

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Context and objectives:

Political and social context of Serbia in 2013 shows further derogation. Monitoring of BIRODI (Bureau for Social Research) reported that “until last year’s changing of government there was a latent censorship in media”. In 2013 “Media still promote and inform in the way that latent censorship maintained, with presence of (auto)censorship...” Supposed “natural allies” of RWF made striking mistakes as if they were running to be respectable partners to the authoritarian regime. NGO Gay Straight Alliance nominated for their *Rainbow* award for contribution to reduction of homophobia and transphobia, protection and promotion of human rights of LGBT people... Minister of Justice who headed protest walks of students and right wing organizations against Hague Tribunal. *Virtus* award for corporate responsibility for 2013 was given to extremely problematic company NIS (oil industry of Serbia), etc.

According to the context, we could be glad how we envisioned our overall goal: *Strengthening RWF’s domain and range.*

*Four big areas in RWF’s development have been planned and they were mostly **innovated or new** and we are writing this annual report from that angle.*

Specific objective: Establishing fundraising circles

We planned to put individual donors and local philanthropy in RWF’s focus, but we also were active in various compatible directions.

Our annual fundraising campaign *Uncorking action* was launched in March with its funny and money-taboo breaking profile. The first campaign in 2012 was scheduled for 77 days connecting five politically important dates and in 2013 the campaign run March-December combining various events. In April we invited long term civil and political activist Sara Mandujano from women’s fund Alquimia from Chile who have been developing friends’ donors’ circles for over a decade. RWF and Alquimia are close politically and we believed that we could understand and benefit from the guest’s

experiences. Sara delivered two day training/sharing their crucial: philosophy, approach, techniques, history of development and ups and downs of their local fundraising program. She was presenter of Alquimia's "circles of friends" to the gathering of 11 friends of RWF. Sara's enthusiastic humorous visit was very stimulating and concrete.

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151344088557382.1073741828.302556342381&type=3>

In June, we had another guest, Marjan Sax, feminist activist and founder of the first women's foundation Mama Cash. Marjan shared her attitude and arguments for giving for women, both with RWF and in the meeting organized in cooperation with Serbian Philanthropic Forum with 10 representatives of local foundations (BCIF, Divac, Victoria Group, Food Bank). Marjan and RWF organized a presentation to friends, kind of rehearsal of our strategies and her approach, followed by visit to her old companions Women in Black.

<http://rwnd.org/image-galleries/marjan-sax-u-beogradu>

We are committed, stubborn and curious and we have been learning, trying and advocating for our local fundraising and we had 14 individual local donors in 2013 (5 standing orders and a number of significant lump sums) and 2 international. Further, our occasional grantee, women's group from Uzice who has been organizing local fundraising contributed from their action to our campaign. Then there were RWF's earnings from Delicatessen Monday and a book distributor for North America and Canada bought 10 copies of the book of Zarana Papić. At the end of the year we have nearly 3,000 USD in our "Future Fund" as we call it for now.

In July we organized annual public event Joyfulness Craziiness no. 4 on the street/gallery with 250-300 guests in flash (and RWF's info corner, with our volunteers, publications and promo material) and 7000 guests on facebook.

www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151276746877706.1073741853.534237705&type=1&l=3e5f9e4b76

There was review in the daily *Politika*, using Joyfulness Craziiness event as a lead to describe cultural scene in Belgrade and its underground political vitality.

In October RWF organized another big promo event in the cultural center "KC Grad" who gives opportunity to organizations to cook and socialize with wide audience on "Delicatessen Monday". In that space we also installed info desk with volunteers, books, promo and money orders. 110 coupons were sold and people were fed with support of fellow activists from other groups, Act Women, BeFem, Women's Studies and Kvinna till Kvinna who helped in cooking, serving, Dj-ing and finally dancing. Most of the audience was unknown to us. Short video illustrating the atmosphere on the link www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cZK3N-MxKQ

RWF also attempted to gain money for women's groups and individuals through establishing cooperation with other donors' initiative. In September we had consultations with *Catalyst* initiative. RWF listed 10 potential grantees for the giving circle and

shortlisted 3 which we discussed with *Catalyst*. We communicated with the three potential grantees if they would be willing to participate and to be contacted with invitation for application. RWF later alerted the applicants about the deadline. None of the applications was selected for auction and RWF gave grant to one of the applicants whom we recommended.

In December, after thorough preparations, RWF and Kvinna till Kvinna with Swedish Embassy Development Program Section organized Donor meeting on women's human rights in Swedish Residency with invitation negotiated as: *Being present, mapping the future – good practice of improving women's rights in Serbia*. The meeting/discussion was based on conclusions of a large-scale meeting with 50 activists from 36 women's organizations from all over Serbia (organized by RWF and KtK in September). RWF tried to open a dialogue with other donors present in Serbia about our shared responsibility and to present the local foundation itself and hopefully find allies among fellow participants. The meeting was planned as a medium gathering (27 people altogether) and the participants came from EEAS (European External Action Service), Dutch, Norwegian, Swedish, US Embassies, UN Women, local foundations Fond B92, Heartefact, local offices of Heinrich Boll and Rosa Luxemburg foundations and Serbian Office for cooperation with civil society. With no concrete promises we hope there would be group-follow-up and possibly bi-lateral meetings with couple of friendly faces.

Premises for all the events we got for free. We had 24 volunteers for Joyfulness Craziness and Delicatessen Monday, 9 volunteers for distribution of 8th of March Map, 19 volunteers in book translation and editing, 1 volunteer committed to archiving RWF's video/audio/photo material, 1 volunteer meeting our ad hoc needs for design and pro bono lawyer preparing a contract.

Specific objective: Rejuvenating civic environment

We have been developing communication and transfer of knowledge with the groups who work with youth. RWF is in search for reliable methods and channels to reach the youth and involve them in our programs.

We continued (second year) Roma Girls' Solidarity program in South Serbia. The educators were more diverse than in the first year and it was interesting to see how the girls accepted new faces, among them a secondary school professor, a Roma women activist from Vojvodina, a sex educator from Belgrade etc. They were two times RWF's guests in Belgrade. Also, we gave the girls books as literature and presents, etc. All the experiences are precious for their age (this generation is even younger than the previous one). The issues have been profiled and discussed from different angles. Film *Pasarela*, based on the performance with Roma girls, activists and artists was finished, publicly screened and debated deeply with the girls who were future local hosts and promoters of public screenings. As part of the program, we organized training with a video artist and collective video work they produced in a collaborative session with their contribution of

private life materials (the video is not going public, based on their wish and our principles of respect and trust). Next to educational and creative sessions we had discussions with the girls on the program itself, their individual understanding and benefits, their points and issues and their further participation, communication and plans for 2014.

Film *Pasarela* was premiered in May in Film Archive in Belgrade, with various audiences, including girls from RGS program. RWF distributed 100 free tickets. There were 3200 people visiting the info on facebook. The RGS participants organized local screenings in Pirot and Nis. Internationally *Pasarela* was screened: Transit Festival Odin Theatre Denmark in May, Pitchwise Festival Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina in September, Magfest, Torino Italy November. <http://www.magfest.it/web/en/publications-and-events/181-free-formfree-from-violence-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women> Like RGS program, these screenings make wide resources and variety of receptions.

New plan was to try mapping young women's and girls' actions, group work, fields and issues in their focus and their engagement and initiatives and to reach them through various trusting channels. We planned at least to get some info, to communicate our point, open spaces and make new partnerships. So in January with call for grant proposals "Mirror" we invited young women and girls. The guidelines were precise and the info sent through various groups and lists. An appropriate, mixed in expertise and engaged board was composed. The whole process was a thorough experiment. And initiatives of young women and girls came to light, 14 grants were distributed for variety of initiatives, arts, IT, sexual rights...<http://www.rwfund.org/en/grants/mirror-2013-program-support-young-womens-activism> And the grantees continued to communicate with RWF, talking problems in implementation, their plans and insights... Hence RWF was a source of information on the grantees to share among them. In the process they started to connect to each other and communicate and intersect their programs. Our primary idea of "mapping" turned into a new standing program "Mirror".

Link to one grantee's radio program (which embraces many other young women artists and activists, including some peer grantees) <https://www.facebook.com/femkanje>

So, for now we have two programs for young women and girls in progress.

Concerning documentation, promotion, assessment, analytics, planning and networking in working with youth, RWF has participated in two initiatives. Foundations for Peace network has been preparing a collection of members' case studies and RWF contributed two. Publication was a bit postponed because FFP have new members and we wanted their contributions as well, but it is with designer now to be launched early 2014.

RWF is active in the program Community of Practice (researching young women and girls' initiatives and funding resources, facilitated by International Network of Women's Funds). Close participation inspired RWF to test the grantmaking program "Mirror". RWF invited one of the young activists to join the COP meeting of grantees in September. Later this year she applied, was recommended by RWF and was employed in

the team of FRIDA, the Young Feminist Fund who started in 2010 and works internationally.

Specific objective: Cooperation in civic environment

RWF has excellent experiences in growing partnerships.

8th of March Map (4th year) printed and virtual GPRS covered activities in 11 towns in Serbia and from Yu-region Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina. We had 9 volunteers to distribute the Map to numerous faculties, municipalities, cultural centers, media, medical centers, in conferences, pizzerias. The Map was sent to local groups and to 52 libraries in Serbia together with books. Facebook recorded 1950 hits.

Through Roma Girls' Solidarity program various groups and activists happened to be involved. After stable support of women's groups, one from Vlasotince and two from Nis, there was a new host-supporter Roma women's group from Pirot, educator from women's group in Zrenjanin (Vojvodina) and an activist from Roma women's group from Novi Becej (Vojvodina), educator on sexuality from Belgrade, film and video artists from Belgrade, friendly hostel managers in Belgrade... The circle of those who know and support has been widened annually.

New processes in publishing: RWF printed the book *Gypsy Sexuality: Romani and outsider perspectives on intimacy* in a dynamic cooperative way. We negotiated with the editor Jud Nirenberg free copyright for translation from English into Serbian and attracted his interest which was in tune with our enthusiasm. Since the book is a collection of articles of very different authors, we followed the concept of varieties in voices and asked our stipendists to read the book and to choose a chapter which they hear the best. Concerned with the total costs of translation and printing, we announced to potential translators that if we did not achieve some additional money, they were supposed to work for free, which is a possibility according to their stipends contract with RWF but it cannot be implemented obligatory. Anyway we could not say if they would be interested in the book. Reactions were stimulating, number of stipendists chose the respective chapters for their academic work, or saw the book interesting and liked to participate. Some activists and artists joined so we ended up with 12 volunteering translators and 7 experts for consultations in law, philosophy, linguistics etc. 315 pages, volunteers' work. RWF first spotted the book at the end of March and in four month the book was ready for lay-out. Following the idea of collective work, we started capillary distribution through the stipendists, women's groups, students groups and university programs, ombudsman's and commissioners' offices, festivals, regional gatherings... and self-organized promoters. In November the book was sent to 52 libraries in Serbia together with 16 Days leaflets to include them in the campaign (we try to be regular with them as potential partners). In three month 2000 (out of 2500) copies were sent to various channels. Novelty is that we started simultaneous virtual campaign and the book was

available for download on our website the same moment it was printed. We recorded 2500 hits. Our virtual publications (now 15 on our website, 7 in 2013) attract people and records of visits show high interest in the moments of their uploading. This is important for education and promotion, for making audience and clear profile of RWF through the topics and contents. We also grow public interest and help positioning of authors/topics/disciplines. Striking example is the book by Adriana Zaharijevic, young gifted feminist theorist, our stipendist from Women's Studies in Belgrade, which we printed in 2010 in 3500 copies (exceptional circulation for academic work). When uploaded as virtual book in 2013, there were nearly 4000 hits. It means that the book is alive.

Short analytics from RWF's website in 2013: **visits 14,613, (unique visitors: 10,303)**
pageviews: 38,479
new visits: 68.76%

Concerning international networks, RWF is committed partner. We hosted in Belgrade Foundations for Peace network annual meeting. Providing visas for Serbia gave us close insight in Serbian institutions which were more dysfunctional and controlling that we expected, a good lesson. In preparation, we focused on presenting "history" of Serbia to the guests and some points turned out as inspiration for RWF's plans for 2014, concerning First World War centenary. FFP evening with Women in Black brought us all close to what FFP has been and it was memorable. Since CFNI and RWF for some years now exchange interest in Roma issues, we took CFNI participants to a visit and discussion to Roma women's group in Novi Becej and it was good encounter.
<http://rwfund.org/en/vest/foundations-peace-network-reconstruction-womens-fund-presents>

RWF has an active and dynamic participation/cooperation with and within International Network of Women's Funds. <http://www.inwf.org/> It was through INWF that RWF met and befriended with women's fund Alquimia from Chile and Sara Mandujano whom we invited to be our tutor in local fundraising in 2013. European funds from INWF had decided on the regional strategy and in 2013 commitments and timeframe were defined. Mirjana Mirosavljevic committed to working group on cooperation with grantees and Zoe Gudovic is in communication group where she proposed a common promo video. The material was shot in the meeting in October in Barcelona and the Spanish fund Calala will organize editing and postproduction of the video with small financial contribution of each of the funds. The video is expected in the beginning of 2014.

Specific objective: Evaluation/Changes

Developing monitoring and evaluation as structural activity

In February we started sessions with our previous evaluator and in the process she made a shift primarily to strategic planning while we were talking about our programs and other

activities. After a period of adapting to the new situation, our “implicit” strategy emerged as a practical document.

As already mentioned, RWF and Kvinna till Kvinna foundation conceptualized and organized large meeting of women’s groups’ representatives in September on Silver Lake. The process included negotiation of organizers on the goals of the meeting, the agenda and facilitators. With idea to be rational with time and money and to make some recommendations potentially to be presented in the donors meeting in December, this gathering started with two day KtK agenda with their grantees summing up their previous work and cooperation, followed by two day talking about future when RWF joined and some of women’s groups whom we recommended to participate. RWF has been debating for some time from the angle of future (exists it or not) the political context, feminist articulation and planning. Part of the thinking comes from our concerns, but partly it is provocative. Due to our strategic plans, insights from Silver Lake meeting, the fact that KtK plans to close office in Serbia and many other factors, we intensified talks and visits to some of the groups and to a number we announced that we would like to discuss their plans and budgets to see if we could give general support to their chosen programs. Preparatory meetings were scheduled for January 2014 and we hope it will help the groups in their planning and to RWF in our monitoring and evaluation efforts, non-alienated and non-intrusive, in a way in partnership with the groups. We are inter-dependant anyway, hopefully this will bring interesting new dynamic.

Steady: Grantmaking:

Through our principal, permanent programs of support to women’s groups and individuals we awarded 66 grants in 2013. Detailed description of the grants you can find on the following links: <http://www.rwfund.org/en/grants/2013>
<http://www.rwfund.org/en/rapid-response-grants>

The end of 2013: RWF moved to the new office, beautiful and cheap.