

INTEGRATED EDUCATION OF STUDENTS SOCIALLY UNDERPRIVILEGED

Project application of the 20th district Municipality of Budapest,

National Development Agency

www.nfu.hu

Human Resources Development Program (HEFOP) at Pesterzsébet, Budapest,
Hungary

www.pesterszeb.hu

supported by Roma Education Fund

www.romaeducationfund.hu

Project summary

The project directly aims to prepare the educational institutions, maintained by the municipality of the 20 district of Budapest, for the tasks that are indicated by the modification of the public education act, for including socially underprivileged students into integrated education.

For that purpose all sort of segregating educational methods has to be demolished, preparations for integration have to be implemented and all participating kinder gardens(2) and primary schools(6) have to be offered professional and financial aid.

According to the project agreement as the leader of the Consortium, the Municipality /local Government of the 20.th district of Budapest is responsible for the preparation and the implementation of the „Regional Equal Chances Program”

Teachers of the primary schools and kinder gardens that are involved in the project as partners of the Consortium will participate in professional pedagogical trainings and activities of the **central program** (HEFOP program) relating to it, also they will be the ones implementing integrated education from the next school year in 2007/2008.

For that purpose they will gain differentiated group work, tools improving development and extra curricula programs that will target both integrated education and the involvement of parents.

The local Roma Minority Self-government will also play an important role that is to run a mentorship program thorough the project and make arrangements for the roundtable supporting integrated education.

As a result, participating faculties are expected to acquire the necessary competencies for integrated education through the teacher trainings arranged by the central program of the HEFOP. They will get to know the pedagogical instruments and will make a proper use of them when the school year starts. On the long run participating institutions and their social surroundings will be committed in non-segregating education and will be actively involved in helping the realization of integrated education of socially underprivileged students in Pesterzsebet (20. district) and also outside the district as well.

Main activities of the Municipality of the XX. district

1. In pursuance of the Public Education Act, the Municipality of Pesterzsebet takes care of the following compulsory duties:
 - Kinder garden education
 - Primary school education
 - Kinder garden and primary school education of children from national or ethnic minorities
 - Integrated education of children with Special Caring Needs
 - According to an agreement between the Municipality of the district and the Municipality of the capital, the Municipality of the XX district/ Pesterzsebet provides basic level art classes, consultancy in education, provision of speech and language therapy and physical therapy
 - As an extra service the Municipality of the XX district/ Pesterzsebet. Does Vocational Trainings in 2 Secondary schools
2. The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet support socially indigent students with different type of scholarships both for students pursuing primary/secondary or tertiary education.
3. The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet each year in October there is a career/vocational advisor outing that aims to help primary school leaver students their parents and teachers. There are spectacular presentations, exhibitions in order to share information with the concerned audience.
4. The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet assures sport programs free of charge for the primary schools and kinder garden of the district in the Jegcsarnok/ Ice hall , usage rotated by a weekly schedule amongst the institution.

Main opportunities for further activity development

The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet consider as a main task the modification of the school districts according to the Public Education Act/ Lottery Based school enrollment.

Preparations for the next school year are pursued accordingly. School aged children have been identified and registered, with the help of the kinder garden the residence of socially disadvantaged children is charted school districts will be appointed in relevance to a proportionate dispensation. The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet strongly

count on the support of the Roma Minority Self-Government in convincing parents about the importance of this activity, as it is very important to get parents identify themselves with the new, useful and important ideas, when choosing the primary school.

The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet thinks that it is important to work out a „integration protocol” that coordinates the common work of parents of socially disadvantaged children, their teachers, schools they attend and all sort of helping institutions and professional intending to offer help.

In the Development Plan of the Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet for 2007-2011, prepared I November 2006, list further areas for development :

- The network of public educational institutions has to be strengthened in order to be more effective, for that purpose personal and material conditions are to be developed
- The Quality Insurance Program of the Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet has to be overviewed
- The Quality Insurance Program of public education institutions has to be overviewed in accordance with the change in laws
- Reconstruction works on/inside institutions
- Working out a regulation plan for cost analyses for evaluating the annual achievement of the institutions
- Reconsider the situation of current public transport possibilities, their route must reach the educational institutions
- Possibility of running a district school bus
- Create an friendly and unhampered environment for the handicapped as well

The Municipality of the 20th district/ Pesterzsebet pays extra attention to serving the needs of youngsters by offering more and more sport centers of high standard.(new swimming pool, free of charge as well)

Reasons for the necessity of the project:

Function and development of public education is defined by the economical and social changes, the population of the 20. District showed a growing tendency up to the `80s, and since then it decreased due to migration. Two third of the population live in council estates, while only 30 % in family houses. The population is fairly of the young generation, but their level of education is far lower than the average in Budapest.

Due to the social- economical changes of the past decades resulted a growing number of unemployed adults, living on social aids.

A big portion of these socially disadvantaged families are of Roma origin.

The location of the Roma population in Budapest is very characteristic. Most of the Roma lives on Pest side in the 7th 8th 20th and 21st district areas.

Inside the 20th district their location is pretty concentrated or segregated partly due to the housing policy or rather to the lack of housing policies.

As the school districts are composed of the surrounding streets, in certain institutions there are a high number of children coming from socially underprivileged Roma families.

In most of these schools the measure of disadvantages are culminated. Many of these Roma children only go to kinder garden at the age of 5+, thus the first steps are to be taken amongst the families in order to reach a certain level of a change in their approach. From the last school year, the integrated education of "Children with Special Needs" has been implemented.

There is an Educational Advisory who offers professional help to the host institutions, they get help from traveling network Special Therapists and they get financial help from the maintainer.

The first and most important step in order to reach equal opportunity is integrated education. We consider it an important pedagogical factor to get institutions to not just accept but include these children. This is what the project wishes to target.

Project aim and target audience:

Direct aims: integrated education of socially disadvantaged children

The project directly aims to prepare the educational institutions, maintained by the municipality of the 20 district of Budapest, for the tasks that are indicated by the modification of the public education act, for including socially underprivileged students into integrated education.

For that purpose all sort of segregating education has to be demolished, preparations for integration have to be implemented and all participating kindergardens and primary schools have to be offered professional and financial aid.

Teachers of the primary schools and kinder garden that are involved in the project as partners of the Consortium will participate in professional pedagogical trainings and activities of the **central program** (Human Resources Development Program) relating to it, also they will be the ones implementing integrated education from the next school year in 2007/2008.

Long range aims:

- Decrease of differences in opportunities caused by social and economical background
- Create equal opportunities for continuing studies, all students have to get the chance to develop their abilities by the personality centered education
- Develop the abilities of educators of recognizing social and cultural differences
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Direct beneficiaries/ target group

- Members of the Consortium
- Child welfare (social care) service employees
- Educational and Child defender professionals of the Municipality of Pesterzsébet
- Representatives of the Pesterzsébet the Municipality and City Council
- Members and employees of the Local Roma Minority self-government
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Indirect target groups:

- Students of primary and kinder garden of the participating institutions, and their parents as well
- Other pedagogical institutions and teachers of the district

Context and Activities of the project

- Educational equal opportunities program
- Roundtable supporting integrated education membering local municipalities, employees from social and child protector fields, civil organizations, representatives of parent organization
- Integrational Pedagogical Method training for teachers, and two more professional trainings
- Setting up of an IPM management , and a developing a network
- For knowledge transfer,partners and members of the network will hold 18 lessons/presentations for the Consortium and hold an „open day” in each institution for the teachers
- Together with the micro groups the preparation of the local curricula updating the pedagogical programs with integrational content, preparation of a evaluation report
- Constantly informing and updating parents, arranging 3 Parents Forum
- Mentorship program, 3 Roma coordinator /family mentor as a link between institutions and families
- Assuring dissemination of information press conferences will be organized for public informing

This project is related to the central Human Resources Program 2.1.1, due to its developed framework there are special programs and services for training teachers for the integrated education of socially disadvantaged children.

Many of the Consortium Partners are Consortium partners in another Human Resources Development Program (3.1.4) as well, title of the project is „ Spreading competence-based education”, in the frames of which leaders of the Institutions participate in a 30 hours training called „learn to handle changes”, while teachers will receive a 30 hours long methodology course, and after participating will transfer their gained knowledge amongst their colleagues.

Equal opportunity factors of the project

In the field of education it has high importance to redesign school districts and **eliminate** existing **segregation** and also prevent the institution from the reappearance of the phenomena. Although, elimination of segregation is not only condition of the creation of **REAL EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**: teachers, as the main target group, have to be trained for the integration, for the professional coordination and rationalization, for arranging

programs and also implementing them. Equal opportunity will only become reality if we put the real content behind it.

Our main beneficiaries are disadvantaged Roma children and their families. Due to implemented integrated education their school results will improve, the realization of this project will assure them possibilities that have never been offered due to their social circumstances.

The mentorship program, in which 3 Roma mentors coordinates communication between families and institutions, will help children in obtaining chance for enrolling in high-schools and possibly later on in tertiary educational establishments. They will be serving as a good example to follow for the following generations.

All project related information will be disseminated publicly and there will be extra curricula programs for free of charge.

All participating institutions have Equal Opportunity Plans. When employing new staff, as for assuring equal chances and non-discrimination, the application of entrants, the elder generation, aged 50+ will, mothers trying to return from the maternal way, Roma and disabled will be favored.

Reasons of involving the Consortium partner into the project

Two primary schools of the district, having mainly Roma pupils, are closing down due to the determining effect created by the school districts. According to the new Development plan of the Municipality of Pesterzsebet, there is an alternative to place equally these Roma students in the schools of the surrounding school districts.

These were the main determining factors for choosing these two primary schools for partners. Due to financial reasons we could not involve all primary schools affected by the redesigning of school districts, thus we strove for involving those schools and two kinder gardens from the same school district, that that are mostly affected in the integrated education of socially disadvantaged children.

Teachers of the institutions involved as Consortium partners will participate in a pedagogical professional training and all related activities, organized by the central program, (HRDP) and also will implement integrated education from the next school year. 2007 / 2008. In connection with this they will implement differentiated group works, development tools, and extra curricula programs, targeting both integrated education and the involvement of parents.

The involvement and effective work of the local Roma Minority Self-Government is of high importance in order to reach the aims of the project, further more to run a successful project.

Its duties will be the operation of integrated education supportive roundtable, and also the organizing of programs aiming to help socially disadvantaged Roma students in succeeding.

As a closing of the project there will be a conference, where teachers and partners will present their experiences gained through the project implementation, and they will also define the future tasks.