



Building a community for Roma parents with young children

Early Childhood Development workshop for REF's grantees

24-25 July 2017, Sofia

Venue

Best Western Expo Sofia, Hotel
149, Tsarigradsko Shose,
1784 Sofia, Bulgaria

Purpose of workshop

REF worked with national governments and local authorities to advocate for compulsory and free-of-charge ECEC for all children below school age. In 2016, REF grantees supported altogether 8962 Roma children ages zero to six with ECEC services in 11 countries, 36 projects. In addition, 3075 parents became members of Toy Libraries, together with their children.

The idea to set up a professional Network of Roma Toy Libraries emerged after the first REF Toy Library event held in 2016, attended by representatives from eight countries. This event will be part of the network event, which is planned to be replicated every year in one of the Ref project countries.

The workshop will bring together practitioners from the REF-supported ECD projects in order to share knowledge across the countries, but also to inspire and gain new ideas to improve the work back in their countries. Special emphasis will be put on parenting practices and on improving the Toy Library component. Furthermore, the participants will be trained on the new assessment tool of Toy Libraries and on child safeguarding policy of REF.

Study visit

The second day of the event will be dedicated to visit one of the REF support project in the biggest Roma segregated area of Sofia (Faculteta), which aims to increase the level of Roma kids in kindergarten and improve parental practices. Through the project the participants will have chance to get familiar with the kindergarten system of Sofia including the electronic school enrollment system and the main challenges of the local Roma community face with it.

As part of the event the "Equal Opportunities Initiative" Association will present their program and the participants will have chance to talk with direct beneficiaries, meet with kindergarten principles and visit the Toy Library as well. (project summary in attachment).



| 23rd July, Sunday | |
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| 18:00 – 22.00 | Arrival and dinner |
| 24th July, Monday | |
| 09.15 – 09:30 | Registration of participants |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | Welcome and introduction of participants– Beata Olahova, REF |
| 09:45 – 10:30 | Presenting the results of REF Romania ECD project, Ready Set Go! - Claudiu Ivan and Ioan Tanasa, REF Romania |
| 10.30-10.45 | Questions and Answers |
| 10:45 – 11.00 | Coffee break |
| 11:00 – 12.00 | Presentation of the Quality Assessment Tool of Toy Libraries (ECD Quat)– Anasztazia Nagy, Ioan Tanasa, REF |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Assessing the quality and results of Your story (YS) program – Furugh Switzer, YS trainer |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 – 15:30 | Toy Library Network – Marta Kecskes, TL trainer |
| 15.30 – 16.00 | Communication and visibility activities of REF grantees-Svetlana Hristova, REF |
| 16.00 – 16.30 | Coffee break |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Feedback session with grantees about roles and expectations on quality assurance of projects- TBC |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | Closing of day |
| 19.00 | Organized dinner in the city |



| 25th July, Tuesday | |
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| 8.15 | Leaving from hotel by organized transportation |
| 9.15 -9.30. | General introduction of the Bulgarian educational system and educational situation of Roma - Ognyan Isaev, REF |
| 9.30 - 10 .30 | Presentation of the “Equal access to early years education for Roma children in Sofia” project - Daniela Mihailova, Equal Opportunity Initiative (EOI) Association |
| 10.30 – 10. 45 | Coffee break |
| 10.45 -12.00 | Demonstration of the electronic enrollment system - Daniela Mihailova, EIO Association |
| 12.00 – 13.00 | Lunch |
| 13.00 -13.30 | Walking to the Toy Library through the neighborhood |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | Toy library visit in Fakulteta district and discussion with parents |
| 15.30 – 16.45 | Visiting the kindergartens and discussion with the principles |
| 17.00-17.30 | Q&A session Closing of the event |
| 17.30 - | Departure to the city center/hotel |
| 18.00 – 21.00 | Dinner at the hotel |