

# **Supporting Roma children in education and social inclusion pathways. A case study in Lecce – Italy**

**Budapest, 28 November 2014**



# The case studies about Roma within the ImPRovE project

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- Austria – *Thara* - Improving labor market access for Roma' in Vienna
- Belgium – Housing-led projects for homeless Slovakian Roma families in Ghent
- Hungary – Afternoon schools for disadvantaged children, with a special focus on the Roma
- Sweden – *Romane Buca*: vocational training for Roma adults to tackle social exclusion in Stockholm
- Italy – *Jek, Duj, Trin ... Ánde Škola*: improving pathways of social and school inclusion of Roma Children living in Camp Panareo, in Lecce



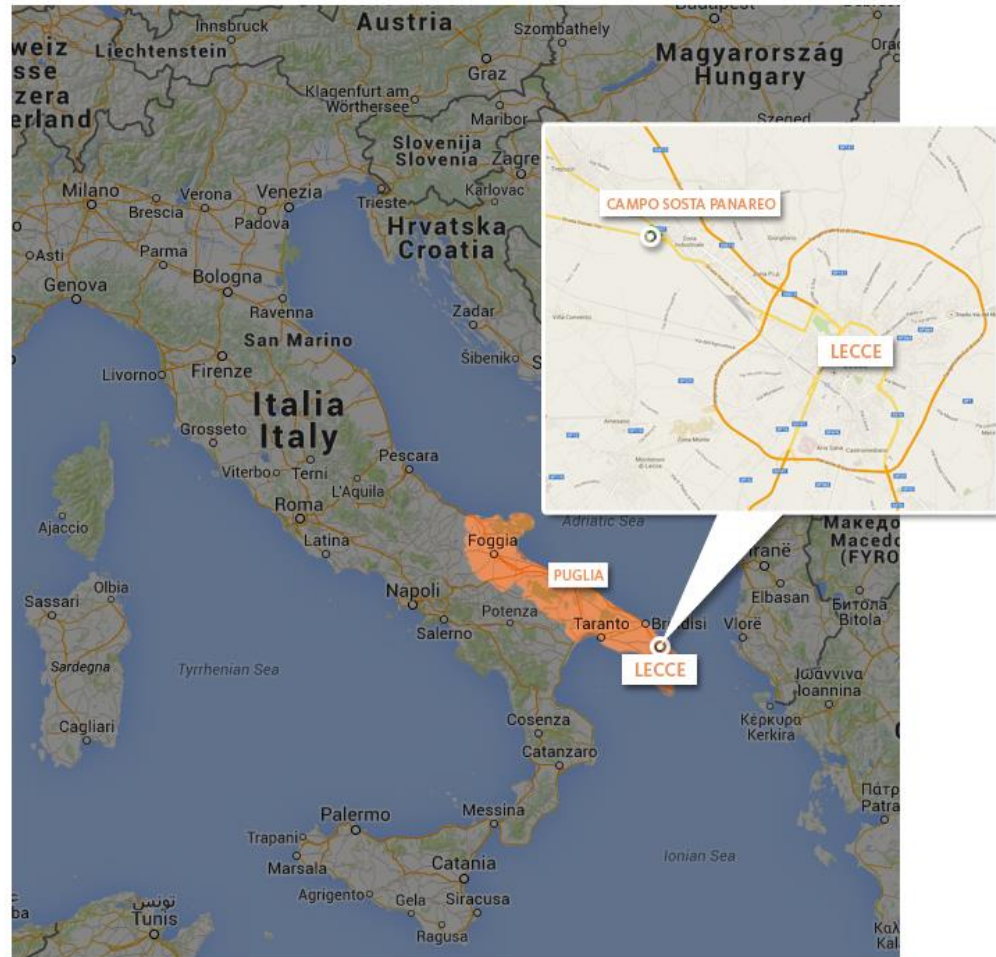
## The Italian context (in a few words)

- Roma citizens in Italy: between 130.000 and 150.000 people (50% is Italian), sedentary but often living in camps
- Roma children in education: In 2012-2013, Roma pupils in Italian schools were 11.481 (entitled to compulsory education about 30.000). Isolation, linguistic difficulties and disadvantage given by weak family support have negative effects on their educative pathways. High drop out and repetition in compulsory secondary school (children from 11 years). National strategy and national school programs have had patchy results.
- Social policies: regionally framed and municipal autonomy on implementation
- Scarce resources, a politically controversial topic (Roma issues are not a priority) and incoherent policies
- Passive subsidiarity and third sector's substitutive role

# The local context

Municipality of Lecce, about 90.000 inhabitants, in the South of Italy.

Roma population: 80 families, 33 living in *Camp Panareo*, about 200 people and 89 are children





# The project

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The project started in 2013, based on the “results” of a research-action

Financed by Puglia Region through the call for projects *Principi Attivi: Giovani Idee per una Puglia Migliore* with 25.000 euros for 9 months

Realised by the Association of Social Promotion *Alteramente*, a small local organization constituted by four young women



# The mission and the activities

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Aim: supporting Roma children in education and social inclusion pathways

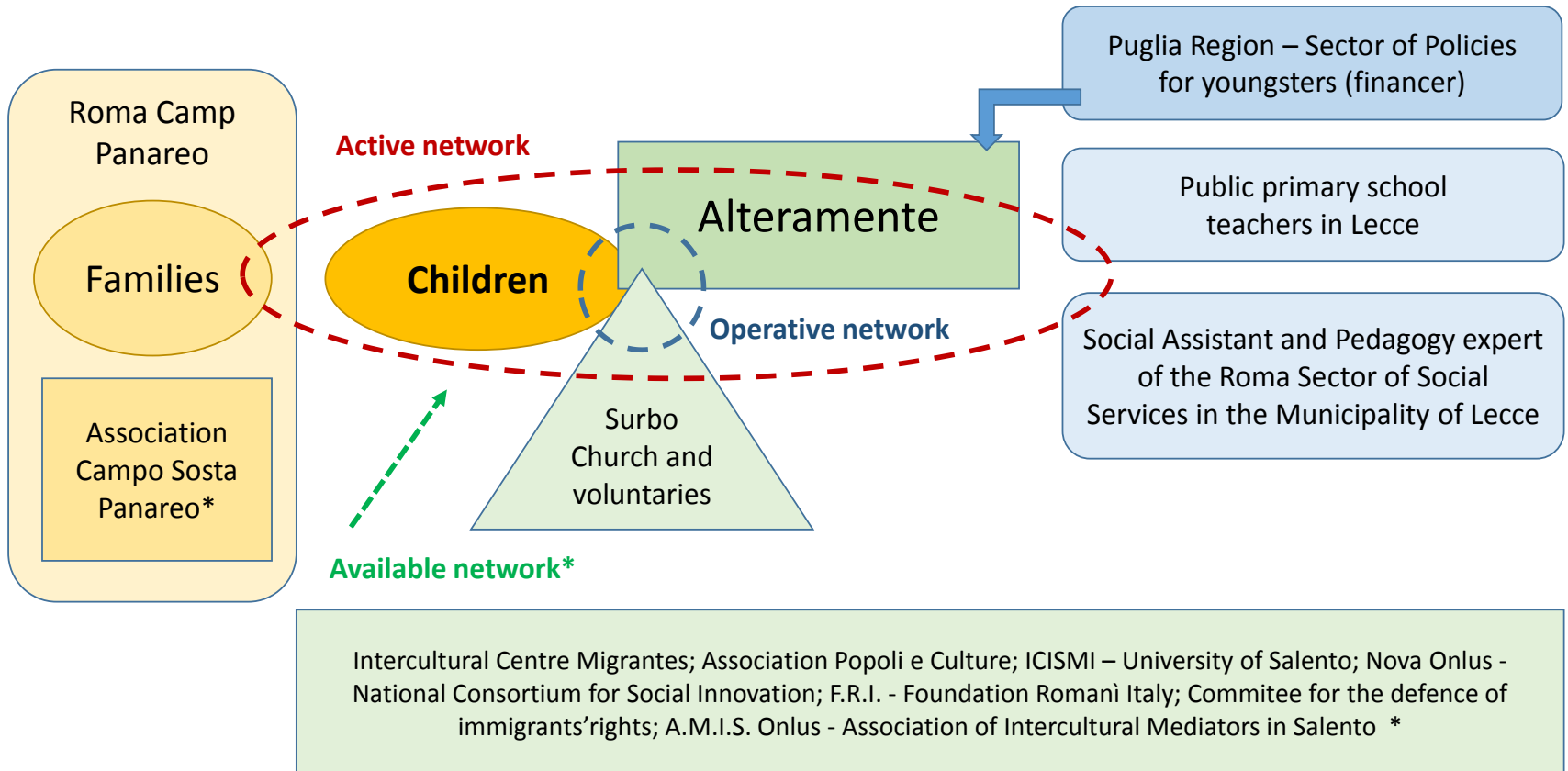
27 children from 5 to 10 years old

4 professionals and 15 volunteers

The activities: school homework, study of Roma culture, recreational activities, classes about ecology and civic education, organization of events ...

... in and out the camp

# Actors and relationships



Source: our elaboration from desk analysis, interviews and focus group



# The dimensions of Social Innovation\*

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## 1) *Content dimension*

- Taking in account opportunities and boundaries of Roma culture
- Listening to the community (research-action) and building trust

## 2) *Process dimension*


- Building «bridges» between the camp and the rest of the city through an alliance on children wellbeing
- Network among Third Sector organizations, as a strategy to compensate scarce resources and passive subsidiarity

## 3) *Empowerment dimension*

- Involvement of the Roma community in the project
- Involvement of *Alteramente* in local panels on Roma issues

\* (Gerometta, Häußermann and Longo 2005; Moulaert *et al.* 2005a, 2005b)





# An innovative experience in the Italian welfare context

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Territorial fragmentation >> difficult mainstreaming, disomogeneity, incoherent policies

Small and local dimension of initiatives >> Close to citizens and specificities, the limits of a relational approach

Mainly passive subsidiarity and substitutive role of Third sector >> high potential of innovation, risk of discontinuity, local interventions and territorial inequality

A controversial topic >> difficult to be included among political priorities in a context of scarce resources

# Welfare, governance models and (hypothetical) capacity and types of social innovation

Contexts		Governance arrangements			Hypothesis on social innovation specificities		
Welfare regimes	Geographic Zones	Institutional competences organization	Governance	Relationships State/Third Sector	Potential of developing social innovation	Capacity of up-scaling social innovation	Types of social innovation
<b>Universalistic</b>	North of Europe	Local autonomy centrally framed	Hierarchic (managerial) and participative mix	Pervasive role of the State	Relatively high	High capacity of up-scaling	Supported social innovation
<b>Corporatist-conservative</b>	Continental Europe	Regionally /Centrally framed	Corporatist	Active subsidiarity	Relatively high overcoming frozen landscapes	Slow but high up-scaling capacity	Negotiated social innovation
<b>Liberal</b>	Anglo-Saxon Countries	Centrally framed	Market ruled (pluralist) and corporative mixed	Market model and residual role of the State	High capacity but frail innovation (subject to market logic)	Potentially high but tendency to replace the state (big society rhetoric)	Self-sustained social innovation
<b>Familistic</b>	South of Europe	Regionally framed	Populist and clientelistic mixed	Passive subsidiarity	High capacity, but very fragmented	Very limited, not picked up by welfare state	Fragmented social innovation
<b>Transitional</b>	Central and Eastern Europe	Transitional mixed	Highly diversified – difficult to define	Highly diversified – difficult to define	Highly diversified (from low to high)	Highly diversified – oriented to build new institutional arrangements	Regime social innovation



... and applying the ImPRovE metaphor

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- only small and mainly sleeping elephants
- lively butterflies, able to cooperate
- no lions ... or only in the background

... Thanks for your attention