

Achieving Success through Peer-to-peer Inclusive Vocational Education for Roma Students

Over Halfway to Success!

Transnational Project Meeting in Romania, November 2024



On November 5-6, 2024, the ACTA Center hosted the third Transnational Project Meeting (TPM) for the ASPIRE4R project in Oradea, Romania. We were thrilled to welcome our project leaders from RIC Novo mesto and partners from PRISM Impresa Sociale for two productive days dedicated to strengthening our work and advancing inclusive education for Roma students. Highlights included discussions on the project's impact, the progress of Work Package 3, and preparations for the upcoming phase.

We connected with local student volunteers from Colegiul Național "Emanuil Gojdu" and visited Liceul Teoretic "Lucian Blaga" Oradea, where we met Roma students involved in the project. A visit to our local partner, Alsterdorf Oradea, allowed us to exchange best practices in supporting diverse student needs, from Roma youth to students with disabilities. This meeting underscored ASPIRE4R's commitment to peer-to-peer support and inclusive education. We're excited to keep building on this momentum, thanks to the dedication of our partners and students!



Testing ASPIRE4R Peer-to-peer Support Model

Implementation of pilot testing in Slovenia and Romania with support from Italy



ACTA led the development of guidelines for pilot testing of Peer-to-peer support model, incorporating valuable feedback from partners and advisory board members. Pilot activities have begun in Romania and Slovenia, with Roma students and volunteers engaging in educational and social sessions, including Erasmus International Days to promote inclusion and cultural awareness.

Across the team, we held interviews with volunteers and Roma students, resulting in new volunteer agreements and individual plans to guide ongoing support. PRISM contributed by preparing volunteers and creating evaluation forms, while RIC Novo mesto helped refine documentation templates essential for all activities. These collaborative efforts are building a strong foundation for sustainable mentorship and support for Roma students in vocational education.

Next steps

Our next steps in the ASPIRE4R project are centered around the implementation of Work Package 4: Role Models Attract, a key activity designed to highlight and promote the importance of peer support for Roma students in vocational education. This work package begins with identifying and selecting the most effective best practices in peer support, gathered from pilot participants and partner organizations. These practices will serve as the foundation for a series of promotional videos that aim to share inspiring stories of Roma learners and volunteers.

The video production process will involve two collaborative mobilities. The first will be conducted online, focusing on the development of scenarios and initial filming, while the second will take place face-to-face in Italy. This three-day session will bring together Roma learners, volunteers, and accompanying staff to finalize and produce the videos. These stories will showcase not only the impact of peer support but also the strength and resilience of the learners and volunteers themselves.

The final phase of this activity will launch the “Role Models Attract” campaign, designed to amplify the key messages of the project and advocate for the inclusion of peer support models in vocational education and training. The campaign will include presentations and workshops for students, parents, and the general public, as well as a high-profile multiplier event. This event will bring together stakeholders such as policymakers, educational institutions, and employers to discuss the benefits and broader adoption of these inclusive practices.

Through these next steps, the ASPIRE4R project aims to raise awareness, inspire action, and promote lasting change in the vocational education landscape, ensuring Roma students receive the support they need to succeed.

