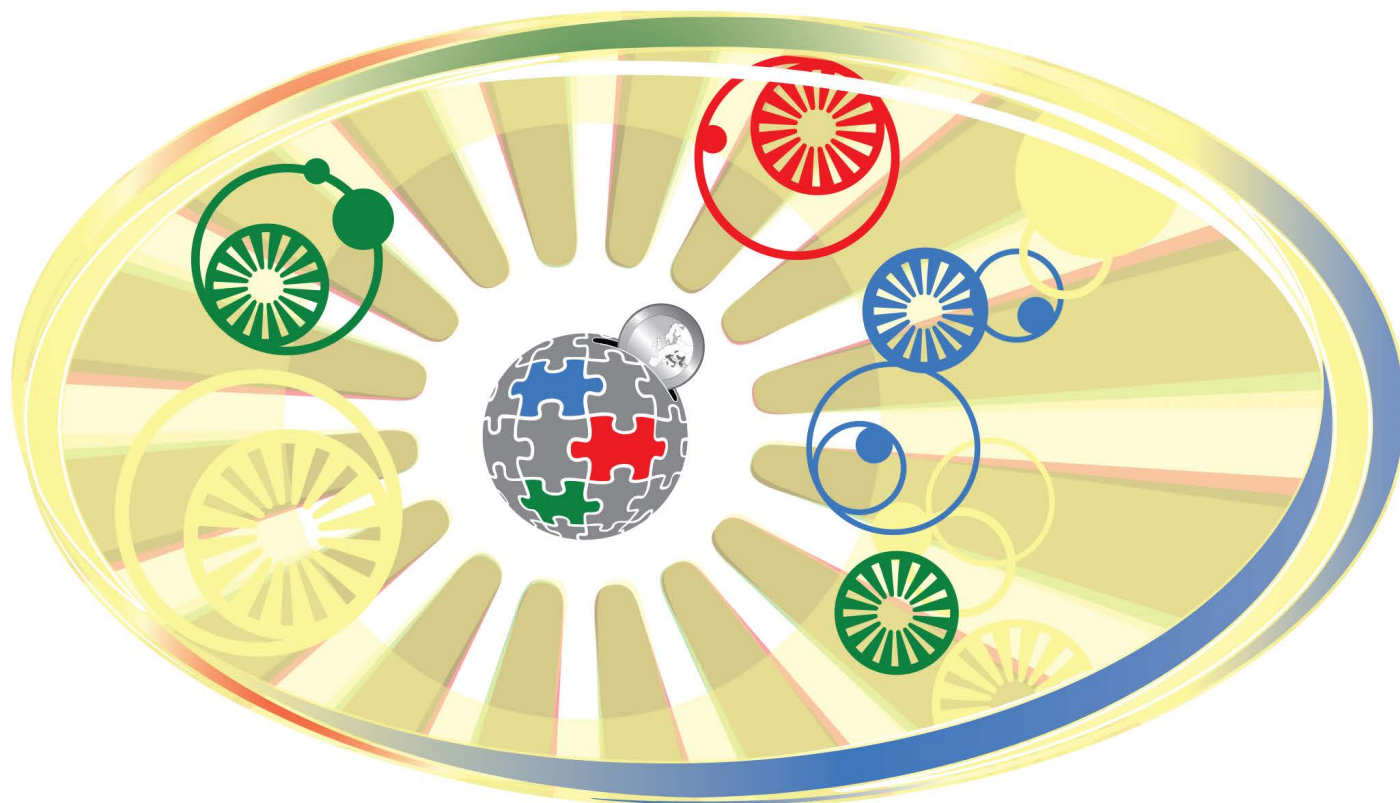




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Project FINALLY Newsletter No. 1

Grundtvig Multilateral Projects

Project FINALLY

Financial Literacy for the Roma

...to raise the level of financial literacy among Roma adults

www.project-finally.eu

The project issue is very important for Bulgaria

In November 2012 a new project, called Financial Literacy for Roma, has started for Health and Social Development Foundation. The issue is very important for Bulgaria, because we have a very big Roma minority and unfortunately the Roma are having trouble with covering

basic needs of their families. The unemployment is quite high, the educational level is low and families have low income. The instable and insecure incomes result in lack of ability for financial management of the family budget. That is why creating a good training course for financial management is an important task to support the development of Roma community in our country.



Photo: Mothers that are visiting our parenting courses and would appreciate participating in the Financial management training.

Faculty of Economics Niš

Lifelong Learning programme Information Day for Serbia was organized by the National Tempus Office in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the Republic of Serbia. The event took place on 5 December 2012, in Belgrade, Palace "Serbia".

It was devoted to announcing the new call for project proposals within the European Union LLP programme, general information and priorities. The event was an occasion to learn about the recently selected projects, i.e. success stories.

The Grundtvig project Financial Literacy for the Roma (FINALLY) was chosen as one of five project examples to be presented at the info day in front of an audience of more than a hundred participants.

Kick-off meeting in Slovenia

On Friday, February 1, 2013, a three-day working meeting with the partners of the project Grundtvig Financial Literacy for the Roma (FINALLY) was completed. The main aim of the project is to improve financial literacy among Roma and to upgrade the understanding of various consumer services. In addition to the Project Coordinator, RIC Novo mesto from Slovenia, the project involves six partners from Italy, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Greece and Serbia.

At the meeting, we coordinated work activities among the partners.

The activities are divided into eight different work packages: WP1 –

Project Management, WP2 – Needs research, WP3 – Development of the Finally Training Course, WP4 – Development of the Finally Toolbox, WP5 – Pilot Implementation, WP6 – Quality assessment, WP7 – Dissemination, WP8 – Strategy and Action. The project will develop an educational program and special teaching methods adapted to the needs of the Roma minority. It will be focused on the acquisition of practical skills, which may contribute to the improvement of the quality of their lives.

The Grundtvig FINALLY project will run until the end of October 2015.



Needs Assessment of Roma in Italy



For the WP2 – Needs Assessment, Codici has involved institutions, organizations and Roma individuals, thus disseminating the aims and actions of Finally project. Codici has contacted 23 professionals working in various departments offering social assistance to Roma people in the Municipality of Bologna and in NGOs. These facilitated the contact with 5 Roma mediators working in the area. About 20 Roma individuals were directly contacted by the field researchers and 9 of them accepted to be interviewed: they are both male and female, Italian Sinti, Romanian and Balkan Roma, living in houses or in camps, and with different occupational statuses. The researchers had the occasion of visiting their houses and spend some time with them seeing how their living conditions are.

Photo by Luca Meola. Codici | Agenzia di ricerca sociale

FINALLY - Making a start in Greece!

In the period November 2012–March 2013 the two Greek partners, Techniki Ekpedeftiki KEK and UPRC, held several meetings to establish the requirements of their work on the project “FINALLY”. A relationship was established between the two project partners, with Roma networks and major representative organizations of the Roma community in Greece. According to the requirements of WP2 “Needs Assessment” interviews were to be conducted with Roma living in two different settings, urban and rural. The urban Roma community selected for the purpose are residents of the town of “Aghia Varvara” in Egaleo-Athens. The informal Roma settlement in “Nomismatokopio” Chalandri, Attica was selected as the rural community where interviews will also be conducted.

FINALLY Focus Group meets in Athens



In the context of the Needs Assessment survey conducted in Greece, the recently formed Focus Group met for the first time to discuss issues associated with the project's design and its intended implementation in Greece. The Group consists of about 10 members representing the country's Roma Community, educators and trainers who specialize in Roma education and organizations involved in promoting this Community's general interests and its socioeconomic integration effort.

The Group confirmed the project's relevance and importance of its anticipated impact. Other issues discussed related to the interpretation of financial literacy training needs assessment provisional results and their probable implications for the customized training course development about to start.

The Group also confirmed its intention to support future FINALLY project activities.

The research started also in Slovakia

In the 1st phase, 3 pilot interviews with Roma adults from villages were conducted. For the next stages of the project we started a collaboration with ACEC (Association for Culture, Education and Communication) to plan the next steps together. With the help of ACEC we have carried out till now 7 interviews with Roma inhabitants. The interviews were conducted according to established selection criteria: 3 interviews with adult women over 25, 3 with men over 25 and 1 with a young Roma aged 22. To reach representativeness of the Roma community, we contacted Roma assistants from eastern Slovakia, where the largest group of Roma population is located. Moreover, we involved experts and stakeholders to obtain information on financial literacy needs of Roma and priorities for financial education.



Financial management of adult Roma in Nis



Within the project Finally, a team of researchers from the Faculty of Economics, University of Nis, was conducting a field research aimed at discovering personal finance management habits and consumption patterns of Roma adults in Nis.

The interviews took place in Crvena Zvezda and Beograd mala, two largest Roma settlements in Nis, but also in rural border city areas and in other parts of the city inhabited by mixed population both majority population and the Roma. The aim was to collect relevant information about the state of financial literacy of Roma with different background and to capture the critical needs regarding the training activities for

improvement of their financial literacy that will follow in the project.

Interviews will continue till June together with focus groups with professionals of different walks of life, who have experience in working with the Roma minority and can contribute to increasing knowledge of their financial literacy.

Partners included in the project FINALLY

Development and Education Centre Novo mesto – Slovenia
Codic Social Research Agency– Italy
Trnava University – Slovakia
Health and Social Development Foundation – Bulgaria
University of Piraeus Research Center – Greece
Techniki Ekpedefitiki KEK SA – Greece
Faculty of Economics Niš – Serbia

The Project Coordinator is Development and Education Centre Novo mesto.

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Our mailing address is:

Development and Education centre Novo mesto
Topliška cesta 2
8000 Novo mesto
Slovenia

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