



ROMA
EDUCATION FUND
Invest | Educate | Engage

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Dear donors, partners and friends of our Foundation,

We want to thank you for the support and trust that you've been showing us for so many wonderful years. It's because of your selfless involvement that we are able to deliver, year after year, the best educational programs to our beneficiaries. Your generous commitment made it possible for the communication, research and advocacy campaigns we designed and implemented to make a change for the better in the situation of Eastern and Central European Roma communities.

2021 was a year of many challenges, but together we proved that we are a resilient force, able to withstand global difficulties, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. With our Emergency Fund, we continued to support almost 8.000 Roma children and young people and over 2.300 Roma families spread over 11 different countries.

While we were implementing our activities and actions financed through the Emergency Fund, our team also pushed forward with other on-going projects, some of them with a long back record, others being fresh new start-up programs and projects.

The pandemic has proven to all of us what dire consequences can arise from the lack of investments in our communities and from the business-as-usual lack of interest kind of attitude for the welfare of one of the largest ethnic groups in Europe. All these challenges that were brought upon us by the pandemic shed a completely different light on all of REF's good practice models and activities of the past 16 years.

Taking into account these elements, in 2021 we started to draw up a new strategy for our foundation, a long-term endeavour that is scheduled for completion in 2022.

Respectfully,

Roma Education Fund



REF EMERGENCY FUND 2020-2021

7,874 Roma Students from Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Education

2,377 Roma Families

11 Countries

Albania 97,871 €

Bosnia and Herzegovina 73,369 €

Bulgaria 15,000 €

Croatia 6,999 €

Hungary 23,000 €

Kosovo 74,850 €

North Macedonia 68,116 €

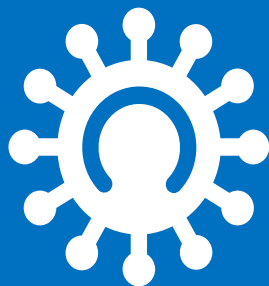
Montenegro 30,890 €

Romania 20,000 €

Serbia 154,730 €

Slovakia 23,802 €

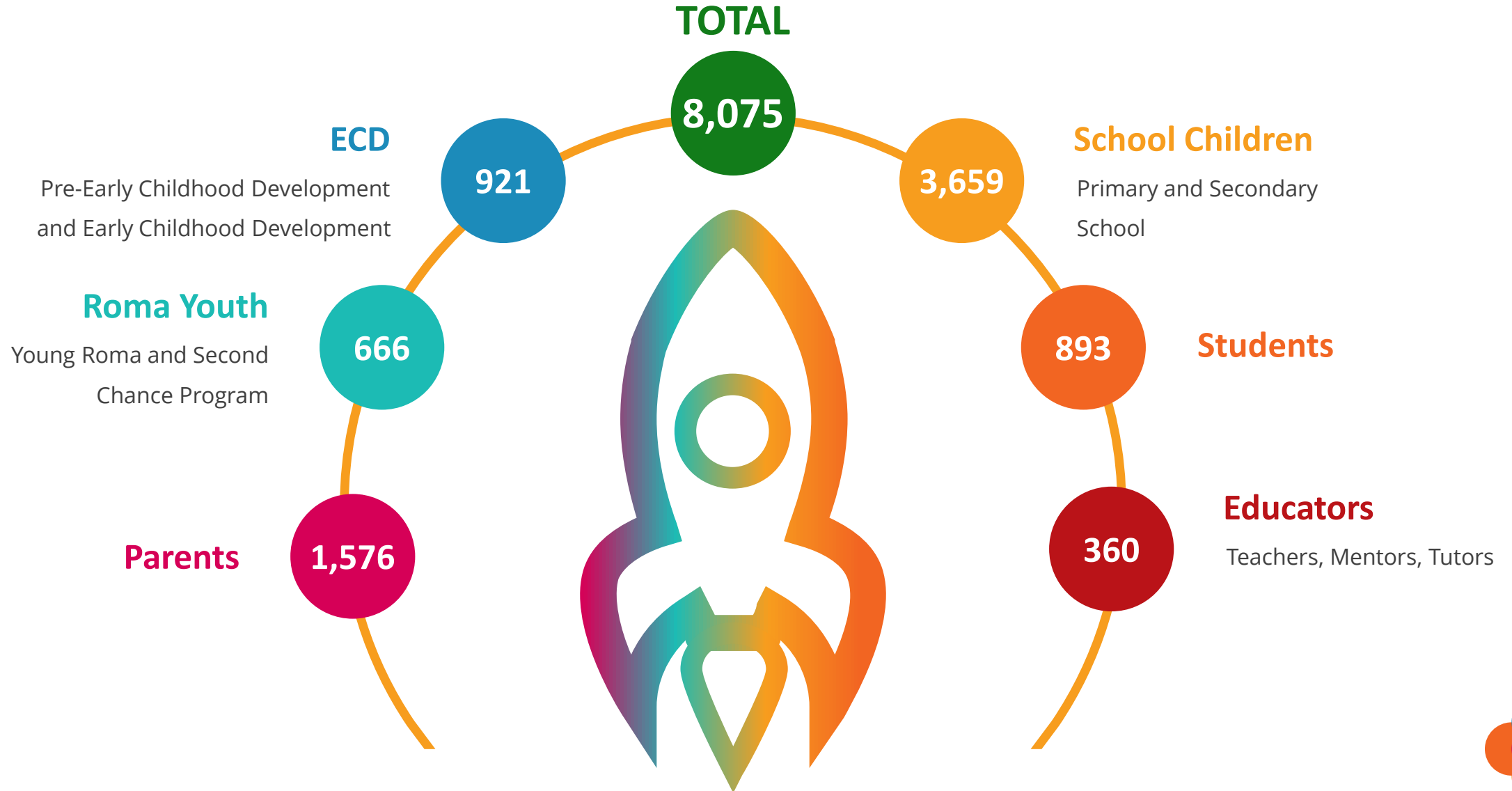
TOTAL - 588,627 €



COVID-19 Pandemic Interventions



REF BENEFICIARIES IN 2021



REF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

one of the most successful educational programs of our foundation. In the context of our strategic repositioning plans and commitment to change, for the 2021-2022 academic year, we opened the application submissions only for renewal applicants – students who received RMUSP/RISP/LHP/RHSP scholarships in the previous academic year (2020-2021) and were applying to renew their scholarship at the same academic level.



RMUSP

Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program

is REF's largest tertiary scholarship scheme designed to facilitate access to tertiary education and to enable larger numbers of Roma to enter the labour market as mainstream professionals



RHSP

Roma Health Scholarship Program

has been running since 2008 in Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia and North Macedonia. The program will continue throughout 2022. The aim of RHSP is to provide support for medical studies through scholarships, mentorship, and advocacy training, for Roma students.



RISP

Roma International Scholarship Program

students receive financial support to study outside their home countries in Master's or Doctoral programs.



LHP

Law and Humanities Program

has been co-financed by REF and by the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) since 2007 and will continue through 2022. REF implements the scholarship program in cooperation with national partners in Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
RMUSP	738	400
RISP	15	10
RHSP	23	15
LHP	65	27
TOTAL:	841	452

SCHOLARSHIPS RECIPIENTS

271 Female beneficiaries in 2021-2022



181 Male beneficiaries in 2021-2022



98.22%

GRADUATION RATE FOR 2020-2021



Nyizsnyik Benjámín

Computer Science Engineer MSc, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Specialization of Applied Informatics and IT Security

The RMUSP Scholarship Program was an important support for my studies. From the beginning of the university, it gave me the chance to cover the necessary outgoings. The scholarship really allowed me to get over difficulties more easily. In my opinion this program is outstanding because it is offering us, the students, flexibility.

I have always wanted to be a computer scientist or a software engineer despite the fact that I did not hear or know anything about this profession. The first time I used a computer I was in the primary school. I immediately realized that I would rather work in this domain, than in some areas involving manual labour. Unfortunately, I started learning programming only after I started high school and also at the university. Here I got the opportunity to achieve my dream and acquire the knowledge required by my profession.

The 'Don't forget where you came from' virtue is fundamental in my life - that is why I consider critically to share my experience and expertise with the younger generation.

“Education, Employment, Partnerships and Gender Equality: A Winning Formula for Roma in VET”

implemented in partnership with Roma Versitas Kosovo (RVK) and Roma Versitas Albania (RVA) and funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation.



Serbia



Our colleagues from the REF Serbia took over in 2021 the management of the Scholarship Program. They also successfully managed the Emergency Fund activities and continued the implementation of two major on-going projects, that started in the previous years.



“Employment, Empowerment of Young Roma – phase II”

supported by the German Financial Cooperation Program implemented by the German Development Bank KfW on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Germany – Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

SPOTLIGHT | “Education, Employment, Partnerships and Gender Equality: A Winning Formula for Roma in VET” (#WinforVET)

“Gender Mainstreaming for Gender Equality” Manual

The paper focuses on all steps which are part of the gender mainstreaming process, including gender analysis and gender planning, and is intended to guide the inclusion and implementation of gender into #WinForVET. It can be widely applied to all REF projects, current and future ones. It can be read on our website www.romaeducationfund.org.

Gender Analysis of Roma Women and Girls in VET

The publication of two Gender Analysis of Roma Women and Girls in VET (for Kosovo* and for Albania), a comprehensive effort that provides recommendations for the public sector, civil society organizations and business sector regarding the work with Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania and Kosovo on how to address gender in the work with these communities to ensure achievement of sustainable and long-term results. See romaeducationfund.org.

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

SPOTLIGHT | "Employment, Empowerment of Young Roma – phase II "

Transition of Scholarships to the Serbian Government

The transition of REF's scholarship program for the Roma secondary school students to the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development. The Ministry provided 1150 scholarships for 2021/22 school year from the state budget. REF Serbia continued with mentorship support for 307 Roma secondary school students.

Improving Reintegration of the Roma Returnees in Serbia

As part of the component 3 - Improving Reintegration of the Roma Returnees in Serbia - REF together with local partner's developed an Integration model and offered support the local municipalities to elevate educational competencies of readmitted Roma children resulting in their school graduation, and computer literacy. Almost 201 returnee families were supported, and 920 children (age 5 to 15) received tutoring, afterschool classes, tablets and SIM cards, textbooks and so on.

With the support of REF but especially with the commitment of the partner companies involved in the project, we managed to employ 241 beneficiaries.

The co-director of REF, Redjepali Chupi, is also the national director of the Serbian and North Macedonian branches of the foundation. Our office in North Macedonia organized in 2021 - in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Government of the Republic of Northern Macedonia - the closing conference of the **“Inclusion of Roma children in public preschools”** project.

The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of the Government of the Republic of Northern Macedonia has undertaken the obligation to continue and to finance REF's project through the state budget.



North Macedonia

- **4000 Roma Children Supported**
- **1,214,363 Euros Invested**
- **16 Mediators Hired**
- **20 Roma Nurses**

REF is available with all its resources and capacities to support all these processes and to maximize its contribution, hoping the activities will intensify in the coming period, not only on this project but also on other new initiatives that will bring about successful public policies for the development of the Roma community, and thus of the whole Macedonian multicultural society - Redjepali Chupi.



SLOVAKIA



Our colleagues from REF Slovakia opened in December 2020 an innovative Centre for Online Tutoring - the Amos Academy. The centre is part of the project *Chance to have a future*, funded by the Operational Programme Human Resources (European Social Fund).

The *Chance to Have a Future* project is a voluntary program that can be attended by primary and secondary school students in the Slovak Republic. This program builds on the long-term practice and experience of the REF in the field of innovative activities aimed at increasing inclusiveness and equal access to quality education for all students.

The poster for Amos Academy features a purple header with the website www.amosacademy.sk and the Amos Academy logo. The main title is 'DOUČOVANIE BEZPLATNE AMOS ACADEMY'. Below this, a list of bullet points describes the service: free online tutoring from home, qualified teachers and lecturers, a non-formal approach based on respect, preparation for exams and maturities, for secondary school students and students, and subjects including Slovak, Czech, English, and specialized subjects like Math, Physics, and Chemistry. At the bottom, it says 'with ❤️ for students' and includes logos for the Ministry of Education, the European Union, and the Operational Programme Human Resources.

AMOS ACADEMY

17 Tutors (qualified pedagogical staff)

117 Students (male – 47 ; female - 70)

1,577 Hours of tutoring lessons

4 Supervisory meetings for tutors

Among the tutors of Amos Academy there are also several #REFAlumni.



Ol'ga Parmar

At Amos Academy I teach chemistry. My students are from different parts of Slovakia, of different ages, each of them has a different relationship to chemistry and different knowledge. What unites them is the effort to understand this science.

Seeing their progress, hearing words like "I finally understood", "chemistry is not as difficult or boring as I thought" is the biggest reward for me. These encouraging words from my students confirm that I am again part of a very rewarding, meaningful project that is changing the lives of many Roma students for the better - Ol'ga Parmar, a scholarship beneficiary of REF's secondary school scholarship program and of RMUSP, too.

František Petik

My tutors in Slovak language and mathematics were wonderful and helpful. Thanks to them, I improved the average of my marks by two degrees. In the future, I am planning to take tutoring classes in chemistry, physics and English. After successfully passing the Matura exams, I would like to continue my studies on Masaryk University in the Czech Republic and study the Department of Optics and Optometry.



”

I would like to express my gratitude to the Amos Academy tutors for their professional approach, work and help for the benefit of all pupils and students. They deserve my admiration and appreciation for their commitment to tutoring. I also thank the REF Slovakia Foundation for a great idea implemented in practice!

Ingrid Durkova, a parent of one
of the students of Amos
Academy

We are extremely proud of our beneficiaries for their involvement, we are also grateful to our partners (11 organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey) who helped us during this journey, and we do believe we will be able to continue the project and follow on the footsteps of the children, offering them the most of support in order to accomplish the best of their potential

Ioan Tănase, project manager



Hungary



For REF Hungary team, 2021 was the last year of implementation for the “EU Regional Action for Roma Education: Increased Education Opportunities for Roma Students and Roma Youth in Western Balkans and Turkey” project, co-funded by Directorate-general Near European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations. In December, they organized the final conference presenting the results of the project.

5,746 Beneficiaries | 9 Toy Libraries | 1,035 Scholarships | 85 Internships | 40 Employment Contracts

The project started in April 2018 in it was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey.

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Marta Garcia Fidalgo

Adviser on Roma Integration from the Directorate-General for Neighborhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR), the project's donor, of the European Commission. She was one of the guests of the final conference.

Since we started the project, important changes have taken place and the most challenging has been the COVID crisis. We all know that COVID has had immense socio-economic effect, affecting mostly the vulnerable population. And we realized that this project has to move from already challenging situation to an enormous crisis' situation. Not only that vulnerable Roma do not have access to computers, but sometimes they do not have access to electricity, most often to internet connection. Other component, such as parental support, became also difficult to implement. And that gave us a clear lesson learned: the new future will require the education to go beyond this traditional approach, with new needs and new tools to be addressed in this new environment.



Testimonial

My wife and I earn a very modest living by collecting plastic waste which we exchanged for cash at recycling centers, and this is how we manage earn just enough money to survive from hand to mouth. All by ourselves, we would never be able to provide digital devices or an internet connection to our children.

I am very grateful to the organization and to everyone that showed up to help. Thanks to their assistance, my son is now prepared to start a new school year with a fighting chance at success.



THE VELUX FOUNDATIONS

VILLUM FONDEN  VELUX FONDEN

Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic

Our Hungarian, Slovakian and Romanian teams continued the implementation of two projects funded by the VELUX Foundation

1. Shaping Academic and Employment Skills for Young Roma – SHAPYR

Aims to increase the number of Roma gaining qualifications and graduating from vocational secondary education.

158 beneficiaries in VET schools and young adults

2. Pedagogy Scholarship Program (VELUX 1)

Aims to increase the number of female early childhood and kindergarten teachers of Roma origin in order to contribute to the employment of Roma in kindergartens and nurseries.

34 beneficiaries, all female, in 19 schools



SHAPYR (Romania)

the team started a series of workshops and events as part of the new component of the project: the Job Centre. In Bucharest, the teens discovered new and interesting fields of work, such as sommelier, and they meet with special Roma guests, models to follow, who inspired them with their personal stories. All the students have also participated in soft skills workshops.



SHAPYR (Hungary)

during the summer, together with Independent Theatre our colleagues organized a Communication Workshop. It took place in the village of Hodász, a special place because here is located the first Roma Museum in Hungary. The participants had the chance to see how Roma people were living before the World War II and in the 1960s. Also, in Hodász was established the first Roma kindergarten back in 1971.



VELUX 1 (Romania)

This project helped me a lot. First of all, it gave me something I didn't have before it, confidence in myself. In the summer camp organized by REF, I realized what I wanted to become after I'll finish my four high school years: a Teacher. But not any type of teacher, but one who will support each and every kid become the best version of himself. Thanks, REF and VELUX! – Alexandra Gabriela Toma, a four year beneficiary of the Pedagogy Scholarship Program.



Romania 

REF Romania team successfully finalized four major projects:

1. Competence, Innovation & Professionalism in Education
 2. Together for a Better Life
 3. Formal and Non-formal Education for Sustainable Development in the Center Region
- All funded by the Operational Programme Human Capital
4. European Cooperation for Roma Inclusion – ECRI, funded by Erasmus + Youth and Sport Programme

14 Schools | 1,324 Pupils | 565 Teachers | 40,755 Sandwiches | 522 Scholarships, Grants, Awards | 231, 012 Learning Hours



ECRI Project

Partners: Le LABA – France | Grünbau Association - Germany | University of Plovdiv - Bulgaria | Parada Foundation and REF - Romania

REF's team developed a Mentorship Program and also a Methodology. From REF's perspective, the goal of this project was, on one hand, to clarify the concept of mentoring with its preliminary steps, methodology and structure, and, on the other hand, to explain how important it is to know the culture and history of the community one works with, in this case the Roma, in order to truly support its members. In the first trimester of 2022, the Methodology will be published on www.romaeducationfund.org



Good Practice Guide

In “Formal and Non-formal Education for Sustainable Development in the Centre Region” project, the team launched the "Good Practice Guide" on inclusive education and interculturality manual.

The guide is the result of three years of intercultural activities, which took place thanks to the involvement and desire of the teachers to transform the partner schools into truly inclusive institutions.

The paper describes a series of events, activities and initiatives through which students were inspired and motivated to look at the Other as an essential part of a beautiful and lasting whole.



The team also started four new projects

01

Minus Segregation, Diversity Plus

Peer education for Roma and non-Roma communities
funded by the EEA and Norwegian Grants

02

CONNECTED to Education

Integrated Approach for Children
Whose Parents Work Abroad
funded by the Operational
Programme Human Capital

03

Build Your Own Future!

funded by the Operational
Programme Human Capital

04

Learning Today in order to Get a Job Tomorrow

funded by the Operational
Programme Human Capital

270 Early Childhood Development (ECD), primary and secondary pupils | **824** Second Chance Adults | **286** Teachers and Educators | **78** Mentors and Tutors | **210** Students

RESEARCH PAPERS

Misrecognizing Minorities in Europe | The Experience of the COVID 19 Pandemic by Minorities in Europe, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation

Partners : Bielefeld University (Germany), Amsterdam University (The Netherlands), Paris-Nanterre University (France), Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary), St. Andrews University (Scotland), Novi Sad University (Serbia), REF Romania.

Roma have been affected by the pandemic more than the rest of the population, mainly to the extent that phenomena that have exacerbated the negative effects of the pandemic are more prevalent among them. The pandemic did not affect all Roma equally, they are not a compact community in Romania. There are at least two categories of Roma who have felt the pandemic differently:

- The “integrated” Roma on the formal labor market, those living in communities / neighborhoods where they have Romanians or other ethnic neighbors, have a level of education and a profession that ensures a decent living,
- The “traditional” Roma, those who live in isolated, compact communities (where Roma are the majority), even marginalized. For them, the traditions and the specific way of life, organized around specific traditional occupations, interfered with the effects of the pandemic, creating increased difficulties.

REF Published Two Country Assessments on Vocational Education and Training among Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Kosovo* and Albania

The documents analyses currently available data in both countries in order to provide recommendations regarding which Roma-specific, gender disaggregated, VET-related issues need to be addressed by both public and private sectors, including policymakers. The analyses include small-samples empirical surveys (based on focus groups and interviews). The core project objective these country assessments pertain to, is to contribute to social inclusion and poverty reduction of Roma in Albania and Kosovo through support for vocational education and training and facilitation towards the labor market.

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ADVOCACY



- Romanian President Awarded the Medal of Merit in Education in the Rank of Knight to REF Nominated Roma Teachers
 - Serbian President Inaugurated the New Headquarters of the Roma Education Fund in Belgrade
- Official Meeting with the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development
 - Vice-President of the German Bundestag Meets Roma Representatives of the Civic Society in Belgrade
 - REF Romania, member of the Roma Sounding Board, an initiative of the World Bank

President of Romania Klaus Werner Iohannis



The Romanian President, Mr. Klaus Iohannis, awarded the Medal of Merit in Education in the rank of Knight to five Roma teachers, on December 1st, the country's national holiday. The teachers had been nominated on a list drafted and submitted to the Ministry of Education by the REF Romania.

In selecting the nominees, REF followed a set of criteria, such as the degree of involvement of the candidates in solving problems that they had encountered while working in educational institutions that served vulnerable communities, and the impact of the candidates' overall activity in the development of the Romani language, as well as in promoting the Roma History and Culture.

President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić

The new headquarters of the REF and the branch of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) were inaugurated with an opening ceremony attended by the President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić, the Deputy Chair of the Open Society Foundations Alexander Soros, as well as the Ambassador of Germany to Serbia Mr. Thomas Schieb and the Ambassador and Head of Delegation of the European Union to Serbia Mr. Sem Fabrizi. The two organizations – REF and ERIAC – share the same building in the capital of Serbia.

I am very happy that today we can fight for the inclusion of Roma (...) Roma today represent the youngest population, we have a huge number of Roma future artists, scientists, and workers. Without them, roads will not be built, and art institutions will not be able to work as well - President Vučić in his opening speech.



ROMANIA NEEDS ROMA FOR ITS RECOVERY:

IS THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT
READY TO MAKE THE SMART CHOICE?



Public Policy Paper

The public policy document aimed to support Romania's central authorities and the European Commission in developing policies for recovery and resilience of Roma communities.

It provides an objective analysis of the problems faced by Roma communities in Romania as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.

It was sent to the Romanian Ministry of European Investments and Projects.



Romani Language Day

On the occasion of International Romani Language Day, the first session of the Subcommittee on Roma Issues, the Committee on Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality of the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia was organized in Belgrade. In his opening speech, the co-director of REF - Redjepali Chupi - spoke about the importance of nurturing and preserving the Roma language, as an element of Roma culture and identity.

First Years First Priority Advocacy Campaign Funded by European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation and Open Society Foundations

Following the publication of the European Commission's proposal for a European Child Guarantee and of the EU's Strategy on the Rights of the Child, Eurochild, ISSA, REF and EPHA have produced and published a brief analysis of what these important initiatives could mean for early childhood development.

Partners: EUROCHILD, International Step by Step Association (ISSA), European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Roma Education Fund



#FirstYearsFirstPriority

Tackling Disadvantage in Early Childhood: Key Findings and Challenges

10 November 2021;
13:00-15:00 CET; online

Register now on
firstyearsfirstpriority.eu

*first years
first priority*

Round Table with Claudia Roth, Vice-President of the German Bundestag

European Roma Institute for Art and Culture in Belgrade, Serbia, hosted a round table attended by Claudia Roth, Vice-President of the German Bundestag, H.E. Thomas Schieb, Ambassador to Serbia, Roma leaders, and representatives of organizations focusing on Roma culture, education and inclusion in Serbia and in the Western Balkans region.

During the meeting, Redjepali Chupi emphasized the importance of empowering Roma people, especially by offering them support in the education and the employment process, as REF is already doing for 16 years.



REF Romania, member of the Roma Sounding Board, an initiative of the World Bank. In 2021, we renewed our commitment to the principles and strategy of this board.

Roma Sounding Board and Roma Education Fund have a common goal. It is vital that we work together in order to cause actual changes in questions regarding equal rights, as well as social and economical inclusion of Roma ethnics. We are going through a very rough period, one that proved to us how important and how necessary are the changes that must be operated in the Roma vulnerable communities of Romania. The wake of the COVID-19 pandemic is making an even deeper impact here. For instance, the educational gap between Roma and non-Roma children has deepened as a result of the lack of infrastructure that most of us take for granted in the 21st century, electrical power and internet connections. Online education is impossible in the absence thereof"

Claudia Lixandru, Co-Director REF



COMMUNICATION

For the 50th anniversary of the First International Roma Congress, REF organized a series of events or communication campaigns.

REF's Students Summit

During the online conference, attended by 200 students, we discussed the historical importance and significance of April 8th. We also talked about the Roma movements and the Roma activists in their countries of origin.

Most important, though, they contemplated the perspectives of Roma movements for the following 50 years, in countries like Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo*, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, or, to put it shortly, in all of the countries where REF operates.

We are aware that the Roma community needs strong and motivated young people to break Roma's stereotypes over the years. That is why we will continue to fight and seek the right place to practice our professions and acquire new skills to make generations proud before us and those after us. I hope that we will gather together again after 50 years as a more united, free and active generation and celebrate our history and achievements – Elvira Sashova, Journalism and Psychology at the American University, 1st BA, Bulgaria.

8th of April



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8th of April

Jubilee Volume

Launching the essay compilation signed by the students from the Department of Romani Language and Literature from University of Bucharest, Romania.



Exclusive Interview with Grattan Puxon

Grattan Puxon is one of the organizers of the First International Roma Congress. In this interview with Ciprian Necula - REF's President of the Board, Grattan speaks about the 1971 event, about the symbols that define the Roma nation - the flag, the anthem, the ethnical denomination, the self-determination as a basic principle of a nation that cannot raise an exclusive claim over a land and about the ways in which all of these came into being. Can be watched on our YouTube page.



From Slavery to Movement and Policies

Online conference

February 20th marked the 165th anniversary of the liberation from slavery of the Roma ethnics in Romania

Among the speakers:

Mrs. Anca Dragu, President of the Romanian Senate

Dr. Sergiu Nistor, Presidential Counsellor - Department for Culture, Religious Affairs, and Ethnic Minorities

His Excellency Mr. Andrew Noble, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Romania

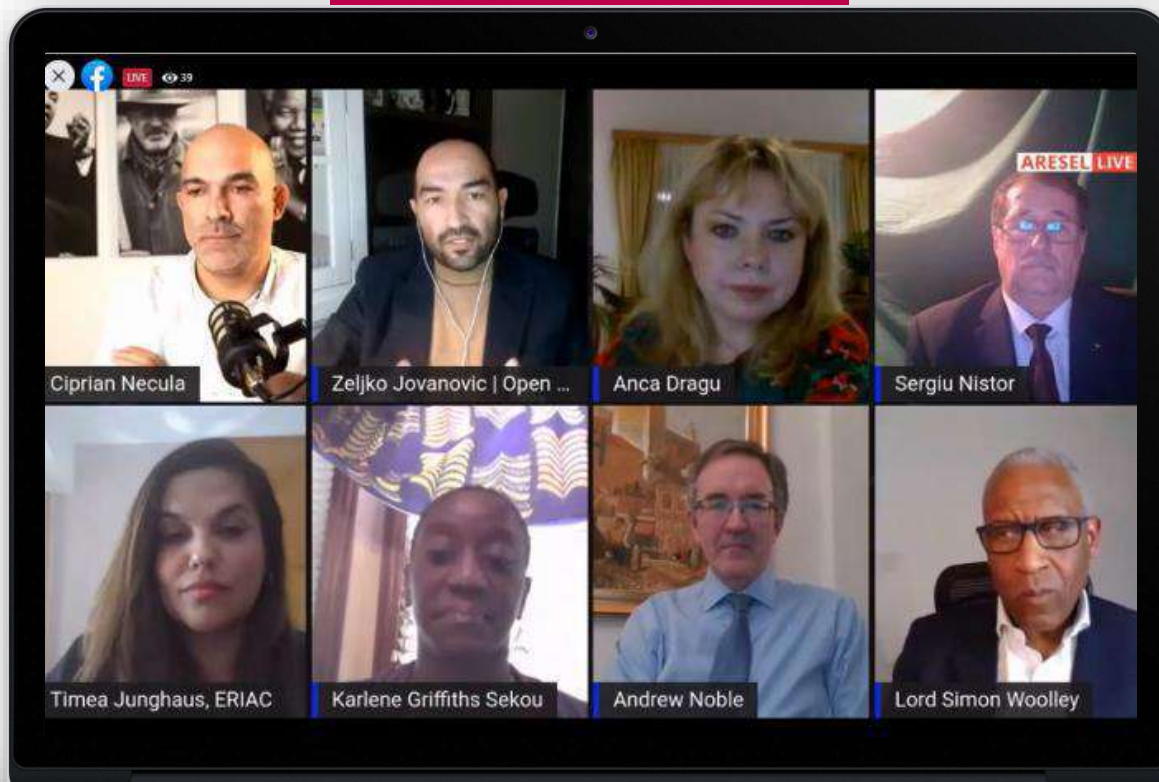
Lord Simon Woolley of Woodford, President of British Initiative Operation Black Vote

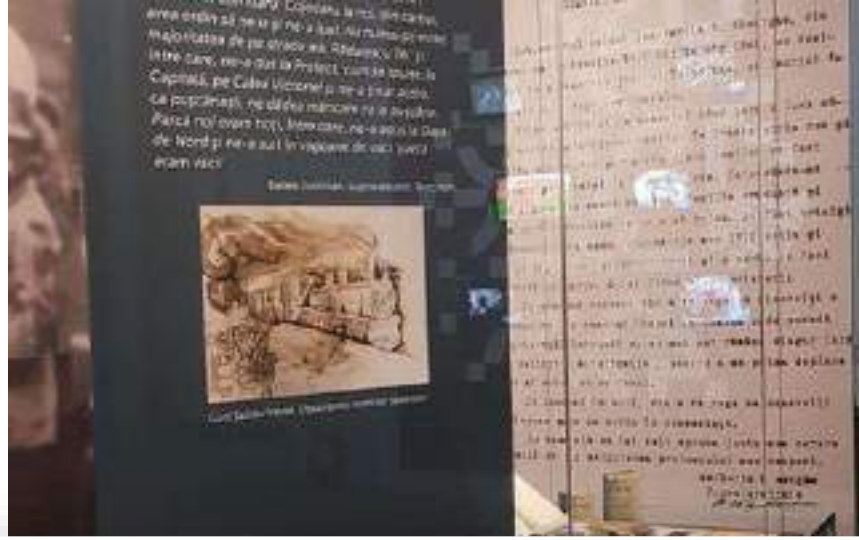
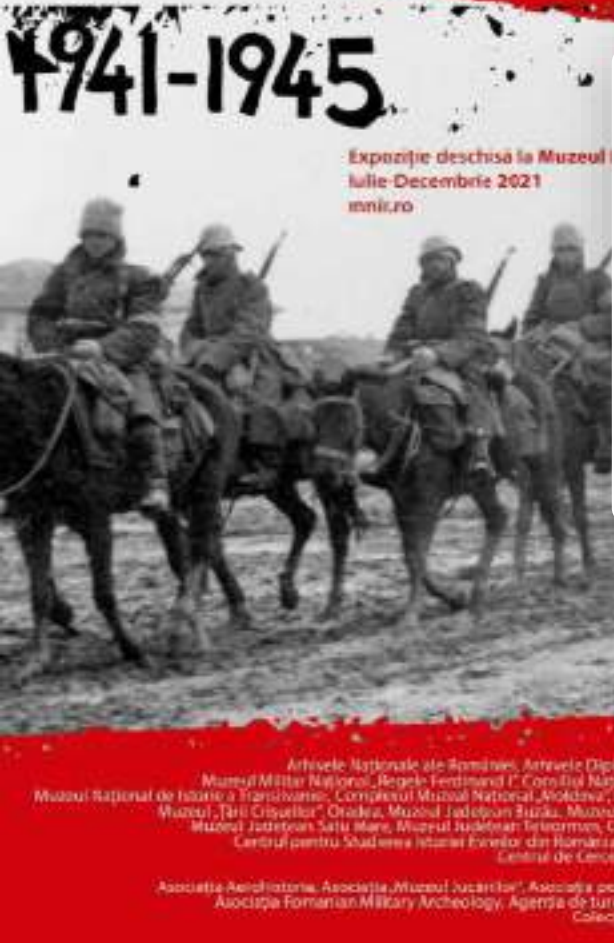
Karlene Griffiths Sekou, Co-Director, BLM Grassroots and Co-lead Organizer of BLM Boston

Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of Open Societies - Roma Initiatives Office and Chair of ERIAC (Moderator)

Mrs. Tímea Junghaus, Executive Director ERIAC

Dr. Ciprian Necula, Founder of Aresel and REF's President of the Board.





Exhibition

National History Museum

REF collaborated with the National History Museum of Romania for the temporary exhibition dedicated to the Second World War, that could be visited during July - December 2021. The exhibition project marked the 80th anniversary of Romania's entry into the Second World War. The theme of the exhibition addressed: the military campaign in Bessarabia and Bukovina, the military campaigns on the Eastern Front and on the Western Front, Romanian aviation during the war, the lives of soldiers, prisoners, aspects of daily life, diplomacy and espionage, the establishment of communism, the Holocaust.



In partnership with "Romane Rodimata" Cultural and Social Research Centre, REF exhibited testimonies from Roma survivors that were deported to Transnistria and art works signed by the Roma artist Viorel Curt.

#EUDiversityMonth

We celebrated #EUDiversityMonth together with the European Commission and other 25 Diversity Charters across Europe, raising awareness of how diversity and inclusion benefit our organization.



RomStoria Project

A series of videos posted on YouTube aiming to popularize the Roma history in Romania. The host is Valentin Negoï who graduated from the Faculty of History, has a PhD in this field and is also a professor of History at a school in Prahova, Romania.

Communication Campaigns

Roma Resistance Day

"From RESISTANCE to AFFIRMATION"
online conference in partnership with
Aresel, Proud Roma Free Europe and
ERAC.

Roma Women Stories

Marking the International Women's
Day, we published on Social media 4
videos about 4 Roma women with
different backgrounds, who told us
their stories. The National Television
loved the project, so they dedicated it a
one-hour talk-show.

Roma Status Facebook Group

It gathered more than 2,000 people
in less than half of year. The purpose
of the group is to promote Roma
youth that succeeded to fulfil their
dreams through education.

Resistance Through Art

Three artists talked about the topic:
Alina Serban - actresses and movie
director - Emanuel Barica - painter -
and Raisa Mihai - classic guitar
player.

#ProudRoma

We published on our website
stories about our scholarship
program beneficiaries.

International Romani Language Day

REF team members and students from
five different countries prepared a series
of multimedia materials in the Romani
language, that were published during the
#RomaniLanguageWeek.

	REF SWITZERLAND		REF HUNGARY		REF ROMANIA		REF SLOVAKIA		REF MACEDONIA		REF SERBIA	
	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
INCOME												
Donations received from third parties	5,016,433	3,999,016	1,006,929	1,823,000	1,090,219	1,156,352	120,533	143,217			1,296,016	250,000
Donations received from REF Switzerland			1,028,086	1,202,255	1,734,999	372,444	129,751	134,822			778,188	700,000
Donations received from REF Hungary					115,567	83,473	74,270	101,396				
Project Support and other Program Refund	150	184,199										
Other income			57,819	10,258				800			4,051	
Reversal of Previous Year Income						-2,198						
Total Income	5,016,583	3,583,215	2,092,814	3,033,493	2,940,785	1,609,871	324,554	380,235	0	0	2,038,235	950,000
EXPENDITURE												
Project Support Program (Grants)	-963,799	-452,028					-98,500	-106,225			-1,392,703	-187,629
Release(-)/Building(+) of provisions for projects granted		0										
Tertiary Scholarship Program	-1,207,408	-3,613,037	-39,795	-76,372	-32,374	-17,630	-560	-9,675				
Communications		-23,546	-34,671	-59,294								
Policy development and capacity building		-4,725		-144,875								
REF Romania - ESF projects					-795,232	-1,097,822						
REF Romania-Erasmus ECRI - European Cooperation for Roma Inclusion					-19,464	0						
REF Romania - VW - Misrecognizing Minorities in Europe					8,173	3,688						
REF Romania and its partners capacity building					-985,902	-445,310						
Velux project			-316,893	-189,927	-159,951	-142,191	-89,467	-113,367				
Setup of new HQ in Belgrade												-3,048
KfW - Improved education and integration, Serbia			-199,373	-777,017								
Ministry of Interior of SR							-173,822	-118,413				
DG NEAR-Increased education opportunities for Roma students in Western Balkans and Turkey			-1,292,434	-175,389								
Release(-)/Building(+) for future projects and co-funding	3,770,092	3,025,634										
Pepco - ManufacturerJoy						-48,501						
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)					-37,359							
MoU on the First Years First Priority campaign, a Europe-wide campaign on Early Childhood					7,234							
Minus segregation, Diversity plus - Peer education for Roma and non-Roma communities (funded by the					-9,778							
Grants to Roma Education Fund, Hungary	-1,028,086	-1,200,000										
Grants to Roma Education Fund, Slovakia	-129,751	-131,351		-97,296								
Grants to Roma Education Fund, Serbia	-778,188	-1,264,082										
Grants to Roma Education Fund, Macedonia												
Grants to Roma Education Fund, Romania	-1,734,999	-637,294	0	-79,642								
Total Programs and Grants	-2,072,139	-4,300,449	-1,883,196	-1,599,812	-2,057,466	-1,755,232	-362,349	-347,681	0	0	-1,592,703	-190,677
Administrative expenses	-201,077	-141,668	-848,902	-703,566								-362,234
Net operating results	2,743,867	-858,902	-639,214	730,115	883,319	-145,361	-37,795	32,554	0	0	645,532	397,089
Interest income	2,806	1,288	37	64	7,214							-281
Bank fees	-9,340	-12,673										
Gain on Foreign Exchange	11,248	1,336	15,700	61,699	2,036	8,227						39
Losses on foreign exchange	-1,566	-68,282	-31,946	-28,243	-26,428	-31,896					-3,537	-2,763
Write/off balances	-14,194				-113,543							
Net financial results	8,954	-78,832	-36,319	33,520	-130,721	-23,668	0	0	0	0	-3,537	-3,005
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	2,752,821	-937,734	-655,353	763,635	752,598	-169,030	37,795	32,554	0	0	641,995	394,084



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closing the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma!

