

European Conference

The Impact of Cultural and Citizenship Education on Social Cohesion

3 - 5 December 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania

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Project Fact Sheet

Workshop 2

“Inclusion Through Participation: How Could Minorities Play a More Formative Role in Civil Society?”

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of project	A Wheel of the Wagon
2	Location (City/Country)	Turin (Italy)
3	Main topics (select 5 max)	The educational values of narrating personal experiences; creating awareness-rising tools with a participatory approach; self-representation in mass-media contexts; challenging stereotypes through the ironic representation of differences.
4	Practice-related keywords (5 max)	Participation, self-representation, peer-education
5	Brief description of project (150 words)	A project implemented in cooperation with local and international partners to contrast the radicalisation of discriminatory attitudes towards Roma communities in Italy. The project intends to deal with issues such as diversity and representation by finding narrative ways aimed at creating an understanding of cultural differences. A young director (19) elaborates her family's history and constructs a narration on the difficulties of integration into a society that still looks at Roma with a discriminatory attitude. This personal account critically explores personal aspirations and elements of traditional culture. Following the broadcast of the documentary on national television a series of awareness activities targeting high-school students are planned.
6	Objectives of project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rise awareness of broad audiences about the rights of Roma people through the broadcast of a television documentary directed by a young woman of Roma origins • Present a different, more personal, perspective of Roma culture to high-schools students and introducing the young director as a positive role-model • Support the professional and creative work of a young woman that has decided, with her work, to highlight aspects normally not considered by mainstream media
7	Impact of the project on education and social cohesion (250 words)	The video documentary is thought to unveil a change of perspective over controversial topics related to Roma traditional culture. It presents personal life events mixed with more general reflections on prejudice and intolerance. By narrating the story of a small Roma community the intention is to oppose general preconceive ideas on Roma and Sinti. It is an attempt to disclose a dimension that has never been explored from such a privileged point of view. The dissemination of the documentary in formal educational contexts is set to contribute to the stimulation of discussions and aims to challenge preconceived ideas particularly amongst young audiences. In this regard special screenings are organised for teachers in order to guarantee further presentations in schools, experts will provide interpretation tools and suggest discussion approaches for teachers to replicate in the classroom's screenings. Presentations in high-schools will start in 2010 following the screenings discussions between students and the



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		young director are foreseen. The presence of the director strives to inspire the young viewers confronted not only with a member of a stigmatised community but with a fellow youth that has achieved recognition and visibility. Circulation and press coverage of the documentary are crucial elements of the project. The television broadcast was preceded and followed by numerous articles and interviews with the director on local as well as national press and TV, this contributed to presenting a different perception of the 'Roma issue' and has been considered by the media themselves a concrete de-stigmatisation effort.
8	Target groups	General public, high-school teachers and students
9	Project methods/ Project format	Extended professional training and mentorship with a member of a highly disadvantaged community. The project was developed with a participatory approach: planning, production and distribution with a direct involvement of the beneficiary in all decision-making processes and key activities.
10	Project Time scale	Three years: development (2008), production (2009), presentations (2010)
11	Project Initiator	Davide Tosco
12	Resources involved (financial, human, others)	The project saw the involvement of a team constituted by ten people at various stages of the production. A small pool of experts will be involved in the publication of the texts and as panellists during the presentations to teachers.
13	Evaluation/Materials	Evaluation will be carried out by written feedbacks of the teachers and direct observation of the discussions with the students. A booklet will accompany the DVD made available to teachers in order to prepare the screenings with students.
14	Contact information	Zenit Arti Audiovisive Strada del Fortino 26 Torino 10152 Italy. www.zenit.to.it