

Draft Recommendations

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROMA CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN NORTH MACEDONIA

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City Hall Skopje, North Macedonia

General Recommendations and key Messages

- Government should establish clear mechanisms to engage Roma expertise and provide regular opportunities to ensure that Roma contribute directly to the policy debate in local, central and national level;
- In order to bridge the gap between the policies and practices, projects need to be accountable and results-oriented. Establishing tangible goals, specific targets, adequate resources, clear responsibilities, accurate indicators, monitoring systems and balanced relations between costs and benefits should be requirements for a better delivery.
- Identify keys to success and frequent common mistakes that institutions and other Roma and non-Roma actors should keep in mind when planning or implementing national Roma policies.

Session Specific Recommendations

Session I: Access to Quality Education for Roma Children and Youth: Perspective from the ground

1. Roma NGOs are urged to strengthen its work with government and to assist to produce disaggregated data which a view to setting baseline indicators and measurable targets which are essential for the monitoring system.
2. Positive education models for Roma that have become systemic solutions should be constantly monitored in order to achieve their quality implementation.
3. Positive educational models and policies that are not yet systemic solutions, more efforts are required to negotiate with respective decision policy makers and ministries for their systematization.
4. To establish a forum which will include all ministries, national and international organizations, schools, universities, local government and other stakeholders to exchange current information concerning the education of Roma.

Session II – Roma Youth Employment: a Human Development Agenda for the Next Decade

1. Improve the labor market forecasting significantly. Skills shortages are result of the discontent between the education and training systems with the private corporate agencies and industries (supply vs demand).
2. Private corporate agencies are urged to ensure equal employment measures and enable proper sharing of information with particular emphasis on Roma youth inclusion.
3. Government and responsible employment agencies are urged to invest more efforts to strengthen dialogue with Roma community and provide an inclusive transition to the employment for young Roma.
4. Raising awareness of the Roma community about the employment benefits and professional development trainings they could have from programs tailored for Roma.

Session III – Structural and Policy Changes for Roma in North Macedonia: Scaling up Collaboration at the National Level

1. Systems, structures and channels of Roma participation must be formalized and cannot depend on personal decision of the persons responsible for policies and their willingness to open up to participation.
2. The allocation of adequate and mutual trust is essential in order to integrate different interests and views that should shape Roma inclusion policies in local, central and national level.
3. Active participation needs to be understood as an essential pre-requisite for successful Roma policies and it is therefore essential for the government to put the issue of participation at the heart of future policies.
4. Roma community should use the political momentum and seek political participation and representation with clear, stable and straightforward Roma inclusion policies.
5. Specific policy design to be placed on national level for promoting Roma teachers in school institutions as well as nationwide policy support for increasing the number of teachers of Roma origin.
6. National curriculum reform especially for university Departments issuing pedagogical degrees to enable pedagogues with teaching methods and technics being in line with the needs of Roma students as well as pedagogues to be equipped and sensitized for working with Roma students and communities.
7. Harmonizing the financial coverage of education provided by the state with the demands of communities.
8. State institutional support to be provided for informing Roma parents about the obligations, responsibilities and opportunities nationwide educational public policies ensure.

