

## LOTTERY INSTRUCTIONS

**The Trust for Social Achievement (TSA) and the World Bank, in collaboration with OSI-Sofia, have selected 236 poor communities (many of which are settlements) across Bulgaria to implement a new program by TSA to boost preschool participation and early learning for vulnerable children aged 3-5 and to carry out a rigorous impact evaluation to measure whether the program is effective.** In addition, the TSA has implemented and will continue to implement the program in 4 additional pilot communities.

In each of the 236 poor communities/settlements the mayor, or a representative of the mayor, was informed about the program and consent to participate was requested. The project will only be implemented in communities where this consent was obtained. Consent was also requested and obtained from the principal of the local kindergarten where the project will be implemented. In addition, a local community member familiar with the community where the project will be implemented was interviewed.

In each of these 236 poor communities/settlements, 25 children aged 3-5 were identified by OSI-Sofia field workers through random selection. A parent or guardian was interviewed and provided informed consent for their child to participate in the project.

**On June 30<sup>th</sup>, a meeting with representatives from local nonprofit partners, municipalities, Regional Educational Inspectorates, and other civic activities will take place. 177 out of the 236 communities will be assigned one of the 3 components. Specifically:**

**First: the TSA program has three Financial Components.**

Financial Component A: kindergarten fees will be covered for the 25 selected children in 59 communities from September 2014- June 2015.

Financial Component B: kindergarten fees will be covered for the 25 selected children in 59 communities from September 2014- June 2015. In addition, the child's parents/guardians will receive a 7 leva/month food voucher if the child achieves 'perfect' attendance (no unexcused absences for the month.)

Financial Component C: kindergarten fees will be covered for the 25 selected children in 59 communities from September 2014- June 2015. In addition, the child's parents/guardians will receive a 20 leva/month food voucher if the child achieves 'perfect' attendance (no unexcused absences for the month.)

Financial Component D: status quo. In 59 communities, no additional financial assistance will be extended.

**Each community has an equal chance to receive Financial Component A, B, C, or D. To ensure fairness and transparency, the community will be assigned to a Financial Component through the use of a draw. Specifically:**

- **Each of the 236 communities have been randomly assigned (but disbursed evenly across the country) to a group (1, 2, 3, 4) prior to the June 30, 2014 meeting.**
  - There will be 59 communities in group 1, 59 communities in group 2, 59 communities in group 3, and 59 communities in group 4. Each of the 4 groups

includes communities that are spread evenly across Bulgaria and are representative of the various sizes of the 236 communities.

At the June 30, 2014 meeting, each of these groups (1, 2, 3, 4) will be assigned to a financial component (A, B, C, D) through a public lottery. Colored balls representing each financial component (A= red; B= blue; C=green, D=yellow) will be placed in a container (bingo wheel). A volunteer will select the balls (with eyes covered) by spinning the wheel. The bingo wheel “spits out” balls randomly. Should the bingo wheel break, the balls will be placed in a container and again drawn by a blind-folded volunteer.

- Prior to selecting the first ball, the moderator will read out loud the names of each community assigned to group 1. The first ball selected will be assigned to group 1 based on its color.
- Prior to selecting the second ball, the moderator will read out loud the names of each community assigned to group 2. The second ball selected will be assigned to group 2 based on its color.
- Prior to selecting the third ball, the moderator will read out loud the names of each community assigned to group 3. The third ball selected will be assigned to group 3 based on its color.
- Prior to selecting the fourth ball, the moderator will read out loud the names of each community assigned to group 4. The fourth ball selected will be assigned to group 4 based on its color.

Should two balls drop from the wheel at the same time, the first ball to drop will be considered the valid ball and the color of the first ball will be used to determine to which Financial Component the group will be assigned. The second ball to drop will be considered invalid and will be reinserted into the wheel and the wheel will be turned once again to determine the next color.

**Second: The program includes an information campaign component. This will be randomly assigned using the same procedure. 118 out of the 236 communities will be assigned the information component. Specifically:**

Information Component A: local partners will organize a series of five, detailed information sessions discussing the benefits of early learning in half of the communities.

Information Component B: status quo; there will be no additional information campaign.

**Each community has an equal chance to receive Information Component A or B. Specifically:**

- **Each of the communities in the 4 groups (1, 2, 3, 4) will have been assigned a letter (X,Y). Thus, there will be 1X and 1Y, 2X and 2Y, 3 X and 3Y, 4X and 4Y.** In total, half of the 236 communities have been assigned the letter X and a half of the total communities have been assigned the letter Y.

On June 30, 2014, the assignment of groups X and Y to information components A and B will be done through a public lottery. Colored balls representing Information Components A or B will be assigned a color (Information Component A= white and Information Component B= black). One white ball and one black ball will be placed in a bingo wheel (or container if the bingo wheel breaks.) A volunteer will spin the bingo wheel (with eyes covered) first for group X. The wheel will spit out a ball (or if the wheel breaks the volunteer will select one

ball with eyes covered from a container). If the selected ball is white (Information Component A), then group X (i.e. 1X, 2X, 3X, 4X) will receive Information Component A. If the selected ball is black (Information Component B), then group X will receive Information Component B. The remaining ball—and thus the remaining information component (status quo)—will be automatically assigned to group Y (i.e. 1Y, 2Y, 3Y, 4Y.)

The lottery will be video recorded and DVDs will be distributed to each of the 23 NGOs partners to share, should anyone question the results.

The Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) at the World Bank is supporting the rigorous impact evaluation of the program. Specifically, in 2015, each of the 25 families in the 236 communities will be visited again for a follow-up interview and the evaluation team will similarly collect information on the preschools in the communities. By comparing the preschool and learning outcomes of children across the different program communities and the communities where there will be no program component, the impact evaluation team will be able to determine which program component is most cost effective to boost preschool participation and learning. This information is important to inform Bulgaria's policies that aim to boost early childhood development.