

# Annual Report 2022







***Our promise to Prince Philip should be that, where there are young people with difficulties to face growing up in this modern and complicated world, then The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award will always be there for them.***

*His Royal Highness Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh,  
Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation*



***In the last 10 years, in our country, 2 500 adults generously offered their time and skills in mentoring more than 10 000 young people, in so far as to help them to discover their potential and to reach high levels in education.***

***We live in difficult, unpredictable, selfish, and often cruel times. Therefore, the Global Forum of today will have to define virtues such as skills, innovation and leadership with even more commitment and responsibility than a few years ago.***

***Finally, I am proud that after two very difficult years of pandemic, and after eight months of a tragic and devastating war on our borders, my country and her young generation find the strength and moral resources to welcome friends from the whole world to Cluj, to show that friendship, generosity, sense of duty, bravery and freedom of spirit are stronger than evil, forever.***

*Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of the Romanian Crown  
Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania*





*What a year 2022 was for the Duke of Edinburgh's programme in Romania. His Royal Highness Prince Edward, our global chairman spending five days in Cluj with us at the Global Forum was a huge event given that his mother, our late Queen Elizabeth II, had just passed away six weeks prior and that our founder HRH Prince Philip, his father had passed away the year before. Having the covid pandemic in the mix, it was genuinely monumental that the Global Forum took place.*

*But boy, what an event it was! Not only did it highlight the fantastic achievements of the Award in Romania, but it did so in Cluj Napoca, a city that is focused on youth and development; if you have not yet, please, view the video highlights of the Global Forum.*



*2022 also saw the start of the Stand By Me program focused on working with displaced youth from Ukraine; it has been inspirational to see how many award units are helping displaced persons due to the war in Ukraine. I would like to thank all the partners and sponsors that made the Global Forum in Cluj the success that it was and who continue to support the award program in Romania.*

*Shajjad Rizvi MBE  
Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania Foundation*



# WHO WE ARE

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a global framework for non-formal education and learning, which challenges young people to dream big, celebrate their achievements and make a difference in their world. Through developing transferable skills, increasing their fitness levels, cultivating a sense of adventure and volunteering in their community, the Award helps young people to find their purpose, passion and place in the world. It operates in more than 130 countries and territories, helping to inspire millions of young people to take control and make their own choices.

## Why the Award?

Non-formal education focuses on developing the wider 'soft' (or life) skills which help young people ensure they are ready for the world. When paired with a formal education, it provides a fantastic foundation for a young person to thrive.

This is where the Award comes to the fore. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award encourages young people to develop the character, skills and confidence they need to improve themselves and their communities, by encouraging them to step outside their comfort zone and build positive habits that they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

## THE AWARD FRAMEWORK

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED: **14 to 24**



### SERVICE

Giving back to their community in a meaningful way.



### PHYSICAL RECREATION

Breaking a sweat and leading a healthy active lifestyle.



### SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Improving an existing skill or trying something completely new.



### ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

Exploring nature and gaining a sense of adventure.

## WORKING TOWARD THEIR GOALS **1** WEEK AT A TIME

### BRONZE

13 WEEKS

### SILVER

26 WEEKS

### GOLD

52 WEEKS

With the support of adult mentors, the Award helps young people to unleash their passions and believe in the power of their own potential.

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. But non-formal education also benefits those young people who may not be able to access a full formal education – such as refugees, those living in poverty, young parents, those with physical or learning disabilities or those from an at risk or marginalised background.



# How does the Award work?

Hundreds of thousands of dedicated people help to deliver the Award around the world, every day.

They do this through a simple but effective social franchise model. From correctional facilities, youth centres, national schools and sports clubs to the most prestigious private and international schools, the Award's framework can support and thrive in a multitude of different environments. Whilst the framework of the Award does not differ from country to country, the Award is licensed to operators around the world, to ensure it is nationally and culturally relevant to each and every young person involved. In many countries the Award is delivered via licensed National Award Operators.

In Romania the Award is delivered by The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania Foundation, offering the programme to institutions and youth organisations that work with young people between 14-24 year old. The outcome for these and many more young people is extraordinary: it transforms their lives.

By encouraging young people to learn new skills, get physically active, volunteer within their communities and discover a sense of adventure outside the classroom, the Award helps young people to unlock their potential. Using the Award framework and with the support of adult volunteers, participants develop their own bespoke programme, as they work towards achieving the internationally recognised Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.





# Key three areas of focus in 2022

## Expanding our Access

Nationally our team continued to develop partnerships that would improve access for new and diverse groups of young people to access the Award. Our primary focus: remove barriers to participation. We worked to strengthen our resources and virtual platforms by making our framework more accessible to all. As we work to expand access to diverse communities our aim is to work in partnership with them to build a stronger community impact. Building key strategic partnerships that would enable us to maximize our impact to expand access was critical. With the support of our main sponsors ensured that we had the resources and tools to expand into key newcomers.

## Extending our Reach

Bringing the Award to new geographical areas and audiences enhanced through our transformed national structure. By realigning our internal structure we strengthened and grew our staff team, enabling us to reach new communities across the country.

Thanks to our partnership with the Award Foundation and UNICEF through the Stand by Me project, we were able to enhance our social infrastructure and provide training and mentorship workshops for displaced Ukrainian communities focusing on mentorship and Award delivery. This was especially important during the conflict in Ukraine to ensure that no young person was left behind. We also built strong regional partnerships which would see funds directly impact work in local communities. With thanks to UNICEF and Award Foundation World Fellows we were able to expand our reach across the provinces and impact the lives of more young people.

## Strengthening our Impact

Illustrating our impact and the value the Award brings to communities across Romania was an important focus in 2022. We recognized with our merger we needed to continue to communicate the value the Award brings and how our impact is strengthened in this new organizational structure. The Award Global Forum hosted in October in Cluj Napoca engaged all our stakeholders, bringing them along with us during every aspect of our journey to building a stronger unified Award.

In 2022 we began to convey the impact the Award framework has on building the infinite potential of young people long after they have completed the Award. In 2022 we hired a Gold Award Holder to manage the Virtual Award Centre and leverage their experience to illustrate the impact the Award continues to make in the lives of people.



Over 2 700 young people did their Bronze, Silver or Gold Award during 2022.



500+

ADULTS TO VOLUNTEER,  
MENTOR & SUPPORT  
PARTICIPANTS

2 733

YOUNG PEOPLE WHO SIGNED  
UP FOR THE AWARD

240.000+

DEDICATED HOURS



# JOIN STAND BY ME PROJECT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Duke of Edinburgh International Award together with its local programs in Romania, Slovakia and Czech Republic have joined forces with UNICEF to provide community engagement support in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The Award in the Czech Republic, Romania and Slovakia are initiating the scheme and nationwide network to facilitate communication and mitigate the impact of the war in Ukraine on young people.

While other organisations lead on the humanitarian response – and in many areas Award participants and volunteers are already actively involved in supporting these efforts – the Award’s focus is on the medium to long-term disruption and dislocation to families and individual lives. To support children and young people to deal with the huge impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

The Stand By Me initiative is leveraging the Award’s framework for non-formal education as a tool for community cohesion, transforming access in a matter of safeguarding young people at risk. With its Buddy Up scheme, Ukrainian displaced young people aged between 14 – 24 are able to team up with Romanian buddy and together to set goals, to regularly get active, volunteer in their communities, develop skills, plan and undertake an adventurous journey.





***UNICEF recognises the importance of engaging with young people as partners in any humanitarian and crisis response. Whether it is war, epidemics, natural disasters or climate action – young people have demonstrated their capacity to make a unique contribution to the lives and wellbeing of their peers, families and communities.***

***The joint UNICEF and Award Stand by Me programme helps create connections and a sense of belonging and social cohesion between Ukrainian and host-community youth.***

***It is a programme that builds the skills and competence of young people and also builds bridges of peace and understanding among peoples”.***

Gabriel Vockel,  
UNICEF Deputy  
Representative Romania



#### **About Olena Koval**

***Olena Koval is a Ukrainian Cultural Mediator now based in Cluj Napoca, Romania. She acts as a UN volunteer for WHO Romania, supporting the Ukrainian community where she is based.***

***Olena is a psychologist, specialising in trauma therapy. She used to have a private practice in Kyiv, working with adults and teenagers. Her working methodologies are based on neuroscience and art therapy, also including mindfulness practices.***

***Currently she is delivering trauma therapy groups for women and mental health support education for adolescents.***

***She has become a valuable informal ambassador for the Award Programme in Cluj and she has supported the Romanian DofE team to reach members of the Ukrainian community in Cluj, from teachers and young people to parents and other members of the community.***

***We discussed about her life before the war, what did it mean to leave her country, why did she choose Cluj or what it means for her to be a cultural mediator in these difficult times.***





# Virtual Award Centre

We have launched the Virtual Award Centre during the pandemics to support the Award Participants who had lost contact with their Leaders when youth groups and schools were no longer meeting in person.

This enabled us to increase access and raise impact, diversity, and relevance of the Award nationwide for over 1000 young people in the following period, with the special involvement of young Award Ambassadors, Gold Award holders who became Award Leaders and inspired them through their journey. This model proved effective for the regions where the Award is not physically present yet and therefore we are continuing to develop and further our reach through the Virtual Award Centre.

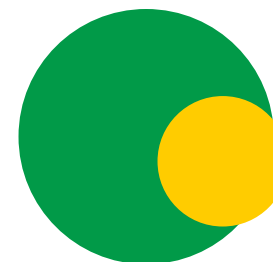


## Extending the Award in North Transylvania

We were happy to continue this project, by extending the Award programme in Transylvania North region in order to improve access and reach 850 young people and train and support 220 adults as Assessors and Award Leaders in 3 years. Through this project our strategy was to be more innovative and ambitious in growing the numbers and diversity of young people participating in and achieving an Award, having a positive impact in the life of youth: guide them to excellence, discovery new skills, improving abilities, finding a job, offering them a professional orientation, a solution for society integration, an open door for international studies.



# The Award available in Oltenia

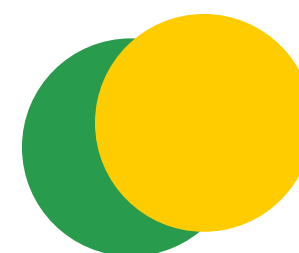


In 2022 The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania Foundation provided the Award to young people from Oltenia through the Apprentice Electrician project, carried out by Distribuție Oltenia.

More than 30 teachers and members of the Oltenia Distribution team joined the program as Award Leaders, Supervisors and Assessors. and supported almost 100 young people in the electrical field, a field which lacks specialists, as well as development opportunities for young people fresh out of school.

Thanks to our sponsors Distribuție Oltenia, Energie pentru bine, Adrem and EnergoBit, and the team of trainers who were with us, who donned the mantle of heroes, and understood our true mission: to train the generation of specialists of the future and they will support the personal development and performance of young people in the Award program from:

- Astra Pitesti Technological High School, Pitești
- Energetic High School, Târgu-Jiu
- Technological High School No. 1, Alexandria
- Auto Transport High School, Drobeta Turnu Severin
- Ferdinand I Technological High School, Râmnicu Vâlcea
- Alexe Marin Technological High School, Slatina.





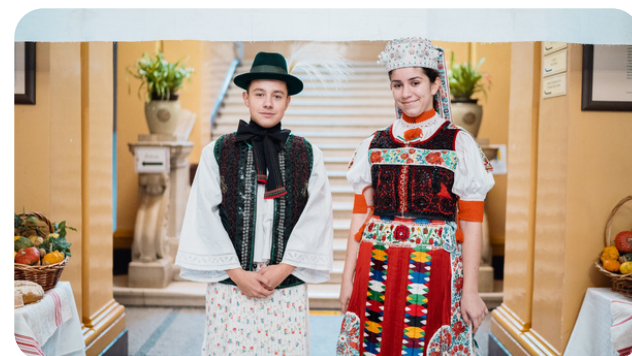
# Global Award Forum 2022

Our Foundation has successfully hosted the 14th Forum of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association in October 2022 in Cluj Napoca, with the special presence of HRH Prince Edward The Earl of Wessex; Her Majesty Margareta, Custodian of Romanian Crown; HRH Prince Radu of Romania; HRH The Prince Guillaume of Luxembourg, who welcomed the attendees from over 130 countries and territories and discussed and advocated for the importance of non-formal education and learning.

Coming together in person for the first time since the pandemic, Forum 2022 will forever be remembered as a truly unique event in the Award's collective history. Being able to travel internationally once again, to work side-by-side, planning the strategic direction of the Award and improving access, reach and impact for years to come, is something we shall never take for granted again.

This was also the first time the Association had met in a non-Commonwealth country. The Award in Romania warmly welcomed all guests and were the hosts of 9 events in 5 days, in Cluj Napoca. The agenda was formed from a series of Plenary sessions, interactive workshops, Royal Galas, Ceremonies and field visits which gave delegates the opportunity to see the Award in action at local level. It also offered the opportunity to gain a better understanding of a young person's experience in this part of Romania today and see first-hand some of the positive impacts the Award can have on young people and their communities. Five Award Centres were visited: • Academia de Fotbal Viitorul Cluj • Elf High School • János Zsigmond Unitarian High School • Royal School in Transylvania • Transylvania College.

Forum 2022 was the first time the Award family had gathered since the passing of our Founder, HRH, The Duke of Edinburgh. The Award is, and will forever be, his living legacy. To mark Prince Philip's passing and celebrate his legacy, HRH The Earl of Wessex and Forfar, John May and Lord Paul Boateng led attendees through a journey of his life and legacy. More details about the event can be found here: [link .....](#)





# GOLD AWARD CEREMONY

Members of three Royal Families joined 600 people from all over the world at an International Gold Ceremony at Auditorium Maximum Babeş- Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca. Non-formal and formal education were collectively honoured in a phenomenal event, where HRH The Earl of Wessex and Forfar presented more than 70 Gold Award holders from seven European countries with their certificates and recognised their achievements and contributions to their communities through their participation in The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. Additionally, Mr. Daniel David, rector of the Babes-Bolyai University gave a special medal of commendation to members of the Royal Families.

Congratulating the Gold Award holders, Prince Edward said: "Congratulations on achieving your Gold Award. I hope that having reached that pinnacle you can feel exceptionally proud of what you have achieved. That you can enjoy the sense of great satisfaction for getting there and that your parents, friends and Award Leaders who have supported you on this journey feel a great sense of pride in you as well."





# The impact of the Award

We believe not all learning happens in the classroom... In fact, we believe some of life's biggest lessons happen in the least likely locations. This is how our framework helps young people discover a talent, skill or passion at which they can excel, giving them the character and confidence to take their future in stride.



Providing structure & routine Providing structure and routine

Support in maintaining healthy lifestyles & social connections

Empowering growth & personal development

Making a difference in their local community

Confidence in soft and leadership skills

Empowering life-long positive habits



# Spotlight Young People

*Ștefania is one of the most active ambassadors at the national level, a living book that inspires and motivates the young people she coordinates as a leader. Her two passions are Human Rights and extreme sports, she strongly believes that the Award program is not only about challenging yourself, but also about being part of a community of extraordinary people!*



*Ștefania, Gold Award Holder, Leader and Ambassador*

Daria, Bronze and Silver Holder, Gold Participant, Paradis International College, Iași



*Daria is a young participant passionate about art, and the Award program helped her to have more confidence, developed her passions and managed to fulfill her dreams. From biology lessons with children to art exhibitions, the Award helped shape her path. An example of a participant who continues to develop and inspire us!*



# Spotlight Young People

*Octavia is hopelessly and irrevocably in love with the mountain. For her, the Award program was a challenge that, in retrospect, left a beautiful mark on her personal and professional development and she understood that it's not wrong to say you can't do it anymore, but never to give up.*

Octavia, Bronze, Silver and Gold  
Holder, Award Leader,  
Ambassador and Trainer

Lisa,  
Gold Award Holder,  
International British  
School of Bucharest



*I am so grateful to be part of this community of young people that will never stop wanting to learn, will never stop finding solutions, and most importantly will never stop seeing the silver lining around the clouds on a rainy day.*

*I can say that everything I was taught throughout my time spent completing the Award is what will spur me to always strive to become the best version of myself.*

*The habit of setting achievable goals and checking on progress will enable me to continue growing in both my personal and professional life.*



# Spotlight Adult Volunteers

*Be the person you needed when you were younger. I think this is the best way to express what the Award gave me the opportunity to do.*

*The Award is about long roads, milestones that take the shape of hearts and led to beautiful destinations. About accepting challenges, overcoming fears and spending time with amazing people. Because the moments we share are the moments we keep forever.*



Denisa,  
Award Leader, Supervisor  
and Trainer Royal School  
in Transylvania

Virgil, Award Leader,  
Supervisor and Assessor,  
Transylvania College,  
Cluj Napoca



*Each person develops in a certain direction, and Virgil stands out for his passion for mountain expeditions and outdoor activities. It is extraordinary to see his progress over the years with the young people of Transylvania College, a traditional Award center, during which he devoted himself to the firm organization of the adventure section, thus creating a department dedicated to it.*



# E-INFRA


*Education represents the society's infrastructure and one of the main pillars in the development of the world we live in. Therefore, it is our responsibility, as companies and business people, to support the young generation to reach their full potential and become important members of the community.*

*This partnership continues our past efforts in supporting the training of future professional who is about to begin their careers. We are proud and honoured to be part of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program and to carry on the Prince Philip's mission to build a better future.*

**Teofil Mureşan**  
Chairman of E-INFRA Group







# Award centers

## **Banat**

Asociația EduBiz, Oradea  
Colegiul Național Teodor Nes, Salonta  
Fundatia Hațegan, Timisoara  
Liceul Teoretic Arany Janos, Salonta

## **Dobrogea**

Liceul Teoretic Decebal, Constanta

## **Moldova**

Asociația Studenților Psihologi și  
Pedagogi, Iasi  
Asociația Mușatinii Roman  
Asociația Tânăr și Liber, Piatra Neamt  
Asociația Myosotis Romania, Barlad  
Asociația Libra, Bacău  
Asociația Generația Schimbării, Bacău  
Colegiul Național „Calistrat Hogaș”, Piatra  
Neamt  
Colegiul Național „Mihail Sadoveanu”,  
Pascani  
Colegiul Național Catolic "Sf. Iosif", Bacau  
Colegiul Tehnic " Gheorghe Cartianu",  
Piatra Neamt  
Colegiul Național Costache Negruzzi, Iasi  
Liceul Teoretic de Informatică „Grigore  
Moisil”, Iasi  
Liceul cu Program Sportiv Iași  
Liceul Teoretic "Vasile Alecsandri", Iasi  
Liceul Teoretic "V. Alecsandri", Sabaoani  
Liceul Teoretic "Miron Costin", Pascani  
Liceul Teoretic "Henri Coandă", Bacau  
Paradis International College, Iasi

## **Muntenia**

Academia de Studii Economice din București  
Academia 1,61, Bucharest  
Avenor College, Bucharest  
Asociația Un Strop de Fericire, Ploiești  
British School of Bucharest  
Cambridge School of Bucharest  
Colegiul Național Gheorghe Lazăr, Bucharest  
Colegiul "Ferdinand I", Măneciu  
Colegiul Național Pedagogic "Regina Maria",  
Ploiești  
Deloitte, Bucharest  
Facultatea de Limbi si Literaturi Straine  
Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal, Bucharest  
Genesis College, Bucharest  
International British School of Bucharest  
International School of Bucharest  
King's Oak British International School,  
Bucharest  
Mark Twain International School Bucharest  
Penitenciarul Ploiești  
Universitatea Petrol - Gaze din Ploiești  
Școala Gimnazială Nr. 2, Boldești Scăeni  
Școala Gimnazială "Profesor Oprea Mihai"  
Negoiești  
YouHub Association Romania, Bucharest

## **Oltenia**

Asociația Team for NEXT Generation  
Asociația Zambete Colorate, Ramnicu Valcea  
Clubul Copiilor Motru  
Liceul Energetic Târgu-Jiu  
Liceul Tehnologic Alexe Marin, Slatina  
Liceul Tehnologic Ferdinand I Râmnicu Vâlcea  
Liceul de Transporturi Auto, Drobeta Turnu  
Severin  
Liceul Tehnologic nr. 1 Alexandria  
Liceul Tehnologic Astra Pitești

## **Transilvania**

Academia de Fotbal Viitorul Cluj, Cluj Napoca  
Asociația Prader Willy,  
Asociația Werdnig Hoffman, Carei  
Asociația pentru Valorizarea Educației, Fagaras  
Asociația Turulmadár, Sfântul Gheorghe  
Colegiul Național „Inochentie Micu Clain”, Blaj  
Colegiul Național de Informatică Grigore Moisil,  
Brasov  
Fundatia Rațiu pentru Democrație, Turda  
Liceul cu Program Sportiv, Cluj Napoca  
Liceul de Arte Vizuale Romulus Ladea, Cluj  
Napoca  
Liceul Tehnologic „Vlădeasa”, Huedin  
Liceul Tehnologic Ocna Mureș, Ocna Mures  
Liceul Teoretic "Alexandru Papiu Ilarian", Dej  
Liceul Teoretic „Pavel Dan”, Câmpia Turzii  
Liceul Teoretic Apáczai Csere János, Cluj  
Napoca  
Liceul Teoretic Elf, Cluj Napoca  
Liceul Teoretic Mircea Eliade, Întorsura Buzăului  
Liceul Unitarian János Zsigmond, Cluj Napoca  
Royal School in Transylvania, Cluj Napoca  
Spark School, Cluj Napoca  
Școala Gimnazială Mircea Luca Băișoara  
Terres des Hommes, Brasov  
Transylvania College, Cluj Napoca  
Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj Napoca

## **Virtual Award Centers**

The Duke of Edinburgh's International  
Award Romania - Virtual Award Centre  
Stand by Me Virtual Award Center



*Investing in our young people, our communities, and our future.*

*We would like to recognize the following corporations, foundations, and individuals for generously supporting The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Romania. Their contributions are important investments in the physical, emotional, and social development of young people and Romanian society.*

*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.*

**Thank you!**





THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S  
INTERNATIONAL AWARD  
ROMANIA



Pavel Rosca no.1, Cluj Napoca



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[www.dofe.ro](http://www.dofe.ro)

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