



**Working Group on Education
Agenda
6-7 May 2009 (Budapest, Hungary)**

Wednesday, 6th May

<p>15.00 -18.00 h.</p>	<p>Presentation of the Roma Education Fund.</p> <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 staff, based on their experience, on how to design and implement projects using Structural Funds (priorities, methodologies, tools, partners, etc.).</p>
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Thursday, 7th May

9.00 – 13.30 h.	<p>Fight against segregation of Roma children in educational system. How to use the Structural Funds?</p> <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> <p>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.</p>
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Participants

We encourage the participation of:

- Network members participating at the WG on Education
- Representatives of other Managing Authorities dealing with education issues
- Representatives of Intermediate Bodies managing projects on education (public or private bodies)
- Representatives of public bodies with competencies on educational policies (such as regional governments)