

ROMA HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In the course of the past 5 years, the *Roma Health Scholarship Program* (RHSP) has supported students and pupils of Romani nationality who study medicine, stomatology and pharmacy at universities, higher education institutions for applied studies and secondary vocational schools. The goal of the RHSP program, jointly implemented by the OSF Roma Health Project (OSF RHP) and the Roma Education Fund's Scholarship Program was to overcome the lack of medical professionals of Roma ethnicity.

This academic year, there will be no open competition for new scholarship beneficiaries; only the scholarship beneficiaries supported by REF in the previous, 2014/2015 academic are eligible to apply.

www.romaeducationfund.org



264 SCHOLARSHIPS *have been awarded within the Roma Health Scholarship Program*

In addition to financial support, Roma students and pupils could also apply and receive individual foreign language courses grants, grants for participation at conferences and summer schools, mentorship support during studies, advocacy training.

29 MENTORS *worked closely with the Roma students and supported their academic efforts.*

(professors, docents, expert associates of medical faculties in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Niš and Kragujevac)

20 TRAINERS *held advocacy trainings to Roma scholarship beneficiaries.*



ROMA
EDUCATION
FUND



OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

Roma Education Fund implements the scholarship component



Open Society Foundations finances the mentorship and the media components, as well as the advocacy component



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Media Center
Belgrade

**5 YEARS OF SUPPORT
TO ROMA PUPILS AND STUDENTS**

Roma Health Scholarship Program
RHSP

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Roma Health Scholarship Program (RHSP) supports Roma students and pupils who were /are studying medicine in their own country or country of permanent residence. The RHSP Program supports the students who study to get a degree of a nurse /medical technician and physician from state-accredited and acknowledged medical schools and faculties (private or public). Roma Education Fund manages the implementation of RHSP's scholarship component, providing financial support to Roma pursuing medical studies in Romania (since 2008), Bulgaria (since 2009), Macedonia and Serbia, (since 2010).

There will be no open competition for new scholarship beneficiaries in the 2015/2016 academic year; only the RHSP scholarship beneficiaries supported by REF in the 2014/2015 academic year are eligible to apply.

RHSP scholarship beneficiaries also participate in the Mentorship Program and Advocacy Training organized by Open Society Foundation Hungary and Open Society Foundation Serbia.

OSF/Roma Health Program is financially supporting the 3 components of the program: mentorship, advocacy and media

MENTORSHIP

In order to help RHSP beneficiaries and increase their chances to successfully graduate, the Program has also envisaged a continuous mentorship support.

The Mentorship Program:

- ▲ 1 mentor is assigned per 2 students, the former will be able to deliver support on both academic and professional levels;
- ▲ Mentor will also help tackle discrimination when confronted with it or when witnessing a Roma being discriminated against in health care institutions.
- ▲ Mentors should guide the students in their academic carrier and professional journey by guiding them to write medical articles in medical magazines and journals, assist students in applying/attending the national and international medical events/ congresses.



ADVOCACY TRAINING

Public Advocacy Training

Additional support is organized for the scholarship beneficiaries through following trainings:

- ▲ Winter school, which is held annually, is attended by the scholarship beneficiaries and potentially their mentors where the invited applicants are offered trainings to strengthen their Roma identity.
- ▲ Also, the training enabled the applicants to improve their communication and negotiation skills in order to strengthen them in their role of the agents for change in the local communities with their professional capacities – particularly in the role of inter-cultural dialogue mediators.
- ▲ The training offers a broader perspective to the candidates on the human rights related topics in the field of the Roma community health as well as the role they can have as advocates of the Roma health-related rights on the local, national and international level.
- ▲ Training in the field of public advocacy offers a possibility for networking and bonding among the very beneficiaries.