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ECRI webinar on inclusive education in times
of Covid-19

with a special focus on migrant and Roma
children

June 30, 2020

General gaps hindering inclusive education in EU member states

Mission and ultimate goal is to **close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma**

Top level of system institutions and government: Political and policy environment (ideologies, attitudes, willingness)

Policy level: Institutional design and methods (lack of specific measures, weak policy implementation, unjust school prioritization and finance, outdated diagnosis methodologies)

Social level: General public mindset, attitude towards Roma, anti-Roma sentiments (resistance of non-Roma, petitions, white flight, residential segregation and economic exclusion of Roma)

Inclusive education and the COVID 19 pandemic

Inclusive education before the pandemic has always been an unsolved topic regarding education of Roma.

Lack of basic services (electricity, water), infrastructure, IT equipment, internet access, IT literacy and supportive home learning environment.

IT literacy, knowledge and experience in remote/online learning. Questionable teaching methodologies. → timing and the nature of formal education

Strengthening anti-gypsyism, police brutality, intensified exclusion of Roma community, colure of Roma settlements → framing pandemic as an ethnic issue → scapegoating

What should be done?

Top level of system institutions and government: Clear understanding and reversing political perception of Roma. Demonstrating real political will as this is the issue of the entire population. (economy, human rights)

REF collaborates with governments/ministries, providing scholarships through state institutions

Policy level: introducing specific measures to combat segregation such as quotas, include educational experts and civil society into the implementation of governmental Roma programs, increase and equalize the financial support between state and church run schools, abolishing mild-mental disability category, making sure based on ethnicity no student is in special schools, introducing dual-system,

Social level: Bridging the interests of Roma and non-Roma (forums), introducing positive political narratives both within and outside of the communities,

REF is organizing parents and Roma youth, training teachers, gender specific actions for Roma young women, widening employment opportunities for Roma



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Thank you for your attention!