ROMA CHILDREN – NEEDS ACCORDING TO RESEARCH

The biggest problems : language barrier and poor living conditions

**STRENGTHS – realizing the importance of education**

Parent Survey's Croatian focus group interviews with Roma parents : the new picture emerged showing that some Romany families have begun to realize the importance of education. When they were asked how often they talk to each other about their children's education one of Roma parent said, "Well, we talk a lot lately. Why? Because we found what is the essence. The essence of everything is to educate our child so that later they should not struggle as we do. Because we found that the school system is the whole life. The man without a school is nothing. Is it so?" .

**OBSTACLES**

Some Roma parents believe that it is harder for their child to learn at home than for non-Roma children primarily due to a language barrier, but they also mention poor financial situation at home which implies inadequate learning conditions. In regards to *inadequate learning conditions* in some Roma family homes, they do not have a small desk, lamp, or even a kitchen table to complete their **homework assignments because their houses consist of one room.**

**ROMA PARENTS' SUGGESTIONS**

It is important to stress that although 93,3% of Roma parents believe that schools do a lot to help their children, 54,5% of them still think that the schools could do even more for them. Their suggestions for **additional support** are classified as follows: **extra lessons** (mainly for the language of the majority), **consideration and help with language problems**, financial help, **more work with Roma children,** **to prevent them from quitting**, free/cheaper/old books, snack for free, **free courses/training, not separating them from mainstream population children**, **better protection/prevent violence of other children**, **Roma staff or** **assistant at school.**

(Resource: Pahic, T., Vizek Vidovic, V. and Miljevic-Ridicki, R. ((2011). Involvement of Roma parents in children education in Croatia: A comparative study. *Journal of Research in International Education,* 10/3, 275-293.)

In RESCUR project we could suggest teachers to do things witch Roma parents suggest (Tips for teachers). It would be also important to talk to other children about Roma culture, interesting things in their life, value their contribution and avoid stereotypes (mention successful Roma people - for example, in Croatia a Roma young man won in the TV show and became popular).