



## YOUTH IS TOLERANCE

### COMBATING ANTI-ROMA STEROTYPES AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

“Youth is Tolerance” is a project which aims to combat racism, xenophobia and antisemitism, with a particular attention on Roma discrimination, among young people. The project will be carried on in Bulgaria and Romania, where Roma are a numerous minority, and in Greece and Hungary, where Roma represent a small but significant percentage of the population.

In countries with a considerable presence of Roma still persist deep prejudices, also among teachers in schools and universities, which result is the lack of integration in the educational institutions and in the violation of the human and citizen rights of this minority.

Roma young people are victims of widespread forms of racism and xenophobia and are suffering from anti-Roma stereotypes, often justified by wrong behaviour of adults with a key role in society and educational system. This in spite of the last years’ increasing attention on the topics, related to multicultural exchange and integration, mutual understanding and tolerance.

The project is implemented by a consortium formed by AMALIPE (Bulgaria), leading partner active for the empowerment of the Roma community in Bulgaria and its participation and equal access in all spheres of life, ROMANI CRISS (Romania), DARTKE (Hungary) and ANTIGONE (Greece), all of them with a wide experience in organizing and managing projects targeted on human rights.

#### **Objectives:**

In order to establish and test a comprehensive model for combating racism and anti-Roma stereotypes in Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Greece among young people aged 14-25 main objectives and activities of the project are the following:

- Change the attitudes and stereotypes of young people towards Roma through a series of trainings, meetings and joint events to raise awareness of students about ethnic and religious minorities and about how they could effectively overcome cultural barriers.
- Change the stereotypes and attitudes between young Roma and non-Roma and decrease the number of discriminatory practices towards differences.
- Develop and value the tolerance to diversity that youth already has.
- Help school authorities to better deal the anti-social behaviour of youths.

**Target Groups:**

DIRECT:

- Roma youths in six regions in Bulgaria and in one region in each of the partner countries.
- Non-Roma youths in the above regions.
- Civil society.

INDIRECT:

- Roma parents in six regions in Bulgaria and in one region in each of the partner countries.
- Non-Roma parents in the above regions.
- School authorities in the project areas.
- Municipal authorities.
- Police Department.
- Social workers.

**Activities:**

One of the main activities is represented by the establishment of Youth Task Force Groups (YTFG), which will be volunteer groups supported by institutions and Roma community, for combating the anti-Roma attitudes among young people and reacting on concrete cases of racism in their communities or schools.

The YTFGs activists will mobilise the resources of active young people for forming tolerance through the organization of peer training in their regions, the promotion of public awareness campaigns and the solution of concrete cases of discrimination.

One Joint Youth Task Force Team will be formed in each of the three participating countries – Greece, Romania, and Hungary – while in Bulgaria will be established one Joint Youth Task Force for each of the six regional centres of the project.

Likewise important will be advocacy activities for the institutionalization of the project's positive practices.

**Duration:**

24 months starting from 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2013.

**Funding body:**

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA).