
REPORT ON ROUNDTABLE 4 –TEACHERS

Date and place: 09 May 2015, 14.30-16.00, Octavian Goga County Library, Cluj-Napoca,

Participants:

- a. 6 teachers (from Cluj-Napoca and from Sibiu)
- b. 3 staff (Maria Kovacs and Anca Petriuc, CILSDGC; David Mallows, IoE)

The participants received a folder containing the flyer of the project and the policy brief in Romanian. The roundtable started with a short PowerPoint presentation of the project (see ppt) delivered by Maria Kovacs. The concepts of family literacy and policy brief were also discussed to make sure that the teachers can engage in the discussion effectively. Then the participants read the policy brief and were asked to comment on it.

Some of the major ideas contributed was that the church (in general, not a specific one) could be a good place to try and attract families to family literacy programmes (FLP). Others pointed out that local libraries, and specifically the neighbourhood libraries in Cluj-Napoca could be a good venue for such FLPs. Volunteers would be needed in both cases.

One teacher mentioned that the old public village shops are closed down in many settlements and the premises are just locked, and going derelict, so local communities could use that public space for such events where there are no libraries or if the church is not preferred.

In terms of families to involve, the participants pointed out that placement / foster families could be included among the target groups, as well as abused mothers who are in shelters with young children or who spend a lot of time in hospital with their sick children.

Teachers specifically could contribute – according to the participants – as collaborators in partnerships between the schools and the parents after they learn how to deliver the FLP. In addition, the schools' action plans generally have actions that target improving school-community relations, so this FLP would be a good way to achieve that. The school management could facilitate the process, and the school premises would be used as a venue. The teachers could volunteer to deliver the FLP.

The participants also suggested that the programme could be extended to families with younger children (not just primary school aged ones) and other than Roma families could also be targeted, as the need exists in mainstream families as well.

After the roundtable was over, a teacher from Sibiu approached us and pointed out that she would share the initiative with her school management, and would try to start such a programme, in which case she would be in touch to learn more about the delivery and the FLP curriculum.