

**Early Childhood Program (ECP) Portfolio Review, 14 October 2015**  
**Policy monitoring, Professional Networking and Parent Empowerment to Support Young Roma Children and their Families**  
**Grants and Activities Summary list**

Active/Intended grants total: \$3,273,817

Roma Parenting Support Projects (RPSP)

*Tagged on Foundation Connect under topic 'Roma Parenting Support Projects'*

The Roma Parent Support projects pilot community-based services that are culturally and contextually relevant for Roma caregivers and their young children from the prenatal period through early primary school. The projects focus on improving the context of children's development in their homes and communities.

Reference	Organisation	Country	Grant Amount for RPSP (\$)	Project Description	Project Term
Budget allocation (alm201312101)	OSF Albania	Albania	234,857	In 2013 the Open Society Foundation for Albania, working in partnership with the Step by Step NGO in Albania and two local Roma NGOs in Tirana, was granted to implement a three year community-based Roma Parent Support project. The project aims to promote the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) children by increasing the capacity and commitment of public authorities towards the provision of quality ECD services.	1 January 2014 – 31 December 2016
OR2013-09205	Nadace Open Society Fund Praha	Czech Republic	321,225	The projects started in 2012 and involved coordination of six Roma Parent Support projects through six NGOs in the Czech Republic and a funded by ECP full-time post at OSF Prague. The project aimed at building the capacity of early years professionals and support for Roma parents and their children.	1 April 2014 - 30 March 2016
OR2014-18299	Nadace Open Society Fund Praha	Czech Republic	117,565	The project is based on the previous three year pilot program providing support to Roma Parenting Support Projects in the Czech Republic. The project focuses on creating partnerships between local authorities, preschools and the local NGOs.	1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016

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OR2013-08496	Partners for Democratic Change Hungary	Hungary	109,086	A grant was awarded in 2013 to carry forwards the work of the Step by Step program in Hungary, including work to promote Roma inclusion and the revitalisation of the former Step-by-Step network of trainers and professionals from the Roma Education Fund's 'Good Start Initiative' around quality, child-centred methodologies and anti-bias.	1 December 2013- 1 December 2015
OR2013-09721	Save the Children USA	Kosovo	96,862	Started in 2011, this project aims to promote the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) children from the Mitrovica communities by increasing the capacity and commitment of public authorities, parents and the RAE community, and civil society stakeholders (NGOs) to provide community-focused early childhood services.	31 December 2013 - 31 December 2015
OR2013-07543	Foundation for Educational and Cultural Initiatives	Macedonia	238,510	Funded since 2013 and managed by the national Step by Step NGO and 3 Roma NGOs, the project delivers parenting seminars, parent/child activities, language support and a community preschool to improve children's development and parent competencies.	1 September 2013 - 30 June 2017
Budget allocation (ID ela201507271)	CIP - Center for Interactive Pedagogy	Serbia	61,345	This grant was to fund CIP to organise the logistics of the Roma Initiatives conference, a networking event with grantees with the primary goal of facilitating an exchange of experience between them, identifying successes and challenges in implementing the Roma Parenting Support Projects and REYN so far and reporting on achievements. The workshop also presented introductory trainings on assessment and evaluation tools.	1 June 2015 – 15 September 2015
Intended for 2015	CIP - Center for Interactive Pedagogy	Serbia	250,000	This project will build on an earlier phase, funded by ECP, through which CIP conducted community assessments, engaged Roma NGOs in program design and created specific inter-disciplinary materials on the basis of their work in three localities. After a successful appraisal, through the next phase the project will involve activities supported by local authorities and the national government on a larger scale, potentially involving matching funding from World Bank in Serbia.	1 January 2016 - 31 December 2018

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OR2014-18469	Wide Open School NGO	Slovakia	62,537	The project is a continuation of projects implemented in partnership with the “Way Of Hope” civic association since 2012. The project aims to support the documentation of best practices and impact of the Roma Confident Parents projects with parents in six municipalities in Slovakia.		1 January 2015 - 31 December 2015
Intended for 2015	Wide Open School NGO	Slovakia	125,000	Based on the successful review and evaluation of the previously implemented projects in six localities in Slovakia, this project will focus on the implementation of the projects in different localities. The project will include rigorous evaluation and child outcomes assessment in order to provide guidance for policy implementation.		1 January 2016 - 31 December 2016
OR2013-09756	Educational Research Institute	Slovenia	208,881	The Slovenian Step-by-Step organisation delivers activities in five pre-schools to raise awareness amongst Romani parents about the importance of early childhood development; build trust between Romani parents and ECD service providers; scale up successful models of ‘best practice’ and support preschool pedagogues to reach out to Romani families.		31 December 2013- 31 December 2016
OR2013-10691	Roma Support Group	UK	60,702	The aim of this proposal is to address inequalities and multiple disadvantages faced by Roma migrants living in London, UK through implementation of an early childhood initiative. The funding awarded in 2015 will be used to develop and pilot training materials focusing on empowering and building competencies of Roma parents living in London.		1 April 2015 - 10 October 2016
Intended for 2015	Ukrainian Step by Step Foundation (USSF)	Ukraine	240,000	This grant will build on a previously funded by ECP project to USSF for the implementation of a Roma parent support project and accompanying early childhood services for Roma children aged 0 - 6 years in three community centres in the Trans-Carpathian region. The next phase of the project will focus on work with pre-school and primary school institutions in three regions in cooperation with the International Renaissance Foundation in the piloting and introduction of Roma teaching assistants in Ukraine.		1 Feb, 2016 – 28 Feb, 2018
<b>Total RPSP current grants spend: \$2,126,570</b>						

Romani Early Years Network (REYN)

*Tagged on Foundation Connect under topic 'Romani Early Years Network'*

The Roma Early Years Network aims to increase the quality and quantity of expertise of Roma early childhood professionals and leading paraprofessionals across Europe and to facilitate their collaboration with non-Roma early childhood professionals, through activities that promote mutual understanding. ECP sponsors the establishment of national and regional networks and several of the REYN networks are hosted by the Step by Step NGOs or ISSA.

Reference	Organisation	Country	Grant Amount for REYN (\$)	Project Description	Project Term
Intended for 2015	City of Ghent	Belgium	20,160	This grant to the Municipality of Ghent is to support the city's intention of initiating a social movement in view of the year 2020 and the important role of education and early childhood. As a member of child-friendly cities network, Ghent will establish a Romani Early Years Network with regard to initiatives aimed at the integration of Roma and closely connected with Intra-European Migrants by the city of Ghent.	1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
OR2014-14204	Open Academy Step by Step	Croatia	9,440	Between 2010 and 2012 Step by Step Croatia was supported to empower Roma and non-Roma parents, school administrators and local governments to develop joint programs for young Roma children. In 2014 SbS Croatia was co-funded by ECP to match an EU grant of over 100,000 EUR to establish a National Romani Early Years Network (REYN) in Croatia.	1 July 2014 - 10 February 2016
OR2015-24195	Open Academy Step by Step	Croatia	65,093	This project is to develop innovative resources in Romani and Beyash languages, including the development of child-friendly and easy read materials (e-books, dictionary and language courses for professionals), trainings, workshops and advocacy activities, through the platform of the well-established REYN in Croatia.	1 November 2015 – 1 November 2017

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OR2012-01651	International Step by Step Association	Europe	2012: 64,055 2013: 251,936	These grants totalling \$688,936 (2012-18) to the International Step by Step Association are for the establishment of the Romani Early Years Network (REYN) hosted by ISSA. The funds are to support study visits, communications, meetings of the REYN Advisory Board and professional trainings. Additionally, funds will be used for the recruitment and salary costs of a full-time REYN Coordinator.	1 December 2012 - 30 November 2015
OR2014-18447			2014: 100,000 2015: 207,000		1 July 2014 – 31 December 2015
OR2015-22197			2016: 70,000 2017: 30,000 2018: 30,000		1 January 2016 – 31 December 2018
OR2015-23062	Partners for Democratic Change Hungary	Hungary	23,964	This grant will further develop and sustain the Romani Early Years Network Hungary in 2015-2016, with the aim of empowering Roma and non-Roma Early Childhood Development professionals and para-professionals working with young Romani children and their families in Hungary.	1 December 2013 - 1 December 2015
Intended for 2015	Associazione 21 luglio Onlus	Italy	23,656	This is for the establishment and expansion of the Italian Roma Early Years Network, a network of Roma and non-Roma professionals and para-professionals working with Roma communities in the field of Early Childhood Development (ECD) in Italy. The network will aim to provide training and networking opportunities to Italian ECD professionals and paraprofessionals working with Roma communities in Italy.	1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
OR2013-04967	Kosova Education Center	Kosovo	96,019	This is a 2 year project that started in 2013 in order to establish a national network of Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian (RAE) early childhood development professionals and paraprofessionals, focused on improving access to and quality of ECD services in Kosovo for RAE children and families.	1 September 2013 - 31 December 2015
Intended for 2015/ Budget Allocation	Association of Pedagogical Assistants in Serbia (APAS)	Serbia	23,980	This grant will support the establishment of <i>the Roma Early Years Network in Serbia</i> , to serve as an inclusive professional development learning community and support professional development, with the goal to ensure access and equity of care for young Roma children and promote high quality and professionalism in services.	1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016

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Intended for 2015	Educational Research Institute (ERI)	Slovenia	73,088	This grant will support the development of an awareness raising campaign on the importance of inclusion of Roma and migrant children into quality preschool programmes in Slovenia. The grant will also support the development of resources with examples of good practice and guidelines for ensuring inclusive and multilingual learning environments and quality early childhood education services for Roma and migrant children in Slovenia.	1 December 2015 – 1 December 2016
Intended for 2015	Wide Open School NGO	Slovakia	24,000	This grant will support the established Romani Early Years Network in Slovakia to promote best practices amongst ECD professionals and paraprofessionals, support exchange of experience and create opportunities for greater visibility of REYN in the country.	1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
<b>Total REYN current grants spend: \$1,112,391</b>					

#### Roma Early Childhood Inclusion (RECI) reports

*Tagged on Foundation Connect under topic 'Roma Early Childhood Inclusion reports'*

The RECI reports, a joint initiative of the Open Society Foundations, UNICEF, and the Roma Education Fund, aim to produce and disseminate analyses of current early childhood policies that impact young Roma children in select countries with the aim of promoting systemic reforms that ensure universal access to high quality, culturally appropriate early childhood development services.

Reference	Organisation	Country	Grant Amount for RECI (\$)	Project Description	Project Term
OR2015-21599	Open Academy Step by Step	Croatia	8,955	The purpose of these grants is to support work performed by the Open Academy Step by Step in Croatia to coordinate national consultations for and the publication and launch of the Roma Early Childhood Inclusion report - RECI+ Croatia. The second grant will serve for the development of an easy-read format of RECI Croatia, in order to reach children, parents and the general public.	1 December 2013 - 28 February 2015
OR2015-24195			4,901		1 November 2015 – 1 November 2017

**Document 2**

OR2013-09205	Nadace Open Society Fund Praha	Czech Republic	5,000	This research grant to the Institute of Research and Development of Education (IRDE) at Charles University in Prague is for the development of a RECI policy report. It is intended to aid the appropriate authorities in ensuring for all Roma children the development of unhindered, unsegregated and equal access to quality ECEC services and provision.	1 April 2014 - 30 March 2016
Intended for 2015	Equality and Diversity Early Childhood National Network EDeNn	Ireland	15,000	The purpose of this grant is to assess the situation of Traveller and Roma children in Early Childhood Education and Care in the Irish context. The research takes a systemic approach to addressing the need to support Roma and Traveler children and aims to impact all levels of the early childhood system, including local practices, institutional conditions and support systems, professional preparation and training, and governance and policy.	1 January 2016 – 31 December 2016
Budget Allocation (ID alm201504271)	Open Society Foundation Serbia	Serbia	19,500	This grant to OSF Serbia is for the development research on the effects of changes made, capacities developed and resources needed for further work related to Roma inclusion. The research has an advocacy purpose – to help in the process of developing the new Strategy of Roma inclusion (2015-2025). The study is to be used as the important incentive for defining measures in the area of preschool education.	April, 2015 – April, 2016
<b>Total RECI current grants spend: \$53,356</b>					

### Technical Assistance 2014/2015

ECP contracted consultants to provide technical assistance to the Roma Parenting Support Projects, to provide feedback on the drafts of the Roma early Childhood Inclusion Reports and for the establishment of the national Romani Early Years networks. Funding for technical assistance in 2014 was \$92,690 and in 2015 the funding is predicted to be \$185,918.

### Public Communications 2014/2015

**Voices piece** - The Roma Early Childhood Inclusion (RECI) Croatia was launched in February, 2015. The report confirms that education is one of the most critical areas of intervention for Roma children. While its findings show that progress has been made to bridge the gaps in educational policy and reaffirm the initiatives set out in the National Roma Inclusion Strategy 2013–2020, it also indicates that gaps in the ECEC system have a disproportionately negative impact on Roma children and their families.

Please see: <https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/when-roma-children-get-better-education-society-benefits>

### Events 2014/2015

#### **“Start Early – Start Well!” Conference, Ostrava - November 2014**

Open Society Fund Prague organized an early-years focused conference with a purposeful and well targeted audience of key people in municipalities, schools and NGOs from Ostrava. The conference was attended by the Education Service for New Communities and Travellers (TES), City of Bradford, a local authority in the United Kingdom, which provides a model of good practices regarding the inclusion of Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children in ECEC services.

#### **Salzburg Global Seminar Presentation– April, 2015**

The Salzburg Global Seminar challenge current and future leaders in academia and government to solve issues of global concern and encourage the revival of intellectual dialogue in post-war Europe, for global engagement on critical issues in education, health, environment, economics, governance and other. In April, 2015 Arthur Ivatts, an ECP consultant, presented results, conclusions and recommendations stemming from the Roma Early Childhood Inclusion reports.

#### **‘Parenting with Confidence’ Training – August, 2015**

Grantees from the Czech Republic and United Kingdom attended three day training on the use of the Parenting with Confidence materials, to be adapted to the Roma context in their respective countries. The materials will be used in their parenting clubs and home visits.



**Grantees Networking Workshop – September, 2015**

The Centre for Interactive Pedagogy in Serbia in cooperation with ECP organised a four day networking workshop on Roma Parenting for approximately 80 people. Attendees included ECP grantees from fourteen countries in Europe, representatives from the Ministry of Education, Open Society Foundation Serbia and ECP staff and consultants. The grantees were able to share best practices and lessons learned from their projects as well as learn about child outcomes assessment tools.

**Study visit – October, 2015**

In mid-October 2015 OSF Prague, supported by ECP, is organizing a study visit for representatives of the City of Ostrava in the Czech Republic to services providing support for Roma, Gypsy and Traveller children in the UK. The study visit is a follow up of an exchange of experience developed after the ‘Start Early – Start Well!’ conference in 2014 between the Traveller Education Support Services in Bradford, UK and the local authorities in Ostrava.

Other related grants – OSF network

**Roma Education Fund – Early Childhood Education and Care Initiative**

REF implemented the ‘A Good Start’ early years’ project supported by the European Union, the Lego Foundation, and the Bernard van Leer Foundation. The project ran in 16 localities in Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Macedonia. *A Good Start* originally operated in two municipalities in Romania (Telechiu and Craiova-Mofleni) in 2010-2012 and continued with a second phase between 2012-2014. *‘Ready, Set, Go!’* is a current project which is a continuation of the ‘A Good Start’ project with funding from Norway Grants six counties in Romania. In 2014, REF had 28 early years’ active projects totalling 1,778,996 €.

Other organisations working in this area

Bernard Van Leer  
UNICEF  
World Bank  
UNESCO  
Lego Foundation