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**OBSERVING THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF ROMA
ETHNICITY ROMANIAN CITIZENS ON FRENCH TERRITORY**

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I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF VISIT

The documenting visit continued Romani CRISS' preoccupation with immigration and right to freedom movement of Romanian citizens of Roma ethnicity in France, as well as their repatriation.

In this context, Romani CRISS had a series of initiatives of which we remind:

- “*Case of Romanian citizens in other states: case of Roma in France*” – report of the Roma organizations in Romania delegation (Romani CRISS and Aven Amentza) regarding the monitoring of camps in Ile de France – Paris, Lyon and outskirts, 13-20 January 2003.
- “*Protection of unattended minors, Romanian citizens in other states*” report, Romani CRISS, author Daniel Arpinte.

From 25th of March till 4th of April, a team of three people from Romani CRISS went to France to document the situation of Roma from Romania who live in the camps at the outskirts of Paris, as well as the manner in which they are voluntary repatriated by the Romanian and French authorities..

The documentation was carried out in partnership with the Catholic Committee against Famish and for Development (CCFD). The partnership between Romani CRISS – CCFD is lasting for more than 11 years in regard to supporting the health mediators' activity and to documenting the situation of Roma origin Romanian immigrants in France.

The field documenting visit was also supported by the following organisations: Medicine du Monde, ASAV and GISTI. They provided valuable information based on their experience and facilitated the documentation process in communities where they were already working in.

The objective of the visit was to accomplish an independent fact finding on observing the right to freedom of movement, as protected by the French and international legislation, as well as on the efforts of the local authorities towards social inclusion of the Roma from Romania located in France. This activity may be useful to various social actors in Romania and France, as well as to European institutions.

II. DOCUMENTING THE SITUATION OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN CAMPS AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF PARIS¹

II.1. Bobigny Camp, Rue Goscinnny

Initially, the inhabitants of the camp were reluctant to dialogue with the team members, asking for explanations on the organisation represented by the team and their intentions.

After the team presented the role of the visits, the people in the camp were more open to dialogue, also due to the presence of two representatives of PROROMA association from Petrosani, at that time located in the camp, who knew Romani CRISS organisation very well.

The camp is located 20 km away from Paris, via North, behind a construction site, since 2005. It is formed of 64 trailers, 4 of them from Serbia and the rest from Romania. In two of the 60 trailers there are Romanian families and Roma families live in the rest. They come from various counties of Romania (Arad, Teleorman, Hunedoara). Most of the people who come from the same county are related and there are up to 30-40 people who are family or related. The informal leader of this camp is a Roma man from Serbia.

Passing on the property of trailers is done without legal forms; they are sold from the people who leave the campus to the ones that are there, but buy them for the relatives back home who are about to come in the campus or buy them for themselves. Several families live in one trailer and there are cases where even 9-10 people (including minors and adults) live in the same trailer.

The price for a trailer goes from 300 to 500 euro, depending on the size and comfort. None of the trailer is connected to any public utility service. The discussion with the Roma there revealed that it had never been electricity in the campus and they use liquid fuel (gas) based generator that each trailer owner had bought.

All people that participated in the discussion said they were willing to pay for individual connection to electricity, but it was not possible due to their lack of property ownership document; in the same time, there is the danger of fire caused by a possible overcharging of the power network or due to easily flammable materials of which the trailers are made and the shelters in the camps.

Heating is done with the help of metal stoves that burn wood (people said that wood was hard to find, thus they often used garbage to burn). In order to prepare food, they use gas cylinders connected to cookers.

¹ The following camps were visited during the documentation period: Montarcy, Méry sur Oisedans le 95 (département du Val d'Oise), rue Ardoin à Saint-Ouen (département du 93 - Seine Saint-Denis), **Bobigny, Rue Goscinnny, Saint Denis, L'Île de Paris.**

In regard to **potable water**, this was available until August 2007 when authorities cut it off, although people had paid the bill in amount of 530 Euro. At the moment of the visit, people were buying potable water, also in order to use it for cooking food.

The **garbage** is collected twice a week by a sanitation company.

The 10 **outside toilets** are of common use for the entire camp and placed on one of the sides of the camp. The Roma people said the specialised services of the City Hall do not empty the toilets and they are a real source of infection and diseases.

At the moment of the visit, there was no person to work with legal forms. Some of the Roma are daily workers and earn from 80 to 100 Euros a day, depending on the professional skills, but most of them are collecting scrap iron (there were piles of scrap iron and cables in the camp).

The main reason for which the companies where Roma people work do not sign labour contracts with them is the 18% additional fee mandatory for employers to pay to the French State.

School-age children are also in the community and they attend school, being well received by the teachers and the other students.

Around 30% of the people in the camp had medical insurance free of charge.

The police are visiting the campus twice a week in order to identify possible stolen cars and also to announce them that eviction would follow.

One of the Roma participated in the Labour Exchange that took place in South of French (Aix Provence) and, after being selected initially to work in agricultural field, there were later refused because of their Romanian passports. In regard to their relation with the French citizens, it is good, especially with people of African descent as some of the Roma speak French language. Most of them want to have legal forms for staying in France and to work legally and do not agree with the idea of “voluntary repatriation”.

None of the French authorities came to provide them information on social inclusion programs in France or about the conditions and procedures foreseen in the French legislation in the field.

There are many people in the camp who received notifications to leave France, which are to be appealed in court with the support of GISTI. In most of the cases, the appealing actions against the decisions issued by the Paris Prefect’s Office were solved in the favour of the Roma. The Roma said that both Police and Gendarmerie ask for their identification papers in the street and issue them these notifications to leave French soil abusively because they do not commit any offense. In addition, they mentioned that especially during a camp dismantling, during the forced intervention of the Police, many people are forced to sign repatriation forms through ANAEM.

The representatives of the French nongovernmental organisation say these actions are caused by the fact that, each year, the French authorities have to expel a significant number of immigrants (for 2007 the number of expelled people to be achieved was of 20,000 persons and more for 2008, up to 25,000 persons).

The people we talked to in this camp were aware of the conditions of voluntary repatriation, but this solution is not viable because their incomes in France are much higher than their incomes in Romania, where they feel more strongly discrimination from Romanian authorities and the society.

Many of them accepted the sums offered by the French state on the voluntary repatriation (300 euro for an adult and 100 euro for a child), but returned to France after a very short period of time

II.2. Visit in Saint Denis camp, L'Île de Paris

The camp is placed near "Stade de France" in Saint Denis neighbourhood, three stops away from Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris. The camp is formed of three parts: shacks, a 3 stories old building and an interior yard where shacks are placed.

Romani CRIS visited this camp twice. The first time in November 2007, during an visit of experience exchange between Romanian and French health mediators and the second in March 2008, during this field visit.

In between the visits, the number of the shacks grew considerably. The Roma from this camp had come from Teleorman, from around Bucharest (in the shacks area) and from Bistrita (in the building).

The price to rent an improvised shack was of 300 Euro per month to be paid to a leader of the camp, that we didn't meet in any of our two visits. The size of a shack varies from 3 to 5 square metres. The rent price for the building is higher, but the inhabitants were reluctant to tell us what the amount they paid was.

There is electricity in some shacks, by connection to the nearby poles or by using improvised power generators. The people living in the shacks without electric power have candles or lamps. Heating is realised by burning firewood from around the camps.

Access to potable water comes from a pump placed 20 m away from the entrance to the shacks area. There is no access to bathrooms or toilets.

Access to medical care is done through the network of volunteers from Medicine du Monde, such as physicians (pediatrists, internists) and translators. There are medical assistance mobile units equipped with the necessary machines for medical consultations.

Voluntary podiatrists come in the camp on more regular basis for the newly born and pre-school aged children.

The pregnant women are accompanied by the voluntary midwives of MdM to hospitals for medical check-ups, but, many times, they face discriminatory attitudes from the public workers or medical health-care workers.²

Their incomes result from unskilled labour in construction work, usually day labour, mainly performed by men. They gathered round at the street corner where middlemen pick them up and facilitates them access to various work.

It's notable how the gender relations are changing within the campus; the women become more and more exposed to the French society, more active and who bring an income, home, every day, while the men stay at home with the children.

The schooling activities are provided by "Parada" organisation that comes twice a week to perform educational activities with the children in the camp. We have met also an 8-year-old girl who attended, regularly, the local school; she is the granddaughter of the family which owns the campus bar and who live in a big room near the bulding. The other schools go to school sporadically because it's far, they say, and can't get enrolled to school.

In November 2007, since the amount of money provided by ANAEM for repatriation increased, the number of the families in the camp is bigger, as some of them benefited form the aid several times³. A family of Roma in the camp showed to the team the repatriation documents received from ANAEM, so we were able to find out the day and time for the next repatriation of more Roma from Paris.

III. VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION⁴

Starting with 2007, ANAEM - intensified the efforts of voluntary repatriation of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, focused almost exclusively on Roma ethnic people. The program implemented by ANAEM has two components:

- Aid for "voluntary" repatriation of citizens coming from EU non-member states whose right to stay was denied or who were subject of an expelling procedure and want to leave France;
- Humanitarian aid aiming at citizens coming from EU non-member states or EU member states, but in a precarious situation.

Few days before our visit, several organisations, among which Rom Europe, Medicine du Monde si ASAV met Mr. Godefroid, director of ANAEM. Thus, the number of immigrants and aliens to be repatriated by the end of 2008 is of 25,000, more than the

² For more details see *Medecis du Monde aupres des femmes Roms* www.medecinsdumonde.org.

³ This information is based exclusively in the discussion of the team with people from the camp.

⁴ The herein section is based on information obtained directly by Romani CRISS, as well as provided by representatives of the following organisations: ASAV, CCFD, GISTI si Medicine du Monde.

previous year (20,000 which is ANAEM objective for a year). According to the director, the number of repatriated Roma the year before was of 1673. However, the figures of December 2007 increased to 2,300.

In regard to the Roma repatriation, there are two aspects: first of all, all people repatriated to Romania are perceived by the French authorities as Roma ethnic. Secondly, the Roma people are more easily identifiable as they are grouped in camps of immigrant, all together.

The Red Cross in France is the humanitarian organisation that assists repatriation in Romania. This implies to ensure translation into Romanian language for the repatriated people, but not always, as well as to accompany them on the plane to Bucharest. The presence of the Red Cross creates confusion among the beneficiaries of the voluntary repatriation program, because most of them think that the Red Cross is the one that give them money to go back home to Romania and to get through the winter holidays, as aid from a humanitarian foundation.

The amounts of money received in the present were doubled starting with November 2007, from 150 Euro to 300 Euro per adult and from 50 to 150 Euro per child. Minister Hortefeux announced this measure as provisory and experimental, until March 2008. However, the authorities informed they would maintain the action, being convinced of its efficiency.

The organisations present to the meeting requested ANAEM to provide a copy of the repatriation request to the person who signs it. This is more than necessary considering that passport is taken away from the beneficiaries when they sign the request for voluntary repatriation.

During the documentation visit, Mr. Godefroid, ANAEM director, was in Bucharest to meet the National Agency for Roma representatives, in order to work on the text of a convention between the two agencies, convention which would establish the National Agency for Roma's responsibility on reintegrating the Roma repatriated in Romania. On April 10 2008, the Romanian Prime Minister was about to visit Paris in order to sign this agreement.

In the legal field, the main problems raised refer to transposing the European Directive on the freedom of movement⁵ in the French legislation, the legal regime applied to the Romanian and Bulgarian citizens in the field of employment, the procedure of removing the foreign citizens.

38/2004 Directive was transposed by Law no 1119 from November 26 2003. In 2007, the French authorities merged different legislative provisions, creating a common legislative framework on the situation of foreign citizens in France⁶. Taking into consideration that the French authorities have not transposed the community legislation prior to 2004/38

⁵Namely, Directive no 38 from 29th of April 2004 of the European Union on the right of the EU citizens and of their family members on freedom of movement and stay on the Member States' territory.

⁶ Namely, the Code for the entrance and the stay of the foreigners and the right to asylum no 1631 from November 20 2007.

Directive, the procedure of the sojourn right for the inactive community citizens is not known. Unlike the extra community states citizens, the community states are not compelled to own sojourn documents, and the only mandatory procedure is the registration in front of the local authority, in case the stay is longer than three months.

The French authorities have decided to apply a transitory restriction of the right to labor of the Romanian and Bulgarian citizens. By way of exception, for some fields (approximately 100 occupations) this exception is not applied, due to the human resources deficit in these sectors.

Regarding Roma, their access is limited due to the fact that the unrestricted occupations require qualifications which they do not have, very few of them being able to fulfill all conditions. Another thing reported by the French non-governmental organizations is that very few of these occupations can be practiced by women. The departmental direction for employment and professional training (DDTEFP) examines and endorses the authorization issued by the prefect. In spite of the fact that the law does not stipulate, in practice, unjustifiably, DDTEFP requests for study or qualification diplomas, although these are not necessary for practicing those jobs. Moreover, although there is no legal provision regarding this, in practice, abusively, individual labor contracts on determined period or part-time contracts are not accepted.

Furthermore, starting with 1974, the French employers have to pay two supplementary taxes to hire foreign citizens. These taxes are not applicable for community citizens, but are applicable for the case of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, which determined many non-governmental organizations to criticize the French authorities. The organizations' critique is based on the argument that these taxes must cover the supplementary approaches of the authorities in case of hiring foreign citizens, formalities which are not necessary for community citizens, inclusively regarding Romanian and Bulgarians. Consequently, the taxes are unjustified and abusive. The taxes are due lump sums and lump sum contribution. The due lump sum is 725 euro, if the monthly wage is smaller or equal to 1525 euro, while for a higher wage this is 1444 euro. The lump sum contribution is 168 euro. Both taxes are paid once in the ANAEM budget when the labor contract is signed.

Any person who is EU Member State citizen can stay on a three-month period on the French territory, without complying any additional condition, except for owning a valid identity document.

If the stay is longer than three months, the community citizen has to register to the local authority, where his residence is, and to prove the own of medical insurance and sufficient financial resources. If complying with these conditions is proved, a sojourn visa is issued for the citizen, for a period proportional to the proved financial resources.

An important element is the requirement that foreign citizens prove sufficient financial resources so that he would not become a burden for the social assistance system (charge deresoinable). This provision is included in the community legislation, as well as in the French one, being applicable only for a stay longer than three-months.

The authorities cannot request the proof for a higher financial resource than the minimum amount for reintegration (RMI), namely 447.91 euro for a person, 671.87 euro for two persons, 134.37 euro any other extra person. By way of exception, the elder people have to prove higher financial resources, namely 628.10 euro for a person and 1126.77 for two persons.

The French authorities do not accept the use of a financial guarantee from other persons, even though, in 2005, the European Court of Justice has explicitly indicated that there is unnecessary any legal connection between the applicant community citizen and the person who offers the financial guarantees, as long as the substance condition is fulfilled, namely, the existence of a financial stability of the applicant community citizen.

The strictness of the legislation was increased once Bulgaria's and Romania's accession to the European Union. In 2003, the citizens of the EU State Members did not need any sojourn titles, according to the 2004/38 Directive, while in 2006 the "Sarkozy law" has passed, which introduces the obligation of the sojourn title for the EU citizens.

The procedure of removing the foreign citizens involves two measures, respectively the obligation to leave the French territory (ordre de quitter teritoire francaise – OQTF) and the prefecture decision to return to the frontier (arret prefectoral de reconduite a la frontiere – APRF).

If a person cannot prove that he has sufficient living resources and it can become a burden for the French system, this person can represent the object of an order for leaving France. This leaving order is issued when a person has filed a sojourn request which was rejected. If the person who has an order to leave the French territory (OQTF) does not leave the territory within a month, he can be accompanied to the frontier only based on this OQTF, without any ARCF being necessary.

Another reason for which this solution for removing the foreign citizen can be appealed to is the case of threat of public order. Both 2004/38 directive, as well as European Court of Justice Jurisprudence show unequivocally that committing a crime itself is not sufficient to determine the repatriation measure. On the contrary, for each case a serious, real and present threat is necessary.

In spite of these explicit standards, there are situations when the French authorities decide the repatriation measure must be applied, even though the requested conditions regarding threat are not fulfilled (such as some theft or begging cases).

IV. Mandate and activity of ANAEM – National Agency for receiving foreigners and immigrants⁷

ANAEM is a French governmental agency founded in 2005, replacing the ex OMI – International Migration Office. The funds are sourced both in the state budget, as well as in taxes paid by employers. In 2007, ANAEM total budget was 7 million euro. ANAEM manages the regulation on immigration and human resource migration which can be seasonal or permanent.

The citizens from non-EU states must have a labor contract so that they could enter and work in France. ANAEM does not manage expulsions; the only institution in France which can decide on the expulsion of a person is the prefect, while the police implement this decision. ANAEM interferes in the cases of those who have an irregular situation in France, or in a legal situation, but in precarious financial situation.

There are two categories of voluntary repatriations:

⁷ Prezenta sectiune este bazata pe informatii obtinute in mod direct de Romani CRISS, precum si furnizate de reprezentanti ai ANAEM Paris si Bucuresti.

- For the persons originated in non-EU states, especially immigrants from Africa. The amounts offered by ANAEM are 2000 euro for an adult, 3500 for a couple and 1000 for a child.
- For persons originated in EU Member States the repatriation is done out of humanitarian purposes. The amounts offered by ANAEM are 300 euro for an adult and 100 euro for a child.

In general, persons who lived on the French territory for a three months period can benefit from this voluntary repatriation program, but there are also exceptional cases, such as victims of prostitution, people who lost their identity documents, who can be included in this program.

Regarding the repatriation procedure, each person who is voluntarily repatriated, is provided with a folder, which includes a written request, copies of the identity documents, photos. There is a data base indicating when a person left France so that he cannot use ANAEM program without this right. This data base is used only by ANAEM.

ANAEM's responsibilities:

- Organizes the transport (by plane, ship or bus), as well as assuring documents for those who do not have any;
- Covers the additional costs for luggage (e.g. plane);
- Covers the amount of money for each person who is voluntarily repatriated (the payment is made in cash, when the person steps into the plane or bus);
- In some countries in Europe (Romania, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Bosnia – Herzegovina) and some states in Africa (Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea, Congo) finance for developing a micro-economic project is granted.

For some states in EU the amount is maximum 3660 euro, while for the non-EU countries the amount reaches up to 7000 euro. The money is not offered directly to people, but feasible and realistic projects must be elaborated.

For Romania, there is a partnership agreement with two non-governmental organizations, KELSON in Arad and Young Generation Association in Timisoara, organization which help identifying the economic activities, elaborating and implementing the projects.

The grant evaluation is carried out by a commission:

- ANAEM Bucharest;
- French Embassy;
- KELSON and Young Generation organizations;
- Labor Ministry in Romania.

The amounts are sent by ANAEM Bucharest to the two non-governmental organizations, which purchase the good. The payment is done in two installments, the first one representing 70 % for purchase and afterwards, the 30 % left.

The elaboration, evaluation and implementation of the project are done by the Young Generation and KELSEN, which report to ANAEM Bucharest.

In 2007, 90 projects were financed in Romania, and another 200 projects were submitted for review to the commission from January to April 2008. For each written project, an organisation receives 153 euro and, for each financed project they receive 1200 euro that include also the 153 for budget / project writing.

The income generating local projects for repatriated citizens are also done through local organisations, such as “Tanara Generatie”, Timisoara; Equilibre and CRIMM – Bucharest, KELSON Foundation – Baia Mare. ANAEM actions are very focused on involvement of local authorities in implementing local projects.

At the moment of the documentation visit, the partnership proposal with the National Agency for Roma was not yet signed.

V. SOCIAL REINSERTION ACTIONS FOR PEOPLE REPATRIATED IN ROMANIA

On 28-29 March 2008, a team formed of members of Romani CRISS organisation (Romania), GISTI and CCFD (France) went to, Timisoara city (Timis county, Western part of Romania), to document the situation of Roma repatriated by the French authorities. The team was accompanied during the visit by Leonard Bebi from Parudimos association in Timisoara.

The visit included meetings with Tanara Generatie organisation in Timisoara, with people repatriated from France who live in Berini village near Timisoara and the Mayor of Berini village

1. Statement of “Tanara Generatie” organisation in Timisoara

Established in 2002, the association has as main purpose assistance of victims of trafficking in human beings, of asylum seekers in Romania (from Afganistan, Irak). An UNHCR transit centre for victims of trafficking in human beings also functions in the office of the organisation.

Trans-borders partnerships were signed with partners from France and Sweden with the purpose of assisting these people. The partnerships include provisions of medical assistance and of people’s legal status.

The working experience with ANAEM is older. The association has implemented a series of projects with the International Social Service that was subsequently absorbed by ANAEM. On February 28th 2008, the organisation signed a convention with ANAEM,

for a period of one year, in regard to Roma people voluntarily repatriated from France. During the 3 months, ANAEM referred to them 3 cases and, at the moment of the visit, 5 cases were pending, without financial support from ANAEM.

In what regards the implementation procedure for economic projects, the main problems are:

- The implementation period is very long
- Social inquiries are initiated in the beginning and redone after 3 months
- The association receives 67 euro for human accompaniment and then it carries out the feasibility study

2. Field documentation in Berini village

Starting with 1989, most of the Roma from locality left to Western Europe where they stayed for various periods of time and then came back to the community.

In January 2008, 200 people came back, voluntarily, from France, with the support of ANAEM. The voluntary repatriation followed after ANAEM France had paid 320 euro for each person (20 euro to cover transportation from the Timisoara train station, where buses that picked them up from the airport had the finish line) and 100 euro for each child. The money was paid upon boarding the plane.

In addition, within 2 months since repatriation, the ANAEM representatives promised the Roma to receive 3660 euro for each economic project carried out by the repatriated persons. Although approximately 6 months passed since their return to Romania, only one person was counselled in regard to implement a project about an animal farm.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. In practice, the French authorities often dismantled Roma camps, followed by issuing leaving orders. The expelling measures are not based in all cases on individual case analysis, according to stipulations of Directive 38/ 2004, thus raising many questions about the collective feature of the expelling action.
2. The program is discriminatory and aims preponderantly certain ethnic and racial groups. The main targets are citizens of certain African states and Roma ethnic of Romanian and Bulgarian citizenship. In the case of the latter, the project failed lamentably after 2007 because legal measures could no longer be enforced in order to prevent them to come back to France.
3. ANAEM collects personal identification data from the program beneficiaries. Despite the fact that ANAEM representatives denied that other institutions too,

- such as the Police, could access the data base, no guaranties in this respect were presented. ;
4. Hypocritically, the French authorities disguised the expelling program into a humanitarian one. In reality, the program aims at expelling people who have a right to be on French soil, but cannot be cast out in another way.
 5. The French authorities have to investigate in an impartial and effective manner the way in which agreement of people for voluntary repatriation is obtained, especially in the cases where this takes place when or shortly after the Police dismantle camps.
 6. The French authorities should ensure access to education for all children, regardless of their legal status or their parents' legal status on French territory;
 7. The French government should take all appropriate measures to change the current solution for the camps issue. In other words, the severe unbalance between punitive actions (or casting out actions) and social reinsertion actions must be eliminated;
 8. The French and Romanian authorities should work together in order to endure a series of social reinsertion measures, both in France and in Romania, especially in terms of economic activities carried out by the people who live in the camps (e.g. collecting scrap iron, junk, small trade, etc);
 9. The French Government should immediately and explicitly eliminate taxes for employing foreign citizens (FR – forfeiture royalty and FC – forfeiture contribution) in case of Romanian and Bulgarian citizens, considering that these states are already members of the European Union.
 10. The French government should inform the local authorities that it is mandatory, upon establishing the existence of a financial resource suffice for a person to remain on French territory, to take into consideration not only the person's financial resources, but also the financial guaranties provided by other people, as per the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice.
 11. The French government should ensure that all Department Services for Employment and Professional Training (DSEPT) observe, in practice the legal provisions and rights of people who apply for work authorisation. Thus, DSEPT should not longer request, abusively and unfounded, for diplomas of study or professional qualification for the jobs where the law doesn't provides them necessary, because this affect disproportionally vulnerable groups such as women and the Roma.

12. The local French authorities should ensure access to utilities in conditions that do not endanger the physical integrity of the persons who live in camps or near the camps. Access to a source of potable water should be one of the priorities.
13. ANAEM should make public the methodology according to which it applies and evaluates the implementation of financed projects. In the present there are two pieces of information that contradict themselves. On one hand, ANAEM France told us that “Tanara Generatie” association have been implementing project since 2007 and that they are part of the project evaluation commission, while the representatives of “Tanara Generatie” association told us they started working with ANAEM for the past 3 months and no project had been implemented so far.
14. Revising the manner in which projects are evaluated, implemented and monitored is imposed, in order to ensure a high degree of professionalism. More concretely, feasibility and sustainability of projects must be envisaged, as well as involvement of local authorities and of other relevant actors. For instance, ANAEM could advance an amount of money, certain activities are carried out (purchase of life stock, machineries, tools, etc), then an evaluation takes place and then to send the second instalment.
15. ANAEM should communicate relevant information to potential beneficiaries in relation to the financial support that can be provided. When the voluntarily repatriated Roma (of the Roma forced to repatriate themselves, through various means of ANAEM) come back and find themselves in the airport, there is no consultancy or assistance provided to them about the writing and implementing economic projects. The only source of information is the list they received prior to boarding the plane in France, a list of contacts of associations in the country that implements this projects and the contact of ANAEM Bucharest. There is a lack of information once they get to the airport in Romania and the only aid they receive is transportation from the airport to the train station.