



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy Conference Addressing “*Literacy Challenges  
in Europe with a sub-regional focus:*”

Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches.

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 May 2008)

“School Second Chance in Bulgaria”



## United Nations Literacy Decade

### EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy “Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches”, 14-16 May 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

**Programme name: School Second Chance in Bulgaria**

**Implemented by: DVV-International Office Bulgaria**

### Basic facts

Country: Bulgaria

Starting year: 2002

Outreach: Approximately 400 learners

Target Population: Roma adult learners over the age of 18

Language of instruction: Bulgarian

Operating in: 2 locations

Main Funding: DVV International Bulgaria

Contact: Maria Todorova, [todorova@dvv-international.org](mailto:todorova@dvv-international.org)

Web page: [www.dvv-international.org](http://www.dvv-international.org)

### Brief Description

In 2002, a pilot school based on the model of ‘Second Chance Schools’ was opened with the support of DVV-International, Bulgaria, in the second largest Roma neighborhood in Bulgaria, which is Stolipinovo, Plovdiv. Illiterate adults of this population or people who did not complete school were included in a class/group-based form of non-formal education. Whenever possible and necessary, an additional vocational education training (VET) was also provided.

The goal of the programme is to provide an adequate offer of tailor-made forms of training and non-formal education, aiming at employment and social inclusion. The objectives are to provide illiterate adults of this population group with special needs with reading and communication skills; to support the

completion of an educational grade/level; to motivate illiterate adults to make the link between literacy and employability; and to support social inclusion and active citizenship.

The innovative features in Bulgaria which were beneficial for this type of programme are that there is an organized form for adult education; that training for education in the areas of adult education and multi-culturalism is provided; and that there is a curriculum for adult education.

The literacy and VET courses raised the motivation of the learners to seek employment. Moreover, through the completion of upper secondary education, adult learners had increased their chances to obtain stable jobs and to engage in further learning, as well as to participate actively in social and political life.

The Second Chance School became an educational, cultural and social centre of the community.

The challenge now is to upscale the programme from the pilot project level to a national programme and to impact on policy.