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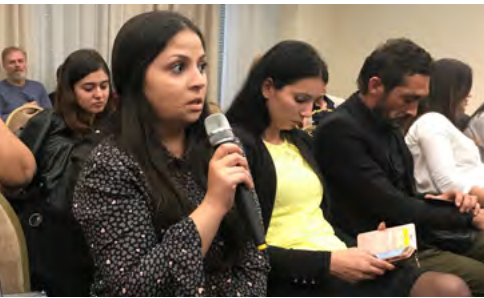
SERBIA



Project

“Increased Education Opportunities for Roma Students and Youth in Western Balkans and Turkey”

October 2018- September 2019



Implementing partners:

Vojvodinian Roma Center for Democracy (VRCD)

was established by young Roma in 2008 in Novi Sad, Serbia, with the aim to contribute to the emergence of a new generation of highly educated Roma willing and able to take on leadership roles for transformative change for their communities. Since 2012, the organization is leading the Romaversitas initiative in Serbia.

Through this project we aim:

- to address Roma transition from secondary to tertiary education through merit-based scholarship support and mentoring and tutoring program
- professional courses and life-coaching to increase the employability of the beneficiaries
- direct beneficiaries are up to 30 university students and graduates

INCREASING ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

OF ROMA STUDENTS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION AND TRANSITION TO LABOUR MARKET

18 female

12 male



students were awarded scholarships in 2018/19 academic year

INTERNSHIPS

3 female

3 male



tertiary education students were provided placements (i.e. at the Office for Roma Inclusion, the National Council of the Roma national minority, Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Governance, etc.)

www.romaeducationfund.org

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EMPLOYMENT BUSINESS SYNERGY MAP

- National partnerships were established with the Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veterans and Social Welfare, Ministry of Local Self-Government and Public Administration, Coordination Body, Ombudsperson, Roma National Council, Roma Inclusion Office, Roma MP Cabinet, Employment Agency, Ministry of Finance, Social inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit
- International partnerships were established with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, European Commission, Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), UNICEF, the World Bank, Open Society Foundations, International Office for Migration (IOM)
- Partnerships were established with corporate companies: (IKEA, Telenor, British Tobacco, McDonalds) as well as with entrepreneurial enterprises and small businesses.
- Partnerships with local civil society organizations established with: Standing Conference on Towns and Municipalities, Civil Rights Defenders, Centre for Education of Roma and Ethnic Communities, Association of Roma Coordinators

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- State agencies in close partnership with Roma and non-Roma organizations should address specific needs of Roma girls and women to ensure adequate and equal access to education, employment, housing, health care and public life.

EDUCATION

- State should ensure that Roma university graduates from the pedagogical or teachers' faculty are included in the educational institutions as teachers as long-term solution.
- State should ensure and empower Romani language classes in primary schools with qualified teaching staff and learning content

EMPLOYMENT

- State should establish Roma employment committee which consists of government stakeholders, private corporate representatives and Roma and youth advocacy representatives. The task force must be high level, reporting to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- State and corporate employment agencies should place particular efforts to strengthen dialogue with Roma and youth enabling free and participatory actions toward integrated employment opportunities.

POLICY CHANGES

- Government in close collaboration with the National Council of Roma National Minority should ensure equal participation of Roma in public and private corporate institutions as per their academic background and skills acquired during their studies.

Read full text here:

<https://www.romaeducationfund.org/western-balkans-and-turkey-roma-education-projects-policy-event-of-ref-in-belgrade-serbia/>



STORIES

30 Roma university students from all regions of Serbia signed scholarship agreements with the implementing partner of REF, Vojvodina Roma Democracy Center, under the EU-funded project "Increasing Education Opportunities for Students and Roma Youth in Western Balkans and Turkey".

