

Minutes from the meeting in Brno – Excerpt –

what is radio expert?

it's a not-for-profit consulting, training project that enables people to participate in Media. One of their activities is training. I.e. in South africa they've delivered training on governance. Roma Radio is to train Roma people on how to produce programmes and basically to enable them to take over their own media. They work with an NGO (IQ Roma). The plan is to build Roma radios throughout Europe. However, the fact that there is not community radio recognition in Central Eastern Europe makes it even more difficult, as it seems a far away goal. Roma adults didn't engaged with the idea of media training, so they decide to work with young people on media literacy.

Radio expert is a virtual organisation, they use google apps and a project internet platform called do.com that facilitates collaborative work.

how does the training work?

Kids are being trained to be DJs. They are involved and enthusiastic. Once they have completed their training, they are then placed in different platforms, like radio r, which is the campus station. They also facilitate the participation in European exchange programmes, where they learn about other experiences, and also the experience of Roma people in other European countries.

They have a six session training programme, however not many young people get involved in the whole programme. so they focus on production and technical more than in management, governance and business models.

what is IQ Roma service?

Ivana and Nicole work every week with young Roma people. They have a small room with a computer, a microphone and a mixing desk. They train young people 11-13 years old on how to become DJ. They use the times that the IQRoma has the social club for Young Roma people.

They are still learning how to involve and get kids to participate. The positives are quick technological learning, spontaneity, and learning about new Roma music. The problems are irregularity, difficult to keep the projects.

Other experiences:
problems in communicating with adults. Kids don't think their adults take them seriously.
relations between subgroups (Roma, Gipsy, Olah)

Their plans are to involve more kids, start more podcasts, broadcast from inside the IQR building, improve techniques and spread the work.

The way to attract people to the training and the project is to offer the training they want and to offer the possibility to do what they want. The model is to partner with the NGOs, and this can be a slow project as media training is not a priority for NGOs. In the case of Roma people, there is lack of trust and they are very cynical.

However, in the Czech Republic there is a demand for Roma people producing programmes by commercial media.
In conclusion, media literacy training for Roma youth is a good tool for combat marginalisation.