

Roma Education Research Project Local Research Plan

Name of Project:	Roma Teaching Assistant Project
Name of Country:	Czech Republic
Name of Researchers:	Martin Tocik, Marketa Hrabakova

After each research question, please describe any issues, modifications, or additions that are relevant to your specific project or country.

Research Question #1 – How effective is your project is (A) getting and keeping Roma children in school through completion and (B) improving their educational achievement?
Issues, Modifications, or Additions Specific to Your Project/Country?

Research Question #2 – Has your project promoted institutional or policy changes in the public schools which advance goals of equity and educational quality?
Issues, Modifications, or Additions Specific to Your Project/Country?

Research Question #3 – Has your project results in (A) a change in attitude toward Roma children among teachers and other school staff, (B) a change in attitude toward Roma children among non-Roma children and their parents, and (C) a change in self-characterization by Roma children?
Issues, Modifications, or Additions Specific to Your Project/Country?

Research Question #4 – What is the feasibility of replicating your project within your country or in other countries based on issues of cost, resources, institutions, and culture?
Issues, Modifications, or Additions Specific to Your Project/Country?

Please describe your current plans or best estimates for carrying out the research associated with the Roma Education Research Project in your home country. In your descriptions, indicate an approximate timeline for completing the different phases of the plan. Where appropriate, indicate how the responsibilities for the research activities will be divided among the researchers. If any or all of the activities associated with any phase of the research project are not relevant to your local plan, indicate that in your responses to the appropriate planning questions below.

We recognize and expect that some activities, allocations of responsibility, or schedules will change as you carry out your local research plan. When it becomes apparent that any of the plans included in this document need to change, please notify us as soon as possible.

Phase #1 – Prepare a brief written background description on (A) the structure and operation of the public school system in your country, (B) the geographic distribution of Roma children in your country, and (C) educational problems and challenges facing Roma children in your country.

What sources do you expect to use in preparing this written background description?
We expect to get the information we need from the Ministry of Education, Municipal School Offices, “Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights”, “Office for Educational information”, “Pedagogical Library”.

When do you expect to complete this document?
27.10. 2000

Phase #2 – Gather information to prepare Program Profile by (A) conducting initial interviews with the Project Director, other project managers, and representatives of organizations knowledgeable about the project (Soros Foundation, other funders, national and local governmental agencies, and non-governmental organizations) and (B) obtaining and review written documents, news articles, and videotapes related to the project.

Who do you expect to interview (indicate position and organizational affiliation)?

Ludek Novak - project director, Nova Skola o.p.s. (abbreviated NS)
Helena Jirincova – former coordinator of the project
Helena Balabanova – school director, ZS Ostrava (elementary school)
David Murphy – project manager NS
Iveta Pape – current coordinator of the project NS
NROS representative (NROS foundation had funded the project for couple of years)
Albina Tancosova - official of Ministry of Education
Veronika Kamenicka – coordinator of Vudud NGO (related Roma educational project)

What steps do you expect to take and what sources do you expect to employ to obtain written documents, news articles, and videotapes related to the project?

Main source is the documentation provided by Nova Skola.
We also plan to find some news articles in the National Library.
Czech TV archives.
Schools archives.

When do you expect to complete these activities?

Second half or end of November. We expect there will be quite extensive work with reading all the documentation and translating important parts into English.

Phase #3 – Collect statistical records on (A) the project’s impact on Roma students (see Research Question #1), (B) direct services provided by the project to school staff, Roma parents, and other adults, (C) the project’s budget and expenditures.

Which Roma students do you expect to use to assess the project’s impact, including age/grade level, type of community, geographical region, and other relevant characteristics? If only a sample of students benefiting from the project will be included in the research, indicate the anticipated size of the sample and list the criteria to be used in selecting the sample.

What are the relevant characteristics of the students that you expect to use as comparison group(s)?

Roma students of the same age (6-11 years), coming from the similar community (i.e. number of people living in the community, socio-economical background ..). We will provide you with more details as our research develops.

What types of records (i.e. enrollment, attendance, course grades, completion, and disciplinary) will you seek to obtain for both the target population of Roma students and

the comparison groups?

We will seek to obtain report cards which include information on enrollment, attendance, course grades, completion, and disciplinary records. In this case, we are not sure if there is a possibility to get these records from the comparison groups of schools, we will find out later.

IF RELEVANT, what types of records will you seek to obtain for adults (school staff, parents, or others) who are direct recipients of project services or direct participants in project activities?

We will seek to obtain information from Roma assistant teachers: it will concern level of their education, and former work experience.

What steps do you expect to take to identify and obtain the records and to ensure that they are in the appropriate computer-readable format for analysis?

We will try to get the permission from the directors of those schools that are in comparison groups or from Municipal School Offices. We expect to create an official letter explaining that we are collecting data for non-specific research of the Czech educational system (this letter should be signed by OSI). We suppose there are no computer readable forms of these records in schools; it means it will take a lot of time to collect all these data. We will probably have to visit almost each school of the research only for this purpose. We may find more cooperation with those directors, where the project of Roma Assistant Teachers is already running, but even there we will have to use “traditional” method of data collection – no e-mails of Excel files from these schools, unfortunately.

When do you expect to complete these activities?

We suppose that this phase will overlap into phase 4 and 5. (See phase 5)

Phase #4 – Conduct surveys or interviews of project staff, knowledgeable school staff, adult participants in project activities, and representatives of government agencies and non-governmental organizations who know about the project. Surveys or interviews will focus on project structure and operation, direct services provided by the project, and project impact on Roma students, families, communities, schools, and others.**Who do you expect to interview or survey (indicate positions and organizational affiliations)?**

Directors and other school staff.

Roma assistant teachers.

Officials of Ministry of Education, Municipal School Offices, Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights.

Teachers from the Pedagogical Faculty.

Teachers from the Evangelic Academy.

Other providers of the Course of Pedagogic Minimum.

Ludek Novak - project director, NS

Helena Jirincova – former coordinator of the project “Roma Assistant Teachers”

Helena Balabanova – school director, ZS Ostrava (Elementary school)

David Murphy – project manager NS

Iveta Pape – current coordinator of the project NS

NROS representative (NROS foundation had funded the project for couple years)

Albina Tancosova - Official of Ministry of Education

Do you expect to conduct interviews or surveys with each of these groups?

We will prioritize participants who have been creating or providing or supervising the project or who are very close to the realization of the project.

When do you expect to complete these activities?

Phase 3 and 4 and 5 are overlapping. (See phase 5)

Phase #5 – Conduct site visits to schools and direct service locations operated by the project (i.e. centers) for (A) tours of the schools and/or locations, (B) observations of classrooms or project activities, (C) follow-up interviews with the project director, other project management staff, and project direct service staff, and (D) interviews and/or focus groups with school staff, students, parents, and others.

How many schools do you expect to visit? What are their relevant characteristics? If you are visiting only a sample of schools that are participating/benefiting from the project, what criteria did you use to make the selections?

Approximately eight schools. We have not chosen them yet. Their relevant characteristics are

- level of cooperation with the project
- locality (geographical: selected from Prague, Northern Bohemia and Moravia)
- percentage of Roma children at school
- capacity / total enrollment in the school

IF RELEVANT, how many project service sites (i.e. centers) will you visit?

approx. 8

How do you expect to conduct the site visits?

We expect we will get some experience of the situation in schools from the previous phase (data collection). Therefore, we can judge the access issue more clearly and adjust our tactic accordingly.

What steps do you expect to take to recruit interview subjects among program staff?

How do you expect to conduct the interviews?

We consider it irrelevant question (Nova Skola staff is quite welcoming to tell us everything we need and there's no need to recruit anyone.) Please clarify what you mean.

What steps do you expect to take to recruit interview subjects among school staff, students, parents, and others? How do you expect to conduct the interviews?

In the schools that are pro-reactive and reactive we are going to ask for help the director or a teacher who has been interested or involved in the project.

When do you expect to complete these activities?

These are very time consuming activities. We are afraid we cannot finish before second half of February (applies for phase 3,4,5). It is not easy to estimate specific week of completion, BUT: we fear we will have even most basic problems, like: translations from Czech to English and vice versa, typing of written documentation into computer, gaining access to information might be possible, but again, time consuming (in some cases it will need formal period for

approval process)

Phase #6 – Conduct field interviews with Roma students, Roma families, and other appropriate interview subjects. Field interviews should be conducted in homes, community centers, or other community locations.

What steps do you expect to take to identify potential interview subjects and to obtain their participation in the interviews?

We will identify the interview subject through:

- Roma assistant teacher
- School director
- Community field worker
- Cultural community center coordinators

How do you expect to conduct the interviews and particularly how do you expect to deal with language differences and with gaining the confidence of the Roma interview subjects?

The method of conducting the interviews depends on the situation:

In 99% cases, there are no language differences, and even young students can communicate in basic Czech.

If it is necessary we will ask for help someone from the community who is known by the interviewed subject and he is willing to help and trusts us as researchers, too.

When do you expect to complete these activities?

We are concerned this phase is also time- consuming (conducting interviews, analysing them, creating appropriate reports and translating it into English).

No sooner than mid- March or even April. (We can give further explanation by e-mail.)

Regarding the issue of additional costs, we are sending a separate (preliminary) document.

Yours, Martin and Marketa.