



Project FINALLY Newsletter No. 4, October 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

Project FINALLY was presented on the conference on Economic Empowerment of Roma



Between 17th and 18th of June the conference entitled *Economic Empowerment of Roma* was held in Podgorica, Montenegro by on behalf of the Montenegrin Government as the current Presidency country of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 Initiative.

Ms. Marjeta Gašperšič, director of RIC Novo mesto, that runs the Grundtvig Multilateral project FINALLY, presented Financial Literacy for the Roma project and participated in fruitful discussions. All of the presentations from the conference are uploaded on the website of the Decade of Roma Inclusion at the following link:http://romadecade.org/egy-cikk.php?hir_id=9761

The Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015 is an unprecedented political commitment of European governments to eliminate discrimination against Roma and to close the unacceptable gaps between Roma and the rest of society. It is an international initiative that brings together governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, as well as Roma civil society. The Decade is governed through a rotating annual presidency, currently being held by Montenegro. One of the priorities of the Montenegrin presidency is to tackle the issues of poverty of Roma through economic empowerment. This event was envisaged as a catalyst of collecting ideas for government support to economic empowerment of Roma through presenting and discussing best practices of already implemented projects.

Project FINALLY continues with the development of training course

From the 12th until 15th of May the FINALLY partner's project meeting was held in Greece. The main focus of the meeting was discussion about the progress of the project, familiarization with training course and proposal of the methodology for pilot implementation of training. In the initiative step there have been three modules designed for training. On the basis of the discussions with partners and needs assessment in the target countries, the partnership also plans to add the 4th module. The three basic modules of the FINALLY training are „Household Budgeting“, „Saving for the future“, and „Sensible borrowing“. An important part of training ads will be topics which could influence on employment and education of the Roma population as an important prerequisite for the better participation in the labor market and increase of family income. With use of the innovative tools in the training modules the project will strive to increase the level of financial literacy of the Roma population and improve their living conditions.



Dreams Faculty



On 10th of October 2014 a House for creative and educational activities was opened on the territory of the Health and Social Centre in the Fakulteta neighborhood in Sofia. The project "Dreams Faculty" was realized by Transformers Association, Compote Collective and the Health and Social Development Foundation.

The idea for the project was born two years ago out of the comic books of 9 children from the neighborhood, who described what they dream about.

Many guests attending the opening, including the Mayor of Sofia, Yordanka Fandakova.

Children from the kindergarten of the Health and Social Centre and the "L. Pipkov" Musical School presented musical performances.

From exclusion to empowerment - The Roma in Aghia Varvara, Athens

A major part of our research work in preparation for the FINALLY course and training tools development was conducted in the Roma community of Aghia Varvara, a model municipality in the western part of Athens that has successfully assimilated many diverse groups of people including Roma. Far from fitting the profile of low education, unemployment and social exclusion, the Roma residents of Aghia Varvara have achieved middle class status in the time span of less than three quarters of a century. The education situation has also been steadily improving, especially in the last two decades with many young Roma graduating from high school and continuing their studies at University. Already in the nineties, 13,34% of Roma men had graduated from nine year formal compulsory education system, unfortunately the corresponding percentages of women were far lower.

The welcome, that we received from young students, teachers, entrepreneurs, Community leaders and Roma Mediators, graduates of the European Training Program for Roma Mediators (ROMED), made us feel that the FINALLY project has the potential to have a long lasting effect in this and other Roma communities across the country.

Several goals with one shot



The Faculty of Economics Niš, as the part of the regular activities on promotion of its educational services, every year in early May organizes an open-doors day for perspective students. This is the opportunity for all interested to get known with the Faculty's activities. This time the Faculty also hosted the Secondary schools representatives to whom they proposed further cooperation inside the FINALLY framework.

They delightedly accepted to take part in FINALLY training for trainers activity, that is to be launched early in 2015. According to national regulation, secondary school teachers need to undergo continuous education in their field of expertise in order to keep

their knowledge up to date. With this mutually beneficial cooperation, Faculty of Economics will strengthen links with key stakeholders, and consequently strengthen its role as a leading education institution in the field of economics and business management in Serbia. By providing specific tailor-made vocational training the Faculty make the teachers able to gain new experience and take a first step in a completely new area of education of adults and people with special needs. This also sets the foundations for sustainability of FINALLY's results.

Moreover, the Faculty continues the good practice of enrolling the Roma population on the first year of Bachelor study through the special form of privilege. Namely, two percent of all new-entrants come from the affirmative list designated to national minorities and disable persons. So far the majority of those were Roma people.

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

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