



**INCLUSIVE SCHOOLS
MAKING A DIFFERENCE
FOR ROMA CHILDREN**

European Union / Council of Europe
Joint Project

INSCHOOL

**“Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma
Children”**

Inclusive Education Ambassadors

- CALL FOR APPLICATIONS-

20 July 2022

Co-funded
by the European Union



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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

The European Union and Council of Europe Joint Project “Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children (INSCHOOL)” aims to support the design and implementation of national inclusive education policies and innovative inclusive education practices in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and the Slovak Republic¹, in line with European standards and principles for quality inclusive education. The current cycle of the project will continue to improve the access, participation and performance of Roma and the children at risk of marginalisation and exclusion in pre-school and compulsory education. The project puts at the heart of its action the education system and its capacity to respond to the needs of Roma children, and all children at risk of marginalisation and exclusion, to celebrate differences and support their learning experience.

The INSCHOOL Project upscales its reach and cooperation in the six selected member States, through the involvement of relevant stakeholders such as Ministries of Education, National Roma Contact Points, EU funds managing authorities, national policy coordination entities, educational institutions, teachers and civil society organisations in the process of design, implementation, monitoring and review of national strategies and relevant EU fund programmes that promote and enable quality and inclusive education (QIE) for all children. The Project has the following **specific objectives**:

- Ensure that national education policies, coordination structures, recovery and resilience plans and operational programmes are in line with European standards and practices on Quality Inclusive Education and continue to meet the relevant thematic enabling conditions under 2021-2027 EU fund programmes;
- Support national level evidence-based solutions, promote changes in inclusive education policy and practice, and act to reduce and prevent further segregation of children in educational settings;
- Strengthen the capacity, competences and awareness of education institutions, schools, EU funds managing authorities and civil society on inclusive education;
- Raise and promote the awareness of the general public about the meaning and benefits of inclusive education.

Raising awareness about the evolution of the concept on inclusive education and promoting deeper understanding about its benefits for the society plays an important role in the process of education related policy reforms and for practical changes in the education practices in classrooms. The understanding of the concepts is shaped by the national policy and legal definitions and frameworks. The INSCHOOL Project will aim to promote a more universal (broad) understanding of quality and inclusive education concepts, policy and education practices based on already established academic and educational practice and knowledge. The Inclusive Education Ambassadors, through a set of information, communication and education activities will aim to engage relevant stakeholders in exchange of information, discussions and to seek practical solutions to advance the policy debate and education practice.

The concept of Ambassadors was initially promoted during the first cycle of implementation of the INSCHOOL Project. Given the positive results and feedback received from the piloted initiative it was decided to upscale the work with the Ambassadors in terms of reach-out as a way of promoting understanding, knowledge and good practices on quality and inclusive education.

[You can access the inspirational story of the first INSCHOOL Ambassador, Ondrej Olah, by clicking here.](#)

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AMBASSADORS

The INSCHOOL Project launches the initiative **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AMBASSADORS** to raise the awareness of the general and professional public about the benefits and value of inclusive education, but also to support the capacity

¹ By the moment of promotion of this concept the INSCHOOL Project is operational in Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

of schools, educators and relevant education authorities to improve learning environments and governance processes to respond to the needs to all children irrespective of their socio economic, ethnic, language and other differences.

In this context, the INSCHOOL Project is looking for individuals who are willing to share their personal or professional stories of the benefits that they have experienced in their education, professional and/or personal life's as a result of their participation in an inclusive and supportive environment. In addition, the project is also looking for candidates who can share their professional stories from the work they have done in transforming policy and governance structures respond to the challenges and needs of all children and youth.

The Project is open to all those who have an inspirational and positive story in education and are willing to share it with the wider audience to promote a better understanding of the value and benefit of inclusive education, Roma inclusion, social inclusion in education and/or educational desegregation.

The potential candidate should have some of the following experiences:

- Having experienced or participated in an inclusive education process/level which enabled the person to develop his/her potential, fulfil aspirations and pursue his/her personal and professional goals to the fullest capabilities;
- Having been involved in teaching, working and/or organising educational processes (classes, curriculum, education methods, etc.) which have supported the learning trajectories and life-paths of children and youth with diverse education needs. Positive experiences in working with Roma children or children at risk of marginalisation and exclusion will be considered a strong advantage;
- Having experience in development or adaptation of an inclusive policy or pedagogic practice in a relevant country (or internationally) which has enabled children at-risk of marginalisation and exclusion to participate in mainstream or inclusive school environments;
- Having experience in the field of academic research, teaching, community mobilisation and service, advocacy initiatives, etc., which have made tangible and proven changes in education policy and practice for all children;
- Having any other professional or personal impactful story to tell as regards to the possibilities and benefits provided by a higher quality and more inclusive education;
- Demonstrating integrity and supporting the values and principles such as professionalism and respect for others. It will be of importance that the candidates have a proven record and personal commitment to some of the following values: human rights, equality, Roma rights, participation, community, respect for diversity, non-violence, compassion, courage, etc.
- Ability to communicate clearly and in an engaging manner, experience with storytelling would be considered an advantage;
- Ability to understand and communicate in English, knowledge of Romani language would be considered an advantage.

The INSCHOOL Project will appoint a number of Ambassadors to support national level implementation including international profiles to ensure cross-country exchanges and learning. For that purpose, the Project it is looking for a diversity of profiles with a compelling story as Roma and non-Roma students, Roma parents, teachers, school principals, young graduates, academics, activists, community organisers, public figures, and other relevant profiles.

The role of Ambassadors will entail knowledge and sharing experiences to relevant stakeholders and audiences through set of information and communication tools and formats such as speaking engagements, roundtable discussions, peer-to-peer exchanges, printed and audio-visual materials, information campaigns, etc. In addition, the Ambassadors will contribute to the promotion and use of proven pedagogic methods and materials, proven know-how applicable for working in educational settings (school staff, school intermediaries, parents, etc.), advocate for deeper

understanding of the QIE concepts, engage in policy debates, seek and promote policy solutions that will aim to further develop the inclusivity of policy frameworks and practices.

The selected Ambassadors will engage in national and cross-country exchange with their peers and with targeted stakeholders with the main intention to promote inter-cultural understanding and good practices of education policy and practice. At the same time, the pool of Ambassadors for Inclusive Education, will contribute to the awareness raising component of the INSCHOOL Project.

SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The selected Ambassadors will have the possibility to interact with representatives selected from other participating countries within the INSCHOOL Project. The project activities will be based on the personal and professional stories of the selected Ambassadors, the general objectives of INSCHOOL as well as their own vision for the future of education. A set of informational and educational activities will be available to be organised in line with the projects expected objectives, such as:

- Preparation of a national communication and visibility strategy for the Ambassadors in partnership and with the support of the INSCHOOL team of experts and project partners;
- Development and production of visibility materials, information and education activities that will support the implementation of the communication strategy and promote the concept of Inclusive Education Ambassadors;
- Preparation and promotion of expert articles, storytelling and participation in interviews;
- Presentations and active involvement during meetings, seminars, focus groups, training sessions, conferences or other events organised within the scope of the Project;
- Organisation and facilitation of international (online) workshops bringing together each country's ambassador/s involved in the project with a diverse audience;
- Initiating other activities with a view to promoting Roma inclusion and quality inclusive education.
- Other tasks as proposed by the prospective Ambassadors.

NOMINATION AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

All those interested to prepare nominations or submit their own candidacy for the position of Inclusive Education Ambassador should submit a complete documentation in English by **30 September 2022 to the following email address: inschool@coe.int**. Please note that nominations on behalf of a candidate for this role are required to obtain the consent of the nominated candidate prior to the submission of the application. The consent will be considered valid following the presentation of a signed approval of the candidate or an approval in the form of an email confirmation.

The application package should include the following documents:

1. Professional CV
2. Completed application form
3. Any additional material that will support the candidacy or nomination that prove their record and commitment in inclusive education such as: experts' articles, educational methodologies and/or activities, books, didactical materials, curricula, visual produces, video materials, etc.

Timeline

The preselection of candidates will be done by mid-October 2022. In case of a need, possible candidate may be invited for a short interview in order to better assess their personal and professional stories and evaluate their impact (benefit) from the educational work. This is expected to be announced by end of October 2022.

Following the selection of applicants, a preparatory meeting will be organised to acquaint the Ambassadors with the Project and its objectives, assessing the needs within the national context, define communication objectives and working methods, followed by a seminar which will gather ideas and will lead to a production of a working plan for each Ambassador.

Practical information

The position of Ambassadors will be on voluntary basis and no additional fees will be provided. Selection for the role of Inclusive Education Ambassador, can in no way be considered as granting employment status with the Council of Europe. However, all travel and subsistence expenses incurred and daily fees covering the work of the Ambassadors will be borne by the Council of Europe's INSCHOOL Project.

Further information

For any additional information about the call for Inclusive Education Ambassadors, please email: inschool@coe.int