

**MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND**  
**SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

**Actions in favour of the Spanish roma  
community from the General  
Administration of the State**

# SPANISH CONSTITUTION

There are no formal recognition or definition of national or ethnic minority. The Constitution recognizes and protects all the Spanish citizens, their cultures, traditions, languages and institutions.

## Art.14:

*All the Spanish citizens are equal in view of the Law without discrimination for reason of birth, race, sex, religion, opinion or any other personal or social circumstance*

# SPANISH STATE

## ADMINISTRATIVE DECENTRALISATION:

- **General Administration of the State (Government Bodies)**
- **17 Autonomous Communities and 2 Autonomous Cities**  
*At present, most of the former administrative competences of the State have been transferred to the Autonomous Communities, in order to develop actions in their territories (education, housing, health, employment, social action, social services...)*
- **City Councils and other Local Corporations (8.000 local authorities) *work directly with the population.***

## SOME DATA ABOUT ROMA SPANISH POPULATION

- 650.000 to 700.000 *-estimated by sociological research-*  
1,6% of the Spanish population (44.000.000)
- Spanish roma population are living in permanent settlements.
- They are distributed among the Spanish territory, mostly concentrated in some of the Autonomous Communities and in big cities.
- It has been estimated that nearly half of the roma population is under 16 years old.

# ROMA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

## BACKGROUND:

- 1985: Development of a “*legal instrument*” as a Governmental responsibility for *implementing a positive discrimination program for roma, to compensate social inequalities and to provide social integration*
- 1988: Creation of Ministry of Social Affaires, responsible for the Program.
- 1989: The General State budget provides specific budget for the program, which is annually ratified by the Council of Ministries.

## **GENERAL OBJECTIVE:**

**To improve the living conditions of the Spanish roma, in order to reach the same economical and social standards than the rest of the non-roma citizens.**

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To improve the access and the use of the public social protection networks.
- To establish the channels for their participation in issues affecting them.
- To promote their full integration in public and social life
- To favour a better fellowship among the different social and cultural groups.
- To prevent racist attitudes and behaviours by fostering respect and solidarity towards roma culture.

## **GUIDELINES:**

- 1. Collaboration with the Autonomous Communities and, through them, with the Local Corporations**
- 2. Technical and financial cooperation with roma associations and NGOs working with roma population**
- 3. Coordination with other ministries**
- 4. Increase the participation of roma organizations in official institutions**
- 5. Protection of the image avoiding the stereotypes and trying that public opinion become aware of the cultural differences**
- 6. Training professionals working with roma**



# FINANCIAL COOPERATION WITH AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL CORPORATIONS

## PROJECT CRITERIA:

- Development of social integrated actions in education, training, employment, health, housing and habitat.
- Institutional coordination.
- Effective participation of roma in the design, implementation and evaluation of the projects.
- Related to social protection systems and to social inclusion plans.
- Promotion of social and economic integration.
- Continuity

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
TOTAL EUROS : 6.594.249

1. FUNDS FOR ROMA PROJECTS: 2007

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- N° Projects: 109
- Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs : 3.065.160 €  
*(State budget – 60% the cost of the projects promoted by the A. Communities)*
- A. Communities and Municipalities : 3.550.742 €  
*(At least the other 40%)*

## 2. FINANTIAL & TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH ROMA NGOs AND NON-ROMA NGOs

Type of funds	NGOs	N° Programmes	N° Projects	EUROS
I.R.P.F. (0,52% personal income tax)	20	36	130	2.874.549
Support docs., maintenance, equipment, etc	5	10	-----	654.040
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.528.589</b>

# PARTICIPATION OF ROMA ORGANIZATIONS

- ✓ The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs have two consultative bodies in which roma NGOs have active participation:
  - \* STATE COUNCIL OF ROMA COMMUNITY
  - \* STATE COUNCIL OF NGOs FOR SOCIAL ACTION
  
- ✓ The Ministry of Culture
  - \* INSTITUTE FOR ROMA CULTURE

# PARTICIPATION OF ROMA ORGANIZATIONS

## STATE COUNCIL OF ROMA COMMUNITY :

Created by law the 22 /07/2005, is a consultative and advisory inter-ministerial assembly assigned to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

### ▪ Composition:

- President: *State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.*
- 2 Vice-presidents (*The second V-P is roma*)
- 40 Members: *20 representatives of the General Administration of the State and 20 representatives of roma organizations.*
- Secretary

# STATE COUNCIL OF ROMA COMMUNITY

## FUNTIONS:

- ✓ Propose plans and measures to promote the total integration of roma community.
- ✓ Present the initiatives related to financial resources for programmes addressed to roma.
- ✓ Collaborate and cooperate defending human rights with other similar councils and national and international institutions.
- ✓ Transmit opinions and reports about projects directly related to roma, specially, in the field of the development of equal treatment and opportunities.
- ✓ Promote the communication and the interchange of opinions between roma community and the rest of society.

# STATE COUNCIL OF ROMA COMMUNITY

## WORKING GROUPS:

- ✓ **Employment and Social Action.**
- ✓ **Education**
- ✓ **Culture**
- ✓ **Health**
- ✓ **Housing**

## INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION

- ✓ Ministry of Science and Education: *Group of education (from 1.999)*
- ✓ Institute for Woman: *Actions addressed to roma women included in the Equal Plans*
- ✓ Institute for Youth: *Specific actions for roma youth included in the Plan for youth 2003-2006*
- ✓ Spanish Observatory for Racism and Xenophobia: *Dealing with subjects related to discrimination*



# INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION

## ✓ European Union:

- Transposition of directives: 2000/43/CE / 2000/78/CE
- NAPI: Spanish roma - Group of specific attention.
- Peer review programme: Roma projects.

## ✓ Council of Europe:

- Group of specialist on roma and travellers.
- European commission against racism and intolerance (ECRI)
- Convention-Framework for national minorities

## ✓ United Nations and OSCE :

- Periodical reports on subjects related to racism and discrimination.

# NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON SOCIAL INCLUSION (NAPI)

## ACTIONS FOR PARTICULAR VULNERABLE GROUPS: ROMA

- ✓ Develop comprehensive social intervention projects in collaboration with the autonomous communities, preventing marginalization and promoting better integration
- ✓ Develop specific plans at regional and local level
- ✓ Develop job placement and social integration programmes in collaboration with NGOs
- ✓ Up date the “maps” of situation and conditions of housing and health
- ✓ Set up and development the functions of : The *State Council of Roma Community* and the *Institute for Roma Culture*

## SOME POSITIVE RESULTS...

1

- ✓ The Roma Development Programme was the key for the inclusion of “roma issue” in the public administration.
- ✓ The increment of financial resources in all administrations and public institutions to co-finance European programmes addressed to roma.
- ✓ The general access of roma to the public social service network, to the pensions and to the minimum income.
- ✓ The impact of programmes for supporting education: A significant number of children are in pre-school education and 100% in primary school.
- ✓ The access to media and high education and the decrease of level of absenteeism and abandonment.

## SOME POSITIVE RESULTS...

2

- ✓ Progressive better conditions of housing - Less conflicts in the relocation programmes – Eradication of slums.
- ✓ Generalization of the access to public health system, particularly, related to children vaccination and paediatric campaigns.
- ✓ Improvement of roma women through actions and training programmes on: Education health, employment, and participation. Transfer the knowledge to the family.
- ✓ Consolidation of the participation and the association, particularly of women, through the roma NGOs.
- ✓ Maturity of the participation in the social and political life: Deputies, political roma party...

## SOME POSITIVE RESULTS...

3

- ✓ Promotion and support of the public administrations promoting actions, campaigns, conferences, workshops and platforms against racism, particularly for youth.
- ✓ Relevant work to aware to society and to media to improve the image of roma.
- ✓ Development of jobs for roma and other professionals working in social programmes.
- ✓ Effort to promote professional training according to the interest of young roma.
- ✓ Development of tools to improve the access to labour market.

## POSITIVE RESULTS... NEED:

- ✓ Political commitment
- ✓ Financial resources
- ✓ Thinking globally and acting locally
- ✓ Sustainability
- ✓ Equity... to reach the

**THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING  
CONDITIONS OF THE ROMA COMMUNITY**



# HOUSE DEFINITIONS

*“... A house is not only a material good, it is also other many things. It is our second skin, it is the space for our memory, it is, sometimes, the unique stable reference when all around us change. And it is, of course, something necessary for any project of life...”*

Spanish Ministry of Housing

General Direction for Social Inclusion