

# **EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ROMA** **FOLLOW-UP PROJECT - SLOVAKIA: UPDATE MONITORING**

## **METHODOLOGY**

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The update will follow the previous report, the core of which is focused on mapping of the current state of education of Roma children in Slovakia and defining the basic barriers in the access of Roma children to education.

The objective of the update is mapping the newly designed strategies, activities, tools and steps undertaken in order to eliminate educational barriers - both actions from the side of governmental and non-governmental field. The main outcome of the activity will be a draft of a common strategy of non-governmental organizations, which should serve as the basis for forming an NGO alliance.

### ***A. Governmental Actions Assessment***

#### **1. Desk research:**

1.1. Analysis of governmental strategies, documents and drafts of law:

- analysis of documents which were not referred to in the original report
- analysis of new documents (e.g. the Mid-term Conception of Development of Roma National Minorities; *School Act*)
- documents will be analyzed from the viewpoint of potential impact on access of Roma children to education (on the basis of the basic barriers identified in the original report)

1.2. Analysis of the governmental programs focused on the sphere of education:

- review of the governmental grant schemes according to their aims
- review of projects implemented on the national level

#### **2. Field research**

##### ***Methodology***

Semi-structured interviews with representatives of governmental institutions and organizations from the state sphere. The interviews will have similar structure and will be aimed at mapping of:

- any progress in what has been recommended by the EAQER report
- planned actions:
  - short-term plans
  - long-term plans
- cooperation with other bodies [governmental/non-governmental] in the field of education of Roma

The following institutions will be visited:

- Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Government for Roma Communities [on behalf of the government]
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Construction and Regional Development
- The National Institute of Education
- Pedagogy faculties and other pre-service and in-service training institutions for teachers
- State school inspection

Reflecting the composition of the recommendations formulated in the original report, we will focus on the following **issues**.

For more information about the monitoring research on "Equal Access to Quality Education for Roma" and its follow-up projects, visit <http://www.eumap.org/topics/romaed>

## **Data collection**

*The Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities:*

1. Disaggregated data collection
2. Overall collection of data related to education

*The Ministry of Education:*

3. Analysis of existing data on Roma children, including data on "children from socially disadvantaged backgrounds"
4. Independent qualitative minority education research
5. Definition of terms:
  - a. drop-out
  - b. socially disadvantaged children

## **Structural constraints, legal and administrative requirements, costs**

*The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Construction and Regional Development:*

6. Second chance education
7. Financial support to rural municipalities to establish and maintain pre-schools

*The Ministry of Education:*

8. Enrollment of Roma children into pre-school regardless of when they register
9. Consulting NGOs on good pre-school practices

*[Regarding local education authorities]*

10. Proactive efforts to ensure that marginalized communities are informed of the required procedures for school enrollment
11. Financial and other incentives for schools and local self-governments, with the active participation of Roma NGOs

## **Geographical Isolation and Segregation**

*The Ministry of Education:*

12. Legal or administrative measures to prevent and sanction all forms of segregation

## **School and class placement procedures**

*The Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities:*

13. Fulfilling the Decade Action Plan [goal 4]

*The Ministry of Education:*

14. Comprehensive study of the number of Roma children enrolled in special schools
15. Raising awareness about the choice of schools
16. Culturally sensitive diagnostic tools
17. Normative funding for special schools and integration to support integration into mainstream schools
18. Legal mechanisms regulating the transfer of children from transitional to standard classes

## **Language**

*The Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities:*

19. Strategy of the Slovak Republic to Resolve Problems of the Roma Ethnic Minority

*The Ministry of Education:*

20. Comprehensive survey evaluating Roma children's proficiency in Slovak
21. "Effective Teaching and Learning for Minority-Language Children in Pre-school"

## **School facilities and human resources**

*The Ministry of Education:*

22. Systematic, transparent and ongoing financing scheme for Roma teaching assistants
23. Minimum level of teachers' qualifications for teaching in schools

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24. Incentives encouraging students to train as teachers
25. Increase the salary for teachers, including bonuses for those working in rural or disadvantaged areas.

### **Curricular standards**

#### *The Ministry of Education:*

26. Diversification of curricula
27. Textbook development, creation and selection including ethnic diversity issues
28. Roma history and culture

#### *The National Institute of Education:*

29. Content analysis of current textbooks and other school materials

### **Classroom practice and pedagogy**

#### *The Ministry of Education:*

30. Certification system, tied to salary increases, to encourage teachers to complete additional training
31. Study about the impact and effectiveness of training provided by the Methodological-Pedagogical Centre (MPC) in Prešov, at the Roma Education Centre (ROCEPO) and by other NGOs
32. In-service training of teachers with a more integrated view,
33. Extra support to train teachers in differentiated instruction

### **School–community Relations**

#### *The Ministry of Education:*

34. NGO initiatives to involve Roma communities in the day-to-day life of the school
35. Raising awareness of the benefits of close cooperation

### **Discriminatory attitudes**

#### *The Slovak Government's Plenipotentiary for Roma Communities:*

36. Adequate functioning of judicial and extrajudicial mechanisms designed to protect individual rights
37. Anti-discrimination and anti-bias measures, including both legislation and social policies
38. Training to the Protection against Discrimination Commission [discrimination in education]

#### *The Ministry of Education and the State School Inspectorate:*

39. Mechanisms for preventing and counteracting racism, particularly inside schools

#### *Universities, and pre-service and in-service teacher training institutions:*

40. Specific training modules on intercultural, anti-bias and anti-racism training

### **School inspections**

#### *The Ministry of Education:*

41. Mandate the State School Inspectorate to conduct inspections evaluating classroom practice
42. Authority to the Inspectorates in issuing sanctions relating to segregation

## **B. Civil Society Actions Assessment**

### **1. Desk research:**

#### **1.1. Creating the database of organizations and institutions working on the field of education of Roma children, review of their activities**

##### *Types of organizations/initiatives:*

- International initiatives and actions of international NGOs working in Slovakia
- National NGOs
- Regional and local NGOs

## *Methodology*

Internet research - review of actions supported by the Ministry of Education, websites of NGOs, websites of grant agencies and foundations (national and international). Identified institutions and organizations will be disaggregated according to the fields they primarily focus on (including: data collection, legal and administrative requirements, costs of education, geographical isolation and segregation, school and class placement procedures, curricular standards, language, pre-school preparation, discriminatory attitudes, etc.)

### **1.2. Amending the database with detailed information about the relevant activities of organizations**

#### *Methodology*

Contacting organizations (by phone, email, post); distribution of questionnaires with the following range of questions:

- most crucial problems/barriers in access of Roma children to education from the view of the organization
- aim of the organization, main focuses in education
- cooperation with other organizations [governmental/non-governmental]
- relationship with the Government
- will to participate in follow-up activity
- institutional partnerships
- activities of the organization in the field of education of Roma children in last 5 years
  - Length of the project
  - Which problems the project aimed to resolve
  - Target groups - children (pre-school age, early school age - 1st to 4th grade, later school age - 5th to 9th grade, high-school students); teachers; parents; specialized school staff (assistants of teachers, special pedagogues, school psychologists and others); other target group (to be defined by the NGO)
  - Outcomes and outputs of the project/activities
  - Evaluation and mainstreaming of the outcomes (what successful outcomes were achieved and sustained: on national level, on local level)
  - Partnership within the project
  - Funding
- planned activities of the organization in the field of education of Roma children
  - short-term plans
  - long-term plans
  - planned target groups, scope of problems, planned outcomes and outputs of the project/activities

## **2. Field research**

**2.1.** Selection of organizations and institutions with significant activities (leading to systematic changes, mainstreaming), actions of broader extent, long-term actions and/or actions of innovative elements; plus selection of organizations which could be strategically important for the future creation of the alliance.

**2.2.** Personal interview - structure of personal interviews will copy the types of questions in the questionnaire with more complex elaboration of specific issues. The interview will as concentrate in a detailed way on identified problems in the field of education of Roma children.

## **3. Preparation of the strategy**

### **3.1. Assessment of the activities of NGOs:**

- review of the steps and outcomes
- incorporating into the updated EAQER report

### **3.2. Scheme of the common strategy of NGOs:**

- compilation of strategic partners from civil society
- drawing up the basis for the initial meeting of the alliance – a proposal for joint efforts

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