period 2014-2016. The Action Plan will provide concrete steps on how to achieve the 2015 mid-term targets and is therefore in line with the National Roma Integration Strategy.

The Government has provided specific guidelines addressing different departments at the central level and the regions on how the ESF in the next programming period can contribute to the inclusion of the vulnerable people including the Roma. It is also

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_spain_strategy_en.pdf



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foresees that the Acceder Programme will continue working in the next Structural and Investments Funds programming period (2014 – 2020) in the framework of the future ESF Operational Programme “Fomento de la Inclusión Social y de la Economía Social”. Furthermore, in the new Operational Programme “Youth Employment” there will probably be also specific actions for the employment of the youth Roma.

- *Please describe to the extend possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

Employment is one of the four key areas for the social inclusion of the Roma population. Due to Spanish Constitution and legislation on personal data protection which confers a special protection to data related to ethnicity there is a lack of concrete figures referred to the Roma community. Fortunately, more accurate data is becoming accessible through studies, surveys and reports.

Taking this into account, we present here some indicators of the positive developments generated in the employment line of action during the past years, according to some of the mentioned studies also thanks to the Acceder Program.

NGOs implemented training and employment programs financed by the European Social Fund and the Spanish government. In this regard, we have as an example the **Acceder Program (2000-2007/2008-2013)**, which due to its size and importance should be highlighted.

The Multi-Regional OP Fight Discrimination was created in 2000 with the main objective to integrate the Roma effectively into the labor market. The program is managed by Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG) and is funded by the European Social Fund and numerous Spanish public administrations. It takes place in different locations in 14 regions, and has 50 centers (devices) for implementation.

The main actions of the program include integrated Itineraries for Roma inclusion, comprising acts of : awareness of young people and their families; reception and guidance for training and job search, job exploration, monitoring and support in place work, self-employment support, training activities, transfer of methodologies and materials to qualify the work being done with Roma; quality control systems for all interventions and creation of a permanent observatory of employment of the Roma population.



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In December 2011 FSG with the Access program, was authorized to operate as a recruitment agency in Spain awarded by the Ministry of Labour and Immigration, through the Public State Employment Service (SEPS).

After over ten years in operation, the results have shown that it is an efficient program. This is a program that is a benchmark in Europe and example of "good practice". Some program data for the period 2009-2013 are:

People served in Acceder devices:

YEARS	MEN	WOMAN	TOTAL
2009	5.754	6.014	11.768
2010	6.214	6.654	12.868
2011	7.162	7.579	14.741
2012	7.607	8.158	15.765
2013	7.655	8.475	16.130

Contracts obtained through Acceder devices:

YEARS	MEN	WOMAN	TOTAL
2009	1.529	1.926	3.455
2010	1.782	2.128	3.910
2011	1.806	2.311	4.117
2012	1.532	2.266	3.798
2013	1.900	2.556	4.456
TOTAL	8.549	11.187	19.736

People hired through Acceder devices:

YEARS	MEN	WOMAN	TOTAL
2009	1.139	1.382	2.521
2010	1.341	1.545	2.886
2011	1.362	1.627	2.989
2012	1.132	1.482	2.614
2013	1.311	1.641	2.952
TOTAL	6.285	7.677	13.962

People who get their first job:

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YEARS	TOTAL
2009	1.388
2010	1.609
2011	1.598
2012	1.296
2013	1.474
TOTAL	7.365

People trained through Acceder devices:

YEARS	MEN	WOMAN	TOTAL
2009	832	1.046	1.878
2010	1.026	1.338	2.364
2011	1.404	1.813	3.217
2012	1.497	1.736	3.233
2013	1.679	2.050	3.729
TOTAL	6.438	7.983	14.421

4. HOUSING

- *Please list any mainstream or targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: eliminating spatial desegregation and promoting desegregation, promoting non discriminatory access to social housing, etc.*

In the field of housing recent studies compared with older studies reveal a significant improvement in the residential conditions of the Roma population in recent decades. Many Roma families have had access to a dwelling in many neighbourhoods in Spain. The access to a dwelling has occurred both through public housing, as well as private one.

According to the latest study published in 2008⁸ covering the housing conditions of over 90,000 Roma households in 2007, 88.1% of Roma live in standard housing and only 3.9% live in shanty towns while another 7.8% live in infra-edifications.

⁸ Fundación Secretariado Gitano-FSG (2008): “*Mapa sobre vivienda y comunidad gitana en España, 2007*”, Madrid, Ministerio de Vivienda; Fundación Secretariado Gitano.



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These results represent a sounding improvement over those obtained in the previous study from 1991⁹ when 10% of Roma dwellings were living in slums and 21.4% in infra-edifications.

The main Spanish regulations covering housing for Roma include:

- The **National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020**. One of the key areas for social inclusion is Housing.
- The **Housing and Rehabilitation State Plan 2009-2012**. This act was approved by the RD. 2066/2008 of December 12, published on December 24, 2008.
- The **Housing and Rehabilitation State Plan 2013-2016**. This plan is structured around two axes: rental and rehabilitation building, regeneration and urban renewal. In the rent area, there has been created two new programs, the Social Rent Assistance and Social Housing Rent Foster. These programs focus on the most vulnerable social groups.
- Regarding substandard housing we have the **Promotion Programme for Sustainable and Competitive Cities**, which provides grants to projects aimed at improving neighborhoods, centers and replacement of substandard housing areas with a component of social cohesion.

Both the National Strategy and the Housing Plan propose to eradicate shanty towns or infra-edifications and to improve the quality of dwellings for Roma population. Another important target is to improve infrastructures and urban facilities in the neighbourhoods where Roma people live. More specifically the objectives of the National Strategy are the following:

- Specific Objective 1.1: Reduce the percentage of households in shantytowns Roma population;
- Specific Objective 1.2: Reduce the percentage of households considered Roma shacks;
- Specific Objective 2.1: Reduce the percentage of households of Roma with a lack of basic equipment;
- Specific Objective 2.2: Reduce the proportion of Roma households with humidity problems;
- Specific Objective 2.3: Reduce the proportion of Roma households in areas with shortages of urban facilities;
- Specific Objective 2.4: Reduce the proportion of Roma households that are overcrowded.

⁹ Grupo Pass (1991): “*Mapa de la Vivienda Gitana en España*”. Madrid, Asociación Secretariado General Gitano.



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The objectives of the Housing and Rehabilitation State Plan 2009-2012 were the following:

- Facilitate access to a dwelling particularly citizens with more difficulties;
- Improve quality of life of citizens and conservation of the housing stock, betting on sustainable urban development;
- Encourage economic activity in both real estate development construction and more particularly in the field of rehabilitation.

Given the high degree of decentralisation and the broad powers assigned to Autonomous Communities in a number of pertinent fields, co-ordination among various actors is a key element. The housing policy in Spain is based on the agreement among different Administrations since important funds are coming from the central Administration through the Housing State Plans and need an adjustment to the peculiarities of the Autonomous Communities and the necessary approach to the citizens through the Town halls.

This system of management can guarantee that the aid programmes are received by the beneficiaries in the most efficient way and are based on collaboration agreements between the Ministry and the Autonomous Communities which, in many programmes, are also extended to the Town halls.

The intervention of private agents is also a *sine qua non* for an efficient management of the Housing Plans. Financial entities that collaborate in the process of management of some aid programmes and the land promoters for protected houses and construction companies have a very relevant role for the follow-up of the objectives of the Plan.

It is also significant to count on the collaboration of social representatives who know directly the needs of the groups of people who will be given preference in housing. These are low income citizens and those who need a special treatment due to a severe difficulty in acceding a home whether it is by their life stage, like young people or people older than 65 years old, or through special urgent reasons in order to dispose of lodging for the victims of gender violence, terrorism, and those affected by catastrophes, or due to dependency or disability.

The Housing and Rehabilitation State Plan contained 6 axes and 12 programmes:

1. - Promotion of protected houses (controlled price)

- Promotion of protected houses both for renting and for sale.

2. - Subsidies for applicants

- Subsidies for tenants;
- Subsidies for buyers of protected houses.

3. - Rehabilitation and Renovation Areas

- ARIS (Areas of rehabilitation);



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- ARUS (Renewal Areas);
 - Subsidies to eradicate shanty towns or infra-edifications.
- 4. - Subsidies for individual Rehabilitation and energy efficiency in new constructions**
- Subsidies for individual rehabilitation;
 - Subsidies for promoting energy efficiency in new constructions.
- 5. - Subsidies for urbanize land for future protected houses**
- 6. - Subsidies for information and processing the Plan.**

The Plan set a preference for the most vulnerable groups in relation to access to a dwelling. The aid referred to in the Plan consists in direct aids, in the access to loans on more affordable conditions or in subsidisation of such loans.

In order to monitoring and review the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020 is concerned, surveys will be conducted to measure compliance with the objectives set out in section II of the Strategy. Surveys will be from a longitudinal perspective and consistent with those that have served basis to make the objectives of this strategy (e.g. Map of Roma Housing in Spain/ Mapa de la Vivienda Gitana), thus allowing the realisation of comparisons between the situation of the Roma population and the whole Spanish population. These surveys will be conducted in two cycles: one prior to 2015 will provide information on the degree of compliance intermediate targets, and another, in 2020, will yield information on final results. With the information provided by these surveys, two monitoring reports will be prepared to assess compliance with goals, one intermediate report after 2015 and another at the end of the strategy in 2020.

It is worth mentioning that the Institute of Re-housing and Social Integration (IRIS) - managed by Madrid regional government in collaboration with the local government - which origins take back to 1986 and was created in 1998, has successfully continued implementing its work in combating shanty towns and social exclusion. IRIS also offers social accompaniment to families during and after re-housing, which includes activities in different areas such as education, employment and women promotion through the Service of Neighbourhood Assistance from Madrid Community (ASIVECAM). IRIS has been awarded with the Third Dosta Award from the Council of Europe in its third edition.

We also have to mention the experience of the city of Almeria, with the Plan URBACT that has permitted to use the ERDF benefitting the Roma population of this municipality, as has been recognized by the European Union.¹⁰

¹⁰ <http://urbact.eu/en/projects/active-inclusion/roma-net/partner/>



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- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

Due to Spanish Constitution and legislation on personal data protection which confers a special protection to data related to ethnicity there is a lack of concrete figures referred to the Roma community. Fortunately, more accurate data is becoming accessible through studies, surveys and reports.

Although these accurate data is becoming more accessible, we have no new data for 2013 in the progress made in the area of housing. There are further plans to repeat the experience of a compiling an updated “Roma community housing map”/Mapa de la Vivienda Gitana which aims to identify the housing situation of the Roma population in Spain. This map will identify the most vulnerable areas in Spain with regards to Roma and housing by providing information on the different housing situations of the Roma. It is also the basis for future statistical national Roma research in the areas of education, employment, healthcare, etc.

The area of housing will also be a priority within the future action plan, and as so it will be a key aspect to be treated along with the regions and municipalities during the implementation of the aforementioned plan.

In order to give impetus to the new re-housing policies in the coming years, there are plans to access Structural Funds (ERDF) in the programming period 2014-2020. Negotiations aiming at the inclusion of this priority are currently on-going between the National Contact Point and the Finance Ministry and the ESFMA in the framework of the Committee Inter-funds that has been created according to the Spanish Roma Strategy.

Regarding the promotion of the use of the Structural Funds (ERDF Regulation Article 7.2) the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality has funded two workshops organized by Fundación Secretariado Gitano (FSG), to promote the use of the art. 7.2. for housing interventions at regional and local level (A Coruña, March 5, 2012 and Málaga, May 6, 2013).

Finally, in addition to state level performances (many of which are developed in close collaboration and co-financing with the autonomous communities), municipalities and autonomous regions, in exercise of its powers in housing and planning, have programs affecting the Roma population in this area, such as the Municipal Plan for the Eradication of slums, Relocation and Social Integration of Roma population in



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Avilés (Asturias), who managed to eradicate slums in the city, the actions of the IRIS-Relocation and Social Integration Institute - Community of Madrid, among others. The IRIS received third prize Dosta in the Council of Europe on 19 October 2011, as an example of good practice in the social integration of Roma slum population. It annually serves more than 10,000 people with an annual budget of over 20 million.

Other examples are the "Relocation Project Special Plan Penamoa" in A Coruña (Galicia) developed by the Department of Social Services of Coruña and two social entities: Night Antonio Association and FSG, which allowed rehouse 79 families living in the segregated slums of the town into decent housing built in urban environments.

Finally note that the Regional Office for Europe of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations (OHCHR), has chosen the city of Madrid to celebrate the event called "Segregation in housing of Roma as a challenge human rights ", and for that it has requested the assistance of the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Same has involved senior United Nations, the Spanish Administration in the areas of housing, social affairs and foreign affairs, as well as representatives from various countries and organizations related issues affecting the Roma population.

It is worthy noting also the example of Almeria, and the use of the ERDF, with the program URBACT, regarded as a good practice in the use of EU funds benefiting the Roma.

5. HEALTH

- *Please list any mainstream and targeted policy measures that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2013 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable). Please include measures such as: ensuring equal access to quality healthcare, ensuring basic social security coverage and comprehensive health services to Roma preventive measures such as medical check-ups, prenatal and postnatal care and family planning, targeted health awareness campaigns, etc.*

The most relevant measures this year 2013 have been:

- On March 21, 2013 the first meeting of the Health CEPG Group took place. At this meeting the work lines of the new mandate were set out; in this 2nd command it has been decided to prioritize health in the Roma children, line



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that has not been previously worked and is one of the objectives of the National Strategy for Social Inclusion of Roma from 2012 to 2020 . Therefore, it will advance in information and training measures, especially those related to a good start in life.

- Given the very important role of autonomous communities in the implementation of the Strategy, it was decided that the Strategy and the work lines will be presented to the Public Health Commission (CSP).
- Elaboration and implementation of the National Strategy for Health Equality (2011-2012) including the production of a Methodological guide to integrate equality in the health strategy, programmes and activities (2012)¹¹
- Inclusion of health measures in the second Strategic Plan on Children and Young People 2013-2016
- National Strategy for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Creation of the Inter-university Institute for Social Development and Peace¹² (2012) which is a WHO Collaborating Centre on Social Inclusion and Health that, apart from disseminating good practices from Spain on the integration of the Roma population to other countries, supports the capacity building at Spanish national level with regards to health equality among the Roma population.
- Within the National Strategy for Health Equality targeted at the Roma population (2003), collaborative work was continued in the areas of health within the Action Plan for the development of the Roma population 2010-2012.
- Monitoring and support of the Roma Health Network, a network of 16 Roma NGOs.
- Preparation for the next National Health Survey on the Roma population, which is foreseen for 2014. On 2 and 3 December was held in the Health Ministry the training/working interviewer day by the University of Alicante team, team that will carry out the second Survey.
- The Spanish Network of Healthy Cities (RECS) continued actions targeted at disadvantaged groups, especially with regards to inequality, poverty and health. A series of publications on the Roma population was disseminated.
- Preparations for the next National Roma Health Survey that will take place in 2014.
- The Health Ministry has participated in a training organized by the Public Health Centre of Cantabria, supported by the Ministry itself and Romanes

¹¹

http://www.msssi.gob.es/profesionales/saludPublica/prevPromocion/promocion/desigualdadSalud/jornadaPresent_Guia2012/docs/Guia_metodologica_Equidad_EPAs.pdf

¹² <http://www.iudesp.es/iudesp-whocc.html>



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Platform of Cantabria in order to promote intercultural education and awareness of the populations groups with greater health needs.

- We participated in training Course: SATISPEN AJ ROMA. Inequality in Health and Roma community. The first edition of this course was held at the University of Alicante in 2012 and in 2013 the second edition of this course has been done. This course aims to extend the socio- health situation of the Roma community to the university, the partner of the health professions and NGO 'S.
- We have continued doing advocacy and awareness measures

We can also mention two regional projects:

Madrid: ARTEMISA PROJECT, that is a network that fights against exclusion of the Roma population, with measures aimed at promoting access and use of sanitary and social-labour resources, with goals such as fostering healthy lifestyles, correcting women sanitary deficit, making health services accessible to women and facilitating neighbourhood relations. It is based among other things in the figure of social Roma mediation, as a resource to overcome integration difficulties. Women mediators develop their interventions in the city health centres, schools, education entities, under the patronage of the four entities that compose the network : asociación Barro, asociación Centro de Animación Socio Cultural de Madrid, Asociación el Fanal y asociación Romi Sersení. Moreover, asociación Mujeres Opañel and a asociación de mujeres gitanas Alboreá, are partner-members of this network.

NAVARRA: in Navarra they have continued to implement their project of health mediators, internationally recognized as a good practice.

As expressed in the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020¹³, the Spanish Government has set a series of objectives in the field of healthcare and is committed to achieving these targets for the Roma population. In order to reach these objectives a set of strategic lines of action have been established.

The Operational Plan 2014-2016 has been recently approved within the framework of the Strategy. This Action Plan provide concrete steps on how to achieve the 2015 mid-term targets and is therefore in line with the NRIS.

The State Department involved in achieving the objectives of the National Roma Integration Strategy, as well as the Operational Plan in the health area, is the Ministry

¹³ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_spain_strategy_en.pdf



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of Health, Social Services and Equality through the General Directorate of Public Health, Quality and Innovation, which works in coordination with the CEPG Health Group, as well as with the health and Roma community regional (autonomous) group.

The Spanish Government is preparing the above mentioned National Roma Health Survey, to give continuity to the diagnosis, evaluation and monitoring of the health status of the Roma population. The results will be available in 2014.

- *Please describe to the extent possible the impact of measures your government implemented in 2013 (including quantitative and descriptive data). For the purpose of peer to peer learning, kindly consider to include also measures with negative impact on Roma inclusion and explain the process to minimize such negative impact.*

Due to the special administrative organisation of our country, programmes are mainly developed at the regional and local level. The competencies on health are a responsibility of the Autonomous Communities. The General State Administration is in charge of establishing strategic recommendations and facilitating the development of programmes.

On June 2010 the Action Plan for the Development of the Roma population of Spain 2010-2012 was presented to the Committee of Public Health of the Inter-territorial Council of the National Health System (coordination structures between the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality and the Regions).

In this Committee of Public Health, the General Directors of Public Health of the Spanish regions (Autonomous Communities) were invited to name a responsible for the coordination and follow up of the Health Area of the plan.

A Working group for the coordination and follow up of the Health Area of the Plan, in which are involved the regional representatives was established on March 2011.

The Spanish Ministry of Health is supporting (economically through grants (IRPF) and technically) a Network (Equi-sastipen network) for the promotion of Roma health in which 16 NGOs are involved. Equi sastipen Network, (Roma Health), which is formed by 16 Roma NGO s that work in the field of health promotion , and that is economically supported by the Personal Income Tax call of funds. In 2013, the total amount awarded within this call of funds dedicated to health programs, including this network, was of 340.511 euros. This network has been working in creating an effective and homogenous working model in the field of health promotion within the



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Roma NGOs, based in scientific evidence, and in the state of the art knowledge. They have also worked in awareness rising among health professionals, majority population and Roma NGOs, with several seminars held in cities such as Alicante, Avilés, Badajoz and Santander

Since the Spanish National Health System has universal access, all the Roma are benefited of all the health programmes including vaccination. Moreover, many efforts on facilitate accessibility and eliminate barriers of the system have been done.

A new National Survey of the Roma Population and its comparison with the National Survey for the whole population which will be published this year will be carried out on 2014.

This second national survey for Roma and the comparative study with the whole population will help us to evaluate the progress and the results of policies and actions carried out in the last years.

7. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND GENDER EQUALITY

- *Please list any measures that were designed to support the fight against anti-Roma discrimination and racism. Please describe to the extend possible the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).*
 - Re-launch of the network of centres assisting victims of discrimination (which has been working in 2010 and 2011 and restarted in 2013) supported by the Council for the Promotion of Equality of Treatment and Non-discrimination Against Persons Based on Racial or Ethnic Origin.
 - Annual report on discrimination and the Roma population
 - Annual Conference for the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination of persons based on racial or ethnic origin
 - Training on Hate in the Internet and discrimination when accessing goods and services for public administration personal.



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- Project Todoimás ¹⁴(2011), a forum on equal treatment and non-discrimination, financed by PROGRESS
- A large amount of civil society organisations ¹⁵promoted activities in the field of combatting discrimination, e.g. by disseminating information and news on discrimination cases against Roma people, both on national and international level (especially Eastern Europe).
- Based on the previous experience of the Hate Speech Attorney (fiscalia de delitos de odio) existing in Barcelona, new hate speech attorneys have been created in 50 Spanish provinces.
- The Council of Ministers, in its 4 November 2011 meeting, adopted the Integral Strategy against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and other related forms of Intolerance.
- The National Contact Point has financed in 2012 and 2013 two important activities in this field ,through 2 Roma organisations:
 - Fundación Secretariado Gitano:
 - Annual report on discrimination 2012 and 2013
 - Awareness-raising Campaign "Roma with studies, Roma with a future"
 - Unión Romaní:
 - Publication "Journalists against racism": it is an annual publication that compiles the news in which Roma appear, examing the perspective adopted in each piece of news.
- The Ministry of Employment and Social Security and the Ministry of Interior have led the FRIR project "Training to Identify and Record Racist Incidents" through the Spanish Observatory on Racism and Xenophobia (OBERAXE). The aim of this project was to further train on equal treatment and non-racial or ethnic discrimination among Security Forces, providing tools for specific training in criteria used by different national, regional and local security forces to detect and record "racist or xenophobic incidents" and secondly, to disseminate the training acquired in order to raise awareness to the various

¹⁴ The project, which was financed by PROGRESS, provided the several Spanish regions with the opportunity to organise joined meetings where they could discuss their needs and challenges with regards to the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination, share their experiences, good practices and lessons learnt.

¹⁵ Unión Romaní, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Fed. de Asociaciones Culturales Cristianas de Andalucía FACCA, Fed. Andaluza de Mujeres Gitanas FAKALI, Fed. de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña FAGIC, Fed. de Asociaciones Gitanas Extremeñas FAGED, Fed. Autónoma de Asociaciones Gitanas de la Comunidad Valenciana FAGA, Fed. de Asociaciones de Mujeres Gitanas KAMIRA, Asociación Nacional Presencia Gitana, Fed.de Asociaciones Gitanas de Aragón FAGA, Asoc. de Promoción Gitana de La Rioja, Fed. de Asoc. gitanas de Navarra GAZ KALO, Fed. de Asoc. Gitanas de Castilla y León, Fed. Regional Gitana de Asoc. de Castilla La Mancha, Asoc. Iniciativa Gitana, Fed. Conciencia Gitana de Extremadura (FEOGEX), Asoc. de Mujeres Gitanas Alborea, Asoc. de Enseñantes con Gitanos, Asoc. Socio Cultural de Minorías Étnicas UNGA, Fed. de Asoc. Gitanas para la integración laboral y social, promoción y desarrollo del Pueblo Gitano KALI.



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stakeholders, particularly Security Forces personnel. This project was co-financed by the PROGRESS programme.

- Creation of the Platform for the Police and management of diversity, composed, among other, by the UNIJEPOI, (national union of chiefs and managers of Local Police), Fundación Secretariado Gitano or the Foundation Pluralism and Coexistence. Its aims are, among others, to promote changes in Security Forces regarding diversity, and improving their procedures to guarantee equal of treatment of vulnerable groups of society; avoiding under-reporting of cases of discrimination.
- The discrimination map by the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality is in an advanced stage of development. This tool will measure in an actual and effectively way the causes of discrimination in our area. The overall objective of the map will identify the social and potential victims of discrimination perceptions, discriminatory practices and key evidence of discrimination in Spain, to allow a better design of anti-discrimination policies.
- Spain has joined the Council of Europe DOSTA! Campaign on April 2013, publishing its tool kit adapted to the Spanish context.¹⁶ The Council of Europe and FSG (MAEC by a grant of 5,000 euro) have funded the editing, layout and printing of a brochure and a poster campaign. It has also been adapted to the Spanish context the practical guidance or tool kit mentioned above.
- The DG for Equal Opportunities launched in 2013 launched in 2013 the campaign *Yo soy tu*, to promote the respect to diversity, including the Roma.
- The Spanish Institute for Youth Has launched in Spain, and is responsible for the implementation of, the campaign of the Council of Europe NO HATE, in which two Roma Women organizations are partner members, Kamira and Fakali.

As expressed in the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2010-2020¹⁷, the Spanish Government has set itself a series of objectives in the field of fighting the discrimination of Roma and is committed to achieving these targets. In order to reach these objectives a set of strategic lines of action have been established.

The Spanish Government has already approved the Operational Plan 2014-2016 in the framework of the National Roma Integration Strategy in Spain 2012-2020. The Action Plan will provide concrete steps on how to achieve the 2015 mid-term targets and is therefore in line with the National Roma Integration Strategy.

¹⁶ http://www.msssi.gob.es//ssi/familiasInfancia/inclusionSocial/docs/LIBRO_DOSTA.pdf

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/roma_spain_strategy_en.pdf



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A reform of the Penal Code is in progress. The new legislative package would include the amendment of the article 510 related to hate speech so as to include within the definition, the term "incitation" in compliance with the Framework Decision 2008/913/JHA of 28 November 2008 on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law.

- *Please list any measures that were designed to support gender equality between Roma women and men. Please describe to the extent possible the impact of these measures (including quantitative and descriptive data).*

Most of the measures designed to support gender equality between Roma women and men are given by the Women Institute, Autonomous Body under the Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality. Through the General Directorate for Equal Opportunities, provides grants to organizations of Roma women, fostering progress towards equality, produces books and materials and organizes educational seminars, meetings and other events whose subject is dealing with aspects affecting Roma women. The following general and specific Roma programs are developing:

- Program for social and professional Roma women integration: Collaboration agreement with FSG targeting Roma women, for their motivation and professional development for standardized access to labor market and greater social participation and for professionals who work with this group.
- Preparation of an informative guide about the incorporation of Roma girls and their evolution in Secondary Education in cooperation with the National Innovation and Educational Research Center (Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports).
- Call for grants in support of the associative movement (among which are Roma associations).
- Equal Virtual School Program, to sensitize men and women in the social value of equality. Include specific content on discrimination on grounds of ethnicity.
- Training Program aimed at civil service, in collaboration with the INAP to enhance the application of the principle of equal opportunities between women and men in the field of public service. Includes discrimination on grounds of ethnicity in the contents of the training for the civil service.
- Collaboration program with the General Directorate of the Civil Guard to develop measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women, facilitating the incorporation and integration of women in their organization by raising awareness and training key civil servants in the care of women victims of violence, including Roma women.
- CLARA Program to increase the employability of women at risk of social exclusion. The program is aimed, among other women groups to the ones that belong to ethnic minorities.



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- SARA program aimed at motivation and support to immigrant women for their social and professional integration.
- Equality actions program for inmates in collaboration with the General Secretariat of Penitentiary Institutions. Its objective is to help promote the elimination of gender violence and mitigate its consequences and prevent situations of violence and / or dependence of women prisoners, including Roma women.
- Women Image Observatory, with the aim of promoting a positive and realistic image of women in advertising and the media.

The Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality ensures the proportional representation in the State Council of the Roma People among men and women Roma associations, establishing a minimum quota.