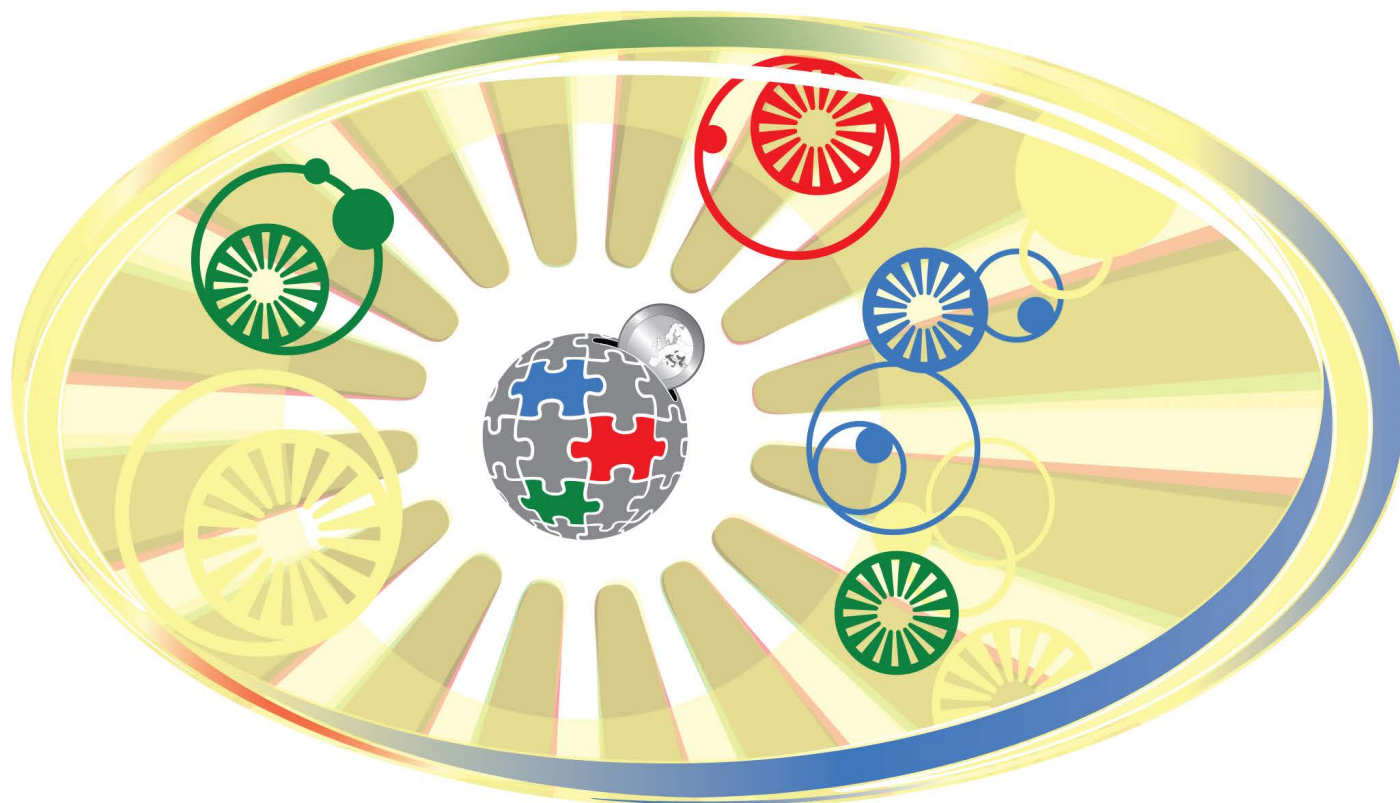




Project No: 527860-LLP-1-2012-1-SI-GRUNDTVIG-GMP  
The project FINALLY is co-funded by the Lifelong Learning  
Programme of the European Union.



## *Project FINALLY Newsletter No. 3, April 2014*

Grundtvig Multilateral Projects

# **Project FINALLY**

Financial Literacy for the Roma

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

[www.project-finally.eu](http://www.project-finally.eu)

---

### **In Serbia the Conference of Financial Literacy**

Project team members of Faculty of economics Niš actively participated in the conference on Financial literacy that took place in Metropol Palace Hotel, Belgrade on October 28<sup>th</sup>. One-day conference agenda tackled many issues that relate to financial

literacy and education, starting from its importance, concepts and assessment, main challenges, and ending with innovative tools and training methods (e.g. educational video games).

The conference was organized by GfK (Growth from Knowledge), a prestigious global research agency. It gathered a number of lecturers of outstanding reputation, academics, representatives of financial services providers, research agencies, educational organization etc. A vibrant closing round table discussion was influenced by the insightful presentations given by Prof. Dr. Erich Kirchler (University of Vienna), Anna Mostetschnig (Three Coins), Bernadett Povazsai-Roemhild (Erste Group), Sonja Buchinger (GfK Austria) and many others.

With a prime goal to raise awareness of an burning issue of financial literacy, particularly for vulnerable social groups, like Romani people, this conference offered an opportunity to gather, share experiences, and discuss the tools and measures able to improve outcomes for societies at large.



---

## Prepared for Action



In the period October 2013 - March 2014 was the main outcome of WP2 National report - Needs assessment. Main findings show that the financial management of the Roma community is significantly affected by the low level of income related to high unemployment. They use with high frequency services of non-banking companies, which leads to an indebtedness of households. They do not use savings and current accounts. One of the most fundamental priorities is financial planning, which may lead to the efficient use of limited resources of households. An important step for the successful continuation of the project in our country was the

conference "Healthy Communities" which directly involved approx. 120 Roma mediators and interested subjects to support Roma communities. Within the conference "Healthy Communities" a cooperation for further phases of the project was established. Area of financial literacy was at the conference "Healthy Communities" outlined as a priority for further development of the Roma community. From this perspective, the project FINALLY can have a positive effect on the level of health of these communities. There were discussed various steps of Toolbox for learning Roma in the area of financial literacy. FINALLY project was presented to the Government Plenipotentiary for Roma communities, which significantly supports the project on the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

---

## In the expectation of the first draft of the Finally course content

The project Finally is already in the phase of preparing the training

methodology for financial literacy of Roma. Based on the results of the fieldwork research conducted in the biggest Roma neighborhood in Sofia, the HESED team proposed 5 main topics that should be included in the methodology: basic financial planning, strategies for increasing the family income based on the individual abilities and skills of each one of the family members, strategies of spending money and planning on unexpected expenses, financial institutions and how to build relationships with them. We are very excited with the first draft of the course content prepared by the colleagues from the Research Centre University of Piraeus, and we are looking forwards the presentation of the methodology next month.



---

### Are Roma and Sinti a target for adult education in Italy?



Most of the existing adult education programs and bodies in Italy are not targeted to a specific population. There are some extemporaneous projects dedicated to the Roma, but these are also very few: at a national level we could not identify any comprehensive or continuous adult education program dedicated to the Roma.

One important direction, which currently involves adolescents more than adults, is the retake for young people who abandoned school but want to obtain the junior high school certificate. Although the experiences are numerous in various parts of the country, they are not specifically designed for the Roma population.

Some isolated examples of adult education for the Roma and Sinti in Emilia-Romagna region, where we carried out the research, are two Equal projects carried out between 2006 and 2008, with the purpose of increasing employment, an activity of adult training in the SRAP project (a course for Roma mediators) and an empowerment project working on entrepreneurship with Sinti women carried out in the framework of Spinner innovation program in Piacenza.

Although the examples of Roma and Sinti adult education programs are scarce, we can still gather some best practice, which will inform the development of the methodology for the Finally training:

- The involvement and constant support of all local stakeholders in organizing and implementing training;
- Attention to the exploitation of the produced material and competences in order to ensure continuity of intervention;
- Active participation of Roma and Sinti in the design and implementation of training programs;
- Use of methodologies that facilitate participation and empowerment;
- Collaboration between different professional figures, especially the use of Roma and Sinti mediators.

The project Finally is already in the phase of preparing the training methodology for financial literacy of Roma. Based on the results of the fieldwork research conducted in the biggest Roma neighborhood in Sofia, the HESED team proposed 5 main topics that should be included in the methodology: basic financial planning, strategies for

increasing the family income based on the individual abilities and skills of each one of the family members, strategies of spending money and planning on unexpected expenses, financial institutions and how to build relationships with them. We are very excited with the first draft of the course content prepared by the colleagues from the Research Centre University of Piraeus, and we are looking forwards the presentation of the methodology next month.

---

### **Teachers for Roma adults are eager to start with pilot implementation of the newly developed Financial Literacy program for Roma**

We have presented the results of the research on Financial literacy of Roma to the teachers who teach in our Primary school for adults on the February meeting for adult education professionals. There are 153 adults, of which 78% are Roma, enrolled in Primary school for adults in Novo mesto. Primary education is free for all citizens. There is a rise in the interest to finish primary education among the young Roma adults, however only few individuals are considering the acquisition of vocational education. Most of the Roma adults are illiterate and are dependant on odd jobs and social welfare. The educational structure of the Roma is very bad, according to the Employment Service of Slovenia and the Centres for Social Work, 95% of unemployed Roma have not completed elementary school.



The teachers in the elementary school for Roma adults are eager to start with the autumn pilot implementation of the newly developed Financial Literacy program for Roma, with which they will be trained to implement this non-formal program, to test newly developed Finally tools and with their experiences and opinions contribute to the development of the program.

Roma councilor Duška Balažek offered to translate project news to Romani language throughout the project lifetime, thus raising awareness of the importance of education and dissemination information about the project.

---

### **Immersed in Roma culture**

For the past few months and in preparation for the production of the FINALLY course and toolbox the project team members in Greece have been immersed in Roma culture. What an amazing experience this has been! We discovered Roma folklore coming down entire generations and we followed the caravans of nomads in their strenuous path across Europe.

Then, we switched gears to the Roma culture of today: the passion for life, the entrepreneurial spirit, the family life, the shifting of attitudes in education, the cultural achievements, the colors so many and so bright and tried to come up with tools that can appeal to the FINALLY course audience.

We also hope that its three modules "Household budgeting", "Shopping Practices" and "Save for the Future" will be in line with the partners' expectations for the course. See you all in Athens!



### Partners included in the project FINALLY

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

The Project Coordinator is Development and Education Centre Novo mesto.

---

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.

This publication [communication] reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

---

*Copyright © 2014 Development and Education Centre Novo mesto, All rights reserved.*

#### Contact:

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

The MailChimp logo, featuring the word "MailChimp" in a white, cursive script font, centered within a grey rectangular box.

---

[unsubscribe from this list](#) \* [update subscription preferences](#) \* [Forward to Friend](#)

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.