

STEP IN

Studying Training and Educational Paths for the Integration of Young Roma

Ref. 119554-JA-1-2004-1-IT-JOINT CALL-ACYP

PARTNERS: 7 countries



- **Caritas Ambrosiana (IT)** – leading organisation
- Caritas Europa (BE)
- Secours Catholique (FR)
- CORDAID (NL)
- Bulgarisch-deutsches Sozialwerk (BG)
- Caritas Bucarest (RO)
- Asociatia Aproapele (RO)
- Diecezna Charita Nitra (SK)



The project

Duration: from 1 December 2004
to 1 December 2006

Budget: total € 260.325
EU grant € 171.487



BACKGROUND

Roma people throughout Europe have long suffered from:

- severe poverty
- social exclusion and discrimination
- long term unemployment
- deteriorating living conditions
- lack of education



LACK OF EDUCATION

The problem of lack of education originates from different factors:

- cultural / family reasons (Roma culture is oral and often parents are illiterate)
- children normally do not attend preschool activities
- in some countries young Roma have to attend special schools, where teachers tend to be under-qualified
- young Roma usually tend to abandon school before achieving any certificate (girls often have to get married very young, 13/14 years old)



AIMS

- To strengthen Roma teenagers (13-18 years of age) participation in school and prevent school leaving
- To favour their approach to and insertion into the labour market
- To facilitate their knowledge and use of local services
- To promote their active citizenship and inclusion into local communities



ACTIVITIES

Transnational level:

- exchange of information and experience at local and national level among partners
- elaboration of a **common educational package** based on an integration of formal and informal learning
- transnational meeting and visits
- final conference in Brussels

Local level:

adapting and experimenting the educational package at local level through the involvement of different actors (schools, vocational training centres, voluntary associations, public sector)



OUTPUTS

- Educational package
- Production and analysis of documents about Roma related issues (need analysis, bibliography, national and local contests...)
- **Web site: www.stepinproject.org**
- Production of a video
- Production of training and educational material



STRONG AND WEAK POINTS

STRONG POINTS

- Networking and multisectoral approach
- Long experience in working with Roma
- Circulation of information among partners about different contexts
- reciprocal cultural exchanges

WEAK POINTS

- Difficult target group
- Diversity of Roma national and local context in the participating countries
- Reciprocal suspicious attitude
- Difficulties in creating networks
- Limited resources (not a priority theme)

