



THE ROMA EDUCATION PROGRAM



In the framework of the Roma Education Program, a Mentorship training/teaching has been realized.

The goal of the training which was implemented throughout the "Humans and Institutional Development Programme of USAID", includes the training of a key group of experienced persons who will later on be promoters of such concepts in the country and shall train potential mentors and teachers. The training has been realized in two parts and participants of the training were representatives from the teacher's faculties, practitioners who are already members of the Programme graduated teachers and practice following Roms.

The purpose, experiences of the training, the skills obtained at the training and the applicability of the obtained knowledge, were the subject of the interview with the lecturer of the training Mr. Craig A. Bowman, the President of the Common Ground Consulting, as well as with a part of participants of this training.

Mentorship training/teaching

In benefit of participants

- Which are the goals for the Mentors' Training?

- o The Trainees Will Acquire Knowledge and Better Understanding of Mentoring and Tutoring;

- o The Trainees Will Gain Insights Into the Existing Policies, Experiences, Best Practices and Lessons Learned From Countries Where Mentoring Concepts Have Been Applied for Years;

- o The Trainees Will Be Better Able to Differentiate Between Mentoring and Tutoring;

- o The Trainees Will Acquire Training Skills and Prepare to Train Future Mentors.

- What are the benefits of this training?

"The mentoring program that is occurring in Macedonia is already achieving great successes. Last week's training provided the participants with a chance to improve their own mentoring skills, while preparing them to deliver more training to new mentors in the future. Our hope is that these trainees will take what they learned, adapt it specifically to the needs of Macedonia's children, and make it possible for mentoring to take root and blossom throughout the country.

Macedonians should be proud of what these leaders are doing to ensure a bright future for children throughout the Balkans."

- What types of skills and abilities were obtained for the participants of the training?

"This training of trainers offered participants the chance to practice and improve their mentoring skills while thinking creatively about potential new mentoring schemes for Macedonia. The participants will be advocates and activists in their efforts to expand mentoring programs. They learned how to think critically about new training methodologies, how adults learn and process information, and how to design training programs that can meet the needs of a variety of learners. They learned more about group dynamics, facilitation methodologies, and curriculum design."

- In which way the participants of the training will be proficient to apply the experience and knowledge obtained at the training in their everyday work?

The participants in this training stressed from the beginning that they wanted to learn

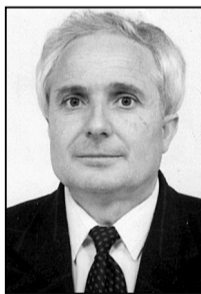


Mr. Craig A. Bowman, the President of the Common Ground Consulting

practical skills that were well-suited to a Macedonia context. They demanded and received a high-quality training experience that has prepared them to excel in the day-to-day operations of this mentoring program; and they moved beyond that into seeing the value of becoming advocates on behalf of the children who can benefit from a well designed, well-funded commitment to mentoring.

Change of the behavior culture

prof. dr Metodija Stojanovski,
Pedagogical Faculty, Bitola



The training which has been realized within this seminar is of great significance for the future mentors in high schools who have mentorship to the Rom participants. This training, in spite of obtaining theoretical experiences, we obtained knowledge as well, who refer to usage of tools, forms and methods of work with pupils of that age. The lecturer has a great experience in USA in the field of mentoring pupils of different marginalized groups. The transferred experience we should have to adapt to our conditions. So far, we had small participation in the realization of mentoring programs, the manner of facilitation of pupils or adolescents who have been neglected. Such trainings and transfer of experiences the cultural behavior will be changed and the obtained knowledge will be implemented as well as promoting the mentorship in their environment. Of a great importance for us remain the practice and applicable forms of work.

The Pedagogical Faculty in Bitola, within the programme of the VIII semester, included the mentorship as optional subject. The knowledge from this training I could directly transfer to the students, as future teachers. For this form of work and mentorship as a discipline, I consider that should be introduced into the teachers' faculties since the students of such faculties by vocation will be the future teachers and mentors.

Applicable experiences and knowledge

Zeleanka Demirova,
Gimnazium „Metodija Mitevski Brico“,
Delcevo



The mentorship and teaching training is at an advanced level and is intended for experienced mentors. Within this training we made the distinction between the terms mentorship and teaching and make awareness of some innovative techniques. In addition, we obtained facilitation skills which will be transferred to both potential mentors, who might be our colleagues or volunteers from the wider community. The knowledge obtained at this training shall be applicable to all persons who need mentorship and teaching and who are mostly wedged by dynamic of life: children without parents, children with deviant behavior, talented children. Experiences of this training are applicable in the everyday work with pupils, in the classroom during the registration of needs and problems of children and overtaking appropriate steps.

Certainly, mentorship is mostly needed by children with bad experience and learning problems. Although mentorship belongs to the part of informal education, it is very necessary and I assume it should become a part of the official education.

Good directions and examples

m-r Ljulzim Ademi,
Pedagogical faculty, Skopje



During this seminar which was operated in two parts, I obtained my personal experience for the term of mentorship, its components, its components, the way of implementation, its purpose groups the positive experiences of its implementation in some countries, but as well good directions and examples how to become future creators of such project and successfully to implement such in the Republic of Macedonia. I should accentuate here the good organization and the extraordinary trainer who worked with us and answered a great part of questions so we could get greater number of information concerning the mentorship.

Since I teach a subject which could not directly apply the knowledge and experience of this training, my goal, as well as of several colleagues-participants of this training, to find a possibility to incorporate this contents in some of the actual subjects within our institutions or, maybe to create certain module which will be offered to our students so they could obtain knowledge and skills of mentoring, as well as ideas for creating a training which will be offered to all interested entities in our country. Both purposes are really possible and, due to my opinion, their realization is very necessary if we want to provide some support to children who have a need of it, and, which, unfortunately, today is very rarely offered.

S.MITREVSKA

