

LOSE ENDS

*Mapping the roots of youth
marginalization in the underclass*



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS ROMANIA

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RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Theme and Purpose

Our theme and purpose are to explore the education process of Roma children, particularly the collection and analysis of data on the education of Roma children in special schools and how Roma families and children end up in segregated institutions.

Based on the obtained results, the following aspects can be considered:

Educational Recommendations:

- Special educational programs should be encouraged and adopted in "traditional" schools for all children, especially considering their level of poverty and the parents' professional activities (work needs, lack of education, lack of knowledge about formal and non-formal school activities).
- Improvement of school conditions (infrastructure and teaching materials) for children (including those with disabilities), and provision of free school supplies for children (textbooks, backpacks, pencils, paper, notebooks, etc.).
- It is imperative to reduce bureaucratic barriers and improve cooperation between institutions and administrative and executive responsibilities for individuals with special needs. This way, the focus can be placed on the educational process and therefore on each child, providing them with an individualized intervention plan.
- The Ministry of Education should pay increased attention to the training of teachers and school staff regarding the practical approach to the learning needs of children with disabilities. This may include specialized training in areas such as sign language, assistive technologies, and curriculum adaptation strategies.
- The capacity of itinerant and support teachers in special education schools should be enhanced through periodic training on identifying the needs of each individual, and working methods should be adapted accordingly.
- The school model should promote a holistic approach to education that goes beyond the development of intellectual skills and emphasizes other aspects of children's development, such as social, emotional, and practical skills. This involves adopting a broader and more flexible curriculum that
- It is important to involve families in decision-making and educational programs for children with disabilities. This can be achieved by creating effective communication channels between schools and families, organizing regular meetings and consultations, and ensuring that families are active partners in their child's educational process.

Social Recommendations:

- Ensuring adequate transportation for children in marginalized areas: It is important to provide special public transportation means for children in marginalized areas to go to school. This should be done without putting undue pressure on their families in terms of financial resources, time, and parental concern.
- Individual and personalized counseling for parents should receive special attention to help them accept and understand the benefits of compulsory school graduation levels (especially for girls).

- Promotion of programs (public organizations and NGOs) targeting marginalized and special needs children, involving parents, particularly those living in remote urban areas and/or in Roma communities (after-school programs, second chance programs, meals for children in schools, etc.).
- Adult education, especially for Roma individuals, should be encouraged, and more funds should be allocated for this purpose. To encourage active participation and involvement of Roma people in the educational process, it is necessary to develop education programs tailored to their specific needs. These programs should address basic skills such as literacy, as well as the development of professional and entrepreneurial skills. It is important to take cultural context into account and provide flexible and accessible learning opportunities.

Youth Field Recommendations:

- Implementation of training programs for youth and social workers with the help of the Ministry of Education, which should collaborate with Civil Society Organizations to develop and implement specialized training programs for youth and social workers. These programs should provide training and guidance on working with youth with special needs, including Roma youth. This can ensure a better understanding of the specific needs of these young people and a more effective approach in providing support and guidance.
- It is important to intensify and prioritize information and awareness campaigns, especially regarding Roma women and girls. These campaigns should focus on education, health, rights, and available opportunities for Roma women and girls. They should be designed in a culturally sensitive manner and involve active participation of the Roma community to ensure better understanding and acceptance of the conveyed information.
- Creation of support networks and mentoring. These networks can provide guidance, emotional support, and counseling for Roma youth in various aspects of their lives, such as education, career, and personal development. Through mentors and successful role models from the Roma community, Roma youth can benefit from guidance and inspiration in achieving their goals.
- Ensuring equal access to opportunities and resources for Roma youth, such as providing scholarships and financial facilities to support their participation in higher education or vocational training programs. It is also important to promote the elimination of discrimination and create an inclusive and diverse environment where Roma youth can thrive and realize their potential.