

Objective:

To support Roma ESRs in higher education by the enhancement of an online Roma ESR Network.

Description:

1. To enhance and research the Roma Education Fund online network of Early Stage Researchers (ESR) from Roma backgrounds across the EU.
2. One Experienced Researcher from Sussex seconded to Roma Education Fund for one month to support 3 ESRs (Seville x1, Sussex x 2) in working with Roma Education Fund for two months to build on existing Facebook network facilitating communication between Roma ESRs. This will involve mapping Roma ESRs in higher education across the EU, gathering materials relevant to Roma ESRs and organising these on a Facebook page.

Deliverables:

1. A Facebook Page to support the Roma ESR community, linked to CHEER web communications. The website will have contacts, resources e.g. bibliographies, videos of lectures and seminars and information. There will also be opportunities for webinars and online chat rooms
2. An established network on which to base applications for further funding e.g. to the Horizon 2020 Programme and the Open Society Foundation.

Progress and Outcomes:

- A [Facebook group](https://www.facebook.com/groups/REFScholarshipProgramRomaResearchNetwork/) (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/REFScholarshipProgramRomaResearchNetwork/>) was created to connect with the Roma ESR community. It has 131 current members from countries including Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine. The posts to the group refer to scholarships, internships, job opportunities, summer schools and conferences and publications, or news regarding Roma issues and activism. The group continues to receive regular posts.
- CHEER has populated the [HEIM website](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/cheer/researchprojects/rise/resources) (<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/education/cheer/researchprojects/rise/resources>) with related literature, reports, news and links to relevant Roma organisations with the aim of developing an intellectual resource for use by the Roma research community. This will be further updated with resources during July and August 2017

Participants: Experienced Researcher: Professor John Pryor (Sussex); Early Stage Researchers: Daniel Leyton (Sussex); Caterina Mazzilli (Sussex); Alejandro Soria-Vílchez (Seville). Roma Education Fund Contacts: Dr Stela Garaz, Dan Pavel Doghi, Erszebet Bader.

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