

"Supporting environment for Roma youths from rural areas for acquiring secondary education"

“Network of cities which use CLLD principles and cultural activities to promote inclusion of the Roma in Europe”

Gyöngyös, Hungary

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Context

This is one of the main programs of Integro Association in the field of education, it started back in 2006 as a result from a research Integro implemented. The research results showed that in the rural areas the percentage of the roma student graduated from primary and continued in secondary schools is very low. As a main reasons for this was identified the following:

- The secondary schools are mainly located in the municipal centers and the students should travel or stay in a rented place;
- The textbooks for secondary education are not provided by the state and each student should buy his own textbooks for all the subjects;
- The educators are not well prepared to work with students form ethnic minorities;
- Even if you finish 12th grade Roma students struggle to graduate because they can not pass final examinations

Objectives

The main objectives of this program are:

- To motivate roma students from rural areas to graduate secondary education;
- Students to attend regularly to school,
- To increase their school scores of the students;
- To take an active part in school life;
- To continue their education in universities or to get on the labor market after their graduation.

Target group

- At present, the beneficiaries of the program are 75 students from 5 secondary schools and 5 municipalities.
- For the past 12 years we have more than one thousand students supported and successfully graduated.

Activities

- Mentoring support for Roma students;
- Providing additional classes to overcome functional illiteracy among students in grades 8 - 12;
- Providing free textbooks to students from socially disadvantaged families;
- Capacity building of teachers to address functional illiteracy, intercultural competences and intercultural communication;
- Providing scholarships for students whose schools are located in municipal centers or another town.

Innovation in social inclusion

- Mentoring support for Roma students - As mentors in schools are hired teachers who students like and trust. Mentor's tasks includes but not limited to:
 - Conducting informal individual and group meetings with mentoring students to encourage them to regularly attend additional classes / consultations on subjects on which students have final exams;
 - Helping mentoring students with their homework, especially on subjects that students face difficulties or will need to pass final exams.

