



Achievements in the Decade implementation during the past year in Bulgaria

25 June 2009, Belgrade, Serbia

Documents:

- Council of Minister Decision 484/24 July 2009 establishing the National Decade Coordinator functions;
- Monitoring report for the Decade implementation for 2008 which was approved by Council of Ministers Decision 313/30 April 2009;
- Draft version of a new Framework Program for Roma Integration for the period 2009-2015;
- Started the actualization of the National Program for Improving the Living Conditions of Roma in Bulgaria and the National Decade Action Plan;



Employment

- National Program “Activation of Inactive People”;
- National Program “From Social Assistance to Employment”;
- National Program for Literacy and Qualification of Roma;
- Project “Employment through Business Support” (JOBS);

National Program “Activation Of Inactive People”

Main objective: activation and inclusion on the labour market of inactive and discouraged people by means of individual and group application of instruments and services for their inclusion and motivation to register themselves in the labour offices to acquire the right for participation in training and/or employment;

Roma Labour Mediators:

Selection, training and hire Roma Labour Mediators in the Labour Offices in areas with compact Roma population;

- In 2008 trained and hired – 55 Roma Labour Mediators
- In 2009 were selected – 72 Roma Labour Mediators
- The total number of Roma Labour Mediators which we expect till the end of 2009 is totally 200 people;

Results from the implementation of the program for the period august-december 2008

Activities, which were done:

- 103 information campaigns “Come and registered yourself in the Labour Office”
- 2 364 individual and 74 group meetings with inactive people for their motivation to be registered in the Labour Office and to make use of their mediation services;
- 160 meetings with NGOs, social partners and employer's organizations;
- 124 meetings with employers for offering candidatures of program beneficiaries;

Achieved results:

2 074 inactive Roma people registered in Labour Offices. 360 of them are realized as following:

- In literacy training – 20 people;
- In vocational training – 83 people;
- Hired to work – 257 people;

Another 265 people program beneficiaries are motivated for active participation on the labour market to search a job and were included in different forms of professional orientation.

RESULTS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY-APRIL 2009

Activities, which were done:

- 37 information campaigns “Come and registered yourself in the Labour Office”
- 1 850 individual and 38 group meetings with inactive people for their motivation to be registered in the Labour Office and to make use of their mediation services;
- 84 meetings with NGOs, social partners and employer's organizations;
- 120 meetings with employers for offering candidatures of program beneficiaries;

Achieved results:

2 913 inactive Roma people registered in Labour Offices. 634 of them are realized as following:

- In literacy training – 68 people;
- In vocational training – 33 people;
- Hired to work – 533 people;

Till May 2009 the Program is working in 38 Labour Offices, as the number of the mediators is 45

LABOUR EXCHANGES

In 2008 the Employment Agency organized 21 general and specialized labour exchanges (7 general and 14 specialized), 4 of them were orientated to Roma community.

Results of the Roma labour exchanges:

- 900 job seekers and 63 employers
- 1 355 free working places
- 1 092 people started a new job, 402 of them were registered as unemployed in the Labour offices;

In 2009 we provide the implementation of totally 14 labour exchanges – 2 of them are orientated to Roma community

Results from the Labour Exchanges in 2009:

- 400 job seekers and 23 employers
- 196 free working places
- 77 people started a new job, from which only 20 were registered as unemployed in the Labour offices;

NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR LITERACY AND QUALIFICATION OF ROMA

Main objective : raising educational and qualification level of disadvantaged unemployed and provision of employment;

Activities: Literacy training and Training for the acquisition of professional qualification;

Achieved results in 2008: in different courses for the acquisition of Professional qualification are included **1 766** people, and in literacy training courses are involved **1 230** people;

Till the end of April 2009: in literacy training are involved **714** people, and in training courses for the acquisition of professional qualification – **45**

Expected results for 2009:

Literacy and professional qualification of 1,200 persons.

NATIONAL PROGRAM "FROM SOCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYMENT"

The main objectives of the Program are:

- To provide employment and social integration of unemployed people subject to monthly social benefits by the opening of jobs in generally beneficial activities, in activities from the field of agriculture or processing of agricultural produce, as well as in activities on the territory of enterprises without state and/or municipal participation;
- To foster employability of the people targeted by the programme by their inclusion in activities leading to raising the skills and the qualification;
- Increasing the competitiveness of unemployed people subject to monthly social benefits by their inclusion in literacy courses and such for acquiring professional qualification;



RESULTS FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

In 2008 over the Program was provided a whole year employment for 22 700 people.

For the realization of the program in 2009 were approved 1 595 projects, which open 17 863 working places (2 159 in the sphere of agriculture and 15 704 in public benefit activities)

Till April 2009 in the Program are included 35 095 people;

Expected results in 2009: 18 000 unemployed people included in employment

PROJECT "EMPLOYMENT THROUGH BUSINESS SUPPORT" (JOBS)

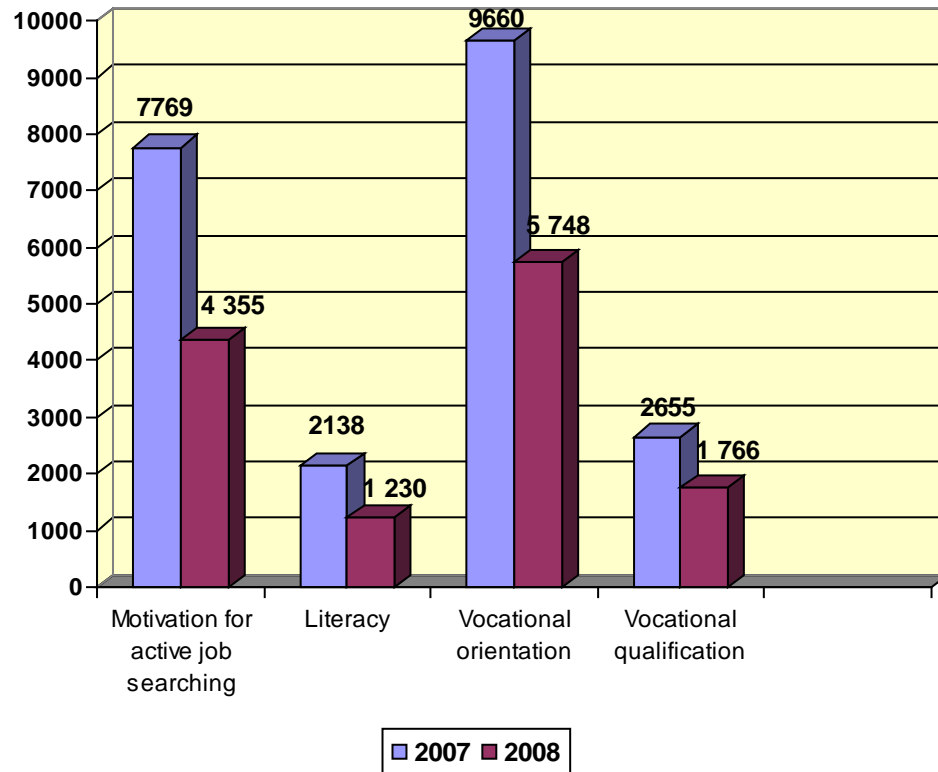
Main objective of the Project:

Promotion of the opening of permanent jobs and accelerating local economic development; encouragement of enterprise; support for the development of micro and small enterprises and agricultural producers

Components: "Roma employment" and „Roma Inclusion through Business Support "

Results: A network of 42 Business Centres and Business Incubators (BCs/BIs) was established under the project at local level and registered as NGOs. The BIs also have 17 offices providing services in smaller neighbouring municipalities or vulnerable local communities;

TOTAL NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE INCLUDED IN TRAINING COURSES



ACTIVITIES FOR INCREASING EMPLOYABILITY AND QUALIFICATION

Till April 2009 in activities leading to raising skills and qualification are included **3 714** unemployed, as following:

- **2 855** in different forms of professional orientation and motivation for active participation on the labour market;
- **622** in literacy courses;
- **237** in training for acquiring professional qualification;
- **10 175** people are included in employment, through their inclusion in different programs and measures for employment;
- **12** people are included in motivation courses and such for starting and managing of own business;

Education

Data for 2007/2008 school year:

- **3 762** students in 400 schools in the country have been educated in “Folklore of ethnos – Roma folklore”;
- **400** students have been learned mother Roma language;
- **1225** semi-interned groups have been worked in schools with dominant number of students by Roma origin;
- In schools, which integrate students from Roma ethnic minority have been worked **1077** semi-interned groups;
- **48 422** Roma children have been studied in integrated schools and **2282** of them were involved in desegregation projects;



Center on Educational Integration of Children and Pupils from Ethnic Minorities

- The Center was created in 2005 continuing the support to the realization of governmental policy, regarding the educational needs of the children and the pupils by the ethnic minorities;
- In 2008 the Center hold 3 procedures during which were received 814 projects proposals, by which were approved 100 to the total value of 2 millions levs (about 1 million euro).

Health

Activities in 2008:

- More than 30 000 preventive medical examinations, 14 750 common check ups and others;
- 100 new very well equipped ambulances were bought. 40 of them are with high roadability with purpose to make easy their moving in difficult areas;
- A lot of consultations with Roma teenagers were done about problems as sexual and reproductive health;
- A lot of lectures, discussions, information campaigns among the Roma population were implemented also. They were orientated to imunization of the population, the meaning of the preventive medical examinations, prevention of AIDS and drugs, prevention of undesired and early pregnancy etc.



Roma Health Mediators

- 140 Roma Health mediators in 55 municipalities were trained and 110 of them are already working because the government provided resources for their remunerations through the delegation of resources by the state budget to the municipalities budget;
- National Network of the Health Mediators was created;
- There are 90 members of the Network as 70 of them are health mediators;
- The mediators are trained and certified by the Ministry of Health;



Housing

- National Program for Improving the Living Conditions of Roma in Bulgaria;
- Territory regulation on the existing districts with dominant Roma population, elaboration on cadastral plans and registers in municipalities with compact Roma population and public works activities, construction, reconstructions, repairs of technical infrastructure and others;

Housing - 2

Till the end of 2008:

- **100** cadastral maps and registers for **450** hectares or **257 533** properties for more than **100** places with predominant Roma population;
- **11583** meters water-supply,
- **6270** meters sewage;
- **94954** square meters road networks and others;
- **6 000** meters sewerage collectors was started;
- **40 000** meters water-supply system was started;\

Housing-3

- In the end of 2008 started the procedure of building of 200 social homes;
- There was a selection of municipalities where they will build. 13 municipalities had a wish and possibilities to build them but were selected only 4 of them – Pazardjik, Samokov, Radnevo and Balchik;
- In 2009 is continuing the preparation on cadastral maps, registers and specific maps in municipalities with compact Roma population, elaboration on new detailed structural plans, construction of a new or improving on the existing technical infrastructure, designing and building on new social houses and others;

Additional activities:

From the beginning of 2008 till now were implemented:

- 9 seminars with formal and informal leaders. The main topics of discussion were employment, anti-discrimination legislation, opportunities of the Operational Program “Human Resources Development” etc.;
- 2 Round tables about the International Roma Day – 8 April;
- 3 special trainings for the Roma Labour Mediators and 1 training for entrepreneurship skills development;
- 5 Round tables with Roma Women;
- 2 meetings with the members of the Council for Roma Integration in the Bulgarian society;
- 1 International Workshop: “Empowerment of Romani Women in the Context of Contemporary Social Policies – Exchange of Experience and Good Practices”.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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