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PAL

“REYN programme. P.S. National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013 – 2015:



“Fighting discrimination and anti-Gypsyism in education and employment in EU” (PAL)

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I. History and work of Romani Early Years Network.

Key words:

Childhood

Professional

Partner

Care

Skill

Starting questions:

1. What is “Kopaçi”?
2. Why does REYN work with Romani families?
3. What is the main purpose of REYN?
4. What can REYN help to Romani children and their families with?

Definition of terms:

Childhood: The time or state of being a child.

Care: Close attention, as in doing something well or avoiding harm.

Professional: A person following a profession, especially a learned profession.

Partner: One that is united or associated with another or other in some activities.

Skill: A developed talent or ability.

Content of the chapter:

REYN was launched as a **partner** with Open Society Foundation’s Roma ‘Kopaçi’ initiatives of the Early Childhood Programme (OSF/ECP).

REYN program works anti-discrimination, respect for diversity and equality. REYN was created to address a scarcity of resources for ECD professionals, pedagogues and para-**professionals** to ensure equity for Romani and Traveller families and children through access to high-quality Early Childhood Development (ECD) services.



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The main purpose of REYN is to combat the social exclusion and historic disadvantage faced by Roma and Traveler communities through creation of a vibrant learning community for ECD practitioners, in which the members work together to develop **skills** and good practice, establish effective partnerships and support professional development.

REYN is a network hosted and managed by the International Step by Step Association (ISSA), focusing on emerging and established Romani early childhood development professionals, as well as other professionals working in the field of Early Childhood Development (ECD) with Roma communities.

During the last week of January, the Romani Early Years Network Croatia provided members of REYN International – early **childhood** practitioners and experts 1 [from Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, Serbia, Ukraine, Kosovo, Czech Republic and the Netherlands] – with a unique opportunity to see the results of their work. Today, reflecting on the cropstudy visit and the REYN Croatia Conference, the experience reminds me of an excellent speech by James Heckman, Nobel laureate and champion for quality early childhood development. As the world is rushing to reach the best cognitive results of children, Heckman reminds us that cognitive skills are not enough.

The aim is that, once established, the network will shape and develop its work within the broad framework of ISSA's and ECP's shared objectives, of ensuring access and equity of **care** for every young child and of promoting high quality and professionalism in early years services.

General directions for the Network's developments:

- 1.Support the development of skills and good practice.
- 2.Share knowledge drawn from experiences of working effectively with Romani families and young children.
- 3.Establish effective partner between Roma and other practitioners working with young Roma children.



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4. Support professional development for those working with these marginalized and excluded groups.

ISSA member NGO Kham from Macedonia are doing amazing work with Romani communities in Macedonia. Their determination to ensure equality and sustainable development for Romani people is inspiring and REYN admires their determination and dedication. This short film focuses on the prejudice and stigma Romani people face when trying to access health care services in Macedonia

Following the success of the 2015 “Building a Roma Living Library” in Milan, Italy, in September 2015 we are happy to announce a new opportunity for REYN members to participate in this innovative training.

The latest “Building a Roma Living Library” training will take place on January 26th – 29th, 2016, in Skopje, Macedonia, as a part of our capacity building program.

If you are a REYN member and an early childhood practitioner working in early childhood services or in Romani communities, or if you are representing a Ministry or other state body responsible for the quality of education, or if you are doing advocacy work and you want to explore how to challenge existing biases towards Romani communities, and learn more about what you can do to promote inclusive, high quality learning and living environments for Romani children please fill out the Application Form.

Questions for thinking:

1. What do you think about the work REYN is doing, actually, is good for Romani?
2. What aspects do you change about their work?
3. How would the situation change about the thoughts that people have about Romani?
4. What can REYN do to be known in the whole world?



II. Training programmes

Key words:

Community

Equality

Developed

Network

Starting Questions:

1. Why is better to work with a global network than a regional network?
2. Do you think is important to build individual strength to have a global community?
3. Can network facilitate the way that professionals work with the Romani children and families?
4. Would be important to include Romani at professional work? Why?

Definition of terms:

Community: A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage

Equality: the state or quality of being equal; correspondence in quantity degree, value, rank, or ability

Develop: To bring out the capabilities or possibilities of, bring to a more advanced or effective state.

Network: An association of individuals having a common interest.

Content of the chapter:

Training programme is supposed to be a long-term training activity which comprises of a series of courses, and usually has a flexible time and cost budget. But in this case REYN just do it to improve the quality of the professionals, who work with them and with Romani families and children.

These are the most important point of their training programme:

- Reaching from a regional network towards nurturing national networks:



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Is easiest work as a global **network** with professional of the whole world, than working just as a region.

- Growing from a regional network into a global network impacting provisions for Roma children.
- Moving from in-person professional **development** activities to more and more online learning and collaboration:

Better than work one by one, is to work as a network, also including online activities.

- Starting from knowledge and experience sharing and leading to more and more knowledge creation:

REYN starts with early years knowledge and step by step, sharing and teaching, so they can improve their capabilities.

- Addressing global issues while going deeper into regional and national concerns:

Working and solving global issues from regional to national territories.

- Moving from general to specialized concerns.
- Building on the strengths of individuals to create a powerful **community** of professionals.
- Moving from an English language based network to a multilingual network:

Using professional from different places that use various languages to improve multilingual network.



General Objectives:

- Build a strong inclusive professional learning community among Romani and other ECD practitioners working with Romani children, within which they can develop skills, partnerships, resources, methodologies, etc.

Working hand to hand with Romani and ECD community is an easiest way to improve skills, partnership, methodologies...

- Promote **equality** and access for Romani and other ECD practitioners to professional development pathways
- Provide Roma and other ECD practitioners with high quality professional development opportunities
- Increase Roma and others ECD practitioners' reputation and visibility on the international/regional/local level in working towards improving the quality and equity of ECD provisions
- Strengthen the capacity of the network to advocate for inclusive policies and practices on the trans-national and national level

To have a better reputation of Romani is a good way to include their people to the actual society.

Strategic steps in the network's development and growth

- Recruiting more members from at least 15 countries.
- Providing capacity building activities.
- Consolidate human capacity to carry out the REYN work.
- Encouraging communication and exchange between network members.



- Providing a broad range of capacity building activities.
- Provide support to special interest groups focusing on advocacy.
- Build a sense of belonging to a professional learning community.
- Expand the network by nurturing national networks and reaching out to more countries.

Questions for thinking:

1. Do you think is better to use professionals that belong to a different places of the whole world?
2. Which are the benefits of working between network members?
3. How REYN improve in different ways, as individual and as a network?
4. As professionals, what can we learn about REYN program?
5. Which are the right ways to expand REYN program?

III. National contact point.

Key words:

National Organisation	Citizen	Agency	Goal
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Starting Questions:

1. Which are the goals of the organisations in a professional way?
2. Do the organisations work with common goals?
3. How the families can get comfortable with these organisations?
4. As a citizen, do you think that these association are good for the Romani?

Definition of terms:

National: Of, relating to, or maintained by a nation as an organized whole or independent political unit.



Citizen: A native or naturalized member of a state or nation who owes allegiance to its government and is entitled to its protection.

Agency: A government department that is responsible for a particular activity, area, etc.

Goal: The result or achievement toward which effort is directed; aim; end.

Organisation: A social unit of people that is structured and managed to meet a need or to pursue collective goals.

Content of the chapter:

These are the national contact point, today are organisation, that are a very valuable platform for Romani and Traveller practitioners to receive support and training:

OSF	Open Society Foundation. (USA)	Work to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable their citizen . https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/
ISSA	International Step by step Association (Netherland)	Is a membership association, which severs as learning community and champion for quality for all children and their families. http://www.issa.nl/content/contact
UNICEF	United Nations Children`s emergency fund (New York)	Is a leading and development agency working globally for the rights for every child. http://www.unicef.org/
DECET	Diversity in Early Childhood Education and Training	Bring together a network of European Organisations and projects with common goals about valuing diversity in early childhood education and training. http://decet.org/contact-us/



OSCE	Organization for security and co-operation in Europe (Austria)	has a comprehensive approach to security that encompasses politico-military, economic and environment, and human aspects. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concern, including arms control, confidence- and security- building measures, human rights... http://www.osce.org/contacts
BvLF	Bernard van Leer Foundation (Netherland)	Since its inception, the Bernard van Leer Foundation has worked in more than 50 countries and invested over half a billion dollars toward our mission. Bernard was an entrepreneur who built a large global company after the destruction of World War II. Bernard was inspired to invest in improving the society. https://bernardvanleer.org/

Questions for thinking:

1. After reading this, do you think that is better all the different associations, who works in a common way, than have one big association that resolve all these problems? And, can REYN include all of these goals?
2. Do you think that these association follow the Romani family and children from the beginning of the process to the end?
3. The work that these association make, can ensure the human rights of Romani children and their families?
4. Do you know another association who work at the same time and in the same direction that these are making?



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