

Case name: Supplementary educational support (Learning Centers / Education Centers) and its institutionalisation in the educational system (Romania, Serbia and Kosovo)

,wow factor'	<p>The After school class or learning or education centers' model encapsulates the main elements for the institutionalization of supplementary educational support (for pre-primary, primary and lower secondary schools, children aged 5-16) It seeks for a systemic approach within the education system.</p> <p>The model covers aspects of staff (duties, qualification / accreditation), provision of the program, facility and finances (responsibilities of municipalities), but also interventions at regular school to improve intercultural education (teachers trainings, joint intercultural activities). There is currently a wide demand from other municipalities to implement the model in their schools. In Serbia, where the model of Pedagogue assistants already exists since several years, the project provides mainly capacity building for the Pedagogue Assistants and promote to strengthen the educational tasks of the Pedagogue Assistants by providing mentoring and tuition instead of purely administrative ad trouble shooting task.</p> <p>At the moment approx. 100 After school classes with more than 3'000 participating children are running. 4'000 children per yerar are participating in intercultural activities at schools and 500 teachers are participating in seminars in intercultural education.</p>
1. Subject/issue	<p>1) Supplementary educational support for vulnerable children (After school classes/Education Centers EC/Learning Centers LC).</p> <p>To develop, test and institutionalize such financially affordable supplementary educational support within the education system.</p> <p>The provided educational services is adapted to the needs and learning attitudes of students at different the school levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-school: Awareness raising, promotion of attending regular pre-school, preparation classes - Lower primary school: After school class support to vulnerable children - Upper Primary school /lower secondary school: Customized mentoring and tuition support - Secondary school: Scholarship and mentoring
2. Sector, Country	<p>Sector: Education</p> <p>Countries: Kosovo, Romania, Serbia</p>
3. Background, antecedent	<p>The approach is focusing on mainstreaming, institutionalizing and upscaling the model of After school classes (LCs/ECs for vulnerable children in need). The model was developed and successfully implemented (2015: Kosovo 22 schools, Romania 70</p>

	<p>schools).</p> <p>The goal for the next phase is that the model of EC/ASC (After School Class support) becomes mainstreamed on country-wide level.</p> <p>To achieve that, the following steps are necessary:</p> <p>Kosovo: First the legal frame has to be adopted (by elaborating and approving an administrative instruction). On technical level, an extension on system level, the different models provided by different providers need a “harmonization on minimal standards” and a state accreditation of the providers (being schools itself, NGOs, etc).</p> <p>Romania: The legal frame for after school support for vulnerable groups exists for ECs support, but it is not put in practice and no funding is available on state level, except EU Funds. But 35-50% co-funding could be acquired by the project from municipalities and/or counties.</p> <p>Serbia: The Model exists, but the (Roma) Pedagogue Assistants are often not well integrated as educational staff, keeping mainly administrative functions. Improvements of the system such as more educational tasks for Pas, higher quality and an increase of the number of PAs need to be advocated.</p>
4. Objectives	<p>The objectives relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) decrease of drop-outs of Roma children from mainstream education, (ii) increase of the quality of education of the children and (iii) overall better inclusion of Roma students into the education system. <p>This shall be achieved by mainstreaming, up-scaling and institutionalizing supplementary educational support such as ASC/EC/LCs into the educational system of the countries Kosovo and Romania.</p>
5. Current Status	<p>Different models (After school classes at schools, education/learning centers at schools or as separate units are tested and introduced on substantial scale. The models are ready for institutionalisation and “mass” up-scaling in KS and RO.</p> <p>In Kosovo currently, 22 ECs are established providing after-school support to a minimum of 1.000 children, in Romania more than 70 with 1’600 students, in Serbia 600 students.</p> <p>Particular efforts are allocated to improve the qualifications of the teaching staff and a systematic children-oriented monitoring system in order to monitor children’s attendance and performance.</p>

	<p>Furthermore, the project promotes intercultural and child oriented education at regular schools.</p> <p>In Kosovo the negotiations for institutionalization of the program is ongoing and the Ministry of Education is preparing an Administrative Instruction, based on which the approach will be integrated in the regular schooling system.</p> <p>In Romania, the model is well recognized and co-funded by the counties and the local municipalities. On national level the legal frame already exists but it was not put in practice.</p> <p>In Serbia the approach of Pedagogue Assistants exist at schools but needs improvement in terms of educational involvement of Roma Pedagogue assistants and scale (number of Pas not sufficient)</p>
6. Key-Stakeholders and their Roles / Responsibilities	<p>Ministry of education on central level to provide the legal frame and funding line</p> <p>Municipal Departments of Education (Kosovo) and/or School Inspectorates on county level (Romania)</p> <p>Specialised NGOs: as Facilitators and/or providers of such supplementary educational support</p> <p>Local municipalities and schools as implementing partners and co-funding partners</p> <p>International Institutions/agencies as funding partners (EU Funds, EU-IPA Funds, various donors) and as relevant advocacy partners</p> <p>Pedagogic School Zurich: HEKS Backstopping mandate</p>
7. Capacity building and Sustainability	<p>Capacity building and quality monitoring is important for “crowding in” and “up-scaling” scenario.</p> <p>Backstopping mandate by Pedagogic School Zürich installed for Romania and Kosovo (2016-2018)</p>
8. Institutionalization (if any)	<p>Kosovo: The negotiations for institutionalization of the program is ongoing and the Ministry of Education is preparing an Administrative Instruction, based on which the program shall be integrated in the regular schooling system.</p> <p>Romania: Substantial Up-scaling and crowding in is ongoing (counties, municipalities, EU Funds, Swiss cohesion fund)</p> <p>Institutionalisation: Legal base exists for after school support for vulnerable groups, but involvement and funding on central national level by the Ministry of Education still weak/or not existent. Such institutionalisation needs joint advocacy work.</p>
9. Interfaces / Need for coordination with	<p>Harmonisation with key stakeholders (REF and EU Funding partners), Soros Open Society</p>

other key issues	EU Funding: Needs concertation on funding principles
10. Recommendations / important issues	Crucial question is how to keep quality when different providers adopt the model or the state / schools take it over on mass scale.
11. Why is this a good practice? Reflection and learning	It is a model seeking for systemic change / systemic approach. Integration into the education system and therefore more sustainable The model is financially affordable (reasonable cost / cost efficient)
12. Contact and website/link	<p>Documentations available at HEKS and partner organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact HEKS: Matthias Herren (Romania); matthias.herren@heks.ch • Contact HEKS: Angela Elmiger (Serbia and Kosovo): angela.elmiger@heks.ch <p>Contact local partners: Kosovo: VoRAE Gracanica: www.vorae.org; Contact: Isak Skenderi Romania: FAER Reghin: www.faer.ro. Contact Ioan Vlasi Diakonia Cluj: www.diakonia.ro; Contact Arthur Sarosi Serbia: EHO Novo Sad: www.ehons.org, Contact: Robert Bu</p> <p>Contact SDC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCO-K: Arjan Shabani; arjan.shabani@eda.admin.ch • SCO-S: Lidia Vujicic; lidia.vujicic@eda.admin.ch; Jovana Mihajlovic; jovana.mihajlovic@sdc.net • Swiss Embassy Romania: Thomas Stauffer; thomas.stauffer@eda.admin.ch • PMU: Cerasela Banica; ceraselabanica@yahoo.com