

Adult education and inclusion of the gypsy community: the experience of Infante D. Henrique School, Viseu

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Agrupamento de Escolas
Infante D. Henrique



Reconhecida por
Direção-Geral da Educação
Alto Comissariado para as Migrações, I.P.



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1. Schooling and inclusion of Roma adults

The data revealed by the National Study on Gypsy Communities (Mendes, Magano and Candeias, 2014) point to:

- high levels of illiteracy and school absenteeism of the Portuguese Gypsies;
- poor schooling of this population and a high rate of failure and early school leaving (a phenomenon that is practically generalized from the second cycle on, especially among older individuals with at most the first full cycle).



- low schooling and professional qualification strongly influence other dimensions of these individuals' lives, particularly the ability to access employment in the labour market;
- Communities that are vulnerable to poverty and exclusion and are considered the poorest ethnic group, with the worst housing conditions, least educated and the main target of racism and discrimination;





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2. The experience of (the group of) Infante D. Henrique School, Viseu

- Gypsy families living in the parishes of S. João de Lourosa and Silgueiros - area covered by the D. Luís de Loureiro Primary School;
- In these parishes live 73 families, with about 260 individuals;





- the adults of these parishes:
 - show low levels of schooling (by 2014, almost all the population had not completed the first cycle of basic education);
 - have a very low economic level, earning almost all of them the Social Integration Income (RSI);
 - they are unemployed in their entirety;

Age	Number of citizens
0-10	72
11-20	63
21-30	54
31-40	39
41-50	20
51-60	6
61-70	5
+ 70	0



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- Recognizing the difficulties of integration and the marginalization of this community, this school group has made an investment in order to contribute to change the serious situation of exclusion in which these Portuguese citizens are.
- The project "**The School and Cultural Diversity**" (since 2013/2014) has as main objectives:
 - To reduce absenteeism and early school leaving of Roma children and young people;
 - To promote school success;
 - To increase the enrollment rates of students and caregivers of Roma;
 - To promote, among the Roma families, a positive image of the school;





Adult Education and Training (EFA)

- Schooling of gypsy adults through the provision of Adult Education and Training (EFA) courses.
- These courses allow trainees to complete basic education at different levels (1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles of basic education).

Ano letivo	Cursos	Formandos por género			
		Masculino	Feminino	Total	
2014/15	EFA B1	18	5	23	
2015/16	EFAB1	12	9	21	
	EFA B2	18	5	23	
2016/17	EFA B1	9	17	26	
	EFA B2	17	8	25	
2017/18	EFA B2	14	11	25	
	EFA B3	20	5	25	



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Adult Education and Training (EFA):

- represents a measure of the education policy, training and employment with the aim of improving the qualification of the trainees by encouraging their socio-professional insertion;
- tries to guarantee the transversality of the learning process and the articulation between the different areas of competence and learning units;





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Adult Education and Training (EFA):

- They meet the interests, motivations and intrinsic needs of the training subjects themselves.
- **Modules:** Mathematics for life / Citizenship and employability / Language and communication (Portuguese and Spanish) / Information and Communication Technologies / Learning autonomously





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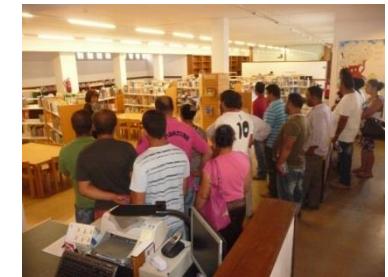
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Cultural activities:

study visits, to know the city of Viseu,
its institutions and valences (municipal
library, museums, monuments ...)





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Importance of partnerships:

- Social Security and Caritas (since 2013/14)
 - Monthly meetings with the mediator and the school coordinator;
 - Joint visits to the camps;
 - Frequent telephone contacts;
 - Organization of adult listings for Adult Education and Training courses



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Importance of partnerships:

Portuguese Catholic University

- Awareness actions on oral hygiene;

Cluster of Health Centers - Dão Lafões

- Awareness actions on smoking, alcoholism, nutrition and primary health care; healthy lifestyles; child health; healthy eating;





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3. Final thoughts

- Through the EFA Courses, the group promotes:
 - The increase in the educational qualifications of these adults, so as to enable them to enter the labour market;
 - The development of socialization skills aiming a greater social inclusion;
 - Approximation between the gypsy community and the majority community;
 - Greater appreciation of the school by the families and, consequently, greater involvement in the school life of their students;





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Challenges

Will the increase in schooling ensure:

- access to the labour market?
- an increase of their participation in society?
- an effective improvement of the living standards of these citizens?

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Thank you very much for your
attention!



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Referências citadas:

- MENDES, Manuela; MAGANO, Olga; Candeias, Pedro. (2014), Estudo Nacional sobre as Comunidades Ciganas, Lisboa, ACM.
- Estratégia Nacional para a Integração das Comunidades Ciganas (ENICC), aprovada pela Resolução do Conselho de Ministros n.º 25/2013, publicada no DR 1.ª série, de 17 de abril.