



EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT TO INCLUSIVE SOCIETY



Ministry of Labour, Employment,
Veteran and Social Affairs

Venue: Regional Centre for Professional Development in Education in Nis, Pariske komune str. BB Nis
Date and time: Tuesday 15 November 2016 at 10.00 CET

ROUND TABLE AND MEDIA CONFERENCE ON EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING AND SUPPORT MEASURES TO SCHOOLING OF (ROMA) CHILDREN IN SOUTH SERBIA

Context

According to data available in Second National Report on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction (2014), the educational structure of the population in the Republic of Serbia remains unfavourable. Based on data from the 2011 Population Census, 2% of citizens over the age of 10 are illiterate (five times more women than men), 11% of the population over the age of 15 have incomplete primary education, 20.8% only primary and 48.9% of the population have secondary education. Only 16.2% of the population has higher education. The educational attainment level of the Roma population is considerably less favourable than that of the overall population. A total of 87% of the Roma population has primary education or below, and under 1% have higher education.

There is no defined mechanism for identifying and preventing early school leaving and dropout. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development launched a number of interventions; however, they should be elaborated further, their implementation and efficiency should be monitored and their mainstreaming into the system should be considered. Efforts should be maintained to increase the educational level of the Roma population and ensure full inclusion of Roma children in the education system; new and advance existing support mechanisms (teaching assistants) should be established; efficient coordination between different sectors at the local and national levels should be established (above all, through establishing cooperation with the social welfare and health care sectors). A system for monitoring and reporting on the Roma education level and quality should be developed.

Following the challenges defined at the Strategy on Development of Education in Serbia until 2020, and the needs of children in South Serbia communities, the consortium consisting of the World Vision Osterreich from Vienna, Agroinvest Foundation Serbia and Western Balkans Institute (TUTORING program) from Belgrade, Teacher Training College from Vrsac and Cultural-information Center Pralipe from Pirot, have started in January 2016 implementation of support measures through the "RECI" project.

Project "RECI"



Visoka škola strukovnih studija za vaspitače
„Mihailo Palov“ - Vršac

Pre and Elementary Schooling of Roma: Fostering Opportunities for Greater Attainment and ESL Reduction

Project funded by the European Union and implemented by World Vision Austria in consortium with Agroinvest Foundation Serbia, Western Balkans Institute, Cultural and Information Centre Pralipe and Preschool Teacher Training College Mihailo Palov Vrsac



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In framework of this project:

- Door-to-door campaign of enrolment of Roma children in preparatory programs in preschools and elementary schools has been carried out
- 3 intersectoral networks in the field of prevention of early school leaving in Prokuplje, Bela Palanka, and Knjaževac have been created
- Dropout early warning system mechanism (EWS) has been created
- Introduction of TUTORING program for children in risk of dropping out from school, has started in 4 elementary schools in 3 municipalities
- Manual for preschool teachers with elements of Roma language and culture has been developed
- Activities with parents have begun
- Revision of the Local Action Plans for children has begun in Prokuplje and Bela Palanka while in Knjaževac the revision of Roma education LAP has started

Project "RECI" will be implemented from 17 October 2017 in the framework of the call for proposals "Support to Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups, Including Roma, Through Diversified Social Protection Services" – Lot 2: "Initiatives of Active Inclusion of Roma Population". The project is funded by the Delegation of European union to the Republic of Serbia.

Objectives of round table

The round table in Nis shall be organized not only to present the latest achievements and announce the upcoming events in scope of "RECI" project, but also to:

- Bring together all relevant actors in the field of education and children welfare and initiate the process of networking and cooperation,
- Stimulate the exchange of ideas, experiences and good practices in working with children in risk of dropping out from school
- Initiate new programs and support measures for children and parents in communities, that will enable decrease of early school leaving and better performance of children in education.



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A G E N D A

– DRAFT –

Moderator: Marko Stojanovic

Until 10.00	Gathering of participants
10.00 – 10.20	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Director of the Regional School Directorate in Nis ◆ Representative of DEU/PMU (TBC) ◆ Ms. Olgica Bajic, Open Club Nis ◆ Representative of AFS
10.20 – 10.40	Coffe break and taking of media statements
10.40 – 11.30	Topic 1: "Early school leaving in South Serbia, challenges of Roma community and importance of early enrollment in preschool education system" Introductions by: Ms. Ljubinka Simic (former Roma coordinator), representative of ES Cegar from Nis and Ms. Slavica Komatina (professor at Teacher Training College Vrsac) <i>Discussion</i>
11.30 – 12.15	Topic 2: "Risk identification and intervention: Early Warning System Mechanism and TUTORING program" Introductions by: Mr. Federico Sicurella/ Ms. Jelena Nastic-Stojanovic (program author) and Ms. Andjelija Roglic (TUTORING program trainer) <i>Discussion</i>
12.15 – 13.00	Topic 3: "Joint quest of teachers and parents: do we cooperate sufficiently?" Introductions by: Ms. Dragana Ljubisavljevic (principal of ES Vuk karadzic from Knjazevac) and Ms. Dragana Socanin (children and parents cooperation expert) <i>Discussion</i>
13.00 – 13.30	Summing up of conclusions and announcement of upcoming activities and for extending cooperation potential between round table participants
13.30 – 14.00	Lunch and informal discussion



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