

First meeting of the National Working Group - Romania

05 November 2012, School Stefanesti nr 147, Ilfov county

The first meeting of the national working group of Romania was organized in one of the school near Bucharest. Here the participants were invited to discuss about the Rom UP project and about the educational experiences selected.

All the members of the group were present at the first meeting and also other staffs from Romani CRISS were invited to attend. The participants were presented and then the project Rom Up and the educational practices have been presented one by one.

1. Decisive family/community participation - SPAIN
2. Roma students meetings - SPAIN
3. Family and Community Education - SPAIN
4. Decreasing the drop-out rate among Roma children - BULGARIA
5. Roma culture classes in state school curriculum -BULGARIA
6. Socio-Medical Centers for Romas (Women's Place in Aliveri)- GREECE
7. Interactive Groups: Heterogeneous ability classrooms with reorganization of resources - SPAIN
8. Dialogic Literary Gatherings - SPAIN
9. Roma Families Learning (RoFaL) Comenius Regio Project - IRELAND
10. A Good Start in school - ROMANIA

11. A Good Start (pre-school) – ROMANIA

The participants had questions related to the success that the experiences had in their own countries and found that most of them are useful and have been or could be integrated in Romanian context. The representative of the Ministry of Education has considered that the Romanian experience in the work with Roma is a vast one, since we are the country with the largest number of Roma population in Europe, and he would have some proposals to make himself, of successful educational experiences that have been implemented in Romania. It was explained to him that soon the Romani International Network will be launched within the project and he will get the chance to get involved there and that he also has the possibility to propose other experiences by accessing the project of the website and using the template available.

The participants at the meeting were teachers, school principals, community educational workers, members of the Roma community, and representatives of public institutions. The experiences more appreciated were the ones related to the concept of decisive family and with the heterogeneous groups. The group has asked questions about what was the success of the projects in their county and how did they work to overcome the difficulties. During the discussions different aspects were touched, like the advantages and disadvantages that we could face in the Romanian context when wanting to implement the educational experiences presented, how and what should be done to create conditions for transferring some of the activities. The themes of early marriages and the girls' participation in school were also approached.

Main conclusions/recommendations:

ROM-UP! The inclusion of Roma through quality successful educational experiences

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- The concept of decisive family and the one of heterogeneous groups are two a concepts that should be approached more while working with the Roma communities from Romania
- Meetings with the parents and the school should be organized in order to create a relation between the school and the community
- The sustainability of the projects should be ensured after an NGO finishes the implementation in order to provide continuity and increase the results obtained already
- Partnerships with the local authorities in order to obtain even a small part of the financing and their official support
- The children should be motivated to come to school
- The teachers should also be more involved in their work, they have to support their students
- The teachers and the school staff should visit the community, they should reach to the families and try to develop a relation with them
- Training should be provided to the teachers on methods of teaching in a participatory manner. The teachers still use the old school model and this is an important reason why the children are not attracted to school, not motivated to learn

Participants in the meeting:

1. Matei Nicoleta, teacher, school Stefanesti, Ilfov county
2. Florin Fleican, inspector within the Ministry of Education – the Direction of Minorities
3. Stoica Anastasea, primary school teacher, school Stefanesti, Ilfov county
4. Florina Busuioc, inspector within the Direction for Social Assistance and Child Protection, City Hall of 6th District of Bucharest (also an ex-health mediator)
5. Ungureanu Luiza, teacher, school Stefanesti, Ilfov county
6. Stefan Cristian, head master, school Stefanesti, Ilfov county
7. Steluta Batir – president of the Association Generation 2008, Brasov, Romania
8. Calin Iosif – president of the association Forum Art, Buzau, Romania
9. Liliana Mihai – young Roma women working on educational projects
10. Dinca Mariana – young Roma women involved in the educational projects of the school
11. Miclea Teodora – scholar inspector on the minorities theme, School Inspectorate of Ilfov county
12. Simona Barbu – Romani CRISS
13. Lucan Daniel – Romani CRISS