



# Roma Education Fund

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Chair

# Brief information



- Established as part of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (2005-2015) the Roma Education Fund currently operates in 14 countries.
- Our primary objective is to reduce the gap in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma children.
- Three major programs:
  - ▣ Project grants (337 to date)
  - ▣ Higher Education scholarships (1000 per year)
  - ▣ Policy Development, Advocacy and Technical Assistance
- 18 Staff in Budapest office, 8 staff in country

# REF Programs



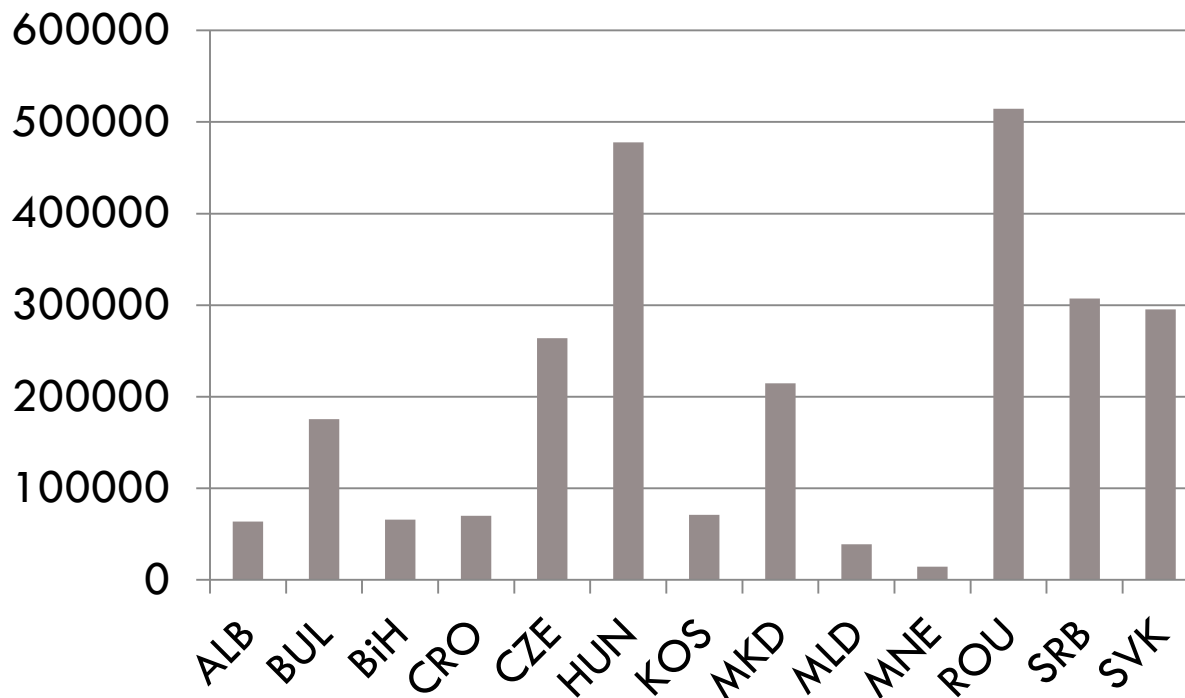
- Grants Program
- Scholarship Program
- A Good Start
- Policy Development and Advocacy
- Communications



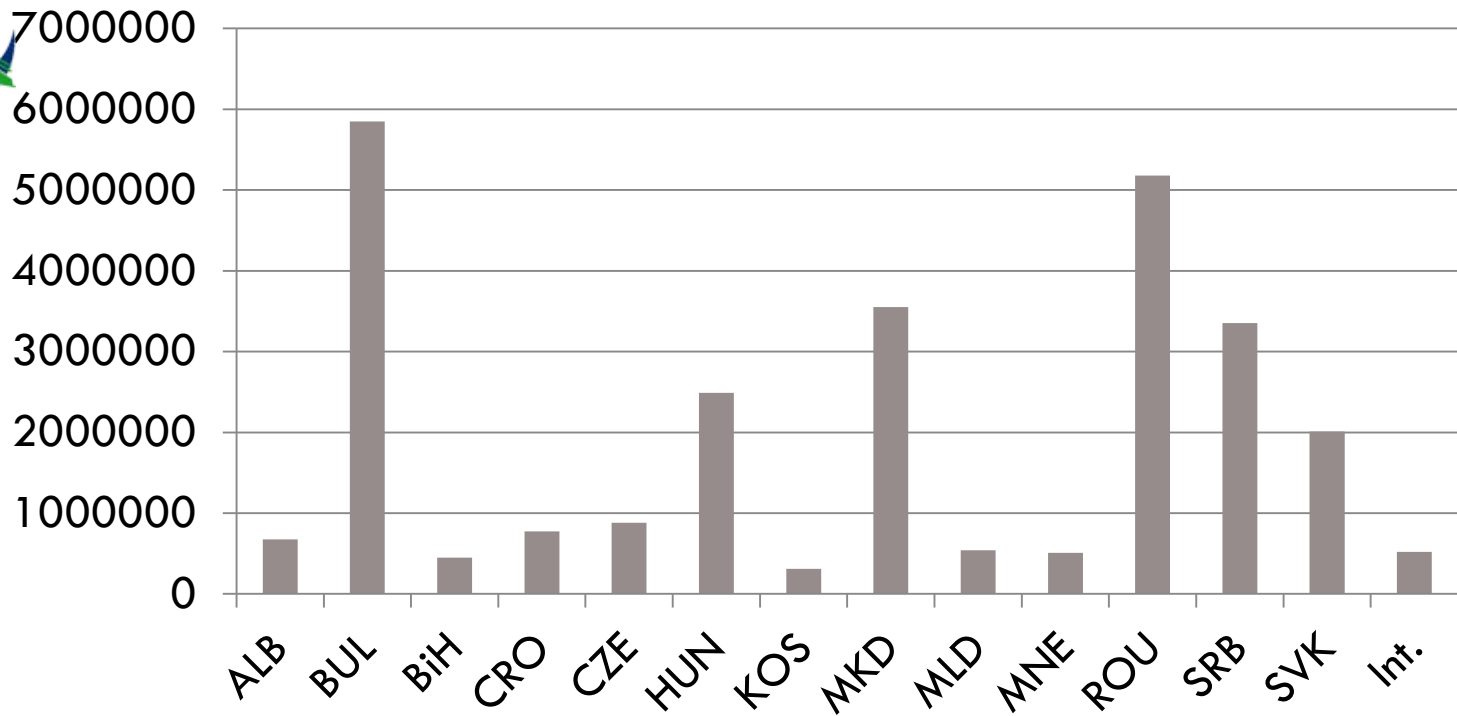
# Grants Program

- In 2012, the REF Board approved 50 new grants (of 80 submitted grant applications) in support of the implementation of projects in 13 countries for a total amount of **EUR 2,573,810**.
- There were **116 active projects in 2012**; average project length was about 12 months and average project cost was EUR 53,500. The level of co-funding raised by REF partners in the 50 projects in 2012 reached EUR 1,964,511. Seventy percent of grants were awarded to former REF partners and approximately 30 percent was awarded to new partners. Overall, the average approval rate was 41 percent for 2005–2012.

# Funds per country in 2012



# Funds per country (2005 to 2012)



# Successes



REF has trained more than **24,000 teachers** in making school environments less hostile to Romani children. Early School Leaving (ESL) programs reached **78,196 Romani children in 13 countries** of Central and South Eastern Europe in the period 2005–2012.<sup>9</sup> Through their activities, REF partners have reached out to over **309,000 Romani parents**. More than **49,000 children** have been supported with direct enrollment in early childhood development programs, which significantly contributes to prevention of early school leaving at later stages of education. Over **35,000 scholarships** were granted to Romani students to complete their **upper secondary education** through the provision of school-based mentoring and tutoring. In just one example of the positive impact that this can have, 90 percent of students supported with scholarships completed the school year with a grade point average (GPA) over 3.05 in Macedonia.

# Scholarship program



- Scholarship Program offers four academic merit-based scholarship schemes in 12 countries of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (all Decade countries except Spain) as well as in Moldova, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The four scholarship schemes are:
  - Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program (RMUSP)
  - Roma International Scholar Program (RISP)
  - Law and Humanities Program (LHP)
  - Roma Health Scholarship Program (RHSP)



# Scholarship program



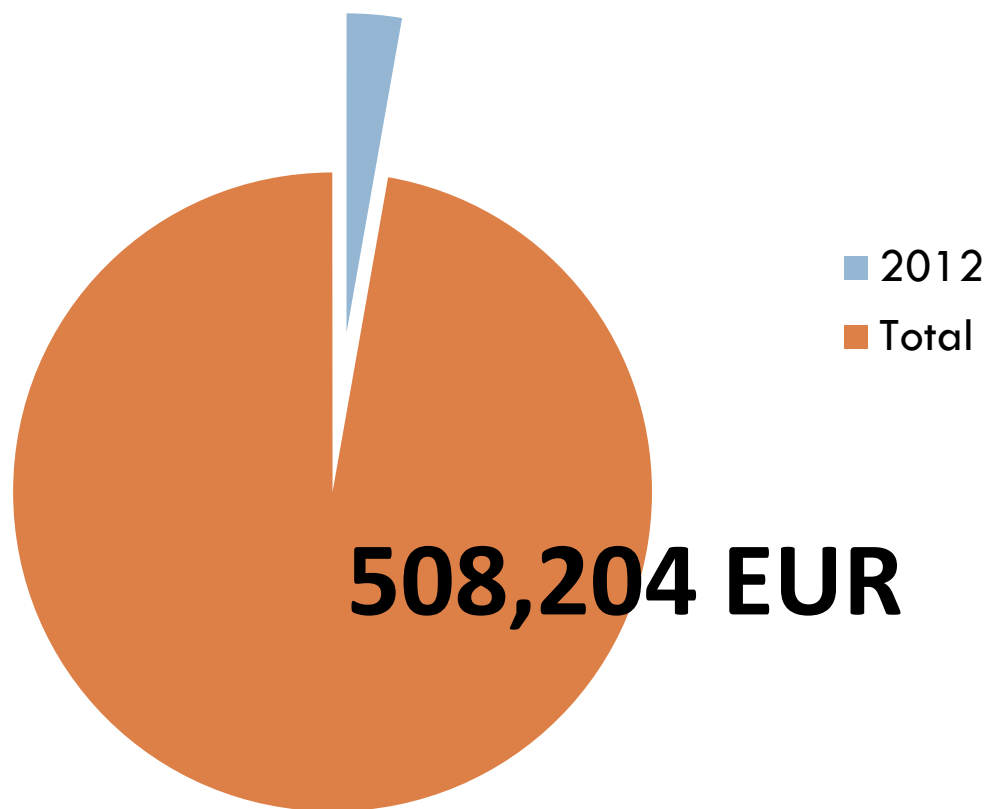
**Total amount of higher education scholarships  
provided (in EUR)**



# Montenegro



## Funds committed



# Montenegro



- **Low enrolment rates:** only more than 1/4 of Roma/Ashkali/Egyptian children attend primary education (almost 100% in non-RAE)
- **High dropout:** only 18% of RAE children complete primary education.
- **Segregation:** more than 20% of Romani pupils attend segregated schools and classes.
- **Roma involvement:** almost no Roma are employed at key positions in education.
- **Roma history:** absent from curriculum.

# IPA Montenegro 2012



“Assistance programme for integration and return of RAE and other I/DPs residing in the Konik area”

- After a trial period of one year providing access to quality education in the camps led by the Roma Education Fund the Montenegrin government has agreed to provide access to quality preschool education and desegregate primary education for the children of over 70 families who have resided at Konik Camps 1 and 2 since the Kosovo conflict of 1999. This program has been funded by European Commission’s Instruments for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and Montenegrin government funds.

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# Thank you!



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