



ЦЕНТРОСКОПОЈУМ  
Центар за регионални истражувања и соработка

OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE  
Public Health Program

# КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА

## Јавно здравје во Македонија и Ромите

### Како досега и понатаму?

22 јануари 2009, почеток 10.00 часот, хотел Холидеј Ин, сала Милениум 1

*“Prevention and protection by vaccination of Roma children  
in municipalities Gjorce Petrov and Saraj”*

*“Better safe than sorry”*

*“Vaccines for All”*



## КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА: „Јавното здравје во Македонија и Ромите: Како досега и понатаму?“

According to UNICEF research (from 1996), mortality of Roma children is twice the number compared to other ethnic groups. This health condition amongst the Roma in the Republic of Macedonia is quite alarming. It is obvious that timely and preventive measures need to be undertaken in order to stop the health deterioration of the Roma population in the future. The Republic Institution for Healthcare Protection (public healthcare institution) gathering data from the medical institutions about vaccination and health condition throughout the county does not have data relating to the Roma population.

### Facts:

- Vaccination in Macedonia is mandatory by law
- Vaccination and vaccines are free
- Vaccination and revaccination is done according to Immunization Calendar
- Vaccination is safe
- It is a right of every child to be vaccinated
- It is parents' responsibility to take their children for vaccination
- It is responsibility of medical institutions to enable vaccination for every child
- There is large number of Roma children that are not vaccinated and it is not registered



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## THE NEED TO CONDUCT THE VACCINATION PROJECT

- Research and analysis
- Insight at grass-root level
- Review of legal regulative and acts
- Community work
- Raising awareness in the community about the importance of vaccination process through method ‘learning by doing’
- Establishing cooperation with relevant institutions and building partnerships .

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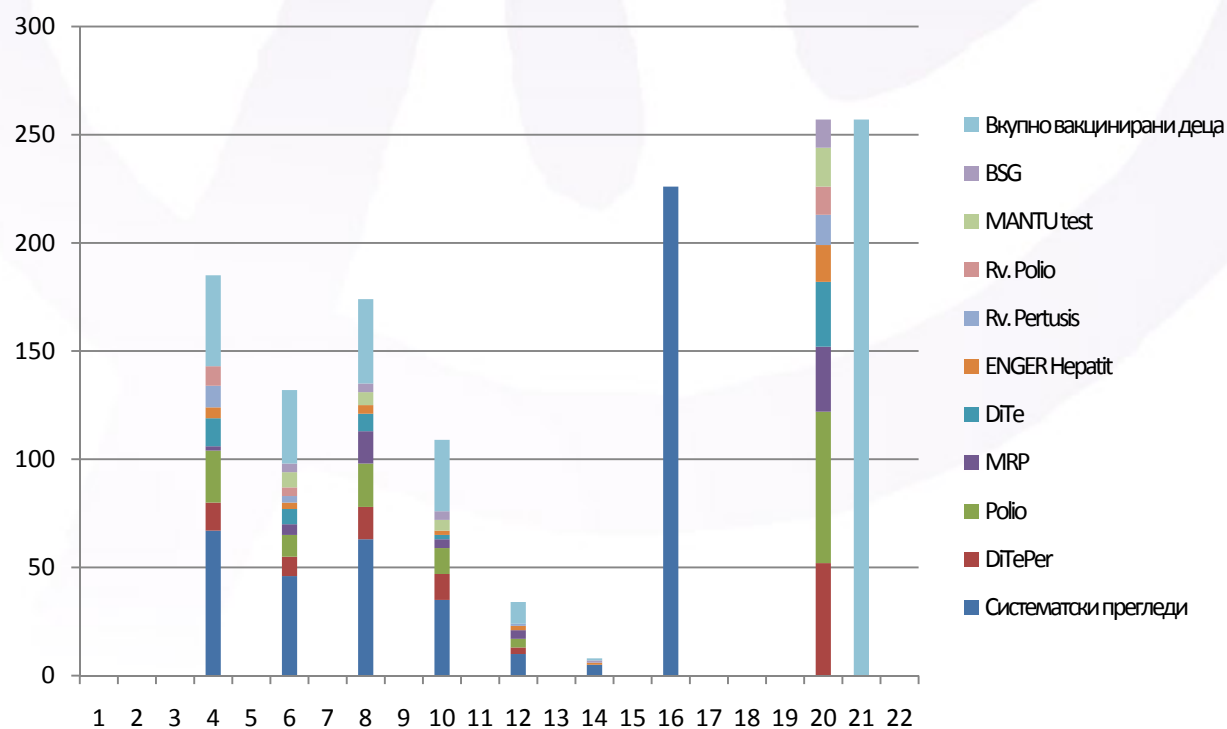
### Stakeholders in the vaccination proces

- NGO ‘LIL’
- Municipality Gjorce Petrov
- Municipality Karposh
- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy with the implementation of the SST Program
- Medical centres in Gjorce Petrov
- Roma children are 0-6 and children up to 14 years of age (children outside of education system, children that dropped out of school, children without birth certificate, without citizenship, children born at home as well as irregularly vaccinated children from municipalities Gjorce Petrov/ Novoselski Par, Zlokucani i Svinjarnik
- Roma families of the aforementioned communities.



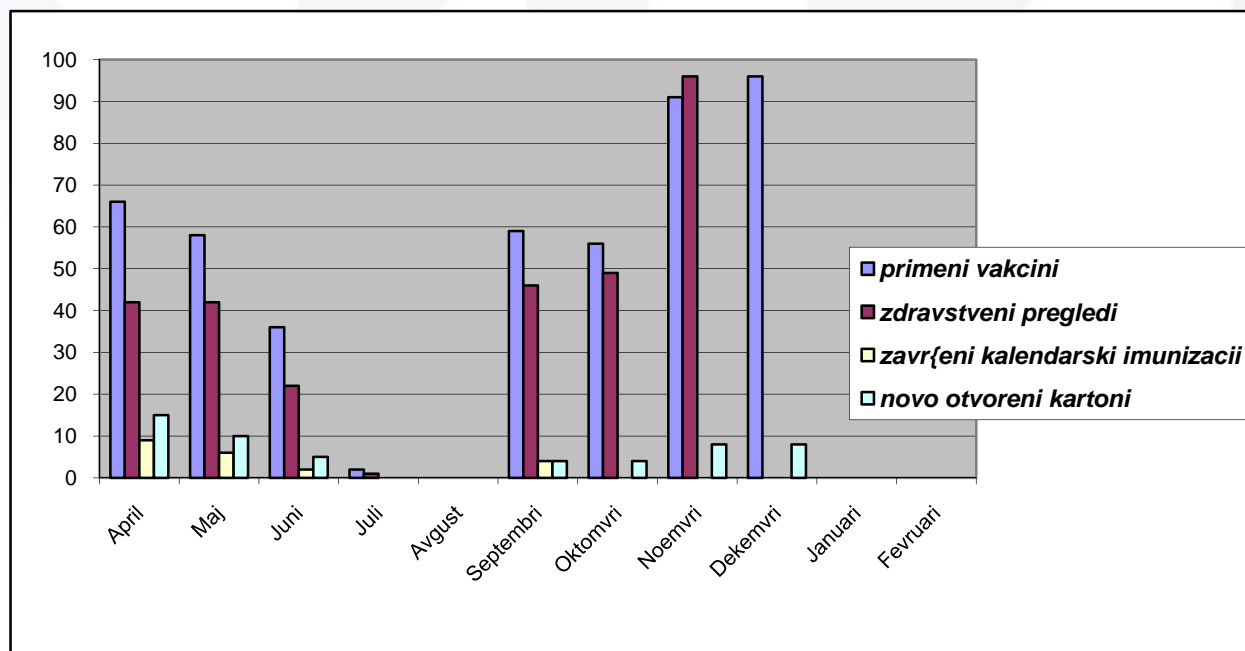
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## Vaccines given in 2005-2006



КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА: „Јавното здравје во Македонија и Ромите: Како досега и понатаму?“

## Vaccines given in 2005-2006



## КОНФЕРЕНЦИЈА: „Јавното здравје во Македонија и Ромите: Како досега и понатаму?“

### Problems with vaccination process and their solutions

- Importance of vaccination / method 'learning by doing'
- Following of calendar immunization / parallel immunization charts with recorded date of next vaccination
- New charts for unregistered children, which are of great importance in the process of registering in the book of births/ registering of child in the book of births.
- Errors in residence address / correction of the residence address at the polyclinic
- Notifications about the importance of carrying the immunization charts when moving from one municipality to another as tracking system for immunization calendar
- Lack of personal documents / through the process of regulating the status of Roma LIL gave aid in order to issue personal documents from healthcare insurance
- Distance between the polyclinic and suburb Zlokucani still remains a problem.



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### **Results:**

- From the research results, 50% of Roma population is under risk of contracting infectious disease due to substandard living conditions;
- There is a need of information exchange between NGO LIL and representatives of local government as well as the Ministries regarding legal regulative;
- The importance of first immunization chart as an evidence that the child has been registered; if the child was born at home, it is easier to register it in the book of births;
- The new SST program from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy planned during 2008 needs to be implemented in 2009, is expected to improve the healthcare culture among the population and to decrease the rashes of the children at school. With the new program every family that regularly takes its child for vaccination, children that regularly go to school and women that visit a gynecologist twice a year shall receive financial aid in order to stimulate to good practices.
- Ministry of health takes actions for immunization day in order to increase level of vaccination, however it is not enough to maintain calendar immunization of a child is temporary solution to vaccination problems.
- As recommended by doctor, the families with social risk to have free Hepatitis vaccines.





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### **Conclusions and Comments:**

- Mothers with primary education to take their children regularly to vaccination
- Increased level of information for local government about the Decade
- Partially increased level of information amongst the families
- Part of the families continue with vaccination by their own initiative
- Improved condition for vaccinated children since situation in 2005-2008.
- Decreased prejudices amongst parents
- No resistance towards Mantu Test
- 90 new immunization charts issued
- Increased number of educated mothers for following the calendar immunization
- Established cooperation with maternity-support services
- 200 newly issued healthcare charts
- Professional data base (data for every family)
- The project should not finish here
- Not the solve the problems on temporary basis
- The project to continue for at least five more years in order to develop awareness and habit for vaccination
- To increase the amount of vaccines and to include gynecology services
- Closer partnership with Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- Parallel field work for vaccination and regulation of legal status of Roma and usage of national healthcare programs, birth at home to be taken to minimum
- In the suburb of Zlokucani, Dame Gruev, Svinjarnik there is need to open Roma Information Center (RIC) for efficient and effective implementation of the new SSTI program by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- Engaging Roma counselor in the municipalities Gjorce Petrov, Karposh and Saraj, for the local municipality to give moral and financial support
- Cooperation of MLSP and MoH in developing local Action plans for Roma Decade

