



Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

DREAM ROAD

Session 5

Developing innovative ideas to address the identified critical issues

Participation models in participatory governance theory and policy practices

Type of engagement and typical institutional form	Strategy and mechanism
Information sharing Platforms, town hall meetings	Comprehensive and fair information by public authorities; informing citizens on policy directions and envisioned changes
Consultation Councils, committees, platforms	Structured conversation to solicit citizens' feedback; Citizens and s provide knowledge on needs, problems, policy implementation gaps, etc.
Deliberation/advice Councils, committees, advisory bodies	Commitment to and tangible instances of taking into account the opinion of consulted citizens and CSOs; Regularized venues of engagement
Partnership Task forces; agencies, monitoring committees	Regular participation in agenda setting (implementation), monitoring and evaluation of policies; Enduring working relations between authorities and citizens based on divided responsibilities
Co-decision Task forces, agencies	Regular participation in agenda setting, programming, and evaluation (full policy cycle) with partly shared and partly divided responsibilities; Joint decision-making in designated matters
Delegation Independent agencies or public bodies, contracted s for programme management, service provision, policy evaluation, etc.	Giving full authority to non-governmental actors outside of government to make and implement decisions

Local mechanisms for Roma inclusion

- Lack of or poor/nonfunctional local political and institutional framework is often the great obstacle in Roma inclusion.
- Local policies must be established in such a way that they relate to the real situation, and be in accordance with the goals of national strategic documents and EU policies.
- It is necessary for state institutions to cooperate with Roma civil society organizations.
- All relevant issues should be made publicly available to enable critical examination.

The most common problem at the local level is the lack of a sufficient political and institutional framework for Roma inclusion. This disadvantage is often a mixture of different specific challenges:

- Lack of an institutional framework at the national level provided for by law (such as the lack of a relevant local body, or a coordinator for Roma issues at the local level);
- Inefficiency of the institutional framework, even in cases where it exists;
- Lack of the necessary policy and program framework at the local level, even in cases where there is an institutional framework;
- Lack of professionals in existing institutions that deal with vulnerable groups, which results in low capacity for dealing with this issue;
- Lack of coordination, ie. culture of cooperation, lack of mechanisms and tools for cooperation.

In order for the established institutional mechanisms for Roma inclusion to function, it is necessary to:

- ensure meaningful and substantial participation of representatives of Roma community within the mechanism
- provide a budget for their work and ensure a sufficient (sufficient, therefore not too large) number of motivated members
- that these mechanisms have clear tasks, operational plans and a clear and feasible scheme for monitoring and evaluating their own work.
- ensure transparency of work of the mechanisms
- maintain and improve cross-sectoral cooperation within the mechanism, but also between the mechanism and relevant institutions and organizations

Steps in establishing local mechanisms- councils, committees

- Mapping of institutions, organizations and individuals for membership in the Council. The membership must include representatives of Roma community and/or Roma civil society organizations
- Drafting and adoption of the act on the formation of the Council – the responsibility of local selfgovernment, following regular procedures
- Drafting of the Council's Rules of Procedure
- Holding the constitutive session of the Council
- Drafting and adoption of the Council's Annual Work Program.
- Regular work of the Council and transparent reporting

Beside political bodies, depending on national regulations, local self-governments can establish action bodies/operational mechanisms such are:

- Systematized position and employment of community mediator such are Roma coordinators, in the local self-government administration
- Action teams consisting of representatives of various institutions: health, education, employment, social protection... with main mandate to be present in the Roma community i.e. conduct outreach activities
- Local office for Roma inclusion as unit within local self-government
- And similar

What else a local government and institutions can do in order to ensure participation of Roma community:

- Capacity building of Roma grassroots and local CSOs
- The participation of independent experts in local policy developments
- Creating and adopting Protocols of Participation
- Involve Roma in governing boards in relevant institutions such are local social protection centers/centers for social work
- Involve Roma parents in councils of parents in local schools
- Involve Roma youth in the work of local youth mechanisms
- Involve Roma women in local mechanism and processes relating gender quality and Roma position in general

Worksheet 4/Exercise

In the previous session you reached consensus on most critical issues that need to be addressed in your municipality when it comes to the position of Roma.

Please use the results from the previous group work (the issue and it's causes) and for the issue agreed to be delegated to your group, try to provide brief answers to following questions:

1. What are the possible activities in order to address identified critical issue?
2. Which policies should be developed at the local level in order to properly address these issues?
3. Which mechanisms should be established?
4. How Roma participation will be ensured in these processes?

Time for work: 45'

Prepare for the next session, to give 5' presentation