



STUDY VISIT TO ROMA ORGANIZATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH ROMA YOUTH

24th-26th April 2013, Murska Sobota, Slovenia

REPORT

Facilitators: Simona Muršec, Tina Friedreich, Vinko Cener

Background

The Youth in Action programme is a tool to enhance the social inclusion, active citizenship and employability and to contribute to social cohesion in general. Young people from Roma communities can see themselves represented in several of these areas, and as such often suffer from multiple discrimination and lack of opportunities.

In the three days during the Study visit, participants had the opportunity to learn from different organisations working with young Roma people in different parts of Slovenia; they were also able to explore opportunities and challenges facing these young people in their local, national and international contexts. Participants had an opportunity to reflect on their own realities, network with potential project partners and focus on the importance of organisations working as mediators, in different contexts, between Roma and non-Roma. They looked at Youth in Action related opportunities and focused on what to bring home and ways of multiplying what has been learnt.

Aim

The main aim of this short study visit was to allow participants to visit Roma organisations and organisations working with Roma youth in Slovenia, to explore their good practices and approaches and reflect on those in relation to the participants' home realities.

Objectives of the short study visit:

- ✚ to enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma organisations and organisations working with Roma through study visits in the field and by participating in/visiting actual activities
- ✚ to get inspired to carry out future youth projects in their organisations
- ✚ to share good practice examples of working with Roma youth and on Roma youth projects
- ✚ to provide participants with network opportunities to start building possible future partnerships amongst their organisations
- ✚ to gain a greater understanding of working in Roma organisations and with Roma youth in different local and national realities
- ✚ to reflect on the reality of Roma organisations and working with Roma Youth in Slovenia – including Roma Youth policies at a national level
- ✚ to discuss the different realities of Roma youth in Roma communities, within Roma organisations and participation in the wider society
- ✚ to explore the importance of Roma (youth) organisations as »mediators« between Roma communities and wider society

We were looking for participants who...

- were a young youth leader active in a Roma youth organisation or organisation that works with Roma youth
- had had at least 2 years' experience working with Roma youth (13-30 years old)

- were willing and able to share newly acquired knowledge in their organisations and home realities
- were over 18 and under 35
- were fluent in English (in exceptional cases participants can ask for a translator)

There were 12 participants, see the list below:

COUNTRY	NAME	ORGANIZATION
Albania	Erjola Kaci	ARSIS “ Social organization for the support of Youth”
Croatia	Magdalena Magličić	REYC “Ian Hancock”
Czech Republic	Tereza Forgačová	BUNKR, o.s.
Latvia	Solvita Viluma	Kendawa region Youth Centre
Montenegro	Biljana Tvrdisic	NGO “Lighthouse”
Sweden	Sara Granath	Save the Children Sweden
Sweden	Maria Sundbom Ressaissi	Swedish National Board of Youth Affairs
United Kingdom	Silvia Alessi	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council
Italy	Marialuigia Pierfelice	Coop. Sociale Pralipe
Czech Republic	Kateřina Kršková	Salvation army
Romania	Oana Burcea	Astra national museum
Kosovo	Anesa Colakovic	Community service A.U.K.

Implemented programme

The programme started on the 24th of April 2013 at 9 am and ended on the 26th of April 2013 in the evening. The arrival and departure days were 23rd and 27th of April 2013.

	Wednesday, 24th April	Thursday, 25th April	Friday, 26th April
7:00 – 9:00	Breakfast	7:00 Early breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 – 10:30	Welcome and introduction to the study visit Getting to know each other	8:00 Departure	Participation in international conference »Political participation and activism in Slovenia«
10:30 – 11:00	Break	10:30 Field visit: Krško - Society of Allies for Soft Landing and their work with Roma	
11:00 – 12:30	Presentation of organisations of participants	- Field visit to an activity, funded by YiA programme	Visit to a settlement: Kamenci
Lunch	12:30 – 14:00	Early lunch 12:00 – 13:30	Reflection in Kamenci in Incubator
14:00/15:00 – 16:30	14:00 Roma Academic Club (Slovenian example)	13:30 driving toward Ljubljana	Late lunch at 13:30 – 15:00
16:30-17:00	Afternoon break	15:00 Ljubljana: Romani Info Center Anglunipe	YiA related opportunities - EVS, Youth Initiatives & structured dialogue
	Meeting Slovenian Roma youth and having a discussion with them about their realities	16:30 Reflection on both visits	Afternoon break
17:00 – 18:30	Field visit: Vanča vas –Borejci	Reflection on both visits with a guest	What to bring home and how to multiply lessons learned
19:00	Dinner	Dinner in Ljubljana at 18:30	Evaluation
20:00	Reflection and comparison to other countries realities of Roma youth - European perspective included	20:00 Departure back to Murska Sobota (2,5h drive)	Cultural evening – taking part in the Romano Čhon festival (concert – Balkan Boys)
	21:00 Movie night of videos from participants organisations		

Session outlines

TIME	OBJECTIVES	DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS
Wednesday, 24th April 2013			
9:00	Participants will be welcomed by the organisers of the study visit	Welcome and introduction to the study visit - welcome words by MOVIT - welcome words by SALTO SEE and CD - introduction of the facilitator and the local host (RAC)	Prepared room in hotel
9:15	Participants will share details of themselves in order to get to know each other better	Getting to know each other: - Participants will introduce themselves (name, country, organisation, one motivation why they decided to apply) 15' - Getting to know each other activity – identity star 10' + 15'	15 A3 papers markers tape wall space
10:00	Participants will reflect on the aims, objectives and programme and will express their expectations for the following days.	Presentation of Aims and Objectives of the study visit - presentation 10' Introduction of the Programme - programme presentation 10' Mapping participants expectations - expectations regarding the programme and objectives, through a post-it exercise 10'	Aims and objectives Programme Post-its pens
10:30	Coffee break (facilitator organises the expectations)		
11:00	To share good practice examples of working with Roma youth and on Roma youth projects. To provide participants with network opportunities to start building possible future partnerships amongst their organisations.	Introduction through the summary of expectations and brief reaction from the facilitators side 10' Presentation of organisations of participants who am I and what type of organisation do I come from - How do you prepare activities for young Roma people, how do you involve young Roma people - Does your organisation have any experiences with European projects,	15 flip chart papers markers tape wall

		<p>which ones?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which way do you motivate young Roma people, so they become involved in your organisation and actively participate in your activities? <p>Each participant prepares a poster with bullet points on the above questions as well as any questions they have open in their mind they would like to ask the others/debate... 20'</p>	
11:30		Then each participant gets 3 min to present their poster and questions 35'	
12:05		Open space to walk around, mingle and talk freely about the open questions	
12:30		Lunch	
14:00	<p>To reflect on the reality of Roma organisations and working with Roma Youth in Slovenia – including Roma Youth policies at national level.</p> <p>To explore the importance of Roma (youth) organisations as »mediators« between Roma communities and wider society.</p>	<p>Roma Academic Club (Slovenian example)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how the organisation works - what are the opportunities and challenges - Questions and answers 	
15:30		Break	
16:00	To explore the importance of Roma (youth) organisations as »mediators« between Roma communities and wider society.	<p>Meeting Slovenian Roma youth and having a discussion with them about their realities</p> <p>(moderated discussion, some questions, interview...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aljosa from Kindergarten, Student - Samanta, student of phd - Tina and Vinko, from RAC involved in learning support - non-Roma girl giving after school lessons - Roma Muslim girl from Maribor, Jasmina (author of a book) 	translation
17:00	To enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma youth organisations and organisations working with Roma through study visits in the field and by	<p>Field visit</p> <p>Vanča vas –Borejci</p>	<p>Bus pick-up</p> <p>Arranged welcome and guided tour from the major of the settlement</p>

	participating in/visiting actual activities		
18:30		Return to Murska Sobota	
19:00		Dinner	
20:00	To share good practice examples of working with Roma youth and on Roma youth projects	Reflection and comparison to other countries realities of Roma youth - European perspective included? Open discussion, the facilitator will note down some elements	Timetable on poster (who, what, how long)
21:00		Movie night of videos from participants organisations	

Field visit Vanča vas –Borejci

We visited the Roma settlement Vanča vas – Borejci. Our first stop was the Roma educational centre Vanča vas – Borejci, where we saw the football field and the football tournament, which was prepared by the trainers and kids from the Football school Roma, which is one of the activities of the ESF Project “Increase in social and cultural capital I areas with a Roma population”. Football has a long tradition – more than 50 years- in this settlement and is very important for the community there. Participants of the tournament were also Non- Roma children and their parents and this was a huge surprise for the participants. We could say that through that we saw an example of good practice. We moved to the Roma educational centre Vanča vas – Borejci, where after school assistance is given daily by members of RAC and also workshops for Roma children. The participants met the municipality Roma - councillor Mr. Slavko Cener, who presented the football tradition, walked with the participants around the settlement and explained the way of living there, the history of the settlement, infrastructure, so the participants could see, that this settlement is one of the best situated in Slovenia.

Reflection Wednesday evening:

Czech Republic: similar situation, but Roma are officially recognised minority with more rights, but also social benefits that discourage Roma from working, Roma kids are sent to special schools based on language incomprehension but are treated as learning disability kids

Montenegro: Roma minority officially recognised, also student funds, but no similar organisation to RAK

Croatia: segregation in schools is a practice, Roma parents do not want to send children to school

Slovenia: also had problem of special schools, problem of materialism, law for the Roma political representation (2007)

Sweden: a parallel can be drawn to everything we saw on the study visit so far, on the surface there are differences, like no clear settlements, but there is some ghettoization together with other underprivileged communities. In Slovenia we can see strong foundations from the family and identity at least with examples we saw today. Young Roma people have so many ideas of what to do but the respect toward the older generation is holding them back, it is a big challenge

TIME	OBJECTIVES	DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS
Thursday, 25th April 2013			
7:00		Early breakfast	
8:00		Departure from Murska Sobota towards Krško	Organised bus transport
11:00	To enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma youth organisations and organisations working with Roma through study visits in the field and by participating in/visiting actual activities	<p>Meeting the responsible from the Society of Allies for Soft Landing and visiting a Roma settlement in the Dolenjska region</p> <p>Presentation of the work of Society of Allies for Soft Landing, with the focus on their work with the Roma community</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In which way they organise activities for young people, how do you work with young Roma and Roma community - What is the impact of their work and which changes they managed to achieve - What are the challenges they are facing <p>Visit of the museum, established by one of the Roma young women in the settlement with the help of the YiA Programme (Youth Initiative) and presentation of the life in the settlement by young Roma hosts. (reception in the settlement with traditional food and coffee)</p>	Communication with the organisation in advance Logistical arrangements
12:30		Lunch in a local traditional restaurant	
14:00		Departure to Ljubljana	
15:30	To enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma youth organisations and organisations working with Roma through study visits in the field and by participating in/visiting actual activities	<p>Visit to Romani Info Center Anglunipe</p> <p>Presentation of the work of Info Center Anglunipe, with the focus on their work with Roma youth</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In which way they organise activities for young people, how do you work 	

		<p>with young Roma and Roma community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the impact of their work and which changes they managed to achieve - What are the challenges they are facing 	
17:00	<p>To reflect on the reality of Roma organisations and working with Roma Youth in Slovenia – including Roma Youth policies at a national level.</p> <p>To discuss the different realities of Roma youth in Roma communities, within Roma organisations and participation in the wider society</p>	<p>What needed to happen, what enabled the Roma communities in Slovenia to achieve the things they showcased in the visits to different organisations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - input and discussion with an expert speaker, Miss Vera Klopčič, about the historical/legal/cultural background of Roma community in Slovenia 	
18:30		Dinner out in Ljubljana	
21:00		Departure to Murska Sobota	

Field visit Krško – Kerinov grm

Our second field visit started early in the morning when we moved from Murska Sobota to the Roma settlement Kerinov Grm near Krško. The community, especially Šarenka and members of DZMP Krško, was already expecting us. First we saw a documentary film about the Roma way of living, which was filmed by the girl from the settlement Šarenka. We had a banquet near the Roma museum, which was also founded by Šarenka and after that we moved around the settlement Kerinov grm. We stopped at the preschool kindergarten, also one of the activities of the ESF Project “Increase in social and cultural capital in areas with a Roma population”.

The work of *Society of Allies for Soft Landing* was also presented – they are a non-roma organization who work a lot with Roma youngsters and include them in almost every activity they have.

Field visit Ljubljana – Information centre Anglunipe

In the afternoon we made a stop in Ljubljana at the Roma Info Centre Anglunipe. We were welcomed by the president Haris Tahirovič, his assistant Cveto and few volunteers. RIC Anglunipe is the most important member of Union of Roma Community in Slovenia Umbrella which currently includes 5 Roma societies (about 1300 people) from different parts of Slovenia and was officially registered on 10th of April 2010. In Ljubljana Municipality there is around

1400 Roma people who are mostly dispersed all through Municipality's area; there's also a small Roma settlement in the east part of Ljubljana where 75 people live. All those people originate from different part of ex-Yugoslavia or from former republics of ex-Yugoslavia (like Macedonia, Srbija, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia). The main mission of the Centre is to represent Roma people or community wherever they live in Slovenia as specific national minority, to protect their history, language and culture; to develop their political, economic, cultural, social and other living conditions and interests, to implement their human rights and freedom and in general to help them establish and create conditions for better life.

Discussion with the expert – Vera Klopčič

During the second preparatory meeting of facilitators, we brainstormed on possible experts on Roma issues in Slovenia. We identified that we need a person to present to the participants a good overview of the historical and social context of Roma in Slovenia throughout history as well as today. We wanted to give to the participants an insight into some fundamentals build throughout generation in regard to the relationship of Roma and non-Roma population in Slovenia that have brought us to the situation today; exploring both the positive elements as well as the negative. After this identification of needs the facilitators decided to propose Vera Klopčič as the appropriate guest expert to be invited. She made the overview and engaged in a discussion with the participants as well as the representatives of the Info centre Anglunipe.

TIME	OBJECTIVES	DESCRIPTION	MATERIALS
Friday, 26th April 2013			
8:30		Breakfast	
9:00	<p>To reflect on the political reality of Roma organisations in Slovenia – including Roma policies at a national level, focused on political participation and educational policies.</p> <p>To reflect on the different realities of Roma and their participation in the wider society</p>	<p>Participation in an international Roma conference on »Political participation and activism in Slovenia«</p> <p>- overview of political participation of Roma in Slovenia</p>	
10:30		Reflection on the visits of Thursday and the inputs of the Conference	
11:30	To enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma youth organisations and organisations working with Roma	Visit to the settlement in Kamenci and reflection of the Incubator	

	through study visits in the field and by participating in/visiting actual activities.		
13:00		Lunch	
15:30	<p>To get inspired to carry out future youth projects in their organisations.</p> <p>To provide participants with network opportunities to start building possible future partnerships amongst their organisations.</p>	<p>YiA related opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EVS - Youth Initiatives - International exchanges and other YiA opportunities <p>Presentation by the Slovenian NA</p> <p>Parallel session on opportunities within Structured dialogue process on local-European level within the current cycle on Social Inclusion</p> <p>Presentation by the Slovenian National Youth Council</p>	Space outside in a café atmosphere
16:30	<p>To get inspired to carry out future youth projects in their organisations.</p> <p>To provide participants with network opportunities to start building possible future partnerships amongst their organisations.</p>	<p>What to bring home and how to multiply lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - each participant develops an action plan with a few next steps and those willing present their action plans to their peers. 	
17:30 – 18:00	Participants will evaluate the study Visit.	<p>Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - interactive - questionnaire 	Materials Questionnaire
19:00		Dinner	
22:00	Participants will participate in one of the main activities of the Romano Chon festival, organised by the RAC.	Concert as part of the Romano Chon festival	

Participation at the International conference: Political participation and Roma activism (Implementing and providing rights of Roma minority in Europe on national, regional and local level)

The conference was at the Hotel Diana in Murska Sobota. The conference offered a unique opportunity to exchange examples of good practise and projects that have been successfully implemented or are still running and already showing positive effects. The conference program was divided into two topics. First

topic was about political participation, the second about activism and access to media. Participants were also welcomed and addressed by Mr. Jernej Pikalo, Minister for Education, Science and Sport of Slovenia.

Field visit Kamenci

The participants visited the Roma settlement Kamenci in the Region of Prekmurje, although very different from the first one, which was only 30km away. We met the wife of the chief Mrs. Nada Levačič, who is a fortune teller and was very popular among the participants. We visited the Roma cultural – informational centre, also used as Roma educational incubator in the already mentioned ESF Project. Members of RAC presented their daily activities and some good examples and changes, achieved during the project. The participants also saw the cultural heritage of the settlement, as they visited the first Roma museum in Slovenia.

Evaluation by facilitators

Preparation phase:

One whole day preparatory meeting was organised well in advance by the Slovenian NA in cooperation with SALTO CD, where all facilitators met, as well as the organising team: representatives from Slovenian NA and SALTO CD. Aims and objectives were defined, the roles among the organisers and facilitators clarified, the profile of participants was developed and a first structure of the programme came into existence. Several logistical elements remained open as well as certain content elements such as the guest speakers to be invited, their input focus; the framework of the Conference, which our participants were to attend, remained unclear.

Then communication followed on-line in particular among Slovenian NA and RAC in terms of logistical arrangements; between the main facilitator and the Slovenian NA regarding the guest speakers and the content briefings needed for the field visits. The organisers decided to slightly change the profile of participants, from only Roma youth leaders to both Roma youth leaders and young people working with Roma. Due to several remaining open questions, the facilitators met for a second preparatory meeting, where the detailed programme was defined, with most logistical arrangements clarified and the roles much more specifically distributed. This meeting also provided for a good relaxed atmosphere and building a relationship among the facilitators, which proved to be very beneficial later in the implementation of the programme.

Facilitators worked fairly independently and proposed several ideas to the organisers, who later enabled the implementation of these ideas (proposed guest speaker, identified questions for presentation of organisations, defined shorter visits to settlements in Prekmurje region). It is important to emphasize that the facilitators discussed the challenge of the change in the profile of participants but since they were not involved in the selection of participants, they tried to anticipate different scenarios within the planned programme.

RAC organized the field visit on the first and last day, but organized the transports for all the field visits in Slovenia, including other logistics. RAC chose the Transport - Bus company Murska Sobota, which was the most common and favourable in this region. For first and last day the small bus was chosen (for 18 people), but for the visit to Krško a medium sized bus was ordered.

Selection of participants:

We received many application forms to this training course, however many turned out to not be appropriate. Several candidates also rejected their participation due to different reasons after being selected, so it was difficult to gather a larger group of good candidates. Among the candidates, who applied, there was no Roma youth leaders, so the chosen candidates were (by coincidence) all women, who had at least two years of experience in working with Roma and Roma young people.

The selection of participants was communicated to the facilitators fairly late in the process (only days before the start of the study visit) and it turned out that among the 12 participants (all women), none were young Roma leaders, which made the implementation of the programme more difficult, since many programme elements were sought of in terms of networking and exchange of experiences in particular between RAC and other Roma Youth Organisations in order to stimulate more the focus on the role of active, participating Roma Youth within the Roma communities as bridge builders toward mainstream societies. Therefore the facilitators expressed that the selection of participants was the most challenging element of the whole study visit.

From the viewpoint of RAC Roma Youth leaders were expected, so activities had been prepared to give the chance to exchange experiences between RAC and other similar organizations around Europe. However, these plans needed to change and presentations of work the RAC does were given instead (as a Roma organization) to the participants and had no exchange of good practices. Nevertheless, this resulted in a new learning experience for participants.

Implementation phase:

The team: the facilitators, the representative of Slovenian NA and the representative of SALTO SEE arrived on the late afternoon before the actual start of the study visit in order to meet for a final preparatory moment and preparation of materials and the venue. This proved to be useful, since it enabled the team to experience the rhythm of the hotel, prepare and to start the morning in a more relaxed atmosphere.

The implementation went smoothly; all the logistics were well prepared, including all the transportation and visits. The group was small and comfortable with each other and in a cooperative mood. On Thursday we had to manage a lot of time pressure due to an unexpected road work in the morning, which set the whole day in 1 hour delay. It was important to have one person present all the time as support from the organisers in terms of the relationship towards the participants and the content as well as in terms of formalities toward the staff at the venue, though it would be perhaps even better if the person would be from the Slovenian NA, due to language barriers and specificities of the local environment. The facilitators were well prepared to take care of logistical arrangements since the role of the RAC was to be the local host and organise the field visits. So in this particular case the composition worked well.

Evaluation Phase:

The team met for a very short briefing immediately after the study visit ended and agreed to hold a separate evaluation meeting at a later stage, after the first draft of the report would be ready for discussion.

Evaluation by participants

Participants expectations expressed in the introductory session on Wednesday morning:

- I would like to share and learn other methods and ways to work with Roma in other countries
- Which are the best ways, the best activities to do in common, Roma and non-Roma?
- To learn about activities that organisations apply for Roma children and youth
- To get inspired on new activities or successful ways of engaging Roma youth
- To know ways to engage young Roma boys in volunteering activities (we have many girls so far)
- Building possible partnerships (invite some representatives to Glasgow)
- To hear how are other countries working with Roma youth and maybe to have some new useful and interesting idea for my further work with Roma
- Find “partners” that work with the same focus group
- To learn on an example of working with Roma youth in Slovenia, which is a good example
- How can we build “bridges” between Roma and non-Roma youth
- Who is a better “ambassador” between Roma and non-Roma?
- Understanding – distrust toward non-Roma people (Gandī)
- I would like to discuss about different level of integration between Roma and non-Roma people
- From RAC – how do they advocate or lobby for Roma youth rights
- To visit Roma realities
- Education – how Roma in Slovenia see formal education and what their experiences are
- Experts opinion on Roma social inclusion – assimilation ≠ inclusion

Reflection on the study visits and comparison to participants’ own realities

Erjola (Albania):

Young Roma in Albania have no place to live
In her country there are different challenges

Sara (Sweden):

In Sweden Roma are more integrated

Challenge: young marriage, arranged marriage, import marriage (trafficking of young girls) – girls are coming from Balkan countries

Tina (Slovenia):

In Kamenci settlement some families buy girls as well; these girls are uneducated and never leave settlement

Maria (Sweden):

It is difficult to help without imposing your own values upon them

If one respects early marriages – is one helping or not?

It is important to work with the communities, to reach out to those girls and educate them.

Tina (Slovenia):

If tradition breaks basic human right, it is not tradition anymore.

Silvia (United Kingdom):

There are similarities between her organization and RIC Anglunipe.

Roma feel good in Scotland, they feel respected, and institutions make effort to welcome them.

Sometimes people are not so welcoming – there is still work to do in this field.

Magdalena (Croatia):

Krško resembles Zagreb and Karlovac

Roma used to live in barracks, but they were destroyed, so now they live in an isolated part of town

Seeing the work of DZMP (Association of Allies for soft Landing) she now sees the connection between her studies and working with Roma (her studies are about film and photography)

She got some good ideas from RIC Anglunipe as well; perhaps she will start a project in Karlovac during the summer

Solvita (Latvia):

There are no settlements in Latvia

Roma are poor, but live “decent”, social department helps them

Education for them is free

She liked the kindergarten in Krško – there is none of such kind in Sweden

Latvia needs more activities to present Roma culture to people and to break stereotypes

Tereza (Czech Republic):

Education is a problem
Children speak Roma, but speak Czech very poorly or not at all
They live in flats in bad local part of town
Schools are of lower quality there
In secondary school they are in constant discrimination, so mostly they drop out

Kateřina (Czech Republic):

In town Roma live in Ghettoes, so the town try to separate them, but Roma just made a new ghetto

Maria (Sweden):

Young people need good examples
Pride and identity are important – successful Roma shouldn't have to hide them
In Sweden Roma work with Roma individually
Methods of support need to be improved

Silvia (Italia):

Roma live in urban areas, not in settlements
Segregation is a big challenge, there is no awareness of Roma culture, tradition, and there are no Roma organizations
There are no Roma adolescents – they are either children or adults
There are no roma mediators who would work inside and outside the Roma community
Contact between people is important

Oana (Romania):

She is a social worker and she prefers to go in the field and feel the people
She knows roma families, their tradition, part of it are early marriages
She respects that, because it seems they are happy like that
Families have strong influence on children, Oana can't convince them to go to school and not marry so young
Roma in the settlement where Oana works also buy girls sometimes
In Romania volunteer work is rarity, people are not used to be volunteers

Biljana (Montenegro):

In towns Roma live in settlements
There is only one settlement with houses

Social workers went to the settlements and counted children who should go to school, so it was easier to convince the families to send children to school

There are many illegal Roma who travel around and have no documents or permanent address

Stigmatization is a problem; children don't like to go to school because of discrimination

They have little self-confidence, so they don't go out of settlements, so they just hang out

Anesa (Kosovo):

There are many different situations

One family sold their apartment to finance a wedding

One family sold their apartment to help son with asthma

Volunteering is important

Majority of Roma is Albanian, but mostly they speak Serbian

Settlements in Albania are similar to Krško

In Albania Roma hide their identity, they don't even want to socialize with schoolfriends who are also Roma

Some ideas participants got from visiting settlements:

Anesa (Kosovo): kindergarten for Roma and non-Roma

Tereza (Czech): start to work with successful Roma as Role models

Silvia (Italy): after school support in creative way

Solvita (Latvia): youth centre for youngsters

Silvia (UK) and Oana (Romania): social workers as mediators, big brother approach

Analysis of the evaluation questionnaires (11 forms collected):

1. How far have your expectations been met? Please explain.

- This study visit has met my expectations on the practical level and on the theoretical level.
- I've seen some examples of good practice, examples that can be implemented in my country. I understood how important the participation of youth in this kind of projects is.
- During the study visit I received all information I wanted to get. For me this visit was one of the best organised and very useful. I expected to learn more about Roma young people in Slovenia, their situation and education options. I think I received 100% information.
- My expectation was new inspiration on work with children and young people to make bigger-view and information about Roma lives, problems; have information from other countries; meet with young worker with Roma people and hear other experiences – everything happened. I'm very satisfied.
- It's difficult to reproduce at the moment what I learned from this study visit but I got some nice inspirations for future projects. So expectations fully met!
- In a very short period I have learned so many things, so I can say that I'm very satisfied, since one of my expectations has been to learn from other's experiences. Also, I really enjoyed since we had opportunity to visit important, but very different things, which are important part of getting to know Roma situation (field visit, listening to stories from Roma – from their personal experience)
- They have been completely met! Excellent study visit, very well planned and carried out.
- My expectations were fully reached. I was interested in visiting settlements and discussing the situation around Europe. I also wanted to know what the situation of Roma people here is in Slovenia to see some good examples. I am completely satisfied.
- You have offered a varied opportunity of insight into the Slovenian experience and practice. Plenty of time to reflect and share, which has deepened the understanding.
- I was expecting to visit Roma settlements and organisation representatives, so this study visit has fulfilled my expectations. I am also going back home with new ideas and this is one of the most important things I am taking with me.
- My expectations from this study visit are not that they have been maximised, but above all a certain level of maximised points. When putting it all together – organisation, visits, technical issues, information and so on was right on time and well thought.

2. How far has the aim and objectives of the study visit been reached? (1=not at all; 5=fully)

Aim	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
To allow participants to visit Roma organisations and organisations working with Roma youth in Slovenia, to explore their good practices and approaches and reflect on those in relation to the participants' home realities.				3x	8x	4,73

Objectives	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL
To enable participants to explore Slovenian Roma youth organisations and organisations working with Roma through study visits in the field and by participating in/visiting actual activities				2x	9x	4,82
To get inspired to carry out future youth projects in their organisations				4x	7x	4,64
To share good practice examples of working with Roma youth and on Roma youth projects				2x	9x	4,82
To provide participants with network opportunities to start building possible future partnerships amongst their organisations			1x	7x	3x	4,18
To gain a greater understanding of working in Roma organisations and with Roma youth in different local and national realities			1x	5x	5x	4,36
To reflect on the reality of Roma organisations and working with Roma Youth in Slovenia – including Roma Youth policies at national level			1x	5x	5x	4,36
To discuss the different realities of Roma youth in Roma communities, within Roma organisations and participation in the wider society			1x	5x	5x	4,36
To explore the importance of Roma (youth) organisations as »mediators« between Roma communities and wider society			3x	2x	6x	3,73

Comments:

- I'm sure that during the next days I'll realise more outcomes
- Good organisation, sometimes the day was very busy and hard, but I am happy, that I had the possibility to see and learn so many things in just three days.
- It is a pity that no Roma organisation was represented among the visits. Although I understand that you have made efforts.
- Some of the problems like violence and crime haven't been discussed in detail. I'm still not sure how to reach Roma youth who can be mediators in projects, unless they already show interest.
- From the similarities and differences between Slovenia and Scotland I understood where we need to focus
- This was one of the best study visits I ever had! Thank you!

3. List the three most important things that you have learned during the Study Visit?

- It's hard to make a selection for three of them. For that I would need time, all of the things which I learned are very important for me.
- Create partnerships; the role of youth is very important; the Roma themselves can create good practices, examples, projects
- 1. Different country and very similar problems with Roma people. 2. Achieve Roma people – successful Roma people are role model for other Roma people. 3. Work with Roma people – how make bridge between minority and majority, change values, etc. – is going step by step
- Emancipation of the women; cooperation between Roma and non-Roma; Education and Political Participation are essential
- The diversity among Roma; the combination of a social and HR perspective; patience and cooperation
- That it's important to have Roma people within your organisation, they can provide advice and are someone who the Roma population trusts; Good practice examples that I can actually implement; Stories from other countries
- The importance of the family background in influencing children and young people's future; How important is that Roma are active to influence their community; How Roma and non-Roma can share spaces and experiences
- Action; Impact; Inspiration/Motivation
- The work and influence of Roma youth to the wider society; How to better motivate Roma youngsters; Inspiration to many projects and changes in my organisation
- How to motivate Roma people (good examples); How to make a bridge between Roma and non-Roma people and local society; It is important to break stereotypes
- How to motivate Roma young people; To act and implement new project-ideas; To see how other organisations work with Roma youth

4. How satisfied are you with your own contribution to the study visit? (1=bad; 5=excellent)

1 2 3 (x3) 4 (x5) 5 (x3) TOTAL: 4

5. Your comments about the group composition and group atmosphere?

- Group atmosphere was dynamic, positive and very nice
- All of the girls have the same interests (in talking about Roma issues); the composition of the group was so various; I don't know what to say if it was better to have also men; we were like an international NGO
- Group composition was good, participants were from different organisations. The atmosphere was OK
- Interesting participants, but few time to know each other. Anyway, through small signs, I had perception of each personality (a bit!)
- Good atmosphere. In a way homogenic – young women. As I said before, lack of Roma people from other countries
- Only girls :)! But great atmosphere. It's great that they were from different countries around Europe
- It was a very warm atmosphere. I just would have preferred to know more about their work in their organisation
- Perfect! Group was small but it gave option to know each other better. And to share information about situation in different countries.
- Great. I like the group composition, it was interesting and inspiring, and I saw examples from different countries. It was also a good "girls club" + Vinko
- The group was kind enough to share opinions, ideas on their own projects, time and efforts to discuss further issues/problems and solutions
- I liked the group, it was really varied. Probably a balance between Western and Eastern/Central Europe could have been beneficial

6. What did you like most in this study visit?

- Field visits (Krško, Kamenci and Vanča vas/Borejci)
- The field visits in the settlements, the involvements of RAC in this area of Prekmurje; the presentation of the YiA Programme
- More time for discussion; see – settlements without project – I'm interested how is it in bad locality
- RAC, Krško and Kamenci
- The field visits
- It was laid back and educational at the same time
- The visit in the settlements and the open discussions
- Visits that gave a full insight of how the settlement functions. This is a first-hand experience. Elizabeta explaining YiA and how to apply for projects.
- Visits to the field, to settlements; food :)
- Organisation – »in time«, lot of useful information, and view about life of Roma people. It was great to meet successful Roma people!
- Visit to the settlements; talking with Roma youth people and not only; videos that we shared about the work of organisations

7. What you did not like or liked less in this study visit?

- Maybe the food was too much, or the dishes were so often
- Nothing in particular
- The conference didn't feel so appropriate, maybe. But an interesting "field study" in itself. Maybe a little bit more free time.
- I can't think of anything
- We didn't have too much time to share and exchange each-other experience.
- Little bit too long working days. But I understand – study visit's time was limited
- Late coming back and early waking up, but still it was OK, less free time to think about everything
- There is nothing I could dislike in this study visit; perhaps I could say that I liked less the speech conference since it involved many numbers and policies and statistics, yet no interaction
- We probably needed more free time to discuss about our home country experiences.

8. How are you going to use what you have learned in this Study Visit?

- I will share my experience with colleagues and give some instructions to other volunteers in hope that we will do some new and useful things for Roma people
- I will implement one project about anti-Gypsism this year
- I take new information, inspiration, my co-worker; I want to make some workshops with Roma role model for my clients. I want to be in closer contact with clients – Roma community – more knowledge
- Don't give up and carry on in what we believe. To know other people and realities helps to avoid isolation and connect people.
- Share at my organisation; make an action plan as to how to improve our practice. Use the inspiration and insight gained to increase the effort.
- I'm going to apply myself more in my organisation, since I now have many ideas I want to realise. Few workshops and maybe apply for a youth exchange in the fall!
- To foster the participation of Roma youth in volunteering; A youth center as Anglunipe would be beneficial
- As stated previously, this study visit motivated me to start or think of a project similar to the ones we learned in this study visit
- I have many ideas for some projects, even small but important changes in programmes in my organisation. I will try to motivate my clients more with methods I had learned here to make a success of those ideas.
- I will use my new knowledge at work during preparation of new projects. I have few ideas for new projects and have to activate Roma youth in my country.
- I am going to talk with my colleagues about my new ideas and then maybe we will try to improve Roma children's and youth's lives

9. Your feedback to the facilitators (Simona, Tina, Vinko)?

- Simona was very proactive, clear and she gave us some good information. Vinko and Tina are very good model for everyone in humanitarian field, not only in field of working with Roma. I really like their job; especially working as mediators with Roma parents, school and social services (I think that my future project will be similar).
- My answer is that I will invite them as facilitators for my project. I think I'm clear with this answer about my opinion
- Facilitators were perfect. Every time answer when we have questions. Simona is still full of energy. Everything was good organised.
- You have been great!!! It has been a great pleasure to share this experience with you guys.
- Thank you! Well prepared, very competent, a lot of knowledge and experience. You made us feel well and welcome.
- :* :)
- Great! No complaints at all, they've all been really helpful and nice.
- I could group all facilitators at one group, which is the top since they were very helpful in providing information, insights on the issues regarding Roma people in Slovenia. In addition, they are communicative and social
- They are excellent; they really know what they are doing. They always knew answers to our questions and they are very helpful
- You were great! Thank you for information you gave. It made some changes in my mind (in positive meaning). I'm really happy for opportunity to meet you! Thank you!
- Simona – perfect; Tina – a future leader; Vinko – someone from whom, you can learn too much

10. Any comments about the logistic part of the Study Visit? (food, accommodation, location of the hotel, transport, etc.)

- Very good organisation
- OK everything
- For me was everything good. Hotel was too much luxus, but very comfortable.
- Nice and comfortable
- A little bit more free time, maybe Ljubljana could have been on Wednesday – less travel for most of us; food on Thursday was excellent, both time! Perfect logistics – always organised, efficient!
- I just LOVE that we were in single bedrooms. My privacy and time for myself is important and the fact I had it had a lot to contribute to the fact I find this study visit AWESOME.
- It was all perfect!
- Hotel, food, information pack, transport – 5

- Too much food :); accommodation was luxurious, I have no complaints; very long waiting time in Mexican restaurant in Ljubljana – no time for city; location is good, seems like middle of nowhere, but it is nice here in Prekmurje
- Perfect 100%!
- No.