



National Seminar

Report, Macedonia, Tetovo, May 2018

1. Aim of the National Seminar

- To bring together major stakeholders dealing with inclusion in schools with particular focus on Roma children
- Presentation of good practices and exchange of impact of such interventions in advancing Roma children inclusion in schools
- Provide opportunity for open discussion among various stakeholder
- Formulation of policy recommendations for better and effective inclusion of Roma children in education
- Visibility of the project activities and establishing further partnership

2. Preparation phase of the National Seminar

2.1 Development of the program

- Development of the program begin early on March 2018
- The program/agenda was developed based on methodological guidelines under WP7-National Seminar uploaded in basecamp
- The seminar guidelines were adopted to national circumstance as to respond expectations of participants
- General structure of the program was communicated with few stakeholders prior to the seminar
- First draft version of the program was uploaded for comments
- Final draft of the program was concluded and uploaded in basecamp

2.2 Content of the National Seminar

The content of the National seminar was structured in the following sections:

- Introduction to the RoMigSc project activities and elearning platform
- Presentation of project activities/interventions in partner countries related to inclusion of Roma and migrants in schools/education
- Presentation of good practices of inclusion of Roma children in schools



- Identifying main challenges for effective inclusion
- Interactive discussions for formulation of policy recommendations

2.3 Invited speakers

- Prof. Kenan Cayir from project partner country Turkey. Delivered presentation titled “Multicultural and Inclusive Education”.
- Mr. Jozek Horvat, the Institute for Romological Studies, Education and Culture, from project partner country Slovenia.

2.4 Invited participants: Representatives of institutions and NGOs

Participants who attended and presented case studies or project results:

- Mr. Redjepali Chupi, Former Director of the Directorate for Promotion and Development of the Languages in the Education for the Ethnic Minorities, Ministry of Education and Science
- Mr. Muhammed Toci, Mesecina-NGO
- Ferdi Ismaili, Sonce-NGO
- Deniz Selmani, Romalitico-NGO
- Egzona Abdiu, Multicultura NGO- Presentation of Inclusion of Young Roma project
- Fatosh Useinova, Roma Resource Center-NGO

Also, representatives of local government institutions for social work engaged directly with activities of Roma issues, volunteers/students working in the integration of Roma in schools attended and contributed with their comments/feedback.

Participant’s list was created all potential attendees were contacted via phone followed by invitation delivered via email.

3. Delivery of the national seminar

Date/Location: 09. 05. 2018, South East European University, Tetovo

No of speakers: 6

No of participants: 28

3.1 Introduction to the RoMigSc project activities

In the first part of the seminar the project Coordinator, Veli Kreci, gave a welcome address, introduced the agenda and asked participants to introduce themselves with special emphasis on their work in relation to the topic. During introductions Mr. Kreci took the opportunity to present the project activities specifically, the WPs 3, 4, 5, & 7 were mentioned as part of interventions as a response to challenges of inclusion in schools. During his presentation he focused on the aim of national seminar, training for teachers, training for volunteers, volunteering work and dissemination of the results of the project. In addition, he explained the role of SEEU as a leader partner in WP4 related to volunteering activities. He emphasized the role of participants in sharing their experience and input for formulation of better policy recommendations, which will be presented to European Commission.

Information on following cycle of activities especially, the volunteering activity schedule and location was shared with possibility to include more volunteers and stakeholders into it. Also, volunteers who have completed the training for volunteers and volunteering activity will be eligible for 6 ECTS credits; and each student has a mentor who will follow the student's work and write a report.

Moreover, the E- Learning Platform and Basecamp were explained. Uploaded materials in the platform and quizzes were presented which need to be taken after attending the training.

During the discussion several issues were discussed and question asked such as:

- There is a need for schools to be more interested and included in the project as they work directly with Roma children in schools.
- Why only 4 countries are involved with activities such as National seminar, Training for Volunteer and Teacher Training?
- Are the activities including national or regional inclusion?
- Is this project focusing on few case studies including only few municipalities, while the results will be valid in national level?
- The possibility to contact and include regional universities in Bitola and Stip in these activities in order to include participation of more students in the project.
- Cooperation with Romaversitas-Skopje, to include more Roma students in the project.

3.2 Presentation of good practices of inclusion of Roma children in schools



In the third part of the seminar, six presenters from institutions and NGOs from Macedonia emphasized the importance of social inclusion of Roma into education environment, and society.

Presentation# 1

Mr. Redjepali Chupi, presented good practices of inclusion of Roma children in schools. There are about 300 active Roma students and 150 graduates (University degree). In 2015/2016, 32 scholarships were provided; 2016/2017, 73 scholarships; 2017/2018, 100 scholarships, whereas the percentage of pupils who continued to university increased to 81%.

In secondary (high) schools there are 1800 Roma pupils in each school year. There is a 57% increase of high school pupils through different Roma inclusion programs from 2005 to 2017. From 2005 OSF scholarships are available for Roma students and from 2009 the Ministry of Education has provided 600 scholarships for inclusion of Roma children in high schools for the 1st and 2nd grade, whereas for the 3rd and 4th year the mentoring system was provided. *Secondary schools-measures:*

- Affirmative measure of enrollment in secondary- 10% lower criteria for enrollment of Roma pupils
- Free textbooks, transportation and accommodation
- Scholarships- law on textbooks standard 2016
- Mentoring and tutoring

Secondary schools-results:

- 2009-2017 more than 5000 scholarships assigned;
- More than 800 mentors and tutors engaged;
- Each school yeas 95% pass;
- Average grade increased from 3.00 to 3.66;
- About 40% (or 100-120) of scholarship holders who finish secondary education continue to university.



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Presentation# 2

Mr. Muhammed Toci, the second presenter stressed that inclusion of Roma students is very important so they will have the chance to give to society from what was given to them, since most of Roma students are pursuing their studies with scholarships. According to Toci, there is a need for plans for education in local level; the community should be involved in creation of policy making by taking into the consideration their needs. In addition, teachers working with Roma children should be of Roma ethnicity background. He presented several projects undertaken for Roma inclusion which had very positive results, however the results of every project can be assessed in long term at least after 4 year of the completion of the project. Moreover, there is a need for more voluntary activities and volunteers, such as students and pensioners who will help Roma pupils in accomplishing their assignments and home works.

Presentation# 3

Mr. Ferdi Ismaili, emphasized the need for more investments in primary education. Tutoring system was efficient which started in 2010-2012 as pilot project, in 2014 raised in bigger project including more municipalities. Results of this project were positive: the drop-out rate decreased significantly; through mentorship program 1303 pupils in primary education (in 5th, 6th and 7th grade) used this assistance. Roma population is concentrated in 9 municipalities and the Roma pupils' drop-out rate is higher 2-3 times compared to non Roma population. As reasons for the high drop-out rate of Roma pupils he stressed the bad socio-economic conditions, lack of knowledge of Macedonian language, low literacy of parents, low conditions at home and 'phantoms' not registered children, emigration or circular migration of Roma. In addition, Roma children are often exposed to misuse of their labor work in informal of economy. The recommendation is to be formed a commission which will include the Roma children in schools (ones that return from migration or from streets) based on tests, in order to continue their education based on their knowledge in appropriate grade.

Presentation# 4

Mr. Deniz Selmani, discussed the challenges and problems of Roma children at university level. He emphasized discrimination from the administration, professors and colleagues at university toward Roma students. Roma students encounter with problems such as lack of support from professors; difficulties during exam sessions,



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low self-confidence as a result of discrimination from failed exams and quitting studies because of financial problems.

Presentation# 5

Ms. Egzona Abdiu-presented the project of Multicultura that they are working since February 2018 on inclusion of Roma children in schools in municipality of Tetovo. They use a questionnaire to investigate discrimination of Roma children covering the 9th grade of elementary schools and high schools. They involve the municipality in the project and they aim to bring together pupils, parents and professors. Through this project Roma people will have free legal help for documents needed to register children in schools. Parents need to be more present in the education of their children, they need to be more represented in council of schools.

4. Interactive discussions for formulation of policy recommendations

Discussion followed after the presentations in which the following main issues were of discussions interests:

- we need to assure that policy measures are in line with needs of Roma children;
- policies to be changed according to the needs; policies which were successful to be general, to be implemented not only for Roma children but for all children in need;
- there is a need for early warning system (SMS-text message) to the parents that 'your child is not at school'- warning on time so we can prevent drop-out rate to increase;
- protocol for data on circular migration, social administration to forward the information with local administration and the schools;
- volunteering- proves to be of great importance in increasing awareness as well as fostering school inclusion
- at university 'volunteering' course to be included in t curriculum as an elective course;
- social workers to be included in t policy making process;
- case management access –working case by case with families;
- social workers to visit families of Roma children who do not attend schools in order to lower the drop-out rate;



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- a need for day center for the children in streets, these children will be registered in schools and through the day centers they can do their homework with mentors/tutors

At the end of the seminar, participants were asked to complete the national seminar evaluation form and certificate of attendance handed in.

Листа на учесници на национален семинар - Вклучување на деца Роми во наставниот процес -
Мај 09, 2018 ЈИЕУ-Тетово

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