

DEPART CONFERENCE 2 THE POSSIBILITIES FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING ESPECIALLY FOR ROMA COMMUNITIES Pécs, 14th November 2016

Conference report

Participation:

The event involved 149 citizens, including 8 participants from Austria, 2 participants from Croatia, 74 participants from Hungary, 65 participants from Slovakia

Location / Dates:

The event took place in Pécs, Hungary on November 14th 2016.

Short description:

The second thematic event is dedicated to the topic of the possibilities for education and training especially for Roma communities. This is a core task and responsibility of municipalities. The morning led after one keynote to a in depth working groups which dealt with successful examples and led to new ideas.

Highlights from the Roma cuisine during the coffee break and afterwards cultural Roma singing were the starter for the informative and constructive workshop sessions.

After the lunch break all participants had a guided tour through the Gandhi gymnasium as an example of good practice. One highlight of the conference was the cultural show performed by students of the Gandhi gymnasium followed by a keynote showing the status quo.

Concrete transfer plans to other countries, regions and target groups were established in the final session with local and EU experts, Roma and other citizens.

Conference report:

The conference, organized by the **City of Graz**, **EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS** and the **City of Pécs** was dedicated to the topic of education and training for Roma as in the title above visible.

After the opening by the vice-major of the city of Pécs **László Őri**, **Sissi Potzinger**, local councilor of the city of Graz, **Peter Krajňák**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport and **Ábel Ravasz**, Plenipotentiary of the Government of the Slovak republic for Roma Communities of the Slovak Republic the conference began with the first keynote „*Does the equality of Roma in employment exclusively depend from their access to education?*“ held by **Andrea Békési** from the Számá Dá Noj Association.

Jan Hero board member of the European Roma Information Office in Brussels and **Jana Tomova** from the Súkromné gymnázium in Kremnica(SK) let through the working groups “Identification of transfer potential of good practice approaches, conclusion and next steps” and also held a short keynote showing examples of good practice.

After a short coffee break with cultural programme the participants split into 3 groups for the following workshops:

Workshop I > *What is it like to be young Roma in primary school?* > Moderator: **Ildikó Déri**, Gandhi Gymnasium

Workshop II > *VET (benefit from existing skills - ECVET - a future model)* > Moderator: **Philipp Lienhart**, CMO EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS

Workshop III > *Guide Roma students to realize their full academic and professional potential* > Moderator: **Gábor Juhász**, University of Pécs Faculty of Humanities

After the moderators held a short keynote on their topics the following themes were discussed during the workshops: social background of Roma learners, lack of process in socialisation, opportunities and aims in learning and training programs, influencing factors of learning and participation on trainings, factors of being successful. All participants were well-motivated during the meetings and had important suggestions.

The lunch break with delicious Roma cuisine was a solid ground for networking for all participants.

After the lunch break Mr **Bertalan Virág**, director of the Gandhi gymnasium led a tour through the Roma gymnasium as an example of good practice showing for example the new 3D education room and library with an included art gallery followed by a typical Roma cultural performance.

The last keynote was held by Mr **Tibor Cserti Csapó** from University of Pécs - Department of Romology – on the topic of „*Changes of education of Hungarian Gypsy population in the early 21st century. An inclusive good practice at the University of Pécs*“ where all facts were put on the table as a basis for the open discussions during the closing.

The closing was accompanied by a cultural programme performed by the students of the Gandhi gymnasium.

Outputs

Transfer plans for the presented examples of good practice were made between the participating municipalities, countries and experts. Therefore for example, the city of Kremnica is interested to implement the work of the Gandhi gymnasium in their region and vice versa. The director of the Gandhi gymnasium is thinking on a follow-up project within his school related to the ECVET AGENT ERASMUS+ training program developed by EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURS.

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