



# ERNE

European Roma integration good practice exchange and policy Network

## Conference in Florence

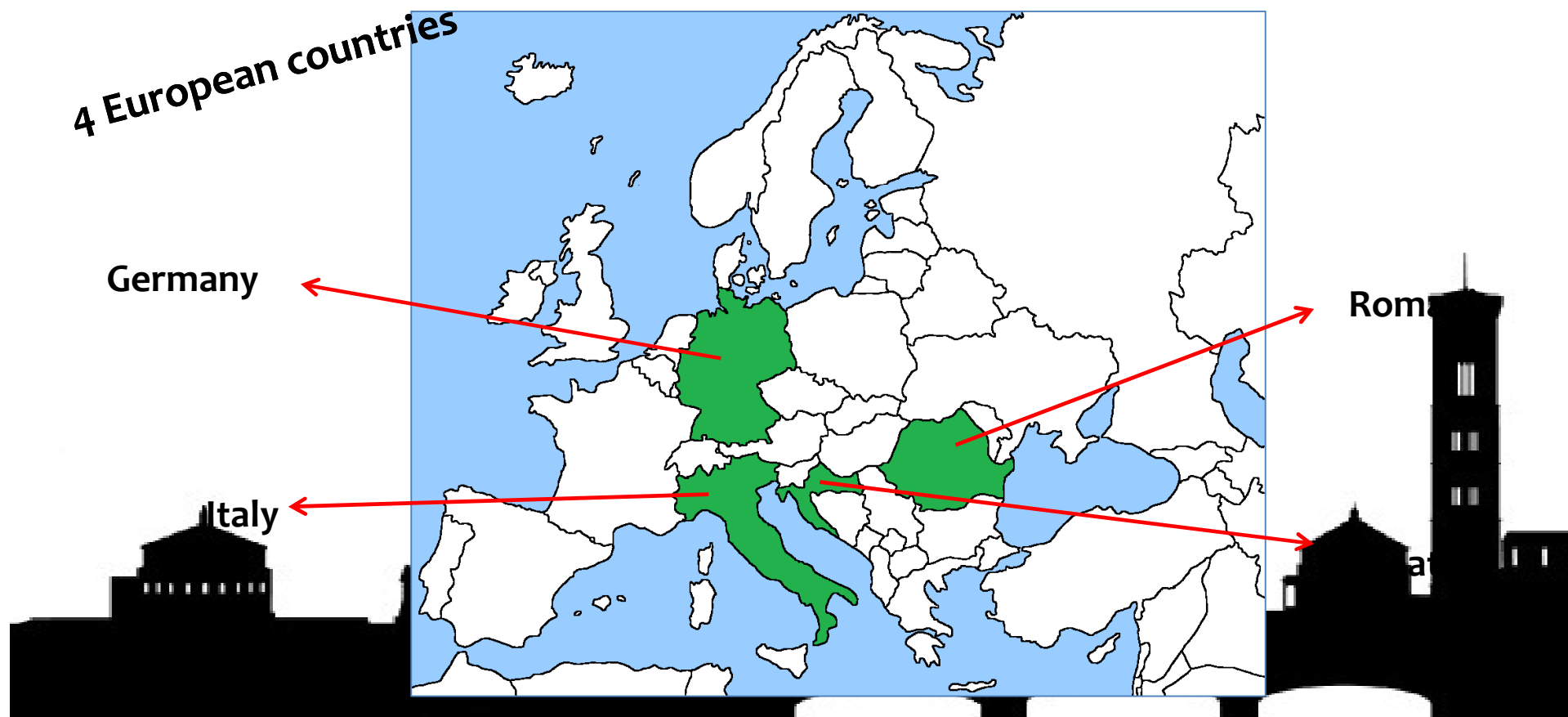
15th October 2013

**WP5 – Pre-school level**

**FormAzione Co&So Network**



# Good practice exchange at pre-school level



## 3 levels of the research:

### Documental level

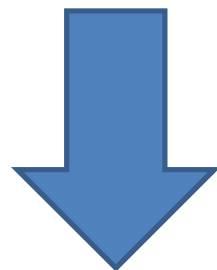
- existing educational systems (in particular: pre-school education)
- actual situation of Roma children in education

### Focus group interviews

- level of integration of Roma children into these services
- tools at disposal
- competences required by stakeholders, political decision makers, educators

### Best practices

- to ensure access to preschool and school systems of Roma children and their stay in the system
- to understand the most efficient means for integration



to develop a **policy recommendation paper** for preschool level to be used in the partner countries on local, regional and national level



## Pre-school education in the partner countries

COUNTRY	AGE	PLACE	OTHER...	
<b>CROATIA</b> <i>NOT MANDATORY</i>	1-6/7	nurseries, kindergartens, 'pre- school'	pre-school: free, 95% of children in the last year	minorities and special needs children involved
<b>GERMANY</b> <i>NOT MANDATORY</i>	1-6	day nursery, kindergarten, after school club	sixteen states (Länder) with own rules	differences between East and West
<b>ITALY</b> <i>NOT MANDATORY</i>	0-6	nursery school, kindergarten, integrative services	integrative services: family space, playground	laws are regional and can differ
<b>ROMANIA</b> <i>NOT MANDATORY</i>	0-6	nursery schools, kindergartens	preparatory school year is obligatory (age:6)	auxiliary services for children with special needs

## Situation of Roma population in the partner countries

linguistic difficulties

cultural differences

poverty

lack of basic hygienic conditions

health problems

  
disadvantages when entering school

## Focus group interviews

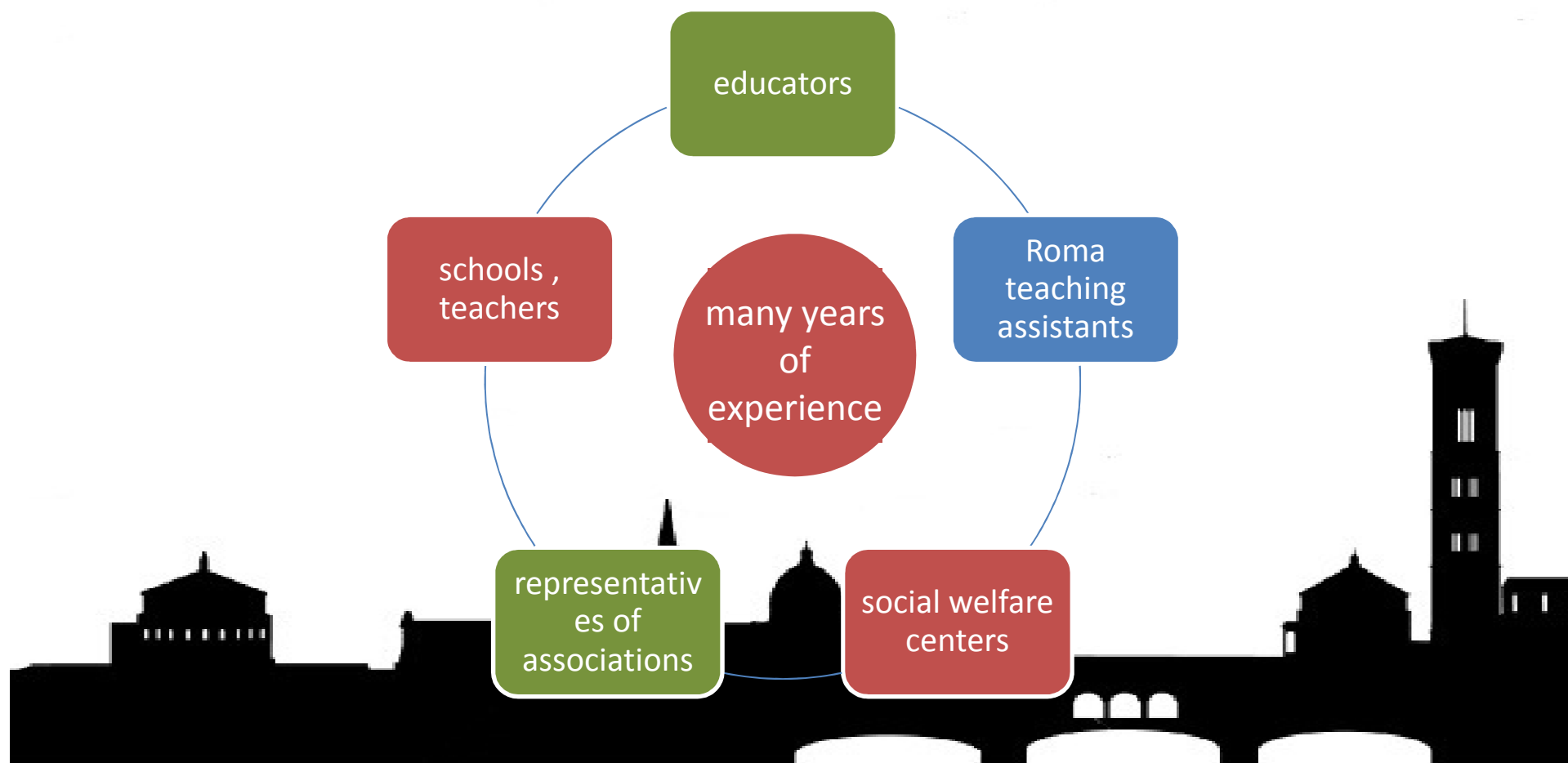
### Requirements:

- Number of participants: min. 6 max. 10 people
- Duration: min. 1 and ½ - max. 2 and ½ hours
- Conduction by: 1 facilitator and 1 observer



choosing **2 best practice examples** per country

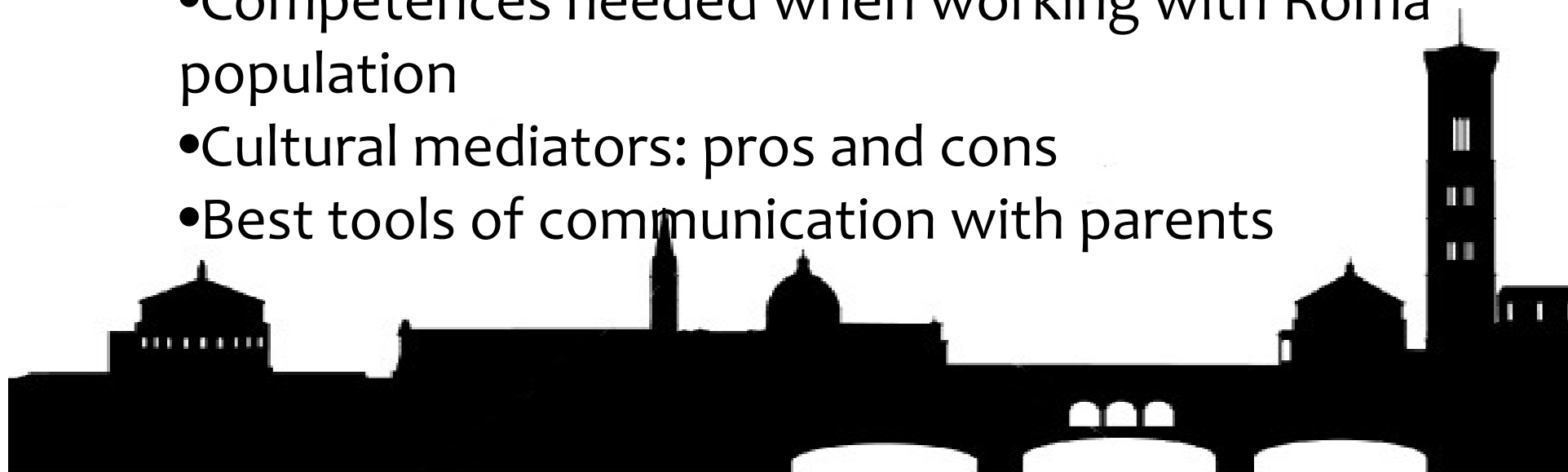
## Profile of participants





## Topics of focus group interviews:

- Professional tools at disposal
- Obstacles and facilitators in the integration of Roma in education
- Competences needed when working with Roma population
- Cultural mediators: pros and cons
- Best tools of communication with parents



## Solutions according to focus group interviews

involvement of  
Roma teaching  
assistants or cultural  
(linguistic) mediators

create informal  
meeting possibilities  
to families

easily accessible  
social assistance  
(meals at school,  
school bus, etc.)

educators need  
cultural and  
linguistic  
competences

## Best practices - Croatia

### Services, activities and programs of Public Library *Fran Galovic*

- Roma corner
- ICT training
- Reading workshops
- Round tables with stakeholders

FUNDED BY CITY OF KOPRIVNICA  
& CROATIAN GOVERNMENT  
"Decade of Roma 2005-2015"

### Roma teaching assistants in the elementary school "Braća Radić"

- Help Roma children to adopt Croatian language
- Parents-school communication
- Mediation in conflicts

FUNDED BY CROATIAN  
GOVERNMENT "Decade of Roma  
2005-2015"

## Best practices - Germany

### “Just in time” project for young people with an immigration background

- Sightseeing excursions
- Cooking courses
- Using public transport
- One-on-one mentoring between young volunteer and pupil (same age)

FUNDED BY FEDERAL ESF

### VHS Neukölln, other small projects based on local needs

- Practical German courses with Roma mediator (for parents)
- Small projects based on local needs

## Best practices - Italy

### “Roma social mediation”

- Planning of an individual integration path for 40 Roma families (60 children), from elementary to high school
- Mediator follows the children at school & home

### Distance learning school program for Roma female pupils

- Strong collaboration between school and parents
- Agree upon a study program to be realized at school and at home
- Helped by Roma mediators

GIULIANOVA MUNICIPALITY & FUNDS  
OF LAW 285/96 – ASSOCIATION  
ROMSINTI @ POLITICA

FUNDED BY MUNICIPALITY OF PESCARA  
(LAW 285/96) & MANAGED BY  
ASSOCIATION ROMSINTI @ POLITICA

## Best practices - Romania

### Bilingual kindergarten in Sărulești

- Bilingual curriculum & didactic materials
- Public kindergarten
- Involvement of Roma teacher and a Roma mother as school assistant

**FUNDED BY UNICEF**

### Mobile Kindergarten for Roma children

- “Summer-kindergarten” to help Roma children to enter into primary school
- Assistance to children both at school & the way back home

**FUNDED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND  
RESEARCH & AMARE RROMENTZA CENER**

## Policy recommendation paper

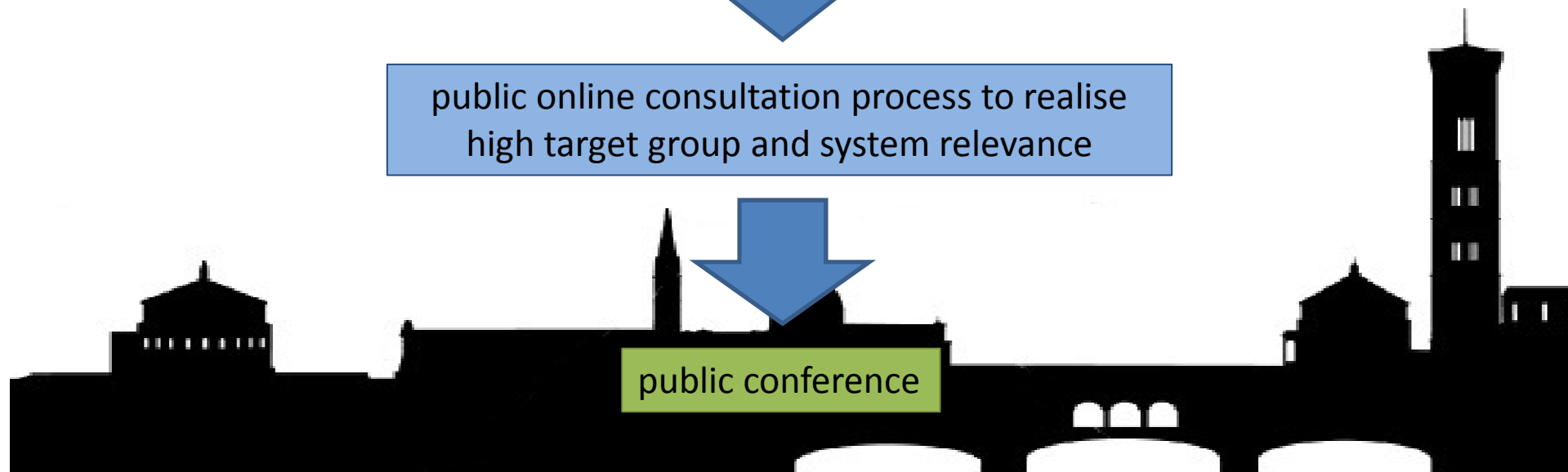
Goal: to elaborate recommendations for policy makers to sustainably influence the policy making and decision making level regarding the integration and support of Roma children in the education system at pre-school level



public online consultation process to realise  
high target group and system relevance



public conference





## Policy recommendation paper

### Background

- EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020: all Roma children should complete at least primary school (national inclusion plans)

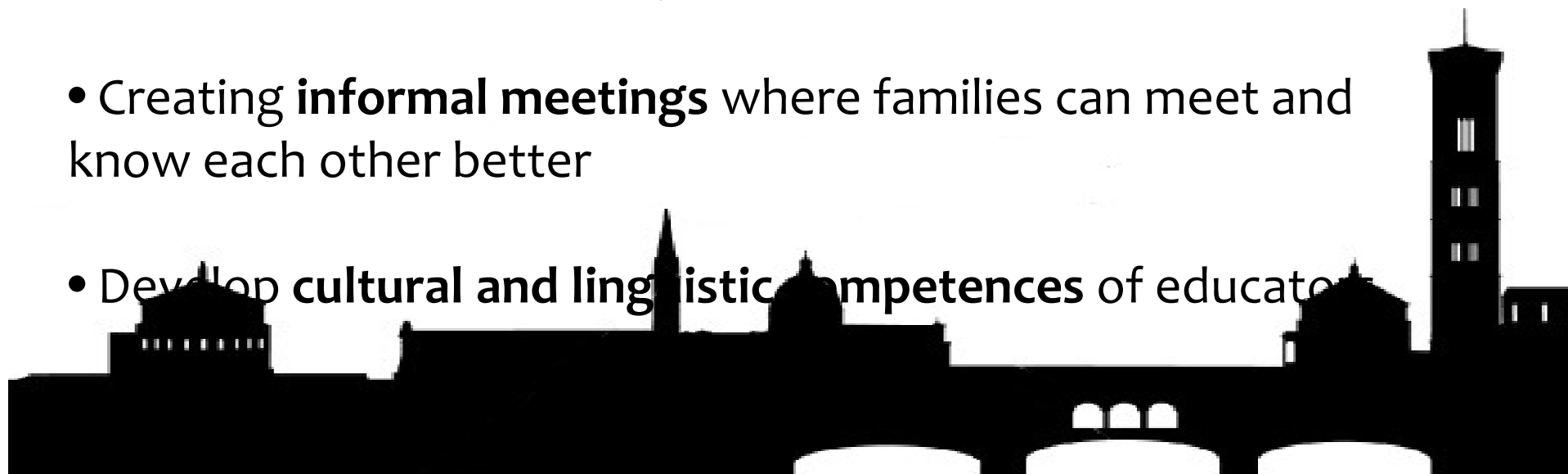
### Goals

- To elaborate concrete recommendations for policy makers
- Transfer of good practices within partner countries



## Main recommendations by educationalists

- **Cultural mediators** in the educational system
- **Social assistance** (meals at the school, school bus for children, after-school opportunities)
- Creating **informal meetings** where families can meet and know each other better
- Develop **cultural and linguistic competences** of educators



## Main policy recommendations based on the best practices

- Encouraging cooperation with cultural mediators and teaching assistants in nursery schools and schools
- Fundings to organize **language courses for Roma people** (families) with the participation of Roma mediators
- Fostering access to **high quality non-segregated** early childhood education
- Investments to **improve intercultural competences** of mediators, nursery nurses, teachers
- Creating an EU **database on EU funded Roma projects** to make results available

## Next step: online consultation phase



- involving stakeholders, political decision makers
- asking them to comment on policies





**Thank you for your attention!**

