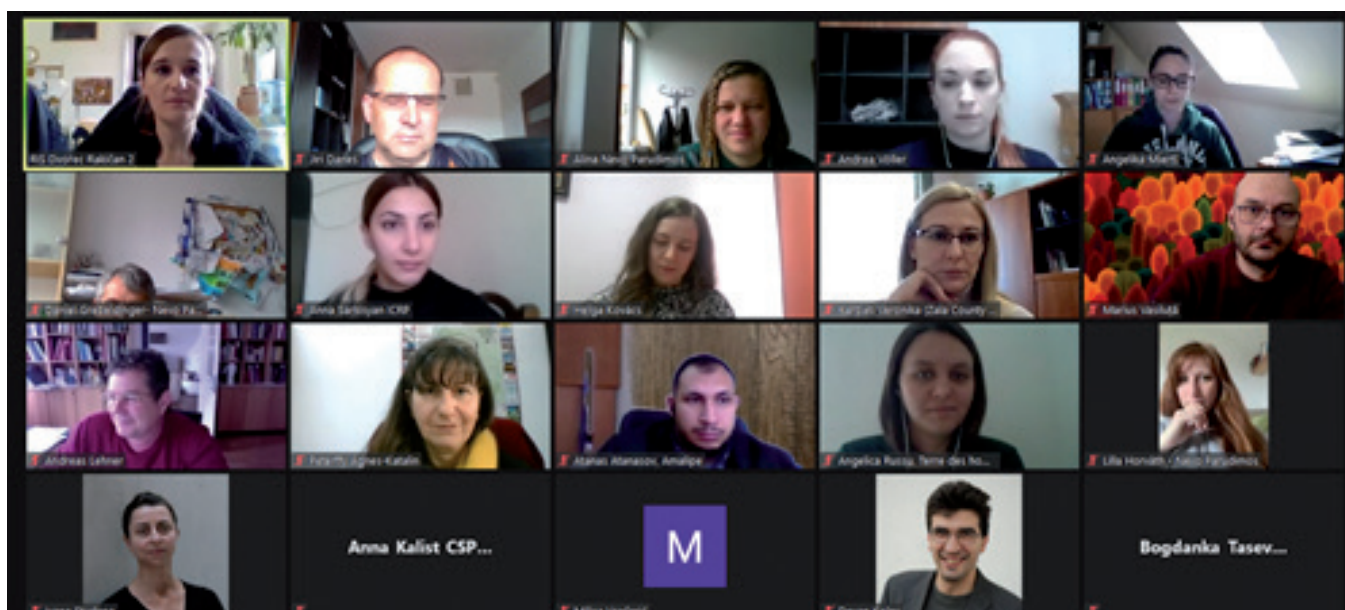


DREAM ROAD partner meeting and project's state of the art

Due to the COVID restrictions DREAM ROAD project partners still have not had an opportunity to meet face-to-face. Thus, also the third partner's meeting was held online to discuss the current state of the project and the upcoming tasks.

Among the most important project activities to be implemented within upcoming months

is the finalization of the **TOOLBOX of Smart Participatory Methods**. Based on the transnational status, opportunity and needs assessment, **pilot actions**´ realization has started by the preparation of the joint development of the **LEARNING LAB pilot concept**. The main targets of the planned LEARNING LABs will be the Roma as intended end-users as well as local communities.



International conference Deep Poverty

In order to celebrate the Roma International Day and the 50th anniversary of the first Roma World Congress, Harghita County Council, Romanian DREAM ROAD project partner, has organized a 4-day international conference on Deep Poverty from the 7th to 10th of April 2021. The conference was organized in mixed format, thus according

to the pandemic situation and actual regulations in Romania the number of in person participants was limited, and many other participants took the opportunity to follow the conference also online.

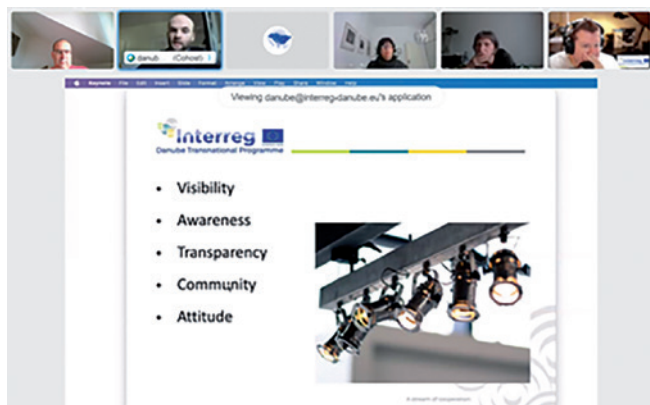
Therefore within the event local actors and specialists, who are interested in the competency development of the Roma communities and

in the process of social inclusion were involved: representatives of the local and regional institutions, politicians, teachers, specialists and Roma leaders participated at the event.

The aim of the conference was to present the international good practices related to poverty management and social inclusion as well as to obtain the contribution of various social actors and to establish transparent processes. In addition to the presentations the event was accompanied by cultural programmes and traditional craft presentations performed by the Roma artists and Roma culture related artists, which contributed to the promotion of the traditional Roma cultural values and to the



Communication training



sensitization of the society. In May 2021, with the objective to improve communication and visibility activities Joint Secretariat of Danube Transnational Programme has organized communication training. Project promotion and involving others in an open dialogue as well as engaging stakeholder change attitude is an essential element of any project addressing societal challenges. Communication manager of the DREAM ROAD project attended the training which was focusing also on the improvements of social media usage and possible

TOOLBOX for Smart Participatory Methods

synergies in promoting EU funded projects. Under the guidance of the activity leader Nevo Parudimos Association the DREAM ROAD partnership is recently completing important outcome of the project: TOOLBOX for Smart Participatory Methods. The "TOOLBOX" goal is to provide in practice easily applicable hands-on tools and methodologies for the support Roma inclusion, motivation, problem identification and solution-finding. It will be an online available user-friendly manual which

will guide users through the participatory processes in different environments step-by-step (target group analysis, animation using contemporary communication channels and techniques, building personal interactions, design of solutions, relationship maintenance, etc.). Once completed the TOOLBOX will be soon made available online on the central DTP project website and will be disseminated also through DREAM ROAD project partners' websites.



MOLDOVA



Joint Equal Opportunity Initiative

The ethnocultural diversity is a unique feature of the **Republic of Moldova**; at the same time, unlike other national/ethnic minorities, the Roma community representatives have been marginalized in accessing the social-economic development services, becoming thus a community with a complex profile of vulnerability. The **"Voice of the Roma" Coalition (VRC)** national platform was established in 2016, aiming at the direct involvement of the Roma civil society representatives in the process of monitoring of the implementation of Roma public policies by the competent central and local public administration.

At the initial stage of the project, the Roma NGOs were trained towards developing the following skills: legislative framework review, identifying the social equity gaps and developing recommendations in the political decision-making process focussed on improving the living standards of the Roma ethnics. At the same time, a Secretariat of VRC was set up to conduct lobby and advocacy actions related to the implementation of the institutional



commitments set in the "Action Plan to Support the Roma People in the Republic of Moldova (2016-2020)", from the perspective of the priority areas of intervention: *Education, Labour/Social Protection, Health and Community Mediators*. In order to effectively reach this desideratum, the necessary tools (methodologies, working tools and mechanisms) have been developed for the Roma NGOs to exercise their monitoring, advocacy and counselling role in relation to the decision-makers at the local and central levels.

SLOVENIA



Roma restaurant Romani Kafenava

In Maribor you may visit Roma restaurant Romani Kafenava which is a unique project implemented by the Scientific and Research Association for Art, Cultural and Educational Programmes and Technology EPEKA that establishes a model example of one of the first Roma restaurants not only in **Slovenia** but also in the EU. The Romani Kafenava operates on the principle of social enterprise with the aim of employing people from vulnerable groups (Roma minority). The Roma restaurant project revives and preserves Roma culture (art, cuisine, Roma style of decoration, language etc.), includes Roma in society and the work environment, educates them informally



to work in the restaurant and reduces prejudices and stereotypes about Roma.
romani-kafenava.si

AUSTRIA

Train the Trainers

On January 30, the **Roma Volkshochschule Burgenland** held a workshop with 10 participants from various Roma associations and activists from all over Austria. Project ideas on the topics "Train the Trainer", a website for educational institutions and on the topic "antiziganistic hate speech on the net" were presented, ideas were collected and their implementation was discussed.

Participation is at the forefront of all three topics, which is why it was discussed that in the area of "Train the Trainer" people from the community



should be trained as multipliers, who can then carry out educational and support work in a wide range of institutions and educational establishments. Hand in hand with this goes the provision of information for educational institutions through a website on which materials and information concerning the ethnic group can be accessed. Finally, there was a discussion on how to prevent or reduce hate speech against Roma on the Internet. Awareness must be raised and, for example, young Roma must be empowered to report cases of hate speech to relevant state institutions and to strengthen anti-discrimination laws.



HUNGARY

Start Work Program

A local municipality in **Zala county, Hungary**, submitted its application for launching a program that aims to help local Roma and disadvantaged families catch-up, and provide them work in the village. Initially, the name of the program was "Sample Work Program" and 22 people participated in it in the first round. First of all, it started with the cultivation of vegetables and the



keeping of laying hens. The production continued in the following years, and some minor innovations were introduced, such as oil pumpkin production. Following this, the program continued under the name Start Work Program. The Roma and disadvantaged employees were responsible for the processing and storage of vegetables; pickles, syrups, jams and pumpkin seed oil were produced. These goods were sold or used at local events, and distributed as benefits in kind to the families of the village. As a result, the daily meals of the families were ensured. During the program, a processing room was set up and several machines were purchased. The male members of the program took part in the management of the green areas of the village, and in the de-icing process during winter. The program is still going on nowadays, and is enriched with positive feedback from year to year.

Follow us on the project web site:

www.interreg-danube.eu/dream-road



Danube Transnational Programme
DREAM ROAD

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