



Network of cities which use CLLD principles and cultural activities to promote inclusion of the Roma in Europe – Bulgaria, July 2018

Service

***Territorial Socio-Educative
Accompaniment***

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Ownership of the Service

Inter-communal Services Consortium - CIdiS
Public administration that manages the welfare functions
on behalf of the Municipalities of Beinasco, Bruino,
Orbassano, Piossasco, Rivalta di Torino and Volvera.

Service Management

entrusted to the San Donato Social Cooperative
through a public tender

Context:

- **Location:** Northern Italy, Torino Sud Metropolitan Area, Municipalities of Beinasco, Bruino, Orbassano, Piossasco, Rivalta di Torino and Volvera
- **Territory:** flat and hilly, suburbs City of Turin
- **Economy:** prevalently induced FIAT \diamond territory heavily hit by socio-economic crisis last decade

Currently: small companies, farms and artisans

- **Level of schooling:** low > 65, medium 30/65 years
- **Variegated ethnic extraction**
- **Population:** despite the overall aging, the birth rate balance is positive (higher than the province of Turin)

Context:

Population year 2017:

- ❖ Inhabitants: about 98.000
- ❖ Roma people present in the territory: about 510
- ❖ Minors < 18 years: 276

A CROWD OF CHILDREN!

54% of the Roma population of our territory is made up of people between 0 and 18 years of age

Context:

The Roma population present in the territory is over **500 people**, with an incidence on the resident population equal to 0.51%, more than double the national average estimated in 2012 in 0.22-0.25% including Sinti and Caminanti (1).

The presence of Roma people has **almost doubled over the last 5 years**: in 2012 the incidence on the resident population was 0.38%, the beneficiaries of the Service 261, of which minors 145.

1 National Strategy for the inclusion of the Roma, the Sinti and the Caminanti of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers - 28/02/2012. Considering the "Annual Report 2015" of the Association 21 July, which indicates an estimate of 180,000 Roma and Sinti present on the national territory, representing the Roma as a minority equal to 0.25% of the total Italian population (the percentage would not have changed much over time)

Objectives:

The Service is aimed at **protecting Roma children**,
to the support and socio-educational accompaniment,
to promotion and qualification of school and social integration,
in a framework aimed at **promoting well-being**,
to the improvement of the quality of life,
non-discriminatory access to education,
ensuring the effectiveness of this right
and **full social integration**.

Objectives:

Children protection...

- ensure the **protection of Roma children** and ensure their rights are safeguarded
- **intervene early** in situations that could result in serious neglect, prejudice or delinquency
- to promote and support **concrete and synergistic actions** for the protection of the health and care of minors, in particular 0/6 years
- operate in **synergy with all the other actors** (Social Service, ASL, Minors Court of Justice, Prefecture, Police Headquarters ...)

Objectives:

Education...

- encourage, accompany and support **early and constant schooling**
- **reinforce social skills and self-esteem** and promote positive leadership for children and young people
- to **combat dispersion and school dropout** and to favor continuity, aimed at least at the achievement of the lower secondary school leaving certificate
- **support teachers and educational institutions** to promote the integration of Roma children
- **supporting young adults** in vocational training and work-related programs

Objectives:

Parent support...

- To promote **responsible parenting**
- To support the **responsibility of the parents vs the scholastic education of the minors** and the regularity of the attendance and to support the active and co-responsible participation in the activities of the school
- To promote **childcare** to increase the level of well-being and health and promote knowledge and access to social and health services and opportunities of the territory
- To accompany and reinforce the processes of **parental awareness and empowerment**, supporting and enhancing the skills, especially of women mothers; to support women for responsible and protective maternity.

Objectives:

Social exclusion and community development ...

- foster and support the recognition of the principles of **legality, cohabitation and social cohesion**
- promoting a lesser social distance, facilitating cohesion and mutual understanding, for a **different approach of civil society to the "Roma question"**
- help to maintain and expand the **local institutional and extended network**
- contribute to **local projects** for children and families

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Objectives:

Social exclusion and community development ...

- foster an **integrated approach and shared strategies** among the various subjects of the network
- monitor the **presence on the territory** and an adequate level of knowledge of the problems
- ensure visibility to local administrators, managers and officials of the local authorities and the wider local network, for **analysis of timely needs and effective planning**

Target group:

✓ **Direct beneficiaries:**

About 270 Roma minors and their families, of which 184 already enrolled at school, included in about 72 Roma families (500 people c.a.) coming from the '70s from the geographical area of the former Yugoslavia: Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and of Roma Xoraxanè and Dasikhanè ethnic.

✓ **Indirect beneficiaries:**

Adults who, for various reasons, have responsibilities or intervene in favor of the local Roma population (administrators, officials and operators, teachers, volunteers) and the local community, called to deal with different cultures and lifestyles, and often marginal.

Target group:

- the Roma families of the territory are mainly settled and located on private land, in prefabricated houses, caravans or small shacks of wood or sheet metal
- most of the Roma families in the area are experiencing serious discomfort
- families who do not live in poverty are a minority
- among the local groups the differences regarding the protection of minors, sanitary conditions and legality are significant
- over 80% of local Roma are in a state of regularity with respect to their legal presence in Italy and access to services.

Target group:

N.B. data referring to 480 people, not complete

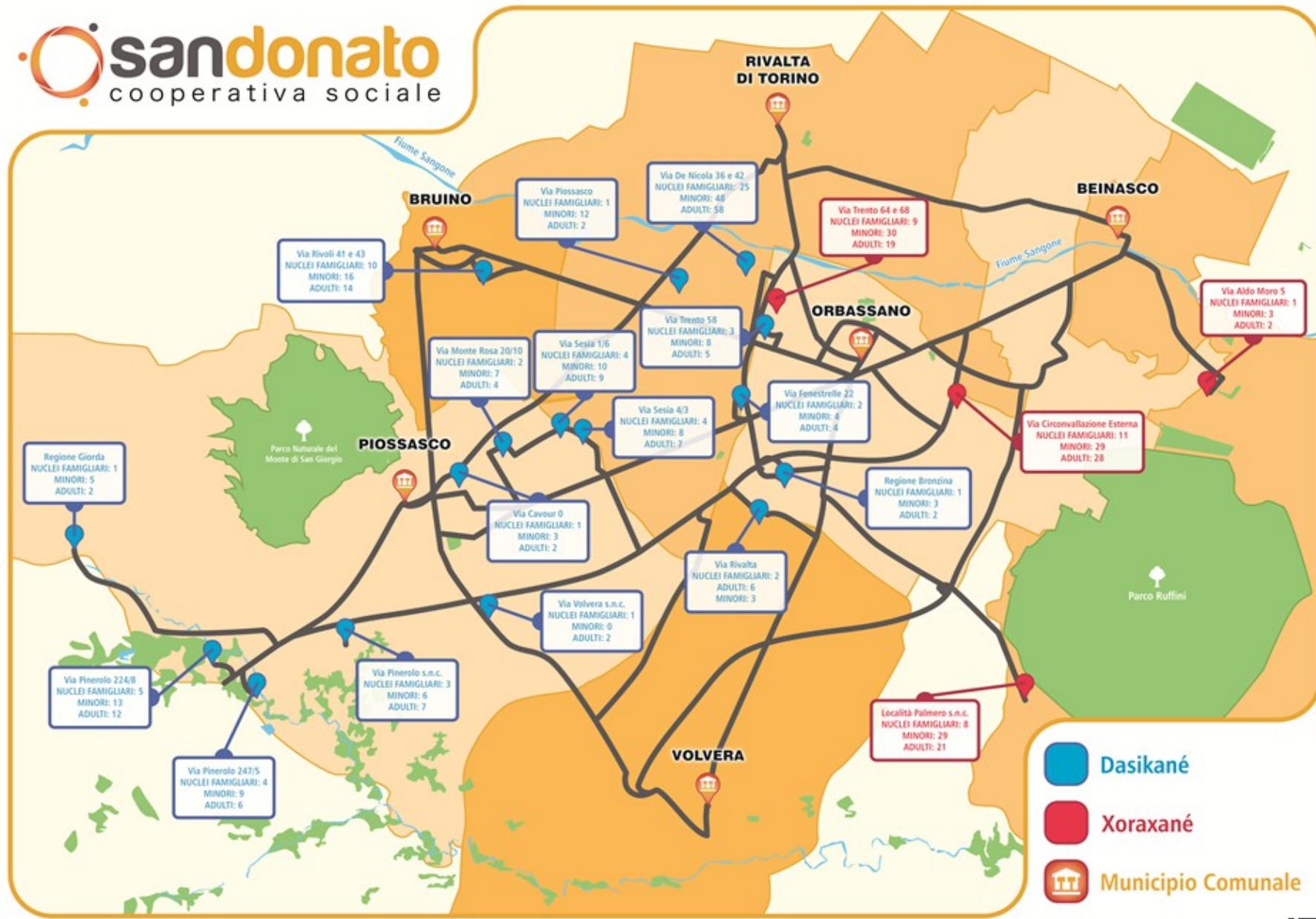
NATIONALITY - CITIZENSHIP

| | % | ADULTS | MINORS |
|-----------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| EXTRA EU (SRB, MKD, BIH) | 27.5 | 64 | 68 |
| EUROPEAN UNION (CROATIA) | 27.3 | 57 | 74 |
| ITALIAN | 25.2 | 45 | 76 |
| NONE | 20 | 59 | 37 |

REGULARIZATION ON THE TERRITORY

| | % | ADULTS | MINORS |
|-------------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| ITALIANS | 25.2 | 45 | 76 |
| CON PERMESSO DI SOGGIORNO | 32.4 | 77 | 78 |
| EU CITIZENS WITH RESIDENCE | 25.8 | 57 | 67 |
| IRREGULAR | 16.6 | 46 | 34 |

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Activities:

Team composed of 4 educators / mediators

115 hours a week

interventions on 6 Municipalities

Where:

- at the homes of Roma families with periodic and constant home interventions
- on the territory and at the institutions involved (Schools, Local Health Authorities, Local Services ...)

Activities:

- Sensitization, mediation, accompaniment and **socio-educational support** for the social and educational integration of minors
- Actions to **support parenting**, since for the lasting changes in the living conditions of minors it is essential to have greater recognition of their parents about the importance of school integration, which conveys the social one
- **Health promotion**, accompaniment and mediation for the use of social and health services and the territory
- Collaboration and **participation in local initiatives**, projects and opportunities

Activities:

- **Interventions to improve the hygiene and health conditions of minors**, also as a prerequisite for increasing self-esteem and the "presentability" of minors, thus promoting their social-scholastic integration and reducing the expulsion and rejection movements of peers and adults
- Consolidation and **development of the social support network** for Roma groups
- **Support for the legal precariousness** of Roma people in the territory and for the maintenance of residence permits

Activities:

- The working methodology is based on the paradigms of the maieutics and of the frequency / proximity / on place: privileges **socio-educational approach of proximity**, with paths of approaching services to the Roma families with minor children, **systemic-relational and cultural mediation**
- **The design is multilevel:** alongside the service project, specific projects are activated aimed at the individual family and in particular the minor beneficiaries of the interventions
- **Concertation and integration** with the various subjects of the network is guaranteed: Schools, Municipalities and other actors of the local network.

Results:

In these years 11 years of work it was possible to start (and partly realize) **real processes of integration of minors and their families, health protection and training promotion**, overcoming the fragmentation of episodic interventions, limited in time that require substantial time for hooking and starting at each activation.

Results

Target group...

- High level of school integration of minors: despite some critical issues, the level of attendance is high and above average, over 50% of children attend school for 75% or more
- Early schooling, with a high number of minors attending pre-school nursery and kindergartens (38 in 2017, equal to 20.5% of the Roma schooled minors)
- Monitoring of the lack of education and knowledge of family situations that allows to implement strategies to improve school attendance and to prepare new school enrollments including all minors in compulsory education.

Results

- Important results for the **protection of minors**
- **Preventive value:** the educational interventions carried out at the settlements have produced positive results compared to the serious and overwhelming discomfort and in order to prevent severance/separation of minors and / or their management
- **Minor criminal reports:** decrease in reports for crimes committed by Roma minors in the territory
- **Contacts with the adults in prison:** allow to work in a broader logic and to set up projects of reintegration in continuity
- ROUTES of PARENT SUPPORT
- DECREASE URGENT AND UNKNOWN SEPARATION / DISJUNCTION of children from their family.

Results

Target group...

- **Increase in the level of protection of minors and preventive value:** the educational interventions carried out at the settlements produced positive results compared to the serious and overwhelming discomfort, the separation of Roma children from their family decreased and, when necessary, their management was more effective
- **Decrease of reports** of Roma minors subject to criminal proceedings
- **Effectiveness of educational assignments to young volunteers,** as a "light" intervention, aimed at the majority of minors, to support educational and social integration

Results

Target group...

- Effectiveness of some **parenting support** paths: small numbers, long journeys, synergy between operators (services, schools, volunteers ...) produce good results
- **Personal autonomy in access to the Services** by some adults

Results

Target group...

- High level of knowledge of the operators of the Roma families of the territory
- Good level of trust of Roma people following the Service
- High level of adherence to the proposals made
- Good level of recognition and trust in the intervention

Results:

Local network...

- **Solidity of the network of local institutions that share the approach and policies** (Municipalities, Consortium, Schools ...), despite the difficulties, the critical issues and the complexity of the issue and the need to share policies, approach and methodologies at regional, national and international level
- **Expansion of the social support network for Roma units**, also to facilitate access to local services and resources, to promote autonomy and reduce social exclusion.
- **Very significant experiences of solidarity and support:** making available 2 homes, 1 "Family to Family" support, volunteer support, in coordination with the local network.

Results:

Local Network...

- **Increase in the skills of network actors**, following shared experiences and opportunities for discussion and training, also requested by the network actors themselves (public and private operators, volunteers, teachers)
- **Promotion of Roma culture and enhance diversity**, recovering the heritage of Roma knowledge and traditions, in spite of the critical issues and difficulties encountered in the local community
- **Level of synergy and sharing**, exchange of information and sharing strategies with the Municipalities, Schools and Social Service

Results:

Local Politics...

The **Program Agreement for the coordinated and integrated management of the interventions** signed in 2007 between the Municipalities and the Consortium to define shared strategies and create a permanent network for the coordination of interventions ... is a rewarding choice:

- **shared, synergistic, organic and stable policies and strategies** that allow the management of work processes and not single episodic interventions with a view to promoting community development and not managing only the emergency
- **coherent puzzle of interventions and a coordination network**

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Results:

Local Politics...

- **Overcoming fragmentation and optimization of resources**
- **Constant and consistent work methodology**, produces synergies and multiplier effects, also with reference to economic and personnel resources and new collaborations
- **Tenacious orientation towards a non-emergency perspective**, but aimed at favoring the **development of communities** and in some cases it was also possible to pursue prevention logic

Results:

Sustainability...

- ✓ **2012 project «Tehara, imagine the future»**, on the themes of the regularization of Roma people, financed by the Compagnia di San Paolo di Torino
- ✓ **2013/2014 "Roma Integration" project**, European Fund funding for the integration of third-country nationals (FEI) 2007-2013, Annuality 2012, Action 3 - Youth projects, Integration interventions in schools and promotion of youth protagonism, € 201.882,88 (4th place in the national ranking). The project was based on the approach, principles and methodologies that still characterize the Service today

Results:

Sustainability...

- since 2015, the three-year **project "Together for all children, Beyond the camps ZeroSei"** aimed at all children in the area and their families, with particular attention to those who experience situations of fragility, including Roma children - Compagnia of San Paolo of Turin (€ 230,000 + co-funding for a total of € 418,000)
- in 2018 the three-year **project "To get involved - XMING"**, follow up of "Together for all children" project, financed by the National Poverty Education Fund for over € 600,000.00

Changes generated in the local community:

- ✓ **Primordies of effective social integration:** experiences of autonomous participation of some Roma minors among those followed by the Service to the "normal" activities of the territory like courses of juggling, basketball, swimming ...
- ✓ **Greater attention and sensitivity of the local network - educating community:** in the last concerted planning (XMING) the wide and varied territorial network has spontaneously included in the privileged target (because more fragile and vulnerable and worthy of attention), also Roma children and their families.

Changes generated in the local community:

- **Mutual knowledge between the Roma and the Institutions**, which also allowed to reach certain "operational agreements" between public administrations and some families for the management of concrete problems: example of agreement for the removal of waste and the management and cleaning of spaces ...
- There remain **critical issues that require the continuation of a constant, integrated and inter-institutional and multilevel work**, as well as important economic resources, since the continuity and organic nature of long-term actions are indispensable to produce lasting changes in such a multifaceted and difficult context: housing, work, health, regularization of residence documents ...)

Changes generated in the local community:

Tolerance and intolerance
exacerbations and positive changes coexist ...

Some activities of «Together for all children» project initially had urged resistances, polemics and protests ...

“What will a gypsy ever have to teach our children?” ...

“Eat dishes cooked by gypsies? Will your hands be washed?” ...

In general, no such episodes have occurred (e.g. the intercultural school workshops were appreciated by children and parents)

but...

there are also positions that are not tolerant and generally hostile

Innovation in social inclusion:

- **Approach that takes into account the complexity and the complex of requests**, considered as a constituent part of the situation, even when, due to their specificity, they can not be treated by the Service or the territory: attempt to overcome, as far as possible, fragmentation.
- **Overall vision:** the logic of the Service according to which the interventions are developed is overall able to hold together the different issues like: schooling, living, enhancing cultural specificities, health conditions, economic conditions, recovering the heritage of Roma knowledge and traditions.
- **Universalistic and non-sectoral approach to children:** there are no activities for Roma children, there are activities for children

Innovation in social inclusion:

- **Local network rich, varied and participated, stable and that is enriched over the years:** Municipalities, CldiS, Schools, Volunteers, Third Sector, local contacts, a network where the Service is inserted and on which it can count. A fundamental network to **promote the idea of equal citizens** included in a tolerant and open European society.
- **The "Roma theme" is on the local agenda**
- **Methodological supervision and professionalism of the operators:** the approach is universal, but professionalism is specialized
- **Prompt, opportune, well timed and early intervention in critical situations** thanks to the system of relationships and the recognition of the different roles in the service network and the motivation of the social actors involved