Family-oriented approach

- a tool for Roma inclusion and Roma children's opportunities in Gothenburg

Nina Miskovsky
The City of Gothenburg

Gothenburg is Sweden's second largest urban area and the Nordic region's fifth largest with 610,000 inhabitants in the city area and 1,060,000 inhabitants (2021) in the urban area.

The city is located on the west coast and have a large port.
National minorities in Sweden

- National minority or minority people are those ethnic minorities who have a long-standing linguistic and cultural community within the national community, usually for more than a hundred years.
- Since 2009 Sweden have a minority legislation that protects the minority languages and cultures.
- In Sweden there are five national minorities, Jews, Roma, Swedish Finns, Sami and Tornedalians.
National minorities

• It is the individual resident who decides if they belong to a national minority, this is called the self-identification principle.

• You have the right to be informed about your rights, regardless of which national minority language you speak and where you live in Sweden.

• You who live in a municipality in an administrative area also have the right to communicate with us in your language in both speech and writing.
Romano Center West

• Romano Center West was started in 2015 as a project in Gothenburg under the management of the city and it is now a permanent institution, it functions as an information- and citizens' office dedicated to the Roma minority of Gothenburg.

• The center and its staff provide support to the Roma community in matters relating to work, education, social services, health care and housing, as well as other issues that relate to their ability to fully participate in society – they also work family orientated to reach out in the Roma Communities.

• The City of Gothenburg conducts regular consultations with all the national minorities that have residents in our city. The aim is to create a structured dialogue with minorities and to ensure the rights of national minorities are met. The Roma group is approximated about 10 000 inhabitants in Gothenburg.
Romano Center West

- Romano Center West is one of many municipal activities in the city of Gothenburg that work under the direction we call “the city where we read for our children”

- Among other things, the city has had an ESF project where one of the parts was to collect oral story tales from the Roma population and publish them in book form, which was important as the Roma's traditional stories were not previously written down.
Education support

- As one of the most important issues for Roma inclusion is linked to low or incomplete education within the Roma group, the Romano Center has worked specifically to prevent school dropouts and to motivate young Roma people and young adults to complete their studies.

- In this area, Romano Centers has received an equality award from the city in 2021, when it stood clear that many in this target group had resumed their studies following the efforts of the Romano Center.
School support to Roma students

- The Romano center has also created an initiative in the city, aimed at the primary school administration where they have employed bridge builders from the Roma community.

- These bridge builders serve as cultural interpreters and work in the schools to support students with a Roma background with their homework and their language development.
Roma Children

- Early contacts with different administrations in the municipality aimed at young children and their parents are an important part of our work to include many groups at risk of exclusion.

- The Roma community are in such risk and therefore we also work with education of our staff in for example minority stress and antiziganism.

- We also know that our work for equal inclusion has effects on the whole of society in a positive way.
The Child Guarantee in Sweden

A working group in the Government Offices is currently working on mapping the situation in Sweden and developing a national action plan regarding the aspects addressed in the Council's recommendation on the establishment of a European child guarantee.

For example, it is about which groups of children do not receive the social services mentioned in the recommendation or are at risk of not receiving these services and what initiatives and resources are in place and / or initiated for to meet these challenges.

The plan in Sweden shall be presented 15\textsuperscript{th} of March this year.
EU at the local level in the welfare sector

✓ We are an active member of Eurocities Social Affairs Forum and its working groups, for example WG Roma Inclusion, WG Children & Young people and WG Education where the child guarantee will be discussed, and best practice exchanged

✓ We use EU funding for the city’s development work in the welfare administrations

✓ We have participated in Eurocities work #inclusivecities4all with a pledge on the importance of lifelong learning for our citizens

✓ We are looking forward to restart after the pandemic, that have been an unwelcome break in our active EU work
**Contact**

Deputy Mayor

Nina Miskovsky
nina.miskovsky@stadshuset.goteborg.se
The City of Gothenburg