



OSCE HUMAN DIMENSION IMPLEMENTATION  
MEETING Warsaw, 29 September – 9 October 2009  
Working Session 15  
Early education for Roma and Sinti children.  
Presentation by Albanian Delegation

Education Situation of Roma Children in Albania

Blerina ZOTO (TEPELENA)  
Technical Secretariat for Roma  
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities

# Education Status

- In Albania there are actually about 5000 Roma children aged 3-16 years
- The 3-5 year age group accounts for 23% of Roma children aged 3-16 years
- Only 13.5% of Roma children aged 3-5 years currently attend pre-school education
- The enrollment rate of children at the legally foreseen age is low. Only 27% of children at the age of 6 currently attend the first grade
- One in about 2 Roma children of school age (6-16 years) has dropped school
- A high rate of dropouts is noted for both genders after 11 years of age



# Education Status



- The rate of Roma girls drop outs after the age of 11 is obviously higher than that of boys (from the age of 12 a total of 23% less Roma girls attend school compared to boys)
- 54% of Roma children of compulsory school age (6-16) have not yet completed a single school grade
- 43% of Roma children aged 15-16 years are illiterate
- Only 5% of students aged 15-16 years follow secondary school
- On an average, Roma children of age-group 15-16 years have completed five years of school
- Over 70% of Roma children do not have all the necessary textbooks and other auxiliary supplies for school

# Education Status



- About 80% of Roma children do not possess a single out- of-school book or newspaper
- Over 90% of Roma children have no place to study at home
- About 70% of Roma children admit that their parents are unable to assist them with their homework
- About 90% Roma children admit that they do not attend any extracurricular course on subjects they have difficulty with
- The quality of education of Roma children is obviously lower than that of non Roma children
- Over 90% of Roma students admit being labeled gypsy/black

# Education Status

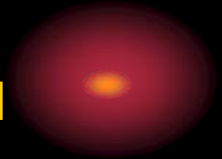


- Over 80% of Roma students sit in the middle or in the last rows in class
- Over 50% of Roma students in mixed classes sit with other Roma students
- One in 2 Roma children admit that teachers engage them in class less than the other non-Roma students
- 46% of Roma students admit that they are punished more by their teachers than the non-Roma students
- One in about 2 Roma students admits that they are assisted less by their teachers compared to other non-Roma students
- The most acute needs of the Roma children: Intensification of pre-school education in Albanian language, the needs for textbooks and school supplies, the needs for an alternative education system, the needs for educators and for entertainment

# Educational status

The reasons why Roma children abandon school:

- Abandonment due to emigration
- Abandonment of school due to language and other difficulties
- Abandonment due to employment
- Interruption of school to protect girls from dangers
- Shame to resume school after interruption of studies
- Abandonment of school due to material shortages (clothes, books, money, means of transport)



# Recommendations

- Improvement of the level of school preparation for Roma children
- Ensuring full participation and enhancement of the level of achievements of Roma children in the compulsory education
- Greater sensitiveness of school curricula to the Roma community
- Enhancement of the Roma community capacities in the field of education for the Roma Children
- Extracurricular activities
- Racism/discrimination/segregation of Roma children



# Policies of the Roma education

- Updates of the national Strategy for Roma and created of the action plan for the "Decade of the Roma Inclusion" paying attention to:
  1. The problem of racism, Discrimination and segregation of the Roma children in school and against the Roma community, in general
  2. The involvement of Roma parents in the education of their children
  3. The changing of the school curricula for reflecting in them the Roma culture, language and history
  4. The increase of flexibility in the education of the Roma giving greater powers to the local authorities in this regard
  5. The gender issues in the education of Roma children





# Policies of the Roma education



- Making available by the state of human, financial and institutional resources for the implementation of the strategy for the Roma education and action plan for the “Decade of the Roma Inclusion”
- Stabilization of the necessary mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the implementation strategy for the Roma and action plan for the “Decade of the Roma Inclusion”