

The contribution is focused to methods of solving problems in the education of disadvantaged groups of children in Europe, which includes educating Roma children. Roma are in Slovakia a part of the population with significantly different cultural values and the way of life. Slovakia in autumn 2007 we organised an international conference with the participation of international experts from European Union countries at which we agreed that despite differences in the solution of problems in European problems we find common characteristics and difficulties in their solution. We also agreed that their population is increasing as a result of higher birth rates and migration and that it is important to pay special attention to them and help them in education, finding employment and in housing. We issued a joint conclusion from the conference. The difficulties encountered by Roma children in basic education:

- frequent absenteeism
- relatively poor performance
- high rate of pupils in special needs education
- high drop-out rate

Idea of provisions in Slovakia:

Training Roma adults to become special needs assistants. Through their work these educated Roma assistances can support Roma pupils to finish comprehensive school and to encourage them into applying for further studies. A practical difficulty with increasing participation is that schools are not available throughout the country, especially in poor districts with large Roma populations. International evidence also suggests that the impact of socio-economic background on student performance is greater in countries, such as Slovakia, that have highly differentiated education systems than in other countries.

The state wants to introduce allowances for Roma commuting to work and subsidise traditional Romany crafts. Education of Romany children must be improved as well without elaborating.

Objective:

To reevaluate the system of allowances for Roma in this way that it will motivate parents not to include children to schools with special needs, but give them education in the area of their living together with parents and all children.