

DREAM TO GROW



UNIVERSITY



PARENTING,
STUDYING AND
WORKING

HIGHSCHOOL



PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY
SCHOOL



PRESCHOOL
KINDERGARTEN



MILAN'S
STORY

THERE ARE **23** ROMA ASSISTANTS EMPLOYED IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS WHO ARE PAID BY THE STATE. THE REST OF THE ASSISTANTS ARE PAID BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MEANING THEIR EMPLOYMENT STATUS IS UNSTABLE.



Six years ago, I trained as a Roma mediator. During the training, I met the headmaster of the primary school in my local community. She offered me the chance to collaborate to empower the Roma community, especially Roma parents.

PREJUDICES AND SEGREGATION PREVENT MOST ROMA FROM BEING INTEGRATED INTO INSTITUTIONAL ACTIVITIES.

I am Milan from Croatia. Starting with where I am now, and going back to my early years, I will walk you through my journey to become the person I am today. I will share notable moments in my life – exploring the events that made me strong and introducing you to the individuals who supported me throughout the many challenges I faced on my journey. **I am proud to be Roma, of who I am now, and of my dream to grow.**

I am 32 years old, and I work as an educational assistant in a preschool. I am also the father of three children. Because of my life experience, and the work I do, I know that investing in the early years is essential for every child. That is why I enrolled my children in kindergarten. I already see the positive results of this early education.



After obtaining my high school diploma, I enrolled in the program for Early and Preschool Education in the Faculty of Education. I wanted to continue studying and to specialize in the Bayash language and literature.



ONLY **0.2%**
OF ROMA
GRADUATE
UNIVERSITY.



ONLY
14.5%
OF YOUNG ROMA
COMPLETE HIGH
SCHOOL
EDUCATION.
RESEARCH SHOWS
THAT DISCRIMINA-
TION IS PRESENT,
ESPECIALLY IN
EDUCATION WHERE
APPRENTICESHIPS
ARE REQUIRED.



THE MAJORITY OF ROMA DO
NOT ENROLL IN ADDITIONAL
EDUCATION AS ADULTS.

ONLY **4.2%** FINISH PRIMARY
SCHOOL AS ADULTS, **1.9%**
SECONDARY SCHOOL, WHILE
4.5% COMPLETE A VOCA-
TIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

In high school, I faced harsh discrimination from a teacher and grew tired of the arduous labor that my apprenticeship required. I stopped attending, and I was kicked out of school. I felt ashamed about not having my diploma for a long time before I decided to go back to finish high school.

40.5% OF MILAN'S GENERATION

OF ROMA (FROM 26 TO 40 YEARS)
DROPPED OUT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL.

TODAY, **95%** OF ROMA CHILDREN
AGED 7-14 ARE ENROLLED IN PRIMARY
SCHOOL AND 31% OF ROMA YOUTH AGED
15 TO 18 ARE ENROLLED IN SECONDARY
SCHOOL.



I n primary school, I was a successful student. I was a favorite among other children and teachers. I received a trip from the school for my achievements.

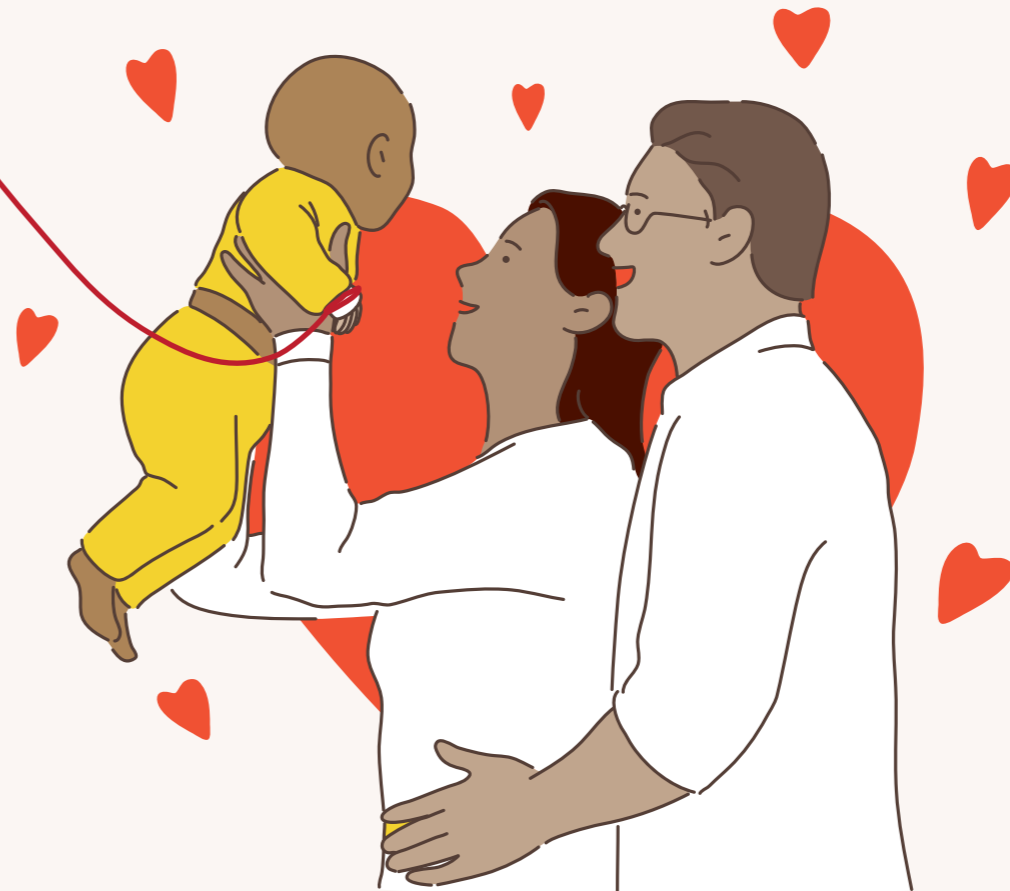
I was born in a traditional Roma settlement. Conditions were difficult there.

I did not attend preschool or kindergarten, but I had a happy childhood.

32% SETTLE-
MENTS IN WHICH
ROMA LIVE ARE
SEGREGATED.

69% ROMA
CHILDREN (AGED
3-6) ARE NOT
INCLUDED IN
KINDERGARTENS
OR PRESCHOOL
PROGRAMS.

20% OF ROMA
PRIMARY SCHOOL
STUDENTS ARE
ENROLLED IN
ROMA-ONLY
CLASSROOMS.



THE GOAL OF REYN CROATIA IS TO PROVIDE THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING OF ROMA CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO PARTICIPATE IN A QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROCESS THROUGH STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES.

REYN-CROATIA IS A VERY VIBRANT NETWORK OF MORE THAN 300 MEMBERS, INDIVIDUALS, AND INSTITUTIONS COMBINED.



The mission of OA Step by Step is to improve the quality of the educational process and the creation of child-centered kindergartens and schools in which children and young people can actively participate in the educational process, express themselves freely and creatively, develop critical thinking, independence, responsibility and concern for others

and the environment and realize their full potential following their interests and abilities, in an atmosphere that supports democratic relations and respect for diversity. In promoting child-centered kindergartens and schools, we encourage partnerships with families and the wider community.

The data presented in this infographic is from Croatia. It is the result of research and monitoring done by REYN Croatia and its hosting organization Open Academy Step by Step Croatia.