

Call for the selection of implementing partner organizations (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo¹, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey)

Call open until June 30, 2018

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¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Background

The Roma Education Fund's (REF) mission and ultimate goal is to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma. In order to achieve this goal, the organization supports policies and programs which ensure quality education for Roma through scholarships, grant making and advocacy activities.

The objectives of REF include:

- Expanding Romani children's access to quality early childhood education and care;
- Improving primary education outcomes for Romani children aged six to fourteen;
- Boosting academic performance and graduation rates from secondary education for Romani pupils;
- Supporting access to tertiary education, improving graduation levels and strengthening identity of Romani university students, and
- Expanding employment opportunities for young Romani adults.

The Roma Education Fund operates its activities in close links with civil society and institutional partners in 16 countries of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

1. Objective of the call

The objective of the call is to select the partner organizations for the implementation of the ***Increased education opportunities for Roma students and Roma youth in Western Balkans and Turkey*** project.

In 2018, 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.

These project objectives will be achieved through sub-granting to partner organizations which will be responsible for the administration and implementation of project activities within the granted financial budget. The selected organizations will be expected to define and adapt activities, as well as to propose methodology and implementation plans, which reflect the country specific context national and/or local levels.

Organizations are invited to submit proposals for specific project activity calls:

- Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Expanding access to quality Early childhood Development \(ECD\) and Primary Education](#)
- Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Increasing performance and employability of Roma secondary school students](#)
- Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Increasing access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market](#)

2. Time frame for the grant implementation

September 2018 – June 2021

The time frame for different activities varies is listed in specific project activity calls. The grants will be signed with the selected partner organizations 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. Geographical coverage

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. The eligible countries vary according to specific activities vary and are listed in the specific project activity calls.

4. Budget

The grants will cover the period until June 2021 and the renewal of grants in the new academic year is subject to satisfactory project implementation. The available budget and unit costs vary according to project activities and countries, which are listed in the specific calls.

5. 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.

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. Timetable for evaluating applications

June 30, 2018	Deadline to submit full proposal including project proposal, budget and organisational 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.
July 20, 2018	Selection of partner organisations
August 10, 2018	Notification of selected partners
August 31, 2018	Contracting of the partner organisations

8. Assessment and selection of applications

8.1 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.

8.2 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 prioritises organizations in which Roma participation is encouraged and valued.

9. Criteria for determining the exact amounts of financial support

The criteria for determining the exact amounts of financial support to each sub-grantee will be based on the activities presented in their project proposals, the number of locations and beneficiaries to be included, the specific country contexts and the realistic and cost-effective budget.

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.

In some of the target countries REF might select more than one partner organization, depending on the scale of intervention, in order to reach the project targets indicated in the specific calls.

10. 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.

Expanding access to quality Early childhood Development (ECD) and Primary Education, 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.

Links to calls:

Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Expanding access to quality Early childhood Development \(ECD\) and Primary Education](#)

Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Increasing performance and employability of Roma secondary school students](#)

Call for selection of implementing partner organizations in the field of [Increasing access and participation of Roma students in tertiary education and transition to labor market](#)



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