

**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

**increasing performance and employability of Roma secondary school  
students**

**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 EU DG NEAR. The project aims to reduce the gap between Roma and non-Roma in the participation and completion of quality education through gender-sensitive programming, to improve Roma students' transition between education and employment and to promote durable systemic change and desegregation of 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 levels 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 a partner organization for the implementation of activities related to increasing the academic performance and employability of Roma secondary school students. It is designed in a way to provide a bridge between secondary and tertiary education, as well as between secondary education and the labor market, but should as well be included support to Roma students in education in respect to needed mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 and its potential reoccurring.

Particular attention will be paid to gender-sensitive approach and its mainstreaming in the project implementation.

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

### 2.1 Geographical coverage

Eligible geographical areas where the project should be realized are: Turkey – Edirne, Tekirdağ, and Izmir.

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 main target group for the activities are Roma students in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year of secondary education. Note: The beneficiaries of this project cannot be persons who are beneficiaries of other REF's interventions in the countries of operations.

Total number of beneficiaries to be included in Turkey is 80 students, however size of target groups (below) might be changed slightly due to local context and project needs. based on justified needs.

- Number of scholarship recipients 80/year
- Number of students participating in mentoring and tutoring 80/year
- Number of students in the employment related activities 80/year

## 2.3 Available funds

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

- Turkey – 49,233 EUR.

## 3. Eligible activities

The activities aim to support up to 80 secondary school students in Turkey over the academic year 2020/2021 through merit-based scholarship support, academic support, and professional development. The beneficiaries will be followed through one school year period and supported in transitioning to tertiary education or accessing the labor market. As this call consists of two main objectives (graduation from secondary school and employability), which are closely linked to each other, we encourage proposals from applicants which plan to cover both objectives (3.1 and 3.2) in their proposals.

### 3.1 Activity set 1 – Implementation of the activities related to secondary school education – scholarships and mentoring program

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

- Secondary school scholarship scheme
  - Call for applications for students interested in scholarship scheme and selection of students for the merit-based scholarships, according to eligibility criteria<sup>1</sup>;
  - Transfer of scholarships, which will be conditioned to regular attendance at school and transitioning to higher grades.

<sup>1</sup> Basic eligibility for REF secondary school scholarship program: Roma origin; Enrolled in a full time secondary school (special education secondary schools are not considered); Grade point average (GPA) level minimum satisfactory; Disadvantaged socio-economic status; Selection of students weighted: 50% GPA, school presence /absence and behaviour of the applicant at school. (based on school results, reference from teacher); 30% Social-economic status of the applicant. (based on declaration); 20% Motivation of the applicant (motivation letter).

- Support to secondary school scholarship students and school performance follow-up

- Mentoring and Tutoring  
Selection and training of mentors and tutors<sup>2</sup>:  
Provision of academic after-school tutoring and mentoring
  - Group mentoring, usually twice a week; one-on-one mentoring depending on needs and based on group meetings;
  - Academic tutoring, group or one-on-one, depending on needs and determined during school year
  - Mentors, tutors and students submit quarterly reports assessing their meetings
- Following the academic standing and graduation levels
- Building soft skills / Life Skills Trainings (Time management, financial literacy, foreign language, IT literacy, etc.)
- Monitoring student progress

- Home-School-Community Liason

Community and school-based awareness raising activities aim to motivate Roma parents to keep their children in school and to encourage them to continue to secondary and tertiary education levels. The activities will be implemented on regular bases through organizing meetings with parents in schools and through home visits when needed.

- Assisting transition to tertiary education

The secondary school students, beneficiaries of the project, who will be attending the final years of secondary school will be supported and encouraged to continue education and transition to tertiary education. They will be provided with relevant information on the existing tertiary education opportunities, scholarship opportunities and supported in their tertiary education enrolment activities in order to improve the academic performance and graduation levels and prevents drop-out of Roma tertiary education students.

The mentorship and tutorship support will comprise:

- Carrying out an assessment of the mentorship and tutorship needs;
- Developing and submitting an action plan for supporting Roma students in education in respect to needed mitigation of the negative consequences of COVID-19 and its potential reoccurring;
- Developing an individual portfolio for each student that will include academic data, development plan, list of the duties and responsibilities of the tutors and tutees, and other relevant data;
- Identifying tutors/mentors to provide individual/group tutoring/mentoring. The tutors/mentors will be drawn from tertiary graduates, senior tertiary students with outstanding academic achievements, and junior university professors;
- Developing and submitting plan of activities and time frames: the tutees together with the tutors will schedule and submit a plan of topics and activities to the project staff;

<sup>2</sup> Graduated teachers in main school subjects (language, math, foreign languages); Working experience in secondary school; Having experience with disadvantaged students and afterschool classes; Good communication skills with students and disadvantaged parents; Understanding the educational barriers of Roma are facing;

- Monitoring the implementation of the individual academic tutoring activity.

### 3.2 Activity set 2 – Support to secondary school students’ access to the labor market

**Objective:**

The objective of the financial support is to increase the employability of Roma students after graduation of secondary school education through professional facilitation and training.

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

- Professional facilitation of students
  - Minimum two info sessions per country per year to inform students about available internship, full-time positions and established partnerships;
  - Minimum four trainings per country for building soft skills including time management and employment search preparation;
  - visits to the partnering employers so that the beneficiaries have a chance to see and experience the environment of their future workplaces;
  - Partnering employers will be invited to present on their companies to the students and establish interaction between the future colleagues. Each partnering employer will be invited once per year in each country to take part in info sessions;
  - Facilitating at least 6 to 12 months placements in internships;
  - Facilitating community work in case of a pandemic lockdown.

### 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 unit cost for scholarship is a unified amount across each country, while the unit cost of other activities is only indicative for planning and can be adjusted to the local needs.

- Unit cost for Scholarship: 300 Euro /student/ academic year
- Unit cost for mentoring/tutoring: 200 Euro/student/academic year
- Unit cost for employability related activity: 300 Euro/student/ year

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 15, 2020 by midnight, CET time.

Applications must be submitted electronically to the following address:

[rareproposals@romaeducationfund.org](mailto:rareproposals@romaeducationfund.org).

The subject line of the e-mail should contain the following: *RARE - Call for Proposals 2020 – secondary 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](mailto: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

