



Supporting Motivations to Intervene on Learning and Experience

Community for Concrete Answers

The Community of Concrete Answers (CCA) is an evolution of the concept of Educating Community. According to recent pedagogic theories, the Educating Community is an agreement (formal or informal) among different sport associations, cultural and religious organizations and schools in order to assure the identification and sharing of unique educative values. The CCA is a specific experimental version of the Educating Community addressed to support at local level the solution of problems of integration of Roma children and families, starting from the educative issues but with a holistic approach. The CCAs define an agreement with the aim to solve at least one concrete problem related to education, primarily but also related to health and housing.

The Community of Concrete Answers in the SMILE Partner's Countries

The CCA in Italy:

The Italian CCAs are developed in three regions, keeping in consideration the specific local situations and the presence of relevant Roma communities: Piemonte, Calabria, Umbria. In Piemonte the AIZO association has involved the Ferruccio Pardi school, the "Upre Gelem" cooperative which specific aim is to support the labour market integration of Roma youngsters after school; the Victim Fellowship association representing the large community of Roma established in the region for a long time (the association carries out a specific project of integration in collaboration with the Piemonte region because some of the residents, Roma and Gadje, emigrated to the Turin area).

The CCA in UK:

In Manchester, the CCAs are developed in all localities and aim at fostering issues relevant to Roma communities as well as other migrant communities.

Most Agencies in Manchester work in partnership with the local and regional authorities in the provision of various services affecting social care, welfare, education and housing. Working with Manchester New international arrival team ensures children have access to school within the municipality and parents are part of the process, working together with schools.

Integration is very key in all aspects of services and in schools and other organisations. CCAs work connecting primary schools,

In Umbria the situation is quite different: the Altotevere Educating Community of Concrete Answers is established in the northern part of the region, near the Tuscany border. It involves the five schools of the area, the most relevant sport associations and the social cooperatives operating in the region. The idea of the Community is to develop the utmost emerging problem related to the integration of the Roma young adults with the aim of helping them to find a job after school. Furthermore, sport activities are a powerful tool to integrate Roma young adults in the local communities and the Educating Community intends to involve them in a non-discrimination program within the framework of the activities of the local football clubs.

Roma families encouraging social inclusion and support of inclusion of Roma students in various activities. As a project we also host a weekly football team that is now involving other children playing together and this encourages social cohesion. Further activities are targeted in increasing aspirations and work opportunities across all the CCAs to ensure job opportunities and internships as well as self-employment of Roma young adults.

CCAs are enabling to address the problem of discrimination, crime, tension and bringing more integration across the municipality making Manchester a welcoming city for all.

The CCA in Bulgaria:

In Bulgaria the Community for Concrete Answers is established in the town of Kyustendil where there is a numerous Roma community of more than 10.000 Roma people living in a Roma suburb with a segregated school from which more and more Roma children move to study in mixed classes in the other schools located in inhabited mostly by ethnic Bulgarians parts of the town. The good news is that in Kyustendil there are a number of Roma and non-Roma civil organisations active in Roma educational integration as well as religious institutions serving both ethnic Roma and Bulgarians.

ADRA BULGARIA has a background of partnership in Kyustendil with the local and regional authorities for the implementation of its successful previous social, health and educational projects establishing locally a health centre, social housing project and series of educational initiatives. Thus in Kyustendil the Community for Concrete Answers consists of the staff, the pedagogical personnel and the parents of the students of the 2nd mixed primary school "Daskal Dimitri", of Roma and non-Roma civil society organisations, religious institution and local active citizens who have accepted and signed the agreement for it.

The CCA in Croatia:

In order to develop the project Roma SMILE, the establishment of a Community for Concrete Answers in Koprivnica demonstrated to be very important. Connecting primary schools with associations encourages social inclusion and support of primary school through the inclusion of Roma students in various activities. In Koprivnica, the Community for Concrete Answers consists of three primary schools which cover a wide range of projects aimed at social inclusion as well as the Open University with extensive experience in adult education, particularly of Roma. Beside the educational organizations the association for sport and recreation "Športske igre Koprivnica" - which promotes active and healthy lifestyle among children and youth - as well as the Roma association "Korak po korak" - which helps the Roma population to better fit into everyday life - showed wish to participate in the SMILE project.

The CCA in Belgium:

The establishment of a Community for Concrete Answers is of the utmost importance in order to foster Roma children's education and more generally to improve the situation of the Roma in Europe. Aiming at setting up an informal social cooperation open to all individuals who have an educational role in Belgium, either formal or informal, this Community for Concrete Answers constitutes an essential element of our project. One of the aims of which is to promote the education of the Roma-Sinti children in an inclusive and prosocial Educating Community which would be based on constant interaction between the schools and the Roma-Sinti/Gadje communities. In Belgium in particular, signatories have been selected and approached according to the entities that we thought could be relevant, including two schools in Brussels, two Roma women who work as activists and cultural/linguistic mediators and a Roma informal network which consists of many Roma and non-Roma activists working on Roma issues.

