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NOBODY'S PERFECT...

Living (galloping as) in the film (Some Like it Hot)... we protected our programs by changing them.

We escaped identitarian and dogmatic, depoliticized and quasi political projects. And it turned out not bad.

Reconstruction Women's Fund keeps focused, politically responsible and sound grasp of the issues, confronting the trends. We think that „gender mainstreaming and gender equality“ are misleading concepts in the midst of the worst mainstream ongoing fascism and the legalized overall context of inequality. The most hurtful and dangerous is when we see the consequences of the continuous erasure of the human experience, so we keep creating political spaces.

As our friends say:

Imagination is politics, and future is elixir of imagination.

(Jasmina Tešanović)

This is a marathon.

(Staša Zajović)

SUPPORT

We must intervene into articulation of the context if we want citizens' and public agenda which do not hold big holes. We emphasize the importance of thinking beyond boundaries of scattered interests if we are to deconstruct and understand current system of oppression. Our common issues are both forced evictions of Roma men and women from their lodgings and forced evictions of worker protesters from their working spaces. We can't shout „fagots“ when actually protesting against the „thieves“ and „oppressive malefactors“. Attacks on peace activists and antimilitarist protests concern and threaten us all: that Serbia did not sign Landmine Ban Treaty and continues to produce and export weapons, engendering militarization and violence while erasing antifascist history. We want to hear firsthand experiences of women labor rights activists...

To us as a foundation, beyond the issue there is the importance of how groups which we support work. We value focused, continuous, responsible and committed work.

GENERAL SUPPORT

General support was the most helpful in making our work safe, recognizable, sustainable, as well as in networking and gaining acknowledgement.

- Roma Center for Women and Children „Daje“

The most important effect which the general support by RWF brought was that we could realize our program and develop the organization without convulsion. The result is an organization with strengthened human resources and clear goals and objectives.

- Counseling for Women with Breast Cancer „Jefimija“

Members of our organization consider that general support exactly, meaning safety and regularity in operating our work and services and activities, profesionalization of our Portal on invalidity as well, which general support enabled, provided significant growth in visibility and recognition of the organization as a relevant actor.

- Out of Circle Vojvodina

A women's foundation is the necessary part of the repertoire of civil values of a community. Reconstruction Women's Fund understands women's human rights and is always there when we need to make a change together.

- Incest Trauma Center



SPECIAL FOCUS

Combined with various ways of control of citizens/public, censorship has had its ups and downs, currently disempowering media to the extreme.

Reconstruction Women's Fund in 2016 structured its **Special Focus** program in thematic call for proposals, aiming to make points in feminist activism around our core worries: militarism, nationalism, racism. Out of the first year of the program when we supported 21 projects (the work of 20 different formal and informal groups and collectives), a body of media „products“ resulted. So we decided to put it together publically in the new cluster Focus on Focus, asking the authors to present their work in their own words, wishing them to communicate wider and among themselves; and linked with our call for proposal, to serve as a ground, and potentially educational material. We expect more „products“ in the next years and a developing communication, interaction, use...

Until now we presented six radio programs by the Journalists Association of Ruthenians **Miniatures on Maxi Issues**, in Serbian and Ruthenian languages („Engaged Art“, „Nationalism“, „Fundamentalism“, „Militarism“, „Racism“, „Fascism“); a radio program „She Says“ (discussed in next paragraphs) about the reasons people subject themselves to big imposed authorities. Available both in Serbian and English are the documentary **Women's Court - feminist approach to justice**, about the first women's court in Europe, organized in Sarajevo 7-10 May, 2015, by 10 women's groups from former Yugoslavia <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/12/21/womens-court-feminist-approach-to-justice/> and documentary **Žanka**, about the experience, attitude and struggle of Žanka Stojanović whose son was one of the 16 workers of Radio Television Serbia left to be killed in bombing in 1999 <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/12/26/zanka-documentary-film/>.

The radio program **She Says** is about *the reasons people subject themselves to big imposed authorities, such as state, nation, church, tradition and money, and the answers to that question from the brave women who faced their own fears and recognized the possibility for rebellion and change.* The involvement of the authors and protagonists is interesting for us. Two free lance female journalists worked together on the project, both with previous significant experience in media. The protagonists were five women from different parts of Serbia, local activists. They speak with conviction of years of experience and strength gained in turbulent individual processes, building collective power, creating and practicing politics in civic groups, mostly women's groups. They deal daily with labor rights, militarist issues, Roma rights, violence against women, confronting the silence and denial.

The protagonists say: *In the name of the nation the wars were waged, in the name of the nation the looting was committed, in the name of*

the nation the factories were ruined, one stayed jobless and the others became rich. A state oligarchy becoming very rich... Hence, we mostly became a nation of the poor and of witless people.

And when someone says: Hush, see there is no other way! I say - why are you talking so?! How come there is no other way!

The authors say: *In spite of growing instrumenatalization of media for the political and financial powers, we wish to work on the issues we believe have sense for our society. We don't see such an opportunity in the dominant media and we don't want to give up, so we decided to work as an independant group. In our dicussions with female colleagues in few local media in Serbia, we recognized that they were interested in such issues and ready to join exchange of ideas and col-laboration.*

RWF says: We were pleased to see that someone got to the point of firsthand experience of interdependence of war and economy, with reminiscences of the state crimes and with history of the resistance revived. We were glad that most of the activists involved were supported by RWF and that out of Special Focus we created a new public space for them and for others.

STIPENDS - (INTER(LOCUTRICES

We have never boasted with numbers, here we go. We awarded 103 stipends during our work. Our stipends were named Žarana Papić (*This is My Report to You* <http://www.rwfund.org/2012/09/10/citajte-zarana-papic-to-je-moj-izvestaj-vama/>).

We've been supporting learning, graduating, spreading knowledge without stopping through our various programs. The stipendists themselves who volunteered to present themselves in our new program (Inter(locutrices you could get to know closer at <http://www.sagovornice.rwfund.org/>). We focused on the stipendists because we know that massive and diverse knowledge has been accumulated and that similar databases already exist. This one was meant for journalists and organizers of various conferences, debates, discussions, when qualified interlocutrices on different issues could contribute. The database is not definite - here we presented our former stipendists who wanted to take part in this initiative. We hope that in time future (Inter(locutrices will join.

URGENT GRANTS

In drastic situations we acted to strengthen those who survived endangerment of life, health and working space.

TOTAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

We proudly say, this year we awarded 15,923,449 RSD to women's groups, collectives, initiatives and stipends!



FEMINISTIST PHILANTROPY

SUPPERS

In February we made a plan to systematically organize informal evenings, starting with our individual donors and involving new people. Our office, being lovable, was supposed to be the meeting space informative by itself. We invited women and men and in 6 suppers we had 30 guests. Our idea was to test our presentation/s, to share, learn and fundraise. Overall experience is that such discussions are important and get us to better know and understand each others through presentations of RWF's work. We opened opportunities for suggestions, proposals and for direct involvement. In the first supper a guest gave an idea to make suppers with people who share similar interests, to get a concentrated exchange and the guests' bonding as well, so we focused a bit our suppers on the groups from academia, theater and other donor organizations working locally, including also guests from IT sector, entrepreneurs, activists. Suggestions had various angles: about the importance of promoting RWF's work as the only local feminist foundation; to focus on results of the groups we support. Dialogue in the suppers indicated that we need a clear, precise, concise presentation modified according to the groups we address. Common feeling was that the guests were impressed by number of groups we supported and the amount of money we provided.

Some of the invitees opened standing orders or gave donations; some promised to share the information in their circles or they gave ideas for cooperative attempts. With the experiences and a possible picture, we drafted the 2017 campaign to open wider fundraising communication. It is supposed to educate, workshop and lecturing type, the groups of interested potential volunteers and collaborators, about RWF's approach to money, reasons of our work; to invite them into the reality of fundraising, to step together and with the acquired knowledge into the further work.

Two of the suppers in May were specific: one evening was dedicated to the visit of Marta Drury, founder of Heart and Hand Fund, longterm individual donor herself and supporter of women in activism in the Balkans; the other to our colleague activist who desperately needed a medicine and we helped her fundraise.

We fed the guests with catering by *Bagel Bejgl* who channels the money to support women survivors of trafficking in human beings, a social enterprise established with the cause by NGO Atina from Belgrade.

SISTERS

We continued enthusiastically the events *Sisters Are Doing It Best* with political-humanitarian causes: for reparation of Social Center Oktobar smashed by a fascist bunch <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/04/18/sisters-are-doing-it-best-7/> ; for No Border Collective in Serbia who assists migrants <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/06/24/sisters-are-doing-it-best-8/> ; for support to Station - Service for Contemporary Dance participating in Kondenz festival; for promotion of the campaign of Autonomous Women's Center and Network Women against Violence going for founding of May 18th as The Commemorative Day of Murdered Women Victims of Violence - it was our contribution to the beginning of 16 Days of Activism.

In our latest quarterly newsletter we summarized the work through the words of some of the organizations we supported with Sisters in 2016. <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/join-in/newsletter/>.

It was important that on these occasions we introduced the idea of philanthropy, encouraging some of them to connect with other circles of people and be visible.

JOYFULNESS CRAZINESS!

Our established donation box „Cakana“ serves all purposes: for our guests and various visitors and as a mobile recognizable device for our events, Suppers, Sisters, Joyfulness Crazyiness... Interesting thing happened in *Joyfulness Crazyiness 7* (a gift to our fellow citizens and neighbors to learn about RWF and have fun), that children came with small donations to „Cakana“, feeling that the party belongs to them too. <http://www.rwfund.org/2016/07/11/radost-ludost-7-hvala/>



INTERVIEWS

Interviews with various remarkable women on giving for women's rights and their views on solidarity, grew during 2016 into 8 pieces stream. Namely, in June our PR Manager was the participant of The Transit festival in Odin Theatre, Denmark, which hosts Magdalena, network of international women artists. In a symposium she presented RWF's work and feminist actions in Serbia.

Sharing understanding with the peer artists, she came back with numerous interviews for consciousness raising and stimulation of feminist philanthropy. The talking women brought various angles to these local-international windows, coming from France, Argentina, Norway, Kosovo, New Zealand, England, Wells... A quote: *The root of compassion is con/with passion. Economic protection is like a house...* <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/12/13/ana-woolf-peripheral-view/>.

The artists from Magdalena network explained how in various ways, sometimes individually instead of receiving birthday presents, they managed to pay expenses for some colleagues to come to Transit festival.

Previously we had a body of interviews with women from academia, activism and politics about the development of feminist philanthropy. More about the whole cluster on: <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/category/news/interview/page/2/>

Newsletter is a way to inform, connect, present our work and also the groups and actions that we support. We publish it quarterly and you could see it on our website <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/join-in/newsletter/>

We proudly say, this year we received 182.530 RSD as individual donations!

DON'T RUN AWAY!

The Origins of Totalitarianism, Hannah Arendt: „Comprehension does not mean denying the outrageous, deducing the unprecedented from precedents, or explaining phenomena by such analogies and generalities that the impact of reality and the shock of experience are no longer felt. It means, rather, examining and bearing consciously the burden which our century has placed on us – neither denying its existence nor submitting meekly to its weight.“

We experienced in various times and places on earth the times of Orwell's words, literally: „Every year fewer and fewer words, and the range of consciousness always a little smaller.“ Like Hannah, he was far from producing panick and frightening people. Her book, translated into Serbian language and previously printed, we as RWF published on our website in February, for people to save it and read sooner or later, nothing is finished. And Orwell we introduced as soon as we opened our publishing serial *The Origins of Epistemology: Critical Life*, through the film on shooting the film *Land and Freedom* by Ken Loach, for people to watch/read the Orwell's struggle. As we also learn from Patricio Guzman in *The Battle of Chile*: „A film of analysis. A film about the masses and individuals. A fast-paced film vibrating with the energy of daily events.“ – the trilogy which we subtitled in autumn.

And more connected striking pieces of our everyday lives: *The Shadow of the West: The Arabs – A Living History*, film by Edward Said; lecture by Wendy Brown: *Cultures of Capital Enhancement*; and by Jasbir Puar: *Homonationalism Gone Viral: Discipline, Control, and the Affective Politics of Sensation*.

To end the year we published on our website what was appropriate for 2016 to take us further: lightness-weight and other relations of Italo Calvino in *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*: „Soon I became aware that between the facts of life that should have been my raw materials and the quick light touch I wanted for my writing, there was a gulf that cost me increasing effort to cross. Maybe I was only then becoming aware of the weight, the inertia, the opacity of the world – qualities that stick to writing from the start, unless one finds some way of evading them.“

SOLIDARITY widening the space

March 8th was massive cooperative gathering of numerous groups and our part was creative for the street march, financial and logistical for participants coming from all over Serbia and documentary/promotional in publishing and distributing the Map of activities of women's groups in Serbia and the region which we established as our annual useful obligation. <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/critical-themes/march-8/>

We created report on our two year work *The Floods 2014-2016* presenting social and political problems we encountered, presenting extensive cooperation and the processes with people and groups, issues behind the curtain and public events, our and mutual aims and insights. Since the environment of the work was the marginalized world in Serbia we presented the firsthand picture as we saw it. As our collaborative contribution to Roma rights the report was published on April 8, International Day of Roma. (available also in English: <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/critical-themes/the-floods-2014-2016-2/the-floods-2014-2016/>). It was compatible with work and publishing of the book *A model of Temporary Housing – From Concept to Realization: The Roma Settlement Example* (available also in English <http://www.rwfund.org/eng/2016/04/04/a-model-of-temporary-housing/>) which resulted from our thorough cooperation with a group of students of architecture. Together we listed secondary school and university libraries to whom we sent the printed publication. Meanwhile, the team of students, now calling themselves Tim 8, became graduated architects. The work was presented and awarded in the category Experiment/research in the Salon of Architecture in the Museum of Applied Art March 29 – April 30, 2016. In June Team 8 received The Award Jelena Šantić as special recognition for the project and the publication, based on, among other reasons: *their work as young architects who tried to highlight one of the basic human rights – right to housing; social values they promoted through their activities, acting sincerely, convincingly and concretely, far from banalization of the concept of tolerance and multiculturalism, social participation, human rights.*

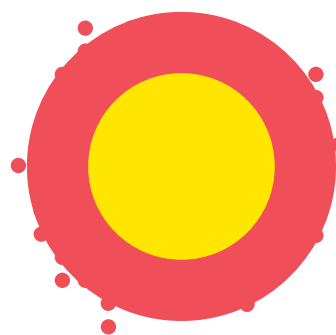
For us it was also important to promote the book in Nova Iskra, laboratory in the sphere of creative enterprise, education, social development and strengthening of local communities. It is necessary to open various spaces for the issues we work on and to connect with other local initiatives.

Emergencies: To support No Border Collective Serbia who are grassroots people committed for years now to assist refugees and to report on their real situation, we organized fundraising event as mentioned above and we try to further develop cooperation. We share information we get or find from some marginalized resources. The situation for assistance deteriorated lately when citizens and NGOs

have been denied access to the collective centers for registered asylum seekers, further in November with the official information by Ministry of Labor, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs sent to interested groups that their work with refugees who live out of collective centers was no mere acceptable too. In cooperation with activists from Women in Black we found small cracks (cooperative organizations who cooked meals) or we tried to handle some goods to the people directly in the parks or on the border. To be continued in finding strategies within nonstop policy manipulations.

Everyday work continues: RWF's Facebook, assistance to others' communication and our contribution to various e-mail local and regional lists serve not only for sake of our work, but to promote/inform/discuss issues and activities of numerous groups and collectives, connecting people beyond our boundaries. And we run nonstop communication around Critical Issues, Focus on Focus, (Inter)(locutrices, Sisters and Suppers events, visits, interviews...

In November, **10th Anniversary of Foundations for Peace Network** took part in Brussels, after intensive preparations along the year. RWF was wholeheartedly committed to it. RWF's inputs are available in all three pieces (*Reflections of FFP network members*, *Policy contribution* and *Conference report*) on FFP new website <http://foundationsforpeace.com/10-years/>.



Briefly, the main problem and the most tragic result of the disintegration of former Yugoslavia is the dominant, manipulative operation of purposefully provoking, constructing, and „producing“ nationalisms and chauvinisms – mythological, narcissistic, non-reflexive, aggressive, hateful towards other nations, as the main and only guilty part for its sufferings and „historical losses“.