

# All kids in kindergarten: is the mission possible?

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# LERI project

- LERI – Local Empowerment for Roma Integration is project of Fundamental Rights Agency
- In Bulgaria it is implemented in Stara Zagora and Pavlikeni
- Experts: Alexey Pamporov and Deyan Kolev
- Organizations: World without Borders and AMALIPE

# Activities in Pavlikeni

- 1. Healthcare intervention
- Results: 10 people identified for 2 days, they paid half of the insurance debt and since January all of them are paying their monthly insurance fees
  
- 2. High school intervention
- Results: 4 students supported (other 2 are supported by REF), campaigns organized and 3 Roma girls and boy will apply this year in universities

# Pre-school intervention

- 1. Paying the taxes of all children who are 5 and 6 years old in Stambolovo, Batak, Byala Cherkva and Varbovka
- 2. Campaigns with parents: organized by Community Development Center;
- 3. Establishing Parental clubs
- 4. Work with teachers
- **Results: 57 children at pre-school age enrolled in kindergartens. Eight of them are enrolled for first time. At present: no child at obligatory pre-school age who is not enrolled**

# The pre-school model: strengths

- The model contains 3 main elements:
  - 1. Facilitating the access to kindergarten: via paying the attendance fees in the kindergartens for children at obligatory age for pre-schooling: for all children who are 5 and 6 years old;
  - 2. Changing the attitudes of local Roma communities towards pre-schooling and kindergartens and forming culture of active support: through intensive community campaigns in order to convince parents to allow all children aged five and six years old to attend the kindergarten.
  - 3. Empowering parents to take part in the life of kindergarten: via establishing Parental clubs and cooperation between them and teachers / principals
- Important strength and added value of this model is that it is publicly acceptable, contributes for forming tolerant interethnic relations and gains support from huge majority of citizens (both Roma and non-Roma).

# Limitations

- - the fact that many Roma parents are abroad puts serious challenges before the education of Roma children;
- - the migration of the most active parents abroad limits the possibilities for forming active Parental club;
- - the model could not guarantee immediate effect: it needs time;
- - without the work of Community Development Center and community moderators, the model would be less effective

*“If you can't fly then run,  
if you can't run then walk,  
if you can't walk then crawl,  
but whatever you do you have to  
keep moving forward.”*

**Martin Luther King**