

BARCELONA: SOCIAL INCLUSION AND THE ROMA PEOPLE

Department of Interculturality and Religious Pluralism

27 April, 2022



HISTORY IN SPAIN



First Roma person
arrives in Perpignan

1415

By order of the Marquess
of Ensenada, 12,000 Roma
people are imprisoned
during **The Great “Gypsy”
Round-Up**

1749

Congress of Deputies, with all
votes in favour, approves a
non-legislative proposal on
**recognition of the Roma
people**

2005

1499

A **decree** compelled them to
abandon their nomadic life.
Roma people have to live at a
fixed address and abandon
their customs and way of
dressing, under the penalty of
expulsion or slavery

1978

The Spanish **Constitution**
recognises Roma people as
fully fledged citizens



STATISTICS



Roma people in Spain are the largest minority group.

750,000

SPAIN

ROMA PEOPLE
(2014)*

75,000

CATALONIA

ROMA PEOPLE
(2016)*

6,400 - 14,400

BARCELONA

ROMA PEOPLE
(2020)*
Source: ASPB 2020

*Estimates



INEQUALITIES



The rate of illiteracy among the Roma population is almost 4 times higher than among the rest of the Spanish population*



SCHOOLING

Unemployment is higher among Roma population (36.4%) than among the population of Catalonia as a whole (20.9%).

There is higher unemployment among Roma men than women, who have become the family breadwinner*



EMPLOYMENT

*Source: "Local strategy with Barcelona's Roma Community",
Barcelona City Council (2015)



INEQUALITIES



The Roma people in Spain tend to have poorer health than the general population*

HEALTH

Half of the Roma people in Spain own their homes. Most homes have basic facilities but very few have dishwashers, computers or Internet access*

HOUSING

The Roma community perceive discrimination in their environment. According to state-conducted studies (2011), they feel they are branded as thieves (21.2%), idlers (17,6%) or bad people (12.7%)*

DISCRIMINATION

*Source: "Local strategy with Barcelona's Roma Community", Barcelona City Council (2015)



BARCELONA INTERCULTURALITY PLAN 2021-2030



2010

2021

Barcelona Interculturality Plan

Defines a strategic framework for mainstreaming intercultural perspective in all municipal policies

[New Barcelona Interculturality Plan for 2021-2030](#)

Aimed at bringing about a more inclusive city and fighting against discrimination. A strategic umbrella for all the public policies that the City Council will deploy with an intercultural perspective over the next ten years

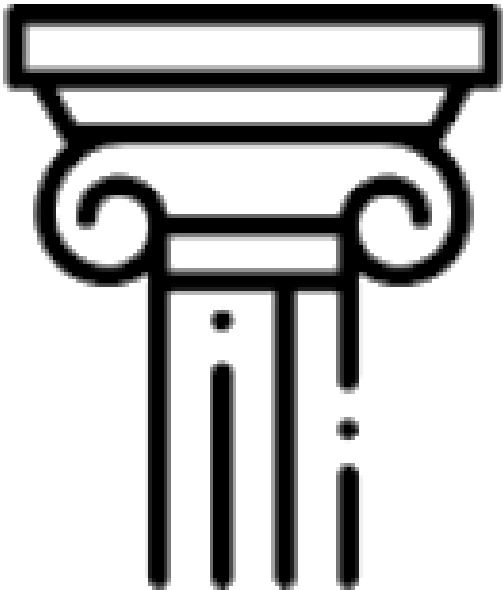


INTERCULTURALITY



INTERCULTURAL PRINCIPLES

Advancing towards a more intercultural city to build a more inclusive, more dynamic and fairer city, and to promote social cohesion and living together



- 1** **Equal rights and opportunities**
- 2** **Recognition of diversity**
- 3** **Positive interaction, intercultural dialogue and effective participation**



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



GENERAL MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES – Equal Rights

Office for Non-Discrimination (OND)

It guarantees the rights of everyone to build a fairer and more cohesive society. In 2020, 15 of the 163 complaints reported were from Roma citizens

Human Rights Resources Centre

The centre works for the prevention, respect and protection of human rights in the city, in accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination

Barcelona Anti-Rumour Strategy

The strategy creates intercultural tools and resources to thwart discriminatory practices and narratives

Training for municipal and company staff in:

- Interculturality
- Religious Pluralism
- Human Rights and Non-Discrimination



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES: Equal rights and opportunities

There are many situations of discrimination in Barcelona: access to housing, police identifications by ethnic profiling, school segregation, access to the labour market...

Further information is available in this [study](#).

Social intervention service for families with minors (SISFAM)

Assistance for families with children in their care living in settlements in Barcelona

School promoters

Contributing to school success and raising awareness of Roma culture. The 2018-2019 school year saw 720 children assisted

Barcelona Activa:

“Acceder” Programme

Social and labour market integration for Roma people, especially young people. In 2020, 96 people were assisted (55% women)



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



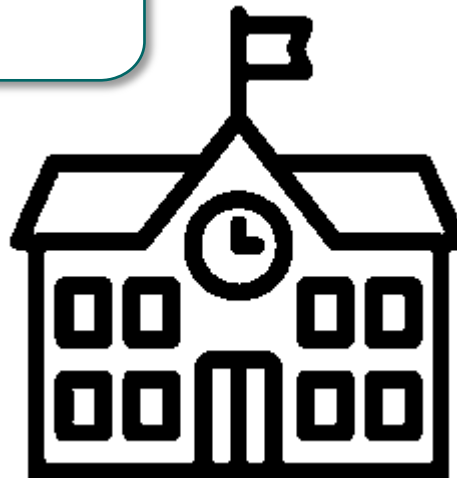
SCHOOL PROMOTERS

Raising awareness of the values of Roma culture within the school curriculum and school life

Monitoring Roma children enrolled at primary and secondary schools

Raising awareness among parents of the need for regulated education

Raising awareness among professionals of the capacities and possibilities of success of Roma students



Full schooling of Roma students at the various stages of the education system

Providing teaching and social-work professionals with tools for educating children and young people from their cultural speciality



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES: Recognition of diversity

Iconic **celebrations**:

International Romani Day

Romani Resistance Day
(with the Jewish people)

Day against Romaphobia
(The Great “Gypsy”
Round-Up, in 1749)

Recognition of
public space
(ex. Plaça del Poble
Gitano)

Roma culture in the city's
cultural programming:
Libraries

Information panels in the
Convent de Sant Agustí
municipal facility.
Incarceration of Roma
women during The Great
“Gypsy” Round-Up

Subsidies
Roma people
organisations and/or
projects

15 organisations
/**21** projects

Subsidy amount:

€89,500

(2021)



GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



SUBSIDIES FOR ROMA PEOPLE ORGANISATIONS/PROJECTS

Support for learning the Roma language

Support for health-related community initiatives



Support in the field of education (revision, ethno-anthropological approach to learning – Shere Rom project with UAB...)

Support for Roma culture (for example, Roma People Museum – EMUGBA, La Mina Flamenco Music Festival...)





GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES



SPECIFIC MUNICIPAL INITIATIVES: Positive interaction, intercultural dialogue and effective participation

The Chair is the councillor responsible for Roma affairs and the Vice Chair is a representative of an organisation that is part of the council

Participation
of the Roma people
in the city
through the
Municipal Council of Roma
People
(from 1998)

Initiatives are worked on in work groups made up of the organisations themselves

Some 20 organisations and two renowned people

A consultative and participatory body

It promotes the recognition of Roma culture, fights against racism, discrimination and, above all, anti-Roma sentiment, and seeks to ensure the well-being and quality of life of Roma people

One or two full council meetings are held a year and at least 4 meetings of the Executive Committee



Barcelona: social inclusion and the Roma people



Thanks for your collaboration!

<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/bcnacciointercultural/ca/>

Email: ipr@bcn.cat
cmpgb@bcn.cat



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**