

ROMEDIN Project – Socio-educational Services for Roma Inclusion is implemented in Cluj-Napoca, funded through the 2009-2014 SEE Grants, as part of NGO Fund in Romania. Please see www.eeagrants.org for additional information about SEE and Norwegian Grants. ROMEDIN is implemented by Desire Foundation for Social Reflection and Openness in partnership with ARTEMIS – Women’s Association against Violence, TRANZIT Foundation, Coastei Community Roma Association, the Social Work Department from Babeș-Bolyai Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, the County School Inspectorate and Cluj-Napoca Municipality. The project unfolds between 15 September 2014 and 14 March 2016.

NEWSLETTER No. 9

ROMEDIN – EDUCATION FOR INCLUSION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE



2.2. Activity – Non-formal Education

Activities for Schooled and Unschooled Children

ROMEDIN Exhibition and Show at The Tranzit House – EXPECT ROMEDIN, “Talk about Yourself”

On 13 June 2015, starting with 2 pm, the Tranzit House (Baritiu Street, 16) hosted a drawing exhibition featuring works of the children who attended the visual education workshop. A performance was organized with the same occasion, as a part of the community theatre program, also included in the ROMEDIN project.



Exhibition ROMEDIN at Tranzit House, 13th of June – Visual education workshop





Between 17 January and 6 June 2015, the teams of the Desire Foundation, the Tranzit Foundation and of the Roma Community Association from Coastei coordinated the first stages of the visual education and community theatre workshops – both taking place at the Tranzit House in Cluj.

“This looks like something usual: children and teenagers spend their spare time learning to draw and to act during the weekend. Yet, they come for a couple of hours to the city center from an isolated area of Cluj, where they ended up living because of the socio-economical changing processes undergone by the city. These have impoverished their families and have pushed them to the margins”, explains Simona Ciotlaus, ROMEDIN project collaborator.

23 teenagers attended the community theater program so far, while 37 children have registered to the visual education workshop. They were provided meals, transportation and educational support additional to the two programs.



ROMEDIN show at Tranzit House, 13th of June – Community theater workshop



NEWSLETTER THOUGHTS FROM LETA

“When I was small I wanted to become a football player. Now I really want to become a driver”, says one of the participants, while another one envisions an IT engineer career for himself, also starting from football. A 13-year-old girl says firmly: “I don’t want any fight. I came here to have fun!” – followed by applause from the empathetic audience. “I like my friends. I think friendship is magical”, says another girl, contradicted by a boy who admits being surrounded by friends only when he has money. Each child confesses what happiness is, insisting that it lies in “having a healthy family, honest friends and a life purpose”. The “Talk about you” show entails sincere thoughts, dance moments, songs and film screenings.



On Saturday, June 13, we organized a show. The entire team was involved and dedicated itself to the same cause. The show was named “Talk about you” and it featured the most skillful dancers, singers and actors from Pata Rat, Coastei and Cantonului street and also from Dallas, who talked about friendship, happiness and dreams. Following the workshop organized every Saturday at Casa Tranzit, the children and teenagers attending it wrote – with our support – a scenario for this show. Thus, they could express themselves by dancing, singing and improvising plays, and also by screening shorts – films they made during the workshops.

The show was developed around the concept of a TV station – “Pata Rat Television”. The atmosphere of the show was incendiary, with an intensely awaited ending; it included the video camera with live transmission (well handled by one of the participants, Robert Berki), introductions for each moment (by our

guests from the Faculty of Letters, future actresses Oana Nemes and Saska Sotirov), microphones, lights and the applause of the public, conventionally placed like the studio audience of classical TV shows. The final dance, which the public was invited to join, was extended for several minutes, making both the children and the audience happy to enjoy a free moment, in which “the artists” talked about themselves, making indirect reference to their condition of precarious living.

After this much time we spent together, I am longing to see each other again in September, as I discovered some responsible future grownups, frail and competent at the same time, who deserve the chance to freely express themselves and to make themselves heard. This is a chance that we, “the happy” ones, can enjoy as an unchallengeable right.





Project details

Romanian:

http://www.desire-ro.eu/?page_id=904,

http://coastei-ro.eu/?page_id=30

English:

http://www.desire-ro.eu/?page_id=968,

http://coastei-ro.eu/?page_id=32

Newsletter 9

"Socio-educational Services for Roma Inclusion Roma" (ROMEDIN – Education for Inclusion and Social Justice)

June 2015

The content of this material does not necessarily reflect the official position of the 2009-2014 SEE Grants.

Technical support by Desire Foundation

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