

Providing access to quality pre-school programs for Roma children and their parents

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Projects

Finished projects:

- UVRVI – Successful integration of Roma children into the educational process.(2008-2011)
- National evaluation study on a success of Roma children in the first triad of primary school (2009-2011)
- Raising the social and cultural capital in areas where the members of Roma community live (2010-2013)

Current projects:

- Providing access to quality pre-school programs for Roma children and their parents (2014-2016)
- Khetaun (Together): a crucial step toward the integration of Roma children in quality pre-school programs (2015-2017)
- Zoraleder (Stronger): trough REYN of Slovenia towards the raise of awareness of the importance of quality of early childhood education (2016-2017)



Fundamental activities

- Training for expert development of professional workers
- Implementation of class observation by reflection after the observation and the creation of individual plans of professional development
- Implementation of regular monthly monitoring and other forms of professional support
- Implementation of activities for the integration of a kindergarten with Roma and a wider local community
- Designing and issuing publications (trilingual picture books and dictionaries, manuals for animators, grammar of Romani of Prekmurje region, materials for the empowerment of Roma families, etc.).
- Establishment of a network Reyna Slovenia



About a project *„Providing access to quality pre-school programs for Roma children and their parents“* (PPROS)

- Financer: Open Society Foundations London
- Duration: 2014-2016

In cooperation with six kindergartens we are developing three models for access to quality preschool programs:

- **model 1:** focused on the expansion of the range of high quality pre-school programs for Roma children who are not enrolled in kindergartens, and their parents;
- **model 2:** aimed at raising the quality of direct educational work in sections of the first (0-3) and the second (3-6) age group, in which Roma children are included;
- **model 3:** is aimed at the simultaneous functioning of the kindergarten in the direction of expanding services for Roma children who are not enrolled in kindergartens, and their parents, and at raising the quality of direct educational work in sections, in which Roma children are included.



WHY?

- So far the outcome of research around the world clearly demonstrates that quality programs for preschool children where the families are also included, contribute significantly to the development of potentials and the quality of children's lives of not only in the preschool period, but also later in life, and so also to the progress of society as a whole (Grunewald and Rolnick, 2007, Vonta, 2009).
- The effect of high-quality programs has proven beneficial for all children, but most of all for those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and Roma children are definitely among them (ibid).



EFFECTS

At children's level:

- higher confidentiality, security, easiness and openness of children in relation to professionals and kindergarten as an institution;
- raising children's abilities in various areas of development (language development, social development, emotional development ...);
- increased enrolment of children in kindergarten and more regular attendance at kindergarten.





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At parent's level:

- higher confidentiality, security, easiness and openness of parents in relation to professionals and kindergarten as an institution;
- higher interest for enrolment and increased enrolment of children in kindergartens;
- more caring attitude of parents to kindergarten and school (eg. regular bringing of apologies on absence, less late arrivals of children in kindergarten, etc.);
- attending the afternoon activities in the kindergarten, organized for all parents;
- improving educational approaches and development incentives in the child's home environment.



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At professional workers' level:

- establishment of personal contact with Roma children and their parents, and mutual trust;
- increased awareness in the field of identifying and eliminating prejudices and stereotypes in the field of education;
- increased awareness about the importance of inclusion of Roma children and their parents in pre-school programs and motivation in this field;
- better awareness and knowledge of the Romani language and culture;
- raising the competence of professionals in the field of implementation of various forms of educational activities for Roma children and their parents.



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At the local level:

- integration of the Roma community with the majority population;
- greater awareness of members of the local community about the importance of inclusion of Roma children and their parents in pre-school programs;
- understanding the importance of an integrated approach of representatives of local authorities in facing the challenges in this area.

At the national level:

- involvement in the preparation of a new Roma Integration Strategies for the period 2016-2021 at national level;
- involvement in monitoring the accomplishment of the Strategy of Education of Roma in the Republic of Slovenia on MIZŠ.



INOVATIVENESS

- Upgrading existing examples of good practice.
- Building on the needs / desires / interests of the Roma community.
- The introduction of different models of professional support and the use of ISSA tools for professional development of staff.
- Introducing different ways of documenting the process of changing practices at the pre-school level.
- Cooperation with the international network of REYN, with the aim of providing affordable and quality pre-school programs for Roma children.



CHALLENGES

- Increased access to quality pre-school programs for Roma children and their parents in all areas where members of the Roma community live.
- More numerous inclusion of Roma children in pre-school programs, with a special emphasis to children in the first age group (up to now the enrolment of children in the second age group has increased).
- Improved motivation for professionals to work on the integration of Roma children in pre-school programs.
- Greater participation of Roma parents in pre-school programs, with particular emphasis to the inclusion of fathers, and empowering their parental competencies.



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- Intensification of cooperation of kindergarten with the local community in the field of integration of Roma children in education.
- The introduction of Roma mediators, who would represent a link between the Roma family and the various institutions in the local environment.
- Systematization of a Roma assistant job and renaming a Roma assistant to a "teaching assistant".
- Connecting of S / REYN network with other existing REYN national networks.
- A greater impact on educational policy.



THANK YOU!
PARIKERAV!

