



Including
a preview of ERGO
2010

Annual Report 2009 **Spolu**  Strengthening
the Roma Voice

Make the Roma voice heard!

Spolu International Foundation
Korte Elisabethstraat 6
3511 JG Utrecht
The Netherlands

T: (+31) 30 - 232 80 42
F: (+31) 30 - 232 80 43
E: info@spolu.nl
W: www.spolu.nl

ING: 6851774
Chamber of commerce:
41187598



Five young Romanian Roma, active in youth groups in Baia Mare and Cluj-Napoca

Colofon
Coordination editor
Jeroen Kuiper
Editors
Jan Marinus Wiersma
Ruus Dijksterhuis
Sanne van den Heuvel
Carlien Huijsmans
Jeroen Kuiper
Graphic Design
Nicolet Pennekamp
Printed by
Drukkerij Efficient, Nijmegen

© Spolu International Foundation, 2010

Content

3	Preface
4	Fighting anti-gypsyism
6	Roma as active citizens
8	For a positive image
9	Financial paragraph
10	Achievements of 2009

Board members Spolu International Foundation

Jan Marinus Wiersma - President
Marga Verheije - Secretary
Hans de Pooter - Treasurer
Edwin Bakker - Board member
Tanja Lubbers - Board member

Staff Spolu International Foundation

Ruus Dijksterhuis - Director
Petra Nederkoorn - Programme Officer
Maartje Schrama - Programme Officer (till March 2009)
Jeroen Kuiper - Programme Officer (from June 2009)
Sanne van den Heuvel - Programme Officer (freelance)
Jozef Pang - Controller
Angela de Kruijf - Office Manager



Ruus



Petra



Maartje



Jeroen



Sanne



Jozef



Angela

www.spolu.nl

Spolu has a new website!

On www.spolu.nl, you can find information about our working approaches, partner organisations and recent activities in a new design. Please take a look!



Preface

By **Jan Marinus Wiersma**, Chairman of Spolu and ERGO

As chair of Spolu and future chair of the ERGO Network, the annual report offers me the opportunity to look back and forward. In 2009, the implementation of the work programme and maintaining the quality of our many activities took a lot of effort by our staff, competently led by our director, Ruus Dijksterhuis. Promoting and mobilising Roma grassroots is our core business, which is a challenging one.

A recent visit to a Roma settlement in Belgrade (Block 67) again showed me how important it is to give grassroots Roma a voice and to support intermediaries who work with them. Solutions have to be found at the local level, but the ignorance of local authorities is often a stumbling block. What struck me in Block 67 was the fact that the Roma, who live there in terrible circumstances, were perfectly able to speak for themselves, but had difficulty getting enough political attention from their mayor. Spolu and ERGO see their prime task as promoting such engagement.

As a member of the European Parliament, I never had a problem raising a debate about the Roma among my colleagues. The necessary discussions to promote awareness in Brussels were abstract and often had no immediate impact on the ground. I am nevertheless convinced that Spolu and ERGO have made the right choice to devote more attention to the (European) political context of the Roma issue and not only to concentrate on local projects. With other organisations we were able to feed the debate at the European level and to achieve some concrete results, such as more targeted policies and funding opportunities at the Commission and Council to address the problems of Roma.

The year 2010 will be an important one for Spolu and ERGO as they will merge into one organisation called ERGO Network. This merging is completed due to the fact we successfully tendered for the Public Awareness Campaign on Roma to the DG REGIO of the European Commis-

sion. This project aims to counter the anti-Roma attitude promoted by, for instance, populist parties in the region, as well as stimulating national and local authorities to do more. In 2009 I chaired a delegation of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Romania with the aim of studying Roma political participation. I met a lot of officials at the local and national level, and it struck me that most of them were aware of the problem, but seemed to have no answers to solve it. We concluded that with more public debate about the situation of the Roma

and if more Roma speak out louder, we can make a change!

The basis for progress is that the EU, member states, local authorities and grassroots Roma put their hands together. I noticed that the role of the EU has grown. Most member states accept now that – despite subsidiarity – the European Commission should use its available instruments to promote the best practices, to coordinate policies, to put in place special programmes and to raise awareness with regard to the Roma.

Spolu and ERGO are in the process of adapting themselves to these developments while sticking to their main priorities: empowerment of Roma grassroots organisations and strengthening the voice of Roma at all levels. This is what makes me enthusiastic in dedicating my time as chair of the new ERGO.



Taking a break after a demonstration against forced evictions from Roma settlements in Belgrade, Serbia

Photo: Adam Silver

Fighting Anti-Gypsyism

Stigmatisation and anti-Gypsyism are some of the root causes of the social exclusion of Roma. Roma are often perceived as passive citizens, unable to contribute to the creation of a well-functioning society. Due to the negative stigma, Roma are often afraid to identify themselves as such.

Unfortunately, anti-Gypsyism seems to have increased during the last several years. In 2009 alone, for example, approximately a hundred Roma had to leave Belfast, Northern Ireland after they were attacked by local racists. In March 2009, policemen in the Slovak city of Kosice maltreated six Roma boys, filmed their actions and put it on the internet. In August of that year, pop star Madonna was booed in Bucharest during

a concert, after she had asked her fans to respect the rights of the Roma. And the Romanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Teodor Baconschi, made racist remarks about the Roma population in his country.

Without doubt, however, the most shocking attacks on Roma took place in Hungary in 2009, where nine racially-motivated murders occurred. In the

eastern village of Tatárszentgyörgy, 27-year old Róbert Csorba and his five-year old son were shot to death by Neo-Nazis, when trying to escape their house that had been set ablaze by Molotov cocktails.

Spolu and its partners continue to fight anti-Gypsyism in all its ugly forms. Please take a look at the negative effects of anti-Gypsyism in Bulgaria.



Macedonian Roma youth during an action of the 'Typical Roma?'- campaign

Migration of Roma from Bulgaria

Three major developments had an impact on the Roma movement in Bulgaria in 2009: the new political government, the economic crisis, and the increased migration. At the national level, the Roma movement became dramatically weaker because of the changed political situation. During the election campaign, negative attitudes towards ethnic minorities escalated, and some political parties, like Attaka, intentionally made

use of anti-Gypsyism in their programmes. At the same time, the winning political party GERB highlighted its social inclusion of a Roma policy plan. This occurred with the lobbying efforts and engagement of different Roma NGOs that were part of the Bulgarian National Roma Coalition, where Spolu's partner, Integro, participates in as well.

The current unfavourable political landscape and the economic crisis in Bulgaria have led to an increased migration of Roma to Western Europe. Bulgaria has now 'empty Roma quarters', especially in rural areas. In earlier years, Roma left Bulgaria to earn money to be then sent back home for their children or to improve their houses. Nowadays there is a tendency for young Roma families to settle permanently in other countries. This was confirmed during a quick research scan by Integro on the push-and-pull factors of Bulgarian Roma to migrate to Belgium. Over the long term, it is expected that mainly the elderly and marginalised Roma will remain in Bulgaria. These people rely on social support for their basic needs. For these groups, empowerment and mobilisation methods are less effective. On top of that, the most entrepreneurial, active and educated Roma have already disappeared, which serves to weaken the local Roma movement.



Research about Roma images in Macedonia

The Macedonian youth NGO RROMA conducted research about the image of Roma, as a part of the "Typical Roma?!"- campaign. By interviewing institutions and people on the streets, RROMA aimed to get an impression about the image of Roma in Macedonian mainstream society. The interviews were conducted by Roma and non-Roma youth using a digital camera. The RROMA volunteers made 30 short videos of them, from which a video of 11 minutes was produced.

The research shows that Macedonians think there is no difference between Roma and non-Roma, but still stereotypes and prejudices exist among them. In the video, for instance, you can see a girl interviewing a man about Roma. The man does not understand the word 'Roma', asking her if the people she means are Gypsies. Many people in Macedonia also think that Roma are poor, socially excluded and ghetto dwellers. According to some, the only difference is their religion, which points out that people are not aware that not all Roma are Muslim. Some of them think that 'not all Roma are bad', you also have different Roma, with whom you can 'have coffee'.

The research showed that people have different opinions about Roma. Luckily, they also believe that they all can live under the same sun, without being labeled 'different'.



Roma as active citizens

One of the ways to fight anti-Gypsyism is by stimulating Roma to become active citizens. According to Spolu, active citizenship refers to the shared ownership of society, the principle of self-determination and its associated societal values, such as care, dignity and responsibility. Through active citizenship, people develop a sense of identity and belonging to society. Active citizens are aware of their rights and responsibilities and act accordingly, while assuming their responsibilities and duties.

Currently, most Roma policies perceive Roma as being socially problematic and passive beneficiaries, with a focus on poverty and dependency. Strong emphasis is placed on the responsibilities of Roma towards non-Roma, in the form of indisputable requirements: Roma need to change their culture, need to send their children in school, need to respect the law and need to adapt themselves to the overall society.

Spolu advocates changing this attitude. We believe Roma should participate as active fellow citizens, by taking up the responsibility to alter their own situation and to contribute to the shaping

of society. Spolu promotes a dynamic concept of active citizenship, starting with fundamental citizen rights and moving towards more abstract rights, such as their own identity and universal respect. Our partner organisations assess the dynamics among all actors: Roma as well as national, regional and local authorities, and NGOs. We identify the different priorities for these actors, where support is needed, and how we can help. In this way, we support both Roma and non-Roma in creating relationships which enhance the qualities of citizenship and further develop mutual understanding and respect.

Creating a dialogue with the Turkish government

EDROM from Edirne, a partner of Spolu in Turkey, lobbied for the participation of the Turkish government in the Decade for Roma Inclusion. This is where European countries commit themselves to changing the vicious circle of poverty and exclusion in which the Roma minority is trapped. In cooperation with ROMDEF, a network of Roma leaders, EDROM constantly brings the situation of the Roma minority to the attention of national authorities and institutions.

Beginning in 2009, EDROM held a meeting with the Turkish President and governmental representatives concerning the important issues in the communities represented in the ROMDEF network. In particular, problems in the area of lack of housing, education and employment were highlighted during the meeting.

In the second part of the year, EDROM organised its people to have a voice during the Turkish Roma Summit initiated by Prime Minister Erdogan in March 14th 2010. About 1,000 Roma from Edirne attended the meeting, together with more than 10,000 Roma from all over Turkey. EDROM appreciated the efforts of the government to bring Roma together. Supportive words were spoken by the government, which motivated EDROM to continue lobbying to turn them into action. Prime Minister Erdogan promised that the Turkish government will solve housing and education issues and will give

the opportunity for Roma people to be active in public works. 'We will monitor the government on what has been said, and we hope the government will keep its promises', said Erdinc Celic, director of EDROM. 'We want to prove that Roma are not only dancing and playing drums, but are respected discussion partners in policy design and implementation'. The structured and analytical way EDROM used this event to strengthen the voice of the grassroots Roma shows that EDROM has become more professional as an NGO.



Roma Women participating in the Turkish Roma Summit, March 14 2010

Photo: Edrom

Addressing early marriages in Bulgaria



Active Roma women in a Mother Centre in Bulgaria

Spolu's Bulgarian partner organisation Integro supports a Mother Centre in the town of Sandanski. In October last year at the centre, Roma women addressed the issue of early marriages and early pregnancy of young Roma girls. Afterwards, one of the Roma mothers stopped visiting the Mother Centre and arranged for her two daughters (14 and 15 years old) to be married. Shocked by this, the Roma women indicated they wanted to help the girls. Integro coached them on using the Law for Child Protection and drafted letters to the director of the local child protection institute, the Ombudsman, the Chair of the National Agency for Child Protection and the President of Bulgaria. The women did not receive any reply.

Then Integro helped to draft a declaration, in which the women requested the institutions responsible for child protection to enforce the relevant Bulgarian legislation for all children, regardless of their ethnic background. This declaration was launched on the internet, and supporters from all over Europe signed it. A regional round table was organized to address the issue of early marriages and to call on the local authorities from Sandanski to take actions. Although this did not lead to a concrete commitment by the local authorities, it encouraged the women to put the monitoring of child protection in the municipal plan for Roma social inclusion. This is an example of how Roma women assumed their responsibilities as fellow citizens in taking up the responsibility to improve their own situation and to contribute to the shaping of their local society.

Moldova: consolidating the Youth and Children network

Over the last years, Spolu's partner Porojan has invested in the consolidation of the Roma Children and Youth Network (RCYN) in Moldova. This network of 50 Roma youngsters organises regular meetings, exchanges and activities. One of the goals of the RCYN is the creation of a generation of self-aware, well-informed young Roma who stand up for their rights. To do so, Porojan brings the RCYN members in contact with the mainstream society. For instance, RCYN members participate in debate competitions with other Moldovan youngsters.

In 2009, Porojan started with the creation of the Roma Students Association. Roma students from Chisinau, Balti and Cahul agreed to work within the network to make young Roma more visible in Moldova. The Association functions as a network and a place for exchange of experiences where new initiatives can grow and develop. The Association is still in its initial phase with a young Roma coordinator who is responsible for organising meetings, developing the statutes of the association, contacting other Roma and student organisations, developing a website and setting up a working plan. Spolu will continue to support the Roma Students Association in 2010.



Members of the Roma Children and Youth Network in Moldova

Photo: Tania Borcsei

Mobilising youth and women in Serbia

Spolu's partner organisation DUR from Belgrade invested in mobilising Roma women and youth, using the Roma outreach centre, based in one of the largest Roma settlements of Belgrade. Here, Roma youngsters are coached and trained as youth workers in assessing needs and tailoring the outreach centre activities toward those needs. Last year, eight workshops were organised in which the Roma youth workers obtained the needed skills.

The youth workers visited Roma settlements and collected data on the number

of children and their interests. In pairs, the youth themselves prepared workshops and shared knowledge on literacy, health and music with the children in the settlements. These visits confronted the youth workers with the very difficult conditions of the people and their inability to do more. The youth workers were filmed during the workshops they organized in the settlements. As a part of training youth workers to learn from each other, the whole group watched the video material together and discussed it. In this way lessons could be learned about how to improve the work.



Serbian Roma youngsters interviewing Roma settlers in Belgrade

Photo: Adam Sijivo

In total 16 youngsters have been trained as youth workers. They will continue to be active in the outreach centre and ensure that its activities reflect the needs from the people in the settlements.

For a positive image

Roma face structural discrimination and marginalisation. Prejudices about Roma are widespread and remain often unquestioned in the media, in politics and in society. Roma are often regarded as a threat to the stability and well-being of society and are often portrayed as ungrateful and untrustworthy sub-citizens. Due to this stigmatisation, Roma have no control over the way they are per-

ceived. Roma themselves internalise the negative images projected onto their ethnic group and often accept them as normal, thus reflecting and strengthening the attitude of the majority.

Due to the harsh stigma attached to Roma, many are afraid to identify themselves as such, regardless of their social status. They prefer to assimilate with

the majority or to integrate into better perceived minorities (such as Hungarians in Romania or Turks in Bulgaria) rather than to assume their own ethnic identity. Spolu strives to eliminate this stigma and to allow Roma to hold a respected place in society without renouncing their ethnicity. Spolu believes that Roma and non-Roma should both assume their responsibilities to improve the image of Roma.

Uniting Roma to become respected stakeholders

Roma Active Albania (RAA) is one of Spolu's most successful partner organisations. It managed to have a key role in Roma civil society by empowering and mobilising Roma organisations and leaders to lobby and advocate for their interests. RAA managed to raise awareness among the Roma that the most sustainable change will come from their own actions and therefore to become respected stakeholders towards authorities and institutions. For that purpose, RAA united Roma into different networks and platforms, such as the Roma Federation, an informal alliance between six Roma organisations that critically follows the Roma policies and actions of the Albanian government, the Youth Network that unites thirty-five youngsters, and the Women's Network that unites over ninety women from all over Albania. Through actions and activities, members of these networks can present themselves as active and worthy citizens of their country. An example of this was the establishment of a permanent exhibition on Roma culture in the National Museum, which was negotiated by the Roma women. In 2009, this exhibition was officially opened by the president of Albania. The political significance of this is enormous: it is an official recognition of the contribution of Roma culture to the national Albanian heritage. More information on: www.casestudies.spolu.nl.



Roma women at the opening Exhibition in National Museum in Tirana

Photo: Tjebbona Derwishi

Inspiring Roma women trainers in Bosnia

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Spolu supports the Mother Centre Plamen in Zavidovici. In Tuzla, another Roma women organisation exists. In 2009, the leader of this organisation, Indira Bajramovic, provided training for the women of the Roma Mother Centre in Zavidovici. Bajramovic is a positive role model in the Bosnian Roma movement because of her courage and because she motivates other women to struggle for a better place in society. By making no difference between the women she speaks with, she manages to make the topic of leadership accessible for illiterate as well as literate women. She succeeds in giving all of them comfort and trust.

For the participating Roma women, it was one of the first times that they attended a training in which no male leaders were present. This helped the women to open up and express their doubts and uncertainties about making decisions or taking up leadership positions. While focusing on presentation and leadership, Indira Bajramovic managed to convince the women that it is not necessary to be a politician or a highly educated person to be able to represent your community. The women recognized that the fight for the issues that are important to them requires them to be engaged and committed.

In total three training sessions were held. On average, 12 to 15 women participated in the trainings. Women from other initiatives were invited to the trainings as well. This encouraged them to become involved in the Mother Centres as well.



Protesting women for the right for clean water

Photo: Tjebbona Derwishi

Financial Paragraph

This paragraph provides a summary from Spolu's Annual Report 2009, namely the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account, an Auditor's Report as well as donations received in 2009. The figures are derived from the annual report 2009, which has been issued by BDO CampsObers Audit & Assurance B.V. Maastricht-Airport.

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2009 (in euros)

ASSETS	31 December 2009	31 December 2008
<i>Fixed assets</i>		
Intangible fixed assets		
Other	7.002	9.161
<i>Current assets</i>		
Inventories and work in progress		
• Non-concluded projects	3.300.798	2.556.467
Receivables		
• Other receivables and prepaid income	13.040	19.958
Cash at Banks	357.545	349.463
Total assets	3.678.385	2.935.049
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	31 December 2009	31 December 2008
<i>Equity</i>		
Reserve	76.851	68.774
<i>Short-term liabilities</i>		
Creditors	65.372	41.898
Taxes and social security premiums	9.778	8.874
Advance subsidies	3.512.199	2.804.179
Other liabilities and accrued expenses	14.185	11.324
	<u>3.601.504</u>	<u>2.866.275</u>
Total liabilities	3.678.385	2.935.049

Summary profit and loss account 2009 (in euros)

	2009	2008
Net sales	744.332	746.149
Project costs	744.332	747.430
<i>Project result</i>	0	-1.281
Subsidy not project related	272	3.786
<i>Operating result</i>	272	2.505
Financial income and expense	7.805	10.655
Result	8.077	13.160

Donation awarded in 2009

The Foundation has received a contribution of over 0,7 million euro from The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (TMF and Matra programme) and ICCO for implementation the programme "Strengthening the Roma Voice (StRV)" in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Moldavia, Serbia, the ERGO Network and for the Matra programme in Turkey. For the implementation of the StRV-programme in Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia the institutions Cooperating Netherlands Foundations and KerkinActie have contributed a total amount of 0,1 million euro.

Auditors' Report

We have audited the accompanying financial statements 2009 of Stichting Spolu International Foundation, Utrecht, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December, 2009, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes.

Management's responsibility

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 "Not-for-profit organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law. This law requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Stichting Spolu International Foundation as at 31 December, 2009, and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting 640 "Not-for-profit organisations" of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

Maastricht-Airport, 20 September 2010
BDO Audit & Assurance B.V.
on its behalf,
Drs. M.M.G. Mans RA

Achievements of 2009

Overview of the results

Partner organisation: Roma Active Albania (RAA) *Rruga Myslym Shyri 117/2, Tirana, Albania, tel: (355) 4264822, e-mail: raa@albaniaonline.net, contact: Adriatik Hasantari - director*

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Lezha 2 Elbasan 3 Pojan 4 Pogradec 5 Akemi 6 Llakatund 7 Berat 8 Tirana 9 Durres	Celebration of traditional Roma holidays. Several activities with Roma children. Summer camps for Roma children. Workshops with representatives of Roma communities and local authorities. Intercultural sports events. Meetings with Roma NGO Union Roma of Berat exploring cooperation. Gathering of women to make artistic handicrafts and discussion about their role in the community. Protest of women in front of the municipality to demand potable water.	- 4 local boards of Roma leaders - 6 youth groups - 5 women groups - 1 Local NGO - 1 Mother Centre - 1 Mother Centre initiative	Activation of women and youth in the Roma communities. Better negotiating position of the communities on local levels. Promotion of a positive image of Roma towards non-Roma. Mentality change of the Roma communities. Enrolment of Roma children in schools. Increased capacities of Roma women to earn a living, to position themselves in society. Elected Roma representatives in political bodies. Registration of new Roma NGO. More awareness about Roma issues in the media. Formalisation of Mother Centre.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Youth network on the national level	35 active Roma youngsters.	Publication of a newsletter. Participation in international youth network TernYpe.	Discussions between Roma and non Roma about their issues.
Youth networks in Fier and Korca	Over 40 Roma Youth from communities in and around Fier and Korca.	Training courses on lobby and advocacy and media. Monthly meetings.	Activism of Roma youth in Fier and Korca. Local authorities more aware of the needs of Roma youth.
Regional networks in Fier and Korca	Over 35 Roma leaders from communities in and around Fier.	Celebration of International Roma day 8 th of April. Lobby and advocacy. Meetings with local leaders. Preparation of registration of regional network Fier.	Broadcasting of activities on local TV. Issues of the Roma minority on the agenda of politicians. Activation of Roma women from the region.
Informal women network	90 Roma women from different communities in Albania.	Ceremony of opening exhibition of Roma culture in national historic museum Tirana. Protest in Durres for drinking water.	Permanent exhibition on Roma culture in the National Museum.
National Lobby Platform	Six Roma NGOs active in Albania.	Monthly meetings to exchange experience. Exploration of formalisation of the platform.	Unity among Roma NGOs in Albania, striving together for common goals.

Partner organisation: Roma Progress, Macedonia *Opstina Rankove, 1316 Rankovce, Macedonia, tel: (389) 31380615, e-mail: romaprogress@yahoo.com, contact: Vidance Monevski - director*

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Rankovce 2 Probistip 3 Vinica 4 Berovo 5 Sveti Nikole	Build supporting wall on the river in Roma neighborhood. Conference with local authorities on dialogue with Roma community. Building policies of the Roma community to influence local government. Lobby towards Mayors for signing the Memorandum of Cooperation for implementation of Decade activities. Opening a center for the representative structures of the Roma community.	- 1 group of political representation - 2 Citizens Advisory Groups - Several representatives from the network SIIM - 1 Women's Advisory Group - 1 Roma MC Advisory - 1 Think-thank	Signed Memorandum of Cooperation with municipality. Socio-economic database of the community. Local government established a Commission for relations with ethnic communities. Educated young Roma provide education to 20 young people in informatics. Memorandum of Cooperation between government and local authorities to implement the Roma Decade. A socio-economic map of 600 Roma was established.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Regional Network of Active Councils	Representatives from Roma communities in Rankovce, Probistip, Kocani, Vinica, Berovo, Delcevo, Sveti Nikole, Stip.	Lobby towards local authorities for a commission for relations with ethnic minorities. Participation in meeting in Bulgaria to exchange experiences with networks of Bulgaria, Turkey and Albania. Support local communities to create municipal level policies. Activities against discrimination.	Developed strategic document for 2010-2015. The municipal council in 3 municipalities approved commission for relations with ethnic minorities. Cooperation with EC in Macedonia. Local TV and Roma national TV informed about activities of network.
Youth Network ROMA (branch of Roma Progress)	40 Youth members from Kratovo, Probistip, Veles, Kocani and Berovo.	Making Roma competitive on the labour market. Project planning training.	Coverage on TV, radio and newspapers. Using blog and facebook group. Created a five-year strategy for ROMA.
Regional Roma Mother Center (RRMC) – Vinica		Registration of the branch in 2009. Formulation of strategy for 2009-2013.	Strategy prepared and projects submitted to donors.

Partner organisation: Porojan, Moldova 162 Columna Str, of. 815, 2004 Chisinau, Moldova,
e-mail: igor.pivovar@gmail.com, contact: Igor Pivovar - director

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Chetrosu 2 Drochia 3 Ochiul Alb 4 Ciocilteni 5 Parcani 6 Ursari 7 Hincesti town	Regional and national meetings of the RCYN members. Debate games. Essay and picture competitions . Tree plantings. Summer camps- and school. Lessons in Romani language. Sunday schools for Roma children. Creative circles. Roma students' meeting. Constituent assembly of the Roma Students' Association.	- Local RCYN-groups - Roma girls – members of the RCTN	Improved personal skills of children. Mobilisation of Roma children. Increasing the children's experience in discussions and communication. Developing creative abilities. Strengthening of the voluntary spirit. Roma young girls participated in campaign against sexual violence. Children study their native language and develop their self-confidence Roma students made an association. Children from Parcani want to create a group.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Roma Children and Youth Network	44 Roma children.	1 regional and 4 national meetings.	Improving personal skills, mobilisation of Roma children.
Roma Students' Association	20 Roma students.	2 national meetings. Meetings with Roma students of Balti.	Creation of association of Roma students. Involvement of Roma students from Balti in Roma Students' Association.

Partner organisation: Tarna Rom, Moldova Str. Vasile Alcsandri 1, off. 706, Chisinau, Moldova, tel: (373) 22 208966,
e-mail: tarnarom@moldova.md, contact: Marin Alla - director

Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Roma Voice Coalition	17 Roma NGOs from Moldova.	Meetings of Roma Voice Coalition. Meetings with Ministries of Education, Social Protection, Bureau of Interethnic Affairs. Meetings with Rayon Councils. Meetings with Local Public Authorities.	Better coordination of Roma Voice Coalition (RVC). Better understanding of Roma issues, lobbying for implementation of GD 1453/2006.

Partner organisation: EDROM, Turkey Orhaniye Cd. Mithatpasa mah. No: 31 Kat:3, Edirne, Turkey, tel: (90) 2842124128
e-mail: edrom70@mynet.com, contact: Mr. Erdinç Çekiç - director

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Yildirim 2 Karaagac 3 Cavirusbey 4 Uzunkopru 5 Babaeski 6 Havsa 7 Suloglu	Coaching representatives in advocacy, support for social gathering in communities, network establishment meetings and structural support, press conferences or official meetings organised, youth and women meetings organised.	- 2 youth groups - 2 women groups - Culture centre - 4 leader groups	100-150 active members Involved in local research and network.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
ROMDEF	Fifteen Roma leaders from local organisations.	Create a relationship with local government Actively work on solutions with the community and the government. 14 coaching visits organised, also to coach leaders to gather data for regional advocacy reports.	Kesan Roma NGO got office, support for Roma children activities, youth trainings, support of Mayor for land for Roma for housing, all Roma NGOs from network involved in national meeting.

The Strengthening the Roma Voice Programme

Spolu's Strengthening the Roma Voice Programme supports Roma NGOs which empower Roma leaders and organisations, to stand up for their civil rights and sustain their participation in local and regional decision making. The goal of the Strengthening the Roma Voice Programme 2006-2010 is to contribute to the achievement of equal opportunities for Roma in Central and Eastern Europe, by making a specific contribution to the creation of a grassroots Roma movement.

Specific goals and expected results are:

- 1 Consolidating the ERGO network to:
 - be a formalised but flexible network organisation,

- have ten members, with a general Board and a number of thematic working groups, and
 - be respected as a negotiating partner by authorities and institutions.
- 2 Consolidating the organisational structure of ERGO members, so that they:
 - become professional Roma organisations working independently on the national level in their respective countries, and
 - are recognised as experts and respected as negotiating partners by local and national governments and institutions.
 - 3 Establishing strong, active, well-organised and visible collaborative regional networks and national coalitions that:

- consist of Roma communities, leaders and NGOs,
 - have clear links with grassroots groups,
 - have built alliances with (Roma) organisations, and
 - are respected by authorities and institutions.
- 4 Mobilising 5 to 15 local Roma communities in each member country and increasing social and organisational representative structures within these communities.
 - 5 Developing a support base in The Netherlands and Europe for the Roma movement.

Partner organisation: Integro Association, Bulgaria 2 “Buzludzha”str., 7200 Razgrad, Bulgaria, tel: (359) 84661026,
e-mail: Lmakaveeva@gmail.com , www.integro-bg.org, contact: Lilia Makaveeva – executive director

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Micrevo 2. Bansko 3 Petrich 4 Ognianovo & Marchev 5 Sandanski 6 Razgrad 7 Zavet 8 Vazovo 9 Kubrat 10 Vurbitsa 11 Sekulovo 12 Senovo 13 Stara Zagora 14 Byala	<p>Planning of municipal strategy for Roma integration.</p> <p>Participation in GORD meetings, contribute to quick scan made by GORD.</p> <p>Support advocacy initiatives about the Framework Roma programme.</p> <p>Participating in the quick scan of GORD: visiting to the municipalities and gathering data from SW of Bulgaria</p> <p>Exchange to Vienna Mother Centre.</p> <p>Advocacy of MCs team to intervene in cases of early marriages.</p> <p>Regional workshop to address double standards in child protection legislation.</p> <p>Round table on “Mechanisms for empowerment of the Roma women”.</p> <p>Exchange visit for the women from Mother Centers from Bosnia.</p> <p>Attracting resources from other donors.</p> <p>Coaching for the LEADER program.</p> <p>Established 1 Mother Centre.</p> <p>Participation in the women national Round table for addressing the topic of Roma women empowering.</p>	<p>- 14 NGOs</p> <p>- 8 youth groups</p> <p>- 6 women groups</p> <p>- 2 Mother Centres</p> <p>- 2 IGA groups</p>	<p>3 Roma councillors, 1 Roma Public council, adopted local strategy for Roma integration by the municipality, Roma got building and agriculture plots, appointed Roma mediator in the local labour office attention by the national authorities responsible for the child protection, two project proposals of MC approved by other donors, free MC building from municipality, established partnerships with non Roma women NGOs. Started own project for women protection against domestic violence, 2 Roma NGOs are members of the LIG in frame of LEADER program of EU funds, Roma in School Board, co-funding by municipality and community, Roma in Mosque Board of Trustees, increased entrepreneurship, Roma NGO got own budget by the municipality, 2 Roma appointed in the municipal administration, 1 Roma councillor, 1 protest housing issue, municipal decision to support the claim the protesting Roma people.</p>
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Youth	20 students from secondary schools and 17 university students.	<p>2 trainings in debate skills.</p> <p>Coaching in NGO management, youth networking.</p> <p>Organising summer camp</p> <p>Participation in ‘Typical Roma’ campaign of ERGO</p> <p>Developing a new youth strategy.</p>	<p>Established relations among Roma and non Roma in summer camp.</p> <p>Debated topics on stereotypes.</p> <p>Influenced teachers from 20 secondary schools to understand the problem with stereotypes.</p>
GORD	Representatives from ca. 30 Roma communities and NGOs.	<p>2 regional meetings of GORD.</p> <p>Implementation of the quick scan.</p> <p>Implementation of a national workshop with Roma from Turkey, Albania and Macedonia followed by a round table on implementation of Roma policies at local levels.</p> <p>Initiating signatures for supporting the open letters of the Roma NGO Coalition.</p>	<p>Lack of implementation of Roma policies by local authorities was put on the agenda.</p> <p>National visibility of GORD network, increased mass media attention, increased capacity of members.</p>
Mother Centres	Women of 5 mother centres (ca 20).	<p>Participation of MCs in international meeting for women empowerment in Sofia.</p> <p>Exchange visit to Mine to Vienna.</p> <p>Exchange with women from MC from Bosnia.</p> <p>National round table of MCs on empowerment of grassroots Roma women.</p>	<p>MC approach on Roma women</p> <p>Identified active Roma women from Bulgaria interested in MC approach</p> <p>First steps towards a national platform</p> <p>Increased participation of Roma women in local social activities.</p>
National coalition	National coalition with 5 other Roma NGOs for elaboration new Roma policy of the government.	<p>Open letters to officials on Roma issues.</p> <p>Participation in the working groups for elaboration of the Framework programme for Roma integration.</p> <p>Elaboration of policy paper of political party on Roma issues for party GERB that won the election.</p>	<p>Recognition of Roma NGOs in the field of community development, social policy and empowering approaches</p> <p>Active participation in national consultative process concerning social inclusion of Roma community.</p>

Partner organisation: Centar za majke “Plamen”, Bosnia-Herzegovina Naselje Gaj niz B, 72220 Zavidovici, tel: (421) 45 6744549
e-mail: plamenmz@yahoo.ca , contact: Senada Dzankic - president

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Zenica 2 Vitez	<p>Trainings and site visits to other mother centres.</p> <p>Establishing a playroom for children.</p> <p>Meeting with local authorities and institutions in which the work of the Mother Centre was promoted.</p> <p>Round tables on preserving Roma language.</p> <p>Collection traditional recipes to learn the younger generation about the habits and traditions.</p> <p>Courses for children how to play and write.</p> <p>Vocational training for hairdresser and opening saloon for all participants in Mother Centre.</p> <p>Round Tables on human rights for Roma.</p>	2 Mother Centres	<p>Self organisation of Roma women.</p> <p>Raised leadership among Roma women.</p>

Partner organisation: Democratic Association of Roma (DUR), Serbia *Supljikceva 28, Belgrade, Serbia, tel: (381) 637017544,*

e-mail: yromainf@eunet.rs, contact: Jordan Vasic - director

Name community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
Roma settlements in Belgrade	Making a newsletter. Training of youth workers. Roma media pool. Training in radio and written journalism. Women group providing catering services for celebrations and festivals. Spreading of information through leaflets and communication in 55 settlements.	- Women group - Youth group - Waste Collectors Cooperative - Ekoservis - Local committees in all settlements	Improved negotiating position of the Monthly newsletter prepared by youth. 12 people receive ToT and perform 27 workshops in 9 settlements. 8 youth workers receive training on community development. Practical exercise in 16 settlements using video recordings.
1 Subotica 2 Zrenjanin 3 Becej	Roma students trained as youth workers. Youth trainings on activism, volunteerism, civil participation and responsibility. Local needs identification, development of projects.	3 youth groups from communities in the Vojvodina.	Change of mentality of young Roma in Vojvodina. Municipalities provided financial contribution for proposed small projects.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Students network in Serbia	46 Roma Students from Novi Sad and 5 from Belgrade and 5 from Nis.	Roma students organisation from Novi Sad coach Roma students from Belgrade to form their own organisation.	Several meetings organised with students from Belgrade and Nis.

Partner organisation: Centrul de Resurse pentru Comunitatile de Romi (CRCR), Romania *Cluj, str. Tebei nr. 21, Cluj Napoca 400305, Romania, tel (40) 264 420474, e-mail: cmacaria@romacenter.ro, website: www.romacenter.ro, contact: Claudia Macaria - coordinator*

Romania, tel (40) 264 420474, e-mail: cmacaria@romacenter.ro, website: www.romacenter.ro, contact: Claudia Macaria - coordinator

Names community	Activities due to the Programme (partly) with Spolu funding	Social structures in communities	Results
1 Targu Mures 2 Sebes 3 Baia Mare 4 Cluj-Napoca	Training on strategic planning and writing project proposals. Information campaign in rural area for promoting special places for Roma in high schools Workshops, debate, meetings. Collecting local Roma traditions in a photo album - Workshops, debate, cultural events, meetings. Publishing a brochure "Roma in our days". Information campaign in rural area for promoting the special places for Roma in high schools. Registering NGO "Young Roma Maramures". Participating at different projects in partnerships with other NGOs and public institutions.	- Youth club of 42 members - Youth club of 38 members - Youth club of 40 members - Youth club of 60 members	Mission, vision and action plan for the clubs. Participation of Roma Youth in the local activities of the clubs. In total about 250 young Roma registered for the special places in high schools. Development of managerial capacities of the members of the youths NGO.
Networks	Members	Activities	Results
Youth	160 Roma High School and University students from 4 different local branches.	Working meetings with the mentors of the youth clubs, participating in "Life Camp" Participating at a camp with Boy Scouts Romania.	Raised awareness on Roma identity. Exchange of experience with other youth NGOs.
ERGO	The youths clubs from Tg Mures and Baia Mare.	Typical Roma campaign (professional trainings, elaborating inclusion/exclusion stories).	Increased the active participation of Roma Youths against Roma discrimination.

Partner organisation: European Roma Grassroots Organisation (ERGO) network *Rue d'Edimbourg 26, 1050, Brussels, Belgium*

e-mail: info@ergonetnetwork.org, website: www.ergonetnetwork.org, contact: Biser Alekov - policy & advocacy officer

Members	Activities	Results
Albania: Roma Active Albania Bulgaria: Integro Bulgaria Macedonia: Roma Progress Moldova: Tarna Rom Romania: Policy Centre for Roma and Minorities Turkey: EDROM Netherlands: Spolu IF	Meetings of the campaign working group. GA meeting. Working meetings on youth programme, policy monitoring programme, advocacy programme. Development of two-year EU project. International "Typical Roma" -campaign. Participation in ERPC. Participation in EU events and meetings.	Increase of visibility ERGO & ERGO members on European level. Impact on European policies concerning Roma. Formalisation of the ERGO network. Drafting of ERGO multi-annual programmes. Professionalisation of the network. Expansion of office, staff and activities in Brussels. Increased visibility and campaign experience.

Donors and Supporters in 2009

www.kerkinactie.nl
geloven-helpen-bouwen

