

## **National dissemination seminar**

### **BULGARIA**

**28 October 2012, Lesoparka Hotel, Veliko Turnovo**

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The National dissemination seminar was organized in the mere end of October, on October 28. It gathered teachers, schools principals and other practitioners in the field of Roma educational integration. In the previous days they participated in the annual training of Center Amalipe for mentoring teachers. Most of the participants were teachers involved in the Program of Center Amalipe for reducing the drop-out rate of Roma children: the so-called mentoring teachers. They are professionals with significant experience in applying intercultural education and working in multicultural environment. During the school year 2012/2013 they have been organizing trainings with other teachers from 120 schools all over Bulgaria following a curriculum for teacher trainings developed by Center Amalipe.

The aim of the national seminar was to share with the participants the successful educational practices selected within the ROM-UP project so that they include them as well in their training sessions with other teachers.

Teodora Krumova presented the project, its main goals and the criteria for the selection of good practices. Some of the participants welcomed the criterion for including Roma representatives and clear link for the participation of the Roma community.

Teodora Krumova presented further the other successful practices:

#### **Decisive family/community participation - SPAIN**

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Decisive family and community participation is a Successful Educational Action implemented in Schools as Learning Communities in Spain. Learning Communities project is developed in more than 150 schools, from pre-school education to primary and secondary education and adult education. In those Schools as Learning Communities with high percentage or Roma students the educational success includes the reduction of drop-out and early school leaving being a success for all.

#### **Roma students meetings - SPAIN**

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A action being developed in the context of the Integrated Plan of the Roma People of Catalonia, are **Roma students meetings** organised by the Roma Association of Women Drom Kotar Mestipen. The goal is to increase the presence of Roma girls and women in training activities both **encouraging young girls to stay in education through high school and university but also to promote training for adult Roma women**. As it is presented here education is being a key element to increase their social participation, contributing to overcome the situation of social exclusion of the Roma community.

## **Family and Community Education - SPAIN**

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It refers to the participation of parents and community members in learning activities offered at the school and addressed to them. In the following, the elements of participation that have contributed to the success of these types of participation as well as the improvements obtained are presented. In the first place, it is noteworthy that the activities of family and community education correspond to the demands of the families and the community members (literacy, numeracy, ICT, etc.).

## **Decreasing the drop-out rate among Roma children - BULGARIA**

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The project *“Decreasing the Dropout Rate of Roma Children from School”* is a three-year program implemented by Center Amalipe - Bulgaria with grant support from *“America for Bulgaria”* Foundation. Its main target is to reduce the dropout rate of Roma children liable to school attendance. The project activities aim also at handling the issue of school absences, dissatisfactory school marks, the relatively low percentage of Roma who continue their education at secondary schools (high schools), the carelessness of Roma parents about school life and school management structures.

## **Roma culture classes in state school curriculum -BULGARIA**

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The inclusion of Roma culture classes into the curriculum of state schools in Bulgaria is a program which has been established and developed by Center Amalipe (Bulgaria) since 2002. The core of the program is the introducing of the subject “Folklore of the ethnoi in Bulgaria - Roma Folklore” (Roma culture classes). It is an elective course included in the curriculum of state schools. The classes are divided according to the age differences into 2nd to 4th grade and 5th to 8th grade.

## **Socio-Medical Centers for Romas (Women’s Place in Aliveri)- GREECE**

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This action was developed during the operation of **Socio-Medical centre (Roma Support Office)** in Aliveri of Nea Ionia in Volos, and has been providing services to Roma residents since 1998. The activity was initially funded by the Community Initiative Integra, programme Multi Roma Action Hellas (1998-2001), the Greek Ministry of Interior under the National Plan for Romas in Greece (2000-2004), the Greek Operational Programme of the third community support framework with 75% co-financing from the ESF (2005-2009) and by national funding combined with resources of local authorities until today (2009-2012). For the period 2012-2014 the programme is co-financed from the Greek NSRF.

## **Interactive Groups: Heterogeneous ability classrooms with reorganization of resources - SPAIN**

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Interactive groups are a form of classrooms organization that promotes both increased academic results and better social cohesion. It consists of **grouping students in small heterogeneous groups** (in terms of gender, culture, academic attainment, special needs, etc.) **and incorporating into the classroom human resources** that already exist in the school and in the community but that are in many cases misused. This resource means families, volunteers, support teachers, etc. Several activities are proposed by the teacher and every small group work on them with the help of a family member or a volunteer who become part of the group. This additional adult in each group has the function of motivating learning interactions among students.

### **Dialogic Literary Gatherings - SPAIN**

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Gatherings are organized in schools other organizations with mothers, fathers, other members of the community and children. At these sessions, people share the reading of classic works of literature, from writers such as Kafka, Joyce, Dostoyevsky, García Lorca, and Cervantes. Through engaging in dialogue about the literature, participants deepen their understanding of language and engage in debates based on their own life experience. It is ultimately a very empowering experience.

In the Gatherings, participants choose the classic work of literature they want to read and how many pages they are going to read in each session. Participants read the agreed pages at home and choose a paragraph they want to share with the others. Once together in the Gathering, people who have chosen a paragraph make a request to take the floor to the moderator. It is the moderator who gives the floor. Then the person reads his paragraph and explains why he has chosen it. Then, the floor is open to those people who want to give their opinion about the same paragraph, and the process goes on till the end of the paragraphs.

### **Roma Families Learning (RoFaL) Comenius Regio Project - IRELAND**

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The Importance of parental involvement in children's education

The *RoFaL project* is a *Comenius Regio project* funded by the European Union. The project looked at encouraging parental involvement in children's education through supporting families to help their children learn, increasing parent and child interaction time on literacy based activities and supporting parents own numeracy and literacy needs. Over the course of two years the project supported more than 55 parents to engage in Family Learning Classes.

## **A Good Start in school - ROMANIA**

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'A Good Start' project is funded by the European Union. It supported more than 4,000 children from ages zero to six to access early childhood education and care services in 16 locations across four countries (Hungary, Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia). Although the project mainly targets Roma it also supports non-Roma children and families.

### **A Good Start (pre-school) - ROMANIA**

*"A Good Start" project* is funded by the European Union. It supported more than 4,000 children from ages zero to six to access early childhood education and care services in 16 locations across four countries (Hungary, Macedonia, Romania and Slovakia). Although the project mainly targets Roma it also supports non-Roma children and families.

The participants shared more of their experience from teaching Roma culture classes. The discussion developed further to how this experience can be applied also to other countries, especially those with similar conditions, like Macedonia, Serbia and other Balkan countries. The teachers recognized some of the elements of the other practices in the work they do in school. They welcomed very much the literature clubs and the heterogeneous groups, as well as some other practices.

#### Participants in the meeting:

Teodora Krumova, Center Amalipe

Tanya Vanova, Center Amalipe

Yonka Danova, Regional coordinator, Center Amalipe

Desislava Stefanova, Center Amalipe

Neli Nikolova, Regional Coordinator – Center Amalipe

Stefana Emanuilova Mineva, OU D-r Petyr Beron s, Shejnov

Mariana Hristova Palazova, I OU Sv. Paisij Hilendarski, gr. Gylybovo

Mariiana Panajotova, s. Tulovo

Maia Petrova Zdravkova, OU „V,Levski" s. Karadzhovo

Vasil Georgiev Dimitrov OU Vasil Levski s. Karadzhovo

Elena Gencheva OU Graf N.Ignatiev s. Graf Ignatievo

Mariana Krysteva Ajvazova OU Graf N.Ignatiev s. Graf Ignatievo

Diana Iankova Todorova OU "Panajot Volov" gr.Plovdiv

Angelina Hristova Petkova OU "Sv.Sv.Kiril i Metodij" Chirpan

Neli Stancheva OU "Vasil Levski" s.Tri Vodici  
Tania Jordanova Grigorova SOU Hr.Botev gr.Kocherinovo  
Ani Miladinova SOU Hr.Botev gr.Kocherinovo  
Rumiana Valentinova SOUICHE gr.Blagoevgrad  
Ivan Gerasimov 106 "Grirorij Camblak" gr.Sofiia  
Mariiana Stoianova Vylcheva 106 "Grirorij Camblak" gr.Sofiia  
Dafinka Maksimova Samardzhieva OU L.Karavelov gr. Peshtera  
Maia Stefanova Pencheva OU Vasil Levski s. Vidrare  
Rumiana Dimitrova Lazarova OU Vasil Levski s. Vidrare  
Mila Kostadinova Mancheva s. Lopian  
Rumiana Dancheva OU "Sv. Kl.Ohridski" s.Aleko Konstantinov  
Todorka Vasileva Atanasova OU Dobri Vojnikov s. Pobeda  
Galia, Dimitrichka, Sevzhan, Tania Orliak  
Maia Kostadinova Krushevec  
Stanka Pejcheva Koeva OU "Otec Paisij" Ravna Gora  
Mima Kondova OU Jordan Jovkov" Iambol  
Diana Dimitrova Coneva OU Jordan Jovkov" Iambol  
Diiiana Slavova NU Dylgopol  
Seher Baiazidova Goshkelova SOU "Liuben Karavelov"  
Lidiia Todorova Kostova 2 NU Vasil Levski gr.Omurtag  
Slavka Veselinova Georgieva OU G. Rakovski s.Goliamo Novo  
Iliiana Milanova Zhekova OU "G.S. Benkovski" s.Belomorci  
Pepina Dimitrova Ivanova OU Sv.Sv.Kiril i Metodij s.Iasenovec  
Velislava Nikolaeva Bobeva OU Sv.Sv.Kiril i Metodij s.Iasenovec  
Ekaterina Dimitrova Minkova SOU P. Hilendarski gr. Vyrbica  
Marina Davidova Mitova SOU P.Hilendarski gr.Vyrbica  
Slavka Ivanova Bozadzhieva SOU Cerkovski s. Nikola Kozlevo  
Ivelina Zdravkova Hristova SOU C. Cerkovski s. Nikola Kozlevo  
Refat Hiusein Talib SOU C. Cerkovski s. Nikola Kozlevo  
Diana Toncheva Georgieva OU Hr.Botev s. Kaspichan  
Margarita Ivanova Georgieva OU Hr.Botev s. Kaspichan  
Tatiana Ilieva Miteva OU "Sv. Kl. Ohridski" s. Stoian Mihajlovski  
Elena Zhechkova Vyrbanova OU Sv. Paisij Hilendarski gr. Pliska  
Mariia Zheliazkova Nikolova OU "Otec Paisij" s. Stefan Karadzha  
Rumiana Stefanova Vyrbanova OU C. Cerkovski Sredishte  
Plamena Josifova OU "Otec Paisij" Prof. Ishirkovo

Stefan Danailov Borisov    OU Hr. Botev s.Kirchevo  
Magdalena Evgenieva Jotkovska    OU Kl.Ohridski    gr. Bukovlyk  
Temenuzhka Hristova    OU "Anton Strashimirov"    Bohot  
Temenuzhka Cvetkova Kostovska    SOU "Hr. Smirnenski"    Kojnare  
Violeta Deshkova    Zlatarica  
Mariia Mihova    Dzhuliunica  
Cvetelina Taeva    Balvan  
Svetlina Jordanova Vylcheva    OU Hr. Botev gr.Dunavci  
Jovka Cvetanova Rasheva    NU Hr. Smirnenski    gr. Biala Slatina  
Evgenij Angelov    NU Hr. Smirnenski    gr. Biala Slatina  
Petрана Gosheva Cvetkova    OU.Sv.Sv.K.Methodij    c.Malorad  
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Elena Mancheva    1 OU N.Pyrvanov    Lom