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Strengthening Roma Inclusion in Vocational Education and Training

MIRANDA - Roma Inclusion Through Vocational Education

The MIRANDA Roma, the **innovative 3-year Erasmus+ project (September 2023 – August 2026)** continues its efforts to promote inclusive and accessible vocational education and training (VET) opportunities for Roma communities across Europe. Through collaborative research, outreach activities, and community engagement, project partners are working to build stronger connections between educational institutions and Roma learners.

Building Trust Through the Engagement Methodology

One of the project's key developments has been the creation of the **Engagement Methodology with the Roma Community**, designed to improve communication and cooperation between VET providers and Roma communities.

The methodology promotes culturally sensitive and inclusive educational approaches that support Roma learners in accessing and participating in vocational education. Partners emphasized the importance of:

- Trust-building and empathy

- Active listening and intercultural communication
- Inclusive and respectful learning environments
- Stronger dialogue between institutions and Roma communities

The methodology also highlights the persistent barriers that continue to affect Roma participation in education and training, including language difficulties, discrimination, low literacy levels, and social exclusion.

To address these challenges, the project encourages the active involvement of Roma mediators, community representatives, NGOs, educators, and training staff. By strengthening cooperation among all stakeholders, the initiative aims to create more sustainable and supportive pathways for Roma learners within VET systems.

Outreach Activities Reveal Key Challenges and Opportunities

As part of the Workpackage 2, partners carried out questionnaires, interviews, and engagement events in participating countries to better understand the experiences and expectations of Roma learners.

The outreach activities gathered valuable insights from Roma participants, educators, stakeholders, and



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community representatives regarding vocational education opportunities and inclusion.

The findings revealed a strong interest among Roma learners in vocational education, particularly when programmes are connected to:

- Employment opportunities
- Professional development
- Social inclusion and community empowerment

At the same time, several common barriers were identified across partner countries, including:

- Financial difficulties
- Discrimination and school segregation
- Limited access to inclusive educational services
- Lack of information and guidance opportunities

Stakeholders highlighted the importance of mentorship programmes, family involvement, counselling services, and institutional support in improving Roma participation in VET.

NEXT STEPS

The results of these activities will contribute to the development of more inclusive and Roma-friendly vocational education approaches across Europe. The findings will also support future policy recommendations and strengthen cooperation between educational institutions, Roma organizations, NGOs, and policymakers.

Through dialogue, inclusion, and collaboration, the MIRANDA project continues to work towards equal educational opportunities and stronger participation of Roma communities in vocational education and training.

The consortium

The consortium includes seven (7) partners across five (5) countries: Institute for Roma and Minorities Inclusion - Germany, AKMI International - Greece, BK CON - Germany, Symplexis - Greece, Austrian Association of Inclusive Society - Austria, Balkan Bridge – Bulgaria.

