



Government of Republic of Macedonia

## “EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ROMA”

14 - 15 May 2012, Skopje

### Short description:

Through the prism of institutionalization, the conference aims to generate a discussion about the quantity of projects that have managed to evolve into public programs funded by national budgets, systematic approach to meeting the challenges that Roma are facing in education, quality education for Roma and project activities for better inclusion of Roma in education, as the main topics of the conference.

The organizers also hope to encourage a discussion about the opportunities, practices and challenges that Roma are facing in education relating to increasing the number of Roma children in the education system, and of Roma teachers in public schools in areas where the Roma population is predominant, but also in schools where the Roma population is not in majority.

Early childhood development is a wider prism through which the opportunities for success should be perceived in all of the abovementioned priority areas, and this has been proved in many research studies with regards to the Roma children, whose rate of inclusion in the early childhood development programs is the lowest, both in Macedonia and in other member states of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. Obviously the progress made in this area is most visible, but this does not mean that the challenges have been overcome and that the progress is now sustainable.

Inclusion program for children from dysfunctional families and exchange of good practices for the support of this target group. When mentioning children from dysfunctional families, it refers mainly to children in the streets who beg and/or offer various services, who are very often supported by their parents or close relatives and who are very often exposed to physical or psychological violence if they do not comply with the requests of the older family members. Most of these children are not included in the regular education system and as such, they are a target group which presents a challenge to work with.

### Overall objective

Intensifying efforts; ensuring cooperation and exchanging of good practices and measures through which the current projects and activities in the field of education can contribute to developing a systematic approach to early childhood development and quality education for Roma.



DECADE OF  
ROMA  
INCLUSION  
2005-2015



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## Specific goals

- To share promising educational policies and practices on early childhood education and on the transition from early childhood development to primary education;
- To identify areas of action in order to improve the access of Roma children to early childhood education and transition from early childhood education to primary school;
- To foster partnerships in and among member states of the Decade;
- Early childhood education and subsequent transfer to good quality primary education;
- The content and character of such policies;
- The role to be played by Roma families and communities;
- Review the practices, projects and systematic approaches in early childhood development as a wide prism through which the opportunities for success should be perceived in all priority areas;
- Presentation of the relevant recommendations, conclusions, regional initiatives, research and progress made in the area of education as the most obvious result;
- How to overcome challenges and to make progress from project to sustainable programs for quality education for Roma;
- Through the prism of institutionalization, to initiate a discussion about the quantity of projects that have managed to evolve into public programs funded by national budgets;
- To encourage a discussion about the opportunities and practices relating to increasing the number of Roma children in the education process, and of Roma teachers in public schools in areas where the Roma population is predominant, but also in schools where the Roma population is not in majority;
- Consideration of the institutional mechanisms for developing the program for inclusion of the children from dysfunctional families and exchange of good practices for the support of this target group, which is a challenge to work with;
- Strengthening the cooperation between the institutions and the civil society in providing services for closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma.



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**The conference shall last for 2 days and shall focus on the following issues:**

- Systematic approaches in early childhood development
- Regional initiatives and relevant research and progress made in the area of education as the most visible result
- From project to sustainable programs for quality education for Roma.
- Institutionalization as a mechanism for projects that have managed to evolve into public programs funded by national budgets
- Institutional mechanisms for developing the program for inclusion of children from dysfunctional families
- Cooperation with the institution and civil society in providing services for closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma
- Roma children in special schools