



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

**Minutes: 1st Quality Evaluation Group meeting
June 11, 2012
Campus Mundet, University of Barcelona**

The 1st Quality Evaluation Group Meeting has been held on June 11 in Mundet Campus - University of Barcelona, between 17:30-19:30.

From this meeting, a proposal of selected Successful Educational Actions has arisen (based on those educational actions previously submitted by all the partners). The Quality Evaluation Group has made this proposal according to the definition of "Successful Educational Actions" established by INCLUD-ED: "*Strategies for inclusion and social cohesion from education in Europe*. (2006-2011), the Integrated Project of the 6th Framework Programme of the European Commission.

Successful Educational Actions are different from "good practices". The main difference is that Successful Educational Actions are never based on assumptions, but in scientific evidences. These actions collect the main scientific community contributions in terms of how to reach educational success and social inclusion in all levels of compulsory education (early childhood, primary and secondary education, as well as VET and special education programmes), focusing on the most vulnerable social groups -such as women, young people, ethnic minorities or people with mental or physical disabilities- (*INCLUD-ED Consortium. Actions for success in schools in Europe*. October, 2009. European Commission).

Starting from this definition, as well as from the different experiences of Roma people's inclusion through education, the followed criteria were:

a) To have been developed in low-income and disadvantaged communities. The case must apply to low-income socio-cultural contexts, with a population facing exclusionary situations, in one of all the following fields (already analyzed by INCLUD-ED): education, employment, health, housing, and social and political participation.

b) To have relevant quantitative evidence of the improvement of the Roma educational situation (e.g. official tests scores, graduation rates, transfer to high school, etc.) in comparison to other communities that shared similar characteristics.

The cases must show quantitative evidence already published in reports and/or official data, by public institutions, research projects RTD, or scientific articles published in journals (included in the ISI web of knowledge).

c) To have relevant qualitative evidence (e.g. satisfaction, recognition of the transformation undergone etc.) about how it reached the improvement.

The cases should show qualitative evidence, including the voices of the people targeted, either member of the community, administrative, policy makers, etc., showing that the implementation of the experiences already improved the social situation of the people targeted.



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d) Have been developed with a strong community participation level.

The cases should include the participation of the community in the whole process: development, management, and evaluation.

e) Transferability to other contexts.

f) Inclusive experiences that overcome any kind of segregation.

Considering the following aspects:

Given the high diversity of the experiences submitted by partners (specific actions developed with small groups, educational projects developed in hundreds of schools...), we have chosen those experiences that provide evidences of success, and in which the project partner has been directly involved.

All the participants in the 1st Quality Evaluation Group meeting have validated the selection criteria, and have examined the submitted experiences, concluding that the experiences to be disseminated should show evidences of success.

Those experiences that have not shown enough evidence of success, and without direct involvement of the project partners (partner's information is based on online reports or publications), have not been selected in the QEC proposal.

QEG members have focused on those experiences that show evidence of success related to some main aspects, such as: family and community participation in school's decision-making; family and community volunteering in schools; family training experiences; the inclusion of Roma issues in the normative curricula; school openness to families and community members; family counseling (for instance, in terms of how to fill in an application form). Other highly valued actions were those targeted to all the community, such as health counseling and on-going support services for family members, adult training regarding their needs or motivations, accompaniment services for children of working parents.

Thus, considering all those elements, the Quality Evaluation Group has identified 6 Successful Educational Actions, that will be developed through 12 selected experiences.

The **6 Successful Educational Actions** that have been identified are:

- 1) Family and Community participation in decision making processes.
- 2) Inclusion Roma culture.
- 3) Roma role models in the school.
- 4) Heterogeneous groups: interactive groups, other inclusive and interactive actions.
- 5) Family and Community participation in educational activities.



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- 6) Spaces for dialogue, debate and decision for Roma students.

The **12 experiences through which** the 6 Successful Actions have been developed are:

- Decisive family/community participation. Spain
- Roma students meetings. Spain
- Family and Community Education. Spain
- Decreasing the drop-out rate among Roma children. Bulgaria.
- Roma culture classes in state school curriculum. Bulgaria.
- Socio-Medical Centers for Roma (Women's Place in Aliveri – Nea Ionia, Volos) Greece.
- Interactive Groups: Heterogeneous ability classrooms with reorganization of resources. Spain.
- Dialogic Literary Gatherings. Spain.
- Roma Families Learning RoFaL Comenius Regio Project. The importance of parental involvement in children's education. Ireland.
- A Good Start in School. Romania.
- A Good Start (pre-school). Romania.

Thus, the **Quality Evaluation Group** suggests:

- 1) The 6 successful Educational Actions to be disseminated through the International network.
- 2) The 12 selected experiences to be disseminated through the International network, as well as through the ROM-UP! reports, as international and different examples of Successful Educational actions' implementation.
- 3) The 6 Successful Educational Actions definition to be developed for the *European Report: Successful educational experiences promoting the integration of Roma in and through education*, as a framework for P5 (CREA-UB).
- 4) That every partner describes the 12 selected experiences, according to the European Report 1 guidelines that have been agreed in the Meeting held in Barcelona on June 1-2 2012.