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# OTAHARIN



- ✓ The Citizens' Association for the Promotion of Roma Education "Otaharin" is social service provider for 16 years
- ✓ Target group of our intervention's members of Roma community of all ages and other socially vulnerable citizens
- ✓ **Wide range of the social services aimed toward integrative inclusion of Roma**
- ✓ The main objective of the association is to increase the level of educational, social and economic integration and inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups, through **professional, dedicated and innovative work, recognition and credibility.**

# HOW WE WORK?

- ✓ **Bottom up** – close connection with the Roma community, regular communication, creating the safe environment for Roma of all ages, exchange, trust, credibility
- ✓ **Top down-** lobbying and advocacy actions aimed toward different levels of decision making local government, entity government and state government

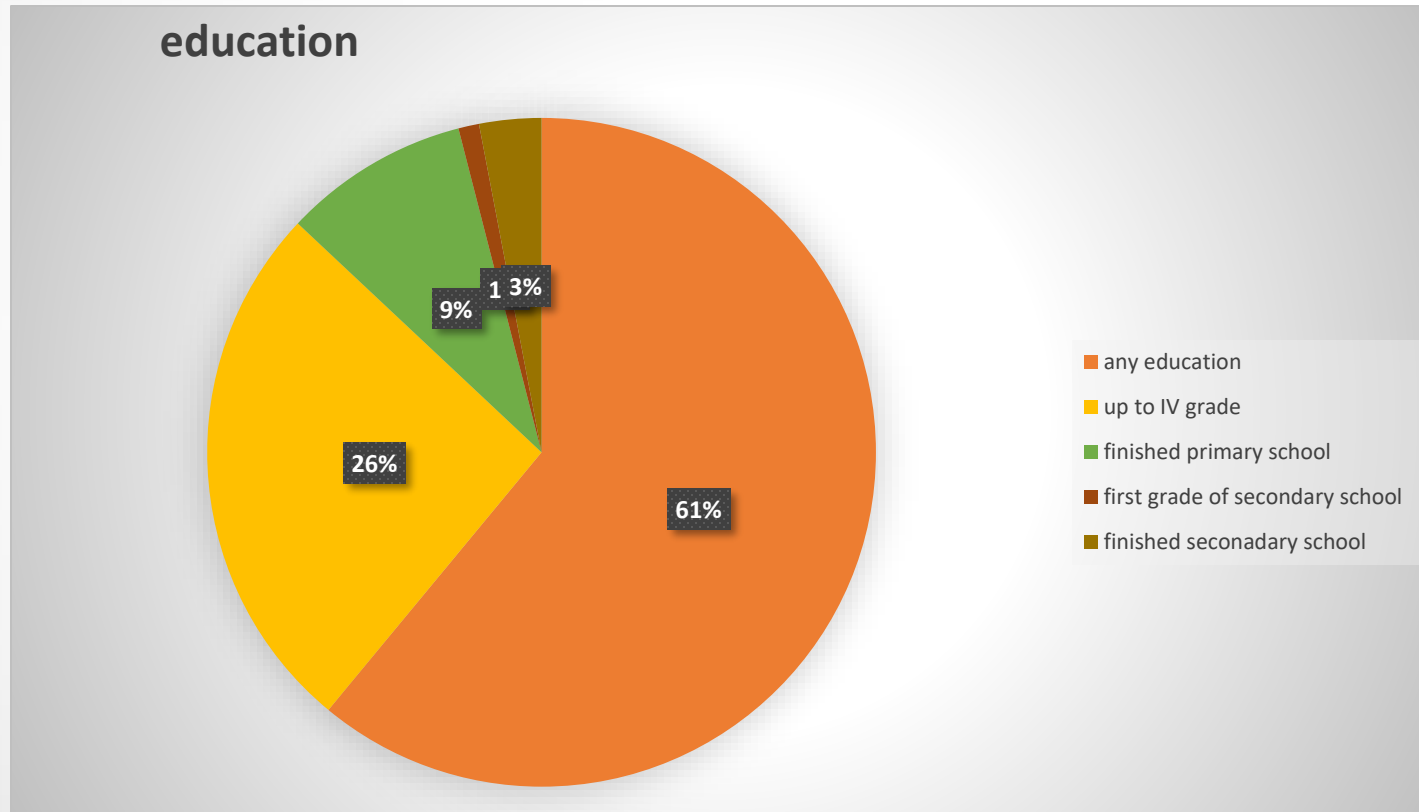


# Issues identified

- ✓ In 2005 we started with one of the major issues we are dealing since than low level of the enrolment of Roma children in educational system and high rate of drop out
- ✓ **THE CHILD CANNOT BE MAINTAINED WITHIN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM JUST WITH PROVIDING THE TEXT BOOKS, BAGS AND SCHOOL MATERIAL**
- ✓ **Low level of employment; significant level of poverty; extremely bad living conditions**



# Level of education among Roma community members



87% of the adult Roma men and women in Bijeljina do not have formal education

**ONLY 1.5% OF THEM IS EMPLOYED**





# Referral mechanisms for the prevention of children rights violation



✓ **OUTREACH**

✓ **EARLY WARNING**

✓ **PREVENTION**

✓ **FLEXIBLE**

✓ **MULTIDISCIPLINARY**

✓ **HUMAN RIGHTS APPROACH /  
BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD**

✓ **CREDIBILITY / RESPECT**

✓ **LEARNING / INCREASING  
CAPACITIES**

# OUTREACH WORK

- ✓ Outreach work of Otaharin is a **community-oriented service aimed to support and assist people in need** (such as: Roma children and youth, returnees coming from Germany and other EU countries) **to examine, empower and enact changes in their socio-economic status, strengthen their competences and capacities for anti-discrimination, equal participation and inclusion within the society.**
- ✓ The service itself was seen as a link between the beneficiaries and institutional system and filling the gaps which public institutions cannot cover due to lack of resources (human, technical and financial).





# IDENTIFIED ISSUES



- ✓ **High rate of school drop out**
- ✓ **System do not track inclusion of Roma children in education**
- ✓ **Children outside school system become invisible and exposed to violation of their rights**
- ✓ **School are not supportive environment for Roma children**

# Mobile intervention team (MIT)



- ✓ Since 2011 in Bijeljina – good practice transferred to Brčko and Živinice
- ✓ MEMBERS: school representative (pedagogue/psychologist/social worker), representative of Centre for Social Work (social worker), representatives of CA “Otaharin” (psychologist/social worker and field worker) and representative of City Administration (lawyer);
- ✓ **ONCE MONTHLY UPON RECEIVING THE INFORMATION FROM SCHOOLS AND FROM FILED VISITS**
- ✓ **2018: 31 MIT visits** (10 in Bijeljina and 21 in Živinice) through which **106 families** (67 in Bijeljina and 39 in Živinice) and **164 children** (101 in Bijeljina and 63 in Živinice) were reached
- ✓ **2019: 8 MIT** visits in Bijeljina that reached **60 families** (May – December 2019)



# INTERVENTIONS

- ✓ The service could be characterized as **SUPPORTED MODEL OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH TROUGH MULTIDISCIPLINARY OUTREACH WORK.**

All issues identified during MIT visit are tackled trough following interventions:

- ✓ **Outreach work / filed presence**
- ✓ **Psychosocial support and counseling**
- ✓ **Mediation between beneficiaries and institutions**
- ✓ **Educational and learning support**
- ✓ **Nonformal education aimed toward increasing awareness and improvement of social skills**









# POSITIV STORY



## **B.O. (16)**

- ✓ In 2018 he was on the verge of dropping out from the school
- ✓ Having information from the school that child do not attend classes MIT visits were organized
- ✓ It was identified that parents are not supportive so the program of intensive support was conducted trough learning support, participation in sport project, informal education
- ✓ In 2020, he enrolled in high school for a welder, with support of Otaharin he applied for the government scholarship
- ✓ B.O. is one of the most extinguished volunteers in Otaharin Community Center

