Newsletter June 2011

Projects co-financed from The European Social Fund - Sectorial Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007 – 2013

Investing in People!

- „School – a chance for everyone”
- „Education of Roma children - the path to a stable job”
- „Together on the labor market”
- „Together for a better society”
- „The participation of vulnerable groups in social economy”
- „The national Roma network of local experts, supporting mechanism in implementing the social inclusion of Roma, vulnerable group subject of social exclusion”

Working Visit at Pata Rât, Cluj
June 10th, 2011

At the invitation of Civic Organizations Working Group, Mr. President Ilie Dincă visited Pata Rat, Cluj district, on the occasion of "Getting Closer - EU strategy for Roma and local realities.” The theme of the event was the evaluation of the situation of Roma families evacuated in December 2010 in the city's landfill and finding solutions to solve urgent problems faced by displaced persons.

The events’ agenda included a press conference, a social forum and a workshop.


"Between the EU and local autonomy. Public policies for social inclusion of Roma"
June 17, 2011 – N.S.P.A.S.

Mr. President Ilie Dincă participated in the debate "Between the EU and local autonomy. Public policies for social inclusion of Roma”, organized within the project "Building and implementing an innovative interdisciplinary doctoral program on Roma issue”.

The projects’ target is the strengthening of the scientific research and social dialogue in the field of Roma issues. The debate proposed to analyze the "Romanian Government Strategy for inclusion of Romanian citizens of Roma minority for 2011-2020.”

Mr. President Dincă held a presentation with the theme "What are the innovations of the new Strategy? How it is assured the liaison between the Strategy making processes at european, national and local level? ".

The total value of these projects – 22.2 million EUR out of which 18.65 million EUR community contribution, and 3.57 million EUR national contribution.
President of the National Agency for Roma participated at the roundtable on the theme "Under-representation of Roma in statistics", organized by the United States Embassy in Romania in partnership with Romani CRISS - Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies.

The event aimed to facilitate the dialogue between the main institutional actors involved in the census in order to identify practical solutions to improve the accuracy of representation of Roma in official statistics. As a member of the Central Commission for Population and Housing Census, the president has mentioned the suggestions that he made the Commission in order to obtain an official figure closer to reality the exact number of Romanian citizens of Roma, namely the possibility of double or multiple declaration of ethnicity and hiring as census Roma operators which speak romani language.

International Steering Committee of the Decade of Roma Inclusion

June 27 to 28, 2011 – Prague

Mr. President Ilie Dincă attended the 20th meeting of the International Steering Committee of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The event, held in Prague, marked the formal transfer of the Decade Presidency currently held by the Czech Republic to the Republic of Macedonia.

The meeting aimed at presenting best practices and progress made by countries in major fields of the decade, highlighting the synergies between the Decade and the European national strategies for Roma integration. As national coordinator of the Decade, the president of the National Agency for Roma presented Romania’s report, drafted with the input from ministries involved in Roma issues.

"Roma identity: between stereotypes and best practices. The role of media in shaping perceptions about Roma issues"

June 29, 2011, Bucharest

Within the project "Roma: between stereotypes and best practices. The role of media in presenting Roma issues ", funded by the National Agency for Roma, was organized the round table with the theme "Roma identity: between stereotypes and best practices. The role of media in shaping perceptions about Roma issues".

The project, initiated by the Pro Democracy Association, in partnership with Active Watch - Media Monitoring Agency and the National Council for Combating Discrimination, aims to increase the awareness of media and citizens of Roma as a group disadvantaged.

There were given surveys, reports, research and case studies on the role of media in shaping perceptions about Roma people. The roundtable was attended by representatives of central government and the media, politicians, political analysts and opinion makers, representatives of NGOs active in social inclusion, discrimination and equal opportunities.

"Roma women for equal opportunities"

June 30, 2011 – Timisoara

Mr. Ilie Dincă was invited to attend the international conference "Roma women for equal opportunities.” The event was held in Timisoara within the project "Equal by difference. Access of Roma women on the labor market", of which the National Agency for Roma is a partner.

The conference theme was to promote the project results and provide a framework for interregional, transnational and interdisciplinary dialogue, and activism on the situation of Roma women in contemporary society. Mr. Dincă held a presentation on "Education and social inclusion projects funded by European Social Fund", implemented by the National Agency for Roma.
**A major specific objective** of the project "Participation of vulnerable groups in social economy" is to develop the capacity, the skills, the knowledge, the self-esteem and the social support for 20,000 people belonging to vulnerable groups to increase the chances of such persons to participate in the social economy and to integrate and maintain employment.

"Participation of Vulnerable Groups in Social Economy"  
Involvement of Vulnerable People in Work Activities

In June 2011, Târgoviște to Europe Association, partner in the project, has in progress 13 groups of students participating in professional qualification courses, of which 6 groups (3 for Roma and 3 in and prisons) will be completed with an graduation exam in July 2011. Foundation for Social Development of Roma Ramses has ongoing 12 classes of professional training courses, which will be completed with an graduation exam in September 2011.

The courses that will be completed in July 2011 by the Târgoviște to Europe Association, accredited training provider, are:
- skilled worker in construction structures, held from May 4 to July 9, 2011, in the town of Baia de Arama, Mehedinti County, graduation exam on 25 and 26 July 2011;
- skilled worker in construction structures, held from May 17 to July 23, 2011 in the village of Poiana Varbilau, Prahova County, graduation exam during 28 -29 July 2011;
- skilled worker in crop culture, held from May 2 to July 7, 2011, in the village Vîrtop, Dolj County, graduation exam between 28 to 29 July 2011.

**Together on the Labor Market**

In June 2011, sixty people have obtained a job through the project "Together in the labor market." To achieve this, the team members of eight regional centers presented a complex program guidance and job placement and a wide variety of areas where they could register to complete professional training courses. For this, the beneficiaries who have availability and interest in getting employment, could participate in a complex personal and professional development through which they conducted a series of sessions and workshops with them at the premises of the 8 SocioOccupational Centers across the country.

These sessions and workshops aimed at the development of resumes and cover letters, developing social skills, participation and involvement in role play, active search methods and labor market. Thus, the 60 Roma beneficiaries got jobs in the following occupations: unskilled worker, vendor, driver, dog catcher, nail designer, waiter, mechanic, packer, broker, carpenter, bricklayer.

**The main objective** of this project is to promote social inclusion of Roma people in the employment area at national level by implementation of ACCEDER model in Romania, which was a best practice program funded by European Social Fund and implemented in Spain.
In June 2011, within the “Together for a better society” project, implemented by the National Agency for Roma, took place the activities of setting up social enterprises and has continued the activity through which regional experts mediated the hiring of students which obtained qualifications after attending training courses.

To facilitate the employment of qualified persons, the target group was informed by the regional experts on the benefits of employment and independence from welfare forms. The experts have assisted those interested in a job seeking through the paperwork necessary to get the desired job and have accompanied them to some meetings with representatives of National Agency for Employment (N.A.E.) and Local Agency for Employment (L.A.E.). Also, there were made databases with potential employers in the vicinity of existing students residences.

For a better collaboration with N.A.E. and L.A.E. there were signed contracts aimed at providing, free of charge and for each other, within the law, data and information required by each party to the other, increasing employment opportunities for persons seeking employment through their enrollment in employment programs and training, increasing employment of persons belonging to vulnerable groups, supporting projects in the field of employment, financed by the ESF.

The project so far has completed the establishment of 20 social enterprises.

To start setting up those businesses, the experts in the project have signed partnership agreements with NGOs and non-Roma organizations in areas where they operate. This partnership aims at supporting the activities of the project “Together for a better society.” The purpose of the partnership is to create a department of social economy within the entity represented by the existing NGO. There will be created a minimum of 15 jobs that will be occupied by persons who are to operate in future projects to be accessed by existing NGO in the region, resulting from the implementation of the “Together for a better society.”

In order to supervise the work of regional experts in facilitating and mediating employment of persons belonging to the target group, the project manager, Mr. Dănuț Dumitru visited the communities, talked with the members, and centralized the problems encountered in the North-West Region, Cluj. On the same occasion, Mr. Dumitru has participated in the Working Group meeting of Civic Organizations (www.gloc.ro) initiated by the Association and Foundation Amare Prhala Desire in Cluj, composed of Roma and non-Roma organizations experts in social policy in Romania and abroad.