

Local Seminar - minutes

The Local Seminar in Timisoara, Romania took place on the 13th of October in the presence of about 30 persons: bachelor degree students, master program students and educators. Although we invited representatives from the local authorities, social assistance and child protection, school system, preschool directors, parents, the media, they have not responded to the invitation.

The seminar has started with the presentation of Monika Röthle and Elisabeth Ianke Mørkeseth from Norway entitled *Tackling social and cultural inequalities; a challenge in Europe*. This presentation offered a detailed view on the Toddler project emphasising the need and the role of early education by two important statements:

- What you do with children aged between 1 and 2 years of age matters!
- Devoted and dedicated teachers can make the difference!

Those statements were supported and straightened by images and short videos of toddlers that had a great impact on the audience.

After the presentations there were short comments and questions that the audiences had, especially some ideas that Mona Vintila had to particularize the information on the Romanian field.

After a short break, Mona Vintila presented the *Early education approaches in Romania*. An informative frame of the existent legislation on early education and it's enforcement.

In the end of those informative presentations a discussion took place. The audience was divided in 3 small groups: bachelor degree students, master students and educator. They had the task of finding solutions for early education in Romania taking into consideration the fact that there is a consistent legislation but also a lack of many and information towards it.

The ideas produced by the working groups are:

- To inform the population through mass media about the importance of early education;
- To promote the legislative frame;
- To use volunteers as toddler's educators, as trainers for educators and for the information and involvement of the parents;
- To organize workshops for the parents;

- To hire psychologists in kindergartens;
- To involve the parents emphasising their needs and the negative consequences of the lack of early education;
- To change people's mentality on early education through articles, videos/movies, TV shows, brochures;
- To reactivate the parent's club – a special meeting for parents education and support;
- To use multidisciplinary teams in the kindergartens (educators, psychologists, nurses, social workers, etc.)
- To elaborate a form of pedagogical education for nurses and the care staff that works in kindergartens;
- To develop prenatal education;
- To develop a civic and communitarian spirit;
- To develop a unique and specific curriculum for early education.

Romanian Partner

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