



Working Group on Education Agenda

6-7 May 2009 (Budapest, Hungary)

Wednesday, 6th May

Meeting venue: Hotel Mercure Buda

15:00-15:10	<p>Welcome speeches</p> <p>National Development Agency and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.</p>
15:10 -16:30	<p>Presentation of the Roma Education Fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Tobias Linden, Director. Presentation of the Roma Education Fund supporting the EU Structural Funds. <p>Being in Budapest, it is a great opportunity for Network partners to get to know more in-depth the Roma Education Fund (REF), based in Budapest.</p> <p>The REF is an initiative launched in 2005 within the framework of the Decade for Roma Inclusion (2005-2015). The goal of the Roma Education Fund is to contribute to closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma, through policies and programs to support quality education for Roma including desegregation of educational systems.</p> <p>It supports ideas, projects and programmes that improve educational access and outcomes for Roma with a particular emphasis on supporting systemic policy reforms, changes in education systems and increasing coverage of programmes that have been successfully piloted.</p> <p>The Roma Education Fund finances projects that meet its goals and are proposed and implemented by Governments, NGOs and private organizations.</p> <p>It is a unique experience that will provide our Network with extensive expertise and knowledge on programmes and projects addressed to improve the educational level of Roma children.</p> <p>Participants at the WG will have the opportunity to exchange ideas with REF Director, based on their experience, on how to design and implement projects using Structural Funds (priorities, methodologies, tools, partners, etc.).</p>



16:30-17:30	<p>Structural Funds supporting the integration in the Hungarian public education system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mrs.Szilvia Pallaghy Hegyi. Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture
17:30-18:00	<p>Presentation of the “BRIDGE” Development Partnership, EQUAL CI, HUNGARY.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Anna Csongor: “Vocational Education, social economy and fair trade”. Autonomia Foundation.
19:30-21:00	<p>Dinner offered to participants at Hotel Mercure Buda</p>

Thursday, 7th May

Meeting venue: Hotel Mercure Buda

9:00 – 10:30	<p>Fight against segregation of Roma children in educational system. How to use the Structural Funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Orsolya Szendrey (REF) will moderate the debate <p>Initial presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Savelina Roussinova, researcher and expert. Open Society Institute. Segregation of Roma students. ▪ Ms. Orsolya Szendrey (REF). Debate over the usage and the definition of terms of segregation and desegregation. ▪ Ilona Negro. ESF-Coordination Unit, DG EMPL. European Commission. Proposal for the use of Structural Funds. <p>Segregation of Roma children in schools was one of the topics proposed by participants at the previous session of the WG and it is indeed a concern for most countries.</p> <p>In this session, WG participants will discuss different experiences being implemented at two levels: on one side, anti-segregation nation-wide policies, which mean structural changes on public educational system and how some countries have addressed this topic; on the other side, small-scale initiatives and projects being developed by public or private bodies (pilot projects, local initiatives, etc.).</p>
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	The final objective of this session is to get some recommendations and proposals on how the Structural Funds can support the desegregation of Roma children in educational systems. There will be participants from different countries, so that all these experiences may enrich the debate.
10:30-11:00	Coffee-break
11:00-12:00	The Impact of the OOIH School Integration Program in Hungary on Classroom Work, Skills and Inter-Ethnic Attitudes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Gábor Kézdi: Presentation of a research on the efforts towards integration.
12:00-13:30	Debate and formulation of joint recommendations and proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Andor Ürmös and Mr. Tamás Jankó. Debate over the recommendations of the equal opportunity based development policy.
13:30-14:30	Lunch offered to participants at Hotel Mercure Buda