

TOOLBOX of smart participatory methods completed

Based on the common methodology and utilizing also other findings and outcomes of DREAM ROAD project the TOOLBOX was developed under the guidance of Nevo Parudimos Association. The TOOLBOX will support processes of Roma inclusion, motivation, problem-identification and solution-finding. It is aimed as a mechanism of collaboration with stakeholders and end-users to ensure greater participation of Roma community members. Thus, the TOOLBOX is a special manual that helps engage Roma into social innovation processes. It is designed as an online tool for users at different levels to guide them through the participatory process step-by-step.

TOOLBOX will be used also during project implementation as a practical aid / guidebook for trainings for public authorities and policy makers as well as public institutions and other relevant stakeholders. Meaningful and systematic participation based on mutual trust and clear communication is vital in facilitating progress and resolving pressing needs. Collaboration, communication and compromise require experience and skill. You may find a video from a webinar presenting the TOOLBOX on the following link: https://youtu.be/M3nHaai_ff4



Facilitators' network



At March 30th 2022 Amalipe Centre has organized a meeting of educational mediators to share experiences with the aim to create a network of facilitators. The meeting was attended by more than 120 educational mediators/facilitators as well as DREAM ROAD project partners. Participants from different European countries took active part during the meeting and shared their experiences from the field work.

In addition, during the meeting Atanas Atanasov shared as a good practice the learning laboratory developed within the project in Bulgaria. The learning lab is a renovated school bus equipped with laptops, TV, multimedia, sound equipment and a fully equipped doctor's office. Students from the school, supported by teacher Vladimir Ivanov, completely renovated and built the mobile learning lab. The equipment was purchased under the Dream road project.



The mobile learning lab aims at innovative approaches to facilitate digital, information and functional literacy, where strong collaboration of Roma communities, public authorities as well as local communities are key to success.

Innovative approaches to learning

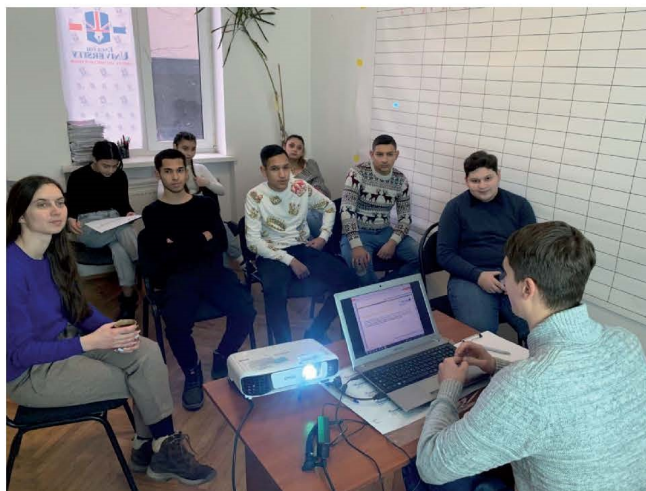


On January 3rd-4th 2022 project presentation and the Brain Storm on "Innovative and non-traditional approaches of learning" with young Roma leaders took place at a new Learning Lab.

Roma representatives were happy to be able participate actively at the announced Learning Lab after long time of waiting. Participants discussed about modern approaches of learning at the brain storm. Most of all, they were interested in non-formal ways of active and interactive education. Topics that concerned them were connected dominantly to new skills that will be useful for their future professional development.

Young Roma leaders shared the difficulties that their colleges face with choosing the future profession. Many people would like to become entrepreneurs and, thus, be the 'owners' of their life. Hence, they are interested in learning skills specifically of photo and video making, project management, business modeling, design, and beauty industry.

Based on their feedback, the team of NGO "Youth Space" from Uzhorod, Ukraine will develop thematic content for the Learning Lab aimed to enhance digital, information and functional literacy of Roma people and establishment of broad alliances in their implementation.



LEARNING LAB launch at Košice



On Monday 20th December 2021, the Slovak partner of the DREAM ROAD project, the Centre of Social and Psychological Sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences together with its cooperating partner, the NGO ETP Slovakia – Centre for Sustainable Development, and associated partner the Municipality of Košice, opened a Learning Lab at the Community Centre in the Roma district Luník IX. The Learning Lab will enhance digital, informational and functional literacy among the marginalized Roma. Unfortunately the event was not open to the public due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The same applied for journalists, though one representative of the national Broadcast and Television Company of Slovakia was present at the event.

In the Learning Lab, since January 2022, a series of non-formal educational lectures is provided for adults. The first group is comprised from the unemployed Roma who are, to a certain extent, active in job seeking, including those unemployed who are registered at job centres. Ongoing workshops and personalised consultations are

focused on specific problems and practicalities the unemployed might encounter with when seeking a job, such as where and how to find a job, how to write a CV or motivation letter.

The second group is comprised of employed inhabitants of Luník IX who are eager to improve their computer skills. In the course of the lecturing, a special emphasis is laid on development of digital skills, functional literacy, civic participation and community work activities.

Coordinator of educational activities and lector Petra Kurutzová stated:

"A spirit of the educational activities is enthusiastic, non-formal and dynamic. Attendees choose themselves what activities they desire to accomplish. The project is supposed to help the participants to broaden their horizon in a sphere of digital technologies, and improve their digital skills and competences. Or, alternately, to enhance their information literacy to a higher level in a way that they would feel confident to find a better job."



Regional Stakeholders Group meeting in Brno



With the participation of the representatives from important Roma organizations, City of Brno, Museum of Roma Culture and other stakeholders Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) meeting took place in Brno, Czech Republic at 20th January 2022. The most important topic of the meeting was the launch of LEARNING LAB in the Czech Republic. RSG participants were also informed about the next steps in the implementation of the DREAM ROAD project and had the opportunity to discuss further possibilities for project implementation and what are the most important needs and related activities for Roma employment opportunities as well as further development of their communities.



Zala County Inclusion Forum



“VII. Zala County Inclusion Forum” was organised in connection with a project on social inclusion in Zalaegerszeg, Hungary. The main aim of the project was to create cooperation between disadvantaged groups and relevant economic actors in Zala County. During the event, topics like creating opportunities, improving the labour market situations, and reducing inequalities were emphasised. As part of the forum, a representative from Zala County Regional Development Agency introduced the Dream Road project to the participants, and overviewed its general facts, aims, work packages and ongoing activities.



Follow us on the project web site:
www.interreg-danube.eu/dream-road



Project co-funded by the European Union funds (ERDF, IPA, ENI)