

DREAM TO GROW



ACTIVISM/
JOB

JOB/
EMPLOYMENT

GRADUATION/
UNIVERSITY

HIGH
SCHOOL

PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

PRESCHOOL/
KINDERGARTEN

MORE THAN 20 ROMA NGOS CURRENTLY HAVE THE CAPACITY TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT YOUNG ROMA CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH DIFFERENT PROGRAMS AND IN PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.



I am Maria from Serbia. 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.**

At the age of 33, I am a successful and respected early childhood development professional in my community. I help children transition between preschool and primary school. Though I have my diploma, I keep studying so I can improve my work.

At the age of 23, I became a pedagogical assistant and worked in a local kindergarten.

I helped children register for preschool and motivated parents, raising their awareness about the importance of early education and their children's rights.

225 ROMA

PEDAGOGICAL ASSISTANTS WORK IN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

35 OUT OF 225 ARE

ROMA PEDAGOGICAL ASSISTANTS WORKING IN PRESCHOOLS.



LESS THAN **1%**
ROMA HAVE
A COLLEGE OR
UNIVERSITY DEGREE.

I studied economics at university. I loved learning, but I did not want to become an economist. With strong motivation and support from the Roma NGO that funded my studies, I graduated.



ONLY **15%**
OF YOUNG ROMA
WOMEN HAVE
COMPLETED
SECONDARY
EDUCATION.

28% OF
YOUNG ROMA MEN
HAVE COMPLETED
SECONDARY
EDUCATION.

In high school, I felt I had to prove myself to other students. I was one of only a few Roma pupils to graduate.

I dreamed of becoming a teacher, but I knew that my parents did not have the resources to support me in my study.

90% OF
THE GENERAL
POPULATION HAS
COMPLETED
SECONDARY
EDUCATION.

85% OF ROMA STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED IN PRIMARY SCHOOL.



Throughout primary and secondary school, I was an excellent student. I did not experience discrimination from teachers. But, I did experience it from my peers. I only had one friend at school.

ONLY 64% OF ROMA COMPLETE PRIMARY EDUCATION, COMPARED WITH 93% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

At the age of 6, I enrolled in a pre-school preparatory program in a group consisting of Roma and non-Roma children.

My parents managed to enroll us even though the preschool was against our enrollment in services alongside non-Roma children.

ONLY 6% OF ROMA CHILDREN (AGED 3 TO 5.5) ATTEND PRESCHOOL EDUCATION COMPARED TO 50% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.

63% OF ROMA CHILDREN ATTEND THE COMPULSORY PREPARATORY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM COMPARED TO 98% OF THE GENERAL POPULATION.



REYN SERBIA IS A NETWORK OF PROFESSIONALS, INDIVIDUALS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE FOCUS IS ON CREATING A STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ROMANI CHILDREN CAN FULLY DEVELOP THEIR CAPACITIES AND BECOME EQUAL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

WE ADVOCATE THAT ALL CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY ROMANI CHILDREN, HAVE THE RIGHT TO EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY OF INCLUSIVE UPBRINGING AND EDUCATION. WE BELIEVE THAT INDIVIDUALS AND INSTITUTIONS ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO ENSURE THAT. REYN SERBIA SUPPORTS THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP, PROMOTE THEIR RECOGNITION AND IMPORTANCE OF THEIR WORK.

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Association of Pedagogical Assistants of Serbia - APAS is a professional association created to respond to the growing need for more active participation of Roma pedagogical assistants as a relevant social partner in the process of democratization of the educational system and process of social inclusion of Roma in the Republic of Serbia. As a new educational profession, Roma pedagogical assistant provides

support to the processes of advocating the child's right to quality and fair education, through the promotion of the values of social and educational inclusion, with which we want to point out the problems faced by Roma children in need of additional support. Find out more at: www.reyns.apas.org.rs/sr/
Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/Asocijacija-Pedagoških-Asistenata-Srbije-1522731661334183

The data presented in this infographic is from Serbia. It is the result of research and monitoring done by REYN Serbia and its hosting organization APAS – Association of Pedagogic Assistants.