



Presentation of *Linguistically, culturally and developmentally appropriate multilingual material for children (picture books)*

3rd international training:
Activities for children, who are not enrolled in preschool, and their parents

Ljubljana, Slovenia

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EXAMPLE FROM SLOVENIA:

The process of developing a picture book

- Preschool Šentvid – local project partner
- Workshop in preschool: Romani and non-Romani children and their parents
- NGO Mosaik
- Romani children: a story about horses
- Non-Romani children: a story about the sea
- The title: With Friends to the Sea
- The story is not finished yet
- Plan: workshop in Romani settlement to finish a story and make illustrations

Story Time!



www.ActivityMileage.co.uk - Keeping kids busy



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20
Years of
Step by Step Slovenia



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Our findings and suggestions

- Elements, which are present in Romani communities: love of nature (and animals) + wish to go to the sea
- Based on a written story and identified elements, which can be found in Romani communities → include a content about fear of water/swimming and strategies for overcoming this kind of fear
- Language: Slovenian + Romani from Dolenjska region + blank space for entering any other language

Multilingual picture books

- ISSA has created three Activity Kits to accompany selected groups of Reading Corner books
- Each Activity Kit includes the following: Adult manual – *Opening Magic Doors: Reading and Learning Together with Children for Different Age Group* + 4 children's story books
- 3 age groups: 2-3, 4-5, 6-8
- We translated all 12 story books to **Slovenian language, Romani dialect from Prekmurje region and Romani dialect from Dolenjska region** + Adult manuals to Slovenian language
- We also left a **blank space** in each story book in order to encourage teachers and parents to translate the story in any of child's mother tongue



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Multilingual picture dictionaries

- Development of trilingual picture dictionaries was based on multilingual picture books.
- Equipped with transcription in Slovene and two of the most common dialects of Romani language in Slovenia: the Prekmurje Romani and Dolenjska Romani dialect
- A possibility of entering its own language, that is the closest to the child, was also given in these dictionaries
- This enabled yet **accessibility** to the same material **to the other children** living in Slovenia, whose mother tongue is not Slovenian
- Romani children drew pictures, used in the dictionaries
- For age groups from 2 to 3, from 4 to 5 and from 6 to 8 years



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Implementation of multilingual didactic materials in the educational process

- Practitioners faced different situations: children whose mother tongue is Romani + children who grow up in a multilingual environment, but for various reasons do not use Romani for communication
- Findings:
 - 1) children felt uncomfortable when reading in Romani; parents do not see sense in bringing elements of Romani culture and language in preschool
 - 2) children who poorly understood Slovenian, showed particularly enthusiasm for reading the story in Romani, since it is rarely encountered in preschools
 - 3) parents were impressed about the fact that it is possible to write and read in Romani

Workshop

- 1) Any ideas how to upgrade your picture books?
- 2) Possible uses of the picture books in implementation of the *Activities for children, who are not enrolled in preschool, and their parents...*



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From a project workers` report

„A Romani mother was encouraged to read out loud a book in Romani. She was encouraged by the other parents, who expressed particular satisfaction at her performance [...]. The children were interested to hear something read in Romani. They were happy to hear a story in their own language. The girl whose mother read the story showed particular pride.“

„Both parents and children were happy, since we still have pre-school children who do not understand Slovene and know only their mother tongue (Romani). At the end, they praised us and gave us a round of applause... and asked for more similar stories.“



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