



Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 2021



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INTRODUCTION



Dear reader,

Allow me to present our annual report for 2021, which presents a brief overview of our project work during the preceding year. I would like to make special mention of the fact that ours is the only ecumenical organisation in Serbia, and even the region, which is informed by traditional Christian values and engaged in improving the quality of life of people in Serbia. This year we have partnered and signed partnership agreements with several institutions, municipalities and organisations: the National Council of the Roma Minority in Serbia, the Vojvodina government Office for the Inclusion of Roma, the General Secretariat of the government of the Republic of Serbia and local authorities in Smederevska Planka, Valjevo, Kovin, Stara Pazova, Alibunar, Zrenjanin and Kanjiža, as well as with OpeNS – the European Youth Capital Novi Sad.

During this year, the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation implemented 47 projects with the following objectives:

- √ helping ensure children get a proper education,
- √ working to improve housing conditions for people in various municipalities,
- √ helping unemployed people to find work and empowering people economically in general,
- √ caring for children and adults with developmental disabilities,
- √ caring for the elderly,
- √ working with volunteers,
- √ working with migrants,
- √ providing humanitarian aid,
- √ providing support to formal and informal organisations,
- √ providing legal support,
- √ providing social and emotional support,
- √ and many other services.

The pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus did not let up this year, either, but even in these difficult circumstances we managed to do everything we had planned. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of my colleagues who have worked hard on their projects so that we can achieve the mission of our organisation – to build a just society in which diversity is respected.

In the coming year of 2022, our organisation will continue working towards being a leader in improving the status of vulnerable and marginalised groups, monitoring trends and responding to current needs and crises.

Director:

Anna Brtka Valent

ABOUT US



The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation is a development organisation which through practical action in 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, accountability, 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, migrant men and women, 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 a 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 partnering 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.

Municipalities and places where we worked in 2021



Novi Sad
Sombor

Šid
Bački Petrovac
Plandište
Sečanj
Stara Pazova
Opovo
Bečej
Bačko Gradište
Beočin
Titel
Mali Idoš
Odžaci
Vrbas
Sremski Karlovci
Žitište
Zrenjanin
Žabalj
Vršac
Kikinda
Alibunar



Ruma
Subotica

Nova Crnja
Novi Bečej
Sremska Mitrovica
Pećinci
Kanjiža
Kovin
Selenča
Čurug
Bačka Palanka
Gadžin Han
Raška
Smederevska Palanka
Kragujevac
Šabac
Zvezdara
Obrenovac
Arandjelovac
Surdulica
Požega
Valjevo
Mionica
Bor
Knjaževac
Kruševac



Kraljevo
Lebane
Babušnica,
Vladičin Han
Velika Plana
Piot
Bujanovac

total number of beneficiaries

6688



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

In 2021 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, Arandjelovac, Surdulica, Požega and Raška.

Families from substandard settlements in Smederevska Palanka, Surdulica and Šabac were supported by having technical reports made for a total of 128 dwellings. Housing support in the form of packages of building materials was provided to 15 families from Smederevska Palanka, and urgent aid for repairs to fire damage was awarded to three Roma families in Žabalj and Zvezdara.

Innovative social and educational services were provided as additional support to 40 children from two primary schools in Smederevska Palanka who are at risk of social exclusion. Support was provided by 7 inclusion officers and 8 pupil volunteers provided peer support. 20 small grants were provided to 17 schools that successfully conducted small-scale intercultural projects.

Two local providers of free legal support in Smederevska Palanka and Raška supported 87 beneficiaries. Three types of training, successfully completed by 49 employees of local authorities and institutions working directly with clients, facilitated the improvement of skills in communication and mediation.

EHO models were presented at the Roma Forum 2021 as examples of good practice in working with the Roma community.

Coordinator: **Sladana Jovanović** > sladjana@ehons.org



Partnership in implementing the “Access to Water” intervention project

The “Reducing Additional Vulnerability of Roma Men and Women and other Marginalised Groups, Caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic” project is being implemented by the General Secretariat, represented by SIPRU, Belgrade, with the Center for Interactive Pedagogy and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from Novi Sad as sub-implementation partners. These activities are part of the German developmental partnership programme, “Inclusion of Roma and other marginalised groups in Serbia”, being implemented by the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in partnership with the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue.

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, as sub-implementation partner on one of the four areas of action – that of access to water – is coordinating activities in seven local authorities: Kanjiža, Alibunar, Zrenjanin, Kovin, Stara Pazova, Smederevska Palanka and Valjevo.

Thanks to the construction and/or reconstruction of water supply networks and individual connections provided through the project, families from 16 substandard settlements will have drinking water in their homes. By the end of 2021, a total of 217 households had been connected to the water supply system.

Project activities aimed at securing access to drinking water will continue in the second half of 2022.

Coordinator: **Sladana Jovanović**
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Partnership: Working and building for an inclusive Raška - “EU Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion” programme

The project is being conducted by the municipality of Raška in partnership with the Centre for Social Work in Raška and the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from Novi Sad. The project is being conducted as part of the “EU Support to Social Housing and Active Inclusion” programme. The programme is being implemented in Serbia by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

A total of 25 families (around 75 individuals) will be supported in order to improve their current housing conditions and better integrate them into the community. Members of the families supported will receive assistance in pursuing their social and economic rights, as well as in strengthening their capacities in order to improve their position in the labour market.

A total of 18 families from the Roma community will be housed in newly-constructed social housing in the Kučevski Lug neighbourhood in Raška. Two families from the Roma community will be housed in two social houses in Raška. Five people with disabilities and/or women who are domestic violence survivors will improve their living conditions through the repair, adaptation or reconstruction of their houses with a grant of building materials and labour.

50 members of the 25 families who are benefiting from the project are required to attend training organised with private and public companies in order to improve their prospects of occasional or long-term employment. All this is aimed at ensuring that members of the supported families become active members of society at large, reducing the risk of social exclusion, increasing individual capacities for employment and creating the necessary conditions for them to exercise their social and other rights.

The project began on 1st July 2021 and will continue during 2022.

Grant Manager: **Sladjana Jovanović** > sladjana@ehons.org

Mobilisation and development of the Roma community - a step forward

The objective of the project is to develop capacities in representatives of marginalised groups in municipalities in Serbia which are partnered with the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, as well as to acquaint them with basic human rights, mentor them and develop their skills.

Tokom 2021. godine fokus je bio na dodatnom jačanju kapaciteta kroz:

- Equipping offices of organisations/informal groups in Kragujevac, Surdulica, Novi Sad and Smederevska Palanka;
- Training tutors who will provide direct learning support to children. Most of the children are from Roma neighbourhoods. 30 Roma children have been through the programme;
- The Roma forum, held in December, which included an anti-discrimination workshop and which was aimed at better informing organisations and informal associations of their rights.

Coordinator: **Milica Milović Kinoli** > milica@ehons.org



Improving the socio-economic status of the marginalised in Vojvodina through education and economic empowerment

In 2021 we continued implementing project activities aimed at improving the socio-economic situation of marginalised groups in Vojvodina in two areas: economic empowerment and education. The plan over the duration of the project (2019 -2022) is to support 590 members of marginalised groups (Roma, the internally displaced, returnees, recipients of social benefits, families living below the poverty line) through a variety of activities.

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. Six beneficiaries were also supported in the process of registering a sole proprietor business, as well as with equipment and tools to a value of €3,000 and accounting services paid for a duration of 6 months. Ongoing consultancy support (business mentorship) was available to these new businesses, with the idea of strengthening their personal capacities, monitoring the implementation of their business plan, resolving challenges faced by the beneficiaries in their business and also in ensuring that the business was operating and functioning legally.

Beneficiaries were also entitled to consulting services from a law firm in order to ensure they were keeping in line with regulations and improving existing procedures and their working environment. In addition, they all had the opportunity to attend training on establishing and running a business, writing a business plan and on the legal and accountancy aspects of doing business, as well as training in marketing and entrepreneurial awareness.

Working with primary schools in Novi Sad, Subotica, Kikinda, Zrenjanin, Novi Bečej, Srpska Crnja and Feketić, 148 pupils were 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. These activities also contribute to greater motivation in pupils, increased awareness of the importance of education and lower drop-out rates. Also, successful pupils, especially girls, are examples of good practice and can help change attitudes in those around them, and in the long term increase the chances of employment and an escape from poverty. Through these interconnected components (educating children, economic empowerment, training etc.) we want to contribute towards improving the status of marginalised groups and reducing their social exclusion.

During 2021:

- 20 beneficiaries were supported with beginners' grants;
- 6 solo proprietor businesses were established with the support of an entrepreneurial initiative grant;
- 12 advanced training events were held for 38 beneficiaries;
- 112 beneficiaries gained basic knowledge on writing a business plan by working directly with a trainer;
- 148 pupils were supported with individual mentorship and school supplies;
- 42 workshops were held on learning skills, strengthening accountability and self-confidence, communication and presentation skills, motivation to continue schooling and other subjects.

Coordinator: **Tanja Stojković** > tanjas@ehons.org



Network for the integration of returnees in Serbia

The project titled "Building the capacities of the local and Roma communities in the area of the city of Šabac for inclusive processes - Let's Get Involved (the Key to Inclusion)" contributes to the empowerment of the Roma community and the improvement of its social position 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, which in turn results in reduced stigma and exclusion and has a positive impact on the community as a whole. The project is being implemented by the city of Šabac with the partnership of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation from Novi Sad 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).

The results of the project have been as follows:

The Roma Integration Network (MIR) has been established, comprising 22 representatives of various institutions and civil society organisations working directly or indirectly with Roma people, as a sustainable local mechanism for combating the discrimination, exclusion and inequality of Roma people.

The level of knowledge and awareness has been increased amongst local media and in the local community in the city of Šabac of the authentic cultural heritage of the Roma population, by organising:

Training for representatives of institutions and civil society organisations on the social mechanisms behind the emergence and perpetuation of prejudices and on the significance of interculturality for institutions and civil society organisations, the intercultural festival Plesom kroz bajku ("Dancing through Fables"), aimed at promoting Roma culture and the Roma cultural identity, as well as the cultural heritage of other ethnic communities living in the area of the city of Šabac, a writing contest for primary school children on the topic, "Different yet the same" and a campaign with videos produced for TV about inclusion and the importance of involving the Roma community in the life of the local community in Šabac.

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 in Šabac.

A closing conference for the project was held on Friday 26th February 2021 at the Šabac Professional Training Centre.

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



Stalna konferencija
gradova i opština
Savezne države i opština Srbije

Овај пројекат финансира
Европска унија

#EY
ЗА ТЕБЕ

#KLJUCZAINKLUZIJU

PRAVO NA INKLUZIVNO OBRAZOVANJE

POTREBNO JE RAZVIJATI
INKLUZIVNO OBRAZOVANJE
KROZ PROMOVISANJE
RAVNOPRAVNOSTI, PRAVA
DETETA I LJUDSKIH PRAVA.

Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization

is a member of:
actalliance

VISOKA SKOLA
SOCIJALNOG
RADA

Support for the integration of returnee families

The 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 officers 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 housing conditions with interior work in dwellings and minor repairs to the house

MEASURE 2 - economic empowerment measures through self-employment, the selection of candidates with the best business initiatives and award of startup grants to them, and 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 essential 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 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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With and for the Roma in the Danube Region

“With and for the Roma 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 / The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation organised a conference on the topic of “Prevention of under-age marriage and domestic violence among the Roma population in the territory of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina”, in partnership with the Novi Sad City Centre for Social Work, held at the Putnik Hotel in Novi Sad on 14th October 2021. In addition, a training event was held with beneficiaries with the aim of preventing intimate partner violence. This workshop, titled “My Healthy Relationship” was held 9th and 10th July 2021.

Phase B: Educational measures in the fight against poverty in Roma settlements in Slovakia and Serbia / Workshops were held for children and parents from the Roma community at Duško Radović Primary School in Novi Sad.

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 the target group, an evaluation meeting in Serbia and a closing event in Romania.

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





Assistance for a New Start

This project, targeting returnees under the Readmission Agreements, to facilitate their better, legal access to public services, better access to employment and to improve their living conditions, began in December 2020. Under the project, the plan is for assistance to be provided primarily to returnees in the towns of Sremska Mitrovica, Ruma and Pećinci, but also to cover a wider area including the whole of Vojvodina, with Novi Sad as the focal point. In 2021, 288 people were provided with legal support (providing information and securing personal documents), 41 people completed training in writing a business plan, 25 people received self-employment support (78 family members) in the form of equipment for their work and professional guidance, and 28 people (160 family members) got housing support in the form of home repairs. EHO continued its involvement in relevant events in order to work towards improving existing policies and practices relating to the (re)integration of (Roma) returnees. The project will continue in 2022, providing the same support to beneficiaries in the same locations.

- Three project locations: Sremska Mitrovica, Ruma and Pećinci, with Novi Sad as the focal point.
- Beneficiaries of the project services comprise 80% returnees and up to 20% non-returnees.
- The three components are: legal support, support for self-employment and support for improving living conditions.

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Support for the education of socially deprived children and youth in Serbia

Building on the successfully completed first cycle, this project continues to provide ongoing support, aiming to improve opportunities and success rates in educating 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 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 and social change.

During 2021

- 173 children and youth received ongoing project support;
- 1871 supplemental lessons were organised to help improve children's results, as well as 125 workshops with additional psychological and pedagogical support for them and 94 workshops aimed at motivating and empowering their parents;
- 22 professional associates completed accredited training relevant to working with socially vulnerable children and youth.

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Working in the field with children at risk of living and/or working on the street



Activities under the “Working in the field with children at risk of living and/or working on the street” project are conducted in Novi Sad in three substandard neighbourhoods – 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 children and youth 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 4 peer educators and 12 field workers, whilst learning support within educational institutions was provided by 16 volunteers. A total of 596 field visits were made, with 1,160 contacts made with children and youth and 226 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, during the 11th project cycle partnership was also continued with primary schools Vuk Karadžić in Novi Sad and Veljko Petrović in Begeč.



In the course of 2021, the 3rd cycle of the Sports Activities workshop was completed. It involved a total of 87 children, who also received thank-you certificates for their participation. The end result of the art workshops was a photo book of the children’s work, illustrated by the art facilitator on the project, which recorded all their memories from 2021. Training was organised for volunteers and field officers on the topic of “Professional Orientation in Digital Marketing” in order to contribute to their personal and professional development.

Coordinator: **Vedrana Bjelajac**
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Projects supporting cancer patients



The objective of the project activities is to provide practical, functional, social and emotional support to patients, 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 them in the hospital grounds, helping them communicate with staff in a multilingual environment, helping staff by accompanying patients for examinations in other hospital departments etc.).

During 2021, volunteers on the project took 510 calls to the helpline.

Coordinator: **Borka Vrekić** > borka@ehons.org

Building the capacities of humanitarian organisations to receive and manage EU volunteers



During 2021 there was a continuation of the project aimed at capacity-building of humanitarian organisations to receive and manage volunteers according to EU standards. During the first project year, EHO received a certificate under the EU Aid Volunteers programme, and in 2021 an application was submitted for Quality Label certification. The benefit of receiving this certification is that it opens up the possibility to apply for Solidarity Corps funding and programmes.

Project activities were organised with the mentorship of ADRA Slovakia, as part of a consortium comprising European and non-European partners. Working directly with European partners, the Čovekoljublje Serbian Orthodox Church charity foundation from Belgrade and MHD Merhamet Sandžak from Novi Pazar, together with ADRA Slovakia, 2 regional meetings were held during 2021. The objective of the first meeting was to address topics relating to managing the process of voluntary service and of conflict management. The second meeting was held in November and addressed topics relating to management of project activities, the process of monitoring them, and their evaluation. In December, EHO also organised a three-day training event for local partners and volunteers on the topic of "Volunteer management with a focus on strengthening the volunteer structure," aimed at the long-term objective of improving inclusive activities in working directly with sensitive groups.

Coordinator: **Vedrana Bjelajac** > vedrana@ehons.org

Towards gender justice in Serbia - younger and older women together



In partnership with Čovekoljublje, the Serbian Orthodox Church charity foundation, a project was implemented with the aim of having the economic and social voice of women heard in local communities and securing their greater participation in society. Under the project, EHO achieved the following results:

- An assessment was carried out of gender-based differences in the social and economic domains in urban communities and a report published;
- 50 women completed mentorship training in information technologies, and 40 of them completed training on the status of women in the IT industry and the opportunities for increasing their influence;
- 10 church representatives completed training on gender-based violence and on the opportunities churches have to contribute to combating and reducing it.

Coordinator: **Anna Brtka Valent**



Home assistance and home care

The 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 awarded 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 eight municipalities – Bački Petrovac, Novi Sad, Plandište, Sečanj, Stara Pazova, 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 from 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 2021, the home assistance and home care services had 1,275 beneficiaries. 90 medical nurses and carers were contracted to provide medical and social services, providing a total of 98,700 home visits. The psychosocial assistance volunteer service was used by 41 elderly people in Novi Sad.

Coordinator: **Borka Vrekić** > borka@ehons.org



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.

Partners on the project are the municipalities of Bački Petrovac and Raška. During 2021, 33 personal assistants were retained, with support provided to 34 children within the school system.

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Therapy advice and social and educational services



The 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 according to 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 2021 the total number of beneficiaries was 38, of whom 12 beneficiaries made use of the services of the physiotherapist, 16 the services of the special needs teacher, 6 the services of the speech therapist, 38 the services of the psychologist, 10 care services, 15 transport by minivan and 38 of them meal services.

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Seniors' Club



The Seniors' Club brings together 30 members who during 2021 attended the Club for socialisation and in order to use various health and social services. Different cultural and entertainment activities were organised for them, which they keenly attended. This year was again affected by the pandemic, which meant many Club activities were reduced in scope.

The seniors made most use of doctor's consultations and pedicure services, and took part in various workshops such as cooking, handicrafts and puppet-making workshops. In October there was an appropriate celebration of International Day of Older Persons.

Socially vulnerable seniors and other marginalised groups were able to use the Martha Centre, which collects and distributes second-hand clothing, footwear and household items, as well as providing free laundry facilities. The Centre collected and distributed more than 2 tonnes of second-hand clothing.

Coordinator: Marija Parnicki > marija@ehons.org

Resource Centre for Persons with Disabilities



The aim of the Centre is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, to cultivate activism and autonomy and to economically empower them. The Centre is used by 10 adult and elderly beneficiaries with varying types and degrees of disability. Various workshops and training and social events are provided for them. Due to the continued pandemic, beneficiary visits were limited and fewer of them attended. One activity which did continue throughout the year under controlled conditions was the EHO tailoring workshop, a project which this year employed three seamstresses – women from marginalised groups – who worked on recycling clothing and providing tailoring services to the general public. This year the tailors sewed unique items of clothing and also provided various sewing services to around 80 users. A puppet-making workshop (sewing and making hand-puppets) was held in the first half of the year for interested beneficiaries, while from September to December a course in sewing and tailoring was held for 5 unemployed women. In 2021, the EHO tailoring workshop took its products to 7 bazaars and fairs in Novi Sad and Belgrade. You can see these products at: <https://www.instagram.com/ehokrojackiproizvodi>.

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



Advanced weaving course for women from vulnerable groups

The advanced weaving course continues on from the beginners' weaving course held in 2020 and was organised for 5 participants who had mastered the basic skills. The course ran from September to December 2021 with weaving instructor Marina Šovljanski, who held a total of 80 theoretical and practical lessons and trained the women in the creation of complex woven products. The course ended with an event at which the women exhibited their work and were awarded diplomas.

This project contributed to the greater independence and economic empowerment of women from marginalised categories, who now have increased opportunities to earn a living.

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





Ecumenical Forum and World Day of Prayer

The ecumenical women's work operates as part of the Ecumenical Women's Forum of Serbia and the committee of the World Day of Prayer. Women from six churches in Vojvodina, Zemun and Belgrade take part in the ecumenical ministry. Due to the pandemic, on Friday, 5th March 2021 the prayer meeting for World Day of Prayer was held online, but also in most of our churches. This year the women took part in a variety of seminars and gatherings for women in Serbia and in Belgrade, and on 11th December the annual assembly of the Ecumenical Forum and World Day of Prayer was held, as was a New Year's charity bazaar in support of EHO's tailoring workshop and people with disabilities.

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



Prevention of breast and cervical cancer in women in rural areas of Vojvodina



This is a new three-year project for our organisation which began in 2021 and is focused on women's health. The objective of the project is to raise the awareness of women in rural areas of Vojvodina about the importance of prevention and early detection of cancers and the need for timely treatment. The doctor we have retained on the project visits women's organisations in Vojvodina communities and holds health workshops, refers women to the appropriate institutions and motivates them to get regular check-ups. In 2021 a total of 7 workshops were held in seven communities in Vojvodina for around 150 women. A brochure was also printed, with over 200 copies distributed in these communities in 2021. A special email address was also set up (zdravlje@ehons.org) for additional consultations with the doctor and where questions can be asked confidentially, providing another way for women to get answers to their questions.

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

EHO 2021 appeal



The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation provided packages of humanitarian assistance to vulnerable Roma families in Serbia through a project supported by the Hope for Eastern Europe (Hoffnung für Osteuropa) programme and Diakonie Württemberg from Germany. In the period between January and May 2021, 130 packages of one-off aid were distributed as urgent assistance to families additionally impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

As the mapped families were scattered all over Serbia, distribution of the packages was done via the network of local integration workers, who made sure that the assistance reached the families that needed it most.

Humanitarian aid in the form of food parcels and personal hygiene and household hygiene supplies was distributed to the most vulnerable Roma living in the following municipalities and cities in the Republic of Serbia: Novi Sad, Sremska Mitrovica, Vladičin Han, Surdulica, Novi Bečej, Stari Bečej, Bačka Palanka, Smederevska Palanka, Bujanovac, Babušnica, Kikinda, Crepaja, Mali Iđoš, Kruševac, Kragujevac, Lebane and others.

This distribution was part of the broader efforts of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation to help alleviate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic in Serbia.

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

HUMANITARIAN WORK



Empowering refugee women and children

The second cycle of the “Empowering refugee women and children” project was continued in 2021. The project is directed towards providing support to refugee women and children accommodated in reception centres in Šid and Sombor. Project activities were organised with the involvement of 2 educators in Šid and 1 in Sombor. The educators organised educational/creative, social/entertainment and sports/recreational activities with children and youth on a daily basis, as well as occupational workshops with women, based on needs they had identified. The purpose of these activities was to provide support to children, young people and women and in doing so alleviate the impact of the refugee crisis, as well as the additional impact caused by COVID-19. Educational support also continued to be provided to children and youth under the Akelius programme, implemented by UNICEF together with its partners.

During the second project cycle, a total of 264 creative and educational workshops were held with women in the RC in Šid, while 435 educational, 247 creative and 645 sports and recreation workshops were held, as well as 537 social/entertainment activities for children and youth. In the RC in Sombor a total of 248 educational, 214 creative and 306 sports and recreation workshops were organised for children and youth, as well as 562 social and entertainment activities. Through the project the following distributions were also made of 80 pairs of footwear and 110 New Year’s packages, as well as 2 New Year’s shows being held.

Coordinator: **Vedrana Bjelajac** > vedrana@ehons.org

Providing additional support in the education of children from vulnerable groups as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic

The project supported an innovative model in working with children with developmental difficulties, children with difficulties in learning and keeping up with the school curriculum, and children growing up in socio-economically unstimulating environments, who are at risk of social exclusion for various reasons.

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, together with partners the Vojvodina government Office for the Inclusion of Roma, the municipality of Žabalj, Miloš Crnjanski Primary School, Jovan Jovanović Zmaj Primary School and the Žabalj Centre for Social Work, over a period of 9 months provided innovative social and educational support services to primary-age children from Žabalj and Đurđevo.

66 children in two primary schools in Žabalj and Đurđevo received direct support from 20 tutors – our education and inclusion support associates, of whom 10 were peer volunteers. Peer tutoring is aimed at helping children growing up in poor families or families in which a language other than that of school lessons is spoken, to improve their school performance and promote an atmosphere of peer solidarity.

Each Saturday the children come to school where they work directly with their tutors. In addition to 10 peer volunteers from the school, the children are helped both with their learning and in the use of digital devices and in communication by young people aged from 18 to 26 (students or unemployed young people). The tutors also meet with the children's parents and encourage them to provide timely and adequate support to their children in their schooling.

Help and support will be continue to be provided to 70 children in Žabalj and Đurđevo in their education, as well as to their parents, thanks to finances provided by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and the municipality of Žabalj.

The project was supported by the Swiss organisation HEKS/EPER.

Coordinator: **Slađana Jovanović** > sladjana@ehons.org



Youth exchange visit Dortmund - Novi Sad



The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation, together with partner organisations from Dortmund – Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen and Evangelische Noah Kirchengemeinde Dortmund took part in the thirteenth youth exchange between Novi Sad and Dortmund.

For this year's exchange the host was Novi Sad's twin city of Dortmund, and the topic was "European identity". It was aimed at promoting the European identity, European citizenship and the exchange of opinions of young people on strengthening participation by the public in the life of the local community and in preserving the environment. The programme included workshops, visits to institutions and organisations, as well as a reception by the deputy mayor of Dortmund. During the ten-day trip there were visits to the cities of Cologne and Essen, and the participants had a chance to get to know the historical and cultural heritage of these cities.

Taking part in the programme were young volunteers involved in the various programmes of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation and volunteers of the Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen and Evangelische Noah Kirchengemeinde Dortmund, aged between 17 and 26 years of age. During this visit, participants together agreed on the topic – "Gender equality" – for the next exchange to be organised in 2022 in Novi Sad.

Structure of paid donations, by countries in 2021

Donor	Donors country	Donation in 2021 RSD
Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS/EPER)	Switzerland	55,386,550.99
Municipality of Raška	Serbia	29,837,873.50
Bread for World/Brot für die Welt	Germany	27,252,067.63
Diakonie Württemberg	Germany	21,260,197.11
Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development / Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung	Germany	15,293,099.37
Municipality of Bački Petrovac	Serbia	10,998,642.40
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	USA	9,503,186.00
Municipality of Sečanj	Serbia	7,800,000.00
Municipality of Plandište	Serbia	6,044,760.07
Herbert Stepic CEE Charity	Austria	4,953,630.57
General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Serbia	Serbia	4,303,539.65
Hofnung für Osteuropa	Germany	2,637,443.25
Otto per Mille - Tavola Valdese	Italy	2,618,276.26
Gustav Adolf Werk	Germany	2,333,833.92
Municipality of Gadžin Han	Serbia	1,000,000.00
Municipality of Smederevska Palanka	Serbia	1,000,000.00
ACT Alliance	Switzerland	839,410.65
Ökumene und kirchliche Weltverantwortung der Evangelischen Kirche von Westfalen	Germany	797,017.12
Department for Social and Children's Protection of the City of Novi Sad	Serbia	600,000.00
Evangelisch -reformierte Kirchengemeinde St. Gallen	Germany	531,054.00
Associazione Solidarietà Paesi Emergenti	Italy	502,726.76
Other donors (jointly)		7,544,821.60
Donors - total		213,038,130.85



Structure of paid donations by country in 2021

Number	Country of donors	Income from Donations in 2021 (RSD)	%
1.	Germany	69,573,658.40	32.66%
2.	Serbia	66,627,812.04	31.28%
3.	Switzerland	57,076,052.08	26.79%
4.	SAD	9,503,186.00	4.46%
5.	Austria	4,953,630.57	2.33%
6.	Italy	3,121,003.02	1.46%
7.	Other	2,182,788.74	1.02%
TOTAL		213,038,130.85	100.00%

Auditor's report 2021

"In our opinion, the attached financial report is, in every materially significant respect, a true and objective reflection of the financial position of EHO as of 31st December 2021, and of its financial performance for the year ending that date, in accordance with Republic of Serbia's Law on Accounting."



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, 2021, 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 2021, 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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BANK ACCOUNT: 170-0030019559001-04 UNICREDIT BANK A.D. BELGRADE
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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:	Olivera Loci 100069879-140297586 5074	Digitally signed by Olivera Loci 100069879-1402975865074 Date: 2022.04.05 11:19:03 +0200
Name of Auditor signing: Auditors' address:	Olivera Loci, Certified Auditor Codex Audit doo, Belgrade 11070, Bulevar Zorana Djindjića 28/VII/25	
Date of the auditor's report:	31 March 2022	

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