

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Romania

Annual Report 2019





"The Award made me see potential in people and see them with loving eyes. In this program I managed to develop from many points of view and broaden my horizon, embrace the sky through aviation and bring a splash of love for music along with my dear violin. "

Hanna Hoos, Gold Award Holder,
Romania

Thank you

On behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, I would like to extend my gratitude for your unwavering support of the work that we do. As an integral member of the Award family and true champion for young people and what they can achieve, you have exemplified the values and aspirations that the Founder set in motion more than sixty years ago.

Your generosity has enabled us to continue delivering the Award to young people the world over, empowering them with the confidence and desire to create meaningful change; helping them find their purpose, passion and place in the world. We are proud to count you amongst our closest supporters and look forward to working together in the years ahead as we grow the Award to reach the 1.8 billion 10-24 year olds around the world.



An Overview

The Award has been present in Romania since the early 1990s, but it wasn't until 2011, with the support of the Rangoonwala Foundation and The International Award Foundation that a National Award Operator (NAO) was formed. Since then the Award in Romania has progressed to become a nationally recognised programme. In addition to Chair of the Board, Shajjad Rizvi, the two National Coordinators Mihaela Maris and now Carmen Dragomir, have worked to ensure high operating standards and healthy finances and have worked to improve the access, reach and impact of the Award across the country.

The patronage of Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown has ensured that the Award is recognised at the highest level. Her attendance at Royal Gala, Gold Award ceremonies and other events continues to give the Award in Romania a high level of prestige amongst young people, schools and employers.

Due to your support, today the Award in Romania supports over 5600 participants and 1300 volunteers across 47 Award Centres and is seeing a steady growth.

WHO WE ARE

Some of the most valuable learning takes place far from the classroom. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for nonformal education and learning, challenging young people to be world ready, to discover their potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world. Supported by thousands of adult volunteers, partners and operators, young people are using the Award framework to develop their own personal programme, working towards achieving the internationally recognised Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

The Award's framework is recognised as the global standard in non-formal education and learning. It inspires young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their community. It provides a structure and opportunities for young people to develop valuable personal skills, experience and resilience. In Romania, the Award was first introduced in 1991 by Sister Agnes in Roman-Catholic Parish of Motru, being carried on locally until 2011. Since June 2013 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania is patronized by Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown.

Our Mission

To give young people aged 14-24 a supportive, non-competitive youth development platform that deepens self-awareness, builds confidence and broadens skills and experience to further their growth as active, responsible citizens.

Our Vision

To inspire and promote lifelong improvement for all young people by encouraging personal development and achievement.

Our Philosophy

The Award is about individual challenge and developing a sense of commitment. With guidance from Award volunteers, each young person is encouraged to examine themselves, their interests, abilities, then set challenges in the four different sections of the Award. These challenges become the goals young people aspire to reach.

THE AWARD FRAMEWORK



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program, through the experience gained, the dedication of its volunteers and staff, is a complex and rewarding experience for all its participants. Therefore, the encouragement and recognition reflected on the young people in Romania gives it invaluable value. Its impact is felt after the first steps in this country, and its role as a model initiative is widely recognized.

That is why I am very happy to be the patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program in Romania. Through my symbolic role I hope that our mission to provide dignity, trust and hope to the thousands of children and young people in Romania will find the support necessary for the Award program to become a success. In this mission, both the Royal Family and myself will be involved partners. What we aim to do is more than build lives - it is a help in forming and strengthening the new generations that Romania needs for its own future.

Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown

We started 2019 facing a real challenge, we had trained numerous Award leaders, the amount of Award Units was increasing, yet our number of participants was stagnating. We reviewed our strategy and focused our attention on supporting existing units, but also drop units completely if no progress had been made despite our support efforts. After one year we dropped from 50 units, but our participants doubled. It is clear our focus should be switched to unit care and be more selective of possible new units.

As we enter 2020 we intend to upkeep the care and oversight of units, and grow new ones in a more select and sustainable manner. Achieving 1000 new participants is a real possibility, we are already the most active youth organization in Romania, our goal is to make sure the Award program is available to every young person in Romania.

Shajjad Rizvi MBE, Chairman



Key Achievements*

Your generous donation has enabled us to focus on improving the access, reach and impact of the Award with particular emphasis on disadvantaged young people in Romania. We have been able to fund a number of integral projects, and achieve exciting new successes including:



Know to grow - Extending the Award in Transylvania Nord region

We were pleased to launch a new project in 2019, by extending the Award programme in Transylvania Nord region in order to improve access, reach and for all young people. Through this project our strategy is to be more innovative and ambitious in growing the numbers and diversity of young people participating in and achieving an Award.



InSide Out project -Working with Young Offenders

Our InSide Out project, saw us delivering the Award to young offenders in institutions and penitentiaries, with support from the Red Cross. We were able to deliver the Award programme to 100 Award participants from the re-education system, recruit 41 Award Leaders and 57 volunteers to support the delivery of the programme. In 2019, following this success, we partnered with Ploiesti Penitentiary to deliver the Award.



Award Youth Covasna Project - Youth Integration

We have seen continued success with our Youth Covasna Project, which aims to integrate Hungarian youth into Romanian society by offering them the opportunity to do the Award. We now have 119 Bronze, Silver and Gold participants and 38 Award Leaders. The following year is expected to see increasing numbers as we produce our Award materials in the Hungarian language.



11th EMAS Regional Conference in Romania

We successfully hosted the 11th EMAS Regional Conference in July in Cluj Napoca. The event brought together over 70 lead stakeholders, directors, trustees and the regional management of Award programme from Europe, Mediterranean and Arab states, with the special presence of the City Mayor and members of the Romanian Royal Family.



ORB - NEXT GENERATION

Continuing our efforts to strengthen our online community, we retooled and enhanced our Online Record Book (ORB). With the next generation launch of ORB, along with the release of our digital mobile app, the online Award experience is faster, simpler and more accessible than ever before, encouraging young people to connect with the Award from anywhere at anytime'.



#WORLDREADY

#WORLDREADY campaign captures the Award's purpose while championing and promoting the importance of non-formal education and learning. The Award's brand and #WORLDREADY brand extension are increasingly being used around the world – from billboards in South Africa, to social media in Indonesia; park benches in Barbados to events in Romania.



Romania to host Forum 2021

In 2018, we successfully won the bid to host the next The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Forum in 2021. The Forum is an assembly of all members of the International Award Association from 130 countries to help shape the way the Award is governed, managed and implemented around the world. Over the next few years there will be considerable preparation for this event as we prepare to host Award and Foundation representatives, donors, government representatives and international organisations in Cluj Napoca. A truly exciting opportunity to shine a light on the Award in Romania to garner further awareness and support.

Challenges

Investing in people - Without our volunteers and staff, young people could never do their Award. We are extremely lucky to have highly committed staff and over 1.000 volunteers across the country. In order to achieve our ambition of more young people achieving more Awards, it was crucial we keep these volunteers with us and recruit many more. In 2019 we started the first stage of our plan to ensure all adults involved in the Award have the right competencies, skills and tools, come together at networking events and regional meetings, where they can share ideas, challenges and best practices.

We also promoted the Online Learning Hub as a tool to support our Award Community, providing a new way to distribute training and communications to the Award family around the globe.

Key Developments

The Award in Numbers

Your investment provides crucial long term value for the Award and secures a future for Award participants in Romania. Initial ways we can look at measuring the impact of your investment is by looking at the Award in numbers. As you can see, in the last year there has been a small but steady increase in participant numbers, new entrants and number of Awards gained. Your support has enabled us to recruit and train more adults to deliver the Award to young people, which in turn has aided the growth in young people taking part in the Award and completing their Award programme.

	2017	2018	2019	%Change
Participation	1 091	1 468	1 374	-6%
Awards Gained	117	161	220	+36%
Adults trained	207	104	154	+48%
Award Units	51	48	47	-2%

The increase in new entrants can be attributed to our strategy for 2020

- Delivering Award workshops and presentations for future Award Leaders and participants
- Asking Gold Award alumni to share their experiences with new school groups
- Delivering training courses for Award Leaders, Adventurous Journey Supervisors and Assessors and management for Award Coordinators

Your investment has contributed to covering the costs of these activities, which has enabled us to secure a healthy and sustainable number of participants for the upcoming year. The number of Award units have decreased following a strengthening in the License Review process. This has ensured that the quality of Award Centres remains at the highest level, delivering a consistent service for all young people across Romania.

Over 600 young people commenced either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award during 2019. Registrations of new and continuing Participants by Award level:



Bronze: 466



Silver: 101



Gold: 33

Supporting At-Risk and Marginalised Young People

We have focused on prioritising a number of initiatives to improve the access, reach and impact of the Award for at risk and marginalised young people. Due to your support, we have facilitated a number of projects to overcome barriers to participation. As you can see, there has been an encouraging number of at risk and marginalised young people partaking in the Award and we hope to continue investing in the tools and opportunities needed to remove any barriers to participate in the future.

Diversity Participant Figures					
Ethnic minorities participants	Young offenders participants	Disabilities participants	Marginalised participants	At risk participants	2019 Participant Total
153	22	10	155	45	375

Award stories

Watching young people around us I realised how important every day education is, it challenges young people to change their destiny.

In Romania, the Award turns it's eyes primarily to basic values and international quality standards; it's not just about gaining skills, having outdoor expeditions, but also inspires young people to take control, make their own choices and build their own unique program, to connect them with the needs of the 21st century. It helps to accept themselves and discover their full potential.

Erika Hristea, World Fellow and Board member



The Award program has a significant impact on the young people personal development and adults involved.

Through the Award, young people can be empowered with not just the confidence but the desire to create meaningful change; to find their purpose, passion and place in the world.

I would describe the Award as a bridge, a bridge that connects generations, a bridge that opens roads, a bridge that unites destinies. And we all know how important and beneficial those bridges can be.

Raymond Gheorghiță, Award Manager Turul Madar Association

The Award program was from the beginning an amazing opportunity to get to know each other and to get beyond ourselves, to do what we love and scares us in an organized and generous environment, continuously adapted for young people. It gave us the opportunity to discover fabulous people and build memories for a lifetime. To work as a team, both adults and young people, in a permanent search for the best solution and the highest goal. To understand the work of the person next to us and support him to the end. To interact with our own fears and to grow up alongside fearless young people.

Gianina Paun, Award Manager, Tanar si Liber Associations



Our students have become energized by the opportunity to undertake the Award which they also recognize as valuable for university enrollment and future employ-ability. The knowledge they have already picked up is unique, personal and has extended their learning beyond the classroom. They are setting new, wider goals and as they focus on achieving them they are developing resilience and dependability, learn to manage time effectively, become more self-motivated and enjoy the uniqueness of these moments. There is a wide range of activities they have chosen which are helping them grow on every level and we are enjoying watching them develop into healthy, well-functioning adults, more aware of wider society. What can be better than that?

Rita Hayek Maalouf, Director The Cambridge School of Bucharest

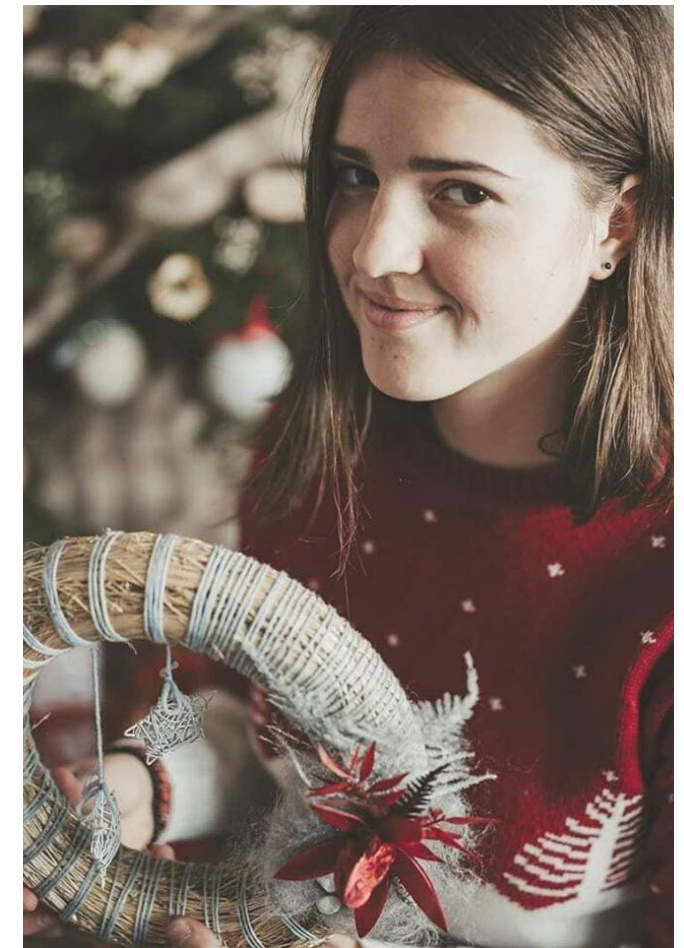
The Award in Action

Beyond the numbers, a generous donation like yours can have a truly significant human impact in changing the lives of Award participants and volunteers alike. The story of Beatrice shows how a gift like yours can have an impact on a young person.

Thinking about my journey I realized how much I have evolved and how many things changed in my life. I met wonderful people who inspired me, people who trusted me and pulled me out of the comfort zone by showing me that I can go beyond my limits.

Now I can speak freely in front of an audience, inspire young people and realize that anything is possible if you are motivated and trust yourself. I love nature, hiking, guitar playing, basketball, photography and, above all, people. have found that if every person is appreciated and surrounded by love, flourishes and makes use of his best qualities, and the Award has such people!

Beatrice Podeanu, Bronze and Silver holder, Award Leader



Looking forward

We have identified eight priority objectives which will drive our work from 2020 to 2022, as we continue support and grow the Award programme by improving access, reach and impact:

- Grow the Award in regions experiencing the slowest growth, Transylvania Nord and Moldova
- Adults in the Award – more adults using the Award Community and increased consistency in people development and support
- Consistency and quality – operators are exceeding license standards by producing good plans aligned with the new Association strategy, achieving good results and accessing quality support
- Income generation – grow income through improved relationships with existing and potential donors, further evolution of events and revised structure for corporate and individual supporters
- Partnerships – establish non-operational partnerships that raise the profile and recognition of the Award nationally
- Digital tools for young people and adults involved in the Award programme
- Brand value and recognition–the Award is recognized and valued by a wider range of stakeholders as the framework for non-formal education
- Alumni relations-establish a National Award Alumni Network to provide a stimulus and means to encourage Award holders to network locally and nationally.
- Support in organizing Gold Residential Projects and outdoor camps to support young people in different regions
- To start preparations for Forum 2021, Cluj Napoca

Together we are making a difference

On behalf of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation- Romania, we would like to thank you for your generous support for the empowerment of young people in Romania.

Through your donation we have moved one step closer to accomplishing our goal of making young people ready for their future, your support has helped us to reach more young people nationwide from diverse backgrounds, to find their passion, purpose and place in this world.

For us, this has been a year of impact and possibility to see the change that the Award can have in the life of young people. They have become better people, greater speakers, discovered leadership abilities or new skills and made new friends. For some, the Award meant a new door for acceptance when they went out of re-educational centers or started their professional life. We could not have done it without you.

Your support is invaluable to us, and we hope for your continued support in the future that sustains our mission and makes all the difference.

With deepest gratitude,

Carmen Dragomir
National Director - Romania

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