

# RUSE / VETOVO / IVANOVO / BOROVO

## INTEGRATED PROJECT FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION OF ROMA AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS

### OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The overall aim of the project is to improve the life of marginalized and socially excluded communities, the focus being on Roma, and to create suitable conditions for their sustainable integration. Our concerted effort is to bring more children to kindergartens and schools, and to provide access to healthcare for Roma families. ZOV operates in two neighbourhoods within the city limits: Traktsiya, Selemetya and the villages of Bazan, as well as in Vetovo (incl. Senovo) and in Ivanovo and Borovo.



*Summer camp 2016 for Ruse children from three ethnic groups: Bulgarians, Roma and Turks.*

### EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

**Comprehensive inclusion of Roma children in the educational process in kindergartens, preschool classes and elementary schools. We work with two kindergartens and six primary schools.**

- ❖ Setting up half-day classes for children aged 3 – 5. Classes will be held according to project-developed teacher guides for children and their mothers. The classes will be held in the renovated rooms of full-day kindergarten “Ralitsa” in Ruse and its affiliated unit “Chervenata Shapchitsa” in village Bazan.

- ❖ Setting up a cash fund in Ruse and Ivanovo to support up to 50 socially disadvantaged families whose children do not attend mandatory classes in kindergarten and school.
- ❖ Improving the efficiency of early language training for Roma children aged 3 – 5. Twenty teachers will be trained to apply new methods of teaching Bulgarian as a foreign language.
- ❖ At least 4 visits each year to theatres, museums and cinema will be organized.
- ❖ A Roma mediator will start work in full-day kindergarten “Ralitsa” in Ruse.
- ❖ Full-day kindergarten “Ralitsa” in Ruse and its affiliated unit “Chervenata Shapchitsa” in Bazan will have renovated and furnished rooms.

**Motivating Roma parents to send their children to kindergarten and school; additional psychological support for parents in the 6 schools of the project.**

**Educational mediators will identify children at risk from dropping out in the “Door to door” campaigns**

- ❖ Weekly events for parents and children teamed in clubs by interests, conducted by experienced professionals. 3 permanent groups will be organized.
- ❖ Summer schools and camps for at least 100 Roma children at risk of dropping out from school.
- ❖ “Second chance” programme that will cover at least 20 Roma children who have dropped out from school.
- ❖ Introducing classes on healthcare and sexual education in schools for 660 pupils by the “peer to peer” method in Ruse Municipality and the other local partners.
- ❖ Including at least 500 children in the information campaigns for prevention of human trafficking.
- ❖ Appointing a teacher assistant of Roma origin in Primary School “Aleko Konstantinov” and of seven Roma school mediators.

### Improving the professional capacity of teachers to work in multicultural environment:

- ❖ A series of trainings for 170 school educators; 30 pedagogical experts will be trained to introduce health and reproductive awareness classes in schools.

### HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

Securing better access for Roma and other vulnerable groups at risk by providing information and mediation.

Preventive medical examinations will be scheduled and health awareness improved:

- ❖ Extending the capacity of Nursery No. 6 in Ruse by adding two new nursery groups for 30 children in the refurbished environment of the *Mother and Child Home* in Ruse. Parents will be assisted with the submission of enrolment documents.
- ❖ 25 first-aid and emergency doctors will be trained for work with Roma and socially vulnerable groups.
- ❖ Family planning consultations will be provided to 1300 representatives of the Roma community.
- ❖ One-week annual information campaigns on the topic of reproductive health will be organized.
- ❖ Providing of outpatient and specialized aid for 2700 individuals without health insurances.
- ❖ 4 consulting offices for medical care will be set up.
- ❖ 6 health mediators of Roma origin – appointed in the partner municipalities.



Children from various ethnic groups visit the two new groups, opened in November 2016 in Nursery No. 6 in the Druzha 3 neighbourhood in Ruse.

### CULTURAL INTEGRATION AND EMPOWERMENT

- ❖ Organizing of annual festivals;
- ❖ Trainings for municipal employees from Ivanovo, Vetovo and Borovo for work in multicultural and multiethnic environment;
- ❖ Setting up Public Consultancy Councils in Ivanovo, Vetovo and Borovo.

### KEY INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT

#### THEMATIC FOCUS

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

#### BUDGET

1 446 461 CHF

#### AMOUNT OF THE SWISS GRANT

1 229 492 CHF

#### 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 by the MLSP

#### EXECUTING AGENCY

Municipality of Ruse

#### PROJECT PARTNERS

- ❖ Primary School "St. St. Cyril and Methodius"
- ❖ Associations "Centre Dinamika", "Equilibrium" and Bulgarian-Romanian Cross-border Institute for Mediation (BRTIM)
- ❖ University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev"
- ❖ Medical Centre "Medika Expert"
- ❖ General Practitioners' Association

#### DURATION

June 2015 – April 2019

<http://zovprogramme.bg/en/locations-ruse>

January 2017