

Project “EU Regional Action: Increased Education Opportunities for Roma Students in Western Balkans and Turkey”

**Call for the selection of implementing partner organization
in Turkey**

in the field of

expanding access to quality early childhood development and primary education

Call open until August 16, 2020



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1. Background

In 2018, Roma Education Fund (REF) started implementing the project *EU Regional Action: Increased Education Opportunities for Roma Students in Western Balkans and Turkey*, funded by European Union (EU DG Near). The project aims to reduce the gap between Roma and non-Roma in the participation and completion of quality education, to improve Roma students' transition between education and employment, and promote durable systemic change and de-segregation within education systems in the Western Balkans and Turkey.

The project objectives will be achieved through:

- supporting Roma children in pre-school education and enrolling them into integrated primary schools;
- awarding scholarships to Roma students in secondary and tertiary education;
- supporting transition between education and employment;
- building capacities of relevant authorities and their understanding of the specific challenges faced by the Roma community;
- supporting regional networking and exchanging experiences with the aim to contribute to the mainstreaming of Roma in national policies and, where relevant, changes in policies and legislation.

2. Objective of the call

The objective of the call is to select the partner organization for the implementation of the early childhood education and primary school activities of project in Turkey.

The objective of the financial support is to: improve Roma children's access to preschool education, facilitate access and enrollment of Roma children into mainstream primary schools, support the academic progress of children enrolled, and, in addition, support to Roma children in education in respect to needed mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 and its potential reoccurring. Moreover, the activities will contribute to strengthening the link between parents and educational institutions.

Particular attention will be paid to ensure that partners are aware of a gender-sensitive approach and to apply it in the project implementation.

There will be one grant awarded in the country of operations.

2.1 Geographical coverage

Eligible geographical areas for the project are: Turkey – Mersin, Edirne, Tekirdağ, İzmir, Ankara and Istanbul.

Note: The applicant needs to take into consideration during the selection of specific locations that the proposed project activities cannot take place at those locations where there is currently an on-going REF supported project.

2.2 Target group:

The target groups of the project are as follows:

- Roma children of pre-primary age (0-6) and Roma parents:
 - Total number of children: at least 80
 - Total number of parents: at least 60
- Roma children of the 1st and 2nd grades of primary school:
 - Total number of children: at least 80

2.3 Available funds

The available country-based budget which cannot be exceeded for the project period is:

- Turkey – 42,537 EUR

Note: Depending on the available funds REF reserves the right to increase the amount of funds before conclusion of the contracting and in agreement with the selected Implementing Partner Organization.

3. Eligible activities

Since the early childhood activities are closely connected to transition to primary education, REF encourages proposals which cover both the 3.1 and 3.2 priorities, as described below.

3.1 Activity set 1 – Expanding access of Roma children to quality early childhood education

Objectives: The objective of the financial support is to improve Roma children's access to preschool education and, subsequently, increase their early childhood development skills and school readiness. The target groups are Roma children 0-3 and 3-6. This set of activities will further be focused on increasing parenting skills in early childhood development and care, health and nutrition. Moreover, the activities will contribute to strengthening the link between parents and preschool institutions.

Eligible activities: Activities to be fully or partially covered by the submitted proposals:

- Visibility materials
 - Preparation of visibility materials (publications, ads, posters, awareness raising materials) for outreach and household visits in local language and/or Romani language, following EU guidelines.

- Outreach and enrollment
 - Home visits in selected target localities – aiming to identify the number of children in the households aged 0-3 and 3-6, which can be enrolled to kindergarten, financial situation of the families, status of vaccination and health checks, identity documents, information about requirements for enrolment, assessment of children’s educational development needs, and pre-natal assistance to mothers;
 - Assistance to parents in enrolment of children in kindergartens and preschools;
 - Regular outreach and communication with parents and institutions – counseling to improve parenting practices, parental preschool involvement, attendance monitoring, emphasize the need for regular medical check-ups and immunizations, arrange vaccination campaigns for the children;
 - support to Roma children in education in respect to needed mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 and its potential reoccurring.

- Developing and updating databases/records
 - Database of beneficiaries;
 - Database of kindergartens (early childhood development service providers);
 - Database of parents in the events and activities.

- Small-scale infrastructure investments where needed to expand access to quality ECD services – refurbishing rooms in line with identified needs.

- Establishment and operating of Toy Libraries and purchase of toys and didactic materials - Toy Libraries are community-based programs for children and their parents and aim to support early childhood education through playing with good quality toys.
 - Establishing the Toy Libraries;
 - Selection and training of toy librarians
 - Encouraging the renting of toys, organization ‘play and stay’ sessions for the families as well as for communities;
 - Reaching out of remoted area by the so called ‘mobile’ toy library, and
 - Hosting parental events and session.

- Support to children enrolled in kindergartens and development follow-up
 - Providing regular/daily support for children attending kindergartens;
 - Providing support for fees and meals for kindergarten children;
 - Providing need-based material support and transport of children to kindergartens and preschool facilities;
 - Monitoring attendance rates;
 - Conducting International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) – an early childhood development (ECD) assessment tool which enables determining the level of individual development and progress of a child.

- Home-School-Community Liaison
 - Involving Roma parents in pre-school activities;

- Organizing Community Motivation Events for awareness raising on good parenting practices
 - Build trust between communities and early childhood institutions
 - Facilitating professional work with mothers on early childhood development, nutrition, health, etc.
 - Improvement of parenting skills and practices of parents, in particular mothers, through informal literacy training and lessons in storytelling to be utilized with their children.
- Enrolment of children to non-segregated primary schools
 - Direct facilitation of enrolment of Roma children in their final year of early childhood education into mainstream non-segregated primary education by ensuring that all required documentation is prepared and that administrative criteria for enrolling into integrated primary schools are met.

3.2 Activity set 2 – Expanding access to quality primary school education

Objectives: The objective of this activity is to facilitate access and enrolment of Roma children into mainstream primary schools and on support of the academic progress of children enrolled. Moreover, the activities will contribute to strengthening the link between parents and schools.

Eligible activities: The supported entities will conduct activities which will encompass the following:

- Outreach and enrolment
 - home visits in target localities having been identified/selected through the community needs assessment described under Activity 1.4 to raise awareness of Roma parents on the importance of education;
 - regular outreach and communication with parents and institutions – mediation between families and primary education institutions;
 - providing enrolment assistance to parents with children who completed this project’s ECD program (Activity 2)
 - support to Roma parents in making well-informed decisions about school choice, with the aim to prevent them from enrolling their children in segregated, low-quality schools or special schools. The activity will require intense communication with and among schools and parents;
 - support to Roma children in education in respect to needed mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 and its potential reoccurring.
- Support to children enrolled in primary school and development follow-up
 - Providing academic and mentoring support to the children enrolled to first and second grade
 - Providing regular/daily support for children attending primary schools
 - Monitoring attendance rates and academic achievements – monitoring of school attendance during project activities, identification of early school leavers, and reintegration of early school leavers. A diagnostic and formative assessment of students and development of student individual learning plans will be envisaged with all information being shared with the pupil’s class teachers
 - Providing material support such as, education materials, transportation: etc.
 - Providing additional services to those affected by COVID-19 and have a backup plan if COVID-19 reoccurs

- Developing and updating databases – Databases will contain information on schools and beneficiaries of the project and will be regularly updated in order to effectively manage the beneficiary selection process and track students’ academic progress, attendance rates, data about the students’ personal and learning needs
 - Database of beneficiaries that will attend primary schools
 - Database of non-segregated primary schools
- Home-School-Community Liaison
 - Organizing Parents/school meetings
 - Capacitating parents to participate in school councils
- Working with volunteers to make the school environment more inclusive for all children – this sub-activity will be optional for the supported entities and will be implemented in line with their abilities to introduce volunteers into activity implementation
- Establishing network of primary schools and sharing of lessons learned – the aim of this activity is to ensure a platform for schools to support each other, share experiences but also to advocate for inclusive education:

3.3 Cross cutting priorities, which will be targeted by the entire project

Partner organizations should, to the greatest extent possible, include in their project proposals how they plan to:

- Contribute to policy development in their project area and regional knowledge exchange and communication;
- Advocate for changes in policy development through their project-related activities, or how they plan to contribute to existing advocacy efforts in their area;
- Contribute to building an inclusive education system and its desegregation;
- Build common regional policy efforts among the seven countries.

Gender mainstreaming should be an integral component of all projects and its inclusion in the project proposal is mandatory.

3.4 Time frame for the grant implementation

The projects should be implemented in the period of September 2020 – June 2021.

The project is in its third, and last year of implementation. The grants will be signed with the selected partner organizations on a one-year basis.

3.5 Costs

The costs for the implementation of the action should be planned in realistic and economical manner.

Note: In the 3. Annex, Budget template, please fill in only the first sheet named Budget details.

4. Assessment and selection of applications

4.1 Eligibility criteria

In order to apply for the grants, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- Legally registered non-governmental organization in the given country;
- Operational capacity: systems and processes for ensuring sound management of funds. At a minimum, an organization needs to have basic accounting and reporting systems;
- Proven relevant experience and indicating ability to fulfill the objectives of the action; and
- Core values in line with REF's values – tenacity, integrity, justice, accountability and inquisitiveness - and REF's commitment to integration and gender mainstreaming.

4.2 Selection criteria

- Track record of project implementation: priority will be given for organizations which have proven their management capabilities, commitment and effectiveness, according to satisfactory monitoring reports, as well as successful outcomes with REF as partner organizations. Additionally, organizations which have proven the closure of similar relevant projects will also be considered.
- Geographical operation of the organization: the project activities will be implemented in areas of the project countries which extend REF's geographical coverage and add new beneficiaries. Organizations with proven affiliation and work in the given territorial area will be a basic condition of funding.
- Experience with Roma community and target groups: REF will prioritize organizations that are rooted in their community and operate with community input, involvement, and investment.
- Roma involvement in planning and management project: REF prioritizes organizations in which Roma participation is encouraged and valued.

5. Eligible costs

The budget for the action has to be planned in realistic and cost-effective manner. The eligible costs will be those which are:

- necessary for the implementation of the project and properly estimated;
- incurred during the implementation of the project;
- in line with the supported entities' accounting practices;
- not used to make a profit;
- not already covered by other sources of funding;

- identifiable and verifiable;
- recorded in the accounting records of the sub-grantee and determined according to the accounting standards and the usual cost accounting practices applicable to the sub-grantee;
- compliant with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation, and
- reasonable, justified and in compliance with the requirements of sound financial management, regarding economy and efficiency.

6. Monitoring and evaluation

REF will conduct project monitoring and evaluation following the selection of the partner organizations to ensure that implementation is in line with the proposed project implementation and monitoring plan. Each partner organization will have to collect baseline data and maintain databases of project beneficiaries. This information will be provided to REF on a regular basis.

During the project implementation, REF will conduct technical assistance visits to offer support to partner organizations and address issues that may occur during the implementation. As part of the project, REF will carry out mid-term and final evaluation and partner organizations are expected to take part in this process.

7. Application submission

7.1 Submission deadline and format

The deadline for the submission of applications is August 16, 2020 by midnight, CET time.

Applications must be submitted electronically to the following address:

rareproposals@romaeducationfund.org.

The subject line of the e-mail should contain the following: *RARE - Call for Proposals 2020 – ECD and primary education – Turkey*

The application package must include all required annexes. Application form, Budget and Project Implementation Plan must be submitted in the original format (Word or Excel). In addition, the application package must include a true scan (in PDF) of the original version as evidenced by the presence of scanned signatures. Failure to submit a required annex or submission of the application documents in different formats that prescribed will result in rejection in the administrative check phase.

Annexes:

1. [Glossary of Terms](#)
2. [Application form \(link\)](#)
3. [Budget template \(link\)](#)
4. [Project Implementation and Monitoring Plan template \(link\)](#)
5. [Organizational eligibility assessment template \(link\)](#)

6. [Annex 4. Signed partnership statement \(if applicable\) \(link\)](#)
7. [List of Active Grants GRANT DPT](#)
8. [List of Active Grants DGN](#)

In addition to the above documents the applicant should attach the following documents:

- Annex 1. Proof of registration
- Annex 2. Organizational statutes (of the main applicant and the partnering organization)
- Annex 3. Annual financial reports for the last two years (2019, 2018) and audit report, if available

7.2 Information and FAQs

REF encourages applicants to consult the Roma Education Fund website on a regular basis so that they are timely and adequately informed on project activities, calls and updates. If information needed cannot be found on the website, please send an email with your question to:

rareproposals@romaeducationfund.org

no later than August 8, 2020. REF will provide answers to all questions no later than August 12, 2020 for this Call for Proposals.

Names of selected grantees shall be published on REF's website.

8. Tentative timetable for evaluating applications

16 August 2020	Deadline to submit full proposal including project proposal, budget and organizational capacity template and additional annexes listed below. In the proposal please select the program design activities and specify the size of target group and geographical coverage of your intervention.
1 September 2020	Selection of partner organizations
14 September 2020	Notification of selected partners
28 September 2020	Contracting of the partner organizations