



## STRUCTURAL FUNDS: INVESTING IN ROMA

### WORKING GROUP ON EMPLOYMENT

#### PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2009

The first activity from the Working Group (WG) on Employment from EURoma was a study visit to the ACCEDER programme run by the Fundación Secretariado Gitano in Spain. The visit took place during three days, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of March in Madrid, Córdoba and Valladolid.

At the end of the study visit (for its final report, see *Final Report Study Visit-ACCEDER*) there was some debate on the following steps and activities to be carried out by the WG on Employment. As a result of a round of interventions regarding key elements from the ACCEDER programme, several issues arose as being of special interest for participants:

- The development of strong partnership ties and alliances as key elements for efficiency and creation of synergy. This implies national, regional and local administrations.
- The nationwide dimension of a programme.
- The relevance of a long-term approach of social and labour programmes aimed at the Roma community (and with disadvantaged groups in general).
- How to approach targeted solutions while mainstreaming programmes within public bodies.
- The challenge of achieving sustainability in successful programmes.
- The intercultural approach of programmes aimed at the Roma community

As it can be seen several issues arose. Nevertheless it seemed like the issue of **how to establish strong partnership ties and alliances** was the one that **interested most**.

In this sense, the Technical Secretariat (TS), as a proposal for discussion and final agreement among member of the WG, wants to suggest the development of a **Workshop on Partnership Alliances for Roma Access to the Labour Market**. Such workshop could pull together experts and practitioners from national, regional and local administrations whose experience could contribute to the identification of concrete partnership collaboration aimed at improving socio-labour initiatives for Roma in all Member States.

The expected result from such a workshop could be to share and learn from concrete examples of shared strategies between public administrations at different levels and managing entities, as well as concrete tools for the shared planning, shared and coordinated implementation of actions, follow up and evaluation. Finally, as an outcome of the workshop a set of recommendations could be produced and widely distributed.

WG members could define criteria for selection of experts and of administrations and jointly define the content of the workshop sessions and other participants. The workshop could take place at the end of November or beginning of December.

#### Next steps:

- This proposal can be discussed through emails in the following weeks.
- If proposal is approved, the TS will send a first draft proposal in order to go further its definition and content.



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- A specific meeting of the WG members previously to the next Management Committee in Sweden on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September could be foreseen in order to fully arrange the development of the workshop.

If, on the other hand, this proposal is not approved:

- Further discussion on what next steps the WG could envisage will be discussed through email in the following weeks. A first pool of ideas will be resent by the TS to all WG members and common agreement on one of them will try to be reached.
- Once a proposal is approved, the TS will send a first draft proposal in order to go further its definition and content.
- A specific meeting of the WG members previously to the next Management Committee in Sweden on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September could be foreseen in order to fully arrange the development of the workshop.

Any other suggestions as to how to precede with further WG activities are always welcome.

Technical Secretariat