

DREAM TO GROW

JOB/
EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



HIGH
SCHOOL



PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY
SCHOOL



PRESCHOOL/
KINDERGARTEN



PRE-NATAL AND
FAMILY-CHILD SERVICES
(UP TO 2/3 YEARS OLD)



EVA'S STORY



76% OF ROMA FAMILIES FIND IT HARD TO MAKE ENDS MEET AND 48% OF ROMA ADULTS OVER 16 YEARS OF AGE ARE UNEMPLOYED.

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (2016)



THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LEAVING THE EDUCATION SYSTEM PREMATURELY – WITHOUT OBTAINING AT LEAST AN APPRENTICESHIP CERTIFICATE – IS GROWING. THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE LEAVING COME FROM MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES.

After high school, I completed a social work course and later enrolled in a course to become a teaching assistant.

I am Eva from Slovakia. Starting with where I am now, and going back to my early years, I will walk you through my journey to become the person I am today. I will share notable moments in my life – exploring the events that made me strong and introducing you to the individuals who supported me throughout the many challenges I faced on my journey. **I am proud to be Roma, of who I am now, and of my dream to grow.**

I am a full-time teaching assistant in a primary school. I support Roma and non-Roma pupils who do not meet the pace of the other children or have different learning difficulties. I work as a bridge between the school and the Roma community. I also lead an afternoon club and help Roma parents with school administration issues.



I managed to complete high school with very good results and passed the final examination without any problems. Still, I lacked support from my family. I was put on the unemployment registry and began to receive unemployment benefits. It was at this point that I lost hope for a better future.

Then, something happened. The Mayor offered me a position in the municipal office! It was there that I was given the task of transcribing old municipal newspapers into an electronic form.

EVEN IF A ROMA APPLICANT IS MORE QUALIFIED FOR A JOB, EMPLOYERS STILL TEND TO HIRE NON-ROMA JOB SEEKERS.



92% OF ZERO-GRADE STUDENTS COME FROM MARGINALIZED ROMA COMMUNITIES. THIS PROGRAM HELPS CHILDREN FROM SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS CATCH UP WITH PEERS. HOWEVER, ZERO GRADES OFTEN REINFORCES SEGREGATED CLASSROOMS.



I was one of the best students at my primary school. I was responsible, hardworking and reliable. The other pupils adored me and considered me a good friend.

MANY ROMA STUDENTS DO NOT FINISH PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THE PARTICIPATION OF ROMA CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTENS IS DISPROPORTIONATELY LOW AT

18% COMPARED TO **72%** FOR THE NON-ROMA POPULATION.



During my mother's pregnancy, my parents regularly attended a state compulsory health program. My mother was very curious and eager to take care of me. After I was born, a specialized health advisor visited my family on a monthly basis.



At the age of four, I began going to the local kindergarten. I loved it and was happy to attend regularly. I was one of three Roma children in the preschool system at the time.



REYN SLOVAKIA, ESTABLISHED IN 2014, HOLDS THE VISION THAT ALL FAMILIES IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN, CAN LIVE IN A RESPECTFUL AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT, HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

IT IS AN ESSENTIAL PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONALS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS WORKING WITH ROMA CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES. IT WORKS TO INCREASE THE ECD WORKFORCE'S CAPACITY, ADVOCATES TO ENSURE ACCESS OF ROMA CHILDREN TO QUALITY AND INCLUSIVE ECD SERVICES, AND TRIES TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF QUALIFIED ECD PRACTITIONERS FROM ROMA BACKGROUNDS.



Skola Dokoran focuses on early childhood development and youth education, reform of education system, and the education of the marginalized. The organization pays special attention to young Roma people from disadvantaged backgrounds, those with special needs and migrants. It tackles

issues of discrimination, racism, segregation, bullying, and violence to promote active citizenship in learning. The main activities of the organization are related to Roma education, employment, housing, and health.

The data presented in this infographic is from Slovakia. It is the result of research and monitoring done by REYN Slovakia and its hosting organization Wide Open School - Skola Dokoran.