

Call for selection for implementing partner organizations in the field of Increasing performance and employability of Roma secondary school students

Call open until June 30, 2018

Contents

1. Background	2
2. Objective of the call	2
3. Description of activities receiving financial support	3
3.1 Implementation of the activities related to secondary school education – scholarships and mentoring program	3
3.2 Support to secondary school students' access to the labour market	4
3.3 Budget	4
3.4 Target group	5
3.5 Geographical coverage	6
4. Application procedures	6



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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 the academic performance and employability of Roma secondary school students**, as part of the *Increased education opportunities for Roma students and Roma youth in Western Balkans and Turkey* project. 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.

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

The beneficiaries will be followed through a three-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 Implementation of the activities related to secondary school education – scholarships and mentoring program

Objective: The objective of the financial support is to support Roma students in secondary school education financially (through merit-based scholarships) and academically (through mentoring and tutoring support) in order to increase secondary school graduation.

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 criteria¹:
 - Transfer of scholarships, which will be conditioned to regular attendance at school and transitioning to higher grades.
- Support to secondary school scholarship students and school performance follow-up
 - Mentoring and Tutoring
 - Selection and training of mentors and tutors²:
 - 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 Liaison
 - 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

¹ 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).

² 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;

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.

3.2 Support to secondary school students' access to the labour 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.

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: 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

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

<i>Available budget (Euro/ year)</i>					
Countries	Scholarship provision (Euro/year)	Mentoring (Euro/year)	Access to labour market (Euro/year)	Implementation cost (Euro/year)	Total budget/ year/ country
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	37,500	23,600	9,300	4,033	74,433
Montenegro	15,000	9,200	3,600	4,033	31,833
Albania	9,000	5,400	2,100	4,033	20,533
Kosovo ³	30,000	19,000	7,500	4,033	60,533
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,000	3,600	1,500	4,033	15,133
Turkey	24,000	15,200	6,000	4,033	49,233
Total/ year	121,500	76,000	30,000	24,200	251,700

3.4 Target group

Roma students in 3rd and 4th year of secondary education.

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 performance and employability of Roma secondary school students</i>			
Country	Number of scholarship recipients / year	Number of students participating in mentoring and tutoring/year	Number of students in the employment related activities/ year
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	125	118	31
Montenegro	50	46	12
Albania	30	27	7
Kosovo	100	95	25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	20	18	5
Turkey	80	76	20
Total	405	380	100

³ 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

3.5 Geographical coverage

Eligible countries: The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, 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.

Increasing performance and employability of Roma secondary school students, 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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