

# Summer Workshop Camp – Social Skills Development Camp for Roma Youth from Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Slovakia

Świdnica, Poland, 17–22 August 2025

## Project Evaluation

### Introduction

In August 2025, the international Summer Workshop Camp was organized in Krzyżowa, Poland, bringing together Roma youth and their leaders from four countries: the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia. The camp provided a safe space for young Roma to meet across borders, develop personal and social skills, and strengthen their cultural identity with pride.

This evaluation summarizes feedback from participants and group leaders, reflecting on the camp's organization, program content, atmosphere, and impact. The aim is to highlight the strengths of this year's edition, identify challenges, and propose improvements for the future.

### Evaluation of Activities by Camp Participants

#### Method

Participants were asked to share their views using the **flipchart method**. Two flipcharts labeled “*Positive Points*” and “*Points to Improve*” were placed in a visible space, and participants wrote their feedback on sticky notes.

#### Positive Feedback – Key Insights

- 1. Strong focus on social experience (12 comments)**
  - o The majority of positive feedback highlights the importance of **meeting new people** and building **positive relationships**.
  - o This indicates that the camp successfully created a supportive, inclusive, and socially engaging environment – one of the most valued aspects of the experience.
- 2. Program quality and diversity (9 comments)**
  - o Feedback shows appreciation for both the **overall program** (2 comments) and **specific activities** (7 comments), particularly the evening program, the workshop on identity, cooking activities, and creative elements such as song/clip-making.
  - o This suggests that the program design was engaging and balanced between educational and recreational components.
- 3. Other positives (5 comments total)**
  - o Food (2), camp in general (2), and weather (1) received occasional positive mentions.

- o These reflect additional but less central satisfactions.

The camp's **strengths lie in its community-building aspects** (relationships, group dynamics) and its **well-received program design** (variety and meaningful activities).

## Negative Feedback – Key Insights

1. **Rules and routines (7 comments)**
  - o The **strict night regime in rooms (4)** and **early wake-up times (3)** were the most common complaints.
  - o This indicates that participants felt the **daily structure was too rigid**, potentially reducing their sense of autonomy and rest.
2. **Program intensity (2 comments)**
  - o A few participants mentioned the program was **too heavy/intensive**, reinforcing the idea that the schedule could be slightly overwhelming.
3. **Food (3 comments)**
  - o While food received 2 positive mentions, it also received 3 negative ones.
  - o This shows **mixed satisfaction** with meals, an area that may need fine-tuning.
4. **Other points (3 comments)**
  - o Environment (1), limited English skills (1), and room equipment (1) appeared as isolated negative issues.
  - o These seem to be **individual concerns rather than general trends**.
5. **No issues at all (3 comments)**
  - o Three participants explicitly stated that “nothing is bad,” which underlines **overall satisfaction** with the camp.

Most negative feedback focused on **camp rules and routines** (strict night regime, early wake-up, intensive schedule), suggesting that participants would prefer **more flexibility and balance between structure and free time**. Other issues (food, environment, language, equipment) were minor and less widespread.

## Evaluation of Activities by Camp Leaders

### Method

Group leaders completed an online questionnaire after the camp.

### Workshops and Activities Most Enjoyed

The most popular activities were:

- ▣ **Video/film-making workshops (7 mentions)**
- ▣ **Cooking workshops (5 mentions)**
- ▣ **Evening events (music, disco, outdoor games) (3 mentions)**
- ▣ **Outdoor quests in city/forest (3 mentions)**
- ▣ **Identity/self-reflection workshops (2 mentions)**
- ▣ **Storytelling/art activities (2 mentions)**

## Activities That Could Be Improved

- ☐ Most leaders agreed activities worked well.
- ☐ Some noted challenges with Roma identity and Romani language workshops due to language barriers (translation was needed).
- ☐ A few suggested more energy and commitment in music workshops.
- ☐ Minor issues with groups arriving late or the schedule shifting.

## Facilities, Meals, and Logistics

- ☐ Overall feedback on facilities and meals was very positive.
- ☐ Comments included: tasty food, beautiful venue, but shops were far away.
- ☐ One group noted lunch portions were small for some children.
- ☐ Suggestions: more free time between activities, better cleaning of rooms for girls, and larger rooms.

## Difficult or Unexpected Situations

- ☐ Several leaders mentioned language barriers between groups as a challenge.
- ☐ Two small incidents were reported, both were resolved by group leaders on site.

## Improvements for Future Camps

- ☐ More team-building activities, especially outdoors.
- ☐ Simultaneous translation to overcome language barriers.
- ☐ Maintain punctuality and discipline in group schedules.
- ☐ Consider new workshops (e.g., dance, Romani traditions) while repeating popular ones (cooking, video, music).

## General Impressions

- ☐ Leaders and participants agreed that this camp was one of the best editions yet.
- ☐ Organization was praised for clear improvement compared to previous years.
- ☐ The location, atmosphere, and quality of workshops were highly appreciated.

## Conclusions

The Summer Workshop Camp 2025 achieved its main goals of supporting Roma youth in developing social skills, strengthening cultural pride, and fostering international friendships.

### Strengths identified:

- ☐ Creative, hands-on workshops (video, cooking, music).
- ☐ Strong social atmosphere with evening events and intercultural sharing.
- ☐ High quality of organization and facilitation.
- ☐ Opportunities for identity reflection and environmental awareness.

### Challenges to address:

- ☒ Language barriers between groups.
- ☒ Balancing intensive programs with sufficient free time.

## Recommendations

1. Provide **simultaneous translation**
2. Maintain a **balance of structured workshops and free time** for rest and informal bonding.
3. Repeat the most popular workshops (video, cooking, music) while adding **new creative or cultural workshops**.
4. Enhance team-building elements, especially outdoors.
5. Ensure punctuality and discipline across all groups.
6. Adjust **meal portions and room conditions** to better fit participants' needs.