



BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО

Programme for the Promotion of Social Inclusion of Roma and other Vulnerable Groups in Bulgaria

Effectiveness – Sustainability - Transformation

Regional Seminar on Roma Social Inclusion, Tirana, May-June 2016



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Main features of the programme

- Integrated Approach (Education + Healthcare)
- Combination of Hardware and soft measures
- Entry point: Municipalities (Executing Agencies), partnerships with NGOs and smaller Municipalities
- Direct involvement of 3 Line Ministries (financial flows, policies, embedded PMU)
- Technical assistance to the partners



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Main figures

- Swiss contribution: 6,9 millions CHF
- Bulgarian contribution: 1,1 million CHF (co-financing by 3 Ministries: Labour and Social Policy, Education, Health)
- 6 big Municipalities (focus on large urban segregated neighborhoods)



What is sustainable?

- All services introduced at the local level shall be sustained by the Municipal budget, delegated budget or health insurance, namely:
 - Kindergartens and Pre-school
 - After-school classes
 - Health Mediators
 - Medical centers (GPs, specialists)



Is it effective? Or efficient?

- It took almost three years from the launching of the programme to start the projects at the local level
- The hardware part takes time. Very few «quick wins»
- On the long term, we expect a positive impact on a large number of beneficiaries (children getting education, people getting healthcare)
- Technical assistance should improve the quality of services and some governance aspects



What is this going to change?

- Main assumption: by giving the responsibility to national and local authorities, they will develop more ownership and accountability
- Bottom-up and integrated approach can influence sector policies and the management of EU funds for social inclusion
- A large impact in concentrated communities can produce a change in behaviors and relationships
- Improvement in the quality of education and health services



Limits and trade-offs

- Working with and through institutions means adapting to their rules and way of working. And it takes time.
- Projects hardly influence true political will
- Institutions are subject to changes
- The choice and role of partners depend from authorities, who have the lead



Strengths and opportunities

- Flexibility: institutions have the lead, but we support them with technical assistance
- We empower the drivers of change
- Peer exchange between the projects (Municipalities, NGOs, others)
- Visibility and influence of the programme at the national level



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

The Bulgarian team