



REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Office for Human and Minority Rights
Roma education in the Republic of Serbia

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Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting
Implementation of the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti
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**Goals of the Republic of Serbia for the education
and upbringing of Roma**

1. Roma inclusion in the education system and enabling continuity in education

•Through developing sensitivity amongst professional public and the wider community for educational needs of Roma

2. Providing quality education

•Through developing educational programs in accordance with educational needs of Roma children and youth and providing and perfecting teaching personnel

3. Nurturing cultural identity of Roma

•Through supporting cultural identity of children and developing of the subject *Roma language with elements of national culture*

4. Appreciation of diversity and developing multicultural values

•Through developing educational environment based on appreciation of diversity and desegregation

Legal basis for Roma education in the Republic of Serbia

- Constitution of the Republic of Serbia
- Law on the Prohibition of Discrimination
- Law on the Protection of Rights and Freedoms of National Minorities
- Law on the National Councils of the National Minorities
- Law on the Determination of Mandate of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
- Law on the System basis of Education and Upbringing and other laws related to preschool, primary and secondary school education
- Law on the Textbooks and other teaching means
- Education strategy until 2020
- Strategy for improvement of the status of Roma (revised National Action plan for education for the period 2012 – 2014)
- Local strategies for improvement of Roma education and local action plans for their implementation

Legal basis for Roma education in the Republic of Serbia (international)

- Millennium development goals
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages
- Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Activities of the Republic of Serbia in 2012 and 2013 on improvement of education of Roma

IPA project IMPRES, which is currently taking place, refers to the increase of the availability of preschool education for children from marginalized groups (which include rural areas, poor, Roma etc.)

- Free preparatory preschool program is 9 instead of 6 months long, priority is given to children from vulnerable groups
- Research and comprehensive analysis of preschool upbringing and education in 15 pilot municipalities have been organized in cooperation with UNICEF and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities
- mobile kindergartens or means of transportation have been purchased for children who can't reach preschool facilities on their own for 9 municipalities

Activities of the Republic of Serbia in 2012 and 2013 on improvement of education of Roma

Through DILS project (Delivery of improved local services) grants have been allocated to schools and preschools for supporting inclusion and providing quality education to children from marginalized groups

- With support of Roma educational fund, Ministry of education, science and technological development has developed a program "Educational inclusion of Roma" and allocated grants to 55 municipalities in Serbia from the World bank loan
- 55 municipalities have formed an intersectoral municipal Team made of representatives of local self-government, preschools, schools and Roma NGOs
- Overall, 305 local partners and 9 816 Roma children were included in the project implementation
- In all municipalities the number of children included in education has been increased, and in some municipalities (Apatin, Valjevo, Pecinci and Knjazevac) it was almost doubled comparing to the number that was planned by the project

Activities of the Republic of Serbia in 2012 and 2013 on improvement of education of Roma

Non-discriminatory admissions and program policy is being applied

- Instead of “categorizing”, there is an access to education with additional support – preparation of the individual education Plan
- Up to now, more than 18 000 directors of institutions, pedagogues, psychologists and teachers participated in trainings; 360 schools and preschools were specially trained for introduction of inclusive Education (10 sets of trainings, 334 trainings, about 11 500 employees)
- All Roma children who are registered in special schools without Interagency Committee’s approval are being engaged in regular teaching, and programs of additional educational support are being created for them with regular monitoring of progress
- Special schools are obligated to produce special support programs with additional contents for students in senior classes to prepare students for taking the final exam and enrolling in regular high schools

Activities of the Republic of Serbia in 2012 and 2013 on improvement of education of Roma

The system of scholarship and mentoring is being developed

- 175 pedagogical assistants are introduced to elementary schools and preschools as students’ support
- In the 2012/13 school year, 621 loans and 472 scholarships for students and 567 pupils’ scholarships were allocated
- Department of Education, administration and national community of Autonomous Province of Vojvodina with project “Continuation of scholarships for Roma high school students in Vojvodina until 2013” has provided scholarships for 718 Roma students who regularly attend high schools in Vojvodina

Advanced activities

- Implementation of initiated and new international and national projects and strategies in education
- Democratization of the system through development of education projects for civil society and democracy, related to the education of national minorities and projects from Decade of Roma Inclusion
- Introduction of principle and concept of inclusive education
- Promotion model of good practice of the inclusive education
- Establishing special scholarship funds and expanding students' loans and scholarships for children and youth from vulnerable social groups
- Developing activities for self-evaluation of the schools
- Providing financial resources for low-circulation textbooks
- More active cooperation with the Board of Education of the National Council of Roma national minority and Roma NGOs

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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