



## *Online event*

# **Evidence and Research for Roma Children— RECI Reports: Decade of Collaboration**

**Date:** December 8, 2020

**Time:** 14:00-16:00 GMT/15:00-17:00 CET

---

## *Agenda*

**Welcome**

**Keynote address**

**RECI series – Achievements and challenges**  
Presentation and reflections from RECI partners

**Q&A**

**Panel discussion 1:** What do we need to do to promote equal access to health and education for Roma children? What is the role of research in policy making, practice and advocacy?

**Q&A**

**Panel discussion 2:** Roma children's inclusion today. (What has been achieved in the past 10 years? Where are countries now? What are the main problems? What is the impact of COVID1-19 on Roma children and their families? What data are available and what data are missing?)

## Q&A

Conclusions and takeaway messages

---

## Speakers with affiliation

- **Zuzana Havirova Balazova** - Director of Roma Advocacy and Research Center, Slovakia
- **Ivelina Borisova** - Regional Advisor, UNICEF
- **Redjepali Chupi**, Interim Co-Director, Roma Education Fund
- **Dan Pavel Doghi** - Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Chief of the CPRSI at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR)
- **Roland Ferkovics** - independent advocacy expert
- **Jana Hainsworth** - Secretary General, Eurochild
- **Jana Huttova** - Consultant, OSF
- **Arthur Ivatts** - Consultant, OSF
- **Anita Jones** - Program Manager, OSI Sofia
- **Sarah Klaus, Director** - Early Childhood Program, OSF
- **Geraldine Libreau** - Policy Officer for Early Childhood Education and Care, in the Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission
- **Szilvia Pallaghy** - Program Officer, Early Childhood Program, OSF
- **Marko Pecak** – Research Officer, Roma Education Fund
- **Lucie Pleskova** - Programme Manager, OSF Prague
- **Abel Ravasz** – President of the Mathias Bel Institute, Slovakia
- **Ramiza Sakip** - Advisor on Education, Municipality of Suto Orizari, Skopje, North Macedonia
- **Zorica Trikić** - Program Manager, International Step by Step Association

# Selected speakers' bios

## **Zuzana Havirova Balazova - Director of Roma Advocacy and Research Center, Slovakia**

In 2011, Zuzana started to work with the Center for the research of ethnicity and culture, particularly on projects concerned with inclusive education of Romani children. In 2013 she moved to a new field, focused on introducing affirmative action targeting Roma high-school and university students. Besides this, she was involved in many other researches as RECI, Atlas of Romani communities in Slovakia, Sport and Romani children, etc.. She is the author of the first research about segregation of Romani students in secondary education in Slovakia. She has made a fellowship about Community Organizing in Chicago in 2015 and she was involved in organizing protests “For a decent Slovakia” in her hometown Skalica in 2018. She is the Director of the Roma Advocacy and Research Center as member of ERGO network, using data for advocacy and for the fight against antigypsyism not only at national level, but also at EU level.

## **Dan Pavel Doghi - Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues, Chief of the CPRSI at OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR)**

Dan Pavel Doghi is the Chief of the OSCE ODIHR's Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues (CPRSI). Previously, he was the Higher Education Program Manager of Roma Education Fund (REF), in Budapest (2012-2017), the National Director of REF Romania (2013-2015), and served as Officer on Roma and Sinti within the ODIHR's CPRSI throughout 2004-2011. During 2009-2016, he served as a member of the Board of Directors of the European Roma Rights Centre (ERRC). He was also an Advocacy Fellow in the Training and Education Programme of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), a Budapest-based programme of Columbia University, where he worked on the issue of segregation in education of Roma children. He was involved in human rights and civil society work since 1996, through Roma NGOs in Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, Romania. He studied social sciences at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj, Romania, and completed a postgraduate course in International Diplomacy at the University of Malta.

## **Jana Hainsworth - Secretary General, Eurochild**

Jana Hainsworth is a child rights advocate and civil society leader, with a strong track-record in influencing policy at EU and national levels. She is passionate about improving outcomes for vulnerable children, families and communities by building the capacity of civil society and self-advocates to campaign for change. She has been the Secretary General of Eurochild - a pan-European umbrella of children's organisations - since 2006. She co-led the campaign 'Opening Doors for Europe's Children' that ran from 2013 to 2019 and aimed to end institutional care for children across Europe. She is now leading the establishment of a Europe-wide campaign focused on early childhood development, called 'First Years-First Priority'. Jana was elected President of Social Platform from 2015-2019.

## **Anita Jones - Program Manager, OSI Sofia**

Anita Jones works for the Open Society Institute – Sofia Foundation. She holds degrees in European Studies and Management and is the project manager of the RECI+ Bulgaria research. Anita is a certified trainer with 15 years of experience in non-formal educational trainings and life-long learning projects for youths and adults covering the topics of active citizenship, project design and skills for work in a multicultural environment. Her professional background involves project management, research and qualitative studies in the field of social inclusion, education and work with vulnerable groups including Roma. In the last couple of years, Anita's work has been focused on promoting diversity and inclusion by designing services and trainings for bridging the gap between the business and disadvantaged groups in Bulgaria. She is co-author of the handbook “Diversity in the workplace –

why and how?" and part of the Diversity Pays Off Initiative. Anita is one of the editors of the Bulgarian RECI report.

**Geraldine Libreau - Policy officer for Early Childhood Education and Care in the Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission**

Géraldine Libreau is a Policy Officer for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) in the Directorate General Education, Youth, Sport and Culture of the European Commission. She currently coordinates an expert group, bringing together ministerial representatives from 35 European countries and representatives of trade unions, cities, children's interests, etc. The group explores efficient policies and practices to professionalise further ECEC staff as well as to increase inclusiveness of ECEC systems and settings. Before that, Géraldine graduated in European and international public law and dedicated her career to management and evaluation of European policies, programmes and projects in the field of youth and senior volunteering, e-learning, vocational education and training and adult education. She also created EPALE, the e-Platform for Adult Learning in Europe.

**Lucie Pleskova - Program Manager at OSF Prague**

Lucie Plešková is a Program Manager at Open Society Fund (OSF) Prague. She manages grant making and advocacy programs along with other activities connected to the fields of equal opportunities, active citizenship and democracy. Her current portfolio covers topics like inclusive education, early childhood development (ECD), advocacy support for civil society organizations and the independent media landscape in the Czech Republic. OSF Prague implements both projects that seek systemic changes at the national level and projects that help to address specific local issues. Lucie received a MA in Psychology from Charles University in Prague with a focus on child and family psychology and therapy. She has more than 15 years of experience working with children with various disadvantages and their families within the health, education and non-profit sectors.

**Abel Ravasz - President of the Mathias Bel Institute, Slovakia**

Ábel Ravasz is a sociologist and politician living and working in Slovakia. He studied sociology, political science and economy at ELTE Budapest, BCE Budapest and Columbia University in New York City. His main area of specialization is minority policy, social integration and social statistics. He has a decade's worth of fieldwork in the Gemer region of Slovakia, where he has worked with the local Roma communities. Between 2016-2020 he worked as the Government Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic for Roma Communities. In this capacity, he visited over 300 Roma communities. With counterparts, he has achieved the introduction of the legislation about compulsory preschool education for all children in the country, among other policy successes. He is the founder and president of the Mathias Bel Institute in Bratislava. The institute serves as the think tank for the political party Most-Híd. He has been a member of the party's presidency since 2016.

**Ramiza Sakip - Advisor for Education in the municipality of Suto Orizari, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia**

Since September 2018 Ramiza Sakip is working as Advisor for Education in Suto Orizari which is located in the capital town Skopje of the Republic of North Macedonia. From 2011 - 2016 she worked in the country as a trainer and facilitator of the program ROMED 1 and ROMED 2 - European Training Program for Roma Mediators by the Council of Europe funded from the European Commission, where she trained 100 Roma mediators, members of the Roma communities and employees in the local administration of 10 municipalities in Republic of North Macedonia. In the past 25 years she has been actively involved in several Roma NGOs in the country: Association of Citizens ROMAVERSITAS North Macedonia, Association of Roma Women ESMA, Organization of Roma Youth ANGLUNIPE, etc. Ramiza Sakip is a graduate professor of grade teaching in Macedonian language at the University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Skopje.

### **Zorica Trikić - Program Manager, International Step by Step Association**

Zorica Trikić is a Senior Program Manager in the International Step by Step Association (ISSA), in Leiden, the Netherlands. Zorica was Program Director for the CIP- Centre for Interactive Pedagogy in Serbia. Currently Zorica is active in different ISSA initiatives, including Romany Early Years Network (which she used to coordinate), Embracing Diversity, Supporting Families for Nurturing Care, Children on the Move, etc. As a manager, trainer, researcher, and NGO activist, she has more than 30 years of experience, with an intense focus on supporting synchronized and strategic efforts in programmatic, organizational, and political management to address systemic oppression, discrimination, and exclusion in early childhood systems. She is a scholar, practitioner, and passionate advocate for more justice and inclusive environments for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable Roma children, families, and communities. Zorica is one of the authors of the Serbian RECI report.