

ROMA EDUCATION FUND



Project overview in 2007

- Since its establishment (2005) REF received 304 project proposals out of which the Board approved 96 projects, rejected 164 and 44 projects were in the pipeline.
- in 2007, REF project disbursement showed a significant rise (EUR 4.8 million) compared to 2005 (EUR 975,000) and 2006 (EUR 3.7 million). The number of projects under implementation increased as well.



Monitoring of projects in 2007

- in 2007, the number of monitoring missions by REF staff has increased considerably, as the REF portfolio increased in terms of the number of projects and rate of disbursement.



Rating of projects

- While in 2006, there were 22 projects monitored, in 2007, 51 projects had undergone monitoring in addition, 14 projects got externally evaluated

Best practice	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory on hold or suspended
4	42	5



Successful projects

- the most successful projects are those developed at the local level, with strong involvement of the local government and strong participation of Roma NGOs



Countries where implementation has been seen to be the most effective

- Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia and Romania.
- In these countries, there is a relatively large Roma civil society sector, and, even if Roma issues are controversial, they are at least on the political agenda, so there is a positive environment for project implementation.



Government projects are not doing as well as NGO - implemented projects

- For example, with some notable exceptions, government projects are not doing as well as NGO -implemented projects. Government-run projects are often late in implementation and have problems with coordination, and they usually suffer from a lack of commitment by middle management for the goals of the projects.



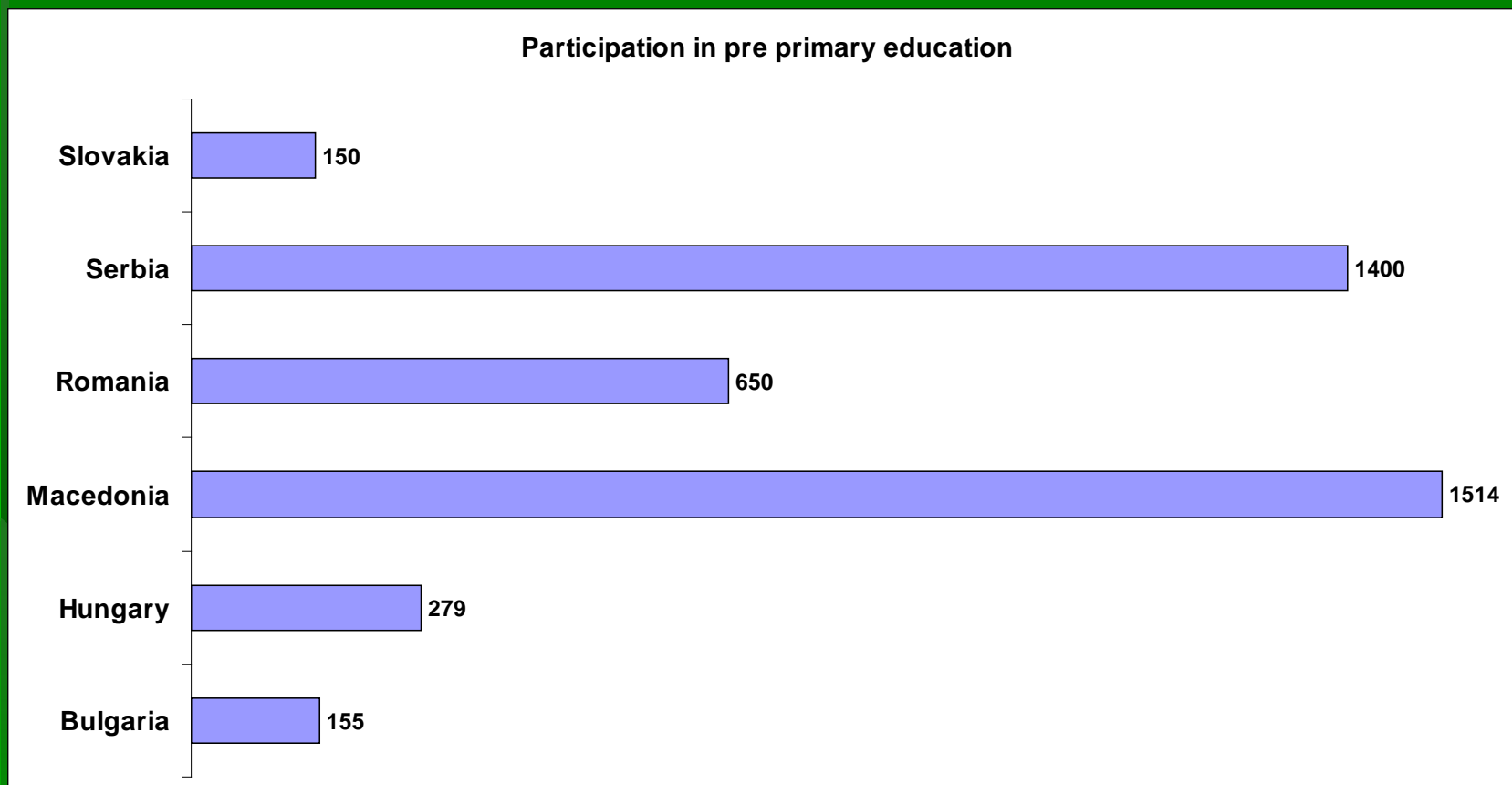
REF Indicators on Access to and Participation in Education

- In 2007, REF's main education indicators were developed, and a survey of 80 projects was conducted, to assess the number of beneficiaries reached by REF financed projects in some of the Decade of Roma Inclusion countries.



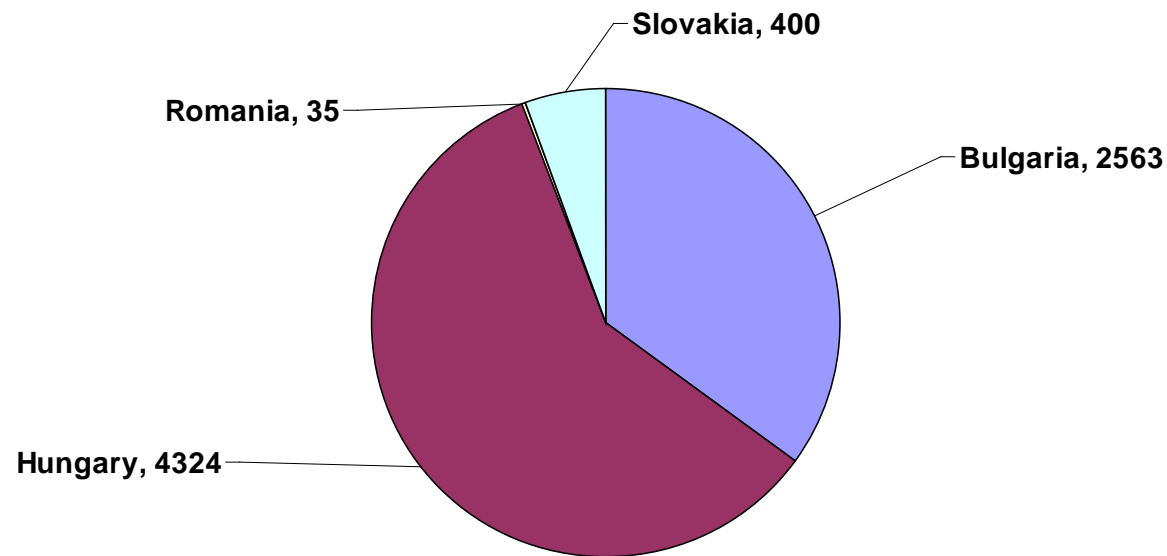


Participation in pre primary education



Desegregation of Roma school/classes

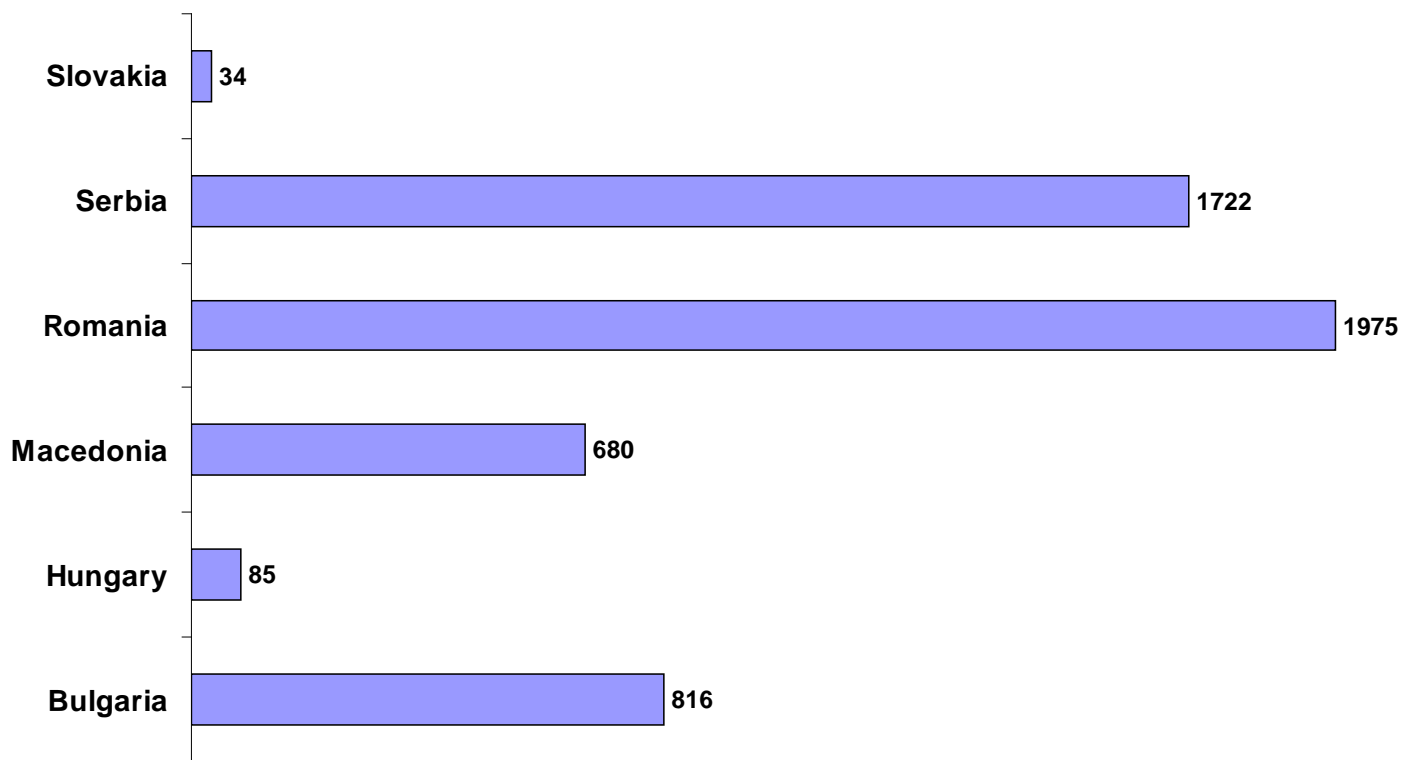
Desegregation of Roma schools/classes



Scholarship for Completion of upper secondary education



Completion of upper secondary education



The directions ahead

- The REF will need to scale up the evaluation of projects it finances and of governmental policies, in order to improve the knowledge of what works and what does not work when seeking to close the education gap between Roma and non Roma.

