



National Gathering Report

Organization in charge of co-implementing the activity: *Amrita OBK Association*

Date of the Gathering: 25.11. 2023

Place: Hungary Rácz Gyöngyi Community House Budapest

Hosting institution: The meeting was held in Budapest at Gyöngyi Rácz was one of the intellectuals who launched the Roma emancipation movement in the early 1970s. She graduated as an agricultural engineer, economist and teacher, and was always at the forefront of Roma integration. The community house offers a learning space for around 70 children in the afternoons and hosts the Women's Roma programme, which invites women who have had successful careers.



1- PREPARATION PHASE BEFORE THE GATHERING

Dates of meetings with NCC pre-Gathering:

Before the closure of the project, we had a long chat on the phone about the evaluation, results and conclusion of the project.

As many active women who were keen to meet again with the others could not come to our last Roma Women's Gathering in August, we decided to

organize a fourth face-to-face meeting to evaluate the work of the past three years.

Locations: Rácz Gyöngyi Community House Budapest



Evidences: Photos, invoice, signatures

Action Points: Opening, group discussion, coffee break, presentation, conclusion, celebration



Notes: Place, date, participant, program topics, role models, experts, logistic



At the fourth women's meeting, we talked about the experiences of the past 3 years, the topics that arose and the results achieved in them, the reasons for the lack of results. We evaluated our work and the girls gave feedback on the results experienced in the program and made suggestions for the continuation.

On behalf of the School, János Orsós was present, who was our political partner during the project and with whom a few of the girls were part of the political meetings where we conveyed the proposals arising at the gatherings to the politicians and decision-makers. János reported on the details and results of the multiply events.

2- ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTATION: THE GATHERING

[Please describe the Gathering and give details of the event, evidencing with numbers and quotes from participants (testimonies) in the gathering the day.]

Title of the main conference: Rt transform fourth Women Gathering in Hungary

Topics that emerged or were asked by participants during the gathering

All the girls were eager to see how the project could be continued and what we and the partner countries had achieved in three years.

Together we viewed the completed videos and summarised the results.

As the success of the project is determined by political will, further consultations and interventions will be necessary.

Provide detail about the composition of the table of role models



Our guest was Aranka Balogh : On behalf of the Roma minority self-government, we warmly welcomed and listened to the representative Aranka Balogh about her work and the programmes that are promoted and implemented in the community centre. Aranka, like previous role models, was an important role model for the girls. Aranka encouraged girls to get involved in politics and to take up positions in NGOs sector. She shared her life's journey, the challenges she faced and who had helped her to overcome these challenges

The programs of Rácz Gyöngyi Community Centre (member of the Gypsy Community House of Újpest)

Extracurricular learning

Újpest Roma Local History Museum

Sports: boxing, dancing

Legal and social assistance

Adult education: support and assistance in obtaining primary and secondary school qualifications; organisation of retraining programmes

Organisation of artistic, cultural and educational programmes



Questions that were tackled

Results on the topics discussed at the 3 meetings?



Being Roma and being female both operate as mutually reinforcing disadvantages in the labor market.

Across all countries labor force participation rate among Roma females is extremely low, in particular for Roma women NEETs

When employed, Roma females are more likely to be engaged in formal employment

Access to effective social protection and employment services is generally constrained

High prevalence of unmet needs for medical care among Roma women and girls.

Employment status and health insurance coverage also play an important role

The high out-of-pocket expenditures required leave many of the poorest households in the region without effective access to basic health services.

High rates of child stunting, disproportionately affecting Roma girls

High unmet pre- and postnatal needs lead to high rates of maternal and infant mortality, in particular in rural areas

Ensure financial support and mentoring opportunities, such as scholarships, to support Roma students, women and girls on their educational journey.

Partnerships should be established with colleges, universities, museums and arts institutions to foster collaboration and create opportunities for members of the Roma community to participate and engage in these spaces.

Provide mentoring and the necessary support for Roma individuals to access educational and cultural environments where they feel welcome.

Provide financial support programmes, such as the Roma Education Fund and scholarships, to address inequalities and barriers to higher education for Roma individuals.

Provide scholarships in primary and secondary education, which can help to narrow the gap between poverty and success in school.

Stimulate and support the civil society sector to work with existing and tested methods to reduce the COVID and war-related gaps.

The recommendations are aimed at addressing the educational challenges faced by Roma women and girls. They aim to improve representation and visibility and promote inclusive and culturally sensitive educational environments.

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Conclusions of the Gathering:

Compulsory school is not universal among Roma children, with both Roma boys and girls equally affected by low enrollment.

Roma females ages 18-21 face significantly larger gender gaps in completion of compulsory education.

Even when schooling is free of charge, going to school can be associated with several costs and foregone revenue that children may generate through work

Cost and social norms are significant barriers to preprimary attendance among both Roma boys and girls. Early marriages are a key contributing factor to early drop-out for Roma girls

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Suggestions for solutions



Strengthen and reinforce legal protection

Empowering girls and engaging their families and communities to prevent child marriage

Providing safe spaces for girls to acquire skills while engaging parents and wider community on importance of girls' education

Ensure labor legislation treats males and females in an equitable way

This includes legally guaranteeing and enforcing part-time and flexwork, paid parental leave,

Highlighting success stories of Roma women inside and outside the community

Engaging men and boys in any initiative aimed at changing social norms

Leverage community cohesion and demographic entry-points

Invest and tried and proven self-help group model

Remove administrative and financial barriers especially for the poor

Increase universal enrollment in health insurance, including for the unemployed

Address deficits in the availability of health services in rural and underserved areas

Improve availability of OBGYN services in marginalized communities

Celebration

