

LAW AND HUMANITIES PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ROMA IN
MOLDOVA, RUSSIA AND UKRAINE





“Although everybody is individual and unique, we are all people and our character, dignity and rights are not related to our nationality.”



OLENA VAYDALOVICH

LHP current beneficiary

Faculty of Law, National Academy of Internal
Affairs
Kiev, Ukraine

“I develop and promote local programs in support of the Roma national minority in the city, in particular to promote equality in their right to education, especially in the settlements. I do believe that educated and motivated people can do a lot to help improve the lives of Roma people.”



MIROSLAV HORVAT

LHP alumni (2010–2014)

Currently serving as city councillor in Uzhgorod
Transcarpathia Region, Ukraine

“My current objective is to create a nongovernmental organization that will work in partnership with the state and international institutions, aimed at creating an inclusive and effective education system based on principles of equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity, which will contribute to the integration of Roma in society.”



GRIGORE ZAPESCU

LHP current beneficiary

MA in Public Interest Law
University of European Political and Economic Studies
“Constantin Stere”
Chisinau, Moldova



FOREWORD

The Roma Education Fund created the Law and Humanities Program (LHP) over ten years ago to provide academic and tuition support to Roma university students residing in Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

Unique in purpose and design - addressing both the socio-economic conditions and educational attainment of Roma - the program by now has provided over 1,400 scholarships to over 500 Roma students who have met LHP's merit-based criteria.

Crucially, the commitment of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future has created a host of academic opportunities for young, dynamic Roma students to realize their personal ambitions and contribute to the progress of the societies in which they live.

Together, we gradually are building a living legacy - the next generation of Roma intellectuals, professionals and scholars for whom we have high expectations.

I would like to invite you to join REF's mission to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma and apply to this attractive program including many great opportunities to learn and grow and be a member of a great community.

NADIR REDZEPE
Executive Director
Roma Education Fund



FOREWORD

By supporting the Law and Humanities Program, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future contributes towards strengthening the descendants of Roma victims of Nazi persecution.

Our main objective is to financially support talented and socially committed young Roma in their university education. The Foundation provides up to 200 scholarships annually for Roma from Moldova, Russia and Ukraine who are studying for a BA, MA or PhD degree. Over the years, the program has also contributed to the development of an international network of well-educated Roma, which can represent the interests of Roma in society and provide role models for the next generation.

We are pleased with the achievements and continued impressive results of the scholarship recipients. The extensive support services of the Roma Education Fund for students and alumni are crucial to the success of the program. We thank the Roma Education Fund, as well as the participating partners in the program countries, for excellent and long-standing cooperation, which we are pleased to continue in the future.

GÜNTER SAATHOFF
Co-Director
The Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future

Annual LHP conference
in Chisinau, Moldova 2015. →

ABOUT THE LAW AND HUMANITIES PROGRAM

The Law and Humanities Program (LHP) was launched in 2004 at the initiative and with the financial support of the Open Society Institute and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future. The initiative aimed to spur the enrollment of Roma in higher education in Eastern Europe and develop a regional network of Roma intellectual elite who would actively advocate for positive change on the behalf of the Roma population. The Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future - one of the program's two main donors - develops capacity among the descendants of minority groups persecuted under National Socialism, while the Roma Education Fund contributes to this ongoing effort to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma.

LHP has been co-financed by the Roma Education Fund and the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future since 2007. The Roma Education Fund Scholarship Program implements the program in collaboration with national partners in Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.



WHY THESE THREE COUNTRIES?

“The German Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future tries to encourage people to remember the past. It wants to build up an elite generation who can contribute to keeping this memory for the future. Russia, Ukraine and Moldova are particular countries where Roma populations have suffered immeasurably in the past.”

COSTEL BERCUS, Former Chairman of the Board
Roma Education Fund, 2005 to 2014



↑ Professional development training in Chisinau, Moldova.

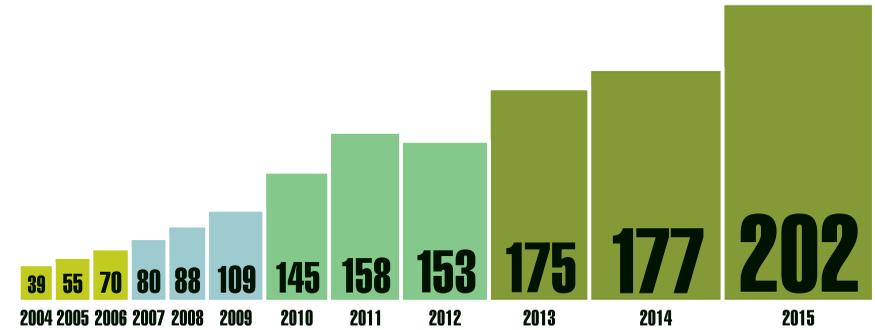
WHAT LHP OFFERS

LHP offers merit-based, open-competition academic scholarships for Roma students who are citizens or permanent residents of Moldova, Russia and Ukraine. Participants are selected on an annual basis, with the possibility to renew their status from one year to another based on open competition. The support consists of a scholarship and a range of academic and professional development components. LHP is one of four scholarship schemes managed by the Roma Education Fund to support young Roma to pursue higher education.

LHP BENEFICIARIES: GROWING YEAR BY YEAR

LHP has grown from 39 scholarship recipients in 2004 to 202 in 2015. LHP has provided 1,451 scholarships to 511 Roma students since its establishment.

NUMBER OF LHP SCHOLARSHIPS 2004-2015



TRACER STUDY: IMPROVING REF SERVICES

In 2014 REF conducted a tracer study to investigate the degree to which LHP contributed to the academic trajectory of its beneficiaries, as well as whether the beneficiaries managed to enter the job market in positions relevant for their studies after obtaining higher education degrees.

The study revealed that:

- LHP helped participants to access and graduate from higher education and to choose the type of studies they desired, which is a prerequisite to successfully access the labor market and find decent and stable employment.
- LHP helped the participants to strengthen their Roma identity and confidence in expressing it publicly, overcoming social stigma.

Link to the Tracer Study: <http://tinyurl.com/zbv4qc>



↑ Annual LHP student conference in Russia, 2013.

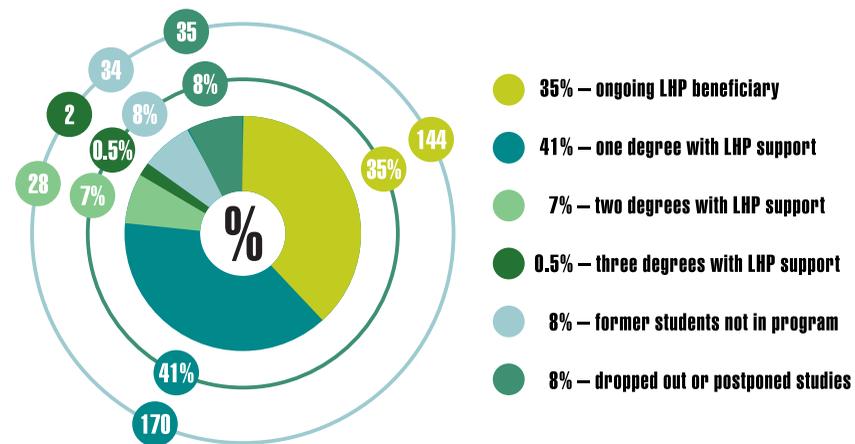
LHP beneficiaries training in Moldova, 2013. →

GRADUATION STATUS: FROM LIBRARY TO LIFE

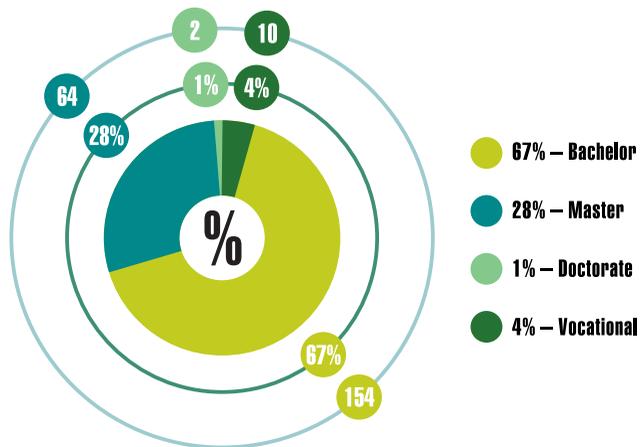
From over 400 individuals who participated in LHP by 2014, slightly less than half obtained at least tertiary level degrees with complete or partial LHP support, while 144 have not graduated and are still in the program. Eight percent dropped out before graduation or postponed graduation for later, though compared to available figures on general dropout rates from higher education, Roma students appear to perform neither worse nor better than their mainstream peers.

Overall, the LHP Program contributed to the attainment of 229 diplomas, from which only ten were vocational degrees. The majority of obtained degrees were in social sciences and legal studies.

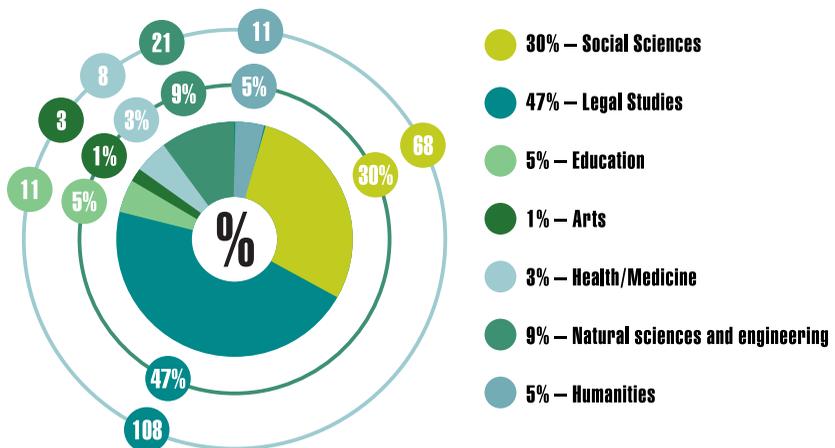
LHP PARTICIPANTS' GRADUATION STATUS



NUMBER OF DIPLOMAS OBTAINED WITH PARTIAL OR TOTAL LHP SUPPORT



FIELD OF STUDIES IN THE DIPLOMAS OBTAINED WITH PARTIAL OR TOTAL LHP SUPPORT



Annual LHP conference in Ukraine in 2010. →



PROFILE



MIROSLAV HORVAT **Uzhgorod, Transcarpathia, Ukraine** **Alumni of LHP (2010-2014)**

Miroslav was born in 1980 and grew up in Radvanka, the biggest Roma settlement in Uzhgorod. He spent his childhood and adolescence in a large family together with his grandmother and grandfather: “They dreamed of giving me a good education and they insisted that I enter in general, not segregated school.” As a school pupil, Miroslav says he did not feel any specific attitude toward himself from teachers and schoolmates: “I really was fond of studying and attended the school with interest and pleasure.”

In 2000 Miroslav became the head of the civil society organization *Romani cherkhen* (Roma star): “When I joined the civil society community, I understood that I do really need a higher education to be effective.” Therefore, he pursued university studies. Firstly, he obtained a BA degree in law, then a degree as a “specialist” of political science from Uzhgorod National University (2010-2014): “I do believe that I could achieve my education thanks to the Roma Education Fund, which really gives young Roma a chance to improve their lives by being educated and better qualified.”

Miroslav became one of the first Roma men to obtain a higher education degree among his generation in Transcarpathia. For the time-being he is the only one with a diploma in political science. With the support of his NGO team and professors from Uzhgorod National University, Miroslav laid down the basis for the development of a university course on Romani studies, from which future social workers, sociologists, psychologists and others can learn about the culture, traditions and history of Roma national minority – one of the biggest minorities in Transcarpathia. Miroslav is enthusiastic about the introduction of the course in the 2016-2017 academic year and beyond.

Miroslav is a passionate human rights and Roma rights activist: “I belong to the Roma national minority, I grew up in a settlement and know about the lives of common Roma people in our region. People are facing discrimination in almost every sphere of their lives – education, healthcare, living conditions and so on. That is why I decided to register as candidate in the local elections in 2015. People voted for me and now I am responsible to represent their interests on the Uzhgorod City Council.” Miroslav also works on combating stereotypes about Roma – he is the presenter and editor of the only program about Roma on local television – “Romani Jivipen.”

He plans to further his political work and become people’s deputy on the city council: “I develop and promote local programs in support of the Roma national minority in the city, in particular to promote equality in their right to education, especially in the settlements. I do believe that educated and motivated people can do a lot to help improve the lives of Roma people.”

MANY OF THE SCHOLARS IN THIS PROGRAM ARE STUDYING LAW. WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT FOR ROMA TO SPECIALIZE IN LAW?

“We need to study law, because there are so many human rights violations against Roma in Ukraine. A lot of Ukrainian lawyers don’t want to work with Roma and with their community. They are often ruled by stereotypes and prejudices against Roma. Therefore it is better to be from the community and to build up another kind of trust. I decided to become a lawyer in my community and to change the stereotypes.”



OLENA FIUDR, LHP Alumni, works as a lawyer. She graduated criminal law at Kiev National Academy of Internal Affairs.

THE DONOR

THE FOUNDATION REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY AND FUTURE

In remembrance of the victims of National Socialist injustice, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future works to promote human rights and understanding between peoples. It also upholds its commitment to the survivors. The Foundation is thus an expression of the continuing political and moral responsibility of the state, industry and society for the wrongs committed in the name of National Socialism.

The Foundation supports international projects in the following areas:

- A critical examination of history
- Working for human rights
- Commitment to the victims of National Socialism

The Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future was established in 2000, primarily to make payments to former forced laborers. The payment programs were completed in 2007. The Foundation's capital of EUR 5.2 billion was provided by the German government and German industry. A total of EUR 358 million was set aside as Foundation capital in order to finance project support. The Foundation finances its long-term funding activities out of the income generated by this capital.



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*This publication does not represent an expression of opinion
by the Foundation EVZ. The author(s) bear(s) responsibility for the content.*

THE IMPLEMENTER

ROMA EDUCATION FUND

Since its establishment in 2005, REF has evolved into an active international non-governmental organization with a mission and ultimate goal to close the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma.

REF offers its support through:

- GRANTS provided to consortia of civil society and public institutions to implement education reform projects
- SCHOLARSHIPS provided to Roma students in secondary and tertiary education
- POLICY ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH to promote evidence-based models of best practice, introduce innovative methodologies and curriculum reform, and advocate for policies that deliver increased equity in access and outcomes for Roma students
- PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION - REF directly implements large-scale EU-funded and EEA and Norway grants



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www.romaeducationfund.hu

PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

The International Renaissance Foundation's mission is to foster an open, participatory, pluralist society based on democratic values in Ukraine. It is one of the biggest charitable foundations in Ukraine, as well as the most sustainable donor organization in the country, which supports Roma national minority. IRF is pleased to be a partner of REF since 2010 - the cooperation between our organizations brings synergy in strengthening capacity of a new educated generation of Roma youth.



UKRAINE

INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION - KIEV

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CHILDREN OF ST. PETERSBURG

Children of St. Petersburg is a volunteer-based NGO, providing cultural and educational programs for children. Our programs are aimed to help every child to become involved in society, to cooperate with the people around, to be aware of the rights of the child and to have opportunities for personal growth. We are a partner in the LHP program since 2014.



RUSSIA

CHILDREN OF ST. PETERSBURG

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EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTER

The mission of the center is to promote the values of an open and democratic society. EAC has implemented several projects - at the national and regional levels - entirely pertaining to educational services. One of the programs that EAC is administrating in Moldova is the Roma Education Fund Scholarship Program's Law and Humanities Program. Educational Advising Center is implementing this program in Moldova since 2008.



MOLDOVA

EDUCATIONAL ADVISING CENTER

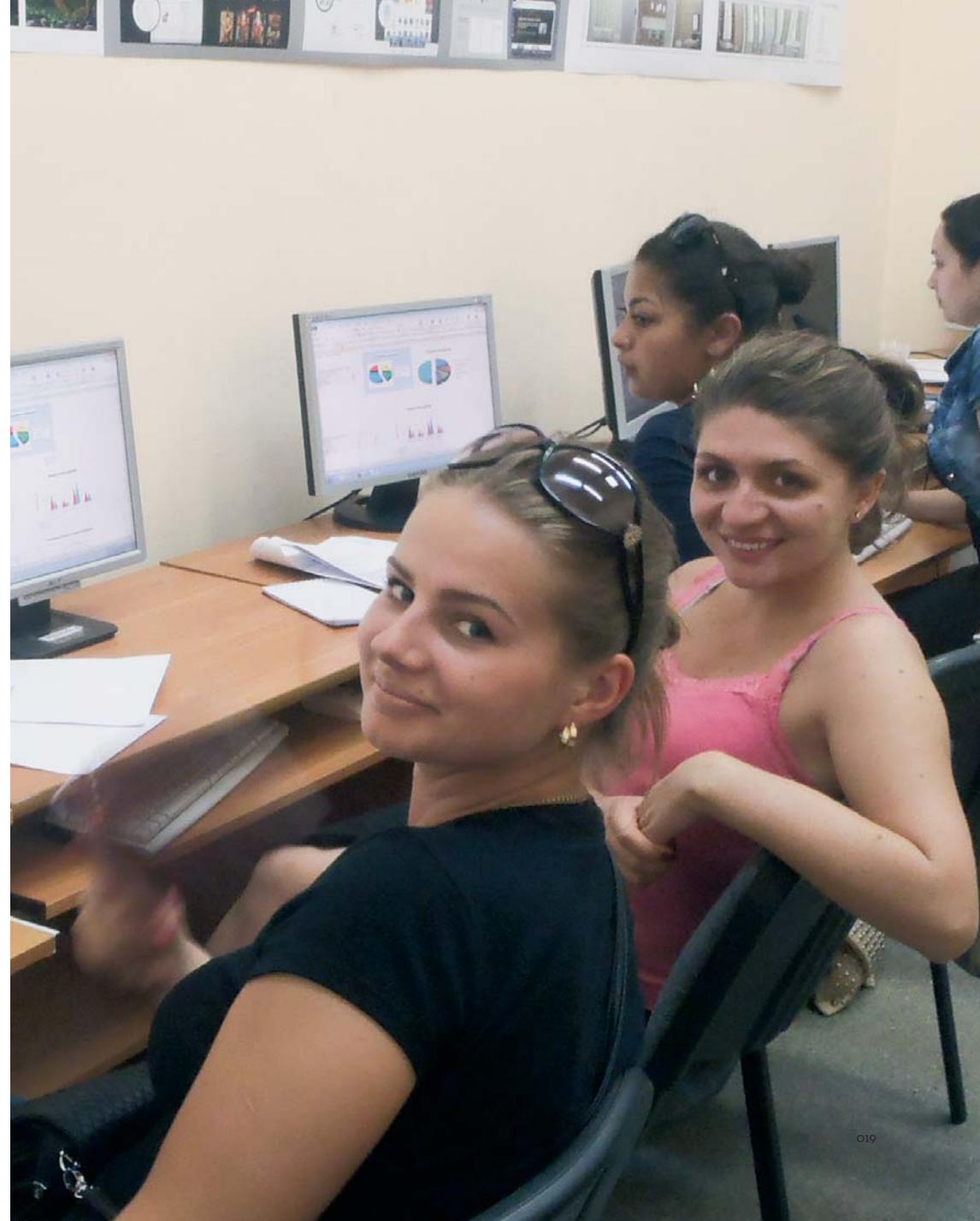
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JOIN THE LAW AND HUMANITIES PROGRAM!



ROMA YOUTH REACHING FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Are you Roma?
- Are you currently in high school, applying to university or currently enrolled in a state-accredited university?
- Are you a citizen or permanent resident of Moldova, Russia or Ukraine?

THEN APPLY TO BE PART OF EUROPE'S LARGEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR ROMA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS!



JOIN THOUSANDS OF ROMA STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS ACROSS EUROPE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR DREAMS!

LHP CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER!

To apply visit: www.romaeducationfund.org/how-apply-scholarship-1

Facebook: RomaEducationFund

Twitter: @romaeducation