

IMPROVING ROMA EMPLOYMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

BACKGROUND

Promoting the integration of Roma communities into the labor market requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the needs of youth, adults and families.

Roma Education Fund, with the supported of European Union IPA funds, implemented two projects to promote equal opportunities and increase the employability of Roma women and men – *Improving Roma Employment through Education and Training* (December 2015–December 2017) and *School Completion as Pathway towards Employment* (December 2016–December 2017) – with the aim to:

- Increase the integration of Roma adults into the labor market through basic skills development, education and training in order to secure primary and secondary school diplomas.
- Improve education enrollment and retention rates for Roma children aged zero to six through community involvement and increased access to early childhood education and care.
- Empower Roma women and combat gender and ethnic discrimination on the labor market through the establishment of community groups which promote continuous education and pathways to employment.

The “pathway to employment” methodology ensures a personalized approach for the individual participants.

TARGETED LOCALITIES

Bitola, Berovo, Crnik, Delcevo, Pehcevo, Prilep, Skopje – Shuto Orizari and Topaana Roma settlements, Trabotivishte and Vinica.

In many of the localities, less than half of the adults in the Roma community have completed primary school. Furthermore, 63% of Roma households live on less than 60% of the monthly median income of the Republic of Macedonia, a situation that can be directly attributed to high rates of unemployment, estimated to be 70-80% for Macedonian Roma. These socio-economic conditions create a vicious cycle in which the necessity to earn money leads to a discontinuation of education, leading to further constraints such as lack of soft skills required during employment process, and lack of contacts, networks and support from majority community.

PARTNERS



“I am better educated and employed because I completed my secondary education thanks to the project. I can contribute to my family and most important to my child now.”



Merina Destanovska, from Vinica, is a graduate and recipient of official four year secondary school (gymnasium) diploma, employed in a factory through the project, and the mother of one child.

“The trainings and official diploma I received will help me become employed in Delcevo. I feel more educated and better trained for my job search after participating in the project.”



Edvin Memedov, from Delcevo, is a graduate and recipient of an official four-year secondary school (gymnasium) diploma and participated in all soft-skills trainings.

SCHOOL COMPLETION AS PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT IMPROVING ROMA EMPLOYMENT THROUGH EDUCATION AND TRAINING

HIGHLIGHTS

Primary education diplomas

190 Roma adults
(ages 16-40) completed

67% women

Strengthened cooperation and
increased networking with local
employment offices and businesses

Established **18** partnerships

Secondary education diplomas

142 Roma adults
(ages 18-40) completed

42% women

Community support groups

10 groups established

women's empowerment groups,
with 78 trainings

Soft skills and active job search training

125 adults (70 women)
completed training

Early childhood education and care

120 children participated in
program activities

72 children enrolled
in kindergarten

Employment

34 participants found employment



IPA – Social Inclusion and Employment at Local Level

Operational Programme for Human Resources Development 2007–2013



**Roma Education Fund Hungary
– Headquarters**

Terez korut 46
1066 Budapest, Hungary
email: Info@romaeducationfund.org
www.romaeducationfund.org

RomaEducationFund
 @romaeducation
 roma_education_fund
 romaeducationfundref