

SUPPORTING THE INFINITE POTENTIAL

2023 Annual Report



As I reflect on the past decade since assuming the role of Patron of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award in Romania, I am filled with pride and hope for the future of the program in our country.

Over the past ten years, we have witnessed the Award programme grow and flourish, becoming an invaluable resource for young people across Romania. It has been heartening to see schools, universities, youth organisations and companies embrace the program, recognizing its relevance and value in empowering young people. Now more than ever, the need for adult mentors and positive role models for young people is paramount. I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated Award Leaders and all the adult volunteers who tirelessly support and guide young individuals, enabling them to realize their dreams and reach their full potential as independent and engaged citizens.

Our teachers in Romania are the greatest intellectual asset in this country, and their voluntary commitment to the Award programme, coupled with the unwavering support and coordination from the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award national team, has led to significant achievements and truly life-changing support.

In the face of adversity and challenges, we have shown that compassion, service, friendship, determination, and courage prevail. Together, we stand stronger than ever, united in our commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders.



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

Some say The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is in my DNA; it's certainly been a major part of my life for a very long time. Being asked to take on the role of Patron after my father is a particular honour and quite a responsibility.

Sustaining and enhancing what is arguably his greatest legacy around the world matters a great deal to me, as does pursuing The Award's long-term ambition of universal access so that every eligible young person has the opportunity to participate.

Above all, I hope to ensure the Award to which my father gave his title, those that achieve it, and those who deliver it continue to enjoy the recognition they so richly deserve.



**His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh KG GCVO,
Chair of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award**



Foreword by the Chairman: The unique opportunity we had in 2023

We had a unique opportunity in 2023; it was the year after hosting the Global Forum and having the whole Award family in Romania, including HRH, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward. What kind of impact would this have on our team and our numbers growing and sustaining the award in Romania going forward?

Well, in 2023, the positive effect was apparent: our numbers increased by 50% in participation and growth, being able to reference positive news articles, showing relatable photographs to partners and having unit activity involved in the Forum all immensely helped.

We had a full year of operating the Stand By Me program in partnership with the UNICEF Ecaro and the Global Award Foundation, the focus being to help displaced Ukrainian youth due to the impact of the war in Ukraine.

This has been a massive blessing to the many Ukrainian youth affected by the war and displaced to Romania.

I want to thank our sponsors, the world fellows, Teofil Muresan, who offered incredible levels of support during the Global Forum and from whom we are still benefiting a year later and Erika Hristea, whose faithful and yearly support for the past nine years has been total and unfailing and more recently the UK IT company Endava has become an enormous supporter in 2023.

Looking forward to 2024, we celebrate ten years of the Award Foundation in Romania and our aspirations to maintain the growth levels and ensure the Award program continues its sustainable foundations in Romania.

Shajjad Rizvi MBE

***Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award Romania foundation***

WHO WE ARE

Not all learning happens in the classroom. In fact, some of life's most valuable lessons happen in the least likely of places.

This is where The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award (the Award) comes in. Founded nearly 70 years ago, the Award is a global, non-formal education and learning framework which operates in more than 130 countries and territories.

Open to all 14 to 24-year-olds, regardless of their background, culture, or physical ability, the Award aims to challenge young people to discover their potential and find their purpose, passion and place in the world, while working towards a globally recognised accreditation.



SKILLS

Develop transferrable skills



PHYSICAL RECREATION

Get active



VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Give back to communities



ADVENTUROUS JOURNEY

Experience adventure and learn to lead



RESIDENTIAL PROJECT

Broaden horizons, meeting others in a new environment
(Gold level only)

WHY THE AWARD?

Since 1963, we have empowered young people to develop their infinite potential by setting and achieving goals with the support of a mentor through our non formal educational framework.

With the support of adult mentors, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award encourages young people to pursue their passions and believe in the power of their potential.

Whilst the framework of this internationally recognised accreditation remains the same around the world, participants select self-identified areas of interest to pursue. Each young person develops their own unique Award programme that builds the character, skills and confidence needed to improve themselves and their communities.

Measuring social impact enables an organisation to understand how its activities have led to positive and negative effects for its stakeholders. By measuring impact, the organisation can then truly start to manage it.

For the Global Impact Report, with the social value measurement for the Award in Romania, please [click here](#).

THE IMPACT OF THE AWARD

Global Social Value of £400m worldwide

Improved employability and earning potential

Improved physical health and fitness

Improved mental health and emotional wellbeing

Increased engagement with charitable and community causes

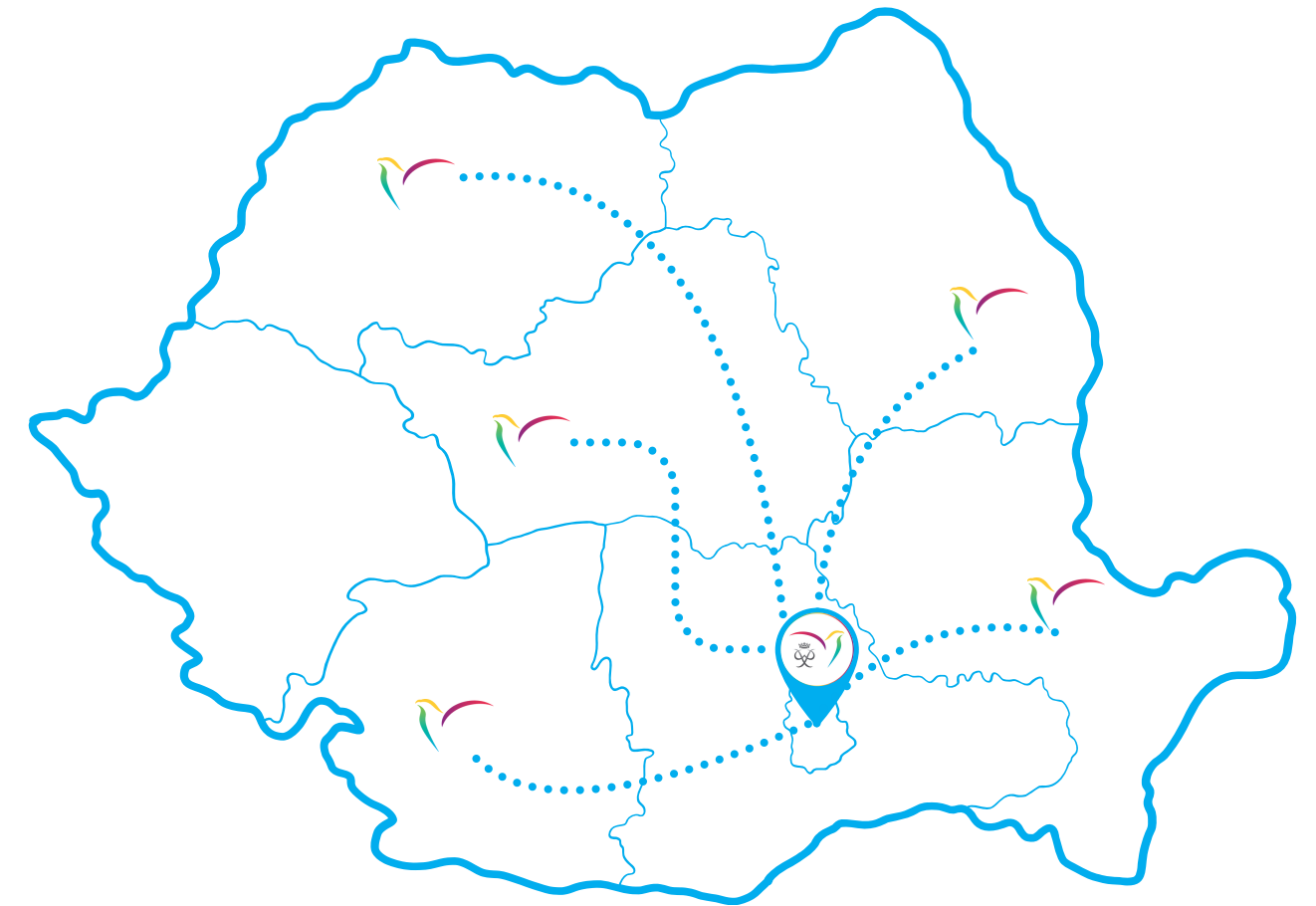
Increased social cohesion

WHERE IS THE AWARD DELIVERED?

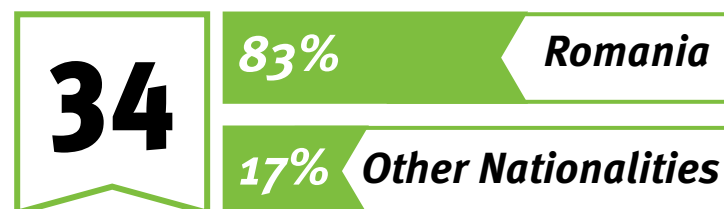
The Award is delivered via hundreds of thousands of youth-focused partners and operators in a wide range of institutions, from schools and youth organisation, universities and companies. The Award is now expanding in other ways, targeting those who have not previously had opportunities to develop themselves.

In Romania the Award programme has focused on involving young people from foster care, young people displaced or offenders, those from at risk communities. Although the Award's framework remains the same wherever it is delivered, every Award is itself unique and no two Awards are the same.

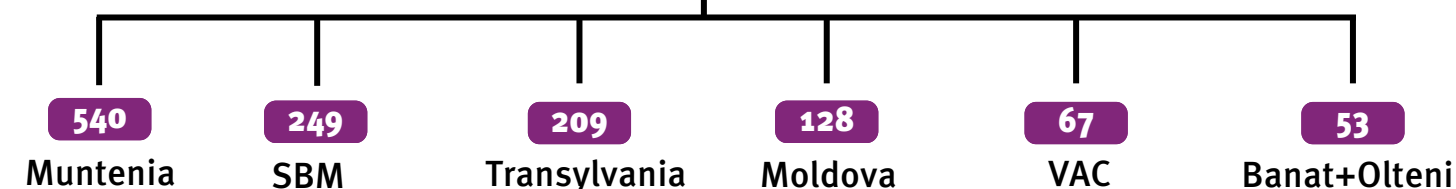
By encouraging young people to learn new skills, get physically active, volunteer within their communities and discover a sense of adventure outside the classroom, the Award helps young people to unlock their potential. Using the Award framework and with the support of adult volunteers, participants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



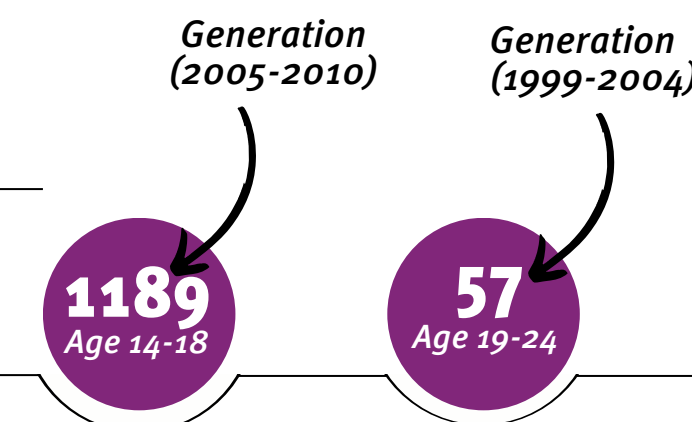
Award Participants Nationalities



Regions&Projects

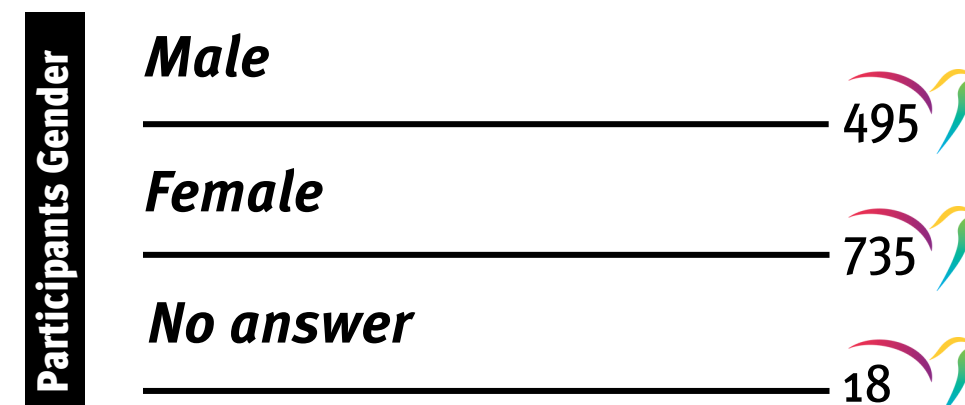


Award Participants Age

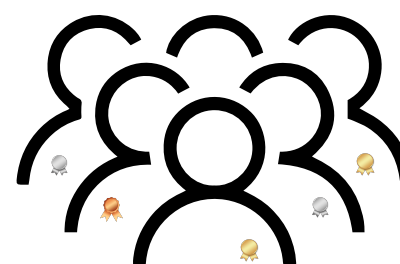


National Participant Report 2023

*The datas does not include archived nor deleted participants;

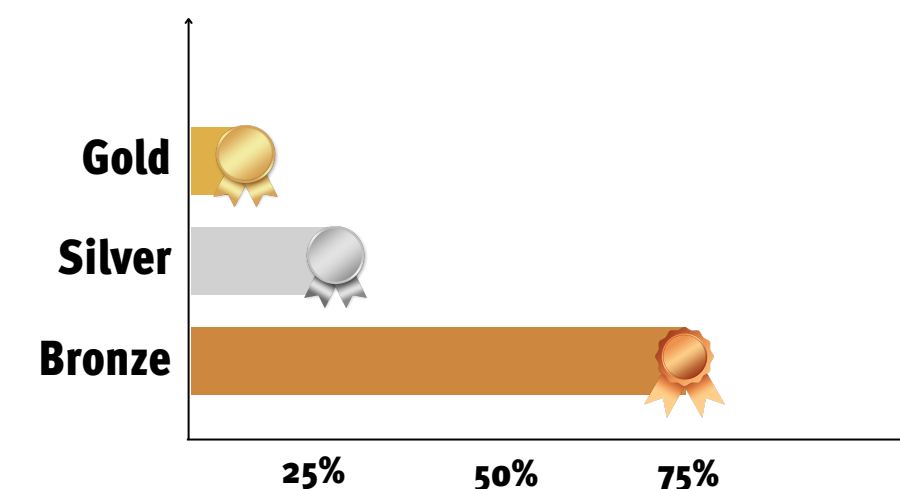


Award Participants



2775* Current Participants

1246 New Participants in 2023



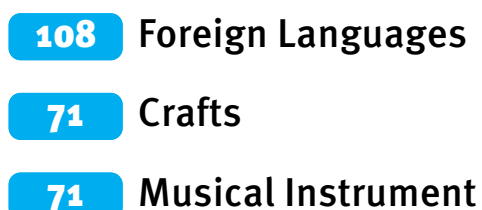
Award Holders

MAJOR SECTIONS

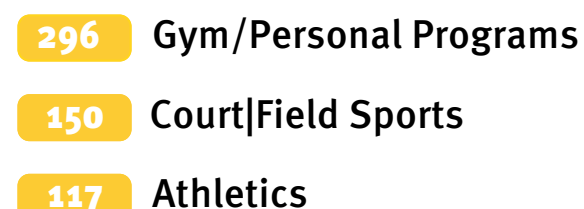
The top 3 most activities that the Award Participants choose



SKILLS



PHYSICAL RECREATION



VOLUNTARY SERVICE



STRATEGIC AIMS 2023

Expanding Access

Improving access for new and diverse groups of young people, removing barriers to participation

I address the personal barriers faced by young people in Romania to access and complete the Award.

Develop and implement a standard model for Virtual Award Centre.

Grow the number of Award Volunteers from diverse backgrounds.

Connect and communicate the benefits and value of the Award, increasing brand awareness and value.

Extending Reach

Increasing the reach of the Award to all areas and groups across Romania.

Develop digital platforms to increase stakeholder engagement, learning, relationship management, and general information.

Grow the number of partners who deliver the Award Framework to their network of young people by becoming an Award Centre.

Renew and retain our existing philanthropic donor base to support the sustainability of our work

Enhance our social infrastructure and provide training and mentorship workshops for displaced Ukrainian communities.

Strengthening Impact

Increasing the impact of the Award to all areas and groups across Romania.

Provide training opportunities and support for Award volunteers and staff.

Enhance and expand our network of Award holders.

Increase the percentage of new Award registrations and increase completion rates at all Award levels.

Develop a quality assurance process to ensure high standard for delivery of the Award Framework

SPOTLIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE

“The Award provides so many benefits. Firstly, instill discipline, which is crucial for achieving goals and staying focused.

Secondly, the volunteer work involved allows me to make a positive impact on society while developing important skills. Lastly, the Adventurous Journey section helps me broaden my horizons and learn new abilities. Overall, these experiences shape my character and prepare me for future endeavors.”

Maria Skalska,
Silver participant
Stand by Me initiative



Szabolcs Bokor,
Bronze Award Holder,
Janos Zsigmond Highschool



"I completed the Bronze level, and volunteering was the section I liked the most, from there I discovered my passion for medicine. Now it is the faculty for which I am preparing.

The programme offered me new circumstances and experiences, brought me many new friends, opportunities that offered me recommendations for the university and a series of activities in which I could get involved. We discovered things we like, but we also discovered ways to develop new skills in challenging situations.

SPOTLIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE

“All in all, these experiences helped me learn more about myself, both qualities and shortcomings, and my interests and preferences as I get to explore new things and uncover what I want to achieve as a person.

I learnt what I can do to help others grow, including myself and have done this under a guided frame where I was able to ask for advice, feedback and guidance whenever I felt it was needed.”

Maria Volintiru,
Gold Award Holder
International School of
Bucharest



Tudor Dan,
Gold Award Holder,
Avenor College



“My experience in the Award program was incredibly rewarding, allowing me to pursue my passions for swimming and volunteering throughout high school. One of the highlights was the adventurous expeditions, where I acquired valuable skills in first aid and wilderness navigation.

Completing the Gold level, the most demanding and enduring of the three levels, was a significant achievement for me. It was an unforgettable journey that has left a lasting impact on me, and I am grateful for the opportunities and lessons it provided.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is that every 14-24 year old has the opportunity to participate in the Award to challenge themselves and build on the universal skills that will serve them and their communities for years to come.

We continuously develop projects and instruments that respond to the need of the communities and young people.

The Award's focus was on offering solutions to the needs of young people from small communities or with vulnerable background.

We know from experience around the world that the Award's focus on developing community service, peace building, social action, improved physical and mental health and resilience is crucial for all young people and particularly refugee communities

STAND BY ME



VIRTUAL AWARD CENTER



TRANSYLVANIA REGION



**OPENING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR DIRECT
INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMPANIES**



STAND BY ME PROJECT

Stand By Me, a collaborative effort led by the International Foundation of the Award alongside National Foundations in Romania, Czech Republic, and Slovakia, with support from UNICEF ECARO, aims to aid Ukrainian-displaced communities in these countries.

Its primary goal is to implement the Award framework to facilitate the integration of young Ukrainians into local communities, fostering cultural exchange. Moreover, the initiative equips organizations, hubs, and schools with a systematic method for engaging youth through the Award programme, providing essential resources for integration and cultural awareness. Stand By Me embraces both Ukrainian and local youth, advocating for inclusivity and solidarity across borders.



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD
ROMANIA

STAND BY ME

unicef
for every child

Be an Urban Jungle Guide

Are you 14 to 24 years old?
Join **Stand By Me** and help
at making ukrainian youth
feel at home.

visit www.dofe.ro

Virtual Award Centre

Virtual Award Center is a new approach to improve access for young people and marginalised groups to join the Award and have digital tools in communities where the program is not delivered.

We launched the Virtual Award Centre to support young people who had lost contact with their Award Leaders when youth groups and schools were no longer meeting in person. We connect young people with trained and vetted Award Leaders remotely to complete their Award activities.

They find local opportunities for the Skills, Service, and Physical Recreation sections, and they work with the guidance of their Award Leader to plan and execute the Adventurous Journey and Gold Residential Project sections.

Completing the Award this way does require the participant to be self-motivated and to seek out opportunities themselves.



Extending the Award in Transylvania

Making the Award accessible for Hungarian communities has been one of our main goals within the Transylvania Project this year. Extending by signing new units, training adults, organising networking events, translating the ORB platform and the Leaders manual into their mother tongue, and offering constant support were some of our main objectives.

Shifting the focus from urban areas to rural ones in order to improve the access for young people from these marginalised communities has meant to include schools from small towns across Transylvania region where young people from the area are gathered for high school studies.

Supporting them with our resources and offering individual guidance according to each unit's specific needs to help their youngsters in completing the Award is our main direction.

"I chose Geography for my Skills section and since then wherever I look I see the world through these glasses. The topic: The origin of mineral waters and their effect has continuously occupied me ever since."

Botond Bodor



SPOTLIGHT ADULT VOLUNTEERS

To inspire young people don't show them your superpowers. Show them theirs.

My vibrant passion for working with teenagers has turned into an engine of learning and exploration for all involved. And the free time invested is a story of mountain expeditions that become not only opportunities for adventure, but also life lessons for the participants.

**Andra Mare,
Award Trainer,
Supervisor and Assessor**



**Cristian Ghervasa,
Gold Award Holder
and Leader,
Liceul Teoretic "Miron
Costin" Pașcani**



As a Gold Award holder and now an Award Leader, I am endeavoring to coordinate a team of volunteers to mentor and support as many young people as possible.

Reflecting on my journey together, there were numerous challenges, yet I also feel a strong sense of fulfillment and a desire to continue making a positive impact. I am committed to this program and determined to continue supporting young people on their Award journey.

SPOTLIGHT ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Relaunching the Award program at AISB has rekindled interest in the value of an extracurricular education for students that is personalized, challenging, and requires long-term commitment.

For me, this program recognizes students who engage in a wide range of activities that balances out their academic studies.



Chuck Adams,
Lead Coordinator
American International
School of Bucharest

Dan Mocanu,
Lead Award Coordinator
Cambridge School of
Bucharest



As the program coordinator in Cambridge School of Bucharest, my primary goal was to engage as many young people as possible in their creative development. The Award program provided me with the opportunity to do just that while also fostering my own personal growth.

The sense of teamwork has been a driving force, energizing and inspiring me to coordinate expeditions in the Alps and, more recently, to achieve a 300% increase in the number of young people enrolled in the Award program this year.



AWARD CENTERS

Banat

- Asociația EduBiz, Oradea
- Liceul Teoretic Babel, Timisoara
- Colegiul National Teodor Nes, Salonta
- Liceul Teoretic Arany Janos, Salonta

Dobrogea

- Liceul Teoretic Decebal, Constanța

Maramureș

- Liceul International Baia Mare

Moldova

- Asociația Studenților Psihologi și Pedagogi, Iasi
- Asociația Mușatinii Roman
- Asociația Tânăr și Liber, Piatra Neamt
- Asociația Studenților Psihologi și Pedagogi Iași
- Colegiul Național „Calistrat Hogaș”, Piatra Neamt
- Colegiul Național „Mihail Sadoveanu”, Pascani
- Colegiul Național Catolic "Sf. Iosif", Bacau
- Liceul Profesor Mihai Dumitriu, Valea Lupului, Iasi
- Liceul Teoretic de Informatică „Grigore Moisil”, Iasi
- Liceul Teoretic ”V. Alecsandri” Săbăoani
- 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
- Academia de Studii Economice din București
- American International School of Bucharest
- Avenor College, Bucharest
- British School of Bucharest
- Cambridge School of Bucharest
- Colegiul Național Gheorghe Lazăr, Bucharest
- Colegiul Național „Grigore Moisil”, Bucuresti
- Facultatea de Limbi si Literaturi Straine, Bucharest
- Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal, Bucharest
- Genesis College, Bucharest
- International British School of Bucharest
- International School of Bucharest
- JRS Romania
- Liceul Teoretic German IDEES, Bucuresti
- Questfield School, Bucharest
- King's Oak British International School, Bucharest
- King George International School, Bucharest
- Mark Twain International School Bucharest
- Universitatea Petrol - Gaze din Ploiești
- YouHub Association Romania, Bucharest

Transilvania

- Academia de Fotbal Viitorul Cluj, Cluj Napoca
- Asociația Impact Bistrita
- Asociația Phoneo, Cluj-Napoca
- Asociația Turulmadár, Sfântul Gheorghe
- Colegiul Național „Inochentie Micu Clain”, Blaj

Transilvania

- Colegiul Național de Informatică Grigore Moisil, Brasov
- Colegiul National" Andrei Muresanu"
- Erasmus Student Network Cluj-Napoca
- Kemény Zsigmond Elméleti Líceum
- Liceul Teoretic "Alexandru Papiu Ilarian", Dej
- Liceul Teoretic Elf, Cluj Napoca
- Liceul Unitarian János Zsigmond, Cluj Napoca
- Terre des hommes România, Brasov
- Royal School in Transylvania, Cluj Napoca
- Spark School, Cluj Napoca
- Terres des Hommes, Brasov
- Transylvania College, Cluj Napoca
- Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj Napoca

Oltenia

- Asociația Team for NEXT Generation, Gorj

Virtual Award Centers

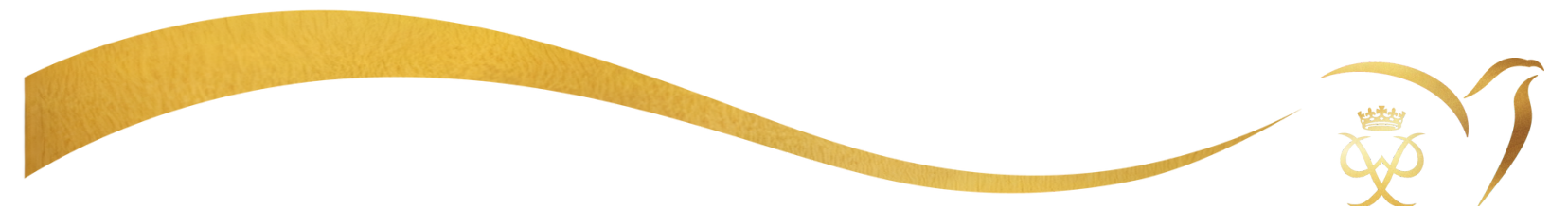
- The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Romania - Virtual Award Centre
- Stand by Me Virtual Award Center

SUPPORTERS

We would like to recognize the following corporations, government departments, foundations and individuals for generously supporting Award Romania. Your 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 for investing in our young people, our communities, and our future.



The Duke of Edinburgh's
International Award
2023 supporters





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 Mureșan,
Chairman of E-INFRA Croup



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S
INTERNATIONAL AWARD
ROMANIA



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