



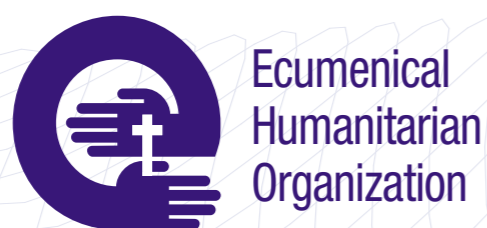
Ecumenical  
Humanitarian  
Organization



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FOR 2020

[www.ehons.org](http://www.ehons.org)



Ecumenical  
Humanitarian  
Organization

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## INTRODUCTION



### Dear reader,

The report you hold in your hands is our Annual Report for 2020, which you will agree was a challenging year in every respect. No doubt we will remember this year for the COVID-19 pandemic that changed our lives. Many lost people dear to them, many feared for their health and the lives of their loved ones, many lost their jobs and lost their ability to travel and socialise.

*As in previous crises, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation responded to the situation and, with the support of our donors, secured 10,000 packages of humanitarian aid for those most vulnerable, which we distributed all over Serbia. Not only that, we also succeeded in implementing more than 40 different projects, through which we supported socially vulnerable children and young people, children living and/or working on the street, elderly people, Roma men and women, returnees under the readmission agreements, migrants, people with disabilities, people fighting cancer, together with their families, women and many others.*

We are exceptionally proud of our more than 120 employees, more than 100 external associates and a network of around 200 volunteers. All of these people are what makes EHO one of the leading organisations in Serbia tackling social issues, for which I am immeasurably grateful to them.

**Director Anna Brtka Valent**



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## ABOUT US

**T**he Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation is a development organisation which through practical action in devising and implementing projects, and guided by Christian ethical values, is contributing to the building of a just society in which diversity is respected.

*Human rights, equality and human dignity, peace and reconciliation, interfaith cooperation, solidarity, social justice and inclusion, sustainable development, efficacy and transparency as well as a participative approach, are the basic values of EHO, and those which guide the organisation in its work.*

EHO's target groups are all vulnerable and marginalised groups whose human rights are compromised or who are discriminated against. The organisation works directly with children and young people, people with disabilities, the elderly, migrants, Roma men and women, people with health issues, the unemployed, girls and women, young church leaders and civil society organisations. EHO also works with local communities, provincial and national government bodies and state institutions – all those who are responsible for implementing policies aimed at improving the status of vulnerable and marginalised groups.

### EHO's vision:

A civil society fostering human dignity.

### EHO's mission:

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation is a development organisation which through practical action, guided by Christian ethical values, is contributing to the building of a just society in which diversity is respected.

### EHO's strategic objectives (2019-2023):

- Development of civil society through advocacy for rights, social inclusion and developing the potential of vulnerable groups, as well as through partnerships with state institutions and other stakeholders;
- Integrating EHO services into the existing system of social welfare and developing innovative services by building our own capacities and through partnerships with all interested parties;
- Improving cooperation between ethnic and faith communities in the country through information-sharing, public advocacy, partnership, development of intercultural values, establishing dialogue and joint initiatives for peace-building and reconciliation;
- Participative management, developing and building organisational resources and capacities and securing the institutional and financial sustainability of the organisation.

## Social inclusion of Roma and other vulnerable groups in Serbia 2019-2022

**I**n 2020 we continued with project activities targeted towards improving the living conditions of Roma men and women and other people from vulnerable categories in three areas: housing, education and legal support.

The project supports the work of 11 local authorities: Novi Sad, Žabalj, Smederevska Palanka, Kragujevac, Šabac, Zvezdara, Obrenovac, Aranđelovac, Surdulica, Požega and Raška.

Families from substandard settlements in Aranđelovac and Raška were supported by providing technical reports for a total of 63 dwellings. Plans were drawn up in order to obtain building permits for the construction of 18 new dwellings.

Electronic additional educational support (E-DOP) was provided for 45 children from four primary schools, their teachers and their mentors. This innovative model for working remotely with children who have difficulties keeping up with lessons proved an excellent response to the situation brought about by COVID-19.

Teaching staff, a total of 146 staff from 14 schools in four partner municipalities, successfully completed intercultural training.

Two types of training, successfully completed by 57 employees of local authorities and institutions working directly with clients, facilitated the improvement of skills in communication and mediation.

Selected examples of good practice in working with the Roma community during the pandemic were presented at the Roma Forum 2020.

**Coordinator:** [Slađana Jovanović](#) > [sladjana@ehons.org](mailto:sladjana@ehons.org)





## Completion of 6 housing units and sustainable integration of the most venerable (RHP) SRB1, SRB2 and SRB4 in four municipalities (Sombor, Apatin, Odžaci and Šid) in Vojvodina – Intervention 3

**T**he project is being implemented as part of the regional CARE project – “Contribution to access of refugees and internally displaced persons to rights and employment opportunities”. This project is being financed by the Center for Regionalism in Novi Sad with EU funding, and co-financed by HEKS/EPER of Switzerland.

During implementation of the project, the EHO project team, together with the families supported under intervention 3 from Morović, Bogojevo, Apatin and Beždan, faced challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, along with a host of other construction-related problems. Despite this, these families today have fully functional portions of their family homes, which previously they had not been able to complete themselves.

During 2020 these six families, end users of the Regional Housing Programme (RHP), succeeded with the support of EHO in utilising the construction materials they had previously received to improve living conditions in their dwellings.

**Coordinator:** [Slađana Jovanović > sladjana@ehons.org](mailto:sladjana@ehons.org)



## Roma community development – Mišar, phase II



**T**he project is a continuation of support for improving living conditions for the Roma community in the Mišar neighbourhood in Šabac. Part of the Mišar neighbourhood, where 17 Roma families live, is situated on the banks of the Sava river, and this community was severely impacted by the floods which affected Serbia in 2014.

During 2020, in partnership with the Šabac city authority and the JKP Vodovod Šabac public water company, a public water supply network was constructed and access to drinking water provided to residents of part of the Mišar neighbourhood.

For 17 dwellings, technical reports and accompanying documentation were filed with the relevant authority, thereby meeting conditions for the legalisation process to continue. When the legalisation procedure is complete, requirements will have been met for these dwellings to be connected to the water supply network.

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## Roma Community Mobilization and Development - Moving forward

**T**his three-year project (2018-2020) aims to empower the Roma community and build capacities among Roma men and women in Roma settlements to independently and/or in partnership with institutions create an environment with equal opportunities for all members of sensitive groups, male and female.

**In 2020 the focus was placed on providing additional support to the community through:**

- a tutoring programme in the settlements of Osečina Jalovik, Ljubovija Alin Grm and Mionica Nanomir – working in the field with children on the topic of prevention and protection from coronavirus, support in keeping up with online lessons and learning.
- 40 children from the first to the eighth grade of primary school passed through the tutoring programme.
- 20 tablet devices were distributed to children attending the tutoring programme.
- Four small grants were awarded to local associations.

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## Improvement of the social-economic situation of marginalized people in Vojvodina through education and economic empowerment

**A** three-year project was launched (2019-2022) aimed at improving the socio-economic status of marginalised groups in Vojvodina, consisting of two components: economic empowerment and education. The plan over the duration of the project is to support 590 members of marginalised groups in Vojvodina (Roma, the internally displaced, returnees, recipients of social benefits, families living below the poverty line) through these two components.

*Working with primary schools in Novi Sad, Subotica, Kikinda, Zrenjanin, Novi Bečej, Srpska Crnja and Feketić, 140 pupils have been supported, from first to eighth grade, with a particular focus on children attending seventh and eighth grade. Individual mentorship, workshops and assistance with school supplies and obtaining documents have been provided, in order to improve the integration of children into the education system and to help them achieve the best results they can in school.*

To help beneficiaries maximise their income potential, 20 users were supported with grants in the form of tools and equipment to run their own business. Three beneficiaries were also supported in the process of registering their businesses as sole proprietorships. As part of this process, beneficiaries underwent training in starting and running a business and creating a business plan and supported with the equipment and machines they needed and provided with the supervision and support of a mentor.

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## Network for integration in Serbia

**I**n order to improve the system of support to families of returnees under the Readmission Agreements, build the capacities of the network of local integration workers and facilitate the transfer of knowledge and exchange of experiences with German social welfare institutions, the project included the following activities in the previous phase:

- study visit to Stuttgart and to German social welfare institutions;
- training for local integration workers in working with returnee families in the field;
- holding 17 meetings with representatives of local authorities, education institutions and social welfare institutions in order to improve services for returnee families.

### During 2020 activities were as follows:

- mapping resources in 17 towns and municipalities in Serbia in order to identify existing services, practices in the local community and service providers in the social welfare system;
- creating a Guide to Integration cataloguing all the services and measures available to returnee families in the Roma, Albanian, German and Serbian languages;
- organising three round tables in Niš, Novi Sad and Kragujevac for experts working in the social welfare system in order to define objectives aimed at improving the status of returnee families.

*The integration network consists of 25 local associates all across Serbia who have since October 2016 supported the reintegration process for families repatriated under the Readmission Agreements.*

**Coordinator:** Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org

## Local mechanisms for integrating marginalised families

**T**he project has supported and empowered citizens' associations and local initiatives responding to the social, educational, cultural and other needs of vulnerable groups in terms of improving their integration and improving the situation of other marginalised groups at the local level. The project was also supported by Hoffnung für Osteuropa (HfO), and six local initiatives were conducted in Serbia during 2020:

- The Amaro Drom Centre for the Development of the Roma community in Smederevska Palanka provided and installed a smartboard with software in the Roma language in a classroom in the Olga Milošević Primary School.
- The Zora Roma Association, organised preventative health checks in rural areas of the municipality of Babušnica, raising the awareness of the Roma community regarding the importance of preventive health checkups and increasing health consciousness amongst Roma.
- The Jefimija Women's Initiative in Sremska Mitrovica devised a programme for children with autism intended to support the acquisition of skills in creating didactic materials and improve motor skills in children who are on the autism spectrum.
- The Romsko Srce Kruševac Association and the Roma Centar in Kragujevac worked on the empowerment of the Roma community in seeking work, and organised vocational training for returnees under the readmission agreements.
- The Roma Herc Association from Lebane conducted a project to raise awareness in the Roma community of their civil rights and obligations with respect to paying utility bills.
- The Đina Humanitarian Association from Bačko Gradište provided support to socially vulnerable pupils in the final grades of school in integrating them into the education system and in pursuing their full social inclusion.

**Coordinator:** Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org





## Support for the integration of returnee families

**T**he project addresses the integration of returnees under the Readmission Agreements from the state of Baden-Württemberg and other parts of Germany to Serbia, seeking to support their dignified return and prevent the key causes of repeat illegal migration.

*The project contributes towards solving the problems of returnee families through various support measures provided by the local integration workers who comprise the Network for Integration in Serbia.*

### Support for the integration of returnee families includes the following measures:

- MEASURE 1** – Establishing minimum sanitary standards and improving living conditions interior work in dwellings and minor repairs to the house
- MEASURE 2** – Measures for economic empowerment through self-employment selection and award of startup grants to candidates with the best business initiatives; informing and advising returnees about the opportunities for seeking work
- MEASURE 3** – Urgent aid obtaining food, hygiene products, medications for people with no health insurance in order to continue their treatment, school supplies and required documents, depending on the needs of the family
- MEASURE 4** – Connecting returnee families with institutions and associations during the project the network of local workers has been continually working on connecting returnee families with all relevant local institutions and/or associations in order to identify any additional opportunities and resources to better integrate the beneficiaries.

The project aims, in the period from 2020 to 2023, to support 130 vulnerable families returning voluntarily or being deported from Germany to Serbia.

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## Key to inclusion

**T**he project titled “**Strengthening the capacities of the local and Roma communities at the territory of the City of Šabac for inclusive processes – Key to Inclusion**” contributes to the empowerment and advancement of the social position of the Roma community in the catchment area of the City of Šabac and reinforces mechanisms aimed at raising the level of awareness of the ways in which the discrimination of the Roma population can be effectively overcome and stigma reduced.

*The project is being conducted by the City of Šabac with the partnership of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the Belgrade College of Social Work under the programme “EU Support to Roma Inclusion – Strengthening Local Communities for Roma Inclusion”, financed by the European Union and implemented by the Serbian Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities (SKGO).*

**Coordinator:** Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org

## The key results of the project have been:

1. Creating the MIR (Network for the Integration of Roma) with 22 representatives of various institutions and civil society organisations.
2. Level of knowledge raised amongst representatives of the local media and members of the local community of the City of Šabac of the authentic cultural heritage of the Roma population, by organising:
  - a) various training events on the social mechanisms behind the emergence and perpetuation of prejudices and the significance of interculturality;
  - b) an intercultural festival called “Dance through a Fairy-tale”, aimed at promoting Roma culture and the Roma cultural identity, and a literary competition for children of primary school age on the topic “Different but still the Same”;
  - c) short TV reports on inclusion and the importance of including the Roma community.
3. Implementing various education modules so as to build a volunteer structure that will actively provide support to the Roma community under the Mobile Kindergarten and Mobile School projects.





## Support for the education of socially deprived children and youth in Serbia (continuation)

**B**uilding on the successfully completed first cycle, this project continues to provide ongoing support, aiming to improve opportunities and success rates in educating socially deprived children and youth (from poor families, and those belonging to especially vulnerable categories such as members of the Roma community, or children and youth with disabilities and/or developmental difficulties). The project is being conducted in nine local communities across Serbia: Bač (Selenča), Opovo, Kruševac (Gornji Stepoš), Kraljevo, Bor, Knjaževac, Mionica, Raška (Supnje) and Lebane (Bošnjace). Support is being provided on an ongoing basis to primary school pupils in grades from five to eight, as well as the first grade of secondary school, by organising supplemental lessons and workshops, buying them school supplies and covering food and travel costs, among other ways. Through this project, EHO wants to support the efforts of schools and local communities in investing in the education of children from poor families and in so doing achieve positive personal, social and economic change.

### During 2020:

- 176 children and youth received ongoing project support;
- 701 supplemental lessons were organised to improve children's results, 39 workshops with additional psychological and pedagogical support for them and 21 workshops aimed at motivating and empowering the parents of these children;
- 69 teachers and 10 non-teaching staff were directly involved in the implementation of project activities.

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## Field-work with children at risk of living and/or working on the street



**A**ctivities under the “Field-work with children at risk of living and/or working on the street” project are conducted in the catchment area of Novi Sad in three substandard Roma settlements – Bangladeš, Veliki Rit and part of the Adice neighbourhood. The objective of the project is to reduce the number of children and youth who see the street as a significant aspect of their identity, and to increase the number of those becoming involved in regular social and educational activities.

*Accordingly, activities are conducted directly in the field and in cooperation with educational institutions. Participating in project activities directly in the field were four peer educators and 14 field workers, whilst learning support within educational institutions was provided by 14 volunteers. A total of 512 field visits were made, with 533 contacts with children and youth and 203 pupils supported from first to fourth grade. In addition to Jožef Atila Primary School, the Novi Sad Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth and the Dr Rudolf Arčibald Rajs Police Professional Association, partnership has also been established with primary schools Vuk Karadžić in Novi Sad and Veljko Petrović in Begeč.*

In 2020 a documentary film was produced titled Urban Wasteland, which depicts the importance to children, youth and their families of the direct and ongoing support which has been provided under the project for the last 11 years. An exhibition was also held, titled Life from our Perspective, prepared with the participation of 60 children and putting on show 120 pieces of children's artwork. Field workers and volunteers providing learning support to children during last year's cycle attended two professional training events: Techniques of Assertive Communication and Personal Empowerment Programme.

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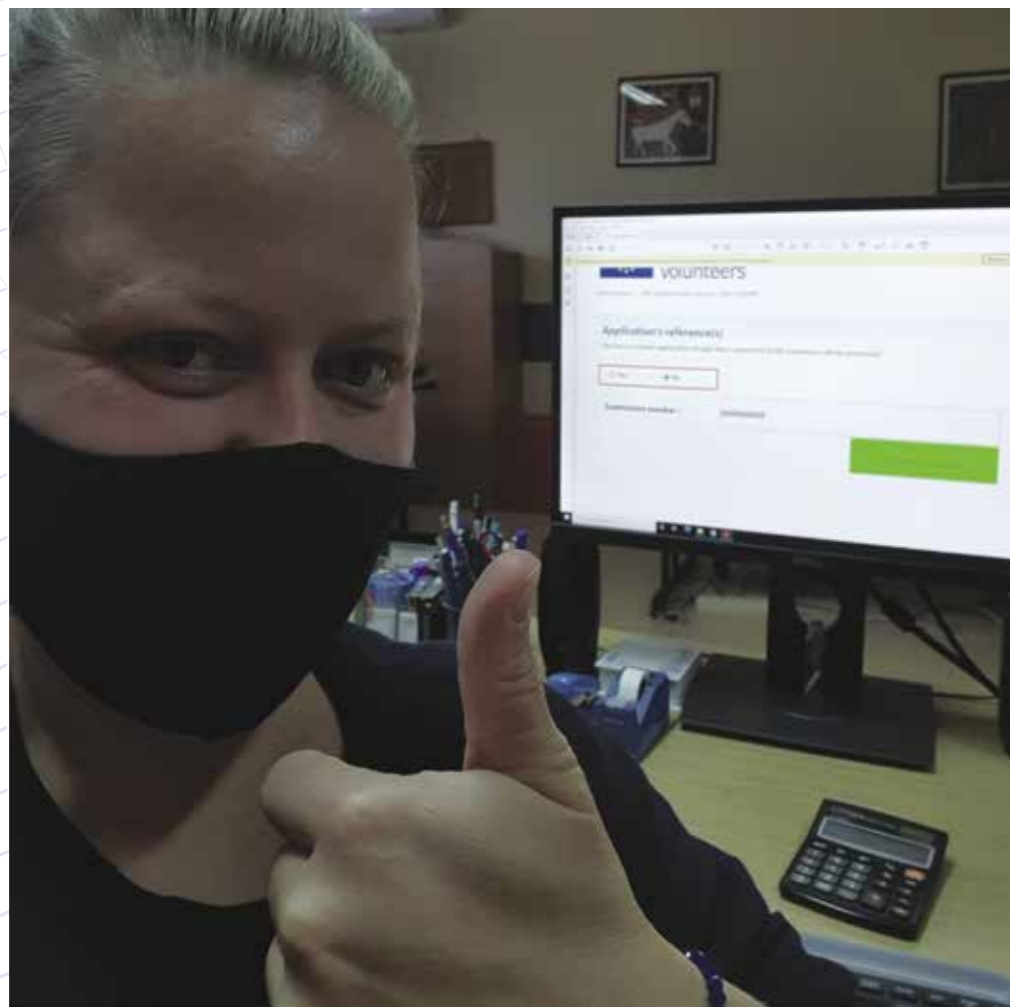
## Capacity Building - Exchange of good practices and cooperation in humanitarian action to generate engagement

**D**uring 2020 a two-year project was initiated, conducted under the mentorship of ADRA Slovakia as the only organisation in Slovakia certified under the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. The objective of the project, being conducted by EHO in partnership with MHD Merhamet Sandžak from Novi Pazar and Čovekoljublje, the Serbian Orthodox Church charity foundation from Belgrade, under the mentorship of ADRA Slovakia (ADRA), is to secure certification for the host programme for volunteers from the EU and to build the capacities of organisations in conducting such programmes in line with EU standards.

*During 2020 EHO, together with its partners, took part in training to prepare for drafting the documentation required to submit an application for host programme certification. In September, the documentation required by the standards was filed, which was followed by a response from the European Commission confirming fulfilment of the conditions and the issue of certification required for the volunteer host programme.*

Towards the end of the year a meeting was held laying down the framework for the future work, and the process was begun of identifying programme areas within which partner organisations will build their capacities. In addition to the planned training, further activities will be directed towards carrying out research, including defining a methodological framework for mapping organisations that involve volunteers in their work.

**Coordinator:** [Borka Vrekić > borka@ehons.org](mailto:borka@ehons.org)



## Home Assistance and Home Care

**T**he overall objective of the programme is to improve the quality of life of the elderly and sick by providing a high standard of home care and assistance services. EHO was issued a licence to provide home assistance services by the Ministry for Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy in September 2015.

*The programme is being conducted in nine municipalities – Bački Petrovac, Novi Sad, Plandište, Sečanj, Stara Pazova, Odžaci, Opovo, Gadžin Han and Raška. Home assistance and home care services are available to elderly people who have physical or mental difficulties which prevent them living independently in their own homes without regular assistance in carrying out their everyday activities, or without care or supervision, and where family support is either insufficient or unavailable.*

During 2020, the home assistance and home care services had 1,192 beneficiaries. 90 medical nurses and carers were contracted to provide medical and social services, providing a total of 97,800 home visits. The psycho-social assistance volunteer service was used by 47 elderly people in Novi Sad.

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## Child personal assistant

**EHO** was issued a licence to provide child personal assistance services by the Ministry for Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy in February 2019. A personal assistant is made available to a child with a disability or developmental difficulty who needs support in meeting basic needs in everyday life – getting around, maintaining personal hygiene, feeding, dressing and communicating with others. The support of a personal assistant is provided to children who are in the school system, from kindergarten until the end of regular schooling, including secondary school.

*The role of the personal assistant is to provide appropriate individual and practical support to the child in order to enable him/her to attend regular schooling and participate in community activities, as well as to maximise his/her independence.*

The role of the personal assistant is to provide appropriate individual and practical support to the child in order to enable him/her to attend regular schooling and participate in community activities, as well as to maximise his/her independence.

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## Therapy advice and social and educational services

**T**he beneficiaries of the services are children, young people and adults with mental and physical developmental difficulties within the municipality of Raška.

Therapeutic/advisory and social/educational services include clinical psychological and special needs evaluation and diagnosis, speech therapy, mental and psychological treatment, individual treatment and rehabilitation of children aged up to 18 years of age, as well as counselling for parents. Semi-intensive psychological, special needs and speech therapy treatments are provided via group or individual work, depending on the needs of beneficiaries. For adults, these services include vocational training using machines for working with wood, metal, plastic, paper and textile, depending on their abilities and needs.

*All those using the services for more than four hours a day are provided with a meal, tailored to their developmental and healthcare needs. The service is provided on a continuous basis to each beneficiary every working day or one or more times during the week in the scope envisaged in their individual support plan, the recommendation of the Centre for Social Work and the opinion of the interdisciplinary medical board. EHO's partner on the project is the municipality of Raška.*

In 2020 the total number of beneficiaries was 38, of whom 19 beneficiaries made use of the services of the physiotherapist, 13 the services of the special needs teacher, 10 the services of the speech therapist, 38 the services of the psychologist, 16 care services, 21 transport by minivan and 38 meal services.

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## Projects supporting cancer patients

**T**he objective of project activities is to provide practical, functional, social and emotional support to patients, male and female, improve the quality of their hospital stay and promote voluntary work in healthcare institutions, as well as contribute to the well-being of patients and improve their quality of life.

*Support for patients includes talking, active listening, keeping them company at times when they are alone, and a whole range of services relating to meeting the everyday needs of patients who are immobile or have limited mobility (procuring items for them, communicating by phone with relatives, feeding, walking with patients in the hospital grounds, helping them communicate with staff in a multilingual environment, helping staff by accompanying patients for examinations in other departments etc.).*

During 2020, volunteers on the project made 3,862 hospital visits and took 746 calls to the helpline.

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## Seniors' Club

**T**he Seniors' Club is a meeting-point for 35 members who come to socialise and join in a variety of cultural and entertainment activities, workshops and talks. Twice a month they are able to make use of the services of a doctor and a pedicurist in the club, as well as pastoral and psychological counselling. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic these activities were cut back and the club was closed for most of the year. Contact was maintained with our seniors by telephone, for the most part.

*The Martha Centre humanitarian service provides support to socially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in Novi Sad and Vojvodina in the form of second-hand clothing, footwear, household items and free laundry services. More than two tonnes of second-hand clothing have been collected in the Centre and distributed to those in need and to Roma neighbourhoods.*

In the period when lockdown rules were relaxed, laundry services were also provided to around 10 beneficiaries from marginalised groups in Novi Sad.

**Coordinator:** Marija Parnicki > marija@ehons.org

## Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities

**T**he aim of the Centre is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, to cultivate activism and autonomy and economically empower them. The Centre is used by 13 adult and elderly beneficiaries with varying types and degrees of disability. A variety of workshops are available to them as part of an occupational programme. This year due to the epidemic beneficiaries only attended in the first quarter of the year. One activity which did continue throughout the year under controlled conditions was the EHO tailoring workshop, a project which this year employed three tailors – women from marginalised groups – who worked on recycling clothing and providing tailoring services to the general public.

*This year the tailors not only sewed items of clothing and accessories but also masks for use by employees and beneficiaries.*

A total of more than 1,500 masks were sewn and distributed to our beneficiaries. In October an Instagram profile was set up where people can see our products and can also order a unique item in return for a recommended donation: <https://www.instagram.com/ehokrojackiproizvodi>.

A sewing course was also organised, with seven women from marginalised groups attending a total of 70 hours of tailoring skills training.

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## Weaving course for women in vulnerable groups

**I**n the second half of 2020, a three-month weaving course was held on the premises of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation for 10 women belonging to marginalised groups. Taught by a renowned instructor, weaver Marina Šovljanski, participants mastered skills in weaving simple and medium-complexity items, providing them the ability to work autonomously and potentially earn from this skill.

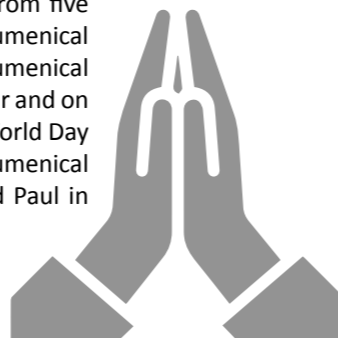
**Coordinator:** [Marija Parnicki > marija@ehons.org](mailto:marija@ehons.org)



## Ecumenical women's work Ecumenical Forum and World Day of Prayer

**T**he ecumenical women's work operates as part of the Ecumenical Women's Forum of Vojvodina and the committee of the World Day of Prayer. This committee is comprised of women from five churches and gets involved in various ecumenical events. The annual meeting of the Ecumenical Forum was held at the beginning of the year and on Friday 6th March, just before the onset of the pandemic, the World Day of Prayer was held in almost all of our parishes. A central ecumenical liturgy was held at the Greek Catholic Church of St Peter and Paul in Novi Sad.

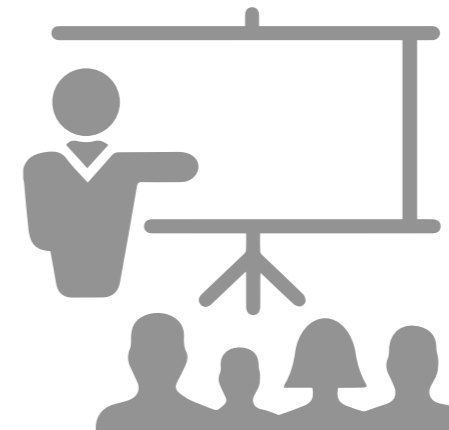
**Coordinator:** Marija Parnicki > marija@ehons.org



## Education for young people in peace-building and reconciliation

**L**ast year a three-year project began, titled the Peace Education Centre, the purpose of which was to contribute to lasting peace and improving interethnic and interfaith tolerance among young people. The education was intended for young church activists and leaders of civil youth initiatives. The project is being conducted in partnership with EHO founding churches and the planned outcome is to have 15 trainers ready to train others in the area of peace work. An advanced two-day training event was held at Andrevlje, in the Fruška Gora hills, on 2nd and 3rd October 2020, with 20 participants.

**Coordinator:** Marija Parnicki > marija@ehons.org



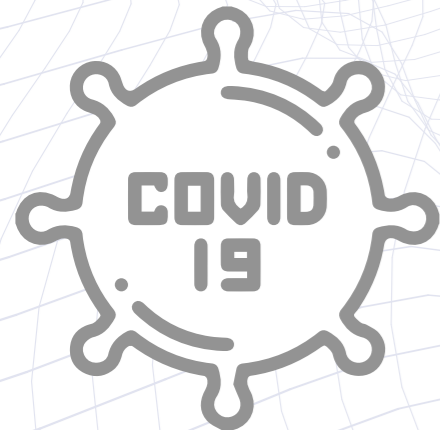
## EHO appeal – COVID-19 pandemic

**P**rojekat podrazumeva podelu humanitarne pomoći ugroženim kategorijama stanovništva radi ublažavanja posledica pandemije COVID-19 u Srbiji i predstavlja deo širih napora Ekumenske humanitarne organizacije da pomogne u otklanjanju posledica uzrokovanih pandemijom koronavirusa u Srbiji.

*Humanitarna pomoć u vidu paketa hrane, sredstava za ličnu higijenu i higijenu prostora podeljena je najugroženijim stanovnicima u opštinama Novi Sad, Bački Petrovac, Plandište, Stara Pazova, Sečanj, Raška, Gadžin Han, Opovo, Pančevo, Kula, Mali Iđoš, Subotica, Bačka Topola i Kikinda. Do sada je podeljeno 10.056 paketa humanitarne pomoći. Podelu vrše volonteri i zaposleni EHO-a, lokalnih kancelarija Crvenog krsta, Centri za socijalni rad i članovi crkava članica EHO-a.*

Aktivnosti se odvijaju uz finansijsku podršku Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), ACT Alliance, Gustav Adolf Werk (GAW), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) i Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche des Kantons St. Gallen.

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## Empowering refugee women and children

**D**uring 2020 the Empowering Refugee Women and Children project was conducted in reception centres in Šid and Sombor. The focus of the project has been on developing the skills of women and children accommodated in these reception centres so that they would be empowered to develop an awareness of a better tomorrow and of their own role in creating new opportunities.

*In this regard, the work with women has focused on providing psychological support so that the women would gain a sense of their own life goals and, through handicrafts workshops, also develop their working capacities. Activities with children focused on organising creative and educational workshops, whilst also providing psychological support in order to mitigate the potential impact migration can have on children. Also, in cooperation with the schools in the RC in Šid, activities were organised to ensure children received their basic education which would ease their further integration into society when they reached their destination country and help them continue building their dreams.*

Three field workers/educators were retained to carry out the creative and educational work with women, children and youth in the RC in Šid, and 298 creative and educational workshops were held with women as well as 186 educational workshops, 183 creative workshops, 176 sports and recreation workshops and 420 social/entertainment activities for children and youth. In the work with children at the RC in Sombor, 1 field worker/educator conducted 92 educational and 88 creative workshops. Through the project, distributions were also made of 210 pairs of footwear, 189 tracksuits and 200 New Year's parcels, and five children's entertainment shows were held.

**Coordinator:** [Vedrana Bjelajac > vedrana@ehons.org](mailto:vedrana@ehons.org)



## Assistance for a New Start

**T**his new, one-year project, begun in December 2020, is designed for returnees under the Readmission Agreement, to facilitate their better legal access to public services, better access to employment and to improve their living conditions. It is planned that assistance will be provided to returnees, but also other vulnerable populations (up to 20%), primarily in the towns Sremska Mitrovica, Ruma and Pećinci. The project includes legal assistance (providing information and procuring personal documents for 150 people), assistance for self-employment (work equipment for 25 people) and housing assistance (repairs to 25 houses), as well as work on improving existing policies and practices relating to the (re)integration of returnees (Roma).

*The services we provide are supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH under the Migration for Development (PME) Programme. The Programme is part of the global initiative "Returning to New Opportunities" of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).*

**Coordinator:** Ana Birgeš > ana@ehons.org

## Towards gender justice in Serbia – younger and older women together

**I**n partnership with Čovekoljublje, the Serbian Orthodox Church charity foundation, and beginning December 2020, an eight-month project is under way within the ACT Alliance Gender Justice Programme 2020.

*The objective of the project is for the economic and social voice of women to be heard in local communities and for their greater participation to be provided for in society. Under the project, EHO will conduct an evaluation of gender-based discrepancies in the social and economic spheres in urban communities, organise training to empower women in the STEM areas (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and provide them with mentorship, as well as provide leaders of church communities with training on the topic of gender-based violence.*

**Coordinator:** Anna Brtka Valent

## With the Roma and for them in the Danube Region

**“W**ith the Roma and for them in the Danube Region” is a project aimed at exchanging experiences, knowledge and examples of good practice in working with the Roma community and other marginalised groups in the countries of the Danube region.

**The project consists of three phases:**

**Phase A:** Capacity-building in Roma villages for the prevention of domestic violence in the regions of Sibiu in Romania and Vojvodina in Serbia.

**Phase B:** Educational measures for combating poverty in Roma settlements in Slovakia and Serbia.

**Phase C:** Providing advice and information on the mobility of Roma in Stuttgart and Novi Sad as part of social work in the field and support for legal migrations.

*In addition to the three main phases, the project also involves regular contacts with partners, study visits to the countries of the Danube region, issuing publications with examples of good practices in working with target group, an evaluation meeting in Serbia and a closing event in Romania.*

The project is being conducted by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation in partnership with Diakonie Württemberg of Germany and partners from the Transylvania Evangelical Academy from Sibiu, Romania and Evangelical Diakonia from Slovakia.

**Coordinator:** Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org

## OVERVIEW OF DONATIONS RECEIVED AND SPENT, BY DONOR FOR 2020

Naziv donatora/Donor	Zemlja donatora/ Country of Donors	Uplaćene donacije u 2020 (RSD)/ Income from Donations in 2020 (RSD)
Swiss Church Aid / Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS/EPER)	Švajcarska	26,301,952.29
Opština Raška/Municipality of Raška	Srbija	21,704,237.67
Bread for World/Brot für die Welt	Nemačka	13,362,077.04
The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	Švajcarska	11,500,000.00
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) / Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)	Nemačka	9,370,297.99
Opština Bački Petrovac / Municipality of Bački Petrovac	Srbija	9,296,151.96
Diakonie Württemberg - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg	Nemačka	8,311,399.87
Opština Sečanj / Municipality of Sečanj	Srbija	7,800,000.00
Opština Odžaci / Municipality of Odžaci	Srbija	7,623,158.31
ACT Alliance	Švajcarska	6,752,827.49
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	USA	5,029,296.59
Hofnung für Ost Europa	Nemačka	4,572,090.30
Opština Plandište / Municipality of Plandište	Srbija	3,565,175.65
Centar za regionalizam / Center for regionalism	Srbija	3,323,475.22
Fondacija Herbert Stepic / Herbert Stepic CEE Charity	Austrija	2,265,554.78
Opština Opovo / Municipality of Opovo	Srbija	1,880,000.00
Evangelisch - reformierte Kirchengemeinde St. Gallen	Švajcarska	1,418,547.50
Opština Gadžin Han / Municipality of Gadžin Han	Srbija	1,375,000.00
Gustav Adolf Werk	Nemačka	1,168,850.29
Gradska uprava za dečiju i socijalnu zaštitu Novi Sad / Department for Social and Children's Protection of the City of Novi Sad	Srbija	850,000.00
Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen	Nemačka	738,423.63
Otto per Mille - Tavola Valdese	Italija	700,144.83
Associazione Solidarietà Paesi Emergenti	Italija	502,739.20
Opština Šabac / Municipality of Šabac	Srbija	468,724.21
Ostali donatori (zbirno) / Other donors (jointly)	Srbija	3,090,981.58
<b>Donatori - ukupno</b>		<b>152,971,106.40</b>

## BREAKDOWN OF DONATIONS RECEIVED BY COUNTRY IN 2020

Redni broj/ Number	Zemlja donatora/ Country of Donors	Uplaćene donacije u 2020 (RSD)/ Income from Donations in 2020 (RSD)	%
1.	Srbija/Serbia	60,621,633.73	39.63%
2.	Švajcarska/Switzerland	45,973,327.28	30.05%
3.	Nemačka/Germany	37,523,139.12	24.53%
4.	SAD/USA	5,029,296.59	3.29%
5.	Austrija/Austria	2,265,554.78	1.48%
6.	Italija/Italy	1,202,884.03	0.79%
7.	Belgija/Belgium	355,270.87	0.23%
<b>UKUPNO</b>		<b>152,971,106.40</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



## CODEX AUDIT

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the managing authorities and the director  
Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, Novi Sad

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization, Novi Sad, street Ćirila i Metodija 21 (hereinafter: 'EHO'), which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2020, and the income statement, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the EHO as at 31 December 2020, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Law of Accounting of the Republic of Serbia.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the EHO in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the Republic of Serbia, and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the accounting regulations of the Republic of Serbia and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the EHO's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the EHO or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the EHO's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will

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ENTERED INTO THE REGISTER OF ECONOMIC ENTITIES - BUSINESS REGISTERS AGENCY IN BELGRADE NUMBER BD 1036/2014  
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER 20984376 | TAX NUMBER 108364062  
BANK ACCOUNT: 170-0030019559001-04 UNICREDIT BANK A.D. BELGRADE  
EMAIL: REVIZIJA@CODEXAUDIT.RS | WEB: WWW.CODEXAUDIT.RS



# CODEX AUDIT

always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the EHO's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the EHO to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with those charged with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Auditors' signature:

Name of Auditor signing:

Auditors' address:

Date of the auditor's report:

Olivera Loci

100069879-14029

75865074

Olivera Loci, Certified Auditor

Codex Audit doo, Belgrade 11070,  
Bulevar Zorana Djindjića 28/VII/25

15 March 2021

Digitally signed by Olivera Loci  
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