National Seminar

Report, North Macedonia, Skopje, September 26, 2019

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 May-June 2019
- 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 (Annex 1)

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

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- 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

- Mr. Ixhet Memeti, Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia
- Mr. Samka Ibraimovski, Member of the Assembly and Leader of PCER Roma Emancipation Political Party.
- Mr. Jozek Horvat, the Institute for Romalogical Studies, Education and Culture, from project partner country Slovenia.
- Professor Maja Muhic, Expert in Multicultural Education

2.4 Invited participants: Representatives of institutions and NGOs

National and local government representatives, representatives from NGO sector, head teachers, educators, and counsellors.

Also, individuals working as social workers engaged directly with activities of Roma issues, and volunteers/students working in the integration of Roma in schools.

List of participants was based on consultation with our partners and based on previous collaboration with head teachers, representatives from institutions, and NGO representatives.

All potential attendees were contacted via phone followed by invitation delivered via email.

3. Delivery of the national seminar

Date/Location: 26. 09. 2019, South East European University, Skopje campus

No of speakers: 4

No of participants: 30

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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.

Moreover, the E- Learning Platform was explained as one important project output and a great tool for teachers and social workers. Uploaded materials in the platform and quizzes were presented which need to be taken after attending the training.

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

The session was followed by detail presentation by Mr. Ixhet Memeti, Ombudsman, in regard to recently released report on Roma Inclusion and potential obstacles for effective strategies for inclusion. The Ombudsman presented the report titled "Ombudsman's Perception on Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and National Strategy 2005-2015 in the Republic of North Macedonia" which was followed by interactive discussion.

Mr. Samka Ibraimovski, Member of the Assembly and Leader of PCER Roma Emancipation Political Party in his presentation gave an overview on "challenges for effective implementation of strategies for inclusion" from political perspective followed by discussion on need for better coordination and cooperation with schools and teachers in achieving better results.

Professor Maja Muhic, in her presentation provided examples what to consider when teaching in multicultural environment; how to deal with stereotypes in classroom; national strategies for better inclusion and issues with integration in Macedonian society.

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4. Interactive discussions for formulation of policy recommendations

All sessions were organized as interactive as possible with aim to provide equal basis for participation. In line with discussions below policy recommendations could be summarized:

- 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;
- 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

5. National Seminar Evaluation Analysis

At the end of the seminar, participants were asked to complete the national seminar evaluation form and certificate of attendance was handed in. The evaluation questionnaire was filled in by 30 respondents, in the age group from 18 to 56 years, among them 11 males and 19 females.

Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are giving summary of training evaluation:

− Majority of respondents were teachers (62%), followed by civil society activists/volunteers (26%), students (9%) and public administrator (3%).

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- Figure 2 shows that 74 % of respondents have been involved in the area related to Roma children, 18% in the area of volunteering, 5% in the area related to migrant children, and 3% of respondents have not been involved in any of the areas. Further on analysis show that 70% of respondents had previous experience with specific methods to integrate Roma and migrant children into learning environment.

- As Figure 3 shows, the respondents were very satisfied with the training - on the scale from 1 to 4, satisfaction was 3,68. Most of the respondents were satisfied with the materials in e-classrooms (score 3,7), with discussion about general context of integration of Roma and migrants (3.67); and opportunities to exchange experiences with peers and colleagues (score 3,67).

- From Figure 4 it is evident that the level of satisfaction with opportunities to discuss things was slightly higher than the perception of learning new knowledge (77% vs 60%).

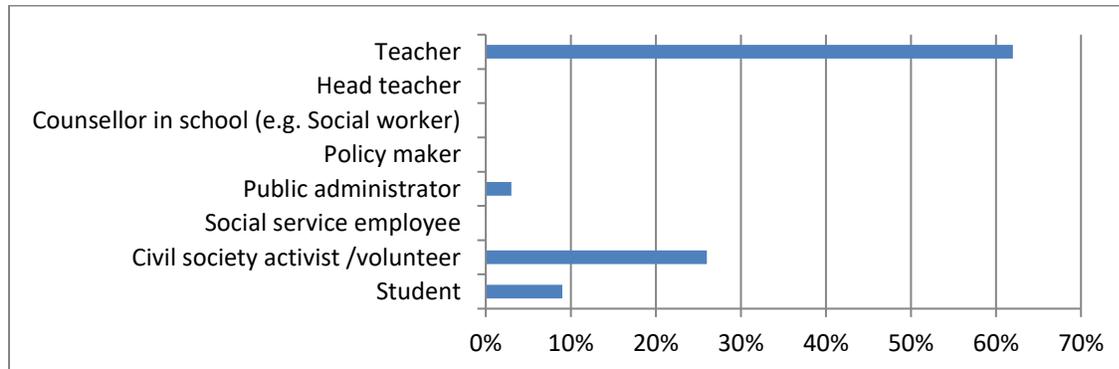*Figure 1: Structure of participants (count):*

Figure 2: Experience of participants (count):

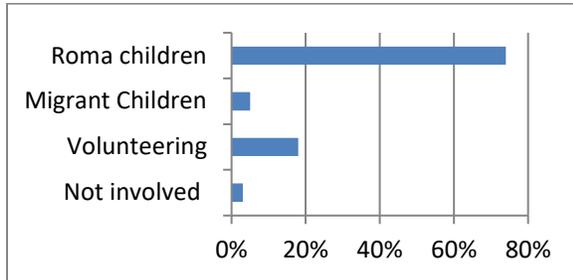*a.) professionally, involved in the areas of activities related to*

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b.) previous experience with specific methods to integrate Roma and migrant children into learning environment
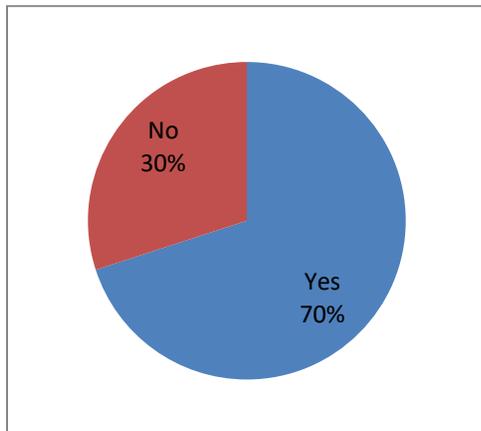
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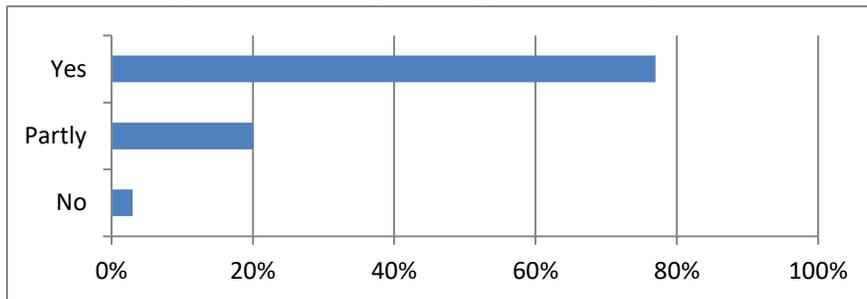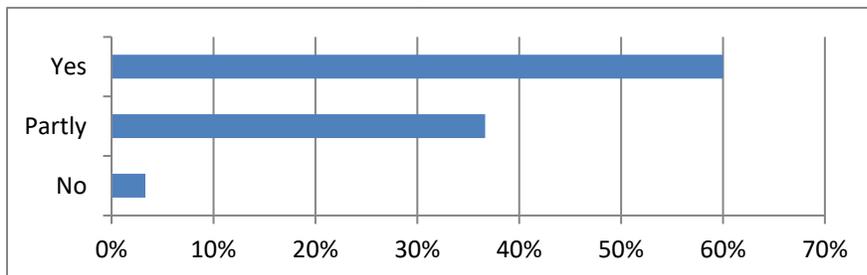*Figure 3: Assessment of content and methodology of presentations (grades from 1 to 4):*
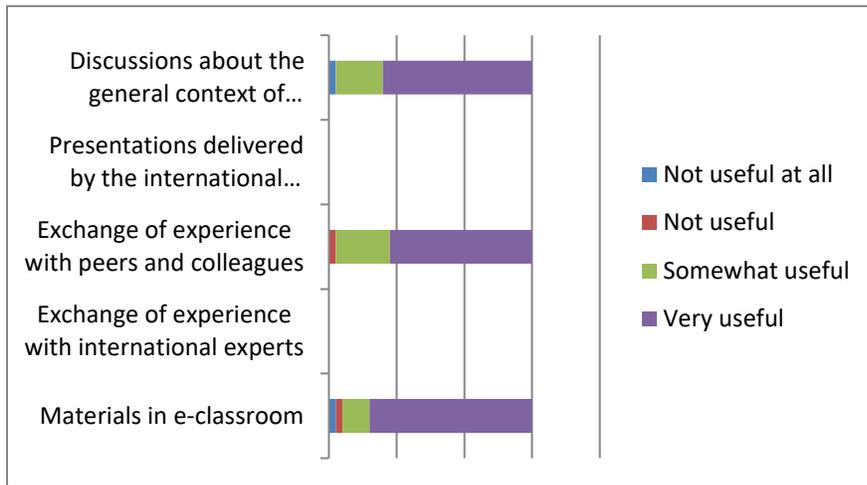
Figure 4: Learning and discussion (frequency in %):

a.) *Had opportunities to express suggestions and opinions*

a.) *Had obtained new knowledge in the event*

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ANNEX 1

Dear project partner,

We cordially invite you to participate at National Seminar titled **Social inclusion through education – inclusion of Migrant and Roma children in schools/education** organized within the RoMigSc project acitivities at SEE University campus in Skopje. Please find more information on the project at https://romigsc.eu/?lang=mk.

Event name: National Seminar
When: September 26, 2019
Place: South East European University, Skopje campus
                Arhiepiskop Angelarij, nr.1 (the enterance of Bit Pazar from the side of Stone Bridge)

Maximum number of participants: 30

Target group: Target group: National and local government representatives, representatives from NGO sector, head teachers, educators, and counsellors.

Skopje, SEE University

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National Seminar

Thursday, September 26, 2019

Wednesday, September 26, 2019		
09:45	Arrival and Registration	
10:00-10:30	Welcome and Introduction to the RoMigSc project activities. Welcoming remarks Presentation of project activities and the project e-platform	Moderator: Prof. Jonuz Abdullai Memet Memet, Dean, Faculty of Contemporary Social Sciences, SEE University. Project team members
10:30-11:00	Ombudsman's Perception on Implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and National Strategy 2005-2015 in the Republic of North Macedonia (Согледување на Народниот правобранител за спроведувањето на Декадата за инклузија на Ромите и Националната стратегија 2005-2015 во Република Северна Македонија)	Ixhet Memeti, Ombudsman of the Republic of North Macedonia
11:00 11:35	Inclusive and multicultural education Инклузивна и мултикултурно образование	Maja Muhic, PhD
11:35-12:00	Presentation of the RoMigSc project activities in schools/education. International perspective	International Expert: IRSIK, Slovenia & Project Partner Institution: Jozek Horvat (Institute for
12:00-		

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12:20 12:20-12:35 12:50 13:00	Presentation of Volunteering experiences Interactive session Certificate ceremony: Delivery of certificates for Volunteers Cohort 2019	Romalogical Studies, Education and Culture, Murska Sobota) Sibel Bajram Moderator Mentor and project coordinator
13:00-14:00	Cocktail	
14:00 15:30	Presentation of good practices of inclusion of Roma children in schools	Representatives of institutions and NGOs
15:30 16:30	Formulation of policy recommendations	Interactive discussion

RoMigSc Project_National Seminar-Volunteers_SEEU Skopje_26.09.2019

No.	Name & Surname	School	Status	Signature	e-mail
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23			
24			
25	Іния Олена-Теодора	Брака Рами-Хамид		
26	Рануг Вуцяе	Брака Рами-Хамид	наставник	
27	Еурем Гамер	Брака Рами-Хамид	наставник	
28	Мие Нестрариски	Брака Рами-Хамид	НАСТАВНИК	
29	Дид Нимевск	Брака Рами-Хамид	НАСТАВНИК	
30	Аристипа Браурско	Брака Рами-Хамид	наставник	brajkoska@gmail.com

31. Бижила Косроз   СУ Брака Рами-Хамиду   стди наставник   брајкоска @ gmail.com
32. Вилеса Нобои   Сумши   наставник
33. Єлена Чеданин   Наставптиковрошсток   настие
34. Длмир Хамин   И П
35. Андрея Вешиикошие   СД Брака Рами-Хамид   стдн наставн