



Public Engagement in Research



HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES CONCERNING THE ROMA COMMUNITIES IN TARRAGONA & BARCELONA

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PERFORM PILOT PROJECT

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Center for Roma Studies, CEG



**Roma Asociation of Women
Drom Kotar Mestipen
Barcelona**

**Roma Women Asociation
Sonakay
Tarragona**



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PERFORM PILOT PROJECT

Main topics and problems identified

Communicative Methodology

Actions and results

Evaluation



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Main topics and problems identified

- 1) **Need for a regulatory framework** to realize a **research project on Roma**
- 2) The Roma people suffer a serious **educational exclusion** as a result of centuries of marginalization and segregating educational practices.
- 3) **Exclusion of non-academic Roma women** from spaces of participation, public debate and decision-making

Actions

- 1) **Human Rights Code** for researchers
- 2) Identification of **Roma students** at the university and an **affirmative action** educating them on research and promoting their academic career
- 3) **Supporting the organizations of Roma women** with research and by university professors and students



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Critical Communicative Methodology

Researchers share scientific knowledge through equal dialogue and contrast it with Roma people's life-world.

ROMA people CSOs have participated in the design, development and evaluation of research project.

The definition and realization of the actions require continuous meetings with the Roma associations, as well as meetings with the working groups and with the advisory council of the CEG.

Thereby during the time period from April 2010 (month 4) to September 2011 (month 20)



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PERFORM PILOT PROJECT

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Actions and results

1. **Human Rights Code for researchers (February – June 2011)**
 - Elaboration of a Human Right Code for researches, **agreed by the main associations of the Roma community, as well as by researches of renowned prestige** in the Roma community research.
 - It is a contribution to establish a **normative frame**, which guarantees that **no research on Roma community can be developed without its agreement and support**, as well as **its involvement** in the **design, development and evaluation** of the study itself.

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Actions and results

1. **Human Rights Code for researchers (February – June 2011)**
 - Organization of a **symposium in order to disseminate the Human Rights Code** among researches and policy makers.

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Actions and results

- 2. To identify Roma students, to encourage their training in research, and to promote their school careers**
 - **Contribution to the promote having more Roma students with higher studies.** Roma students who are trained on research on Roma community and who start their master studies.
 - Those Roma students are involved in associations and projects in which CEG is involved: Roma Association of Women Drom Kotar Mestipen, I International Congress of Roma Women: the other women; Learning Communities

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Actions and results

- 2. To identify Roma students, to encourage their training in research, and to promote their school careers**
 - **A network of Roma and non-Roma researchers who identify Roma students and promote their access to the university.**
 - **Affirmative actions** in the promotion of academic careers among Roma students.

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Actions and results

3. **Support to Roma associations from research, faculty members and university students.**
 - *Support to Roma Association of Women Drom Kotar Mestipen in the organization of the **I International Congress of Roma Women: the other women.***
 - *Collaboration with the same association in order to constitute the **new Association Sonakay** and the development of some of their activities.*
 - *Support to the Jesús Gómez Foundation in the development of the **training course for the elaboration of European projects addressed to Roma associations of Barcelona.***



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Perform Pilot Project: human rights issues concerning the Roma communities in Spain

Evaluation

- 1) Evaluation of the formulation of research questions, objectives and methods
- 2) Evaluation of the practical applicability of research outcomes (such as specific actions as results of knowledge generated)
- 3) Evaluation of the relationship between the CSOs and the researchers
- 4) Evaluation of the processes of revisions in research focus, problem formulation and methodology based on CSOs concerns.

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Evaluation

7 In-depth interview: researchers of 3 universities, President of the Association of Roma Women Drom Kotar Mestipen

2 stories: researcher of Roma origin from Romania; Roma student

1 Focus group: Women from the Association Sonakay

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Evaluation

1) Evaluation of the **formulation of research questions, objectives and methods**

*Most of the CEG's researchers, professors and students with grants **are directly involved in Roma social movements**, in terms of their personal life. There is not a disconnection between research and personal involvement. Even the one who promoted the creation of CEG, Ramon Flecha, was nominated with the FAGIC Award because the best practices in 2010. **This makes easier to provide answers to the real needs, rather than the case of a person attending the place only because s/he needs it.** We are coming not only when we need it, but because there is this continuity, a dialog and a trust build along this compromise.*

(MR3: 11)

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Evaluation

2) Evaluation of the **practical applicability of research outcomes**

The fact that we need to define the research agenda drawing on dialog with Roma people switches the focus from the deficits to the possibilities. (...) Without this dialog, if we only have defined the research agenda by ourselves (the researchers), I do not know, but probably we had come with a deficit model, probably. (WR2: 13).

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Evaluation

3) Evaluation of the **relationship between the CSOs and the researchers**

*I attend the assemblies of the association, I am a member as a vocal position, never in a responsible position. **There we all participate as equals.** In the assemblies we share and decide issues. (WR1:11).*

Professor at the University of Barcelona, collaborates with Drom Kotar Mestipen Roma Association of Women.

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Evaluation

3) Evaluation of the **relationship between the CSOs and the researchers**

*There are many relationships of Drom with the university. Because we attend to give talks, many of our members are university professors. **The relationship is continuous** (...) we operate through the assembly. Everything is discussed at the assembly, everyone has a say and decide the majority proposal, it does not matter who states the proposal, whether is the president or another member. (RW1:11).*

President of the Drom Kotar Mestipen

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Evaluation

3) Evaluation of the **relationship between the CSOs and the researchers**

The evaluation is very positive, both on professional and personal level it was very positive and I would participate again with my eyes closed, and right now. For many reasons, on a personal level it is an enrichment and on professional level because it was an unknown reality to me and it approaches you to the Roma community and it provides you with a whole new perspective not only on the Roma community but also on the success of these kind of initiatives. (WS: 12). Woman, university student.

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Evaluation

3) Evaluation of the **relationship between the CSOs and the researchers**

R2. I was informed by Ana, the president of Drom Kotar. And I was help by you and Carme to prepare the presentation (this refer the female student and the URV teacher).

P. And what did you talk about?

R2. We talked about the meeting of Roma women that was held in our neighborhood. The main thing was to explain that”.

(...)

R2. Thanks to the Congress, we came back wanting to do a lot of things.

R1. Motivated. To study, to do things... concerned about encouraging girls to keep studying.

(...)

*R2. Because it is when you attend these things that you realize that Roma women actually can do things. Because, well, you're always at home with your kids, and you forget these things (the education). **Women from the Association Sonakay***

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Evaluation

4) Evaluation of the **processes of revisions in research focus, problem formulation and methodology** based on CSOs concerns.

*You can know something from an academic point of view but if you speak to someone who has experience it you will learn it better, **because from the university you cannot know what happens in a marginal or not neighborhood.** You cannot know something that you do not experience. In Drom we have that, we put together grassroots people, non-academic people with others that they are and we do it together. If you cannot reach some place another will do. Among all we are walking the same path. (RW:11).*

President of the Drom Keter Meetingen Roma Association of