

Appendix 1 :

equal 2004-2008
Combattre
les discriminations,
réduire les inégalités,
pour une meilleure
cohésion sociale



**European Seminar
on Exclusion
and
Extreme Precariousness in French
Guiana**

**- Minutes of Tuesday, March 14th, 2006 -
Amazonia Hotel in Cayenne**

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TUESDAY, MARCH 14TH 2006

OPENING DAY AT THE AMAZONIA HOTEL

INTRODUCTION OF OUR GUESTS

We have the pleasure of welcoming here in Cayenne 9 Italians from Milan and 2 Slovaks from Bratislava.

Our Italian partners represent four entities in Milan :

- The « Civic Schools of Milan Foundation ». with chair Anna FELLEGGARA and her colleagues Anna CANTONI and Alessandro HINNA
- The Town Hall of Milan, with Antongiulio BUA, head of the department of education at Town Hall, and his colleagues Girolamo FACCHINI and Marco SALA
- The Bicocca University in Milan, with Susanna MANTOVANI
- Multimediamente, a professional training firm, with Francesca ZORZI and Mario MENSI

Martin OPEDA, head, and Peter ADAM, a social worker with the association, **are our Slovak partners** representing the non-profit organisation **PROTI PRUDU**

**EUROPEAN SEMINAR ON SOCIAL
EXCLUSION
AND EXTREME PRECARIOUSNESS
IN FRENCH GUIANA
March 13th to 17th, 2006**

Minutes of Tuesday, March 14th, 2006 at the Amazonia Hotel in
Cayenne.

This day's session was introduced and hosted by :

Panel :

Local delegation :

- Mr. Cartiaux, Director of the DSDS (« Direction de la Santé et du Développement Social » - Central Bureau for Health and Social Development)
- Mr. Messenger, on behalf of Cayenne's Mayor Mr. Lafontaine
- Mr. Fontanella, President of the Samusocial of Greater Cayenne.
- Mrs. Habran-Méry, Deputy-Chair of the Samusocial of the Island of Cayenne (Greater Cayenne)
- Mrs. Borel, Executive Director of the Samusocial of Greater Cayenne

European Delegations :

- Mrs Anna FELLEGGARA, Chair of the Civic Schools Foundation of Milan (Italy)
- Anna CANTONI et Alessandro HINNA, Collaborators of Madame FELLAGRA (Italy)
- Antongiulio BUA, Head of the Department of Education, Municipality of Milan (Italy)
- Girolamo FACCHINI et Marco SALA, Collaborators of Mr. BUA (Italy)
- Susanna MANTOVANI, representing the Bicocca University in Milan (Italy)
- Mrs Francesca ZORZI, representing Multimediamente, a media company (Italy)
- Mr. Mario MENSI, representing Multimediamente (Italy)
- Mr. Martin OPETA Director of PROTI PRUDU, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the social integration of the homeless in Bratislava (Slavic Republic)
- Mr. Peter ADAM, social worker with PROTI PRUDU (Slavic Republic)

Please find the list of the persons who attended in appendix 1

Mr. Fontanella was first to take the floor and introduced the day's session.

He started with welcoming the persons attending and reminded the audience that this European week is primarily intended to enable participants to compare experiences and exchange ideas about the different types of care provided to marginalized individuals in French Guiana, Italy and the Slovak Republic. It is a transnational agreement within the framework of a European project financed through EQUAL funds, he said, that has made it possible to arrange for our European partners from Italy and the Slovak Republic to come here in French Guiana. During their stay with us, our partners will be invited to take part in official debates and meetings as well as visit a number of institutions and non-profit organisations in Cayenne and Kourou, which will hopefully help them form a better vision of how the French social services geared to those living in most precarious conditions operate. Mr. Fontanella concluded his speech with a reminder that this first session is dedicated to a presentation of the various issues surrounding the fight against social exclusion in French Guiana and more specifically in Cayenne.

Mr. Fontanella passed the floor to **Mr. Messenger** :

After greeting the participants to the seminar, Mr. Messenger apologised on behalf of the Mayor of Cayenne who was not able to make it that day. He then emphasised the extent to which the Town Hall has been involved in this project and how it has supported the Samusocial's action notably through the implementation of carefully designed strategies aimed at preventing social exclusion and confronting emergency situations. Accordingly, he added, the Observatory for Severe Social Exclusion that the Town Hall has contributed to putting in place will be tasked with the mission of assessing the situation in French Guiana thereby making it easier for social services and associations to tailor schemes focusing on social watch and emergency assistance to the Guianese population.

Mr. Messenger passed the floor to **Mr. Cartiaux** :

After greeting all the persons present who by attending this session have shown their personal commitment to the fight against social exclusion, Mr. Cartiaux welcomed our European partners. As one of the founders of the Samusocial, he emphasised that one of the key moments of the week will undoubtedly be the laying of the first stone of an emergency around-the-clock shelter as this is a clear sign of the community's determination to increase concrete response to severe social exclusion in Cayenne. As a conclusion, and on behalf of French Guiana's Governor General, Mr. Cartiaux repeated how happy he was to see this project of the Samusocial come to fruition as it has provided us here with this wonderful opportunity of sharing experience and knowledge with transnational partners around as essential an issue as the fight against severe social exclusion.

Mr. Fontanella took over :

and presented the day's agenda. See program attached (appendix 2).

I. PRESENTATION OF THE EQUAL PROJECT

Mrs. Borel made a presentation of the EQUAL project (appendix 3).

II. PRESENTATION OF THE ITALIAN PROJECT

Mr. Gino Facchini, representing the Town of Milan, gave an overview of the Italian project.

a. The EQUAL project in Italy

This is the Town of Milan's EQUAL project n°2 and it is entitled : « For a better synergy between strategies to improve housing, every day life and working conditions of Milanese women» The title throws into relief two essential aspects of Milanese women's social roles, who have to act both as mothers and providers. Indeed, Milanese women have to find a way to combine family and professional life as effectively and harmoniously as possible.

Thus, one of the key ideas behind EQUAL project n°2 is to « do away with sexual segregation and fight processes that lead to that segregation, whether it be vertical or horizontal ».

b. The goals of the project

Main goal :

The project is primarily geared to developing existing community services and creating new ones, particularly in the field of childcare.

specific goals :

- The projects thus aims to assist parenthood through incentives promoting the emergence of better income prospects, which implies assessing responsibilities within the family regarding professional and family constraints so as to foster as fair as possible the internal distribution of duties. Accordingly, the project addresses issues such as unequal contribution to family life (burden-sharing), factors of balance or unbalance within the family circle, all with a view to identifying better the needs of each family
- It also aims to help design policies capable of fostering and furthering civic commitment as a warrant of a better quality of life, enlisting the support of Town Hall and public or private institutions in the process.
- Another objective is to increase assistance mostly through services designed to educate residents to civic life ; the endeavour thus consists largely in defining and boosting the participation of parents in care structures, through actions aimed at the optimum distribution of units of « value and strategy » between parents. This is done with a view to widening and improving scope in the field of education and social services in terms for example of syllabus and curriculum.

Tools :

A number of activities and a network including private, public or mixed partners have been and are being developed so as to meet these objectives.

c. Actions for the implementation of the project :

- Survey and research actions were first undertaken whose aim was to pinpoint the needs and wants in the town of Milan as far as child care and aid is concerned.
- The project was initiated and support was provided to those who were willing to actively participate in it on the strength of the experience they had gathered in the field of child aid and care.
- Training actions have been developed which rely on a narrow collaboration between services catering to children with each contributing their experience to the project.
- An on-demand-action scheme was initiated to bring closer citizens and the staff involved in administrative work.
- A thorough analysis of the results and the responses to these actions was conducted so as to further the project and prompt other actions.
- A European partnership stemming from the EQUAL transnational agreement was brought to fruition which enabled partners to compare modalities and experiences thereby contributing to reinforcing the project both internally and externally.
- This is an essential point as each local situation has its specificities and therefore each partner in the project can contribute a different experience

d. How far have we got with the national part of the project ?

A questionnaire has been drawn up which is based on a series of exchanges between the citizens of Milan and the town's social services catering to children as well as on proposals made by these services. The final report will be transmitted to the Observatory for Severe Social Exclusion, a contribution of a sort, so that our partners may capitalise on our experience. No doubt that this transnational seminar will also serve to consolidate our project at the national level.

Mr. Facchini concluded his presentation with the observation that precariousness displays many different faces indeed and that such transnational seminars as this one make it possible for participants to form a better vision of the different aspects of exclusion across Europe.

Mr. BUA took the floor :

The transnational part of the project is new to us at the Town of Milan's Department of Education and is definitely quite a challenge as partners have to work on eight different issues. It nevertheless

represents an invaluable opportunity to bring together players from the academic world as well as from the private sector and has enabled us to share scientific vision as well as distribute administrative responsibilities.

The Equal Project is a unique opportunity to boost co-operative work between the Town of Milan and other European partners.

It goes without saying that European legislation and regulations on social and educative work need harmonising. Lisbon is a major example in the field of education of how collective work together with citizens' participation can substantially impact policy making.

The necessity for us of developing networking has led to the implementation of a system of very simple modular training courses based on elementary issues that can easily be transmitted to partners. This makes it possible to respond to specific difficulties as well as assess a great variety of social situations.

It must be emphasised here that "wealth" in a community cannot be measured only through each individual's purchasing power but also through their quality of life.

Mr. Martin OPETA took the floor.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE SLOVAK PROJECT

a. The Slovak project

The name of the NGO we represent is « PROTI PRUDU » which means « AGAINST THE STREAM »

Our association has been publishing a street newspaper, NOTA BENE which was created on March 20th, 2001 by social work and psychology students. « Notabene » is distributed in 11 towns and has its head office in Bratislava.

Through the organisation, the homeless can earn money by selling the newspaper which helps set them on their way to socialisation or resocialisation

b. The objectives of the scheme

It is primarily aimed at :

- fostering social integration,
- preventing exclusion,
- boosting the self-esteem of the homeless as well as changing the public's outlook on homelessness
- providing individuals with an opportunity to actively participate in improving their situations.

The main objectives right now include :

- increasing activities and participation in activities.
- reducing reliance on public or private subsidies

Selling a monthly publication is a way for the association of providing the homeless with an opportunity to remain or become self-reliant by working and earning an income, which is especially gratifying for individuals who typically have little or no access to regular work. The sale also helps keep them away from trouble (delinquency patterns).

c. Who are the individuals who use our services ?

Individuals who use our services are primarily homeless people living either on the street or in shelters. They fall into eight main groups

- gypsies often estranged from civic and professional life
- the mentally or physically ill whose illness or disability make it difficult for them to find and carry out work.
- ex-convicts
- people with little instruction
- individuals who have gone through family traumas.
- people suffering from acute depression because of traumatic experience.
- people suffering from various types of addiction
- the long-term unemployed

d. Typology of the homeless in Bratislava.

27.8% of the people using our services have no permanent address in Bratislava. Government policy is that each town should take care of its own registered residents, so there is no actual provision for homeless people.

1500 people have used our services over the past four years among whom 160, 17% men and 83% women, have sold our newspaper. The prevailing age bracket is 45 to 55, while the over 65 are the least represented group.

e. level of instruction

Higher education	high school	elementary education	incomplete elementary education
2.4%	66%	23.2%	8.4%

f. What our organisation does.

- Social workers help individuals create or re-create social ties through relational activities, with a longer-term purpose of orienting them towards self-reliance.
- Individuals are assisted with administrative formalities and advice is offered which is tailored to each individual's social situation
- Staff also help with solving practical problems, such as finding accommodation, employment or training and provide psychological support.
- Individuals receive financial assistance when they need health care ; they can also be directed to other services when necessary.
- Interpersonal relationship between staff and the homeless emphasises partnership rather than dependence.

- Access to a telephone, free Internet, housing data bases is supplied.
- Individuals can also leave their personal belongings or documents in the association's safe.
- A major hurdle remains employers' reluctance to hire marginalized individuals.

g. Slide-show with photos illustrating the activities developed by the association.

(commentary of photos)

- Entertaining outings are organised that provide an opportunity for individuals to get away from the street, even if briefly.
- Ours is an original approach to socialisation or resocialisation centering around cultural or entertaining activities, such as visiting castles, mounting plays with the help of volunteers, organising boat trips in the summertime.
- Individuals are also invited to take part in various events such as Christmas celebrations, games, etc. ; they can also enrol in training courses and earn a diploma.
- In order to arouse public interest, a street event was organised to commemorate the 4th anniversary of the creation of the NGO and the participation of a very famous Slovak actor was enlisted for the occasion.
- Relational and entertaining activities are part and parcel of a type of occupational/art therapy that relies largely on the access to culture for the underprivileged.

IV. PRESENTATION OF THE FRENCH GUIANESE PROJECT

a. Specificities of French Guiana

- 1) Mrs. Giron-Belina, from the DSDS, gave an overview of the situation in French Guiana (appendix 4).
- 2) The audience was then invited to view a documentary film, « Listening to people living in situations of severe social exclusion on the Streets of Cayenne » , commissioned by the Samusocial and produced by Tic Tac Production.
- 3) Mrs. Cazaux from the DSDS gave an overview of how the French welfare system is organised (appendix 5)

Questions and answers

b. Guianese Response to severe social exclusion in French Guiana

1) Mrs. Borel made a PowerPoint presentation of the Samusocial of Greater Cayenne (appendix 6).

2) Mrs. Borel described the « night rounds » operated by the Samusocial .(appendix 7).

3) Mrs. Habran-Méry gave an overview of the Observatory for Severe Social Exclusion (appendix 8).

Debate with the audience

The March 13th to 17th week's schedule can be found in appendix 9.

A T T E N D A N C E S H E E T

**European Seminar on « EXCLUSION
AND PRECARIOUSNESS »**

Tuesday, March 14th, 2006, 8 h 00

Name	Function	Structure
Mrs CARISTAN	Chair	ADAPEI
Mrs MINNE	Head	CAT – ADAPEI
Mrs Odile PERRET	Head	CHRS - ADAPEI
Mrs PINDY		A.D.I
Mrs Lesley PORTE	Coordinator	Arbre Fromager / CFAES
Mr FONTANELLA	Head of the Emergency Ward	Cayenne's Hospital
Mr CHENEY	Psychiatrist	Cayenne's Hospital
Mr SEBELOUE	-	Departmental Council – DSP
Mr KOUSSIKANA	-	Departmental Council
Mr Jean ROCHET	Secretary of the Samu Social	Committee for the Prevention of Alcoholism in French Guiana
Mr CARTIAUX	Head	(DSDS) Central Bureau for Health and Social Development
Mrs CAZAUX	Official in charge of Social Affairs	(DSDS) Central Bureau for Health and Social Development
Mrs MILLOT	Social Worker	(DSDS) Central Bureau for Health and Social Development
Mr LAFONTAINE	Mayor	Town Hall
Mr MESSENGER	Head	IMED
Mrs HABRAN-MERY	Deputy-Chair	Board of Directors of the Samusocial
Mr CHONG A THUNG	Deputy-Secretary	Board of Directors of the Samusocial

Mrs DEFRESSANGES	-	Resource Center / Urban Policies
Mrs SAINT-CLAIRE	-	DDE / Urban Policies
Mrs BLANCHARD		DDE / Urban Policies
Mrs ASSELI	-	Dôkô Services
Mr AIMABLE	Head	DSU of Rémire Montjoly
Mrs LETARD	-	DSP
Mr LAFONT	Bishop of French Guiana	Bishopric of Cayenne
Mrs JANVIER	Town Council	Town Hall of Matoury
Mrs COUCHY	Official in charge of social policies	S.C.A.S de Matoury
Mr BEL-ANGE	Executive Director	Orange Caraïbes (a cell phone company)
Mrs FLEURENCOIS	Official	Rozo
Mrs CHOURRET	-	Rozo
Mrs SEROTTE	Volunteer	-
Mr CINNAMAN	-	-
Mr AIGUIER	Volunteer	-
Mrs JOSEPH	Volunteer	-
Mrs SMITH	Volunteer	-
Mrs ASSARD		Radio Sainte Gabrielle
Mrs CHAUVAN	DSDS	-
Mrs ZULEMARO	-	-
Mr KWATCH	Reporter	France Guyane (local newspaper)
Mr GERMAIN	Head	Tic Tac Production
Mrs HABRAN-BANDIN	-	-
Mrs REYNES	Head	SPIP 973

European Partners

Name	Fonction	Structure
I T A L Y		
Mrs FELLAGARA	Chief Executive	Civic Schools of Milan Foundation
Mrs CANTONI	-	Civic Schools of Milan Foundation
Mr HINNA	-	-
Mr BUA	Chief Executive	Department of Education with the Town of Milan
Mr FACCHINI	-	Town of Milan
Mr SALA	-	Town of Milan
Mrs MANTOVANI	-	« Bicocca » University of Milan
Mrs ZORZI	-	<i>Multimediamente</i> (training department)
S L O V A K R E P U B L I C		
Mr OPETA	Head	PROTI PRUDU
Mr ADAM	Social worker	PROTI PRUDU