



Roma-Net

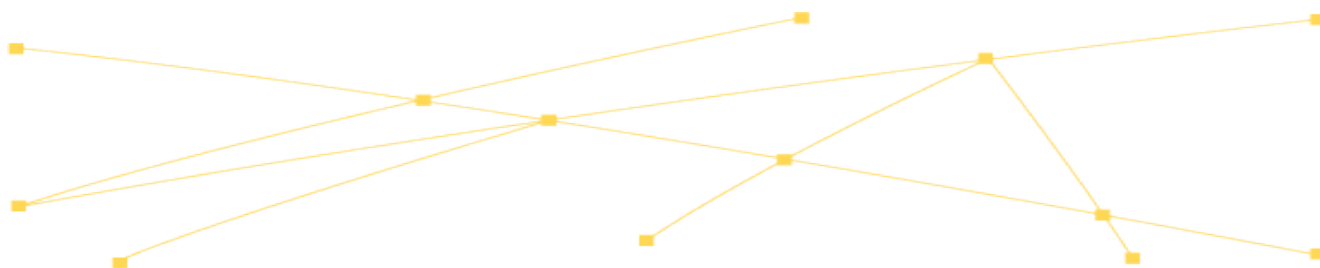
Integration of Roma Population



Learning Points

Learning Cluster 2

Almeria, Spain – March 2011



EUROPEAN
PROGRAMME
FOR
SUSTAINABLE
URBAN
DEVELOPMENT





The theme of the learning cluster was the ‘integrated and area based approach to tackling exclusion and segregation – and included the three learning components; integrated area based approach to service provision; tackling segregation using housing improvement; and inclusive approaches to area based regeneration.

The following learning points were captured at the end of each day- the points were shouted out by course participants as a means of reflecting and remembering what they had learned during the earlier sessions and practical exercises.

Learning points Day 1 - 29 March 2011

- Integration of Roma community
- Good housing design is crucial
- Community participation needs to be at the core
- Passionate people make a difference
- Equal opportunity was evident in La Chanca
- Commitment for a stronger integration was obvious
- Powerful lobby that could be built up to drive change
- Good relations between the local authority and community
- The Community show an awareness about their rights
- Roma community involved in the physical construction of the buildings was successful
- No social spaces was a negative observation
- Involvement of school
- Housing is a good starting point but it is not enough on its own to solve social exclusion issues
- Building an approach from the bottom of the community is a strong good practice example
- Multidisciplinary office within the community was an important part of the process of change
- Introduction and promotion of Roma community culture was successfully observed
- Empowerment of Roma Community: being a part of change
- People in La Chanca took responsibility and were in a position to achieve change for themselves – a critical component of the success.

Learning points Day 2 - 30th March 2011

- Family involvement was impressive and a good lesson
- integrated services - education, social, etc. work together-family is in the centre and an importance component
- positive thinking of the staff team was impressive
- enthusiasm of people working in the centre
- women are the core in the activities – an important factor for others to be aware of.



Learning points Day 3 - 31 March 2011

- A holistic approach is needed to improve the quality of life of Roma
- In the planning for ROMA-Net there are not enough Roma people involved
- Temporary measures can create more problem in the long run
- Good practice to take the City administration into the segregated area in the shape of institutions, community houses etc
- in Los Almendros there is little evidence of shops – economic development is needed to boost the area.
- The Almeria cases show that change takes time
- It takes considerable time to develop and build a regeneration project - especially with community participation.
- Political support is needed – for long term support and sustainability
- Long term commitment of the stakeholders is a crucial factor for success.
- Different partners have different priorities and they often compete
- compete for the same money – difficult to bring them together for the same goal
- sometime temporary housing solution create bad housing condition for the long time, segregation – we can learn from the bad examples
- takes time to convince them to use the possibilities – community spaces, houses
- community building should be designed with the people – it also affects the ownership
- different countries have different reactions to Roma, for some countries is more difficult to build relationship for Roma
- some countries have more experiences in living together with different cultures, people
- Slavic countries are more insular and therefore have a greater challenge to co-exist with Roma communities.
- More emphasis should be on the communication between Roma and majority
- Changing attitudes from early childhood for young generation
- EU regulation on housing is not clear in some points – and may be subject to different interpretation is possible
- Roma are proud about their ethnicity and do not take it as an insult.
- Even in Spain Roma still have to fight for their integration – still discrimination partly from the part of institutions, public services (education), job market, housing
- “We” – the public sector, NGOs do a lot in order to integrate Roma but also Roma have to cooperate more, and the majority’s attitude should be changed as well.



Summary of feedback from the City Ideas Market Places

Almeria

Integrated services – already in place
Good example – housing strategy with IS
La Chanca community initiated, El Puche - regional stimulation, Los Almendros – no integrated plan yet, community centre is a starting point
IS bottom up, children - access to parents, education improvement needed
Political agreement – should be translated to financial contracts
Importance of public spaces

Karvina

Housing provision is sufficient
Social service provision is according to the law, in every area
2.5 years ago a network of social workers from the public authorities was established to work with the Roma people,
The community includes social services projects
Unemployed participate in public works: 2-3^o hours per week.
The city support Roma culture, through a Roma cultural center, and an annual festival
But communication is the problem with the Roma community, reason: the temperament of Roma people and the closed attitudes of Czechs
Social workers are not open enough – a lesson
Currently the city tries to look for Roma leaders in the communities
No problem with the quality of housing
Recent initiative has been the provision of materials, so Roma can contribute to the building of housing – they would not destroy it
A priority is the maintenance of housing – more effort is needed to encourage people to look after the building they live in
Lessons for the future to motivate the social workers and open up more communication channels with the Roma community

Budapest

Housing and employment can work together
Education is a key factor
Housing and health problems are closely linked
Housing: already several action areas
Renovations – central location
Methodology exists which has been tested
Multisectoral participation of people
Lessons for the future to connect the Roma-Net project to district projects, and into local communities





Udine

Small area, state property where Roma are living illegally
The community are Italian citizens not recent migrants
Integrate them – establish connections into the community
Try to convince them their current living conditions are not good
Build new buildings in a more integrated part of the city – not so far away
Social funds
Employment
Involve the construction

Glasgow

Roma living mainly in private rental accommodation
Roma have no access to social housing – forthcoming change in legislation will alter improve situation
Not sure is the Roma community will be aware of their changing rights and how they can be positively translated into practice – work needed at community level
Empowerment of Roma community is important as they are new recent migrants
Much can be taken from the Spanish lessons

Kosice

Housing and the abuse of housing stock is a huge issue in the city
Substantial amount of public resources have been invested in the cleaning up of garbage – without success – change is needed
Attempts at dialogue with the community need to be stronger
Something needs to be done – a start needs to be made to tackle the entrenched and substantial problem – it will be a long term process
There is no one action to solve the problem in the short term – a series of actions will be needed including housing renovations, build and dispersal re-housing
The Almeria site visits were very informative

Bobigny

Housing provision is a big issue in the city the Roma community are living in makeshift housing
There is no full understanding about the difference between the nomadic French Roma and the migrants from Romania, Bulgaria and other southern European countries
No housing stock is available and there is no land or buildings to renovate.
No alternative housing is available in the city to offer to re-house the Roma community
Dialogue was started but evictions hamper the process of relationship and trust building
Stronger dialogue and greater understanding of the situation of the community is needed by the public authorities





Torrent

Full presentation included in main learning sessions

Already had a long history of investment in re-housing and regeneration of the Roma communities in the city

Starting 30 years ago with relocation from the shanty towns into new build housing –

Relocation created a new ghetto and did not solve main problems

Renovations and stronger integration of properties is being carried out in some area

The city has various stages of relocation and renovation programmes in place

A new but small dispersal programme has been started – they are optimistic about its future success – a crucial element is the full support of integrated services

More work needs to be done to achieve stronger cohesion between the service provision in the areas

They would like spread and increase the dispersal activities but it is expensive and needs full support for success