

Call for the selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of Increasing *access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market*

Call open until June 30, 2018

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1. Background

In 2018, Roma Education Fund (REF) started implementing the project ***Increased education opportunities for Roma students and Roma youth 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 the partner organizations for the implementation of activities related to **increasing access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market**, as part of the *Increased education opportunities for Roma students and Roma youth in Western Balkans and Turkey* project. These activities will serve as a bridge for young Roma tertiary students and graduates towards employment and active citizenship, by providing tailored training in professional development, computer courses, foreign language competences.

The activities aim to support up to 100 Roma university students over the course of three academic years through merit-based scholarship support, academic support, and professional development.

The main purpose is: to create/consolidate a qualified pool of Roma with higher education degrees, to help inclusion by serving as role models and social capital for their communities, as well as maintain and improve performance and graduation levels of Roma tertiary education students and facilitate their transition to the labor market.

This call consists two main objectives (graduation at tertiary level and employability), which are closely linked to each other, therefore we encourage applicants, who plan to cover both objectives (3.1 and 3.2) in their proposals.

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

3. Description of activities receiving financial support

3.1 Increasing graduation rate of Roma at university level through implementation of Scholarship scheme

Objective: The objective of the financial support is to increase access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market.

Eligible activities:

- Scholarship support for up to 100 Roma students in tertiary education –The scholarships will be provided to students pursuing full-time Bachelor level degrees at state-accredited universities. The scholarships will be disbursed in two installments upon university enrolment, and upon receiving intermediary reporting on the students’ achievements in the first semester of the academic year.
- Mentorship, tutorship support to Roma tertiary students 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 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;
 - Monitoring the implementation of the individual academic tutoring activity.

3.2 Facilitating transition to labor market

Objective: The objective of the financial support is to facilitate the transition of tertiary Roma students to the labor market, by providing career guidance and trainings, and developing opportunities for internships placement. In complement to this, REF will support scholarship beneficiaries and graduates to access labor market by identifying and facilitating labor market entry with potential employers.

Eligible activities:

- Internship placement
- Professional development support – equip tertiary scholarship beneficiaries with skills which should facilitate the transition to the labor market. The activity will be delivered in cooperation with accredited schools and professional development companies that provide languages, communication and IT literacy courses.

- Tailored trainings on career guidance –During four thematic workshops per year in each country, students will acquire and improve their skills for writing CVs and motivational letter and preparing for interviews. The professional development and career guidance trainings will consist of:
 - identifying the needs for professional development of the tertiary scholarship beneficiaries;
 - identifying and recruiting trainers among schools and companies;
 - creating and implementing (by the trainers) of practical and interactive training programs;
 - developing and keeping students' (trainees') portfolios;
 - administering and monitoring the implementation of the professional development mentoring

3.3 Budget

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: 1000 Euro /student/ academic year;
- Unit cost for mentoring/tutoring: 200 Euro/student/academic year;
- Unit cost for employability related activity: 300 Euro/student/ year;
- Unit cost for internship placement: 800 Euro/student/ year;

The available annual country-based budget, which cannot be exceeded, is listed in the below table:

<i>Available budget (Euro/ year)</i>						
Countries	Scholarship provision (Euro/year)	Mentoring (Euro/year)	Internship placement (Euro/year)	Professional development (Euro/year)	Implementation cost (Euro/year)	Total budget/ year/country
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30,000	3,000	4,800	9,000	3,000	49,800
Serbia	30,000	3,000	4,800	9,000	3,000	49,800
Albania	15,000	1,400	2,400	4,500	3,000	26,400
Kosovo	7,000	800	800	2,100	3,000	13,600
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,000	200	0	600	3,000	5,800
Turkey	16,000	1,600	3,200	4,800	3,000	28,600
Total/ year	100,000	10,000	16,000	30,000	18,000	174,000

3.4 Target group

Roma students accepted to full time BA studies from the 2018/19 academic year and to be followed during the three years until graduation.

Distribution of final beneficiaries according to countries are indicated in the below table. REF plans to increase the scale of interventions and number of new activities in countries where it has cultivated strong partnerships and solid implementation capacities, thus the size of target groups might be changed slightly due to this reason.

<i>Target group: Increasing access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market</i>				
Countries	Scholarship provision (Euro/year)	Mentoring (Euro/year)	Internship placement (Euro/year)	Professional development (Euro/year)
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	30	15	6	30
Serbia	30	15	6	30
Albania	15	7	3	15
Kosovo	7	4	1	7
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	1	0	2
Turkey	16	8	4	16
Total/ year	100	50	20	100

3.5 Time frame for the implementation of projects by partner organizations

September 2018 – June 2021

Project proposals must to be submitted for this period, however the grants will be signed with the supported entities on a 1-year basis and renewed for every school year during the project period. The renewal of contracts will be subject to successful implementation which will be monitored by REF.

3.6 Geographical coverage

Eligible countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

4. Application procedures

Applications should be submitted and received by **June 30** at project.rare@romaeducationfund.org. Please include in the subject line the name of the specific call and country, e.g. *Tertiary education and transition to labor market, Country name*

Annexes:

1. [Application form](#) (link)
2. [Budget template](#) (link)
3. [Questions for organizational eligibility assessment](#) (link)

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

- Annual financial reports for the last three years and audit report, if available;
- Organizational statutes;
- Proof of registration.

For additional **general project information** and **selection criteria**, please visit [Call for the selection of implementing partner organizations](#) (link).



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