



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

**Minutes 2nd Quality Evaluation Group meeting
October 4, 2012
Campus Mundet, University of Barcelona**

The 2nd Quality Evaluation Group meeting was held October 4th from 17:30 to 19:00 in Mundet Campus at the University of Barcelona. In this meeting, a proposal has been raised with orientations and recommendations about Report 1 and Report 2, currently in preparation. This proposal was based in the methodological guidelines of the project. To that end, CREA team opened the meeting briefly recalling ROM UP! project aims, as well as the functions of the Quality Evaluation Group and the criteria for the selection of Successful Educational Actions (SEA).

The meeting's main objective was to present Report 1 final version to QEG members, regarding some key elements, such as methodology and definition of SEA, and to present a draft of Report 2, its aims and the methodology that is being used to collect the voices of the actors involved in the different experiences.

Regarding Report 1, QEG members highly appreciated the inclusion of policies for Roma integration both at the European and national level. The importance of providing quantitative and qualitative evidences of SEA's success related to Roma children's school achievement was also highlighted, because usually there are available data about truancy/school attendance, but not about academic performance. This remark was a key factor, because successful actions are not only aimed at reducing truancy, but also at fostering school achievement. Finally, QEG expressed satisfaction about the collection of the 11 SEAs selected in the 1st meeting.

Regarding Report 2, various suggestions were made in order to to ensure the inclusion of all the actors' voices.

In general, the need of collecting the voices of roma families in all the experiences was remarked: to know their opinions, points of view and personal experiences is very important in order to provide positive examples that transform all stereotypical images of Roma community regarding education. Another suggestion of QEG was the inclusion of different personal profiles in all the experiences (taking into account age, gender, SES or academic level...). The inclusion of elder people voices was highlighted, because they are important reference figures for ROMA children.

Some particular suggestions are listed below:

- Decisive family/community participation. Spain

In addition to the groups already covered by the project (families, students and professionals), it was suggested to include the testimonies of teachers, as a way of finding out their opinion regarding family participation, as well as their view about ROMA community. Families' voice was pointed out as a key aspect on children' school success. It is necessary to ensure that family members are aware of their rights and



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

obligations regarding schools, participate in decision-making and are concerned about education.

- Roma students meetings. Spain

QEG members considered that it would be very important to collect Roma men' voices (husbands, fathers, sons, brothers...). Roma community is usually accused of sexism. In this sense, these testimonies may be very transformative in order to overcome this stereotype.

- Decreasing the drop-out rate among Roma children – Bulgaria.

It is not only important to collect testimonies ensuring that Roma children are attending school, but also that they are improving academic achievement.

- Roma culture classes in state school curriculum in Bulgaria.

It will be interesting to include the point of view of non-roma people (students, family members, teachers), in order to know its opinion regarding this classes (change in their consideration of roma people, improvement of relations...). It would be also interesting to collect children' voices.

- Socio-Medical Centers for Romas (Women's Place in Aliveri – Nea Ionia, Volos) Greece.

In this experience, the collection of local authorities' and professionals' voices is crucial, in order to find out what is the conception of non-roma people. Anyway, the voices of roma women must have priority over the rest of the voices.

Given this, **Quality Evaluation Group proposes:**

- 1) All the participants in the project must take into account these orientations in order to ensure the impact of the project as well as its quality.
- 2) To the extent possible, all the participants should collect as much voices as possible among these suggestions.
- 3) Special attention must be paid in ensuring that the life-stories of the families participating in the experiences are included.
- 4) Report 2 must incorporate all the relevant information regarding the procedure and the profile of all voices included.