

Madame chair

Investing in improving the quality of education is a continuous process in North Macedonia, where the primary and secondary education is obligatory by law.

In accordance with the Nine-Grade Primary Education Concept and Curriculum, the instruction is provided in four languages of instruction (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and Serbian); whereas communities that are not offered instruction in their mother tongue study it as an elective course such as Language and Culture of Bosniaks, Vlachs, Bursh and Roma, respectively. Elective courses are taught from the third to the ninth grade, with one or two lessons per week.

In order to strengthen and support the activities that contribute to the development and promotion of multiculturalism, interethnic integration and tolerance in education, amendments to the Laws on Primary Education and on Secondary Education were adopted.

Creative educational programs have been introduced with the aim to increase the interaction of ethnically/linguistically mixed groups of participants. ~~In this regard, since 2017 the Ministry of Education and Science has provided financial means for supporting schools to implement such activities that promote interethnic integration, tolerance, etc.~~ 115 primary and 28 secondary schools used this opportunity in the last two years ~~(2017 and 2018)~~.

When it comes to the Roma community there is Roma National Strategy that ensure better access to education. The following measures are implemented each school year:

- Engagement of Roma educational mediators in selected municipalities;
- Grant scholarships for Roma pupils; and
- Engaging tutors and mentors for Roma pupils; and
- Grant scholarships for Roma university students.

Future priorities that need to be implemented starting from the 2019/2020 school year, involve enhancing the standards of primary and secondary education by providing appropriate measures for access to education for children who did not attend classes (older pupils whose age does not correspond to the grade they should attend) and reduction of dropouts, delivery of the elective course in Language and Culture of Roma.

According to the official number of Roma children attending primary education have a positive progressive growth, not only in terms of enrolment in primary education, but also in terms of the number of Roma children who successfully complete this level of education.

I thank you