

the building of the Regional Government. Participants in the event were students and Funds Management Tomislav Donchev, Alina Kovacs, head of the Public Open Health Institute Society - Budapest, Maria Metodieva – Director Roma Program at the Institute Open Society Institute - Sofia, Assoc. Pencho Penchev District Governor Dr. Ivan Ivanov – Director RHIF - Veliko Tarnovo and Dr. Albena Lambev - Director of RHI - Veliko Tarnovo. The aim of practical work and the conference was to stimulate young people to take an active thinking position for improvement of health status of the Roma community, to show that young Roma medics are not only mediators between the community and health systems, but potential which will strengthen the capacity of health system. At the end of the loaded week students headed for Sliven and Stara Zagora to try more from the fieldwork in Roma neighborhood. There they met with our partners from Foundation "Roma Health" chaired by Dr. Stefan Panayotov and "World without limits" . In Sliven advocates participated in preparation of a campaign for prevention and control of tuberculosis.. Together with health mediators of the neighborhood they consulted residents in an extremely poor neighborhood and explaining to them how to join the campaign, what examinations can pass and how to recognize the symptoms of the disease. From 2009 "Open Society" institute -Sofia and the Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance "Amalipe" implemented a support program for Roma studying in medical universities and Colleges (Roma Health Scholarship Program). In the last school year 2010/2011 nearly 60 Roma young people took part in it 2010/2011 took part in it and during the new 2011/2012 school year their number is expected to reach 100. This is the first in our country program that support higher education, aimed at doctors and nurses of Roma origin. It aims to contribute for the improvement of health care in disadvantaged state representatives of the Roma community in Bulgaria and to overcome discrimination in the system Minister of Health. Along with this, to be given worthy models to follow which to motivate young Roma to pursue careers in the field of Health care. The idea is by special National Committee created for selection of candidates for the program, pre-medical students ,doctors to undergo specialized training This will help by providing health services in areas with predominantly Roma population to work for their integration and inclusion in the system of health.

Deyan Kolev, Chairman of the Centers Amalipe

"One of major problems with access to quality health services for Roma is a very small number of doctors, nurses who are Roma working in health system. As a result of this, on the one hand Roma community do not feel confidence in the system, because they do not recognize their people in it, on the other hand, this is one of the reasons for very deep prejudices among some of the workers in the system, against Roma. During the first days of training students were worried unconfident in themselves, thought that they would not succeed. Many of them come from small towns and villages and going to a city where the university is frightened them, and this is one of the biggest obstacles to their realization. At the end of training, they have the confidence knowing what they can, have faith in themselves and this is something which is particularly important, as well as the important is the result of learning.

Teodora Krumova, Deputy chairman of the Centers Amalipe

"Scholarship program for Roma who studied medicine started 2 years ago. Now it is the third year of the program and it is financed by the "Open society" - Budapest (OSI) and Roma Education Fund - Budapest (REF). Within one week before the start of academic year we collect students here, near Veliko Tarnovo, where we're trying to prepare them for the this, what awaits them or with which they will encounter in University. So our aim is to turn them into advocates for the Roma health care. Our task is to succeed to keep these young people who have a great potential for Bulgaria, not only to stay in Bulgaria after graduation, but to motivate them to return to work in the community. One of the biggest problems of Roma intellectuals is that after getting a diploma of completed education and have good realization, representatives of the Roma intellectuals prefer to hide their ethnic origin. This is a complex program, which is different and unique compared with all other scholarship programs because it has several key elements. One element is a scholarship itself - one that Roma students of Medicine and medical specialties receive.

Momchil Baev, health care coordinator of the Centers Amalipe

"Usually in the initial invitation students are a little more hesitant and do not want to involve at least not with a particular interest, but we were happy to find that when they come here they not only understand that training is really useful, but at the end of this one week of summer camp as we call it, they have enriched many, have enriched a lot, they learned many new things about themselves, about culture, for his friends, for other people from groups in the Roma community. These are things that will help them in their future work as medics. Students who have participated in the program for third year, this year take place as trainers to those who are a little more younger than them or to those who participate in the program for first or second year. We strongly support students to be included in extra curricular activities which are not directly associated with their studies at university or their participation in the program, but we want them to work in their settlements or at least those places that they study. I want to emphasize, that the work of medical professional health workers as a whole is often close to work of social workers and it is well they to know in details the problems of each community and the individual groups within the Roma community, because when a doctor has a practice in Roma neighborhood, he inevitably encounters with the social problems of the people. "

Medical students discuss the issues of Roma from small settlements with Minister Donchev

For three hours Students from the program supporting Roma who study at medical University have been discussing problems about the access to health care and the quality of living in the small settlements with Minister of management EU funds Tomislav Donchev, Director of the Regional Health Insurance Fund in Veliko Turnovo - Dr Ivan Ivanov and Director regional health Inspection Dr. Albena Lambev. This happened during the student Conference " We are not impersonal or indifferent " organized by Center "Amalipe" as part of training advocacy for Roma- medics. The conference was held on 2nd September in the Coat of Arms Hall of the District Administration – Veliko Tarnovo. A day before the event, students divided into small groups visited Batak, villages, Varbovka (municipality Pavlikeni) Vodolei (municipality Veliko Tarnovo) , Bebrovo and Maisko. Elena) as well as Roma neighborhoods in the city Gorna Oryahovitsa. There they interested in health status and problems of access to good Local health services for local Roma community as well as difficulties in various other areas -

education, infrastructure, employment. The observations and conclusions to which students reached were summarized in presentations, which submitted during the conference. A lot of emotions and rational proposals accompanied the presentations of each group. The students did not hide their professional amazement about cases in which they come across during fieldwork work the previous day: incorrect diagnoses, lack of daily presence medical specialists, collection fees for health services, which are covered by health insurance safe, even death, due to delaying urgent medical help. They shared the pain from shocking poverty in some places and the low quality of education in local Schools that dooms otherwise gifted with natural intelligence Roma children. The students addressed a variety of particular proposals. Monitoring of pregnancy and of mother to one year after birth should be covered by the Health Insurance Fund regardless of their health insurance status: after all, is supreme interest of the child, offered two groups. Changes in legislation, to ensure that the sale of drugs in every village, asked another group. It is necessary to pay attention to the villages called. "Urban municipalities" which can not apply in Program for Development of Rural areas: for example program under which Municipalities can apply for villages with low quality of life and to have sanctions for the the municipalities in which the quality of life.

Miroslav Angelov, 26, from Sofia, a student in the second course, specialty «Medicine» MU Sofia:

"Advocacy Training is an event that I as Fellows supported Roma Medicine student look forward each summer. Thanks to it I learned many new things about Roma community, the problems they face and the ways of solving them. I met many people with whom I believe will communicate a lot. At the seminar I found my friends Anelia Ilieva and Christina Velcheva, for what I am extremely happy.

Liliana Mitkova from village Dinkata, area Pazardzhik, second course specialty Medical laboratory of Medical College "Yordanka Filaretova" Sofia.

"Thanks to advocacy training program I enrich my knowledge about the Roma culture and traditions I met there with many young people from my ethnicity, with who we share common interests and also work hard for the integration of Roma community, I'm motivated and this gave me the strength to continue to work for the common good. I hope that the program Amalipe will not stop supporting Roma youth in realization of their dreams. "

Antonia Ivanova from village Vladimirovo, area Boichinovci in 3rd course specialty nurse at Sofia Medical University.

I have very good impressions of my stay and in Veliko Tarnovo and the meeting with Teodora and Deian. I learned about the history, customs and cultural values of the Roma, the problems in Roma health care, rights and legislation, I learned about the history, customs and cultural values of the Roma, the problems in Roma health care, rights and legislation appearance before cameras and other behave in front of cameras and many others. With interpretations of traditions we weren't feel that we were training. We all have a lot of fun.

Minister Donchev did not hide his sincerely respect to students' professionalism and advocacy passion. He stayed in all the discussion and reply to all proposals concerning to improvement on quality of life in smaller settlements. The Minister stressed that money is not the main problem for Roma integration – money will be found, including from European

funds. But it is necessary to be won broad public support in this regard the example of Roma, who are medical students at universities, who speak Professional Language and can speak on topics outside medical is especially important. "You are the true advertisement of Roma integration" emphasis Donchev. He stressed that he will be personally engaged National Roma Strategy to be one of the main priorities for funding in the new programming period and in the current - if it will be made in one pragmatic way as it happened with Strategy for deinstitutionalization. "The plan for it provides to invest 200 million. Levs for the period of 10 years in order to provide better future for 7000 children. Step by step it is happened-even very well. That I want to achieve in terms of Roma integration – particularly planning which to be accomplished" said Donchev. He did not hide that this whole process will take many years .But for 10-15 years it is possible to turn this"trend" and make integration irreversible.

Hristina Velcheva, 28 years, from Sofia, in third grade in specialty "Public health and health management" at Sofia Medical University.

Advocacy training in the field of health care passed very dynamically. When I came to the summer camp, I fully understood the problems that I had to solve in the future. I learned that in every problem there are several responsible parties that had to find the most favorable outcome. The training helped me to learn tactics with the help of which t I can be more useful, restrained and patient. I think that about the last two I have more to do."

Dimitar Kolev from Byala Slatina 2 9, the chemist, apply medicine:

"I want to express my gratitude to your Organization about conducting seminars on advocacy, which held in the summer of 2011. Thanks to this training we met with unique lecturers who were habilitated university teachers. Training was very imaginative, well organized and interesting, so people who were included in it felt themselves satisfied and important. It was very interesting when we entered in different sessions, and we realized how different was problem solving theoretically and practically. That training was crucial for all of us. We would like it to be organize next year, too. With respect and homage to the Amalipe team "