



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

European Union / Council of Europe
Joint Project

INSCHOOL

“Inclusive Schools: Making a Difference for Roma Children”

TRAINING COURSE

ON EDUCATION POLICY MAKING BASED ON INCLUSIVE VALUES AND DATA

- Call for participants -

30 May 2023

Co-funded
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



Co-funded and implemented
by the Council of Europe

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 targeted member states¹, in line with the European standards and principles for quality inclusive education. The specific objectives of the project are:

- 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.

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 and performance. In order to provide equal opportunities for all children in the education system, change needs to be reflected at all levels, starting from the highest political and policy levels, and all the way down to the schools and the environment of the children.

In order to overcome the rift of exclusive teaching and learning approaches, authorities, schools and education stakeholders need to foster the implementation of policies and practices based on inclusive values promoting social and educational inclusion regardless of the socio-economic and cultural background of children and youth and focus on human rights and inclusive values that are strengthening equity in the educational system as a whole.

Developing professional competences and awareness on inclusive education policy and practice among relevant stakeholders constitutes an important aspect of the interventions of the INSCHOOL Project. It is done, among others, by building human capacity to further develop and implement effective education-related policies and pedagogic practices in schools and across school communities.

With this rationale, the INSCHOOL Project is launching an international training course on education policy making with a focus on articulating more deeply on the cycles of policy making in education for students from disadvantaged backgrounds and embedding core principles and values into policy frameworks at all stages.

TRAINING PROGRAMME – AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of the training is to raise participants’ competences about policymaking processes in education, based on inclusive education values, research, and data. The training programme will also pay attention to exploring policy solutions to challenges faced by children at risk of marginalisation and exclusion, including Roma. The training course has the following objectives:

- To raise the awareness and understanding about inclusive education values and concepts
- To develop participants knowledge about the different stages of policymaking in education and to develop solutions based on values and data;
- To develop the abilities of participants to analyse challenging situations in education and develop solutions with the application of approaches such as human rights, participation, equity, interculturality, citizenship, etc.
- To explore and make use of methodologies of linking credible research data for the purpose of policy development, monitoring and evaluation;

¹ The INSCHOOL Project is currently operational in the Czech Republic, Portugal, Romania and the Slovak Republic.

- To analyse and be able to develop comprehensive policy solutions in education for the most marginalised community of learners, including for Roma children and those learning in segregated settings;
- To enable peer policy exchanges and knowledge about good and inspiring policy and pedagogic practices;
- To introduce the relevant policy frameworks provided by the European Union in relation to education and training and the relevant 2021-2027 EU Funds regulations, to reflect on the necessary steps to meet the relevant European standards and recommendations when it comes to quality inclusive education;
- To introduce relevant policy standards by the Council of Europe in relation to quality inclusive education;

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The training course is open to all interested representatives of public institutions, education practitioners and specialists, researchers, representatives of civil society organisations and all those that are interested and experienced in policymaking. The desired profile of participant should:

- be interested in enhancing their knowledge and understanding on policy making in education
- be open to exploring new and innovative approaches in developing policy solutions based on data, evidence, and inclusive education values
- be currently involved or has contributed to the different stages of policy making in education or in the field of social inclusion, Roma inclusion, academic research, public advocacy, etc.
- have the ability to critically reflect on and respond to situations of inequality, discrimination and marginalisation of learners in education
- be motivated to organise follow-up activities; explore and apply the new knowledge and information in practical terms and situations
- be able to participate and express their opinion in English.

The Council of Europe welcomes applications from all candidates who fulfil the specific profile of the activities, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, colour, religion, belief or sexual orientation.

METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The training course is based on blended learning, combining a residential training seminar with distance online learning. The programme of the course is learner-centred and highly participatory and will give participants the opportunity to experience, reflect and discuss issues related to education policy making, particularly the policy options for supporting learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, including for the ones studying in segregated settings. The entire course will be designed as a mutual learning experience in which, with the support of diverse methods, participants can learn from each other, compare approaches, and develop ways of action for the future. The residential seminar/s will provide the opportunity to network and connect among the participants and stakeholders of the project.

Some of thematic areas and tools presented in the programme of the course will address: conceptual frameworks for quality and inclusive education and democratic citizenship; tools for supporting equity, equality and non-discrimination and human rights; policy solutions on desegregation; policy making cycles, mainstreaming in education; inter and intra institutional cooperation and coordination; strategies for using (learning) data in policy making; Roma inclusion; European Union and Council of Europe policy tools on education and training (EU Funding Programmes, Recovery and Resilience Plans, international and county data reports and indicators, CM Recommendations, CoE Monitoring body recommendations, etc.).

The programme of the training will include complementary events such as online training sessions, workshops, peer group exchanges, practical assignments, and work. The format of the training course will consist of:

- Residential training events** – thematic modules specifically related to the course objectives:
 - 11-13 July 2023 – first residential training seminar

- Early 2024 – second residential training seminar (to be confirmed)
- b) **Tailor-made training sessions** – complementary training sessions based on the needs of the participants and specifically addressing policy dilemmas with which they are confronted in their professional settings. This shall include but not limited to key-note presentations, webinars, workshops, etc.
- c) **Reading, practical work and assignments** - reading materials, checklists and resources will be made available to participants for further reading and development. Participants will have the opportunity (if interested) to practically apply some of the knowledge and skills acquired through conducting practical assignments. Trainers will be supporting and guiding training participants throughout.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The training programme will be implemented between July 2023 and February 2024, through a series of regularly and timely scheduled events. The opening and the closing training sessions will take place in person, while the other training sessions will be organised remotely online.

Application, procedure and selection of participants:

All candidates should apply individually. The application should include the candidate's CV and filled-in expression of interest form. All candidates must apply by sending their application (containing the two files mentioned above) to the following email address: inschool@coe.int by **21 June 2023, 23:59 CET**.

The Council of Europe will select up to 25 participants for the training course on the basis of their experience, learning needs, motivation and the ability to organize follow-up.

Candidates will be informed about the outcomes of the selection process by 28 June 2023. The selected candidates must commit to take part at least at 80% of the training sessions in order to be eligible for a certificate.

Financial and practical conditions

The first residential training will take place during 11-13 July 2023 at the European Youth Centre in Budapest, Hungary. Selected participants are requested to attend and participate for the entire duration of the event. The arrivals to Budapest should be planned for 10 July and departure for 14 July.

The working language of the training will be English.

Accommodation and meals for the event will be provided at the European Youth Centre in Budapest and paid by the INSCHOOL Project. Travel costs for the training event will be fully reimbursed according to the Council of Europe rules.

Further information and contact

For information related to the seminar contact Katarzyna MICHNO, email: Katarzyna.MICHNO@coe.int

The deadline for applications is 21 June 2023, 23:59 CET