

FOCUS

Roma Cinema Youth Project

100 movies to challenge preconceptions

In 2016, the situation of European Roma communities continues to be critical. Socio-economic strategies will produce limited impact as long as root causes of exclusion: stereotypes and racism are not addressed more assertively, drawing on the power of culture and putting the communities themselves into a position to promote positive self-image, drawing on the rich history of Roma contributions to European culture.

Partners

The Roma Cinema Youth Project gathers 3 organisations working in very different complementary ways on Roma youth empowerment:

- Somany (France)
- Romawood (Kosovo)
- Phiren Amenca European Network (Hungary)

Project duration: 2 years

They have identified 3 main problems to be addressed:

- 1/Initiatives from organization tackling the production of collective's narratives about Roma Culture and identities remain scattered, and often based on stereotypes both negative or positive/exotic as well as produce by non-Roma.
- 2/Many projects youth project are blending Culture with non-formal education but are either
 - carried out by non-formal education sector "using" art only as a "tool" with rather poor artistic outcome and thus potential of dissemination
 - carried out by cultural workers / artist lacking pedagogical methods
- 3/Films, and videos and online new media are a very powerful medium to empower, shape representation and challenging imaginaries. There is today a challenge in developing creative and digital competence of youth workers, educators, trainers, and teachers

Objectives of the project

- ***Increase the number of quality transformative spaces**, events and screen related projects of all kinds using **the power of films/video blended with non-formal education for combating stereotypes and racism against Roma communities.**
- * **Increase the quality of educational programmes designed around those spaces** contributing to empowerment, participation of Roma youth
- *Create a supportive network on this theme to enhance cooperation
- ***Challenge the media and cinema's role in creating** (and maintaining) the exotic image of the Roma c and **reach out to media, policy maker and other multipliers/ stakeholders' attention about it.**
- *Put **Roma youth in a position to produce, curate and promote audio-visual** content showing the **diversity and plurality of their own identities and culture**

The strategic partnership has, as a starting point, the unique expertise and resource of the Rolling Film Festival, a festival in Kosovo running since 2009 and broadcasting films made by & about Roma. Along its fourth editions, Rolling Film Festival built up a list of 150 films what became today the richest film database of Film Made by & about Roma in the world.

Innovation to be transfer from Romawood Kosovo

- A film database of 150 films on various thematic
- Know-how on festival / screening organizing especially regarding audience development and outreach strategy involving local Roma communities and "non-audience"
- Expertise on how to design meaningful film programmes for various typed audience and especially in context educational context



- Expertise on how to design film workshop with Roma & non-Roma Youth

To achieve RCYP objectives, we trans-nationally combine

- the unique experiences and ressources of Romawood with RFF
- the power of Phiren Amenca's network & expertise on human rights education
- the cross-fertilization and cross sector approach of Somany culture / education

Activities:

- 3 transnational cooperation meetings
- 1 staff training activity
- 1 intellectual output (eToolkit)
- 1 international dissemination events

Targeted persons directly benefiting from the activities= 325

- Roma and non Roma-youth
- Workers from education/training/ youth sector
- Cultural sector workers
- Political representative/ decision makers
- Media

Summary of the eToolkit: "Roma youth on screens: a etoolkit challenging Antigypsyism through cinema & Non-formal Education"

- 1/ A detailed film eCatalogue featuring 100 films made by & about Roma
- 2/ How to organize a screening: basics and tips
- 3/ Roma Audience outreach strategies: examples of good practices
- 4/ Pedagogical sheet/teaching aids for 10 films combining film resources with description new non-formal education activities
- 5/ New / innovative Curriculum of the training course for staff/ youth trainer working on this topic

Impact

- 1/ For Roma youth: benefit from quality trainings, empowerment, self-confidence & price
- 2/ Workers from education field and their organisations:
 - Improve quality of projects, training, and tools and methods
 - Develop capacity in cross-sector cooperation
 - New tools and methods to blend cultural and educational activities/ creative and digital competences
- 3/ Media, political representative and decision makers:
 - be more aware about the need of addressing more assertively held stereotypes about Roma drawing on the power of culture
 - To question their responsibility in maintaining stereotypes against Roma communities

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