



Structural Funds: Investing in Roma

www.euromanet.eu

Summary-WG on Education

Mytelene, 2nd October 2008

Participants representing Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Sweden and European Commission took part in the discussions. It started with some examples of best practice. Discussion focused on the need of extended teacher training for Roma students and the need for in service training of majority teachers. The object is to perform better Roma inclusive intercultural education and Roma teacher representation in schools with Roma students. Taking care that this would not lead to segregated schools

There are **many challenges** for all European schools and the overall educational system and all positive initiatives are welcome. We need Roma teachers educated and Roma assistants trained to serve as role models and bridge builders. This requires a long-term strategy and a strong commitment. Efforts like this can be connected with long-term programs like plans for structural funds and national plans. Other issues that should also be brought up is the need for implement evaluation criteria on funding effectiveness as well as foster on more active education policies...legislation is not enough.

The Slovak example of good practice has a Roma curricula course and suitable learning materials for 15-17 year old students. The courses are supposed to be followed by Roma language and culture education at universities to encouraged skills that can be connected with academic exams.

Another example of good practice from Spain was discussed during working group session. In order to enhance knowledge among majority teachers to meet newly arrived Roma students, teachers were offered digital learning materials for in service training. Schools organised teachers to study the presentation material and to work with the practices. Material was produced, distributed, supported and evaluated by a national body. Examples like this could be shared and spread especially using the Internet.

The working group decided to look for some more examples of good educational practices as two was considered not enough to make a decision. **Examples will be sent to WG Coordinator/Technical Secretariat before November 2nd.**

In order to find solutions to advance on the educational field of people with Roma background the working group decided to organise a **study visit in February-March 2009 in the case we came to select an example** and consider it relevant enough. The working group discussed possibilities of using tools as scholarships, distance education, special commitments from Roma students, from universities and local authorities to build successful programs. The study visit will be organized by the Hungarian ESF representative to the country selected in coordination with the Technical Secretariat. Invitations will be sent from the Network MC to all Network representatives. They will be told to look for new participants in the educational working



Structural Funds: Investing in Roma

www.euromanet.eu

group. Invitation will also be sent to Directorate General (DG) of Education at the European Commission.

Web platforms were also discussed and a Swedish example was presented at the meeting.

Please visit <http://www.modersmal.net> and the “Roma rooms” in aril, kelderash and lovani languages. Free machine translation tools in 24 languages can be used within the network to make information more available, unfortunately not in any Roma language. http://www.google.com/language_tools .

Distance education options were also discussed from another Swedish example. Find courses [Click here](#)

In the case of **expectations** members of the group identified a general issue that should serve as an aim: to achieve, to find proper ways to achieve equal education for all. And in a more practical line we agreed on the following expectations:

- Visibility in the O.P./NAPs/National policies of Roma education needs, indicators, good examples.
- Recommendations for better planning
- Good ideas and projects: what does it work
- Common projects

The main concerns expressed by each participant were the following:

- Roma teachers education
- Pre schooling
- Prevent early drop outs
- Segregation

The working group finally discussed **the coming years**, how to collect and present material to Network MC in 2009 and 2011. We also talked about the work with national stakeholders during the programming period and the NAPs: in order to give feedback, good ideas, recommendations, etc. Participants keep contact via network website: <http://www.euromanet.net>

The second working group meeting and first study visit will take place in Feb-March 2009.



Structural Funds: Investing in Roma

www.euromanet.eu

Participants 2-3 October 2008

Name	Country	Email
Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz	Poland, Plenipotentiary of Malopolska Voivod for National Minority And Ethnic Issues	emir2@malopolska.uw.gov.pl
Kinga Kryszczuk-Micek	Implementing Authority of European Programmes	Kinga.Kryszczuk-Micek@uwpe.gov.pl
Virag Sandor	EC	Virag.sandor@ec.europa.eu
Eva Carlestål	Sweden, Linköping University	Eva.carlestal@liu.se
Mats Wennerholm	Sweden, National Agency for schools	Mats.wennerholm@skolverket.se
Javier Sáez	Spain, Managing Authority ESF	jsaezdela@mtin.es
Ines Cedron	EUROMA Technical Secretariat	Ines.cedron@gitanos.org
Renata Drienska ¹	Slovakia, Ministry of labour – Managing Authority	Renata.drienska@employment.gov.sk

¹ Non member of the WG, invited to present Experience