

Report on First „Open School” Class , Peqin Albania, “Hasmashaj” School





Name of the event: „Open School” Class

Date and time: 23 February 2022 11 – 14.30

Venue: Peqin, Albania

Related WP and task: WP3, T 3.2

Agenda of the event

Venue: Bar-Restaurant “Karina”, Peqin, Albania

11.00-11.05 Welcome and opening remarks. **Mr Lulzim Resuli, President of ANOA**

11.05- 11.20 Project presentation and steps followed to select Hasmashaj School, I4S, the Open School Classes and their development. **Envina Xhemi Albanian Team Leader**

11.20- 11.25 Q&A on the project and Open School Class, **Envina Xhemi**

11.25 -12.00 The health system as a children’s right and the role of local actors in increasing access to health services for children living in disadvantaged situations. **Albana Sejдини, Health Center Director Karinë, Peqin**

12.00- 12.15 Coffee break

12.15- 12.50 Work in three groups on separate questions on health.

12.50-13.30 Reports from 3 the groups

13.30-14.30 Plenary session and closing



Organization and background

Description and aims of the event

Educational professionals should encourage the extension of education beyond the “school walls” and participate in community activities, so as to improve public relations in order to make a joint effort to fight early dropout and to cooperate with experts and volunteers who help students with special needs within the school-community network. The “outreach” process also opens schools to the community and cultivates formal and informal interaction and exchange of social-cultural resources between schools and communities to jointly accumulate clearly identifiable social and cultural capital, by making use of the multiplication effect generated within the network.

The aims of the specific Open School Class is :

- To bring together all relevant stakeholders around the Partner School „Hasmashaj” Peqin in a community learning process
- To bring together all relevant stakeholders around the Partner School „Hasmashaj” Peqin in a community discussion forum.
- To discuss healthcare issues in terms of disadvantaged pupils welfare.
- To generate ideas and list problems from different sources and discuss source of the problem and possible solutions.
- To disseminate I4S project aims and development to date.

Involved partners

Albanian National Orphans Association

Dissemination

Preliminary individual meetings were previously carried out during first visits in Summer. Contacts were established and upcoming events explained.

Invitations were sent through WhatsApp and a WhatsApp group has been established to encourage continuous communication.



The school director was kindly asked to disseminate information to parents. The mayor has also collected representatives from the municipality and he also was part of the event.

All other stakeholders previously met were individually invited.

An event and a news on the event was firstly published in the project website and shared on social media.

A short live broadcasted in Albanian Facebook Project Page and a short post after the event was finished in the same channel.

Target groups and invited guests

Open School Classes are intended to be a learning process and for that reason they have to be evolved around a specific topic. Since COVID 19 and its impact in the current education process, the topic of healthcare and disadvantaged students was in the list of priorities.

Alongside the above-mentioned, the „Open School”, Classes should aim at creating ownership of eh community and as a result the experts on the topics should come from the community. Consequently, from previous collaborations and the matching with the priority topics we have chosen the speaker of the day, that delivered the presentation on healthcare system and provisions for children.

Albana Dejdini, is the director of the Healthcare Center next to the school and she is also a parent of two children attending the partner school, so with that we hope to present to the community a support contact point in terms of healthcare and addressing its issues when the project is not there.

Participants

25 local participants, they all come from Peqin or the surroundings.

Number of Women	Number of men
13	12

We do not take age relevant specific data, but considering that they are all working age or parents, at least all of them are over 25 years old. The general estimation is that the average age could be 40+.



The distribution of representatives as follows:

School representatives, Principal, teachers, social worker , other staff (cleaning).

Parents Representatives: School Board parent, Parents Council representative and other parents.

Local government representatives: Mayor, deputy mayor, Children Protection Office

Other: EU corner, Civil Society representatives 2, and 2 from religious groups, representatives from other neighboring schools.

Planning of the event

The planning was carried out by ANOA Team in collaboration with the School Principal in terms of establishing the date and asking to disseminate the information on relevant participants.

Moreover the planning of this activity has been extensively discussed in WP 3 meetings with all consortium members. Supporting documents have been designed by the respective experts and the structure of the event was a huge contribution of Zsuzsanna Hana Biro, I4S project coordinator.

Venue of the event, any special circumstances

The venue is a central location easy to reach by everyone, and it is the only premise that could provide workshop spaces and refreshments. Previous experiences in this location ensured for smooth development of the activity.

Outcomes of the event with conclusions

The event was introduced by ANOA President, and moderated by Envina Xhemi , project Team Leader.

The initial presentation was on I4S project, selection process, followed by an explanation of the Open School Class.

The Local Expert, Albana Sejdini gave a general overview of the current situation of the healthcare system on a local level and services available for children, followed by some challenges the system faces in terms of extending the services to all the children.



After that the event followed by the division of the participants in three groups. Questions were prepared by the expert with the support of the project. Each group had to give their own response to three following questions:

Group 1:

How can collaboration between local actors be enhanced to optimize counseling for the healthy growth and development of children?

Group 2:

How can the issue of the necessary conditions for the upbringing of children in disadvantaged economic situations be addressed at the local level?

Group 3:

What would be good practices of referring and protecting children from abuse and violence?

After working in 3 groups for 30 minutes the answers were as follows:

Group 1

1. Identification of health problems that school students have.
2. Establishing communication bridges between local actors and inspecting health development.
3. Scheduled meetings with health workers about health problems.
4. Provision of health services and service facilities in schools. (Oral care, especially for active students and groups in need).
5. Increasing the number of activities among local actors.
6. Financial support for the organization of educational activities, improvement of infrastructure in educational institutions.

Group 2

1. Identification. (Creating a database).
2. Familiarity with the services offered to help them. (Psycho-social service, health service, child protection unit, social support service, police station).
3. Informing them about their rights and duties.
4. Cooperation with local government and services provided.



Group 3

1. **Establishment of a multifunctional group with different actors, such as: representatives from the police, education, health, social services.**
 - **Genuine cooperation between these actors.**
2. **Realization of entertaining and awareness-raising activities in order to provide information and awareness messages, where raped or abused cases denounce rape and abuse.**
 - **The community should be sensitized by denouncing cases of abuse and violence when they encounter and ascertain them.**
3. **Collaborations between associations or organizations for the services they provide.**

The event was followed by a plenary session where other issues were raised, and a need to take actions on school infrastructure, school supporting staff were addressed to the local government representatives. The issue of financing the aforementioned issues was raised. It seemed clear that there is a lack of proper knowledge on who has to finance the support staff like cleaning. This will be further discussed, since it constitutes a problem for school. Voluntary contributions from the parents are not sufficient and not sustainable, considering the poor community following this school. The participants seemed quite at ease at the end of the vent and this was reflected in the vision boards, where most of them seemed to have been felt noticed and heard.

The event was closed with three remarks:

The discussions would be continued also in the WhatsApp group.

The topic will be voted in the same group

And the date of the next event will also be voted in the same group.

Media appearances

An event and a news on the event was firstly published in the project website and shared on social media.

A short live broadcasted in Albanian Facebook Project Page and a short post after the event was finished in the same channel.