



Considering the ethnical map of Hungary, all data and research demonstrate that Roma as an ethnic group is present in the greatest proportion in the country. According to the latest data collection, an approximate number of 870.000 Roma people declare their ethnicity from Roma background. Roma are the biggest ethnic group most likely to be at the risk of deep poverty. Moreover, in the European context, Hungarian Roma show the worst achievements in educational outcomes, employment and health. According to research of the EU FRA, it is a fact that within the Roma population the ratio of the unemployment is considerably higher than as it is among the majority of the population. Due to their low school attendance and obtained qualifications, it is more difficult for them to gain employment, jobs that pay off are hardly available. Although in the past years the ratio of those Roma attending higher education institutes increased, the sums are still very low, and therefore more and more educated Roma would be needed to benefit the Roma as well as the majority of the society. Having a closer look at the integration process, it is indisputable that quality education and better life chances are the fundamental conditions to build on. The way Roma can cease exclusion and for them to have equal and better life conditions in society, there is a great need for more Roma intellectuals, than now.

It is also known, that Roma children, not necessarily worse, but different in socio – cultural background as attending school, that those non-Roma. The education system in many cases cannot handle this linguistic and cultural difference, therefore it is much harder for a Roma child coming from an underprivileged background to catch up with the disadvantages of the school system and making it to the higher education system. The obstacles that they face can take away their motivation and can result in the low ratio of presence in universities.

Beyond the existing disadvantages, from 2020 it will be even more difficult for young Roma to make it to universities, since the new legislation regarding national education will require an intermediate language exam of one of the existing languages spoken besides a subject that is taken on an advanced level at the end of the high school year. This will result in major setbacks, because Roma youngsters may not choose to pursue studies further. The expenses of a language exam and a course is beyond the financial capacities of underprivileged socially low income families.

Among the mission goals of the Diverse Youth Network is building bridges between the majority and minorities, such as Roma, in this context, supporting Roma young people in

their educational trajectory, as well as making them more conscious on the benefits of studying that prepares them to a responsible life with well – being.

The Super Romanes Language Course training started in 2013, where mostly young people from Roma background are prepared for a Romani language exam or high school final exam. In the past few years, there were 113 participants ,from them 93 were successful.

In the past period, the language school demonstrated to be very successful, since a number of university students qualified themselves at the language exams. It took them approximately 6 to 8 months of preparation with no previous experience or knowledge but with regular preparation and visiting of the sessions.

Our project demands a more popular presence based on the actual tendencies, since the potential Roma students who have their motivation and knowledge to pursue higher education studies, the Super Romanes Language Course training can serve as a framework to prepare for the Romani language exam free of charge, and therefore, the 2020 legislation changes and restrictions could be ceased by having their own language exam in Romani language.

So far the Super Romanes Language Course project has been present in Pécs city, mostly due to financial restrictions. As a young innovative youth association, the organization does not have stable income or financial capacity, Skype – sessions made it possible for those living outside the city to learn Romani language. It is now the great desire of the Diverse Youth Network to disseminate the project in other cities, other counties, covering the whole area of Hungary, potentially starting the next phase of the project in Borsod and Nograd country based on the interests. There are two municipalities in these counties with a bigger number of people interested in the course, however, financial contributions could make it possible to do so.

The implementation of the project would be shared among the team members of the Diverse Youth Network speaking Romani language. One of them is soon to obtain a diploma in Romology – Pedagogy studies, the others are not qualified teachers since it is hard to obtain a degree as such, however, all of them speak the language as their mother tongue, and they are all capable of teaching it with mostly non – formal educational methods. On a weekly basis in Pécs, Romani sessions are held in the heart of city in the office of the Diverse Youth Network.

Members of the Diverse Youth Network are convinced and believe that education is the only possible chance for the Roma to be accepted, and not perceived as a minority issue, but as equal citizens of the society. This is the overall reason the team members find it invaluablely important to implement this project, which supported hundreds of Roma, and intends to support even more in the future.

Imagine an ideal society, where Roma and non – Roma intellectuals with university diplomas are present equally, and there is no more need to conduct research and interventions to decrease school drop outs of Roma children. As long as the Diverse Youth Network is able and committed to support Roma youngsters with useful knowledge and motivation, this may be one of the milestones for both the majority of the society and for the Roma too.

The budget of the program has been the same as the budget of organization, So it will be different in the future, you only need the money for the project to be able to pay for additional training courses, travel expenses and language teachers.