

Newsletter from the Workshop for Youth Workers on Non-formal Education on Employability for Young Roma

23-27 June 2018 Durrës Albania



The workshop for youth workers on non-formal education on employability for young Roma was organized in the frame of the project Promoting Social Inclusion of Roma through Non-Formal Education. The project is implemented by the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA), the National Roma Centrum (NRC) from Macedonia, and AKADEMIKA 245 from Bulgaria.

The workshop was organized in the period 23-27 June in Durrës Albania. A total of twenty-nine (30) participants from Bulgaria (15) and Macedonia (15) took part in the training. A four-day agenda was developed for the purpose of the training. The agenda was developed on the basis

of the trainer guide and student educational materials on employability, which are intellectual outputs developed in the frame of the project.

The topics covered by the workshop included: work with vulnerable groups, use of ICT and games in non-formal education, skills self-assessment, job searching methods, preparation of job application, communication skills with particular emphasis on business communication and business communication through ICT and new media (mobile applications, social media), conflict management, business planning, planning and making effective decisions.

The participants of the workshop were a heterogenous group, of different age and experience in working with young people, particularly Roma. To this end, the workshop was designed and delivered to cover a wide spectrum of needs of the participants, aiming for a more personalized approach to maximize the effectiveness of the training.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to introduction of the participants to the work programme and the aims of the workshop. A general presentation of the topics to be covered was delivered, and participants were encouraged to present their experiences regarding the topics. Exercises were designed to foster a multicultural interaction between the participants, in order to create opportunities for exchange of knowledge and experiences.

The second day of the workshop was devoted to methodologies on delivering non-formal education to vulnerable groups, with a focus on Roma. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences, and they were presented with different didactic approaches in working with the target groups. Different strategies in use of ICT and games in non-formal education were also presented. The participants had the opportunity to get a hands-on experience with ICT through interactive exercises that involved role-play and use of mobile applications.



The third day of the workshop covered topics related to job searching, using of online sources in the process of job searching, preparation of job application (preparation of CV in different formats, preparation of cover letters, applying for a job online and job interview), communication skills. Again, focus was placed on group work, exercises which involved role play and discussions.

The fourth day of the workshop involved topics related to business planning, making effective decisions and conflict management. Participants were introduced to different strategies and methodologies in the process of decision making, as well as the key concepts related to sources of conflicts, and conflict management in a team.

The fifth day was devoted to using social networks in employability, as well as final discussions and closing remarks.

Participants demonstrated strong motivation and interest in the topics, and successfully completed the exercises and tasks foreseen in the training process. In order to target their specific needs, certain topics of the workshop were additionally adapted to fit their knowledge and needs. Cooperation between the participants and the trainer, as well as between the participants themselves was high. An evaluation was conducted at the end of the training, with participants evaluating positively the methodology and topics covered. The training was delivered according to the set agenda, with minimal adjustments to fit the needs of the participants.