

ACTION PLANS OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN HUNGARY'S SERVICE AMONG ROMA

Concept accepted at the 13th Synod Cycle 12th session

as a project maintained in the Synod's next cycle (2015-2021) with a continuous deadline.

ACTION PLAN 1.

Goal: The congregations of the RCH shall proclaim the life-shaping message of the Gospel to marginalized groups, including the large Roma population.

I. Develop and implement auxiliary background materials, events, and educational programs that help congregational Roma Mission activities

1. Organize national Roma mission conferences
2. Offer a diocesan (presbytery) Roma mission day and assist in organizing it with a complete program
3. Organize Roma mission trainings for mission workers
4. Develop and offer a Roma mission model for pastoral training and further training, and for elder and congregational trainings
5. Develop liturgical aspects of the Roma Mission to appear in pastoral trainings and further trainings
6. Develop auxiliary materials related to biblical stories from the perspective of those on the margin (Roma Mission Bible Class outline)
7. Conduct professional conferences and further training for (Reformed) specialists working among Roma and who often come into contact with them (health visitors, educators, police officers, social sector workers, ambulance workers)
8. Provide help for congregations organizing Roma evangelism
9. Prepare evangelistic ministry teams for serving Roma
10. Help congregations launch Roma Bible Charts, with local circumstances taken in to account, where there is need to launch/plant a Roma congregation.

II. Develop a communicational system for RCH Roma Missionary activities

1. Design and maintain a website for Roma Mission
2. Collect and display good examples and best practices in the media

III. The ministry among Roma appears as a priority on the presbytery, church district and Synod level of the RCH

1. Create a district and presbytery/diocesan Roma referent network
2. Ensure professional help and supervision for lay workers of the Roma referent network
3. Identify and address church legal issues arising from consideration of Roma Mission
 - Collection documentation and analyze specific wording of and motivation for questions

- Disseminate proposals for solutions to the legislative committee
- Develop and strengthen loving church practices to help the membership and ministry of the marginalized siblings.

ACTION PLAN 2.

Goal: Through the ministry of the church, Roma people will be able to experience God's restoring power and healing love in all dimensions of their life.

I. Generate Diaconia-Cooperation of MRSZ

1. Help create a conditional system providing learning possibilities for children (providing food, personal hygiene and health development tools, for example: glasses, mobile shower, shoes, clothes, Nyilas Misi Package [schoolbag – food])
2. Support diaconial lay training
3. Involve Roma communities in volunteer programs (Bridge of Life, Volunteer Diaconial Year Program, '72 hour without compromise')
4. Promote and facilitate Community Development

II. Work on the healing of personality and personal relations

1. Involve counselors and mental health professionals for counseling of Roma brothers and sisters, and organize Roma Missionary preparation and further training for them.
2. Provide counseling training for mission workers serving among Roma
3. Develop and supervise mentoring network for mission workers serving among Roma
4. Facilitate self-knowledge and utilize past processor groups for Roma (psychodrama, Bible drama, drama pedagogy, experimental pedagogical methods)

III. Offer trainings and educational projects that give opportunities for Roma children's potential and integration into society

1. After-School Programs (facilitate learning programs)
2. Certain Start House (programs for children 0-3 years and their mothers)
3. Children's homes(playful developmental program for children)
4. Life coaching and preparation (for example sexuality, marriage, family planning, family management etc.)
5. Health Education (meal, hygiene, exercise, environmental awareness)
6. Mentor Program 1
 - Helping Roma children in higher studies
 - Building a mentor network, further training for mentors
7. Mentor Program 2
 - Supporting Roma families from a lifestyle aspect
8. Scholarship Program

9. Open Roma University Collegiums as well as high school and vocational school talented Collegiums
10. Include Roma Mission and increased awareness into the Reformed Catechesis Plan
11. Increase awareness in the Reformed educational institutions for the reception of Roma, and increase the number of students of Roma descent
 - Support further training, awareness-increasing pedagogical models in higher education and teacher training
 - Involve students of Reformed gymnasiums and universities in the mentorship of Roma children, organization of joint programs

IV. Advocate for and support the improvement of healthcare in the areas that suffer from social, economic and infrastructure disadvantages and are mainly populated by Roma people

1. Conduct Screening Programs (RMK, Bethesda)
2. Facilitate prevention trainings and improving health awareness (EDUVITAL, Bethesda burn prevention)
3. Develop relationships with local health staffs and in the socially and spatially segregated communities to improve health awareness (involving reformed congregational members, general practitioners, health visitors)

V. Promote job possibilities in the areas that suffer from social, economic and infrastructure disadvantages and that are mainly populated by Roma people

1. Develop complex talent program
2. Support recirculation to the labor market (personal development, motivation, training, job search training, skills development)
3. Promote training and supporting Roma communities permanently excluded from the labor market to start agricultural operations.
4. Advocate for Reformed institutions to buy products produced by the Roma communities and involving congregational network to get products to markets
5. Experiment in the area of job creation, including sample or pilot projects
6. Develop job creation programs, including marketable employment mobility management programs

ACTION PLAN 3.

Goal: The RCH and its congregations pursue the mutual reconciliation between the Roma population and the majority population.

- I. Support the congregations of the RCH to become welcoming, hosting, multiethnic, God-glorifying communities**

1. Create guidelines for Bible study to sensitize people toward Roma Mission (questions, outline in the Bible, and Jesus's attitude, actions)
2. Offer common programs with Roma, local or national charities, addressing issues of social infrastructure, for example: Bridge of Love, the '72 Hours without Compromise program with Roma communities, and develop other new opportunities
3. Facilitate reconciliation based on Reformed values, including the development of topics and methods of common religious, leisure, and cultural occasions, making resources accessible on the website (for example common holidays, congregational cultural events with Roma congregations, Congregational Roma Mission Days, family camps, daycare camps, family worships, youth worships)

II. Work for reconciliation; shaping the approach of the majority and minority society, decreasing interethnic tensions

1. Provide intercultural, prejudice-reducing trainings
2. Conduct conflict resolution training
3. Provide trainings for Christian reconciliation, inner-healing
4. Organize a network for Reformed mediators to manage Roma-Hungarian tensions
5. Promote Christian Roma life stories – interview series, radio - making video reports
6. Develop sensitizing, thought-shaping campaigns for congregations and other regional and national events (Starpoint, Women's Association, Elder's Association, Reformed Youth Alliance etc.)
7. Develop sensitizing programs for Reformed schools
 - Reports, testimonies about Roma Mission
 - Intercultural training with experimental pedagogical methods
 - Required volunteer work for students: collecting and offering Roma projects
 - Reformed students mentoring Roma youth, helping them get into the higher education and organizing common programs
8. Help organize service with Roma communities in the Hungarian congregations

III. The RCH will support and promote the preservation and creative maintenance of authentic Roma culture with the inclusion of appropriate cultural elements in the RCH's liturgy, alternative church service order and music

1. Prepare Roma Mission hymnal (liturgical and musical development)
2. Collect and present caring worship practices of receiving Roma brothers and sisters in Christ
3. Support research in Roma ethnographical, historical, sociological, and social topics, involving institutions and specialists with Reformed backgrounds
4. Include/implement research results in the Roma Mission models
5. Support National Reformed Roma Festival