

# DREAM TO GROW



## DAJANA'S STORY

JOB/  
EMPLOYMENT



UNIVERSITY/  
GRADUATION



PRESCHOOL/  
KINDERGARTEN

HIGHSCHOOL



PRIMARY AND  
SECONDARY SCHOOL



I am Dajana from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Starting with where I am now, and going back to my early years, I will walk you through my journey to become the person I am today. I will share notable moments in my life – exploring the events that made me strong and introducing you to the individuals who supported me throughout the many challenges I faced on my journey. **I am proud to be Roma, of who I am now, and of my dream to grow.**

I am 29 years old, and I am the only Roma out of 2,500 people in my district to have a degree. I work as a Roma Education Officer in the local Department of Education, where I am surrounded by young Roma eager to learn. I also work as a volunteer in the Roma community to share the importance of preparatory (preschool) programs and with parents.

I enrolled at the University of Ecology to study environmental protection and science. I was the only Roma girl at university, and I was very proud to be there. For the first time, I directly experienced discrimination from my peers. I didn't let it deter me. I wanted to become a positive example for other Roma girls and boys. After graduation, I continued to a master's program. I also volunteered in my community, supporting Roma children's education.

ONLY **7** ROMA STUDENTS  
ENROLLED IN A UNIVERSITY  
DURING THE 2015/2016  
SCHOOL YEAR.





**W**hen it was time to choose which high school to enroll in, I followed my father's advice and enrolled in the Environmental Technician school. After three months, my father, a chimney sweep technician, asked me if I would like to enroll in the high school for chimney cleaners and attend the two high schools simultaneously. I gladly accepted the double work!

**ONLY 38 ROMA STUDENTS COMPLETED EDUCATION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL (SCHOOL YEAR 2015/2016).**

**SECONDARY EDUCATION INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 4,045 ROMA CHILDREN.**

I successfully attended two high schools and obtained two diplomas, making me an environmental engineer and a qualified chimney sweep technician.



# 1,842

ROMA CHILDREN  
WERE ENROLLED  
IN PRIMARY  
EDUCATION  
(SCHOOL YEAR  
2015/2016).

**D**uring the first years of my education at primary school, I quickly learned what it feels like to be viewed through the lens of prejudice. Meanwhile, I was helping my father clean chimneys.



**D**uring my early years, I did not attend preschool. I loved to play with the brushes and tools my father used to clean chimneys.

ONLY **31** ROMA  
CHILDREN ATTEND  
THE PRESCHOOL  
SERVICES.

REYN (ROMANI EARLY YEARS NETWORK) B&H IS A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR ROMA CHILDREN THAT BRINGS TOGETHER EXPERTS, ACTIVISTS, AND ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AND THE REGION.

REYN B&H IS LED BY KS - RIC, WITH PARTNERS CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES - STEP BY STEP AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTER.

REYN B&H MEMBERS ARE EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS (EDUCATORS, TEACHERS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, PEDAGOGUES, AND COUNSELORS) AND ACTIVISTS OF ROMA AND NON-ROMA CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS. THE MAIN GOALS OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED BY KS - RIC ARE TO:

- FORM AN EDUCATIONAL COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONALS IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILD DEVELOPMENT AT THE STATE LEVEL,
- IMPROVE THE CAPACITY FOR WORK OF PROFESSIONALS AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT FIELD THROUGH ADEQUATE TRAINING AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES,
- INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AT ALL LEVELS (CITIZENS, INSTITUTIONS, DECISION-MAKERS).



The Kali Sara - Roma Information Center (KS - RIC) was established in 2007 through the project "Support to the Roma National Minority in BiH in Effective Advocacy and Reporting." The project was supported by the US State Department and World Vision Inc.

The main goal of KS - RIC is to raise the political, educational, economic, social, and cultural status of the Roma, to realize the comprehensive integration of Roma, and to advocate for the promotion of democracy and respect for human rights.

*The data presented in this infographic is from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is the result of research and monitoring done by REYN Bosnia and Herzegovina and its hosting organization RIC-Kali Sara.*