

# The role of scholarship and mentorship in tertiary education

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# The REF in brief

Mission of REF is to close the educational gap between Roma and non - Roma in Decade countries.

Programs:

Grant Program

Scholarship Program

Policy Development and Capacity Building

Reimbursable Grant



# Mentor-Tutorship

- ✓ Mentoring and tutoring are built on **trust** and one of their primary goals is to make a young people (or persons new to a field of endeavor) more confident in their abilities and talents.
- ✓ While the mentee or protégé gains from the **knowledge and experience** of the mentor/tutor, the mentor/tutor gains a great deal of **satisfaction** from helping another person to achieve his or her potential and has the opportunity to develop their **teaching skills**.



# Mentor-Tutorship

- ✓ **Mentoring** has also proven to be valuable when the Roma students are placed in a new academic environment e.g.: admission to high school, university. In these instances, mentors can help Roma students with social integration;
- ✓ **Tutoring activities** integrated in REF-supported projects are a good tool for decreasing the educational gap between Roma and non-Roma children at the primary, secondary and even university level

# Role of Scholarship

- ✓ To contribute such **financial circumstances** which would help the successful completion of tertiary education (compensate the social background);
- ✓ Tool for **rewarding** academic achievements;
- ✓ **Incentive** for further academic improvement;

# Role of scholarship and mentorship

- ✓ Well defined scholarship and mentorship has significant role in terms of project goals;
- ✓ The Roma Education Fund supports mentoring/ tutoring activities and scholarship in several projects at secondary and tertiary level;
- ✓ Currently, REF is successfully implementing secondary scholarship programme with tutoring components in three countries – Serbia, Macedonia, and Romania.
- ✓ University Scholarship Program;
- ✓ Romaversitas projects in Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary .



# REF/Scholarship Program

REF's Scholarships Program offers **four academic merit-based scholarship schemes** for all countries of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (except Spain), as well as for Moldova, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. Scholarship schemes support Romani students in **Bachelor, Master, and PhD degree programs**.

## The Scholarship schemes are:

- Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program (**RMUSP**)
  - Roma International Scholar Program (**RISP**)
  - Law and Humanities Program (**LHP**)
  - Roma Health Scholarship Program (**RHSP**)
- For the 2011–2012 academic year, **REF granted 1,497 scholar out of 2,451 total applications.**



**TABLE 13.** REF Scholarships Program in five academic years, 2007–2011

Scholarship Scheme	2007–2008		2008–2009	
	Grants Awarded	Funding Granted (EUR)	Grants Awarded	Funding Granted (EUR)
RMUSP	678	592,938	674	585,528
RISP	13	34,074	19	80,757
LHP	81	85,400	84	125,450
RHSP	N/A	N/A	36	123,747
PDF	5	10,000	4	6,180
Support grants**	N/A	N/A	13	2,587
<b>Total</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>722,412</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>924,249</b>

Scholarship Scheme	2009–2010		2010–2011		2011–2012	
	Grants Awarded	Funding Granted (EUR)	Grants Awarded	Funding Granted (EUR)	Grants Awarded	Funding Granted (EUR)
RMUSP	916	854,451	1029	1,001,254	1081	1,116,277
RISP	26	106,347	20	104,370	36	195,897
LHP	109	139,555	145	169,835	157	276,272
RHSP	86	243,290	249	318,950	223	260,965
PDF	4	5,345	4	3,730	*	*
Support grants**	14	4,259	53	11,259	59	13,691
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,155</b>	<b>1,353,247</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>1,609,398</b>	<b>1,556</b>	<b>1,863,102</b>

\* Selection ongoing

\*\*For conference participation and language tutoring support.



# ROMA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

## SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ( RMUSP)

- ✓ For the 2011–2012 academic year, RMUSP granted support to **1,081 students out of the 1,797 submitted applications**, the ratio of accepted candidates being 60 percent out of the total number of applications. Among the selected students **60 percent were female and 40 percent were male**.
- ✓ 73 percent of scholarship recipients are pursuing their Bachelor degree, 25 percent their Master, and 2 percent their PhD.
- ✓ Out of the total number of 1,081 accepted applicants in RMUSP for the 2011–2012 academic year, **626 were renewal, while, 455 were new beneficiaries**.
- ✓ A total of **EUR 1,116,277** was allocated for RMUSP scholar support in 2011–2012.



# REF/Scholarship Program

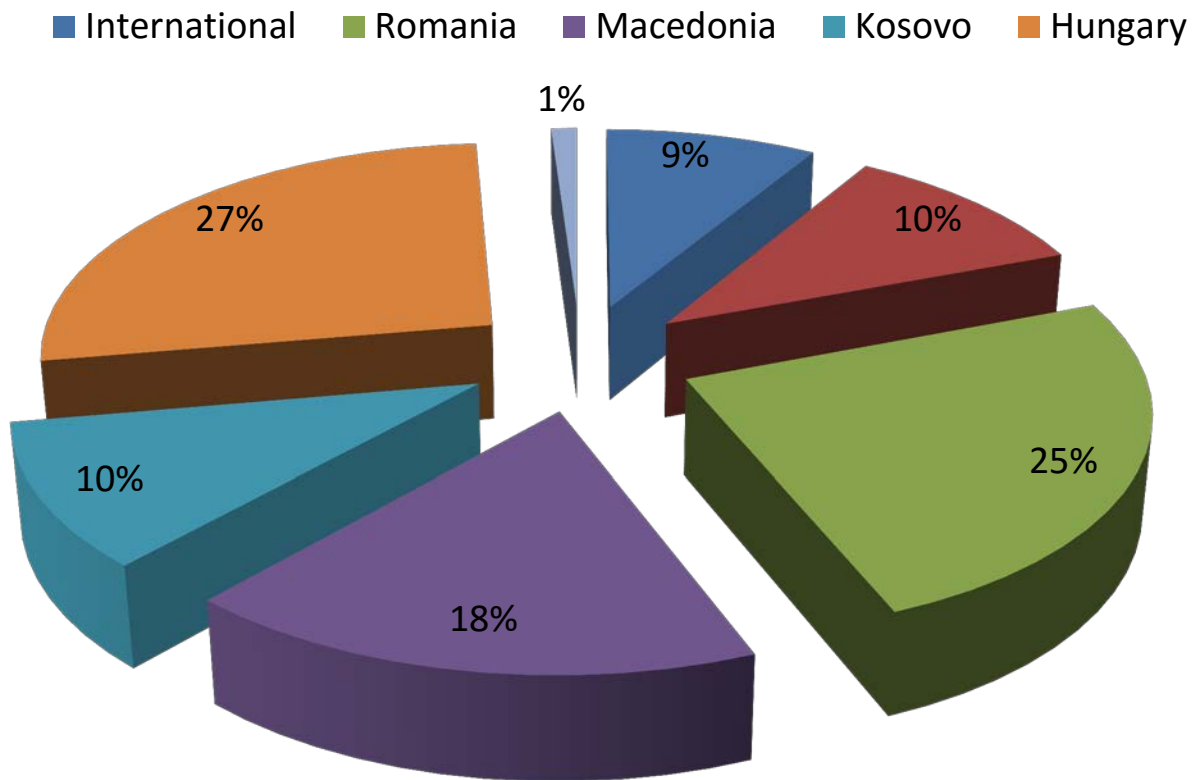
- In making scholarship award decisions, the following factors are considered:
- the **demand** for scholarships as expressed in the past years measured by number of applications;
  - the existence of **alternative scholarship programs/affirmative policies** in the country; and
  - the **estimated Romani population** size in each country relative to the total Romani population in the program countries.



# Beneficiaries of REF-funded grant projects, by indicator per year

Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	SUM	
Indicator	Number of beneficiaries								
Participation in pre-school education	600	2966	4497	10441	3418	8034	11309		
Prevention of early school leaving	269	2765	5339	7256	10938	15522	18902		
Completion of upper secondary education	1278	2687	4797	5060	6282	5303	6122		
<b>Participation in tertiary education</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>795</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>3480</b>	
Parental participation in children's education	2050	17561	29780	29674	42685	50136	70139		
Desegregation	0	1734	3553	5673	6534	9331	7283		
Prevention/reversal of enrollment in special education	0	353	525	172	125	435	503		
In-service teacher training	551	2977	4018	4488	2945	3125	3512		
Roma employed by REF-funded projects	123	589	802	733	638	553	765		
						<b>92921</b>	<b>119101</b>		

# Participation in tertiary education - 2011



# Romaversitas projects in Macedonia, Hungary and Serbia

Aims of the program:

- ✓ provision of financial and professional support for the talented Roma students in higher education in order to complete their studies successfully;
- ✓ Strengthening the Roma identity;
- ✓ Strengthening the interaction of Roma and non Roma students as a way for overcoming existing prejudices and stereotypes;
- ✓ Creation of a Roma middle-class/ elite.



# Romaversitas programs

Main services of the program:

- ✓ financial benefits – such as scholarship or/and textbook allowance, small scale grant program;
- ✓ Professional services: language, IT courses and individual (mentors, tutors and private preparatory teachers) and group level tutoring.

# Romaversitas programs

- ✓ Graduation rate: over 80%;
- ✓ Language exams: over 75% among those who are in their final year;
- ✓ Employment rate one year after graduation – 70% according to the alumni database of Romaversitas. Around half of the jobs are in relation with the profession of the graduates.

# Thank you!

- [www.romaeducationfund.hu](http://www.romaeducationfund.hu)
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