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COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL
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3RD REPORT ON SPAIN

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THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NATIONAL MINORITIES.-

3RD REPORT ON SPAIN

Previous question

This 3rd Report shall refer to actions developed in the 2006-2008 period, given that the 2nd Report provided information from the 2001-2005 period.

PART I

Introduction

Information on the structure, government decentralisation and other constitutional considerations is included in the report entitled "*Comments on the Opinion of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*" (ACFC/OP/(2003)007) adopted at its 18th meeting, on 27 November 2003", prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain in 2004.

Updating on demographic information

The Spanish population is **46,157,822** citizens as of 1 January 2008, according to official data published by the Spanish National Statistics Institute (*Spanish Royal Decree 2124/2008, of 26 December, declaring the population figures resulting from the revision of the Municipal Register of Inhabitants of 1 January 2008 to be official*).

The Spanish Roma population, according to information drawn from different sociological studies and reports, is estimated to range from 650,000 to 700,000 citizens, which would represent approximately 1.5% of the total population residing in Spain.

ARTICLE 3, SECTIONS 1 AND 2

The body entrusted with the demographic data collection in Spain is the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE).

This Body collects and produces the two main Spanish demographic data sources: the ten-yearly Population Census and the Municipal Register of Inhabitants, which is updated annually according to data provided by the City Councils.

The statistical data on socio-demographic variables relating to the Spanish Roma population are not separated, since "*they shall be supplied on a strictly voluntary basis and, accordingly, data likely to reveal ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or ideological beliefs and, generally, any circumstances that may affect personal or familiar privacy may only be collected prior with the express consent of the persons concerned*"¹, thus these variables do not appear in official statistics on population, employment, education, social protection, family, etc.

As a result, the existing information on specific groups, such as the Roma, is mainly obtained through sociological research and studies conducted in various territories. This makes it difficult to approve them, for contents, authors and methodologies are different from one another; nonetheless, they provide a good series of basic data on the situation of the Spanish Roma community.

Relevant studies on Roma population have been carried out during the 2005-2008 period:

- ✓ "*Roma Population and Employment: a Comparative Study*". Roma Secretariat Foundation, Madrid, 2005.
- ✓ "*Report on the Social Situation of the Roma and Changing Trends: A First Approach*". Public University of Navarre (supervised by Professor Miguel Laparra Navarro). Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain, 2007.
- ✓ "*Sociological Household Survey of Roma*" Spanish Sociological Research Centre (CIS), Ministry of the Presidency - Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain, 2007.
- ✓ "*Situation of the Roma Community in terms of Health and Access to Health Services in Spain: Conclusions, Recommendations and Proposals*". Roma Secretariat Foundation-Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection of Spain, 2006-2007.
- ✓ "*Housing Map of the Roma Community in Spain, 2007*". Roma Secretariat Foundation-Ministry of Housing of Spain, 2008.
- ✓ "*6th Report on Social Exclusion and Development in Spain 2008*". Fundación FOESSA, Madrid, 2008

¹ Spanish Act 12/1989 on the Public Statistical Function, Article 11.2.

ARTICLE 4

Section 4.1

Regulatory framework

- *Spanish Royal Decree 1135/2008, of 4 July, developing the basic organic structure of the Ministry of Equality of Spain.*

Among the powers of the abovementioned Ministerial Department, Article 1 establishes *"the proposal and implementation of Government policies in regards of equality (...), and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against individuals on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or ideology, sexual orientation, age or any other condition or personal or social circumstance"*.

The importance of the establishment of this Ministry lies in the fact that the equality and non-discrimination policy becomes a priority for the Government of Spain through this Ministry, and this means achieving maximum rationality and effectiveness in the development of this action.

The **Directorate-General against Discrimination**, within the basic structure of the Ministry, is the body responsible, inter alia, for the following functions: (Spanish Royal Decree 1135/2008, of 4 July, Article 7):

- Preparing and proposing regulatory measures, as well as producing reports and studies on matters affecting equal treatment and the elimination of discrimination against persons on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or ideology, sexual orientation or age.
- Promoting policies on equal treatment and non-discrimination on the basis of racial, ethnic or national origin, in coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Immigration of Spain.
- Fostering the creation of services for victims of crimes motivated by racism, homophobia or xenophobia, without prejudice to the functions conferred on other Ministerial Departments.

The **Council for the Promotion of Equal Treatment of all Persons without Discrimination on the grounds of Racial or Ethnic Origin**, set up by Article 33 of Spanish Act 62/2003, of 30 December, on Fiscal, Administrative and Social Order Measures, and regulated by Spanish Royal Decree 1262/2007, of 21 December, which regulates the composition, competences and functioning of the said Council, should also be highlighted given its relevance. It belongs to the Ministry for Equality of Spain, and it is expected to come on line by the first semester of 2009.

According to Article 2 of the aforementioned Spanish Royal Decree, the aims of the Council focus on "promoting the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination of persons on the grounds of racial or ethnic origin in education, healthcare, social benefits and services, housing, and in general, the supply of and access to any goods and services, as well as access to employment, self-employment and exercising a profession, membership and participation in trade unions and business organisations, working conditions, professional promotion, and occupational and life-long vocational training".

Pursuant to Article 3, some of the competences of the Council are to provide independent assistance to victims of either direct or indirect racially or ethnically motivated discrimination when processing their claims, and to promote measures contributing to equal treatment and to the elimination of discrimination against persons on grounds of racial or ethnic origin, providing the appropriate recommendations and proposals, that is, formulating initiatives and issuing recommendations on plans or programmes relating to the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, or promoting information and awareness activities, training actions, and whatever may be necessary for the promotion of equal treatment and non-discrimination.

As for the Roma population of national origin, it is extremely important to emphasise the creation of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People, by Spanish Royal Decree 891/2005, of 22 July. This council is an inter-ministerial advisory collegiate body, which institutionalises collaboration and cooperation between the Roma associative movement and the General State Administration for the development of social welfare policies based on the development and full promotion of the Roma population (Spanish Royal Decree, Arts.1 and 2).

Actions

With respect to the specific measures adopted in relation to the Roma community, it should be pointed out that, while the short life of this Ministry and, consequently, of this Directorate-General, has not allowed us to develop specific measures addressed to Roma population, special interest has been placed upon both fostering dialogue with associations and entities related to the promotion of equal treatment between persons irrespective of ethnic origin, and participating in the design of the policies implemented in this field by the other relevant Ministerial Departments.

Thus, the Seminar on "EU Anti-Discrimination Legislation: Current Situation and Recommendations on a Future Equal Treatment Act in Spain", held on 19-20 November 2008, had the participation of representatives of this associative movement.

Along the same lines, the presentation of the Annual Report on Discrimination and Roma Community 2008, produced by the Roma Secretariat Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain, took place at the Headquarters of the Ministry for Equality of Spain on 16 December.

Finally, from a more general point of view, the production of a preliminary draft **General Equal Treatment Act** (provisory name) should be mentioned. It will try to provide specific legal instruments to combat discrimination and to defend potential victims, and is undoubtedly an initiative of interest to Roma community members.

Similarly, the Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE) has funded the "*Intolerant Anonymous*" Awareness Campaign in 2006 and 2007.

In 2006, the Council of Europe called on European countries to develop similar youth awareness campaigns on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the European Youth Campaign against Racism, Xenophobia, anti-Semitism and Intolerance under the slogan "We are different, we are equal".

In Spain, the Youth Institute boosted this initiative again, this time under the name of "Intolerant Anonymous". The campaign had the support of the website: www.intolerantesanonimos.org, on which young persons were invited to commit themselves to combating racism and any form of discrimination. It also served to encourage youth associations and social organisations to carry out their own youth awareness actions.

Moreover, the different Spanish administrative bodies have supported a third awareness campaign launched on all media at the State, Autonomous and local levels, carried out by the *Roma Secretariat Foundation* NGO within the framework of the Operational Multiregional Programme "Fight Against Discrimination" of the European Social Fund (ESF), co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain and other institutions and companies.

This third campaign started in November 2007 under the slogan "*Help us to destereotype the Roma community*", and was broadcast throughout 2008 on the same media as the previous campaigns: television, radio, website, other electronic media, commercial products and corporate stationery.

Materials developed for the campaign are also used to work with groups of students in different schools across the country. In addition, a guide addressed to young persons and based on the campaign is to be published in order to work more effectively on the messages intended to reach society.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain supports other public social awareness actions to combat discrimination and racism against the Roma, such as the following:

- Financing research works related with news on the Roma appeared in the media, publishing and disseminating studies.
- Publishing social research works which thoroughly and in detail analyse attitudes, motivations and causes leading to limited interethnic relationships.
- Making recommendations to media on pejorative news or reports which occasionally appear in press, radio and TV.
- Financing regular activities of Roma associations at the state level aimed at preventing and combating racism.
- Holding meetings, conferences and discussions on discrimination, intolerance and racism issues.

ARTICLE 4

Section 4.2

The information regarding the measures aimed at promoting full and effective equality between the Roma population and the majority populations in every aspect of economic, social, political and cultural life is provided in the following sections:

- I.- ACTIONS TARGETING THE ROMA POPULATION, IN THE DIFFERENT FIELDS OF ACTION: SOCIAL ACTION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING, EDUCATION, HEALTH AND HOUSING (2006-2008)
- II.- LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS TARGETING THE ROMA POPULATION DEVELOPED BY REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. (2006-2008)

I.- ACTIONS TARGETING THE ROMA POPULATION

I. I. SOCIAL ACTION.

ROMA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME.

The Roma Development Programme of the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain (MEPSYD)² has continued into action, following the same objectives and action lines described in the first report, with updated data on the corresponding period below.

1. Collaboration with Autonomous Communities (regional governments) and, through them, with Local Corporations.

Comprehensive intervention projects targeting the Roma communities are still being carried out, co-funded by the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain (MEPSYD), the Autonomous Communities and Local Corporations, and managed by the Autonomous and local government bodies.

The relevant **basic regulation** in collaboration between the state and the autonomous governments is set forth in two laws:

- *Spanish General State Budget Act* for each year, including the budget appropriation for the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain, to co-finance the projects to be carried out in Roma communities.
- *Agreement of the Council of Ministers*, on an annual basis, adopting the distribution of the Ministry's budget appropriation among the Autonomous Communities and Cities, as well as the criteria to be met by co-funded projects.

Project **financing** by the Spanish General State Administration, Autonomous Communities and Local Corporations is as follows:

GOVERNMENT FINANCING OF PUBLIC SECTOR-MANAGED PROJECTS				
YEAR	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	CONTRIBUTION OF THE MINISTRY (1)	CONTRIBUTION OF THE A.C. AND L.C.(2)	TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS: EURO
2006	108	3,005,160	3,468,463	6,533,623
2007	109	3,065,160	3,550,742	6,615,902
2008	110	3,065,160	3,734,894	6,800,054

(1) Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain

(2) A.C. = Autonomous Communities
L.C. = Local Corporations

Data corresponding to the **last evaluation**, conducted in 2007, are detailed in the following table:

No. of co-financed projects	109
Managed by:	
▪ City Councils	89
▪ Autonomous Communities	9
▪ Other Local Corporations (Councils, Districts, Groups of Municipalities) and Consortia	11

² In the term of office beginning after the elections of March 2008, some of the powers previously conferred upon the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain were transferred to the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain. inter alia, the management of the Roma Development Programme.

Staff		
▪ Total No. of workers attached to projects		574
Roma		135
▪ Total No. of volunteers		127
Roma		45
Users of projects		
▪ Total No. of users (estimated)		131,395
▪ Total No. of families		21,560
Total No. of users under 16		46,501
Training-employment		
▪ Total No. of employment training courses		179
▪ Total No. of users who have achieved employment		934
▪ Total No. of jobs created (self-employment)		253

The general objective of this line of collaboration in the Programme is to facilitate access of Roma population to social protection systems and goods and services enjoyed by the majority of the population, focusing on and coordinating activities that uphold this general objective from the social field.

Activities developed in projects, by areas of intervention:	
SOCIAL ACTION	Information, guidance, assessment and referral to social welfare services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Personalised . With families . Community Processing of documentation and resource management Social monitoring of seasonal workers and families Technical support to associations Awareness campaigns Meetings, discussions, round tables against intolerance and racism and promoting citizen coexistence Volunteer training courses
EDUCATION	School support and monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Child education . Primary education . Secondary education Adult literacy and basic education Extra-curricular support activities and school enhancement Intervention in families to reduce school absenteeism Leisure and free time
HOUSING AND HABITAT	Housing rehabilitation and upgrading Neighbourhood environmental development Educational and social activities for good use of the home Rehousing of families/family units Monitoring of rehoused families
HEALTH	Talks and/or courses on health education (food, hygiene, household accidents...) Vaccination, paediatric control Family planning Alcohol and drug addiction prevention and/or assistance Other Public Health activities

CULTURE	Romani, flamenco lessons, etc. Cultural visits Cultural reflection working groups Art exhibitions, cultural conferences
TRAINING-EMPLOYMENT	Personalised integration itineraries (employment information and guidance, specialisation, accompanying, job-search techniques, etc.) Pre-training workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Trades . Driving licence . Social skills and job search . Unspecified or others Training-employment courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Trades . Integration (Spanish Ministerial Resolutions, Social Guarantee) . Unspecified or others

2. Financial and technical cooperation with NGOs working with the Roma population.

During the 2006-2008 period, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain funded social programmes carried out in Roma communities, managed by **20 NGOs** from the Roma associative movement, aimed at social and labour integration, with special emphasis on Roma women and youth. Currently these programmes are financially supported by the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain.

FINANCING OF SOCIAL PROGRAMMES MANAGED BY NGOs

YEAR	SUBSIDIES OFFERED BY THE MINISTRY ADDRESSED IN THE AREA OF THE ROMA POPULATION		ANNUAL TOTAL: EURO
	GENERAL SOCIAL ACTION SYSTEM	0.52% OF INCOME TAX	
2006	654,040	2,815,382	3,469,422
2007	654,040	2,874,549	3,528,589
2008	654,040	3,052,276	3,706,316

TYPE OF PROGRAMMES AND NUMBER OF USERS IN 2008

TABLE OF USERS AND PROGRAMMES, BY PRIORITIES IN 2008

PRIORITY	No. OF PROGRAMMES	No. OF USERS	SUBSIDY (€)
LABOUR MARKET INTEGRATION	13	6,548	1,102,183
SOCIAL INTEGRATION	22	174,828	1,950,093

3. Training of Professionals

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports continues to offer each year training courses to government professionals working with the Roma population.

As for NGOs, some of them organise training courses, particularly for Roma mediators and volunteers.

4. Collaboration with international organisations

European Union

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports collaborates and participates with the European Commission both in the regulatory aspects that affect Spanish legislation (transposition and implementation of Directives) and in the study and working groups on the development of the European policy in favour of the Roma population proposed by the Commission. It also participates in works proposed by the international organisations belonging to the European Union.

Similarly, the successive National Action Plans on Social Inclusion of the Kingdom of Spain are part of the *National Action Plans on Social Inclusion of the Member States* within the "European Action Programme for Combating Social Exclusion". It should be pointed out that the Roma community is included within them since their implementation as a specific group for attention in the section of *vulnerable groups*.

Also within the "European Action Programme for Combating Social Exclusion", the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain continues to participate in seminars on the evaluation of Member States' projects selected for "good practice" (peer review programme), implemented with the Roma.

In addition, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain continues to participate in the study groups on the development of methodologies for the implementation of indicators in the field of social exclusion promoted by the European Union, as well as in all the European Social Protection Committee meetings.

The *European Network on Social Inclusion and Roma* was created in July 2007, whose promoter is the *Administrative Unit of the European Social Fund* belonging to the Ministry of Labour and Immigration of Spain. It is funded by the ESF and has twelve European member countries. Its objectives are mutual learning and the exchange of experiences through the three working groups established. One of its goals is also the creation of a database of projects considered as "good practice".

Given the results of the work done by the Spanish Government for the progressive incorporation to and participation in economic and social life of the Spanish Roma population, the "Spanish model" serves as a reference point for the governments of many European countries and the European Commission.

Since January 2008, Spain has participated informally in the *International Steering Committee – ISC of the Decade for Roma Inclusion*.

Council of Europe

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain, as a member of the *Specialist Group on Roma and Travellers* of the Council of Europe, continues to participate in its regular meetings and activities. The three Spanish Roma representatives continue to participate in the meetings of the *European Roma and Travellers Forum* as well.

United Nations

The Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain continues to collaborate and participate in the meetings convened by the organisations belonging to United Nations in which Roma-related issues are addressed. It continues to produce periodical compliance reports; reports on the review carried out by the relevant Committee and on the agreements signed by Spain, such as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*. It also continues to respond to Roma-related questionnaires and other reports requested, such as the report on the *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* of the European Economic and Social Committee.

OSCE

As with the aforementioned bodies, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain collaborates with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) producing reports and responding to questionnaires related to racism and discrimination against the Roma community.

5 Action Plan on the Development of Roma Population

Currently, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports is developing a *Roma Development Action Plan* (2009-2012) with the participation of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People and the Ministries whose activity has a greater impact on the Roma community. The Plan develops objectives and measures according to the action areas: citizenship, equal treatment and non-discrimination; education, employment and economic activity; social action, health, culture and housing. The main objectives are as follows:

- Design strategies to serve as the cornerstone of policies targeting the Roma community, based on the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination.
- Define and coordinate the areas of intervention, thus they can exercise their rights of access to goods and services.
- Contribute to promote the European policy in favour of the Roma population and participate in its development.

6 National Action Plans on Social Inclusion

The various National Action Plans on Social Inclusion of the Kingdom of Spain, developed under the European Union guidelines, include Roma as a specific care group that needs specific attention, since a part of this community is experiencing greater vulnerability and exclusion.

All Plans developed to date include actions on the Roma population. Actions envisaged in the 5th Plan, prepared for the 2008-2010 period, are:

1. Adopt an Action Plan to improve the living conditions of the Roma. The Spanish State Council of the Roma People shall participate actively in its design.
2. Develop comprehensive social intervention projects for attention, prevention of marginalisation and integration of the Roma community, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities.
3. Develop actions relating to equal treatment and opportunities, training and exchange of information and social good practice.
4. Develop specific plans for the Roma population. These will be produced by the Autonomous Communities.
5. Develop the functions of the Spanish State Council for the Roma People.
6. Create a Documentation Centre and a library within the Spanish Institute for Roman Culture, on issues affecting minorities in general and Roma population in particular.
7. Develop programmes on labour and social integration in collaboration with NGOs.

SPANISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Besides, since 2000, the **Spanish Women's Institute**, which currently belongs to the Ministry for Equality of Spain, provides subsidies to Roma women and young Roma women organisations, fostering progress towards equality, for the manufacturing of books and teaching materials, and for the organisation of seminars, meetings and other events related with Roma women that address the themes areas most affecting them as women, such as:

- Equality and rights
- Motivation for life-long training and social participation of Roma women
- Labour integration and social participation
- Young Roma women: progress towards equality
- Gender-based violence and Roma women
- New cultural and gender identity of Roma women in the 21st century.

Funding for these activities amounts to over **50,000 euro per year**.

SPANISH YOUTH INSTITUTE

The **Spanish Youth Institute (INJUVE)**, currently attached to the Ministry for Equality of Spain, has come to an agreement with the *Roma Secretariat Foundation* NGO to carry out the following programmes:

- Year 2006: "Chavós Nebó – Youth Today" Youth Information and Participation Network for the promotion of information and participation among Roma youth through a job network. The contribution of the INJUVE to this programme was 100,000 euro.
- Year 2007: "Roma youth – European Citizenship", with the aim of promoting European citizenship among Roma youth. The contribution of the INJUVE was 50,000 euro.

The INJUVE has also provided subsidies to the following programmes:

- 2007 and 2008: "Chavós Nebó – Youth Today" Youth Information and Participation Network, with a funding of 60,000 euro both years.
- 2008: "Roman culture is also your culture", managed by *Unión Romaní*, with a funding of 40,000 euro.

I. II. EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

Structural Funds

Within the framework of the EU Structural Funds planning period for 2007-2013, there is a Multi-regional Operational Programme to Combat Discrimination (POLCD) in Spain for the Convergence, Regional Competitiveness and Employment regions, co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF).

The European Social Fund Administrative Unit (ESFAU) in the Ministry of Labour and Immigration of Spain holds the authority to manage and fund the programme, where several Spanish General State Administration agencies participate as intermediate bodies (DG for the Integration of Immigrants, DG for Immigration, the Women's Institute, the Spanish Institute for Older Persons and Social Services (IMSERSO) and the Autonomous Body for Penitentiary Work and Employment Training), as well as foundations and nongovernmental organisations (ONCE Foundation, Cáritas,

Spanish Red Cross, the Roma Secretariat Foundation and the Luis Vives Foundation).

The overall objective of the POLCD is to combat gender discrimination and the discrimination of certain groups experiencing or at risk of exclusion, and to promote the social and labour integration of these persons. The ACCEDER Programme is included within this Operational Programme of thematic and multi-regional nature. It is an employment programme that aims at the effective labour market integration of the Roma population, developed by the Roma Secretariat Foundation (FSG) and co-funded by the European Social Fund (FSE) through actions included in themes 2, 4 and 5.

The actions within the ACCEDER Programme 2007-2013 have been launched in the regions of Andalusia, Asturias, Cantabria, Castile and La Mancha, Castile and León, Extremadura, Galicia, Community of Valencia and Murcia on 1 July and in the regions of Aragon, Catalonia, Madrid, Navarra and the Basque Country on 1 November 2008.

2nd theme: Promoting employability, social inclusion and equality between men and women.

This theme is aimed at promoting employability, social inclusion and equality between men and women, and as regards Roma population, it focuses on priority number 70: "Specific measures to increase participation of Eastern European Roma in the employment world, thus strengthening their social integration" and priority number 71: "Labour market integration channels for the disadvantaged Roma; combating discrimination in access to and development in the labour market and promoting acceptance of diversity in the workplace".

The overall objective of promoting the prevention of social and labour exclusion and the full social and labour participation of persons experiencing discrimination in access to labour market is defined in the following specific objectives:

- Improving employability of unemployed persons.
- Promoting reconciliation of work and personal life.
- Fostering equal opportunities between men and women.
- Promoting social and labour integration of immigrants and persons enjoying international protection.
- Suggesting social and labour integration opportunities to persons with disabilities.
- Suggesting social and labour integration opportunities to persons experiencing and at risk of exclusion.
- Improve the adequacy of the organisations to the labour market needs, taking into account gender perspective and social inclusion.

Within this theme on promoting employability, the FSG participates in the measure "Suggesting social and labour integration opportunities to persons experiencing and at risk of labour market exclusion", managing the actions that target Roma developed within the Acceder Programme and specified in the POLCD according to the following activities:

- Development of integrated social and labour integration itineraries for the Roma through individual action plans tailored to the needs and characteristics of the recipients: guidance, literacy, socio-professional advice, pre-professional training, labour intermediation, including accompaniment measures and, where appropriate, measures for social assistance and promotion of the coordination of services and actions.

- Implementation of tailored occupational and vocational training formulas that take into account the features, needs and potential of each person, as well as the demands of the labour market.
- Launch of campaigns on social awareness and on the promotion of local development initiatives for combating discrimination in access to employment and for employment promotion.
- Promotion of observatories, studies and business research in social exclusion issues in order to learn the reality of the groups and the labour market, as well as the resources for integration.
- Promotion of and support to social enterprises and other initiatives that generate employment in the field of social economy.
- Implementation of preventive measures on intervention, monitoring, tutoring and dropout prevention for youth at risk of exclusion.

4th theme: Promoting transnational and interregional cooperation.

The 4th theme, aimed at promoting transnational and interregional cooperation, is defined in the priority number 80: "Promoting collaboration, agreements and initiatives through European Networks on Social Inclusion and Roma". The aim is to enhance exchange, participation and transfer of good practice among different types of organisations working for social inclusion. The FSG shall undertake the following actions:

- Transfer and advice to the European Union countries where most Roma live on the implementation of active and inclusive policies targeting the Roma population, promoting employability, social inclusion and equality between men and women, with special emphasis on the social integration of Roma youth at risk of exclusion.
- Promotion of the Fight against Discrimination in the European Union, encouraging partnership structures with social organisations from other European Union States.

5th theme: Technical Assistance

This theme appears specifically in the priority number 85: "Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control". The aim here is to provide structures and resources for the adequate development of actions enabling their effective management and monitoring. Its funding is allocated to the management, implementation, monitoring and control of the actions co-funded by the ESF, in which the FSG takes part.

Funding and financial execution

The financial resources allocated to the FSG as part of the POLCD for the 2007/2013 period amount to 41,715,953 euro, that is, 8% of the total amount allocated to the Programme as a whole. The total cost of the actions to be carried out and its distribution by funding source is the following:

Programme Funding (Euro)	2007-2013
European Social Fund	30,910,437
General State Administration (Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain)	10,805.516
Autonomous Communities (regions)	
City Councils and Provincial Councils	
Private co-funding	
Total	41,715,953

POLCD Planning 2007-2013				
	TOTAL COST	ESF AID	NATIONAL CO-FUND.	FSG/ TOTAL
ROMA SECRETARIAT FOUNDATION (FSG)	41,715,953	30,910,437	10,805,516	8%
POLCD TOTAL	545,055,377	380,878,883	164,176,494	100%

Acceder Programme 2000-2006. Execution data

Data on the persons assisted since the Acceder Programme began and until its completion during the year 2008 (the programme finished in Objective 1 Regions on 30.06.2008 and in Objective 3 Regions on 31.10.2008) are:

- **Number of persons assisted by the programme: 41,735**, of which 22,378 are women (53.6%).
- **Number of jobs obtained: 31,151**, of which 15,805 are women (50.7%).
- **Number of hired persons: 12,950**, of which 6,707 are women (51.8%).
- **Number of persons trained by the FSG: 9,610**, of which 6,247 are women (65%).
- **Number of persons achieving their first job: 3,497**, of which 1,924 are women (55%).

Roma population assisted at the ACCEDER employment services by gender

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
2001	2,381	1,953	4,334
2002	2,112	1,816	3,928
2003	1,764	1,658	3,422
2004	1,905	1,966	3,871
2005	1,759	2,024	3,783
2006	1,492	1,768	3,260
2007	1,728	2,256	3,984
2008	1,178	1,336	2,514
TOTAL	14,319	14,777	29,096

Contracts obtained by Roma population through the ACCEDER employment services by gender

YEAR	MEN	WOMEN	TOTAL
2001	964	631	1,595
2002	1,342	895	2,237
2003	1,651	1,023	2,674
2004	1,827	1,571	3,398
2005	2,109	1,952	4,061
2006	1,546	1,507	3,053
2007	1,685	1,793	3,478
2008	758	903	1,661
TOTAL	11,882	10,275	22,157

Additionally, within the awareness activities of the Acceder Programme 2000-2006, the "Employment makes us equal" Social Awareness Campaign had an estimated audience of 22 million persons during 2007 and 2008. The goal of this campaign is to bring the right to equal opportunities in access to employment to the general society's attention. The creative strategy shows the "stereotyping" suffered by the Roma population due to the stereotypes and prejudices that stigmatise them and that largely hampers their access to employment.

I. III. EDUCATION

The situation of the Roma population in the educational field has advanced considerably as a result of the joint efforts of educational institutions, education professionals, associations, families, and education authorities. However, there is still evidence of the existence of different needs and problems that hamper the educational normalisation of these students.

Responding to these lacks should be understood as a co-responsibility of the different social sectors, especially within the current system of devolvement of competences to the regional governments. In this context and within its current scope of competences, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain has developed the lines of action detailed below, which refer to the various aspects and difficulties of the Roma educational normalisation.

- Within the Spanish State Council of the Roma (Spanish Royal Decree 891/2005, of 22 July, Spanish Official State Gazette of 26 August), a working group on education has been established, which is made up by representatives of the Roma associative movements, the Department of Education, Social Policy and Sports of the Spanish General State Administration and by experts in the field, which shall address all issues relating to Roma educational assistance (publication of educational materials on Roma culture, training on Roma intercultural mediation, initial and continuous training of teachers and professionals interacting with Roma, etc.).
- Programmes on schooling, school absenteeism monitoring and control, socio-cultural integration, socio-educational programmes on non-formal education and on mediation between families and schools are being set out as priorities in the calls for subsidies offered to private, non-profit organisations, for the carrying out of educational compensation activities, aimed at students with specific educational support needs associated with disadvantaged social or cultural situations. These subsidies are offered annually and the allocated amount is 360,000.00 euro.

Thus, in all the abovementioned calls, the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain has earmarked aid for Roma entities and associations working in the field of educational compensation for this community. For example, in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 calls, certain institutions and associations that work specifically with the Roma received grants for the following projects: Project on the support and promotion of socio-educationally disadvantaged students; Socio-educational project for socially disadvantaged minors and families; Educational compensation activities; Monitoring and support for Roma students from primary to secondary education in the years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008; Sinando calós: socio-educational mediation programme.

- On 14 June 2005 a collaboration agreement was signed between the then Ministry of Education and Science of Spain and the Roma Secretariat Foundation for the 2005-

2008 period, with the purpose of promoting Roma access to education and more active educational policies that offset inequalities.

The following lines of action have been developed within this agreement:

- Dialogue between both parties in the context of the analysis and design of legislative measures, with special emphasis on the provision of educational assistance to Roma students.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the educational situation of these students and publication and dissemination of the results.
- Design and implementation of pilot programmes and educational compensation actions complementary to those undertaken by the schools.
- Analysis of the difficulties for the Roma in the access to vocational and occupational training and adult basic education.

Additionally, the actions developed during this period were the following:

- Preparation, publication and dissemination of the research report "Children access to Secondary Education. Special reference to girls".
- Organisation of the "Reflection seminar on Roma students, secondary education and access to vocational training and employment".
- Development of CD training material on CD: "Basic education for Roma adults" with reference information for teachers and teaching units for students.
- Publication of "Life stories of fifty Roma students".
- Participation in the "Access and social inclusion in life-long learning" Cluster of the European Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture, with specific activities on Roma education and training in European countries.

I. IV. HEALTH

Although access to the National Health System in Spain is universal, in 2003 difficulties were shown to be present both in the access to health services and prevention and health promotion programmes, and in the results on the Roma community obtained by the Spanish National Health System. Once these inequalities were detected, the Health Promotion Area of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Protection of Spain (MSC) launched the **National Equity in Health Strategy** targeting the Roma population, and it is still being implemented since its creation in 2003. This Strategy was developed through the Collaboration Agreement between the MSC and the Roma Secretariat Foundation (FSG). Since the establishment of the Health Group of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People (CEPG) in 2006, the Strategy has been developed with the collaboration of this Group, in which all members participate actively and help to decide the lines of action within the National Equity Strategy.

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE 2006 – 2008 PERIOD

- Technical support service. Information, advice and accompanying for the implementation and the development of health interventions in the Roma community.
- Actions for the technical training of social entities.

- Training and awareness actions.
- A National Health Survey targeting the Roma population was carried out in 2006 as part of the Agreement between the MSC and the FSG. A preview of the results of this survey was published in the document "Roma Community and Health: conclusions, recommendations and proposals". It also includes some first recommendations to work on areas where inequalities in health have been initially detected. These recommendations are the result of the work done by the Expert Professional Group on Roma and Health and the Health Group of the Spanish State Council of the Roma People, as well as by the Roma organisations that participated in the First National Seminar of Roma Associations on Health: "SASTIPEN VA" (YES TO HEALTH).

The survey conducted in Spain has served as a model for the design of a European survey to be carried out within the European project in which the FSG takes part with the support of our Ministry.

- Currently, a comparative analysis is being performed between the 2006 National Health Survey targeting the Roma population and the National Health Survey targeting the entire Spanish population that same year. The results will be presented in the first quarter of 2009.

Globally, the Spanish model is serving as a reference point for other European countries. In this regard and apart from the projects outlined in the previous report (advice on twinning projects aimed at reforming the health system, such as the Bulgarian project), there have been report and advice sessions for WHO in 2008, specifically for those in charge of healthcare guidance to authorities from other Eastern European countries on the preparation of a pilot programme for the Roma community.

I. V. HOUSING

Spanish Royal Decree 801/2005, of 1 July, adopting the Spanish State Plan 2005-2008 to favour citizen access to housing, published last 13 July, sets up the applicable state regime to promote access to housing.

Articles of the Decree envisage special conditions of preferential access to housing for certain groups with greater difficulties in access to decent housing.

It is already referred to as a priority in the rationale already when stating that the housing plan is intended to achieve the goal of equity and prevention of social exclusion.

The Rationale continues to indicate that the plan takes especial account of social groups with specific needs given their personal circumstances, such as youth, large single-parent families, victims of gender violence or terrorism, etc. But the Spanish Royal Decree also refers continuously to groups experiencing or at risk of social exclusion.

Section 4 of Article 2, on definitions, describes protected actions as those aimed at meeting the housing needs of the persons and families targeted by the Plan and who can receive the aid established therein. Section 9 on protected housing establishes that these can be sold or rented, and shall be the occupants' habitual and permanent accommodation.

Article 3 considers, inter alia, that groups experiencing or at risk of social exclusion (Section h), defined by the specific legislation that may be applicable in each case, are beneficiaries with a right of preferential protection.

Article 4 details the protected actions referred both to the purchase of newly-built homes and to the acquisition of used homes, as well as to home rental (sections 3 and 5).

Article 7, since it refers to the total household income, determines in section 2.c) the number of times the IPREM (Public Indicator of Multiple Effect Income) may be weighted through the application by the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla of a single multiplicative coefficient, ranging between 0.62 and 1, depending, among other things, not just on the number of members of the family unit, especially if a large family or if a family member is a person with disabilities, but also on other factors determined by the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, when the actual circumstances so require, among which may be the case of these risk groups.

As for Article 13.1, which refers to house use and occupation, establishes that protected housing as well as used housing acquired to be rented may be assigned temporarily to persons experiencing social emergency. In such cases, the rules and procedures established for temporary housing assignment shall be applicable.

Article 15 refers also to the conditions for obtaining subsidies to tenants, and states that priority shall be given, among others to persons belonging to groups experiencing or at risk of social exclusion or other groups granted preferential protection according to the local regulation of the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla (sections e and f).

Article 25 refers to the amounts of Spanish direct State aid for entry and, in Section 4, establishes that in the case of groups experiencing or at risk of social exclusion or belonging to other groups granted preferential protection under the local regulation of the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla, the sum will amount to 7,900 euro if the family income does not exceed 2.5 times the IPREM, or 4,900 euro, if such income exceeds 2.5 times but not 3.5 times the said indicator. In both cases this represents a 900 euro increase in relation to the general amount established by the same article.

As for Article 75, within the youth housing programme, which is applicable to other groups, such as may be the group subject of this report, establishes in section 4 that if young applicants match the circumstances established in Article 25.4 above, namely belonging to risk or social excluded groups, direct state aid for entry rises to 11,000 euro if the family income does not exceed 2.5 times the IPREM, and to 8,000 euro if such income exceeds 2.5 times but not 3.5 times the said indicator.

Finally, Article 76 of the said Spanish Royal Decree provides for young persons who live in rented homes and have benefited from the above aid, as of the fifth year following the commencement of such aid, to have priority access to the ownership of a protected home.

In the light of the above, the new actions envisaged by this regulation will stimulate the promotion of protected homes and therefore, access to them, rented or owned, for a greater number of persons and above all, pursuant to the text of the Spanish Royal Decree, with preference to young persons up to age 35, large families, persons over 65 and their families, families made up by the mother or the father and the children, victims of gender violence and persons with disabilities and their families, as well as **persons belonging to a group experiencing or at risk of social exclusion or to other groups granted preferential protection under the local regulation of the Autonomous Communities and the Cities of Ceuta and Melilla**, to whom the plan grants special protection.

These measures not only increase the possibility of access on equal footing to protected housing, but in certain cases also favours those groups in particularly serious situations that need special priority measures such as these groups, for example the Roma minority, requiring a different approach, even allowing temporary rehousing through the assignment of protected homes for rental, provided that certain conditions are fulfilled.

Therefore, Spanish Royal Decree 801/2005 was produced as an important instrument of housing policy, aiming to achieve a series of major objectives, such as favouring access to decent housing, especially for the most disadvantaged sectors.

Today, the Spanish State Plan for Housing and Rehabilitation 2009-2012 has just begun to work, adopted by Spanish Royal Decree 2066/2008, of 12 December, which aims to address the serious difficulties to access housing that a very important part of the population experience in a harsh economic and financial scenario. This plan has been designed and developed by the Ministry of Housing of Spain, in collaboration with the Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, determining the parameters that guarantee equal opportunities of all citizens to access housing and adapting the means to the different realities in the Spanish State.

Some of its main objectives are: to encourage participation and involvement of City Councils in the Housing Plan contributing, inter alia, with the offer of community land for the construction of homes for specific and particularly vulnerable groups, the promotion of urban rehabilitation and renovation areas, and the encouragement of priority actions for the development of land preferentially for protected homes for rent.

It also aims to strengthen the rehabilitation and upgrading action of the already constructed homes, particularly in those areas with greater weaknesses, such as historic centres, degraded neighbourhoods and centres or with buildings affected by structural problems, population centres in rural areas, and to contribute, with other government agencies, to the eradication of substandard housing and shanty towns.

According to Article 1 of Spanish Royal Decree, the beneficiaries of aid under the Plan are, among others, homeless or persons coming from operations to eradicate shanty towns and other groups experiencing or at risk of social exclusion determined by the Autonomous Communities and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

The eradication of slum areas should be highlighted among the objectives of the Plan 2009-2012, with 4000 actions planned to be carried out across the State over the four years. These actions will impact positively on the situation of Roma families living in shanty towns, since they represent a high percentage compared to the total number of shanty dwellers.

II.- ROMA-RELATED LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS DEVELOPED BY THE AUTONOMOUS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. (2006-2008).

The previous section sets out the measures that the Spanish State General Administration has been taking for the Roma population. However, it should be pointed out that the different institutions, Parliaments, regional and municipal governments carry out many actions targeting Roma in their respective territories by virtue of the competences conferred upon them by current law.

Regulation and Activities of relevance developed in the 2006-2008 period.

Andalusia

Article 10, Section 21 of Spanish Organic Law 2/2007 on the Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Andalusia³ of 2007 recognises as one of its powers: "*The promotion of the*

³ Article 147.1 of Spanish Constitution: "*In accordance with the terms of this Constitution, Statutes shall be the basic institutional rules governing each Autonomous Community and the State shall recognise them and protect them as an integral part of its legal order*".

necessary conditions for the full integration of minorities and, particularly, of the Roma community, for their full social integration”.

This Autonomous Community has a specific Administrative Unit for the Roma known as the *Roma Community Secretariat*. This Secretariat continues to run the *Andalusian Plan for the Roma Community*, which began in 1998.

A centre for activities related with Roma continues to operate in the city of Granada under the name of “*Andalusian-Roma Socio-Cultural Centre*”.

Aragon

Article 23 of Spanish Organic Law 5/2007 on the Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragón of 2007 states: “*Integration of ethnic minorities shall be promoted, particularly, of the Roma community*”.

Asturias

Currently, this Autonomous Community set in the Sierra de Granda mountains (municipalities of Siero and Villaviciosa-Poreño) is carrying out a *Programme for the Eradication of Shanty Towns*, having completed the last phase of the *Plan for the Eradication of Shanty Towns* of Aviles in 2008.

Castile and Leon

Article 16 of Spanish Organic Law 14/2007, of 30 November, on the Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and Leon specifies that public authorities “shall promote and adopt the necessary measures to ensure full effectiveness of the following objectives:...” (...) “item 23: Non-discrimination and respect for the diversity of different ethnic, cultural and religious groups present in Castile and Leon, with special attention to the **Roma community**, promoting mutual understanding and intercultural relations.”

Catalonia

- Article 42.7 of Spanish Organic Law 6/2006 on the Reform of the Statute of Catalonia of 2006 indicates that: “*Public authorities shall ensure social, cultural and religious coexistence among individuals in Catalonia, and respect for the diversity of belief and ethical and philosophical convictions of individuals, and they shall encourage intercultural relations through the promotion and creation of areas of mutual awareness, dialogue and mediation. They shall also ensure the **recognition of the culture of the Roma population** as a safeguard of their historical reality*”.
- Declaration of the Parliament of Catalonia recognising the persecution and genocide of Roma. Read at the Parliament Plenary Session on 29 March 2007.

The following regulation remains in force:

- Resolution 1046/VI, of the Parliament of Catalonia, on recognition of the identity of the Roma people and the value of their culture.
- Decree 102/2005, of 31 May, on the creation of the Interdepartmental Committee of the Plan for the Roma Population and the Roma Advisory Council (Official Journal of the Generalitat of Catalonia No. 4397 of 02.06.2005).
- Implementation of the Plan for the Roma Population (2005-2008) A new Plan is now beginning to be developed with the participation of Roma organisations.

Extremadura

The Regional Council for the Roma Community was created in 2001 (Decree 179/2001, of 20 November).

The *Extremadura Plan for the Promotion and Participation of the Roma Population 2007* was launched in 2007.

Navarra

This Autonomous Community launched the *Campaign for the Prevention of Tobacco Consumption in the Roma Community NASTIS*.

<http://tabaconastis.blogspot.com/>

Basque Country

This regulation remains in force in this Autonomous Community:

- Decree 289/2003, of 25 November, setting up the Council for the full promotion and social participation of the Roma People in the Basque Country.
- Basque Plan for the full promotion and social participation of the Roma.

Most of the **Social Services Acts of the Autonomous Communities** mention the Roma as one of the priority groups. Moreover, these governments offer subsidies to defray maintenance costs, technical staff, usual activities and social programmes addressed to organisations representing Roma in their respective territories.

Article 5

In the field of culture, the creation of the Roma Culture Institute Foundation, under the Ministry of Culture of Spain should be pointed out.

According to the Non-Legislative Motion of the Congress of Deputies, adopted unanimously on 27 September 2005, which urged the Government to promote the culture, history, identity and language of Roma, several organic structures have been created to promote and encourage Roma culture, history and identity.

The creation of the Roma Culture Institute Foundation in May 2007 by Order CUL/1842/2007 of 31 March, through which it is registered at the Spanish Register of Foundations, was a major initiative by the Spanish General State Administration which sought to converge with the different Roma institutions, with the purpose of fully promoting Roma culture.

The aims of the Foundation include the proposal of actions aimed at achieving harmonious coexistence, equal opportunities and the development and promotion of Roma history, culture and languages in all their manifestations, while establishing mechanisms and strategies that effectively contribute to the preservation and development of the cultural heritage of the Roma community. The development of actions relating to Roma culture is essential to eliminate stereotypes, collaborating with the modernisation and dissemination of new schools of thought of the Roma movement, while achieving their full integration and the recognition of their distinguishing feature.

The Board of the Roma Culture Institute Foundation is chaired by the Minister of Culture of Spain and has the participation of the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports; The Ministry of Public Administrations; The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces; and the State Council of the Roma. Representatives from prestigious cultural and professional institutions elected due to their knowledge and experience on Roma issues are also members of this Board.

The creation and operation of the Roma Culture Institute has been an international reference point in addressing the Roma issue as it has been stressed in international fora. The Institute's corporate image reflects the idea that Spain is also Roma from a cultural

standpoint, that the Roma have enriched and have been enriched by the cultural contributions of all in order to shape one rich and shared cultural heritage.

Some significant actions developed by the Roma Culture Institute Foundation since its creation in May 2007 to date are:

Conference "The Roma and their influence in Spanish culture", held at the Spanish National Library on 4-5 December 2007. This Conference gathered for the first time distinguished specialists in the fields of music, theatre, poetry, painting, linguistics, etc.

Launch of the Romani Introductory Course *¿Sar san? (How are you?)*. Its aim is to contribute to the expansion of Romani knowledge and hence to the protection and dissemination of a part of our cultural heritage in line with the commitments undertaken. This is the first Romani Course published in Spain and is part of a global project of which the first issue has been published in December 2007.

Launch of a project on Educational Units "*Colours at school*" for the dissemination of Romipen at school. Its aim is to provide teachers with adequate educational materials for the dissemination of Roma culture in order to facilitate the promotion of coexistence, respect and solidarity among students from different cultures.

Publication of the journal **Cuadernos Gitanos**, which includes academic works and artistic creations on Roma culture. This journal is the logbook of the Roma Culture Institute, and it covers topics on narrative, theatre, poetry, music, visual arts, linguistics, etc.

Organisation of a Romani Storytelling Workshop. The pilot experience has been carried out at different schools of Madrid with Primary and Secondary Education students.

Production and reading of the Manifesto of Roma Women in the 21st Century under the title: "All Together, with no Fear of Freedom" and coordinated in collaboration with the Spanish Women's Institute. Its first reading was at the Congress of Deputies of Spain on 11 February 2008.

Roma Culture Award Ceremony in the context of the International Roma Day, held on 8 April. In its first edition, held on 8 April 2008 (...)

Amber Box Project, which aims to combat discrimination within the legislative framework and on the basis of the positive Roma culture values.

Production of a video on the Roma history: "*Amaro lungo Drom*" (*Our long way*).

International Seminar on Roma Culture, held in Alagón (Zaragoza), where representatives from different countries (U.S., France, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Israel, Colombia, Portugal, etc.) along with the Spanish attendants, have convened Expo-romani 2010, a world exhibition on Roma culture from the Punjab to the Fifth Avenue in New York.

Tribute to Federico García Lorca, held in the poet's birthplace, Fuentevaqueros (Granada), on May 2008.

Participation and collaboration in national and international events and conferences, among which we should mention the participation in the Holocaust events in January 2008; in the European Roma Travellers Forum Assembly in 2007 and in the Flamenco Awards given by the press in Jerez de la Frontera.

First Roma cinema season "O Dikhipen", Roma in the cinema. Held at the Spanish National Filmotheque, together with conferences or roundtables, which account for the diversity of representations of Roma culture in the cinema.

Comentario [PG1]: ¿Falta texto?

Article 15

As expected and as stated in the 2nd Report, the Spanish Government has undertaken policies aimed at establishing the necessary conditions for the effective participation of Roma.

Thus, the Spanish **State Council of the Roma People** is created in 2005 (Spanish Royal Decree 891/2005, of 22 July, setting up and regulating the State Council of the Roma

People)⁴, being formally constituted on 20 June 2006. Currently it is attached to the Directorate-General for Social Policy of the Ministry of Education, Social Policy and Sports of Spain (MEPSYD).

This Council is the interministerial consultative and advisory collegiate body which institutionalises collaboration and cooperation between the Roma associative movement and the Spanish General State Administration for the development of social welfare policies based on the full promotion of the Roma population.

It is made up by a Chairperson (position held by a State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of Spain), two deputy chairpersons, a secretary and 40 members, of peer composition, with 20 representative from various Ministries and 20 representatives of the Roma associative movement.

The Council has, inter alia, the following functions:

- Propose and advice on measures for the full promotion of the Roma.
- Present initiatives relating to the funding of programmes targeting the Roma population.
- Collaborate and cooperate with other similar councils working in defence of human rights.
- Issue opinions and reports on those regulatory projects affecting Roma population, particularly on the development of equal treatment and opportunities.
- Promote communication and exchange of information to facilitate coexistence and social cohesion between Roma citizens and society in general.

Five working groups have been created within the State Council: Employment and Social Action, Education, Culture, Health and Housing, that have been working since its establishment in 2007, and a document with the strategic lines to be implemented for each working field has been produced.

Moreover, the MEPSYD financially supports meetings, at least three a year, of the representatives of the Roma associative movement organisations and the experts appointed by the said representatives in the different areas covered by the groups in order to favour the participation of Roma men and women in all the issues concerning them.

Finally, we should point out that the participation bodies referred to in the previous report continue to operate in some Autonomous Communities and Municipalities:

- **Catalonia:** Decree 102/2005, of 31 May, creating the *Interdepartmental Commission of the Plan for the Roma Population and the Roma Advisory Council* (Official Gazette of the Generalitat of Catalonia No. 4397 of 02.06.2005).
- **Extremadura:** The *Regional Council for the Roma Community* is created in 2001 (Decree 179/2001, of 20 November).
- **Madrid:** Act 4/2002, of 27 June, creating the *Bureau for the Integration and Promotion of Roma* of the Community of Madrid.
- **Basque Country:** Decree 289/2003, of 25 November, setting up the *Council for the full promotion and social participation of the Roma* in the Basque Country.
- **Barcelona City Council:** The *Ethnic Minorities Council*.

⁴ Spanish Official State Gazette of 26.8.2005. <http://www.boe.es/g/es/boe/dias/2005/08/26/>