



ROMA
EDUCATION FUND
Invest | Educate | Engage

Annual Report

2022



SUMMARY

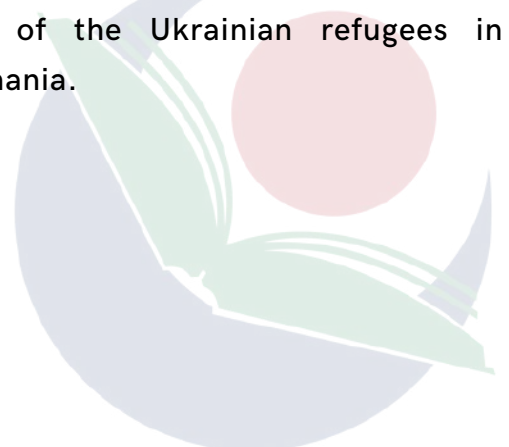
Russia's attack on Ukraine on February the 24th has startled the world. REF set up a Task Force Unit together with our partners the Civic Platform Aresel and the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative - REDI to support the Roma refugees fleeing Ukraine.

First, we contacted by email the REF Scholarship Program beneficiaries and *alumni* from Ukraine. Their replies were heart-breaking.

"We are in the basement together with other Roma families. There are more than 40 of us. On the street, shelling, and constant explosions from air strikes. Air attacks for several days, day and night" - Sasha Pasevich.

Secondly, the Financial Department transferred the scholarships to our students trying to stay ahead of any bank lockdowns. We did the same for our students from the Republic of Moldova.

Despite all the challenges, REF's team continued to implement the ongoing projects and succeeded to start new ones, like the One-Stop-Shop Centre project, financed by The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). The Centre was specially tailored by our experts to fulfil part of the needs of the Ukrainian refugees in Bucharest, Romania.



ROMA FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN

30 Volunteers | More than 4,000 Ukrainian Refugees Aided in Romania and Slovakia



Our Task Force Unit Volunteers:

- went to different border crossings points in Eastern Romania and offered support and assistance in the Romani language - two of our task force unit members' are refugees from Ukraine - Izaura Dryma and Anastasiia Tambovtseva.
- were present daily in the Bucharest Railway Station, facilitating the access of refugees to public services established by the state.
- alongside the authorities that were present in the Bucharest Railway Station and at the border entrances to Romania, they provided the best support that the refugees could get.
- offered assistance for people needing emergency accommodation.
- had facilitated the purchase of transportation tickets and/or finding means of transportation, as some of the refugees were only transiting the country.

REF's long-term partners donated hundreds of needed materials and equipment which reached the refugees in the transit areas or to different refugee's centres, like CARUSEL and Ferdinand High School. In the railway station in Bucharest, Romania, with the support from IKEA, we transformed the waiting rooms in friendly spaces.

One Stop Shop Center will be officially open in 2023 and will provide, *inter alia*, information and support to beneficiaries on various issues, such as helping a family or an individual to understand how to operate autonomously, legal counselling, access to public care, children's enrolment at school, access to vocational training and support in accessing social allowances and housing. It will also provide, and support for other administrative matters, such as for obtaining educational certificates and/or for the assessment of the equivalence of educational qualifications and training according to the Romanian educational system requirements.

Roma Education Fund

The team continues its ongoing projects:

1. Connected to Education - Integrated Approach for Children whose Parents are Working Abroad
2. Learning Today in order to Get a Job Tomorrow
3. Build your Own Future Through Education
4. Equal Education - Together for the Children
5. G1000 i-YES
6. The First Trinational Congress
7. Pedagogy Scholarship Program
8. Shaping Academic and Employment Skills for Young Roma - SHAPYR
9. First Year, First Priority - Advocacy Campaign
10. Less Segregation, More Diversity - Equal Education for the Roma and non-Roma Community
11. One-Stop-Shop Centre

Total Number of Beneficiaries | Young Adults | 739



Total Number of Beneficiaries | Children | 270



Financiers

4

The European Union, through the Social European Fund

2

The European Commission | Direct Funding | ERASMUS+

2

The Velux Foundations

1

The EEA and Norway Grants

1

The Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)

First Year, First Priority | Europe Wide Advocacy Campaign

On Tuesday 29 November 2022, at the European Parliament in Brussels, a special meeting was organized, and it was hosted and chaired by MEP Dragos Pîslaru. The aim was to highlight the need to address poverty and social exclusion in early childhood and discuss the ways in which the European Child Guarantee can ensure that all children in Europe, especially the most marginalised, can have access to quality services and nurturing care from their earliest years. This event was aimed at Members of the European Parliament, European Commission officials, European Parliament officials, Member States representatives, civil society organisations, media.

ECRI - European Cooperation for Roma Inclusion Project

The project was implemented during 2019-2021 and REF Romania was one of the partners. This project aimed to training mentors within Roma communities to act as a link between public authorities, organizations, and inhabitants. The mission was to show the plurality of Roma Cultures, to understand the mobilities between sending and arriving countries, and to promote access to decent living conditions for Roma families.

European Commission, through the Erasmus+ Agency, avowed the project as a Good Practice Model.



Putting early childhood at the heart of the European Child Guarantee

How the European Child Guarantee can ensure all children have access to quality services and care from their earliest years

29 November 2022

12:00-14:00 CET

European Parliament, Room A5G1, Brussels

Hosted and chaired by MEP Dragos Pîslaru

#FirstYearsFirstPriority



European Youth Summit G1000 Invisibles / G1000 i - YES

GOAL | To create a network of European organizations working towards the so-called "invisible" groups. The main activity is organising a Youth Summit in Brussels represented online by 1000 young girls and boys aged 16 to 21 and face - to - face by 60 young Europeans from Italy, France, Belgium and Romania.

This project is supported by the Minister-President of the Brussels-Capital Region and the Mayor of Brussels (Bourgmestre), the Minister of National Education of Belgium, the Bourgmestre of Mollenbeek, the Bourgmestre of Koekelberg, the Royal Foundation, the Bourgmestre of Saint-Denis.

The First Trinational Congress

Is implemented by REF Romania alongside GrünBaugGmbH from Germany and Youth Club from Bulgaria. The goal is to gather in a brochure the ideas and measures proposed by 27 young people from those 3 countries and present it to the representatives of the Council of Europe in Brussels in order to share their vision about the future of Europe. This project aims to promote learning mobility among young people, who are concerned about what is happening in their societies and in Europe, and to act as a catalyst to produce a reduction of discrimination and exclusion at European level.



Equal Education - Together for Children Project

Developing the capacity of non-governmental organizations in the field of education to collaborate with Romanian public administration institutions in formulating public policies regarding the reduction of school inequalities and access to equal education for vulnerable groups.



Museum of Me – Educational Boot Camp

4 Days | 17 Students | 10 Workshops | 7 Trainers

Between August 28-31, 2022, the first edition of the Museum of Me Educational Boot Camp took place in Bucharest, Romania. The event was organized by the VELUX and REF Romania Foundations, in partnership with the InfinitEdu Association and Casa Retro.

The students are beneficiaries of the Pedagogy Scholarship Program, financed by the Velux and REF Foundations, the camp being one of the activities included in this project. Moreover, the educational boot camp offered the former beneficiaries of the same program the opportunity to interact with the current participants, through the following interactive workshops they held during the event.

Gheorghianism and the Fundaments of the Roma Nation

Humanities and Social Science National Conference

Took place in Bucharest between 11 and 12 of November. The conference was organized by the Roma Studies Master's from the Faculty of Political Sciences (SNSPA) in partnership with the Roma Education Fund (REF) Romania and the Roma Academic Society "Aven Amentza - Come with us!"



SERBIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA

Roma Education Fund

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Education, Employment, Gender Equality and Partnership: A Winning Formula for Roma in VET (WinForVET) project was extended until June 30, 2023. It is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with the funds of Austrian Development Cooperation.

In October, first meeting face-to-face, after the pandemic, between our colleagues from REF Serbia and our partners from Roma Versitas Kosovo and Roma Versitas Albania took place in Belgrade, Serbia.



290 Scholarships for VET secondary school beneficiaries and for VET short-term course beneficiaries in Kosovo and Albania



46 Training and 148 beneficiaries



76 meetings with indirect target groups

REF Serbia continued the implementation of "Employment, Empowerment of Young Roma - phase II" project 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.



6,400 Roma Children in North Macedonia Provided with Access to Pre-school Education

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Republic of Northern Macedonia organized on the 13 of June, in Skopje, the final event of the project Inclusion of Roma Children in Public Preschool Institutions (Kindergartens).

As a result of this partnership, the rate of regular attendance in kindergartens increased from 60% to 90% in the period between 2006 and 2022 in the municipalities where the project was implemented. The transition rate from preschool to primary education improved from 80% to 96% for the same period.

Another major success of this partnership was the hiring, in 2016, by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy of 16 Roma caregivers who were until then employed by REF.

National Roundtable on Advocacy and Employment Policy

The event was organized by REF's partner Roma Versitas Albania on July 13th, in Tirana. It was held in the framework of the "Education, Employment, Partnership and Gender Equability: A winning formula for Roma in Vocational Education and Training" (WinforVET) project, funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with the funds of Austrian Development Cooperation.

Among the speakers were Mrs Elona Fana, Program Manager at the Austrian Development Office in Tirana, Mrs Etleva Gjellaj, Director of VET Management Department at the National Agency for Employment and Skills (AKPA), Mrs Gladiola Cepani, Responsible for Employment Service at the AKPA and so on.



REF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

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REF Scholarship Programs that have been implemented for the past 17 years are undergoing changes. The purpose is to transform the programs into a tool that connects more impactfully the future beneficiaries with their respective Roma communities, and to offer them the possibility to quickly react and respond to the community's needs.

As of 2023, these four scholarship programs will no longer be implemented under the guidelines, rules, and names the foundation has used since the very beginning. However, applying the experience collected during the past two decades of implementation, we will deliver an upgraded students' program.

At the same time, REF remains steadfast in its commitment to the students that are already beneficiaries of our REF SP and will continue to financially support all of them until their graduation. Therefore, REF has provided, by the end of 2022, a financial support package meant to cover the scholarship, in one installment, for all the students who are expecting to graduate within the next years.



Roma Memorial University Scholarship | RMUSP



225

Law and Humanities | LHP



11

Roma Health Scholarship | RHSP

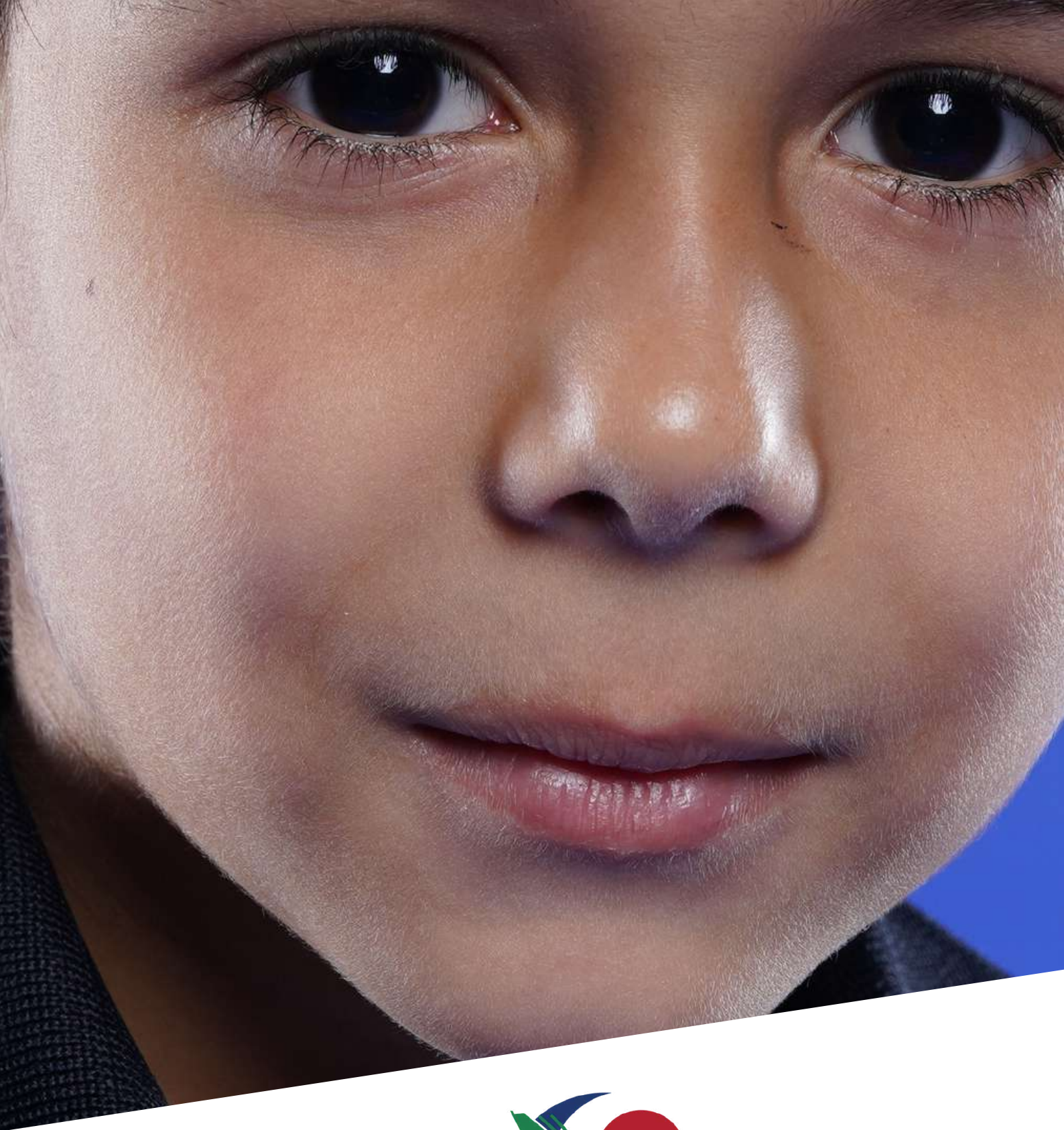


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Roma International Scholar | RISP



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2022 Financial Summary

DESCRIPTION	REF SWITZERLAND	REF HUNGARY	REF ROMANIA	REF SLOVAKIA	REF MACEDONIA	REF SERBIA
Third party donor income	2,110,992	90,139	3,680,923	93,923		828,981
Other income	96,512	127,620	53,425	0		426
Total Income from third parties	2,207,504	217,759	3,734,348	93,923		829,407
Income from transfers within REF Network	0	433,634	3,114,728	234,842		364,773
Reversal of previous Year income						
TOTAL Income (Including transfers)	2,207,504	651,393	6,849,076	328,765		1,194,179
Grant program	-12,800	0	0	-184,618	no projects were implemented	0
Tertiary scholarship Program	-786,238	0	-36,328	0		0
Own educational projects	0	-5,240	-2,830,593	-197,940		-828,985
Capacity building, Policy Development and communications	0	0	0	0		0
Grants (Transfers) to REF network	-4,163,474	0	0	0		0
TOTAL program costs (incl. transfers)	-4,962,512	-5,240	-2,866,921	-382,558		-828,985
Administrative expenses	-365,243	-736,034	0	0		-364,768
Other expenses	-33,231	-5,814	-39,820	0		-426
Administrative cost	-398,474	-741,848	-39,820	0		-365,194
Operative costs without grant transfers	-1,197,512	-747,088	-2,906,741	-382,558		-1,194,179
Release of provisions from previous years	1,873,900					
Building provisions of current year	-1,769,000					
Total effect of reserves on balance sheet	104,900	0	0	0		0
Total spending	-5,256,086	-747,088	-2,906,741	-382,558		-1,194,179
Profit (+) or Loss (-)	-3,048,582	-95,695	3,942,335	-53,793		0
Foundation capital - Jan 1	3,296,484	199,509	284,476	6,638		1,078,166
Result	-3,048,582	-109,139	3,929,705	543		0
Foundation capital - Dec 31	247,902	90,370	4,214,181	7,181		1,078,166

"Applied accounting principles are in accordance with local law and approved practices. Accrual accounting has been applied. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions for financial reporting as stipulated in the agreement with donors."