Ecumenical
Humanitarian
Organization

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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TOGETHER WE CREATE DIGNITY, SUPPORT, AND HOPE.

Ekumenska
Humanitarna
Organizacija

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Introduction

Dear friends and partners,

2025 was a year in which the needs of the communities we work with appreciably deepened. These needs also served to demonstrate still more clearly how vital organisations are that act with accountability, maintain continuity and foster close contact with the people they serve. In this context, the operation of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation represented not only a response to the challenges, but also confirmation of the long-term trust we have built with beneficiaries and partners.

Over the past year we continued to be present where support was most needed, working with children and youth, people with disabilities, the elderly, migrants and refugees and other vulnerable groups. Our approach has continued to be to focus not only on providing immediate assistance, but also on creating conditions for longer-term and more sustainable change by empowering individuals and communities.

The year 2025 also brought with it significant changes in the environment in which we operate, especially in regard to donor support and financing models. These circumstances have further motivated us to review existing practices, strengthen our partnerships and create space for new ways to act that will ensure the stability and continuity of our work in the years to come.

Despite the complex circumstances, we have remained true to our values of solidarity, equality and accountability. It is these values that enabled us to achieve tangible results in 2025 and to keep our focus on that which is most important to us: the dignity and well-being of the people we work with.

We are grateful to all donors, partners, collaborators, volunteers and employees who have contributed to our work. Your support is not just a resource, it is a vital part of the changes we are bringing about together.

Before us lie new challenges that will require even more commitment, flexibility and strategic thinking. Through the experience and partnerships we have built we are confident that we will continue to develop solutions that will have a long-term and sustainable impact.

Sincerely,

Anna Brtka Valent
Director of the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation

How we came to be

The 1990s were a time of hard trials for the region we live in. A time of war, economic crisis, waves of refugees and growing poverty. A group of minority Christian churches decided that a shared response to the situation was called for, and on February 19, 1993, on the initiative of the World Council of Churches, they founded the Ecumenical Humanitarian Service. Behind that decision stood a firm conviction: faith must be made visible through tangible care for people.

In the early years we provided predominantly humanitarian aid: medicines, hygiene packages and firewood. A network of about 500 diaconal volunteers in the church parishes of Vojvodina worked to provide help to everyone who needed it, regardless of nationality or religious affiliation.

EHO today

Today, the founders and members of the EHO Assembly are the Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia, the Reformed Christian Church in Serbia, the Greek Catholic Eparchy of St Nicholas in Ruski Krstur and the Evangelical Christian Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia.

Over the course of three decades, EHO has transformed from a humanitarian to a development organisation, providing licensed social welfare services and conducting programmes all over Serbia. We continue to be driven by the same motives: to go where the people are, to stay there long enough to make a real difference, and to do so in partnership with beneficiaries, institutions and donors.

Our work is organised into four programme areas:

- Social welfare
- Social inclusion and human rights
- Humanitarian work
- Ecumenical dialogue

Our aspirations for the time ahead are clear: to further integrate our services into the social welfare system, to exert greater influence on social inclusion policies and to ensure our own modernisation and long-term financial sustainability through new partnerships, as well as through the development of social entrepreneurship, at a time when the fundraising landscape is drastically changing.

Who we stand with

EHO serves all those whose rights are under threat or who are exposed to discrimination and poverty.

- **Children and youth:** children from socially deprived families lacking support for their schooling; children from Roma communities who are at risk of dropping out of the education system; children living or working on the street; children with developmental disabilities who need an assistant.
- **Women and girls:** Roma girls; economic empowerment for women in Roma communities; helping incomeless women enter the labour market through social enterprise.
- **The elderly and chronically ill:** people who need daily professional assistance at home in order to maintain dignity and independence in their own home.
- **Roma communities:** families in substandard settlements facing problems with housing, education and employment; facilitating capacity development for local Roma organisations.
- **Refugees and migrants:** people in asylum and reception centres in the process of integration or transit; women, children and unaccompanied minors who are in particularly vulnerable circumstances.

The 52 cities and municipalities in Serbia in which EHO provides services:

Aleksinac, Alibunar, Bač, Bačka Palanka, Bački Petrovac, Bečej, Beočin, Beograd, Bor, Bujanovac, Gadžin Han, Inđija, Irig, Kikinda, Knjaževac, Kovilj, Kovin, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Kula, Kruševac, Lajkovac, Lazarevac, Lebane, Leskovac, Mali Iđoš, Mionica, Niš, Novi Bečej, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad, Odžaci, Opovo, Plandište, Raška, Ruma, Sečanj, Smederevska Palanka, Sombor, Srbobran, Sremska Mitrovica, Sremski Karlovci, Stara Pazova, Subotica, Šid, Titel, Velika Plana, Vranje, Vrbas, Zrenjanin, Žabalj, Žitište.

In 2025 we conducted a total of

42 projects.

~10.000 direct beneficiaries **~15.000** indirect beneficiaries

87.541	Home visits to the elderly, the chronically ill and children with developmental disabilities.
9.790	Beneficiaries in 2025 across all four programmes: children and youth, women, the elderly, the chronically ill and other marginalised groups.
1.221	Beneficiaries of home assistance and home care services. Services licensed by the Ministry of Labour.
2.669	Pupils in inclusion projects in 33 schools.
216	Roma families in the process of legalising their dwellings: Kragujevac, Beočin, Bavanište, Niš.
1.994	Refugees and asylum seekers in the Vranje Asylum Centre and the Principovac and Bujanovac Reception Centres.
445	Children contacted through outreach work in Novi Sad substandard settlements: Bangladeš, Veliki Rit, Adice.

EHO is a member of three European networks of civil society and diaconal organisations. In all these networks, representatives of EHO actively contribute to working groups, regional meetings and joint research initiatives:

- Eurodiaconia
- Interdiac
- ACT Alliance Europe
- BCSDN

PROGRAMME AREA:

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

2.669
pupils in inclusion projects in 33 schools

445
children contacted through outreach work in Novi Sad

216
Roma families in the process of legalising their dwellings

111
girls in Girls' Clubs

31
families cared for after fire in Bangladeš neighbourhood

7
local Roma organisations strengthened

HEKS-EPER,
ELCA, Hoffnung für Osteuropa, Brot für die Welt, Diakonie Württemberg, EU AMIF

PROJECTS

Social Inclusion for the Dignified Life of Roma and Other Vulnerable Persons in Serbia 2023-2026

In the third year of implementation, project activities continued to enable Roma and other people from sensitive communities in Serbia to exercise their social and human rights without discrimination. The project is being implemented in Serbia by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation with the support of the Swiss organisation HEKS/EPER.

In 2025, support continued to be provided in areas where negative impacts on the quality of life of Roma and other vulnerable persons are most evident. Activities are aimed at preventing and combating discrimination and gypsyism, support in education and support in providing legally secure housing. The project is being implemented in partnership with 7 local authorities: Kragujevac, Niš, Beočin, Kovin, Velika Plana, Zvezdara and Voždovac. Support in the implementation of the project is being provided by the Serbian Ministry for Human and Minority Rights and other national and local institutions whose work is focused on preventing and combating discrimination.

The informal group Ambassadors against Discrimination and Gypsyism has continued its work, primarily focusing on combating hate speech in the public and media spaces. Several important meetings were held

PROGRAMME AREA:

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

between this informal group of activists and representatives of the Serbian Ombudsman, the Commissioner for the Protection of Equality, the Provincial Ombudsman and local and regional Ombudsmen from Novi Sad, Belgrade, Kragujevac, Bačka Topola, Smederevska Palanka and Žitište. A round table was organised on the topic: 'Media image of Roma: from Slovenia to Serbia – hate speech, stereotypes and institutional responsibility'. An event titled Let's Get to Know the Roma, held in partnership with the city municipality of Zvezdara, attracted 76 residents of Belgrade to watch a theatrical solo performance called Sama [Alone], in Theatre Vuk. As part of the project a group of 28 peer educators against discrimination from six elementary schools from partner municipalities and cities, took part in the publication of a set of video materials. The group made a guest appearance on the Vojvodina regional television programme. The Forum of Roma Activism 2025 was organised at the Parobrod Cultural Association in Belgrade, gathering together in one place more than 90 participants from different social spheres.

111 girls attending Girls' Clubs in the following elementary schools received educational support: Jovan Grčić Milenko Primary School, Beočin, Vojvoda Putnik Primary School, Ripanj, Despot Stefan Lazarević Primary School, Zvezdara, Bora Radić Primary School, Bavanište, Karađorđe Primary School, Velika Plana, 19 Oktobar Primary School, Kragujevac and Vuk Karadžić Primary School, Niš. 10 small grants were awarded to selected schools, and school projects were successfully implemented with the participation of 1,293 pupils. Inclusivity and anti-discrimination training sessions were held for 43 teachers.

Support is being provided for the legalisation of dwellings and resolution of land ownership issues. This activity is currently ongoing on behalf of 216 owners of illegally constructed dwellings in settlements inhabited by Roma located in Kragujevac, Beočin, Bavanište and Niš.

Coordinator:
Slađana Jovanović > sladjana@ehons.org

Empowering Roma Girls and Women

This is a three-year project being conducted by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation with the support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), aiming to support Roma girls in continuing and successfully completing their education, as well as help their mothers and/or other women in the family in creating a supportive family environment for their children.

During 2025, support continued for a group of Roma girls and their mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and legal guardians. Roma girls and women meet together as part of the Girls' Club activity in the EHO Centre. Our Girls' Club works to increase the number of young Roma women enrolling in high school and successfully completing it. With the support of the project team, EHO volunteers and successful Roma women and men, these young women take decisions on their future profession and enrol in and attend their high school of choice and, through their example, positively influence the younger generations in their local community. Their mothers and/or other women in the family, supported through family-strengthening project activities, are empowered to provide vital support to girls in education so that their daughters do not drop out of school. The girls and women receive direct material support tailored to their specific needs, with the aim of mitigating the potential risks of dropping out of education. The girls and women go through skills training that can help provide them with a source of income or contribute to increasing the family's income.

During 2025, 76 participants were actively involved in the Girls' Club, with 63 women and 13 men from Roma communities in Novi Sad and the surrounding area. As they have become involved in a range of activities, the girls and their mothers have themselves recognised their role as activists who are able to influence other girls and women from their own local communities through their positive example and motivating stories.

The Girls' Club is organised and run by a university-educated young Roma woman employed by EHO, whose project management skills are also being developed through these project activities. Project participants are additionally supported by successful Roma women and men working in public institutions and academic establishments, as well as those who are recognised artists. Through their active participation and personal example they are able to demonstrate how education helped them succeed in life and thus motivate the participants of this project.

Coordinator:
Slađana Jovanović > sladjana@ehons.org

Education and Economic Empowerment of Marginalised Groups (2022–2025)

Over a three-year period (2022-2025) a project was conducted with the aim of improving the socio-economic situation of marginalised groups in Vojvodina through action in two areas: economic empowerment and education. The project was successfully completed and planned activities fully implemented, with some of the results even exceeding expectations.

Over the duration of the project, support was given to a total of 635 members of marginalised groups (Roma, internally displaced persons, returnees and beneficiaries of social welfare). Through an integrated approach that tied together education and employment, the project contributed to long-term improvements in the quality of life of the beneficiaries and their families.

In the area of economic empowerment, multiple cycles of basic and advanced entrepreneurship training were held, including training in writing a business plan and starting a business. In total, 9 basic and 9 advanced training events were held, with a total of 209 participants. A total of 45 beneficiaries were supported with grants for beginners in business in the form of tools and equipment, while an additional 10 users received support in starting their own business, including official registration as an entrepreneur, equipment worth about 3000 euros and bookkeeping services provided for the initial period. Mentoring was provided to the beneficiaries throughout the duration of the project. In addition to improving their financial situation, the beneficiaries improved their business skills, increased productivity and in many cases expanded the scope of their services.

In the area of education, the project involved a total of 371 pupils from six primary and secondary schools in Novi Sad, Subotica, Zrenjanin and Ruma.

Through individual mentoring, workshops and the provision of school supplies, pupils were continuously monitored and supported in their education. Over the course of the project, 126 workshops were held with the aim of increasing pupils' capacities, developing their social skills and increasing their motivation for learning.

The successful completion of the project affirmed the validity of an integrated approach that combines economic empowerment with educational support and thus creates the foundations for the long-term sustainability of the results achieved and for further improvement of

the position of marginalised groups.

Key results of the project (2022–2025): 18 training events, with 209 attendees acquiring basic and advanced knowledge of entrepreneurship; 45 users supported with start-up grants; 10 small businesses founded with grant support; 371 pupils supported with individual mentoring and school supplies; 126 workshops developing pupils' capacities.

Coordinator:
Tanja Stojković > tanjas@ehons.org

Education and Economic Empowerment of Marginalised Groups, continuation

After successful implementation of the 2022–2025 cycle, this project, aimed at improving the socio-economic status of marginalised groups, picked up where it left off for the period 2025–2028 with a special focus on the educational integration of children and economic self-sustainability of adults. The main target groups include Roma, internally displaced persons, returnees, beneficiaries of social welfare and other socially vulnerable categories of the population. The plan is for a total of 614 members of marginalised groups to be supported through various activities.

As part of the economic empowerment component, training events on writing a business plan are organised and grants awarded to start or develop a business (up to 800 euros), or to establish a small company (up to 3,000 euros). Beneficiaries are supported with continuous mentoring and consulting.

The educational integration of children and young people is being promoted under this project in partnership with primary and secondary schools in Novi Sad, Subotica, Zrenjanin and Ruma. Students are provided with support in the form of individual mentoring, school supplies and participation in workshops, while schools are provided with technical equipment intended to assist in improving teaching standards.

By conducting complementary activities in the areas of education and economic empowerment, the project contributes to the creation of equal opportunities for improving the position of marginalised groups and their emergence from poverty.

Plans for the period 2025–2028: organising training events and awarding business development grants; support for self-employment; continuous mentoring support for users; individual support for pupils; workshops; technical support to educational institutions.

Coordinator:
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Level Up – Starting in Business After High School

This project was aimed at improving the entrepreneurial and practical skills of young people from socially disadvantaged groups in order to ease their transition to the labour market.

Through educational workshops and a final event, the programme contributed to strengthening the competences of pupils in the final grades of the Novi Sad Secondary School of Mechanical Engineering and to their better understanding of the process of finding employment and starting their own business. During implementation, partnership was established with the school and with the National Employment Service, which provided support in the planning and implementation of activities.

As part of the programme, 8 workshops were organised on the topics of promoting yourself in the labour market and preparing for a job interview, which were attended by 27 pupils. Through practical exercises, role-playing and interactive methods, pupils improved their skills in writing a resume and cover letter, as well as learning to market themselves to potential employers.

The final event, titled Connecting Skills and the Labour Market gave pupils the opportunity to learn about the psychological aspects of entrepreneurship, to find out what support is available and to see a real-life example of a successful business start-up. An interactive quiz helped verify and solidify the knowledge acquired.

The project is an example of good practice, where through partnership between educational institutions, the National Employment Service and civil society organisations, young people are supported in their transition to the labour market.

During implementation of the programme 8 workshops were organised and 27 students improved their active job-seeking knowledge and skills; the final event was held with the participation of representatives of the National Employment Service and a successful entrepreneur who had been supported by another EHO project.

Coordinator:
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Empowering Local Roma Organisations

This project was launched in September 2024 with the support of the organisation Hoffnung für Osteuropa – Diakonie Württemberg, with a primary focus on training and capacity-building for smaller Roma associations in Vojvodina. Activities continued in 2025 when, after intensive training and mentoring in developing their ideas, seven selected initiatives received full support for their outreach work in Novi Sad, Bačka Palanka, Bečej, Novi Bečej, Kovilje and Ruma.

This phase of the project brought about tangible change through the following local initiatives:

- Education and guidance – the Roma and the Educational Centre of Young Hopes associations from Novi Sad, as well as the Association of Roma of Ruma, impacted over 150 students and parents via the projects Path to Knowledge, Professional Orientation and Roma Voice to Knowledge. The result was full acquisition of basic reading and writing skills by the participants and increased motivation to continue with secondary education.
- Culture and identity – the We have our Own Culture initiative (by the Čarain association in Tovariševo) and the Coexistence in Diversity exhibition (Novi Bečej Roma Association) reinforced the cultural visibility of the community. Through 10 educational workshops and in partnership with the Museum of Bačka Palanka, Roma tradition and heritage were presented to the public, with an important focus on the fight against child marriage.
- Health and participation – the Health Education for Youth project (Roma Community Development, Kovilj) brought together 60 young people to discuss topics related to mental health and sports, while the Djina humanitarian association from Bačko Gradište, through the project Improving Participation, trained leaders for active participation in local policy-making and created a set of recommendations for decision-makers.

A joint presentation of results held in May 2025 showed that, thanks to the systemic support initiated the previous year, a key success of the project was clearly achieved in building the capacity of small Roma associations. Through this process these organisations were empowered to recognise the needs of their community on their own initiative and become a reliable partner in local development.

Coordinator:
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Towards Gender Justice in Vojvodina

The goal of this project, implemented in the first half of the year, was to increase the competitiveness of women in the fields of science and technology. The project involved organising individual mentoring in areas of information technology chosen by the women themselves according to their needs, previous knowledge, work experience and future professional plans. Training included the following topics: digital marketing, graphic design, basics of computer programming, programming languages, various software applications, software testing, etc. Group training was also organised, intended as an introduction to the basics of internet marketing with a special focus on the use of social networks in business networking, seeking employment and exchanging professional experiences.

Coordinator:
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Ready and Successful in Germany

The project 'Ready and Successful in Germany – pre-arrival migration advice – pre-integration and emigration management services' aims to provide comprehensive information and support to those interested in moving to Germany for various reasons, including employment opportunities, education, life or family reunification. The project is active in 14 countries: Germany, Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Georgia, Armenia, Kosovo*, Morocco, North Macedonia, Nigeria, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine.

Project advisors participated during the year in several online information and networking events, as well as in three major in-person gatherings: in Berlin (March 10, 2025), at a professional meeting of Diakonie Germany, where experiences and practices from providing advisory services were shared; in Skopje (May 12, 2025), at a qualification seminar for German language teachers about legal migration routes to Germany, and in Ortahisar, Turkey (December 1–3, 2025), at a three-day project seminar for advisors from the 14 countries, dedicated to improving project tools and methodologies for working with project beneficiaries.

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Support for the Education of Socially Deprived Children and Youth in Serbia (2022-2025)

This three-year project aimed to improve opportunities and success rates in educating socially deprived children and youth (those from poor families, and those belonging to especially vulnerable categories such as the Roma community, or children and youth with disabilities or developmental difficulties). The project was conducted in the following local communities: Aleksinac (Aleksinački Rudnici), Bač (Selenča), Bor, Kraljevo, Kruševac (Gornji Stepoš), Knjaževac, Lajkovac (Jabučje), Lebane (Bošnjace), Leskovac, Mali Idjoš, Mionica, Opovo, Šid and Vranje. 333 children and young people received ongoing project support; 6,436 additional classes were held to improve children's school performance; 449 workshops were held to provide additional psychological and teaching support to the children, as well as 278 workshops held in order to motivate and empower the parents of those children; 66 teachers underwent accredited training in working with children from families of lower socio-economic status.

Coordinator:
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Support for the Education of Socially Deprived Children and Youth in Serbia (2025-2028)

The goal of the project is to improve educational opportunities and performance for children and young people from families of lower socio-economic status and those who belong to particularly vulnerable groups in our society. The project is being conducted in the following local communities across Serbia: Aleksinac (Aleksinački Rudnici), Bač (Selenča), Lazarevac (Stepojevac), Bor, Kraljevo, Knjaževac, Lajkovac (Jabučje), Novi Pazar (Trnava), Lebane (Bošnjace), Leskovac, Mali Iđoš, Mionica, Opovo, Šid and Vranje. Support is provided on an ongoing basis to primary school students from the fifth to eighth grades, and the first grade of secondary school. This takes various forms, including organising additional classes and workshops, purchasing school supplies, and covering food and travel costs. Through this project, EHO wishes 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.

Coordinator:
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Support for Roma Families in the Bangladeš Neighbourhood – Safe Housing and Creative Workshops for Children

This programme was implemented in Novi Sad, in the Bangladeš neighbourhood. The aim of the programme was to improve the living conditions of Roma families by providing safe housing, supporting them in exercising their rights and organising activities for children aimed at reducing their exposure to the streets.

The programme supported 31 families who were accommodated in shipping container homes after a fire in the neighbourhood. During implementation, regular on-location visits were made, with monitoring of housing conditions and provision of advisory support to families regarding the safe use of their housing units. They were also supported in exercising their rights in the areas of social welfare and healthcare.

Creative workshops were organised for children between the ages of 4 and 14, contributing to a better quality of free time and a reduction in the risk of their exposure to the streets.

At the end of the programme, personal hygiene packages were distributed to families as a form of direct support and motivation to participate in the activities. The programme was implemented in partnership with the Centre for Social Work and the Red Cross.

Coordinator:
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Support for Children at Risk of Living and/or Working on the Street

Activities on this project are being conducted in the city of Novi Sad, in three substandard settlements – Bangladeš, Veliki Rit and part of the Adice neighbourhood – and in other identified hot-spots. The goal of the project is to reduce the number of children and young people closely identifying with the street and to get them involved in regular social and educational activities.

Activities have been carried out in on-location and in cooperation with schools and the Drop-In Centre for Children and Youth. Over the course of the year, 385 outreach visits were made, as well as 310 visits to schools and to the Drop-In Centre, making contact with 445 children. 7 outreach volunteers, 7 peer educators and 8 educational support volunteers were involved in the activity.

187 children from the Jožef Atila, Vuk Karadžić and Dušan Radović primary schools were included in educational support services, as well as users of the Drop-In Centre. The support included getting 16 children enrolled in the first grade, and distributing 180 school bags with school supplies at the beginning of the school year.

Educational, creative, health and psychological workshops were held, as well as social inclusion activities, aimed at facilitating the development of healthy habits and the strengthening of social and emotional skills in children. The children also took part in cultural and social activities, including visits to the museum, the cinema and a trip to the Zasavica Special Nature Reserve.

Material support included the distribution of 119 packs of nappies and hygiene products, 112 pairs of shoes, 68 winter jackets and 12 T-shirts. Support in obtaining personal documents was additionally provided to 14 beneficiaries.

At the end of the year, 182 New Year's packages were distributed. Accredited training was also organised for volunteers and the project team on the topic of culturally competent practice in working with children and families from sensitive social groups.

Coordinator:
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Cultural and Creative Workshops for Seniors

During 2025, creative and cultural workshops contributed to improving the quality of life of the elderly in terms of their psychological, physical, social and economic well-being, as well as to the reduction of poverty and the feeling of isolation, which are particularly pronounced problems in this category of the population.

Regular cultural and creative workshops, focusing on topics relating to social participation, were based around the expertise of various professionals. The workshops included activities such as creative writing and painting, découpage and making ornaments and jewellery. Through these the senior citizens gained new knowledge and were able to apply it in practice. The manager and assistants designed and facilitated workshops that enabled the active participation of beneficiaries. They were also given the chance to have fun and relax by playing board games or by taking part in fun activities or simple sports.

Coordinator:
Borka Vrekić > borka@ehons.org

Programme area:

SOCIAL WELFARE

1.282
beneficiaries

87.541
home visits

69
nurses and carers

37
children with a personal assistant at schooli

24
users of the Day Centre in Raška

Licensed
programmes from 2015 and 2019.

HEKS-EPER,
municipalities: Bački Petrovac, Alibunar, Gadžin Han, Raška, Plandište

PROJECTS

Home Assistance and Home Care

The overall objective of the programme is to improve the quality of life of elderly and ill people and young people and children with developmental disabilities by providing a high standard of home care and home assistance services. In September 2015, EHO received a licence from the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs to provide home assistance services.

The programme is being implemented in several municipalities: Alibunar, Bački Petrovac, Gadžin Han, Plandište and Raška. Home Assistance and Home Care services are available to elderly people and young people and children with developmental disabilities whose physical or mental difficulties prevent them living independently in their own homes without regular assistance in carrying out daily activities and without care or supervision, and where family support is either insufficient or unavailable.

In 2025 the Home Assistance and Home Care service had a total of 1,221 users. 69 medical nurses and carers were contracted to provide medical and social services, providing a total of 87,541 home visits.

Coordinator:
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Child Personal Assistant

In February 2019, EHO received a licence to provide child personal assistant services from the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs. A personal assistant is made available to a child with disabilities or developmental difficulties who needs support in meeting everyday basic needs such as getting around, maintaining personal hygiene, eating, dressing and communicating with others. The support of a personal assistant is provided to children in the education system from kindergarten to the end of their regular schooling, including high school education.

The purpose of involving a personal assistant is to provide the child with appropriate individual and practical support so that he or she is able to attend school regularly and participate in activities in the community, but also to permit the highest possible level of independence.

Partners on the project are the municipalities of Bački Petrovac, Raška and Gadžin Han. Over the course of 2025, 37 personal assistants were employed providing 37 children in the school system with support.

Coordinator:
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Day Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities

This service is used by children and young people in the municipality of Raška with mental and physical developmental disabilities. The Raška Day Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities provides psychological and special needs clinical assessment and diagnostic services, psychological and physiotherapy treatment for children, individual treatment and rehabilitation of children and youth, and parental counselling. Semi-intensive psychological, special needs and physiotherapy treatment is provided through group or individual work, depending on the needs of the user. For adults the services involve training to operate machines for working wood, metal, plastic, paper and textiles, depending on the abilities and needs of the user.

One meal is provided to everyone using the service for more than four hours a day, tailored to their developmental and health needs. The service is provided to individual users on an ongoing basis every working day, once a week or several times a week, either for a half-day or full-day stay, depending on the provisions of the individual support plan, by decision of the Centre for Social Work and based on the opinion of a multidisciplinary committee. The project partner is the municipality of Raška.

The total number of users of the Day Centre for Children and Youth with Disabilities in 2025 was 24, 19 of whom made use of the services of the physiotherapist, 15 were served by the special needs professional, 24 used the services of the psychologist, 14 used day care and personal care services, 17 made use of the minivan transportation service and 24 made use of food services.

10 users were trained to operate machines for working wood, metal, plastic, paper and canvas – depending on the user's capabilities and needs – by the Special Needs Care Association who use the same premises and also receive meals in the Day Centre.

Coordinator:
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PROJECTS

World Day of Prayer 2025

An ecumenical service to mark World Day of Prayer was held in the Greek Catholic Church of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul. The worship service was prepared by Christian women from the Cook Islands, with the whole world joining in prayer for this country that day. The service was titled I Made You Wonderful, and included readings of stories expressing solidarity, love and empathy for the women of the Cook Islands.

The service was also attended by the bishop of the Greek Catholic Church, Djuro Džudžar, who addressed attending believers at the beginning and expressed his support for this movement and for ecumenical cooperation. Priests from Novi Sad churches also attended, as well as Miroslav Ilić, Assistant Provincial Secretary for Culture, Information and Relations with Religious Communities.

Programme area:

HUMANITARIAN WORK

1.994
refugees and migrants in Vranje and Bujanovac

5.800+
participations in educational, creative and psychosocial activities

19
completed certified courses, 5 participants employed

396
participants in language courses (Serbian and English)

Vranje Asylum Centre
Bujanovac, Principovac and Šid Reception Centres

UMCOR,
KIRS,
EU Erasmus+/ ESC,
ELCA

Programme area:

HUMANITARIAN WORK

PROJECTS

Empowerment of Refugees in Serbia

During 2025, this project, supported by UMCOR, had a significant impact on the quality of life, psychosocial stability and integration of refugees and migrants housed in the Vranje Asylum Centre and the Bujanovac Reception Centre. The project took a holistic approach, involving a total of 682 unique beneficiaries, with more than 5,800 participations in educational, creative and psychosocial activities.

Key results and impact:

- In Vranje, 19 beneficiaries completed certified courses (in IT, languages, cooking and welding), which has resulted in direct employment for five participants in local restaurants and factories.
- Children and young people from the Vranje Asylum Centre actively participated in local sports clubs and cultural and artistic societies, while whole families participated in public events in the city, helping to break down social isolation.
- More than 650 structured workshops were held, including in psychotherapy, art therapy and human rights education, helping strengthen the emotional resilience and awareness of users.
- English and Serbian language classes were attended by 354 beneficiaries in Bujanovac and 42 in Vranje, which directly improved their communication skills and preparedness for the labour market.
- Beneficiaries were provided with direct support in the form of school supplies, sports equipment, trade materials and translation of medical documents
- Particular success was achieved in connecting beneficiaries with the Ukrainian community in Vojvodina. A group from Vranje Asylum Centre attended the Kalina festival in Vrbas and an event promoting Ukrainian children's creative work in Novi Sad. They also took part in the Ukrainian Folk Song Festival in Kula and Vrbas. These events served as a strong platform for the preservation of cultural identity and for building lasting ties with compatriots in Serbia.
- Creative work by beneficiaries, as well as their personal stories, were presented at specially-organised exhibitions titled Hands that Have Journeyed, held for the general public in the Bora Stanković City Library in Vranje and Branko Radičević Primary School in Bujanovac. The exhibition is also accessible in digital form – https://path.ehons.org/

The project was conducted over the period between December 1, 2024 and December 1, 2025.

Coordinator:
Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org

Empowerment of Refugee Women, Children and Unaccompanied Minors

The first two cycles of project activities were conducted during 2025. Project activities in partnership with the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees and Migration (KIRS) were held in the Bujanovac and Principovac Reception Centres, supporting the target group – migrants engaging in legal migration. Two educators in Šid and one in Bujanovac, one sports facilitator in Principovac and one sports facilitator in Bujanovac were involved in organising these activities. The educators and sports facilitators organised psychosocial support activities with users at these sites for 40 working hours per week, including occupational, psychological and counselling, educational and creative, social and entertainment and sports and recreational activities in accordance with the identified needs of the beneficiaries. A new Memorandum of Cooperation was signed on December 17, 2025 extending the excellent cooperation with KIRS, ensuring that the EHO support programme would continue through 2026 at KIRS reception centres for migrants and asylum seekers. Good cooperation also continued with the Serbia office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during 2025. This cooperation was aimed at ensuring better coordination with other national and

international actors involved in empowering refugee women, children and unaccompanied minors by humanising their social status and ensuring a more dignified status in public discourse for people in transit through Serbia or those temporarily staying in the country.

Coordinator:
Teofil Lehotski > teo@ehons.org

Humanitarian Volunteering for Solidarity Activities

This project is being supported through the European Solidarity Corps and European Union programme and implemented by a consortium of eight partner organisations: ADRA Czech Republic, ADRA Slovakia, ADRA Zambia, ADRA Serbia, Uganda Pioneers Association, Merhamet Sandžak, the Serbian Orthodox Church Čovekoljublje Charitable Foundation and EHO Serbia. The goal of the project is to strengthen social inclusion and integrate vulnerable groups through volunteer involvement in the areas of education, environmental protection, socio-economic empowerment and development of rural communities.

During the three-year project (2024–2027), 24 volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps will be deployed in Serbia, Uganda and Zambia, where they will contribute to humanitarian and social development initiatives.

As part of our professional development programme for partners, key online training events were held during 2025, focusing on the standardisation of humanitarian services:

- MEAL training (April 16, 2025): training addressing monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning in voluntary projects, organised by partner ADRA Zambia.
- Socio-economic empowerment (September 16, 2025): Training aimed at building capacity for the economic inclusion of vulnerable groups, organised by the Merhamet association from Novi Pazar.

Two women who joined us as volunteers from Turkey (Nazife Gümüştekin and Gülcan Güzel) made a particular impact on the work of EHO in 2025. They worked daily to provide direct support to children and young people in Roma neighbourhoods and reception centres throughout Serbia, contributing to education and socialisation as well as to the humanitarian work of EHO.

Coordinator:
Milisav Milinković > milisav@ehons.org

Programme area:

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

10
women in the tailoring workshop

Several tonnes
of clothing saved from landfills annually

EHO ART
Corner opened in February 2025

EHO Inclusive Laundry
under development from December 2025

Many of the people whom EHO works with have skills, energy and willingness, but lack access to the job market. The system excludes them before they get a chance to show what they can do. EHO's social entrepreneurship efforts tackle that obstacle directly by creating real jobs, with real wages, for women who would otherwise remain invisible in the labour market.

This is not rehabilitation or occupational therapy. This is work. This is dignity.

EHO Inclusive Laundry and Recycling Workshop

The next step in our journey will be to develop a commercial textile washing and processing service that will employ long-term unemployed women, single mothers, women with disabilities and victims of violence. The model will build on existing EHO infrastructure and EHO's decades of experience working with textiles and with these categories of women.

EHO ART Corner

In February 2025 the ART Corner was opened on the premises of EHO in Novi Sad. It is intended as a space that exhibits and sells – in return for a donation – works produced at creative workshops held for programme beneficiaries. Artwork, decorative items and fashion accessories, each handmade, each with its own author. The corner is open every work day between 10 am and 2 pm.

EHO Tailoring Workshop

The tailoring workshop has been employing women with disabilities and other difficult-to-employ women since 2017, and serves as proof that exclusion from the job market cannot be justified on the grounds of a lack of ability. Donated clothes that would otherwise have ended up in landfills are transformed into unique pieces: handmade clothing and fashion accessories that are sold at the EHO Centre and at fairs. This workshop has been working on developing textile recycling processes for some time now, continuously improving its capacities, know-how and methods in order to respond to growing needs in the area of textile waste management. Through its practical work, cooperation with partners, and in keeping with contemporary trends, the workshop strives to develop sustainable models for the collection, selection and reuse of textiles, in doing so contributing to protection of the environment and social inclusion.

Memorandum of Understanding signed as part of National Centre for Bioeconomy project

The Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation joined an initiative to establish cooperation between the key stakeholders in the bioeconomy of the Republic of Serbia by signing a Memorandum of Understanding at a ceremony held at the Institute of Forestry's Lipovica Scientific Research Station.

In doing so EHO confirmed its commitment to the promotion of sustainable development, the circular economy and a systemic approach to the disposal of textile waste, as well as further partnership with the institutions, universities, public companies and organisations that make up the National Centre for Bioeconomy network.

The signing of the Memorandum was an activity connected with the CEE2ACT project, the aim of which is to strengthen cooperation, exchange knowledge and support the development of a sustainable bioeconomy in Serbia and the region.

Youth exchange in Dortmund

EHO in cooperation with partner organisations from Germany Evangelische Jugend Dortmund und Lünen and Evangelische Noah Kirchengemeinde Dortmund, facilitated the 18th consecutive youth exchange between June 13 and 20, 2025. These exchanges are part of a long-standing partnership between the twin cities of Novi Sad and Dortmund.

During their seven-day stay in Dortmund, the young participants were provided with a rich and varied programme of educational, cultural and socially involved activities. Of particular importance this year was their visit to Dortmund City Hall, where representatives of the mayor's office met with the young volunteers and expressed their support for their efforts. In addition, the young people from Serbia publicly presented the work of EHO and the decades-long tradition of cooperation between Novi Sad and Dortmund at the Synod GoDi – a ceremony held by the Protestant Church Synod. The programme included intensive skills development through workshops held at the Youth Church in Hamm, where participants worked on the Building Together project, as well as partnership with Jugendring Dortmund, which is an umbrella organisation for numerous youth initiatives. These and other similar activities provided the young people with direct insight into the work of the civil sector in Germany. During their stay they visited Lünen and local festivals, and also greatly enjoyed a trip organised to Winterswijk in the Netherlands. As part of this social and cultural programme, the young people also touched on the topic of human rights with a visit to the Memorial to Human Dignity on World Refugee Day.

A total of 20 young volunteers from Serbia and Germany developed their personal skills and built new friendships whilst working together, discussing issues and visiting civil society organisations, once again confirming the importance of this type of international cooperation.

Contacts:
Milisav Milinković i Željka Zeljković

EHO team participation in Novi Sad homelessness survey

A team from EHO consisting of Tanja Stojković and Vuk Kockar participated in a comprehensive survey of people experiencing homelessness in Novi Sad, conducted by ADRA – the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

This included analysis of relevant policies, outreach work and interviews with homeless people, as well as consultations with representatives of public institutions. During the survey, which was conducted between December 2024 and March 2025, 26 locations were visited, 75 interviews conducted and 72 vouchers distributed for the purchase of basic necessities.

In addition to the survey, aid was distributed in the form of blankets and jackets. The survey was qualitative in nature and based on semi-structured interviews and analysis of documents with the aim of better understanding both the needs of the target group and the administrative framework. A participatory approach was taken, with the homeless people themselves actively taking part in the formulation of recommendations.

The findings obtained and resulting recommendations will serve as a basis for improving existing services, developing preventative measures and strengthening cooperation, with the ultimate goal of improving human rights safeguards and creating a fairer social environment fostering greater solidarity.

The survey is available here (Serbian language only): https://ehons.org/rs/tematska-izdanja-eho-koja-se-bave-upravljanjem-migracijama-inkluzijom-i-zastupanjem-prava/45/2500/beskucnistvo-u-novom-sadu_-administrativni-kontekst-deo-potreba-i-preporuke.html

THE ASSEMBLY

Reformed Christian Church in Serbia:
Halász Dániel
Edit Mókus
Stanyó Tóth Gizella

Evangelical Christian Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia – Vojvodina:
Tomislav Konečni
Ernest Baračkai
Ibolja Konečni

Slovak Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Serbia:
Branislav Kulík
Jano Brtka
Andrija Marčok

Eparchy of St Nicholas in Ruski Krstur:
Julian Rac
Đura Rac
Joakim Hrubenja

MANAGEMENT

Anna Brtka Valent - Director
Annamaria Sebestyen Farago - Financial Department Coordinator
Ana Djurovka - Accounting Coordinator
Anna Vrbovska - Coordinator for Financial Reporting and Analysis
Tanja Stojković - Project Coordinator
Borka Vrekić - Project Coordinator
Slađana Jovanović - Project Coordinator
Miroslava Častvenova - Project Coordinator
Damir Krkobabić - Project Coordinator
Milisav Milinković - Project Coordinator
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Željka Zeljković - Project Associate
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Stevan Batori - Project Associate
Nemanja Vranešević - Project Associate
Vladimir Vujin - Project Associate
Vuk Kockar - Project Associate

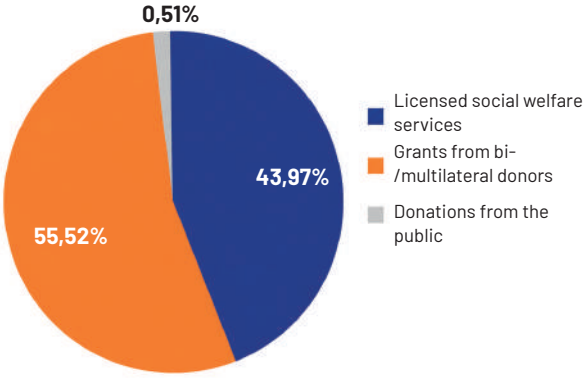
PARTNERS

Brot für die Welt, ELCA, HEKS-EPER, GAW, UMCOR, H. Stepic CEE Charity, Diakonie Württemberg, Hoffnung für Osteuropa, MÖWE, Otto per Mille, ESC - European Solidarity Corps

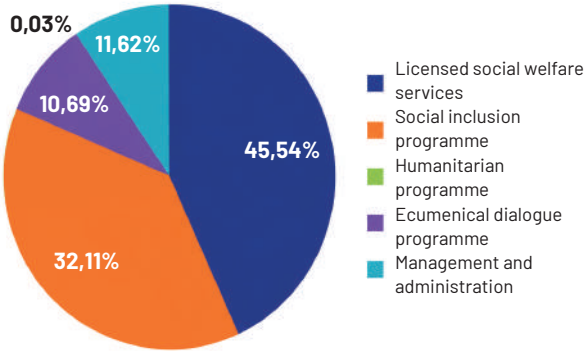
Revenues	
Licensed social welfare services	RSD 100,648,908.63
Grants from bi-/multilateral donors	RSD 127,074,295.97
Donations from the public	RSD 1,176,315.16
Total	**RSD 228,899,519.76**
	EUR 1,953,019

Expenses	
Licensed social welfare services	RSD 104,602,008.11
Social inclusion programme	RSD 73,761,829.67
Humanitarian programme	RSD 24,550,852.25
Ecumenical dialogue programme	RSD 68,978.42
Management and administration	RSD 26,698,296.92
Total	**RSD 229,681,965.37**
	EUR 1,975,279

Revenues



Expenses



SUPPORT EHO

The fundraising landscape is changing faster than now than it did in the previous decade. EHO is responding to this change with clarity: we are developing our own sources of income, turning towards companies and members of the public and building partnerships that are more than just one-offs. The services we provide are licensed, proven, based on thirty-two years of work in the field, and provide value that goes beyond project cycles. In 2026 we are continuing to develop these in order to stand with the people who need support, regardless of how the policies of donors may change.

BECOME AN EHO PARTNER:

Companies that want to make a real impact in terms of corporate social responsibility can support EHO's work through partnerships tailored to their capacities and strategies, whether that means providing financial support to specific programmes, donating goods and services, getting employees involved as mentors and volunteers or participating in joint community initiatives. Every partnership is backed up with measurable results.

- For corporate partnerships, contact **Borka Vrekić** > borka@ehons.org
- Individual supporters contact **Vuk Kockara** > vuk@ehons.org

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Auditor's report 2025.

"In our opinion, the attached financial report is, in every materially signficant respect, a true and objective reflection of the financial position of EHO as of 31st December 2025, and of its financial performance for the year ending the date, in accordance with Republic of Serbia's Law on Accounting."

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, 2025, 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 2025, 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 always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud

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Bank Account: 170-0030019559001-04 UniCredit Bank A.D. Belgrade
Email: revizija@codexaudit.rs | Web: www.codexaudit.rs

CODEX AUDIT

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 200048068 — Digitally signed by Olivera Loci 200048068 Date: 2026.03.30 12:27:07 +02'00'
Name of Auditor signing:	Olivera Loci, Certified Auditor
Auditors' address:	Codex Audit doo, Belgrade 11070, Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 28/VII/25
Date of the auditor's report:	30 March 2026

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