

# Phiren Amencia

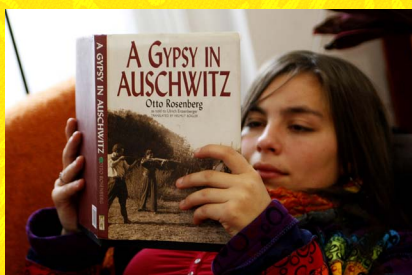
ROMA-GADJE DIALOGUE THROUGH SERVICE

## Volunteer Seminar Evaluation & Event Photos

February 17 - 22, 2011

Berlin, Germany

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Phiren Amenca - RGDTs hosted an international volunteer seminar supporting the work of Roma and non-Roma volunteers from across Europe. 20 youth participated, with 3 coordinating staff members and special guests for portions of the seminar. Below are reflections offered by seminar participants and coordinators, and photos from the 6 day seminar.



“ I was blown away by the group, about how they reacted, they were fluid, opened up to each other. The personal background of each didn't become an obstacle. ”

“ I liked the group dynamics. The differences of our cultures bring diversity in the group. Juli wasn't boring at all, this topic cannot be short. I am not a fan of stupid games and activities, but breaks yes. The guided discussions sometimes need to be brought back and not let it go on. ”

“ It is the best seminar I took part in. Thanks you for all the trainers. Today the session wasn't boring, it's the English language, a special English, that for me is difficult sometimes. Thanks for the Americans for their patience, they tried to speak slowly. Guys, you are kind of minority, you were also nice with us, girls. For the Gypsy part, thank you for showing patience and a lot of attention to me, I became confused after Gica's session. I have a big question what it means to be Gypsy. Suggestion: next time make a paper-questionnaire, written evaluation, I don't always feel comfortable talking. ”

“ It is nice to be here with people that accept everybody the way they are. We are the way we always say people should be like. ”

“ Having spent this time together I felt good for what you are doing and who you are. I go away with the hope. ”





“ The program was really good. Gica (the expert) was also good, because he has real life information about these things. The presentation of Amaro Drom wasn't so bad. I could learn a lot about other's cultures and about other people in the group. The food was nice. ”

“ I liked each one of the group. I didn't have any plans for the group before and I feel good with everyone. I wish everyone a nice stay at the volunteer placements. Never experienced translation going on like this. Thanks, you did a great job. ”

“ I liked the topics. The facilitators sometimes need to cut the conversations when it becomes circular. The group is cool to know. ”

“ Sorry for not being able to speak English. It is good to be part of this project. I am happy to get to know everyone and spend time with all, to hear from everyone about their life, how it is for them. I liked it when we talked in little groups, for me it was really new. There are a lot of nice girls here. Thanks for helping me when I didn't understand something. ”



“ An open critique: the topics were very interesting, but there was too much sitting, there was too much talking at the different topics and almost no activity in between. We need more moving around, fun things. ”

“ It was very energetic and a positive group to share things with. The Roma History part was good, it's good to know my history. The accommodation was not so good. ”

“ During the breaks there are many interesting topics that came up. Maybe we can use these times to make more “Cafés”, do more than this basic stuff. It was a good team, the way you were integrated in the discussions was good. It would be great to have a 2nd seminar. ”

“ Thanks for the work of the staff to organize this. I am aware that leading a seminar like this is not easy. I congratulate the staff. There were some interesting parts. The sightseeing was nice. Points that raised the quality of the seminar were Gica, with the anti-gypsyism session, through him I also got to know about Roma culture and history, and it is important because it has a spiritual meaning for me as well. He explained the fact why the Roma are still where they are, we got the reasons. ”

Thanks you for the organizing, being patient with us on the phone before the seminar and about giving us our tickets before the seminar. ”



“ I had fears before coming here. It is my 1st seminar like this, though I am a teacher. You all do good in your placements and you step for values that are great human values, we are stepping forward. I am thankful that everyone came to participate. I will take home some warmth with me. It is a big impulse for me to continue. ”

“ I am happy for the group, seeing a group so diverse and yet working and communication so good with each other. I am also glad that everyone was sharing and gave their inputs during the different sessions. ”



“ It is good to get together with other people who are excited about Roma issues. People at my placement are not like this. I felt support in a group like this. The seminar location is not the perfect one for an event like this. Amaro Drom could have done a presentation about the Roma population here to get a better idea about Berlin. More breaks would have been good. The RGDTS café was great and the Speed-dating, would be great to have a guided discussion afterwards the next time. ”

“ The video on the first evening (the Kiez Monatshow) was not so useful, it was in German. The expert on anti-gypsyism was great to have. Maybe next time would be good that the hosting organization of the seminar brings other organizations that do Roma stuff. I made good relationships with a lot of people. “Speed-dating”, I liked it a lot, but we will need more time if we will do it again. ”

“ I agree the group is great, it wasn't so cliquey. People are more cool. I loved to have so many people here from many countries and hear different stories. About the Amaro Drom night: the translation issue was not so good, but it was good to see a community so excited and passionate, it gets me going. ”

