



# Annual Report 2025





**"Their joy and optimism show the importance of our continued support in creating better opportunities for their future."**

*Andreas Gschwenter*



### “What is not possible for one, many can do!”



The CEE Charity is committed to supporting the most vulnerable members of society in Central and Eastern Europe. In its projects the Charity has a clear focus on education and training for women and children, providing the essential skills needed for an independent and self-determined future.

I am grateful and proud about the contribution of the many colleagues in RBI and our Networkbanks who support this great initiative with their time, expertise and energy!



**Johann Strobl**  
on behalf of the RBI Management Board

### A message from Herbert Stepic



At the CEE Charity, we collaborate to help children grow up to be independent and empower women to thrive. Right now, this work is more urgent than ever. Kids are facing massive disruptions to their lives and education. We focus on giving them the real-life skills and confidence they need to stand on their own two feet. At the same time, we know that opening doors for women—through education and financial independence—is one of the most powerful ways to lift up an entire community. In times like these, supporting women and children isn't just a helping hand; it's how we build a stronger, more resilient future for everyone.

In the face of these challenges, our charity, our partners, and local Raiffeisen banks have stepped up, expanding our reach further. Our cherished school bag campaign reached 1,300 children in Romania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and - for the first time also those in need in Austria in 2025. Some key contributions also came from projects such as the Center for Youth Integration, Serbia, project Dream Comfort in Ukraine and Ways out of the ghetto in Romania allowing us to support more than 4,500 individuals in need.

My heartfelt thanks go to the RBI Management Board and all of our volunteers and colleagues whose daily dedication allows the CEE Charity to run efficiently and transparently. Finally, to our dedicated sponsors: your generosity is the lifeblood of our work. Because of you, we can create meaningful, lasting change for children and young women who need it most. Thank you for standing with us as together we build hope and opportunity for the future.



Yours  
**Herbert Stepic**  
CEE Charity Chairman and Founder



## Overview

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## People engagement is the Stepic CEE Charity's success

"Helping people help themselves" is not just F. W. Raiffeisen's motto put into practice for disadvantaged children, young people, and women in Central and Eastern Europe. The dedicated volunteers are role models for living the values of Raiffeisen Bank International and putting them into practice by using their know-how, time, and creativity to change the lives of so many people in need.

### > Who we are

Highly motivated employees of Raiffeisen Bank International and its subsidiary banks in Central and Eastern Europe. By volunteering and bringing in our know-how and "hands-on" mentality we deliver help where it is needed most.

### > How we help

By creating for children, juveniles and women the chance of a self-determined life and an independent future through sustainable development and education projects.

### > What we do

Our focus is on education as the most sustainable means of overcoming poverty. Through our projects, we provide children, juveniles, and women in need with tutorials, guidance, and warm meals. Education and training are designed to support them on their journey toward an independent life. Although we are not a large charitable organization, we take pride in working closely and attentively, reaching areas and individuals that often go unnoticed. Our hands-on approach ensures that every donation directly impacts the people who need it most.

If you would like to know more, please visit our website [www.stepicceecharity.org](http://www.stepicceecharity.org) or follow us on [LinkedIn](#).



### RBI donates sustainability premiums to the CEE Charity

The three letters ESG do not only stand for environmental, social and governance, they cover an entire development that is currently changing society, economy and people's behavior and thus also has a massive impact on banking. RBI is committed to responsible banking. It was the first bank in Austria to sign the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and supports its customers in Austria and CEE with sustainable financial products and comprehensive know-how. Customers shall be incentivized by lower premium if they improve their sustainability performance in environmental, social and governance terms.

If the borrower's ESG performance improves, the credit margin goes down and vice versa.

RBI does not want to benefit financially from a borrower's non-achievement of an ESG target. In 2023, RBI has therefore committed to donating any resulting sustainability premiums (from loans to corporate customers) to the CEE Charity.

It all started with Adrienn Petres-Majsa who worked in the Sustainable Finance Solutions team at RBI. When a client came up with the intention to have a donation structure in its sustainable finance agreement with RBI, she had the idea to propose a systematic approach within RBI's Corporate Board area to donate the sustainability premiums for a charitable cause. Since then, the donation structure in RBI is implemented for existing and for new sustainability-linked transactions.

RBI is unique in the market with this approach.



*"We believe in transforming sustainability challenges into opportunities for positive impact. Through donating sustainability premiums to the CEE Charity, we demonstrate our dedication to responsible banking and help create lasting improvements in the communities we support."*

**Valerie Brunner**  
RBI Board Member  
CEE Charity Board Member





## Engagement Highlights 2025

# Empower Kids Day Center and Empower Independence, Bosnia and Herzegovina



**Project manager:**  
Irhad Fazlic

## Empower Kids Day Center

The Empower Kids Day Center provides daily professional support to children and youth with developmental disabilities, offering a safe, structured and caring environment within their local community. Through therapies, educational support, and creative activities, the center helps children develop motor, cognitive, social and communication skills tailored to their individual needs.

Equally important, the project supports parents and families by reducing daily burdens and creating a space of trust and stability. By strengthening inclusion and preventing isolation, the day center enables children and young people to grow with dignity, confidence, and a stronger sense of belonging.

## The Project

- Supports around 45–50 children and young people with developmental disabilities on a regular basis
- Beneficiaries range from early childhood to young adulthood
- Provides free, professional services including physical therapy, speech therapy, psychological support, learning assistance and creative workshops
- Operates as the only local day center of its kind in the municipality, supporting both children and their families



## Empower Independence

The Empower Independence project focuses on improving the quality of life and autonomy of people with developmental disabilities through continuous care, guidance, and practical support. It aims to foster independence in everyday life while ensuring access to professional assistance within a supportive and respectful framework.

By encouraging active participation, personal development, and social inclusion, the project helps individuals and their families build more secure and self-determined futures. Its long term approach strengthens both personal independence and community integration, creating lasting positive impact beyond immediate support.

## The Project

- Focuses on people with developmental disabilities and special needs requiring continuous support
- Aims to strengthen independence, daily life skills, and social inclusion
- Offers structured care, guidance, and professional assistance tailored to individual needs
- Supports both beneficiaries and their families, promoting dignity and long term integration into the community

## Cesta von/Omama project, Slovakia



**Project manager:**  
Paul Herzog

My former experience as a voluntary paramedic gave me the chance to help others in their most vulnerable moments. That spirit of giving back stayed with me, and after joining RBI, I felt a strong calling to continue making a difference beyond the business world. Supporting the CEE charity became a natural way to extend that commitment, offering hope and support to families and their children in the CEE community who need it most.

I firmly believe that education is a lifelong treasure, something no one can ever take away. Even from the earliest years, the experiences and support a child receives lay the foundation for their future. Supporting OMAMA means helping children who may not have many advantages to build that essential foundation, giving them a fair chance to grow and thrive despite their circumstances. What truly motivates me is the opportunity to help break the cycle of poverty. It's inspiring to see a project like OMAMA provide children from marginalized Roma communities with a strong start in life—one that isn't limited by financial hardship but instead opens doors to better opportunities. I want to support Cesta Von because they have created a meaningful, growing program that genuinely cares for the Roma community and their future generations.

**Paul Herzog**

Studies find that poverty-related toxic stress can deeply affect a child's brain development, especially during the first 1,000 days of life when the brain is forming its most vital connections. When these early neural pathways don't develop properly, children may find it harder to learn basic skills, which can impact their success in school and their future opportunities.

In Slovakia, the OMAMA program is making a heartfelt difference for marginalized Roma families. By focusing on the earliest years, OMAMA helps create a strong foundation for children's development—cognitive, language, and motor skills—right in their own homes. Trained community members, known as "Omamas," visit families regularly, offering guidance, encouragement, and activities that stimulate children's growth. This approach not only prepares children for school but also strengthens families and communities, fostering hope, resilience, and a brighter future for all.

A complementary initiative, the AMAL program, enhances Omamas' Slovak language skills to improve communication and program delivery, further amplifying OMAMA's impact. A central achievement of this work is the successful advocacy for legislative recognition of "parenting skills support" as a professional activity within Slovakia's Social Services Act. Enacted



in December 2025, this amendment formally integrates evidence-based, culturally appropriate early childhood interventions inspired by the OMAMA model into the national social services framework. This milestone ensures sustained, high-quality support for families during the crucial early years, delivered directly in home and community settings.

Together, these efforts represent a powerful model for breaking cycles of poverty and exclusion by investing in the earliest stages of child development and empowering families at the grassroots level.

## Kids Safe Haven, Ukraine



**Cooperation with RBUA:**  
Natalya Marchenko

### A Journey of Hope: Standing with Ukraine's Children

Andreas Gschwenter, our CEE Charity Deputy Chairman and RBI Board Member, recently visited Ukraine as part of his commitment to our joined cause. During his trip, Andreas visited three key centers supported by the "Kids Safe Haven" initiative—a major partnership with Raiffeisen Bank Ukraine aimed at providing swift and effective aid to children affected by the war.

In Kyiv, Andreas visited a center for children with special needs, witnessing firsthand the vital services such as speech therapy and rehabilitation. He was deeply moved by the children's resilience and determination.

In Lviv, he visited an orphanage, spending time with the children and staff. The joy and engagement during playtime on the interactive floor playground underscored the importance of this support. At the Ohmatdyt children's hospital, Andreas observed the dedication of young doctors whose critical work is made possible through our provision of essential surgical instruments.

Andreas's visit reaffirmed our shared commitment to changing lives and bringing hope to Ukraine's children.



## EHO Street Children Novi Sad, Serbia

The EHO Street Children Novi Sad project, supported by Raiffeisen Bank Serbia (RBRS), aims to support vulnerable street children by providing outreach counselling to address their immediate emotional and social needs. It promotes social inclusion by integrating children into community life and reducing stigma. The project offers educational support to improve access to schooling and skill development. Through advocacy, it raises awareness and influences policies to protect street children's rights. Overall, the project enhances children's well-being, increases educational participation, and fosters their long-term social integration.

### Key Activities

The EHO Street Children Novi Sad project focuses on supporting vulnerable street children through several key areas:

- Outreach counselling : Engages children directly on the streets to build trust, provide emotional support, and address immediate needs.
- Social inclusion: Works to integrate children into community activities and reduce stigma, fostering a sense of belonging.
- Educational Support: Offers access to formal and non-formal education, helping children develop skills and improve future opportunities.
- Advocacy: Raises awareness about street children's rights and influences policies to protect and support them.

### Impact

- Directly supporting 200 children
- The project focuses on including children in the educational system and reducing drop-out rates while supporting their individual potential. It fosters social cohesion among families and encourages participation in social activities. The initiative continuously helps children and families leave the streets and connects vulnerable families with national support services. It also promotes voluntary service to build an inclusive, caring community and empowers young people through a peer leadership and educators program.



## "Puzzling the support" Belgrade, Serbia



**Project manager:**  
Tatjana Aleksic Wesse

The Puzzling the Support project, supported by Raiffeisen Bank Serbia (RBRS), provides outreach counselling to engage and assist vulnerable children and youth, addressing their emotional and social needs. It promotes social inclusion by fostering community participation and reducing marginalization. The project offers educational support to improve access to schooling and enhance learning outcomes. Through advocacy, it raises awareness and influences policies to protect the rights of disadvantaged children. Its impact includes improved well-being, increased educational engagement, and stronger social integration for the beneficiaries.

### Key Activities

- Mapping and supporting preschool-aged children's enrolment by assisting families with documentation, medical exams, and mediating with institutions.
- Providing daily transport for preschoolers and encouraging parental involvement, along with supplying snacks, educational materials, and hygiene products.
- Supporting first graders' enrolment and attendance through parental advisory, mediation with schools, and provision of necessary materials and snacks.
- Offering direct learning support in schools and through educational workshops to improve academic performance.

- Organizing extracurricular activities (field trips, theatre visits, etc.) to enhance social inclusion and integration.
- Improving families' living conditions by providing advisory support and essential in-kind aid such as school supplies, hygiene products, food, clothes, and shoes.

### Impact

- Directly supporting 262 children
- Overall, the project contributed to increased preschool and school participation, improved academic performance, and better social inclusion among vulnerable Roma children.



## Leave No Child Behind in Inclusive Schools, Albania



**Project manager:**  
Christa Moser

"This project has contributed to transforming education for children with disabilities in Albania, supporting their full inclusion and participation in mainstream schools. The initiative marks an important step toward Albania's national goals of inclusive education and equitable learning opportunities for all children, ensuring no child is left behind regardless of ability. In partnership with Raiffeisen Albania, I am proud to support this impactful initiative, making a meaningful difference in the lives of children with disabilities."

**Christa Moser**



### Achievements

Save the Children Albania, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), implemented the "Leave No Child Behind in Inclusive Schools" project in 2025. The intervention was designed to support inclusive education through transforming special education practices within public schools across three regions: Elbasan, Gjirokastër, and Burrel. The project directly benefited 130 children with disabilities (83 girls and 47 boys), alongside teachers, parents, and local education offices.

### Key Activities

➤ **Child-Friendly Resource Classrooms:** Nine classrooms were transformed into resource classrooms equipped with adaptive furniture, didactic and play materials, and sensory learning spaces in line with MoES standards. These rooms offer individualized educational support within mainstream schools.



- **Capacity Building:** Training sessions for 20 support teachers, psychologists, and social workers focused on Individual Education Plans (IEPs), the Index of Inclusion, and small group instruction methodologies.
- **Psychosocial Support:** Emphasized emotional well-being and social integration to foster a supportive, child-friendly learning environment.

➤ **Community Engagement:** Increased visibility and awareness about inclusive education via social media and coordination with local educational authorities.

### Impact

- Successfully established resource classrooms in nine schools, enhancing school attendance and participation for children with disabilities.
- Improved teacher competencies resulted in better tailored educational plans and inclusive teaching methods.
- Strengthened institutional capacity enabled schools to offer ongoing support to children with special needs.
- Enhanced social inclusion and community acceptance created nurturing environments where children with disabilities build friendships and develop a sense of belonging.
- Pioneered sensory learning spaces in Albania, broadening educational support approaches.

### Only with the heart one can see rightly: On-site visit in Albania

Valerie Brunner, Charity Board Member and RBI Board Member responsible for CIB Customer Coverage, visited the project together with Raiffeisen Bank Albania. The project is implemented in close partnership with Raiffeisen Bank Albania and Save the Children:

"I recently had the wonderful opportunity to visit our Leave No Child Behind project in Albania, run in partnership with Save the Children. This inspiring initiative is all about ensuring children with disabilities receive the support they need to learn, grow, and pursue their dreams.

Seeing the positive impact up close was truly heartwarming and reminded me how powerful our combined efforts are in creating a welcoming and supportive learning environment for every child. I was deeply impressed by the dedication of teachers, parents, and local education teams who make this possible.

Together, we are making a difference!"



## Schoolbag Campaign, Austria /Bosnia and Herzegovina / Romania

**Project Team:**  
Anita Filaus, Britta Mauerböck, Caliopei Ionela Galindo Trigos, Kateryna Lomako



Many children across Central and Eastern Europe still start school without the basic supplies they need, simply because their families cannot afford them—something that can make them feel excluded from the very beginning of their educational journey. Through the Schoolbag Campaign, we address this gap by providing essential materials, ensuring that children can participate fully in school and build confidence from day one.

For some families whose basic needs are not fully met, even a simple schoolbag is already a luxury item, which underlines the importance of this support. For us as RBI employees, the initiative reflects our shared commitment to “help for self-help” and to promoting education as the key to a

self-determined life and a way out of poverty – creating real opportunities for a better and more independent future.

### Achievements

With the Schoolbag Campaign 2025, we supported over 1,300 children in Romania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, and – for the first time – Austria with school supplies and/or schoolbags to help them succeed in school.

### Romania:

- 110 schoolbags for children with Asociația Hercules
- 200 schoolbags & supplies for Asociația Casa Bună
- 250 schoolbags, supplies & 10 laptops with Caritas Satu Mare



### Bosnia & Herzegovina:

- 600 children supported through the MEDO project with school supplies
- 150 of them received full schoolbags

### Austria:

- In collaboration with Caritas Austria 150 backpacks and school supplies for children

## Medo – Ready for School, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Impact of Schoolbag Campaign)



**Project manager:**  
Irhad Fazlic

As part of the long-standing commitment of the Austrian-Bosnian Cultural Association Medo, this project has been supporting children in returnee communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for over a decade. Each year, we provide essential school supplies to around 600 students from economically challenged families across five municipalities in the northwestern part of the country. These supplies help improve educational conditions and empower children to succeed in school despite the lasting effects of the conflict and economic hardship in their regions. Through close collaboration with local schools and community representatives, the project targets those most in need, fostering sustainable reintegration and offering children the practical tools they require to pursue their education.



## Project Satu Mare, Romania

Many years ago, I decided to join the CEE Charity. At that time, I didn't know much about it—just remembered that Dr. Stepic established the charity on his 60th birthday. While working with our subsidiaries in CEE, I thought, "Why not do something for the people in these countries, not just in business?"

If you ask why I volunteer for this project, the answer comes easily. It's the small things that motivate me—the heartfelt "thank you" when we interact with the local team, the stories of women and children finding new paths in life, and seeing pictures of children playing at the shelter.

**Daniela Tsoneva**

### Background

Romania continues to face profound socio-economic challenges, which affect children and young people from disadvantaged communities in a particularly severe way. In 2024, 33.8% of children were at risk of poverty or social exclusion – the highest rate within the European Union.

Behind these figures are children growing up in environments marked by material deprivation, limited access to education and a lack of stable support structures. For many, everyday life is shaped by uncertainty – insufficient food, inadequate housing and limited opportunities to succeed at school.

In the Satu Mare region, many beneficiaries come from marginalised Roma communities, where poverty is often passed on from one generation to the next. Parents frequently have little or no formal education themselves, limiting the support they can provide to their children.

Against this background, the project "Șansa mea – Empowerment of Girls and Young Women" provides targeted support for girls and young women, helping them build confidence, acquire essential skills and develop a vision for their future.

### Project goals

- Reduce school dropout rates and increase graduation rates, particularly among Roma girls. Girls receive targeted support – such as parental awareness-raising and learning assistance – to help them remain in the education system and avoid leaving school prematurely.



- Improve the quality of life of children and adolescents and prepare them for responsible and independent lives by ensuring access to basic material support, including meals in after-school care centres, clothing and school supplies when needed, as well as facilities to wash clothes.
- Strengthen and support families in overcoming crisis situations through their own capacities and resources, thereby fostering resilience and self-reliance.
- Promote the principle of equal opportunities for Roma children and their parents/mothers through cooperation with all relevant stakeholders responsible for social affairs at the local and national levels.

### Main Activities

The project follows a holistic approach, combining educational support, life skills training and personal development across five modules:

- **Media Literacy** – Participants develop digital skills and learn to navigate the online world safely and critically.

- **Communication Training** – Literacy and language skills are strengthened, enabling participants to better engage in school and daily life.

- **Household & Cooking** – Practical everyday skills foster independence, responsibility and social interaction.

- **Creative Workshops** – Artistic activities encourage self-expression, confidence and awareness of important life topics.

- **Sports & Physical Activities** – Physical exercise promotes health, teamwork and emotional resilience.

Across all modules, the programme provides a structured and supportive learning environment, often the only stable space in the participants' daily lives.

### Impact Story

Anda, a 10-year-old girl, lives with her family in a disadvantaged community on the outskirts of Baia Mare. Her parents, both with limited education, face daily challenges in securing basic necessities.

When Anda first joined the programme, she struggled with reading and writing. Today, she is able to read confidently, write simple texts and actively participate in both school and programme activities.



**Project manager:**  
Daniela Tsoneva

## Our footprint

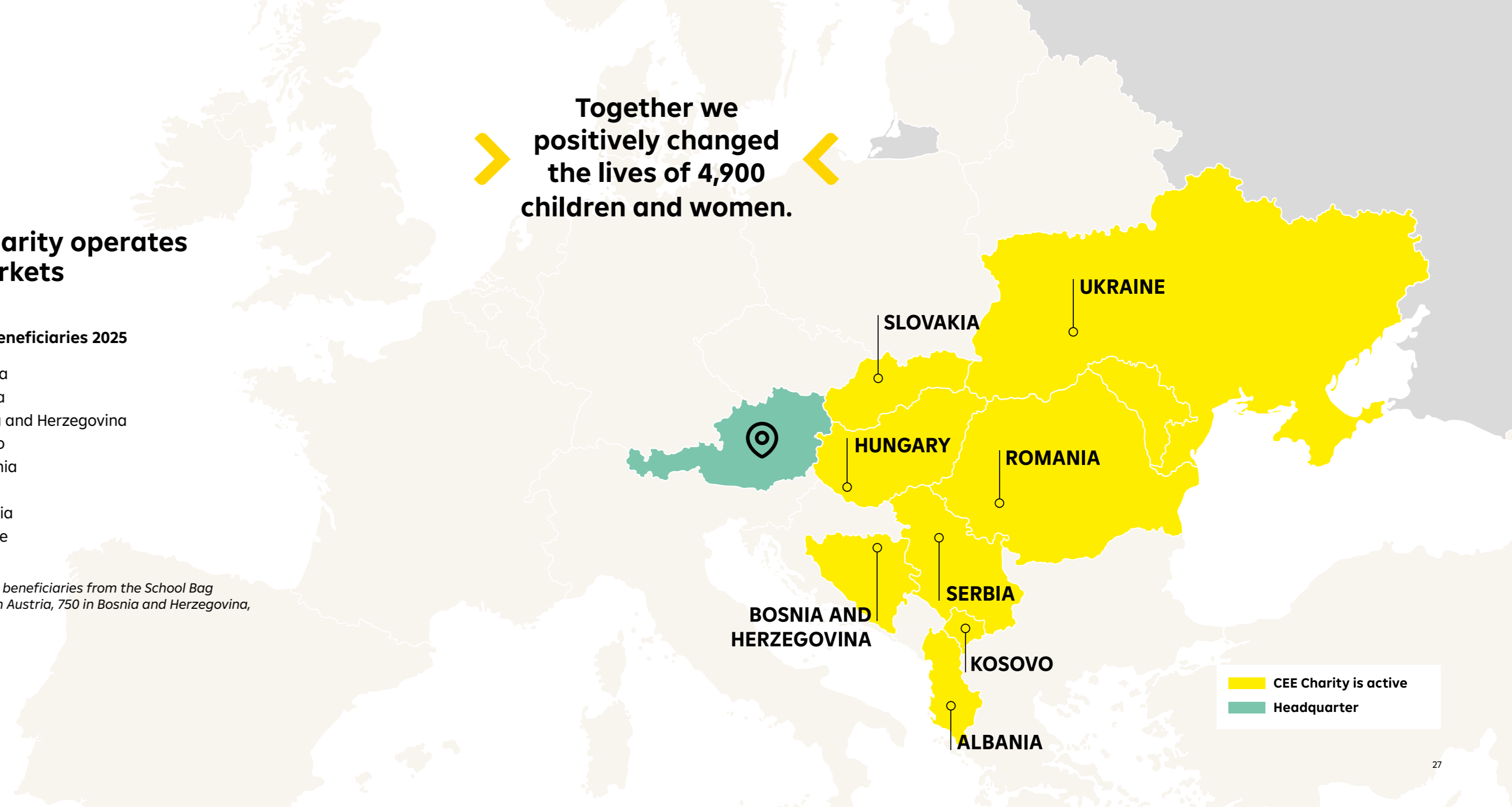
### The CEE Charity operates in RBI's markets

#### Total number of beneficiaries 2025

130	in	Albania
150*	in	Austria
1,023*	in	Bosnia and Herzegovina
300	in	Kosovo
1,157*	in	Romania
1,008	in	Serbia
100	in	Slovakia
1,032	in	Ukraine

\* These figures include beneficiaries from the School Bag Campaign, with 150 in Austria, 750 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and 560 in Romania.

Together we positively changed the lives of 4,900 children and women.





## Why do we engage as a charity?

The CEE Charity not only puts F. W. Raiffeisen's motto into practice by offering "Help for Self-help" for disadvantaged children, young people and women in Central and Eastern Europe.

The dedicated volunteers are role models for living up to RBI's values and translating them into action by using their know-how, time and creativity to change the lives of so many people in need.

**What one cannot  
achieve alone, many can.**

F. W. Raiffeisen



*"I have always been inspired by figures like Mother Teresa and Mahatma Gandhi, who showed how humble individuals can spark lasting change. For 17 years, I have volunteered, including teaching in a girls' orphanage in Egypt, where I saw how education transforms lives and communities. Educated girls gain jobs, independence, and ensure their children's education, breaking the cycle of poverty. Joining CEE Charity felt natural, as its mission reflects these values I deeply believe in."*

Rosalin Makar



*"As a Ukrainian, joining the Charity was a natural step for me. Supporting children in times of uncertainty is not only a responsibility, but also a deeply personal commitment. What I value most, however, is the sense of community among the volunteers – people from different backgrounds coming together with a shared purpose. Being part of this network has shown me how much can be achieved when responsibility and involvement go hand in hand."*

Olha Kanska



*My work with CEE Charity and the projects I support are close to my heart because they provide essential care and long-term support to children, young people, and families who need it most. Contributing to this work is deeply meaningful, especially seeing the warmth and hope these projects bring to everyday life. The joy and smiles of the children and families—often despite great challenges—remind me why this support matters and show the impact we've achieved together.*

Irhad Fazlic

## Frequently asked Questions

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about the Stepic CEE Charity.

Subscribe to our [newsletter](#) to never miss any news.  
**#EducationMeansFuture**

### How can I describe the Stepic CEE Charity to family and friends?

The Stepic CEE Charity supports disadvantaged children, adolescents, and women in Central and Eastern Europe. Thanks to its deep local roots, pragmatic approach, and active support from RBI's subsidiary banks, the Stepic CEE Charity offers the prospect of a self-determined future beyond poverty.

Education is the key to this. All projects are aimed at a sustainable change and are carried out in cooperation with renowned local or international partner organizations and supervised by volunteers from RBI in Vienna and its CEE subsidiaries.

This keeps administrative costs to a minimum, and all financial contributions go directly to the projects. The Stepic CEE Charity is on the official list of charitable organizations (kept by the Austrian Ministry of Finance), meaning your donations are tax deductible in Austria.

### How can I become a member?

You can subscribe directly online on our website. As a member you are invited to participate in our Annual General Meeting and discuss the Stepic CEE Charity's future as well as receive our yearly Board reports. The annual fee for a regular membership is € 50 and € 500 for an extraordinary membership.

### How does the Stepic CEE Charity generate its donations?

The Stepic CEE Charity is supported by RBI through the Corporate Volunteering Program in order to keep the administrative costs as low as possible. All donations by members, individuals and sponsors are spent for our beneficiaries. Like any other charity organization, we depend heavily on recurring contributions from our members and donors, necessary to continue our current projects and to initiate new ones. We welcome any form of support and encourage you to become a member.

### How does tax deductibility work?

If you are taxable in Austria we take care of it. Please make sure to state your date of birth and your full name in the reference in all your bank transactions, so we can link your donation to you. You can find out more about the deductibility of donations on our website.

### Can I visit a project?

The heart senses what the eye sees. When we see children in need, there is a strong urge to help them immediately. This reaction and feeling are understandable and often the reason our (team) members join us in the first place. However, the dignity of the children we support is very important to us and logistics is a challenge, too. We invite you instead to follow us on our various communication channels where we update you on the progress of our projects regularly.

### Is the Stepic CEE Charity audited?

Yes. The Stepic CEE Charity Management, receives and evaluates the financial reports, on a regular basis. The statement of accounts and the financial statements are audited by our internal independent auditors. In addition, the Compliance Committee verifies the regularity of incoming and outgoing donations and whether conflicts of interest prevail for donations above a certain amount. Since the founding of the Stepic CEE Charity, KPMG Austria GmbH Wirtschaftsprüfungs- und Steuerberatungsgesellschaft is our external auditor. Its role is to confirm according to §4a EstG that more than 90% of our association's total expenditure is used for beneficial purposes.

### Who selects the projects and what are the criteria?

The project proposals reach us through different channels: our colleagues at RBI, subsidiaries, project partners and/or private individuals. According to our focus, we pre-select them in conformance with our Articles of Association and other comprehensive criteria. In-depth discussions based on objective criteria and input from all stakeholders such as project managers and legal counsels follow. Once all information and funds are available, a decision about the project is finally taken in a Management meeting. For further information on how we work, please visit our website.

## Compliance Committee

In order to ensure that the origination and use of donations are in line with the charity's purpose and all legal and moral standards, the CEE Charity must only accept donations which are in line with its high compliance standards and the compliance standards of Raiffeisen Bank International. Any donation is only considered flawless in the following cases:

- the donator gives the donation without intention to violate any legal or moral standards for charity organizations
- there is no suspicion of money laundering
- there is no intention of the donator to use the donation in order to influence a pending decision in connection with his/her business relationship with RBI

In order to ensure the correct application of the compliance standards, the Compliance Committee checks any donation above the amount of EUR 3.000,-- in detail for being in line with the compliance standards. The Stepic CEE Charity and in particular the Compliance Committee is very grateful that it can count on the support of the RBI Compliance Division for support in fulfillment of the individual compliance related duties.

Furthermore, the Compliance Committee controls the correct usage of funds in line with the purpose of the CEE Charity and based on a valid approval by the board of the charity.



**Richard Hübler**

As a passionate supporter of CEE Charity's mission to enhance education quality and promote social inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe, my role on the Compliance Committee allows me to foster a culture of compliance awareness and uphold a robust compliance framework. This commitment is essential for maintaining the integrity and trust that our organization has cultivated with donors, beneficiaries, and the wider community.



**Barbara Pichler**

As a member of the Compliance Committee, I provide independent oversight to ensure that the charity adheres to its stringent guidelines and rules. The mission of the charity is close to my heart and therefore, together with my fellow committee members, we aim to identify and effectively mitigate compliance risks. Our efforts are focused on maintaining continuous donor trust by promoting accountability and responsible management of donations.



**Andreas Engels**

I am a member of the Compliance Committee because only a strong compliance organization helps maintain the charity's credibility and trust with donors, beneficiaries, and the public. Compliance ensures that funds are used effectively and ethically, aligning with the charity's mission. Additionally, a robust compliance framework supports transparency and accountability, which are essential for securing ongoing donor support and fulfilling the charity's objectives efficiently.

## You like what the CEE Charity does?

You want to get involved with the CEE Charity but don't know what your part could be?

"What one cannot achieve alone, many can." Remember? Every single stroke contributes to painting a bigger picture. Every single contribution counts to give children a better future. By joining us as member for only € 50 a year, you can impact the lives of those who need it the most.

Become engaged, become a member, support us with your contribution!

➤ **"Be the change that you wish  
to see in the world.."** ◀

*Mahatma Gandhi*



Click here and sign up!



## Acknowledgment

**Your support was essential to our success this year. Thank You!**

Albertus Magnus Volksschule  
Schwedler Family for and on behalf of Dr. Herwig Büchele  
Campus Gertrude Fröhlich-Sandner  
Columbus Reisen GmbH & Co KG.  
De La Salle Schule  
IMC Fachhochschule Krems  
Junge Uni der FH Krems  
Makaluti Stiftung  
Merck Family Foundation GmbH  
METRO Cash & Carry Österreich GmbH  
MidEuropa  
Raiffeisen Bausparkasse  
Raiffeisen Factor Bank  
Raiffeisen Informatik GmbH & Co KG  
Raiffeisen Kapitalanlage-Gesellschaft m.b.H  
Raiffeisen-Leasing GmbH  
Raiffeisen Property Holding International  
Rail Cargo Austria, Member of ÖBB  
RBI Group Marketing Department  
Sacré Coeur Wien, Volksschule Rennweg  
Schneiders Vienna GmbH  
Time2eat

Valida Holding AG  
UNIQA Österreich Versicherungen AG  
Volksschule Gilgegasse  
XXXLutz KG  
ZHS Office & Facility Management GmbH  
Gymnasium der Stiftung Theresianische Akademie Wien  
Volksschule Scheibenbergstraße  
Kathrein Privatbank  
LIBRO Handelsgesellschaft mbH  
SPAR Austria AG  
& many more

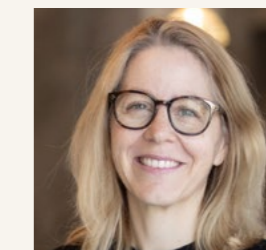
A heartfelt thank you to Lorenzo Tosi and Erich Lang for dedicating a fundraising activity to our projects. We also appreciate everyone who donated to support these initiatives!

## Contact details



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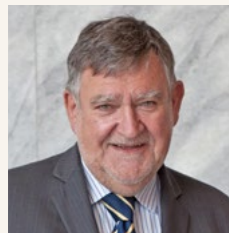


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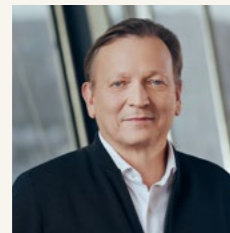


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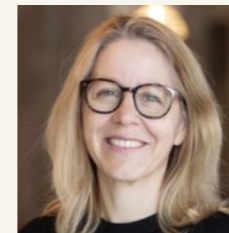
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