

# Centre for the support of Roma of the Municipality of Megara

Good Practices



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**"ΗΡΟΔΩΡΟΣ"**  
του Δήμου Μεγαρέων



Lifelong  
Learning  
Programme

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# “Irodoros- Municipality of Megara

- Public Organisation of Social Solidarity and Sport
- Established in 2011
- Supervises 4 kindergardens, 3 Centres of Open Protection of Older People (KAPI), 3 units of “Help At Home”, municipal sport places and 1 centre for the social and medical support of Roma.



# Roma in Greece

- Roma are present in Greece from the 15<sup>th</sup> century
- They live usually in the outskirts of the cities all over Greece
- Most of them are Greek Orthodox, have Greek nationality, use the Greek language and have Greek names. A Muslim Roma minority lives in Thrace
- Population 250.000 people (source: National Committee on Human Rights).

# Roma in Megara

- 1323 inhabitants
- Difficult socioeconomic situation
- Efforts from the Municipality for the improvement of the situation

# Innovative Elements

- Direct involvement and activation of the target group
- Methodology of implementation
  - Networking with other socio-medical centres and other services and promotion of the results of the project to the mass media and the general public
  - Cooperation with organisations and structures of the local authorities
- Valorisation of new technologies in order to increase the effectiveness of the project
  - Establishment of structured processes (e.g. systems for the reception of Roma) and personalisation of the services offered
  - Development of data bases for the Medical Centre (movement of beneficiaries, symptoms, descriptions etc)
  - Development of system for control and management of the expenses of the Roma Support Centre

# Activities of the Roma Support Centre

- First level health services
- Supporting to Roma to deal with bureaucratic requirements
- Support Roma to find employment
- Education support in order to reduce early school leaving
- Support of the children and the families
- Social protection of the Greek Roma
- Provision of counselling services
- Improvement of the hygiene situation
- Support to deal with various every day issues that occur

The centre is equipped by the following professionals:  
Sociologist, Health Visitor, Psychologist, Special Pedagogue,  
Specialist in employment issues, legal practitioner and  
intermediator

# 1. Sociologist

- Registration and evaluation of the social needs of the settlement
- Reception of incidents (registration of data and identification of special problems of the people)
- Contribution to the prevention and dealing with socio-economical problems of the people and the families
- Social work with: a) the beneficiaries b) groups of beneficiaries (family etc.), settlement
- Intermediation, information, connection with the relevant services
- Training on dealing with public authorities

## 2. Health Visitor

- Follows the medical treatment of people where necessary
- Offers nursing advices for the better and faster cure of the people
- Participates in the sensibilization of the target group in health issues
- Informs persons/ groups (e.g. women) for health issues that emerge
- Vaccinates children and adults
- Promotes women for papanikolaou test/ family planning etc.
- Makes information visits in houses (for new borns, young mothers, relatives of older people etc)
- Makes prevention tests (blood pressure, cholesterol etc)
- Keeps the data of the visits in the medical office





# 3. Intermediator

- The Intermediator is Roma
- Participates in planning, implementation and evaluation of the activities

He is responsible for:

- The development of a trustful relationship and an open dialogue between the members of the Roma community and the staff working in the Centre
- To keep the schedule of the programmes actions both on his side but also on the side of the beneficiaries
- To ensure the just provision of the services of the centre to all people involved
- To inform the centre on emerging issues inside the Roma Community
- To inform on time the beneficiaries on the scheduled activities of the centre and more generally on the activities addressed to them
- To facilitate and empower communication and contacts between the Roma Community and public organisations

## 4. Employment Expert

- Informs on eventual seminars, employment positions, subsidized programmes etc.
- Identification of needs that emerge (e.g. training in language, training in the development of a small enterprise, on how to issue a driving licence etc)
- Has contacts with employers and the job market
- Trains beneficiaries on their effort to find employment

# 5. PSYCHOLOGIST

- Contributes to the diagnosis and performs psychological evaluations (tests and other methods of psychological evaluation)
- Provides psychological support through personal and group sessions as well as family sessions
- Is responsible for keeping the material he possesses regarding the beneficiaries
- Cooperates with the intermediary in the support groups for women, adolescents, parents according to the needs
- Cooperates with the staff member who is responsible for the education support for specific groups of children

## 6. EXPERT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT OF THE ROMA CHILDREN

- Identifies and registers the problems in the school inclusion of the Roma children
- Takes care about the integration in the educational system
- Is responsible to resolve problems related with the registration of children at school
- Is providing support courses
- Organises musical, theatrical and other workshops
- Cooperates with teachers of the region
- Cooperates with organisations that can support issues related with education and learning difficulties
- Organises groups of children with common educational interests and needs
- Is taking care of the information of adults related to training programs/ degree acquisition etc.

# Good Practices of the Roma Support Centre

- A. Child Protection- Child Poverty
- Provided services of support, information, counselling and guidance to parents belonging to poor households on the basis of their needs and on the needs of their family members (e.g. promotion to employment, family counselling, information about hygiene etc)
- Provided personalised services to children in order to reduce early school leaving
- Developed additional and cooperative relations with other services and structures leading to an improvement of their social integration
- The rights of the children were developed (in cooperation with relevant Greek NGOs)

# Good Practices of the Roma Support Centre

## B. Activation of Women

- Provision of training and information to Roma women regarding:
  - Hygiene (children care, food, hygiene rules, hygiene management in the community, family budget etc)
  - Household management (money management, bills, how to cover basic needs, cooking, household care etc)
  - Equality/ Human Rights (fight against abuse, rights violation such as early marriages, freedom of speech etc)
  - Empower of women (active persons in the community, the role of women as citizens, as workers, parenting skills etc)

# Good Practices of the Roma Support Centre

## C. Employment

- Usually Roma are not part of the formal job market but they usually work for an informal illegal market.
- Most of the Roma are working in jobs that do not require specific skills (farm workers) and recycling which usually does not have the necessary permissions and are semi-legal



## **Good Practices of the Roma Support Centre**

- Educational Programs for adults and children (cooperation with the University of Athens)
- Participation in events that promote the extroversion of the group
- Cooperation with other structures of the municipality
- Development of initiatives for the development of entrepreneurship
- Training Programs

# Future Activities

- Registration of the Roma culture
- Training cycles of familiarisation with the Greek alphabet and writing of Romani with Greek characters in order to register a story.
- Publicize the book that will come out from this effort



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