CROATIAN MODEL OF ROMA MENTORS

Workshop on Interagency Cooperation
23-24. November, Bucharest

Vesna Zelić Ferenčić
Martina Rakić
WHAT WILL WE SPEAK ABOUT:

• overview of the situation in work with Roma in Croatia
• why Roma Mentors
• how we came to this model
• workshop with participants
• conclusion
• Q&A
OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN WORK WITH ROMA IN CROATIA

✓ according to the 2021 population census, 17,980 members of the Roma national minority live in Croatia
✓ the most Roma in Croatia live in the Međimurje County
✓ according to the data of the State Statistics Institute, 105,250 people live in Međimurje County in 2021, of which 90.33% declared themselves Croats (95,069), and 6.61% (6,954) declared themselves Roma.
In 2018, the Međimurje Police Department in cooperation with the Međimurje County conducted a public opinion survey, the primary goal of which was to determine the perception of the citizens of the Međimurje County regarding safety and quality of life.

If you have been a victim of a criminal offense in the last 5 years, have you reported it to the police?

- Yes 37.34%
- No 54.87%
- Both ans. 7.79%
CRIME STATISTICS IN 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>category</th>
<th>1-8 2017</th>
<th>1-8 2018</th>
<th>1-8 2019</th>
<th>1-8 2020</th>
<th>1-8 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor against the Roma</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor within Roma communities</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misdemeanor Roma perpetrator (against others)</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal offenses against Roma</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal offenses within Roma communities</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma perpetrator (against others)</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROBATION STATISTICS

✓ 320 cases in Probation office Varaždin (responsible for the area of Varaždin and Međimurje County)
✓ 42% are Roma

- community work (with)
  SO/SM/PS 183
- report P/P 1
- report EJ 20
- part. conditional sentence with
  SO/SM/PS 33
- conditional sentence with
  SO/SM/PS 54
- obligations SA 3
- supervision of prisoners 4
WHO IS A ROMA MENTOR?

✓ an educated and respected member of the Roma minority with a strong motivation to help his community, a kind of bond between institutions and the Roma community.
✓ to motivate members of the Roma community to fulfill their obligations (execution of alternative sanctions, regular schooling, etc.)
✓ to help and support members of the Roma community to cooperate with providers of other professional services
✓ to help members of the Roma community in communication with the authorities, institutions (and vice versa).
WHY CROATIAN MODEL?

Danish models vs. Czech model

Croatian model

*No Man is an Island Agency*
OUR MENTORS

✓ 6 Roma mentors (2F:4M)
✓ Natalia – teacher, works in a school
✓ Samir – bacc. nursing, works in a hospital
✓ Dragan – geotechnician, works as a teacher assistant
✓ Danijel – carpenter, works as a teacher assistant
✓ Zvjezdana – economist, foster mother
✓ Radovan - without an acquired qualification, works in a utility company

➢ Every mentor is in charge of 1-3 Roma settlements depending on the size
➢ Cost for the work of 6 Roma mentors per month is ≈ 6,800,00 euro
➢ We also cover the mobile phone cost and partner organizations have contacts of individual mentors
PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- Probation Office Varaždin – coordinator
- Police Department of Međimurje County
- Government office for human rights and rights of national minorities
- Welfare Centre Čakovec
- Courts
- Penitentiary in Lepoglava and Prison in Varaždin
- State Inspectorate
- Employment Bureau
- Institute of Public Health
- State administration offices in the county
- CSO
GROUP 1

SWOT ANALYSIS

- **S** (Helpful to achieving the objective) - Strengths
- **W** (Harmful to achieving the objective) - Weaknesses
- **O** (Internal origin) - Opportunities
- **T** (External origin) - Threats
• is there any challenge, vulnerable social group, …,

  in my country, where this model of cooperation would be useful

  and how would I apply this model
what is it that I heard today that I can apply in my daily work

and what I will take with me after the workshop
INSTEAD OF A CONCLUSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication</th>
<th>INSTEAD</th>
<th>Isolation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Confidence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Alienation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reactions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td></td>
<td>Repression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem solving</td>
<td></td>
<td>Accumulation of problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Workshop on Interagency Cooperation
23-24. November, Bucharest

Martina Rakić,
martina.rakic@mpu.hr

Vesna Zelić Ferenčić,
vesna.zelic@mpu.hr