



Inclusion of Roma and Migrants in Schools

Trainings, Open Discussions and Youth Volunteering Activities

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Mednarodna fakulteta
za družbene in poslovne študije
International School
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INSTITUTE FOR ROMOLOGICAL STUDIES,
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Erasmus+, KA3: Initiatives for policy innovation –
Social inclusion through education, training and youth
Project number: 580228-EPP-1-2016-1-SI-EPPKA3-IPI-SOC-IN
3-year project: 31 December 2016–31 December 2019.
Project countries: Slovenia, Germany, Spain, Italy, FYR of Macedonia, Turkey.

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Slovenian RoMigSC experiences

Andrej Koren

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Slovenian education

800 schools and kindergartens

35.000 teachers

300/22 overall size

Advisory 2–3 members team in each school:
social workers, „pedagogical experts“,
psychologists

- Roma population, mostly in 2 regions
- Migrants – 3 waves

Migrants

- Seminars, trainings for teachers, headteachers ...
- Seldom over 10 percent of all pupils in particular school
- Participants response: satisfied, active, looking for more
- Excuses: we didn't notice the invitation, overload with everyday matters
- If ...
- Lack of whole school approaches/policies
- great expectation for external support, help

Lesson learned so far:

- Teachers low expectations develops children low expectations
- Constant support and help can be segregation: ongoing teachers' support makes them incompetent in other children's eyes. We must not support them always and immediately – we should wait if the help indeed will be needed.
- We should not stress their weak knowledge
- Prejudices flow from parents to their children

- when migrant children come to high school classmates often help them to facilitate their understanding of Slovenian language
- when migrant students of high schools go to obligatory practice outside schools, they have problems to communicate in Slovenian language
- it was stressed that volunteers support would be instrumental in helping secondary students to better integrate into school and in the local environment.
- And of course: Importance of cooperation with parents and community

Roma children

- The Roma community in the Republic of Slovenia does not have a status of a national minority, but it is treated as an ethnic community with unique ethnic characteristics.
- There are still deep-rooted prejudices against Roma, making their successful integration into society more difficult.
- Problems of kindergarten Pušča

- Teachers and social worker make visits to Roma settlement, educate, work, and with Roma parents. They deliver programs “lets’ make school attractive”, workshops, outdoor activities, 3 times per week.
- School’s Roma assistant helps in Roma settlement too.
- Developing literacy competence for Roma children.
- Learning contracts – signed by teachers, parents, children- how will we work
- The whole school dance on Roma music once a year.
- Celebrations on Roma holidays.
- Roma children perform Roma dancing on the main stage nearby city of Lendava.
- Roma children are supported and encouraged to take part in national school competitions
- Reading hours for parents and their children.

- Volunteers: students from different faculties
- Different schools response and readiness
- Different time needed to start with activities
- Problems:
- sustainability, time,
- systematic approach of national (projects) dis-
coordination
- expertise

- Good schools are able to cope with new situations with less problems – they are ready already ...
- Their everyday activities are aimed to give equal opportunity for all students
- They successfully develop the full integration: it is possible only and because of school's effort and results in personalised learning, active teaching methods, building social and cultural capital, whole school approach
- But, almost, without exceptions - caring



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Thank you!



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