



From Marginalisation *to* Participation

An integrated community-based
model for Roma youth



Participation doesn't start
with activities.
It starts with **trust**.

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The Project

The Key to the Future – Social Inclusion in Budila Commune

CONTEXT



Budila Commune,
Braşov County, Romania



5,035 inhabitants,
mostly of Roma ethnicity



Limited access to education,
health services and real
opportunities for participation

“

Participation doesn't start
with activities.
It starts with trust.



The Key to the Future –
Social Inclusion in Budila Commune

An integrated community-based model
for Roma youth.



Sprijin și Dezvoltare Association

 Brașov, Romania

Local NGO working in rural and marginalised communities in Romania.



Focus on **youth participation**, inclusion and community empowerment.



Working directly with **Roma youth and families**.



Collaboration with **schools and local authorities**.



Project implemented in partnership with **Budila Municipality** (project promoter)



Project funded through the **EEA Grants 2014–2021** under the **Local Development Programme** managed by the **Romanian Social Development Fund (RSDF)**.



The project **started in 2022**.



We are currently in the **sustainability phase**.

*Stronger communities.
Better opportunities. A shared future.*





THE CHALLENGE



- Low participation of young people



- Lack of trust and safe spaces



- Limited access to services



- Weak connection with institutions



INTEGRATED COMMUNITY-BASED MODEL



- **Education support and counselling**

Helping children and young people learn, grow and build their future.



- **Sports and personal development activities**

Using sports to build confidence, teamwork and healthy habits.



- **Youth participation and initiative groups**

Young people involved in decisions, projects and community initiatives.



- **Parenting and women empowerment activities**

Supporting parents and women to strengthen families and the community.



- **Health and community services**

Improving access to healthcare, prevention and essential community services.



- **Human rights and media literacy workshops**

Workshops on human rights, anti-bullying, participation and active citizenship.



- **Community initiative and participation groups**

Building active groups of young people who create change step by step.



Building participation through education, trust, inclusion and community involvement.





CONCRETE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Creating safe spaces and essential services for children, youth and families.



✓ **Kindergarten** and early education



✓ **Community dental** and health services



✓ **Safe** and welcoming spaces



✓ **Long-term investment** in inclusion

“ *Participation becomes possible when communities have safe spaces to grow.* ”





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Through sports, games and group activities, **over 800 children and young people** build confidence, friendships and a stronger connection to their community.



SPORTS FOR EMPOWERMENT

Football and physical activities promote teamwork, discipline and healthy habits.



BUILDING SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

Children and young people develop social skills, self-esteem and a positive attitude towards learning and life.



TEAMWORK AND COOPERATION

Working together strengthens trust, respect and a sense of belonging.



SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACES

Activities take place in safe environments where every child and young person is valued and encouraged.



*When children and young people feel included, they become **part of the change**.*



Over 800 children and young people participate in our activities and programmes every year.



RESULTS & OUTCOMES



Increased participation of Roma youth
in community life and local activities.



Young people involved in initiative groups
and youth-led actions.



**Increased confidence, communication
and leadership skills**
among children and young people.



Stronger cooperation
between youth, NGO, school and municipality.



Safer and more inclusive spaces
for children, youth and families.



**Young people becoming
active contributors in their community.**



*Roma youth moved from passive beneficiaries
to active participants and community actors.*

WHY IT WORKS

Our approach is community-based, inclusive and built on **trust**, **participation** and **long-term relationships**.



Community ownership

Solutions are built together with local people, not for them.



Strong partnerships

Effective collaboration between NGO, school, municipality and families.



Youth voice and leadership

Young people are involved in decisions, activities and local initiatives.



Holistic and integrated approach

Education, health, social support and activities work together.



Continuous presence & trust

We are present in the community every day, building trust over time.



Focus on potential and strengths

We believe in people, encourage growth and celebrate progress.



When people are listened to, supported and included, they become **active participants** and **change their community**.



What We Learned

From marginalisation to participation



Participation needs trust and continuity.



Young people need safe and meaningful spaces.



Community partnerships are essential.



Small changes create long-term impact.





Future Plans



We have attracted new funds in the community through non-reimbursable funding.



We are opening a Roma youth NGO.



We have submitted new projects, including **2 Erasmus projects** with young people.



Our kindergarten is operational, as well as the dental office and the medical assistant office.



We continue activities with young people and their families, focusing on preventing early school leaving and supporting integration into the labour market.





Thank You!

Thank you for your attention and support.



Thank you!



Questions & discussion 😊



*Stronger communities.
Better opportunities. A shared future.*

