

Romanian component-Dolj, Craiova

1. **Project title:** “A Good Start”
2. **Implementation period:** June 2010 – April 2012
3. **“A Good Start ” pilot in Romania: Dolj County, Craiova**

Craiova is a urban locality situated in the southern part of Romania and it has a significant number of Roma population. Mofleni- neighborhood is situated in the South - West of Craiova, 5 Km distance from the centre. 1745 persons are living in Mofleni neighborhood, out of which 800 are Roma. The Roma that are living in Mofleni are traditional and speak Romany language.

4. **The main activities:** parental education programs; intercultural curricula and need-based material support activities for 3-6 years old children; opening a community centre for parents and children from 0 to 3 years old; awareness raising campaign; training for teachers and care staff ; work with local authorities
5. **Upcoming activities in Dolj:**
 - Opening the community centre
 - Developing the intercultural curricula for kindergarten
 - Training for kindergarten personnel and community centre staff: early childhood education and care services, multicultural awareness including about Roma culture and language, child centered learning, monitoring child progress
 - Assistance for enrolment at kindergarten
6. **Implementors for Dolj component:** Romani CRISS and local NGOs based in Craiova, TRUST
7. **Partners for Dolj component:** Dolj School Inspectorate, CJARE, Municipality of Craiova, University of Craiova, School nr 26, Kindergarten Mofleni
8. **Information about the implementers for Dolj:**

Romani CRISS – Roma Center for Social Intervention and Studies is a non-governmental organization, which was established on April 4th, 1993, (www.romanicriss.org) . The right and access to education is one the main directions that Romani CRISS is constantly emphasizing as the key issues in promoting and protecting the Roma rights. In 1994, Romani CRISS started to implement educational projects at local level, answering to the local needs and to the lack of experience and vision on the education of Romani children. The projects which followed were on assistance, information campaigns and preparation for access to public school system- for the Roma students, advertising the importance of the affirmative measures that the Ministry of Education initiated for the Roma ethnics. In the same time, we implemented projects that targeted desegregation cases in schools, the early childhood education alternatives, training for

teachers, summer kindergartens for the children that had to enroll to school and didn't pursued any form of pre-scholar education .

Within the project „A good start for school”, Romani CRISS, in partnership with UNICEF-Romania and the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research, piloted the first integrated program aimed to provide 30 preschool children with the skills they needed for enrolling the school. Besides that, Romani CRISS organized intercultural activities in regular kindergartens with an ethnically mixed population of students.

In February 2007, at the initiative of Romani CRISS, The Romanian Ministry of Education, Research and Youth signed a memorandum of cooperation with Governmental and non governmental bodies for ensuring access of Romani children to quality education by desegregating schools and promoting education for identity. In this sense, The Ministry of Education and Research adopted **Order nr.1540 / 19.07.2007, prohibiting school segregation of Roma children** and approving the Methodology for the prevention and elimination of school segregation of Roma children.

TRUST- Roma Youth for Unity, Solidarity and Transparency (www.ongtrust.org) is a non-profit civic association working in multiethnic communities with Roma population, in order to represent the common interests of Roma youth and to cooperate with them in defending democratic freedoms and human rights, especially of Roma communities.

In 2009 T.R.U.S.T. developed close cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation to accomplish the objectives of the project "**Steps towards Education Inclusion**" aiming to support in the educational process approximately 75 Roma pupils from primary school in Popoveni in order to ensure equal educational opportunities in a mixed environment;

