

Conference KHETAUN (TOGETHER) - it was constructive and inspiring!

Ljubljana, 16 November 2017

[Centre](#) for Quality in Education Step by Step hosted an international conference KHETAUN (Together): the key steps for the inclusion of Roma children in quality pre-school programs.

The aim was to present the holistic model of including Roma children in kindergartens, which is based on four pillars:

- Informing ECEC practitioners on relevance of including Roma children in preschool programs;
- Performing activities for children who are not included in kindergarten and their parents;
- Informing Roma parents on relevance of including Roma children in ECEC programs and strengthening parents' competences;
- Connecting kindergartens with various stakeholders from local communities.

Participants of the conference, including REYN members from Slovenia, heard about the implementation of the initiatives in Slovenia, Latvia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In this context, each of the partner organizations presented their cooperation with national partners – kindergartens and talked about workshops for Roma children and their parents. Furthermore, they indicated challenges they encountered in the process, strategies how they faced them and concluded with successful results of the initiative.

The conference also offered the opportunity for partners to introduce publications and materials that were issued in the framework of the initiative. At the Slovenian level, we presented a leaflet for Roma parents *About the kindergarten*, children's and parents' material *"Let's do it together!"* and a picture book *With friends to the sea* made by children. They provided pictures and text which is written in Slovene and Roma language.

In a panel discussion on inclusion of Roma children in preschool programs, the speakers discussed the role of Roma parents, availability of kindergartens for Roma families, the role of municipalities etc.

In the final part of the conference we looked into the future and sought possibilities on how to proceed with the activities after the end of the initiative. We presented the National Guidelines for the inclusion of Roma children into preschool programs, which were developed under this initiative. The guidelines at the local level are intended for kindergartens and municipalities as founders of kindergartens, while the guidelines at the national level for policy makers in the field of education.