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

***Conference
held in the framework of the Slovenian Chairmanship
of the Council of Europe (May-November 2009)***

Brdo, Slovenia, 25-26 May 2009



Education des enfants roms en Europe
Education of Roma children in Europe

- **DRAFT PROGRAMME**
- **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**
- **BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE WORKING GROUPS**

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Monday 25 May 2009	
9:00	Opening session
Plenary session	<p>Chair: Gregor Mohorčič, Director of the National Education Institute, Republic of Slovenia</p> <p><u>Welcome addresses</u></p> <p>Igor Lukšič, Minister for Education and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia Gabriele Mazza, Director of Education and Languages, Council of Europe</p> <p><u>Keynote speeches</u></p> <p>Gabi Čačinovič Vogrinčič, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Work: <i>Co-creation of Learning and Support in the Classroom</i> Alan Phillips, President of the Advisory Committee on the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities: <i>Rights perspective on Roma education</i></p>
10:30	Coffee break
11:00 Plenary session	<p>Chair: Gabriele Mazza, Director of Education and Languages, Council of Europe</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The project "Education of Roma children in Europe" and the revised draft Recommendation on the education of Roma children</i>, Jean-Pierre Liégeois (Council of Europe expert), Aurora Ailincăi (Council of Europe) and Calin Rus (Council of Europe expert) 2. <i>Reference tools for teaching Romani</i>, Philia Thalgot (Council of Europe) 3. <i>Goals and expected outcomes of the Conference</i> : Arthur Ivatts (Council of Europe expert)
12:10	Introduction to the working groups and to the "Info Market" by Mirko Zorman , National Education Institute, Slovenia
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Visit of the "Info Market"
15:00 Working groups	<p>Work on the following themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preschool education and early childcare Moderator: Hristo Kyuchukov Rapporteur : Yoshie Kaga 2. Recognition of non-formal and informal learning Moderator: Jose Ramón Flecha Garcia Rapporteur : Tjaša Plohl 3. School – community cooperation: Roma assistants and mediators Moderator: Calin Rus Rapporteur : Diana Kirilova 4. Cultural recognition: history, culture and language Moderator: Mihaela Zatreanu Rapporteur : Jean-Pierre Liégeois 5. Policies to facilitate access and ensure equal access to quality education, including teacher training Moderator: Arthur Ivatts Rapporteur : Nicolae Gheorghe

	<p>Issues to be tackled in all working groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take stock of the project and reflect on how to build on experiences • Perspectives for the future? Implementation of the Recommendation on Education for Roma children, questions and recommendations to international organisations • Transversal issues such as gender, empowerment of Roma, equality of opportunities and outcomes, combating discrimination, positive action, training of professionals <p>There will be a flexible break for each working group</p> <p>Each group will start with instructions by a moderator and a presentation of the relevant Council of Europe product/materials. The last 30 minutes will be devoted to reaching an agreement on the key elements to be reported on in the plenary session the following day. A predefined structure in PowerPoint format will be prepared for the reporting</p>
18:00	<p>End of the working day and departure of the bus for Bled Evening: "Sa o Roma", Romani music with Imer Traja Brizani and the group Amala</p>
Tuesday 26 May 2009	
9:00 Plenary session	<p><u>Chair:</u> Viljana Lukas, Head of Service, Ministry of Education and Sport, International Cooperation and European Affairs Service</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reports of working groups 2. Feedback on achievements in the field of Roma education from Miranda Vuolasranta, representative of the ERTF 3. Comments from participants and general discussion 4. Film "Čika" by Martina Hudorovič, in the presence of Dženi Rostohar
11:00	Coffee break
11:30 Plenary session	<p><u>Chair:</u> Tünde Kovač-Cerovič, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Republic of Serbia</p> <p>Panel with international institutions on follow-up UNESCO (Florence Migeon), OSCE/ODIHR (Andrzej Mirga), Roma Education Fund (Costel Bercus), European Roma and Travellers Forum – ERTF (Miranda Vuolasranta), European Training Foundation- ETF (Lida Kita), Open Society Foundation (Tina Hyder) and a resource person (Nicolae Gheorghe)</p>
13:00 Closing session	<p><u>Chair:</u> Andreja Barle Lakota, Director of the Office for the Development of Education, Ministry for Education, Republic of Slovenia</p> <p>Short summary by the General Rapporteur, Arthur Ivatts Final remarks by participants</p>
	<p><u>Closing remarks</u> Alenka Kovšca, state secretary, Ministry for Education and Sport, Republic of Slovenia Aurora Ailincăi, Project manager, Council of Europe</p>
13:30	Lunch and departure

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Date and place

Slovenia, Conference Centre in Brdo
25-26 May 2009
Accommodation will be in Bled

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Conference aims and objectives

The conference is organised in the framework of the Council of Europe's project "Education of Roma Children in Europe" and the Slovenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The conference will bring together senior officials from member state governments dealing with issues concerning Roma and Travellers as well as the senior key players from both a range of international organisations and Roma and Traveller Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs). It aims to serve the needs and interests of all these players in securing rapid and continuing progress towards the realisation of the rights to quality education for all members of Roma and Traveller communities across Europe.

Within this general context and aim, the conference will provide an evaluative focus on the work and outcomes of the Council of Europe Project "Education of Roma Children in Europe". Given the crucial importance of the issue of Roma education for all Member States, it is vital that the strengths and successes of the project are identified and replicated within any further actions and programmes initiated by the Council of Europe and other key players, including member states, NGOs and international organisations. Any less successful aspects of the project also need to be taken into consideration so that future actions and projects are able to benefit from past experience and that scarce resources are used as efficiently as possible.

In addition to reviewing the outcomes of the Project "Education of Roma Children in Europe", the conference will also be proactive in identifying a range of future actions that can be initiated and strengthened. Such actions will be directly linked to the on-

going assessment of needs in relation to education for Roma and Traveller communities. As part of this objective, conference participants will be asked to identify the courses of action best suited to the effective and successful dissemination of the many project outcomes. A further focus will be on exploring strategies for the sustainability of the existing project outcomes, to keep them up-to-date; noting any need for additions and or revisions; their distribution and availability of supply.

Conference participants will be asked to use their collective wisdom and experience to identify any areas in which further work is required in the wide field of Roma and Traveller education, including the issues of early childhood education and life long learning opportunities.

An additional objective of the conference will be to identify the short-term and long term implications of the project for the Council of Europe and other key players.

Participation

Participants of the Conference will be governmental and non-governmental experts and senior officials from the member states. Non-member states having observer status with the Council of Europe will also be invited. It is expected that delegations will contain 2-3 persons from each member state. A balanced representation of officials from Education Ministries or other Ministries dealing with Roma issues, as well as of Roma organisations is expected. One representative should preferably be from the relevant department or unit in the Ministry of Education, one from another ministry/institution dealing with Roma issues, such as a pedagogical and/or training centre, and a third representative of the Roma community.

The Slovenian authorities will cover the costs of meals for all participants during the Conference and the accommodation costs for one representative from each member state of the Council of Europe. They will also cover the accommodation costs for a second participant from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia". Additionally, the accommodation costs for two participants from Kosovo¹ will be covered by the Slovenian authorities. All travel costs should be borne by the participants or their authorities.

Upon request, the Council of Europe may cover the accommodation expenses of a limited number of Roma representatives from member states.

The following international organisations (IGOs and INGOs) and institutions will be invited, at their own expense: UNESCO, UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), OECD, OSCE/ODIHR, European Commission, Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union, European Training Foundation (ETF), Roma Education Fund (REF), European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC), European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF), Forum of European Roma Young People (FERYP), Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), Amnesty International, Save the Children, the European Wergeland Centre for education for intercultural understanding, human rights and democratic citizenship, UNMIK.

¹ All reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or populations, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

The following Council of Europe bodies will be invited at their own expense: Parliamentary Assembly, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe, Office of the Commissioner of Human Rights, Steering Committee for Education, European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Travellers (MG-S-ROM), Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention on Minorities, Committee of Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Language Policy Division.

Organisation and working methods, expected outcomes

The conference will be organised in a way that will allow for keynote speeches and presentations in plenary as well as working groups. Working groups will focus on specific key areas and will represent a comprehensive agenda of relevant issues. The Working Groups will aim at achieving the identification of a prioritised list of urgent actions for member states and international organisations that are necessary to achieve a real and lasting change in the educational situation of Roma and Traveller communities. The afternoon of 25 May will be devoted to working groups (see the draft programme which follows hereafter).

The conference programme will also include an “Info Market”, where innovative approaches and material will be displayed. It will be open at all times during the conference and will be composed of the following: 1) Council of Europe materials which have been developed through the Project “Education of Roma Children in Europe” as well as other materials from the Council of Europe regarding Roma; 2) A special stand on the Council of Europe “Dosta” campaign; 3) General information about the Council of Europe; 4) Slovenian experience regarding Roma education and other Roma issues; 5) Material from other international organisations, experiences and projects from member states and INGOs. It is expected that information videos will be running continuously throughout the market.

The conference will provide a unique opportunity for senior government officials, senior officers from both the international organisations and Roma and Traveller NGOs to identify priority actions regarding the use and dissemination of the outcomes of the Council of Europe’s and other international organisation’s work.

A conference report will be published by the Council of Europe following the event.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR WORKING GROUPS

Working Group 1 – Preschool education and early childcare

Revamped efforts are needed at the policy and practice levels to render mainstream schools and early education programmes inclusive so that Roma and Traveller children can enjoy participating in learning with non-Roma and Traveller children from the preschool age.

Research demonstrates that vulnerable and marginalized children benefit most from early childhood services. Such services contribute not only to their health, care, development and education, but also help promote the social inclusion and participation of their families. Increased attention has to be paid to quality early childhood programmes as an effective means to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, disadvantage and marginalisation, to the importance of increased investment in early childhood and primary education, and to the need for proactive policies to include children currently excluded and/or marginalised in the education system and programmes.

Efforts must be made to improve access such that Roma and Traveller children have equal opportunities to attend quality early childcare and preschool services regardless of family background, socio-economic disadvantage, or other ethnic, cultural or linguistic factors. Special attention must be given to address issues of prejudice and discrimination in and out of school, and acknowledge the multiple identities of Roma and Traveller children and their families in poor or geographically isolated communities.

Such efforts will help lay a strong basis for further learning and development and will guarantee a smooth transition to primary schools. Meanwhile, these primary schools must be ready to welcome and accompany them through the course of their schooling. Access to, and retention and completion in primary schools for Roma and Traveller children is facilitated by an education that is inclusive of human rights principles and values, such as non-discrimination, intercultural education, non violence, peace and tolerance. An education system conceived to ensure coherence and continuity of learning experience and approaches from early childhood to primary schooling is most beneficial for children and their families.

Questions for participants:

- What concrete measures have been adopted and implemented by your government to improve access to quality early childhood education and transition to primary education for Roma and Traveller children ? What has been the positive or negative impact of these measures ?
- Is there any mechanism for partnership between the government and the civil society in order to encourage Roma and Traveller children's participation in early childhood and primary education? If so, how does this mechanism work ?

- What are the positive initiatives undertaken by non-government stakeholders that aim to improve Roma and Traveller children's access to early childhood education and transition from early childhood to primary education? What is the impact of such initiatives ?

Reference documents :

FR	<i>L'éducation des enfants roms : les classes préparatoires</i> , Martina Hornakova	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)3
FR	<i>Accès à l'éducation : concept de mallette pédagogique</i> , François-Xavier Bernard, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2005)7
EN	<i>Access to education : teaching kit concept</i> , François-Xavier Bernard, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2005)7
RR	<i>Dostapi/aksesko and-i edukacia: siklijavipe vash o koncepto Kit</i> , François-Xavier Bernard, Dominique Steinberger (Documents also available in the Teaching kit/Documents également disponibles dans la Mallette pédagogique/Pedagogko lil)	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2005)7
EN	<i>Towards quality education for Roma children: transition from early childhood to primary education</i> , Arthur Ivatts	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2007)5
FR	<i>Vers une éducation de qualité pour les enfants roms: la transition entre l'éducation préscolaire et primaire</i> , Arthur Ivatts	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2007)5
EN	<i>Council of Europe and UNESCO Guidelines on preschool education for Roma children</i> , Arthur Ivatts, Hristo Kyuchukov (foreseen in 2009)	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2007)6
RR	Gido e romane čhavenge pal e xurdelinaki edukacija, kerdo katar o Konsilo le Evropako thaj o UNESCO (prévue 2009)	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2007)6
EN	Audit of Pre-school provision - Briefing paper for the Experts meeting UNESCO/Council of Europe	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2007)4

Working Group 2: The recognition of non-formal and informal learning

The Working Group will consider and acknowledge the vast repertoire of skills and knowledge within Roma and Traveller families in terms of 'informal learning' and the contribution these can make to children's early learning, personal development and socialisation. Discussion will also focus on how these skills can be articulated in a way that challenges the cultural deficit model and become an asset for both the formal educational process and the labour market inclusion.

A rich set of educational and training processes take often place within the Roma and Traveller communities and they may result in the development of valuable competencies. Unfortunately, most of these competencies are not officially recognised, as they do not result from following formal educational and training paths. This may result in marginalisation and social exclusion of Roma and Traveller, as well as in a loss of an important potential for the overall society.

Additionally, many initiatives of Roma and Traveller organisations and other NGOs providing non-formal education to Roma remain limited in their impact, because they are performed outside of the mainstream education and training systems. Therefore, investigating possibilities for recognition, validation and certification of the competencies acquired by Roma and Traveller children, young people and adults in informal or non-formal settings, can bring an important contribution to an effective and sustainable integration. This is in line with the current policy trends and with the priorities formulated by various European and international bodies, as well as with the existing national policies in many countries in relation to the "lifelong learning" perspective. Applying these innovative approaches of validation and certification to the case of the Roma requires increased flexibility and needs to be accompanied by coherent measures supporting, whenever possible, their integration into the mainstream education and training system.

Such an undertaking must be based on a partnership with Roma and Traveller stakeholders and should take into account and use as an asset the cultural specificities of the targeted communities. If this approach proves to be successful, this could become, as it has already been in other respects, a paradigmatic solution, with broader potential use in the case of other disadvantaged communities, but will also facilitate the development of the capacity of our education and training systems to provide adapted responses to the present society challenges, in which change and flexibility become unavoidable.

Questions for participants:

- What concrete measures have been adopted and implemented by your government to improve the official recognition of non-formal and informal learning within Roma and Traveller families and communities so that the acquired competences are taken into account by the mainstream education and training systems? What has been the positive and/or negative impact of these measures?
- Is there any mechanism for partnership between the government and the civil society with Roma stakeholders to take into account and use as an asset the cultural specificities of the targeted communities in order to facilitate the development of the capacity of education and training systems? If so, how does this mechanism work?

- What are the positive initiatives undertaken by non-government stakeholders that aim to improve the official recognition of non-formal and informal learning within Roma and Traveller children's? What the impact of such initiatives?

Reference documents:

EN	Recommendation No R (2000) 4 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the education of Roma/Gypsy children in Europe	
FR	Recommandation (2000) 4 sur l'éducation des enfants roms en Europe	
RR	Rekomandacijaki (2000) 4pal e edukacija e romane çhavengi ande Evropa	
EN	Recommendation Rec(2003)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the promotion and recognition of non-formal education/learning of young people	
FR	Recommandation Rec(2003)8 du Comité des Ministres aux Etats membres sur la reconnaissance et la promotion de l'éducation non-formelle des jeunes	
FR	<i>Education des enfants roms en Europe - Textes et activités du Conseil de l'Europe en matière d'éducation</i> , Editions du Conseil de l'Europe	ISBN-10:92-871-5977-7
EN	<i>Education of Roma children in Europe - Official texts and activities of the Council of Europe concerning education</i> , Council of Europe Publishing	ISBN-10:92-871-5978-5
RR	I Edukacia e Romane chavenge and-I Evropa – Repertoari – Ofiziala textura kerde tar o Evropako Konsilo Evropako Sombeshipen vas i edukacia	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2003)8R
EN	Reference framework for educational policies in favour of Roma, Sinti and Travellers, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8
FR	Cadre de référence pour les politiques éducatives en faveur des Roms, Sinti et Gens du voyage, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8
RR	Referencijako kadro vaš edukacionalno politike andar e roma, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8

Working Group 3: School – community co-operation: Roma assistants and mediators

Research has pointed out that very often school drop-out and underachievement of Roma and Traveller children is associated with a problematic relationship between teachers and Roma families. In many cases, teachers blame Roma/Traveller parents for not providing the necessary support to their children, while Roma/Traveller parents lack trust in what school can offer and have low motivation to engage in closer cooperation with school staff. On the contrary, a positive relationship between school and Roma/Traveller community can significantly enhance the chances for the education success of Roma/Traveller children.

Recommendation (2000) 4 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe specifies that schools should pay particular attention to ensuring a better communication with parents and this can be done also by using the services of Roma/Travellers employed to facilitate this relationship. Various names are used in different countries to designate this position, the most common ones being “school mediators” and “teaching assistants”. Their role varies but usually includes mediating the cooperation between school and Roma/Traveller communities, providing advice to parents about the necessity of education and about the support mechanisms available, offering additional support to Roma and Traveller children, with the aim to contributing to removing barriers that are limiting the school achievement of Roma and Traveller children. However, a number of challenges are related to the work of school mediators and assistants, concerning their initial and in-service training, their institutional affiliation, the sustainability of their position, or their recognition as members of the school’s pedagogical team.

Taking into account the importance of school-community co-operation, the provisions of the Recommendation (2000) 4, the existence of the position of school mediator or teaching assistant in many member states, as well as the recent trends for expanding its use, the Council of Europe has initiated in 2004 a series of activities on this topic. Following the proposals formulated during a seminar organised in 2004, the Council of Europe realised in 2006 a review of the situation of mediators and assistants in all member states and published in 2007 a European Guide of Roma School Mediator. This Guide was piloted during the school year 2007 - 2008 and was revised based on the feedback received during a second European seminar on this topic in 2008. This workshop will introduce the key results of the Council of Europe work on Roma mediators and assistants, including the updated version of the European Guide for Roma School Mediator, and will give the chance to participants to express their opinions and share their experiences on this topic.

Questions for participants:

- What concrete measures have been adopted and implemented by your government to improve the co-operation between school and Roma/Traveller community through Roma/Traveller mediators and assistants, in order to enhance the chances for the education success of Roma/Traveller children? What has been the positive and/or negative impact of these measures?
- Is there a mechanism for partnership between the government and the civil society in order to promote the initial and in-service training of school mediators/assistants, their institutional affiliation and the sustainability of their position or recognition as members of the school’s pedagogical team to encourage the Roma and Traveller children’s participation? If so, how does this mechanism work?

- What are the positive initiatives undertaken by non-government stakeholders that aim to improve the co-operation between the mediators/assistants and the school/community in member states? What is the impact of such initiatives?

Reference documents:

FR	<i>La formation des médiateurs et assistants scolaires roms, Calin Rus</i>	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2004)11
EN	<i>The training for Roma school mediators and assistants, Calin Rus</i>	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2004)11
RR	<i>Formacia vash o asistentura thaj e shkolake romane mediatorija, Calin Rus</i>	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2004)11
FR	La situation des médiateurs et assistants scolaires roms en Europe, Calin Rus	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)3
EN	The situation of Roma School Mediators and Assistants in Europe, Calin Rus	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)3
RR	I situacija e romane školake mediatorurengi thaj asistenturjengi and-i Evropa, Calin Rus	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)3
FR	Guide du médiateur/assistant scolaire rom, Calin Rus, Mihaela Zatreanu	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)12
EN	Guide for Roma school mediators/assistants, Calin Rus, Mihaela Zatreanu	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)12
RR	Gido vaš e romane školake mediatorurja/ asistenturja	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)12
FR	<i>Modules de formation pour les enseignants dans le domaine de l'histoire, de la culture et de la langue des Roms, Pascale Faure</i>	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)10
EN	Training Modules for Teachers in the History, Culture and Language of the Roma, Pascale Faure	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)10
RR	<i>Formaciake module e siklijarnenge vash i istorija, kultura thaj i romani chib, Pascale Faure</i>	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)10

Working Group 4: Cultural recognition: history, culture and language

The prerequisite for implementing the various measures set out in the national action plans is the need to preserve and foster Roma and Travellers cultural identity and heritage in a spirit of respect for and promotion of diversity.

Specific actions must be taken to encourage and support the promotion of Roma and Travellers' culture and history if Roma children are to be integrated into a multicultural environment. Promoting Roma and Travellers' culture among teachers by means of lectures, training seminars and teaching materials, or through the organisation of festivals and public exhibitions on Roma and Travellers' history and culture as well as creating a "*Route of Roma Culture and Heritage*" in the framework of the Council of Europe Cultural Routes programme are still essential measures with a view to preserving and developing Roma cultural heritage as part of the European mainstream cultural heritage and strengthening Roma and Travellers' identity.

This Working Group will concern itself with how Roma and Traveller communities, together with teachers and education professionals, ensure that the school curriculum for all children in Europe will be inclusive of the history, culture and languages of the Roma and Traveller people. The topics covered will include the materials and actions stemming from the Council of Europe's project '*The Education of Roma Children in Europe*'. It will also look at which strategies are needed to secure the public acknowledgement of the importance and rich variety of the culture, history and languages of these groups of marginalised people. This will lead on to considering the production, distribution, supply and dissemination of appropriate books and other learning materials for use in schools by teachers and pupils.

The skills for integrating these necessary resources into the curriculum will also receive attention together with the planned requirements for education, both initial and in-service for teachers, teacher assistants and school mediators. Strategies for education professionals and schools that will lead to better relations between communities and community cohesion will be explored.

Questions for participants:

- What concrete measures have been adopted and implemented by your government to improve the cultural recognition (history, culture and language) of Roma and Travellers communities with a view to preserving and developing Roma cultural heritage as part of the European mainstream cultural heritage and strengthening Roma and Travellers' identity. ? What has been the positive and/or negative impact of these measures ?
- Is there any mechanism for partnership between the government and the civil society to encourage and support the promotion of Roma and Traveller culture and history for the integration of Roma children in a multicultural environment? If so, how does this mechanism work ?
- What are the positive initiatives undertaken by non-government stakeholders that aim to ensure that the school curriculum for all children in Europe will include the history, culture and languages of the Roma and Traveller communities ? What is the impact of such initiatives on education professionals (initial and in-service for teachers, teacher assistants and school mediators)?

Reference documents :

EN	<i>Romani in Europe</i> , Mihaela Zatreanu, Dieter Halwachs, 2003	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)7
FR	Collection de fiches pédagogiques dans le domaine de l'histoire des Roms, Conseil de l'Europe, 2009	
EN	Collection of pedagogical fact sheets on Roma history, Council of Europe, 2008	
RR	Fakturjengi pedagogikani kolekcija pal i romani historia, Konsilo le Evropako, 2009	

Working Group 5: Policies to facilitate access and ensure equal access to quality education, including teacher education and training

This Working Group will explore the key issues related to the development of policies to secure unhindered access to quality educational opportunities for Roma and Traveller children in member states. This will be followed by a focus on the relevant outcomes of the Council of Europe Project, "Education of Roma Children in Europe". Discussions will be centred around pedagogical and pre-school learning materials, publications and the outcomes of the relevant seminars and conferences staged during the project, including, adult, lifelong learning and teacher education.

The initial presentations in this Working Groups context will contain pertinent references to the significance, value and impact of the project outcomes at both national and international levels.

In addition, the Working Groups will consider an audit typology for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the project outcomes to ensure that policy, provision and practice is compatible with the key educational principles of the Council of Europe, taking into account the relevant articles of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the European Charter for Regional or Minorities Languages.

The Working Group will draw attention to the importance of the purposeful and active involvement of Roma and Traveller parents and community in the education of their children, together with considerations regarding participation within educational decision making structures/forums.

Questions to participants:

- What concrete measures have been adopted and implemented by your government to improve an equal access to quality education, including pre-school learning for Roma and Traveller children, taking also into account teacher education and training? What has been the positive and/or negative impact of these measures?
- Are there any mechanisms for partnership between the government and the civil society to ensure the development and sustainability of policies regarding equality and access to quality education for Roma and Traveller children? What is the impact of such initiatives?
- What are the positive initiatives undertaken by non-government stakeholders (including Roma and Traveller parents and community) that aim to improve the access and equality of access to quality educational opportunities for Roma and Traveller children? What is the impact of such initiatives?

Reference documents:

FR	Les pratiques innovantes dans le domaine de l'éducation pour les enfants roms, Diana Kirilova, Virginie Repaire	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)9
EN	The innovatory practices in the field of education of Roma children, Diana Kirilova, Virginie Repaire	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2003)9
FR	<i>Education des enfants roms en Europe - Textes et activités du Conseil de l'Europe en matière d'éducation</i> , Editions du Conseil de l'Europe	ISBN-10:92-871-5977-7
EN	<i>Education of Roma children in Europe - Official texts and activities of the Council of Europe concerning education</i> , Council of Europe Publishing	ISBN-10:92-871-5978-5
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FR	Cadre de référence pour les politiques éducatives en faveur des Roms, Sinti et Gens du voyage, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8
EN	Reference framework for educational policies in favour of Roma, Sinti and Travellers, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8
RR	Referencijako kadro vaš edukacionalno politike andar e roma, Delia Grigore, Dominique Steinberger	DGIV/EDU/ROM (2005)8
FR	Cadre politique et législatif pour l'éducation des enfants roms : Textes de référence et systèmes d'appui	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)11
EN	Political and Legislative Framework for the Education of Roma Children : Reference Texts and Support Systems	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)11
RR	Politikano thaj legislativno kadro vash e Romane chavengi edukacia : Textura save si referencia thaj sisteme kaj te shaj te azutisaren	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2006)11
EN	Education of Roma children in Europe – Education and Training of Roma Children and Youth: The way forward	DGIV/EDU/ROM(2008) 3

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