



SHUMEN / IVANSKI

INTEGRATED PROJECT TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ROMA AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The Shumen Municipality programme for social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups is focused on three neighborhoods in Shumen: *Mlada Gvardia*, *Everest* and *Vitosha*, as well as on the nearby village Ivanski, all of which have compact Roma communities. The project activities address access to and good quality of education and healthcare, both being major prerequisites for the integration of Roma and other vulnerable groups. Our main task is to attract and keep more children in the kindergarten and in school. Special programmes for young families and mothers, as well as mediation are also of key value for us.



The challenges in the lives of Roma are serious and they are aggravated with the passage of time. Unemployment rate is high and many young families seek job opportunities abroad. According to analyses of the educational institutions within the municipality, many young Roma display lack of interest in education and do not even start their schooling. Many of those who go to school do not speak Bulgarian well, are often absent from class, have learning difficulties and gradually drop out from school. Many parents, the majority of whom are illiterate, do not stimulate and motivate their children to attend school. Meanwhile, the employment opportunities of these children are diminished.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Preschool education

- ❖ Setting up a new group of children aged 5-6 in the newly repaired and furnished part of *Proletna Daga* kindergarten in Shumen
- ❖ Repair of the kindergarten's branch facility and its playground space in Everest neighborhood to create better environment for children
- ❖ Classes for children who do not speak Bulgarian and joint extracurricular activities for children, parents and teachers – “summer and weekend schools.”
- ❖ Training of teachers and motivational work with parents.
- ❖ Campaigns and field work carried out by health mediators, teacher assistants, mentors and volunteers from the Roma community aimed at better coverage of children in preschool age and motivating their parents.

Elementary education

- ❖ Renovation of a small educational center, part of the Primary School *Hristo Botev* in Ivanski village and repairs of the school
- ❖ Classes for children aged 7 - 10 to improve their command of Bulgarian language and catch-up classes
- ❖ Training of teachers in intercultural education as a factor for creating a stimulating learning environment in school.
- ❖ “School for parents” intended to motivate parents for more active participation in the educational process of their children
- ❖ “Weekend schools” for the development of the creative potential of children, parents and teachers.



Celebrating traditional Roma holidays is part of our activities in Shumen and in the adjacent village of Ivanski

HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Renovation of the healthcare center in Ivanski
- ❖ Free preventive examinations for children, women and young families who do not have health insurance – a total of 300 women and 150 children aged 0 to 7 in Shumen and Ivanski
- ❖ One health mediator for Ivanski will be trained
- ❖ Identifying children without immunizations and delivering immunizations in *Mlada Gvardia*, *Everest*, *Vitosha*, and Ivanski
- ❖ Awareness raising campaigns among Roma parents on health prevention – 15 campaigns in Shumen and in Ivanski
- ❖ Free gynecological examinations for women without health insurance in Shumen and in Ivanski – a minimum of 200 women planned
- ❖ Consultancies and providing of information for women in reproductive age in Shumen and Ivanski – 200 consultancies planned
- ❖ Preventive medical examinations for young mothers, children, and pregnant women.
- ❖ Providing of free contraceptives for Roma in need in Shumen and Ivanski
- ❖ Health trainings for young people and parents in the three Shumen neighborhoods and in Ivanski

CULTURAL INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

For the integration of Roma in the community we plan a series of culture events such as going to the theater, concerts and sports contests, where Roma and non-Roma will mix and participate in joint community events.

KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

THEMATIC FOCUS

Integration, social inclusion and improvement of living conditions of Roma and other vulnerable groups in the Shumen region

BUDGET

CHF 425,680

AMOUNT OF THE SWISS GRANT

CHF 313,931

BULGARIAN CO-FINANCING BY

- ❖ Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP)
- ❖ Ministry of Education and Science (MES)
- ❖ Ministry of Health (MH)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

- ❖ Programme Management Unit hosted at the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy

EXECUTING AGENCY

Municipality of Shumen

PROJECT PARTNERS

- ❖ Kindergarten *Proletna Daga*
- ❖ Primary School *Hristo Botev*
- ❖ University of Shumen *Konstantin Preslavski*
- ❖ Diagnostic and Consulting Centre No. 1 – Shumen EOOD
- ❖ Family Consulting Centre – Shumen
- ❖ Municipal Health Center in Ivanski

DURATION

November 2016 - April 2019

<http://zovprogramme.bg>



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО