



Association „Zemlja djece” Tuzla  
Udruženje „Zemlja djece” Tuzla

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## MINUTES

### FROM THE ROUND TABLE

On November 5, 2012, there was held a round table with the agenda consisted of the two main topics:

1. Promotion of the Revised Action Plan on Roma Educational Needs in B&H
2. First official report on implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Roma Educational Needs in B&H

Besides representatives of the Roma associations, local elementary schools, Tuzla Canton Ministry for Education, Science, Culture and Sports, representatives of the centres for social work, the meeting was attended by the representative of the B&H Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, by member of the expert-group for monitoring the implementation of the Revised Action Plan and by the OSCE Tuzla representatives.

The following main concrete indicators from the Report on implementation of the Revised Action Plan on Roma Educational Needs in B&H have been presented for the Tuzla Canton:

- \* 746 Roma pupils registered at the elementary schools;
- \* 66 Roma students at the high schools;
- \* School is finished by 60-70 Roma students annually.

After the Report presentation there was discussion taking place among the meeting participants. Special attention was paid to the issue of pre-school preparation needs, since the headmasters from the elementary schools pointed out the problem of decrease of Roma children enrollement to schools and their dropping out of the system quickly even when they eventually get enrolled. One of the main reasons is the fact that these children don't have proper pre-school education what causes disadvantages at Roma children in the early beginning of the school process. The Tuzla Canton Ministry for Education, Science, Culture and Sports representative stressed that, according to the legal changes taking place recently,



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there has been produced legal requirement that all children have to pass through certain number of pre-school education lessons. However, the parents and the communities can not fulfil this legal requirement for financial reasons and for having not sufficient capacities in the local kindergartens, or for not having kindergartens at all in the rural communities.

The Ministry announced there will be offered solution in the coming time for the rural communities, as the Ministry and the Municipality will share the cost of organising the obligatory part of the pre-school education in the space of the local schools, including the distant and rural communities, what will be very important for the distant Roma communities like Kiseljak, etc.

The local school 'Kreka' headmaster added that the situation might be much improved if Roma assistants / teachers get employed at the schools, also.

Another important reflection to the presented first state's report on the Action Plan implementation has been related to lack of data raised at the non-governmental organisation in regard with Roma children education. Just for illustration, the daily centres for street involved children (Tuzla daily centre of 'Zemlja djece' e.g.) also gather important number of Roma children and young people, who are assisted in terms of enrollement to the official school system on either regular basis or on basis of taking exams for the specific grade integrally. Roma associations' representatives have also pointed the results they gained in own work in terms of education of Roma. The conclusion of the discussion was to add the missing data to the Report, collecting results of the various NGOs active in the field of Roma education.

The opportunity was used to present the recent activities of „Zemlja djece” association related to the project „Together against discrimination of Roma”, with a specific focus on production of the two publications: Roma fairytales and the Manual „How to work in the diversified classes”.