

*Education for Roma: achievements,
opportunities and challenges for the
future*

“A sunset but a new dawn”

Let us reflect on what we
have achieved in Brdo!

What did we set out to do? Let us remind ourselves!

- *Audit the achievements of the Project "Education for Roma children in Europe"*
- *To be honest and realistic about the achievements but to give credit where credit is due*
- *And of course to celebrate all the hard work and multiple outcomes*
- *Explore the opportunities that the rich outcomes from the project now offer us all in our many professional capacities*
- *And understand the challenges for the future and begin to route the way forward*

What do we see in the sunset?

- **People**, many hundreds, including Roma and Travellers, who have been willing to share experience and expertise in a context of mutual respect and trust – endless goodwill!
- **People** who have been willing to listen, make links and build networks by giving generously of themselves without question
- **People** who have recognised that this is an urgent and serious matter concerned with human rights
- **People** who have been willing to gather and stimulate ideas and be highly creative
- **People** who are very tired!!!!!!!

What else do we see in the sunset?

- *Great reminders from Brdo to root us into reality, hope, and human compassion*
- *“Paternalism and assimilation is completely in the wrong direction.”*
- *“Our final conference but not an end to our work. On the contrary, we will be taking this forward in the Council of Europe.”*
- *“Pupils with difficulties show us what we have to do.”*
- *“The teacher is the responsible, respecting and accountable ally of the child.”*
- *“The failure of a Member State to collect ethnic disaggregated data is a failure of a duty of care.”*

But what else do we see in the sunset?
Surely, we see *indebtedness*

- **Indebtedness** to our Slovenian hosts
- **Indebtedness** to Roma and Traveller communities for their resourcefulness, willing participation and great patience
- **Indebtedness** to all those who have worked so hard to make it all possible
- **Indebtedness** to Rapporteurs and Petra
- **Indebtedness** to the linchpin of this whole project
- Aurora Ailincăi's outstanding, talented and dedicated service.

But what do we see in the cold light of dawn?

- **Uncertainty about direction and resources**
- **Have the seeds been thrown on infertile ground in MS? The international evidence suggests an alarming situation despite gold nuggets of progress! Proportion and pace?**
- **Silence! The creativity and the talking stops here. It is now time for action without hesitation and excuses! "You can take a horse to water...."**
- **The need for reciprocity from Member States to take policy, provision and practice forward on the back of what has been achieved by the Council of Europe. No excuses!**
- **A lark calling in the morning sky for an ongoing audit of what Member States are doing and how they will deploy all the rich and varied resources generated by the work of this impressive and creative project.**

Thank you of listening

- Have a safe journey home and a great summer!

A.Ivatts@ukgateway.net

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