Every Child in School

Reducing Discrimination Against Marginalized Children

Roma Role Models Campaign in Romania

Istanbul, December 11, 2013
Inclusive school is:

- open, friendly, tolerant and democratic, with no discrimination;
- with no selection and no exclusion, where all the children are valorized and integrated;
- fostering self esteem for all children;
- valuing multiculturalism.
Roma children register the highest rate of pre-school and school non-attendance and school dropout

WHY?

• socio-economic reasons: poverty, children used as working force;

• cultural and educational reasons: parents with low level of education, lack of confidence in the education system, linguistic difficulties;

• discriminating mentalities towards the Roma population.
Prevention measures (1)

- increasing availability of pre-school services and introduction of a new grade in primary education – the preparatory grade;
- ensuring access to education in the mother tongue of minority children and developing specific syllabus for teaching Romanian language to those children;
- offering special places for Roma pupils for high school and university admission.
• appointing inspectors for Roma children; education in every school inspectorate;
• including the school mediator in the list of auxiliary teaching positions;
• ministerial order from 2007 for bidding school segregation.
• promotion of school after school program, including remedial learning;
• increasing the availability and quality of extra-curricular activities;
• social programs for children coming from disadvantaged families: milk and croissant program, free school supplies, the scholarship called ”Money for high school”, voucher equivalent to 200 Euros, to support the purchase of a PC (national program ”Euro 200”).
Compensation measures

- organizing in mainstream education Second chance programs for primary and lower secondary, with a modular curriculum, flexible timetable, small learning groups;
- validating, in the second chance programs and in VET, prior learning achieved in non-formal and informal settings;
- organizing evening courses and reduced frequency programs as specific routes back to mainstream education.
Teaser - What do you want to be when you grow up?

- increasing self esteem of Roma children;
- addressing discrimination;
- promoting the value of education.
“So, a conclusion could be that we can dream!”

- children dare to dream;
- children explore their strengths and value education;
- schools are inclusive and child friendly.
“It’s a life lesson!”

- real stories of real people;
- Roma role models provide inspiration and motivation for going to school;
- positive and empowering approach!
Thank you!

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