
LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE FOR ROMA AND DISADVANTAGED YOUTH

ICDT FINAL REPORT AS OF JANUARY 20, 2010

BACKGROUND OF THE IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

In Hungary, there are significant shortcomings in relation to the integration of young Roma into the law enforcement mechanisms. There is a considerable resistance on behalf of the non-Roma members of the police and many object to the integration of Roma people into the police force. Even though there have been numerous attempts in the past few years to enlist young Roma with the help of different orientation programs, there has not been any serious success in doing so. This is what the project aimed/aims to change.

The project intended to change the methods that had not worked in the past and to make an impact the life of the Roma communities directly with immediate, tangible and measurable results. The goal was to increase the trust of Roma people towards Hungarian police.

The program aimed at contacting the people living in the surroundings of the settlement Fehérgyarmat (Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County). The target group consisted mostly of Roma youth between 9-14 years who are disadvantaged from many points of view. The program was carried out with the help of law enforcement expert of Roma origin.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Present report describes the activities that have been carried out in the frame of the project supported by Grant Decision MR 21-2010, however, these activities form only a part of a large-scale project that had begun in September 2010 and is scheduled to last until September 2011.

ICDT used the received grant in cooperation with FAERLEO (Fraternal Association of European Roma Law Enforcement Officers). The grant was used in the preparation phase of the frame project. The primer element of this phase was to draw the attention of the target group – the target region's Roma population – as well as the popularization of the security forces among them. During the implementation, ICDT and FAERLEO have conciliated almost with every municipality, educational institution and leader of the minority groups meanwhile the informant fora are continuous in every settlement of the target region.

Considering the fact that the target group does not really get information from the media nor the Internet, the first step was to print promotional material about the activity of FAERLEO and the background of the current project. These papers were handled and disseminated in many participating institutions (municipalities, schools, community houses, etc.)

The leaflets were also presented in public fora, as well. These fora have been/are held on a regular basis during the whole duration of the project and target primarily the young adults who have obtained a secondary school certification. The aim of these fora is to present and describe the career opportunities in the security forces for young Roma.

The disseminated promotional material can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.fajerleo.com/sites/default/files/downloads/szorolap14.jpg>

<http://www.fajerleo.com/sites/default/files/downloads/szorolap23600.jpg>

There were also many pictures and vides taken during the fora:

<http://www.fajerleo.com/keptar>

<http://www.fajerleo.com/videotar>

RESULTS AND THEIR CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The expected results of the project are to send an emphasized message to the majority in the target region refuting the negative stereotypes related to Roma people, and at the same time to have an effective preventive effect on Roma youth.

In this sense, the project fulfilled its aim and is in correspondence with the objectives determined in the application form:

- a) Initiating the frames and the basic elements of Roma Law Enforcement Youth Movement
 - The bases for Roma Law Enforcement Youth Movement were laid down primarily by having personal consultations with the local partners in villages like Jánkmajtis, Fehérgyarmat, Tiszabecs and Csenger. During these discussions the following topics were talked through:
 - i. Review of the aims and essentials of the initiative
 - ii. Assigning tasks, responsibilities, deadlines for future activities
 - iii. The role of the working group set by FAERLEO in managing the project
 - At the same time, all these discussions contribute to the future start of the OSI project.
- b) Developing the mission and the value system of the Movement by Roma youth
 - To decide about the mission and the values that will be represented by the Movement, a Working Group was established of the participation of six well-qualified policemen with Roma and non-Roma origins. They will actively participate in the planning and implementation stage of future projects.
- c) Start the OSI project establishing the regional centre of the movement
 - As a first step towards the establishment of a regional center, the assessment of the target micro-regions was conducted. The micro-regions were divided into different zones and later the most importantly targeted zones have been listed. Next, the Working Group entered into contact with the leaders of local Roma minority self-governments so that they can organize local forums effectively. The working group disseminated leaflet/information about FAERLEO in each of the interested villages. The aim of the actions was to prepare the Roma communities of the target regions for cooperation in a larger area.