



European Roma Institute for
Arts and Culture

NARRATIVE REPORT 2017



European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V.

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

The Alliance for the
European Roma Institute
for Arts and Culture



Federal Foreign Office

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Introduction to the report

ERIAC has a unique and single mandate as the first transnational, European-level organization for the recognition of Roma arts and culture. It exists to increase the self-esteem of Roma and to decrease negative prejudice of the majority population towards the Roma by means of arts, culture, history, and media.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V. (ERIAC) is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations, and the Roma Leaders' initiative – the Alliance for the European Roma Institute. ERIAC is an association registered under German law on June 7, 2017 in Berlin, Germany.

ERIAC acts as an international creative hub to support the exchange of creative ideas across borders, cultural domains and Romani identities. ERIAC aims to be the promoter of Romani contributions to European culture and talent, success and achievement, as well as to document the historical experience of Romani people in Europe. ERIAC exists to be a communicator and public educator, to disseminate a positive image and knowledge about Romani people for dialogue and building mutual respect and understanding.

The main long-term aims of ERIAC are to educate and inform the non-Roma population about Roma arts and culture in order to foster understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma communities; to raise awareness among European institutions, policy-makers and stakeholders about the role of Roma arts and culture; and to build-up broad partnerships across Europe (and beyond) for support of Roma arts, culture and communities.

After the first World Romani Congress in 1971, Roma visual artists started to claim recognition as a group. This collective consciousness of the European Roma community was essential in disrupting the exclusive operation of the cultural scene and criticizing the age-old practice in which Roma people were the victims of representations created exclusively by non-Roma.

As part of the struggle for self-definition and self-determination, the idea of the European Roma Institute has been proposed by Romani intellectuals for decades and was taken up again by a group of Romani cultural producers, intellectuals and activists in 2014 who eventually formed the Alliance for European Roma Institute, as the driving force behind the advocacy efforts to build a Roma Institute. The Council of Europe and the Open Society Foundations expressed their interest to provide institutional, material and financial support to make the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture a reality.

ERIAC's vision is grounded in six founding principles, which define the Institute's establishment, core functions, governance, structure and membership:

- Respect of the dignity of Romani people and Romani identity
- Diversity and plurality of Romani identities and cultures
- Romani leadership with the support and co-operation of non-Roma
- Engagement and contribution of Romani organizations and individuals in the establishment and ongoing activities of the Institute
- Political autonomy and non-partisanship, openness for collaboration with public authorities and political institutions as partners
- Highest quality standards in the domains of arts and culture, as well in as its own operational performance.

Institutional achievements

Summary of 2017 activities and operations in compliance with statutory aims

Governance

- The core staff of ERIAC is composed of deputy director, executive assistant and administrative assistant with competent individuals.
- In 2017, the call for deputy director and executive assistance/ office manager was published and disseminated. Following a selection process and a round of interviews, the deputy director and office manager were hired.
- Started setting up practices of engagement between the Board (Pakiv), the executive director, the ERIAC management team.

Leadership and Management

- Elaborated and introduced Rules of Procedures that regulate decision making and internal operations.
- Designed human resources policies and a performance assessment system.
- Developed new capacities and bring new approaches and innovative ideas by introducing fellowship, internship, and volunteer programs.

Strategy

- Submitted successfully the OSF Grant application: began contemplating comprehensive strategy for the period 2017–2022 in the frame of the OSF Startup Grant Application, assuming the later active involvement of the Board and the membership through the Barvalipe Academy and the following key aspects in the further development of the strategy.
- Submitted successfully the grant application to the Federal Foreign Office – in mind of a comprehensive strategy of ERIAC's international outreach.

Financial health

- Opened the Bank account (in 6 months) - designed an appropriate financial management system with the support of the C.O.X. Accounting and Consulting Firm.
- Designed a preliminary fundraising strategy for the review of the Board, to discuss strategic engagement with potential donors and project partners.

Institutional, logistical

- Identified and rented office space (180 sqm)
- Identified, selected and contracted service providers: financial consultant-accounting, electricity provider, cleaning service, insurance company, graphic artist and printer, installation personnel, catering service, phone services, technical maintenance.

Presence in the public sphere

- Designed a preliminary communication strategy.
- Launched the website presenting the identity and activities of ERIAC. The website provides the platform for the online work of its thematic sections.
- Set up ERIAC Facebook account, as a vehicle for increasing ERIAC's presence in the social media.
- Began to build a system of support and cooperation with Berlin-based Roma organizations and arts and culture institutions.
- Through the International Outreach Program, ERIAC began working relationships and coordinated activities with key institutions of Roma leadership on the local, national, and international levels, including with relevant public institutions.

Governing organs, institutional structures, associate membership and organizational procedures

Proposal for Associate Membership formation procedure

Background information:

ERIAC is envisaged as a membership-based organization, bringing together Roma and non-Roma individuals and organizations, with relevant and demonstrated competencies and experience in the field of arts and culture and who are committed to ERIAC's founding values.

According to the statutes (§12.5), Associate Members have key roles in building the resources of ERIAC's, engaging in creative exchange and co-production, taking ownership of ERIAC's initiatives and engaging in its decision-making. Associate Members are invited to suggest cultural and artistic activities, partnerships and media contacts. To the extent possible, members will be involved in ERIAC's programme of activities.

The members of ERIAC (referred to in the statutes as "associate members") need to apply for membership every year (Statute §12.3).

This proposal for associate membership formation procedure is based on the Statute document as well as the draft of the Membership Charter (*CoE version from May 2016*).

However, the Pakiv Board during the first Board Meeting will need to harmonize the "Membership Charter" (CoE version from May 2016) with the ERIAC's statutes, bearing in mind that the Statute is the document which is the final binding legal document.

Who can be a member?

Associate Membership of the foundation is open to Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural managers, interested individuals, civil society organisations, public institutions and private sector companies wishing to support the foundation and sharing its aims and values. State institutions are not allowed to become members („Membership charter" art. 4).

Three main criteria will be taken into account in the process of selection for ERIAC's Associate Membership:

- Merit (by CV)
- Contribution
- Pledge to respect of ERIAC's founding principles and values

Membership Rights:

Associate members have full access to ERIAC's information and knowledge resources, collections, archives and database. All associate members have the right to vote during the General Assemblies to nominate members to the Barvalipe Academy through their thematic sections. ("Membership charter" art.15,16,17,18; Statute §12.5)

The General Assemblies shall be convened by the Board once a year and are to be held in presence or via online meetings (§13).

The Contribution principle – financial and in-kind contributions for 2018:

Based on the Alliance draft of the “Membership charter”, in accordance with ERIAC’s founding principles, the associate membership is based on contribution in terms of financial, intellectual, material and creative resources, in order to strengthen ERIAC’s impact. The annual membership fee is regulated through internal rules which have to be approved by the Board during the first Board Meeting.

The contribution should be nominal. The suggest fee for associate membership in 2018 is:

- For organizations: 500 euro
- For individuals: 100 euro

The fee should be paid via a bank transfer to ERIAC bank account.

It is proposed that in-kind contributions, related to Roma arts and culture or the operation of the ERIAC organization, can also be accepted in substitution of the financial membership fees. The accepted in-kind contributions include:

- Donation of artwork
- Donation of any other materials such as publications that can contribute to building ERIAC’s resources
- Men-hours (a fixed number of hours of voluntary work for ERIAC)

Limited number of sponsored memberships should be established, for organizations and individuals. The number of sponsored membership and criteria shall be established by the Board.

Thematic sections:

According to Statute (§12.6), ERIAC’s associate members are organized in four thematic sections, to which members should commit. According to “Membership Charter” these sections are (art.10):

- Arts and Culture
- History and Commemoration
- Knowledge production and Publication
- Media and Communication

Members can subscribe to more than one section (“Membership charter” art.9).

Proposed Associate Membership Application Procedure:

According to Statutes (§12.4) and the “Membership charter” (art. 6), associate membership can be obtained by filling an online application form; separate application forms are available for organizations/ institutions and individuals (Annex 1).

According to the Statutes (§12.4) “Membership becomes effective after confirmation by the Board, taking into account recommendation by Executive Director. In case of doubt if the conditions for the membership are fulfilled, the Executive Director shall request an opinion by the Academy.” In order to make this process easy and automatized, a specialized online membership platform will be designed.

The following procedure is proposed:

The first round of associate membership will be launched through an open call published online.

Every associate member needs to fill an online form, which includes a short biography, commitment to ERIAC's values and motivation to join.

The Online Form will automatically create a profile of the person, including the relevant information. The profile will have to be reviewed and approved consecutively by 1) Executive management; 2) Pakiv Board. The review and approval will be done by ticking off a box.

Once all boxes are approved, the candidate automatically received a confirmation of the membership acceptance. In order to avoid excessive workload, the Board will be invited to provide feedback to the application process on periodic basis.

After this initial first in-take of associate members, 8 Barvalipe Academy delegates will have to be elected (2 for each section) to complete the Barvalipe Academy (see Barvalipe formation procedure).

Proposal for Barvalipe Academy formation procedure

Background Information

- Role:

According to §9 of the Statutes, "the Barvalipe Academy is the agenda-setting and strategic body of the Institute which has an advisory and inspirational role, in order to fulfil ERIAC's objectives". The Barvalipe Academy supervises the application of the Membership Charter and takes decisions when necessary.

The tasks of Barvalipe Academy include:

- Proposals of the draft annual programme of activities
- Recommendations for the use of ERIAC's budget
- Proposals for public statements in the field of its activities
- Proposal and monitoring of guidelines for the role and involvement of ERIAC's members
- Proposals and oversight of ERIAC's communications and presence in the media, social media, in print and online
- Dialogue with the members of ERIAC, through their thematic sections
- Assistance in fundraising activities"

Barvalipe Academy members meet at least twice a year, upon the invitation by the Chair (§9.3). They take decisions by simple majority (§9.3).

- Composition:

Barvalipe is composed of 15 members – highly regarded, publicly acknowledged individuals, with competencies in the areas covered by ERIAC activities (§8).

Members of the "Academy" shall be natural persons with exceptional experience in the fields of activity of ERIAC and in good public standing. The "Academy" should in principle be composed in such a way that persons of Roma origin have a majority, with due regard to gender, generational and regional balance (§8.3). Working in the Barvalipe Academy is voluntary and shall not be remunerated; nonetheless, members of Barvalipe Academy have the right to be reimbursed adequately for costs incurred (§4.4).

The Barvalipe members are nominated and/or elected for the term of three years. Re-appointment is possible once (§8.2).

Proposed Procedure for Formation of Barvalipe Academy:

The first 7 members of Barvalipe Academy will be nominated by ERIAC's Board "Pakiv" (Statute §8.2), following the first Board Meeting.

To make an informed decision, and gain time for the collection of names proposed by all parties, we suggest a separate online discussion for the final selection. The ERIAC management will contribute to the Board discussion with a list of nominees and their biographies following the Board meeting.

The ERIAC list of nominees will be available on February 2nd, 2018. The Executive Management proposes to set the date for the final selection of First 7 Barvalipe members at the Board Meeting.

The remaining 8 members of the Barvalipe Academy will be elected by the associate members through the thematic sections once the first round of associate membership is completed (during the first round, 4 months). Each section will delegate two representatives to Barvalipe through internal elections held online, based on an automatized online voting system. The following procedure is proposed by the Executive Management:

- July 1, 2018, internal elections in each sections are announced and call for candidates is open
- Candidates send in their candidate statements and circulate them among the associate members of their corresponding thematic section
- July 15, 2018, Associate Members in each section vote for their preferable representative in their corresponding thematic section. Each associate member can cast 1 vote
- The voting is done through an online automatized voting system, and the votes are anonymous
- The two candidates receiving the highest and second-highest number of votes in each section are elected to the Barvalipe Academy. They are announced by the end of July 2018
- Beginning of September 2018: Meeting of the full Barvalipe Academy members

The proposed calendar will need to be verified and adjusted, following the instructions of the Pakiv Board.

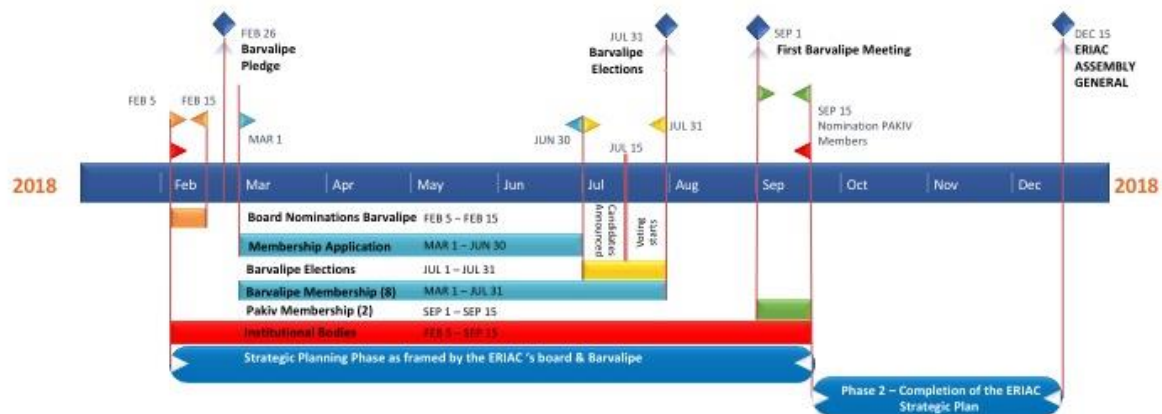
Once Barvalipe Academy formation is completed and all 15 members have been appointed, the members of the Academy should elect one Chair and one Deputy-Chair amongst them (§8.5).

Nomination of two members of the Barvalipe Academy to the „Pakiv“ Board

Two members of Barvalipe Academy, elected internally during the first meeting of the Academy, are delegated to the "Pakiv" Board and become a bridge which connects the ERIAC's associate membership with the Board (§8.2; §8.3).

According to the statutes, no member of the Barvalipe Academy can be a member of the "Pakiv" Board. If a member of Barvalipe is elected as a Board member, he must resign from his role in Barvalipe. The two vacant positions must be filled to complete the 15 members of the Barvalipe Academy. The Academy Member appointed to the Board, nominates a substitute from his thematic section for the remainder of the term (§8.4).

Tentative 2018 Institution-Building Calendar proposed by the Executive Management:



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AND CULTURE

Strategic planning

Proposal for the ERIAC strategic planning

The ERIAC Strategic Plan sets short (3 years) and long term goals (5 years) and defines the steps necessary to achieve them.

Proposed timeline of the planning process:

The Strategic Plan writing time period shall be March 1, 2018 – October 31, 2018, in two phases:

- Phase I: Shall begin when the first 7 Barvalipe Members are appointed, to ensure that there is a possibility for the bottom-up formation of the strategic directions.
- Phase II (September - October 2018): After the Barvalipe Academy formation procedure is complete, and taking into consideration the special focus on the programme of activities of each Barvalipe Section.

This is important as the Barvalipe Academy shall make “Proposals of the draft annual programme of activities, recommendations for the use of ERIAC’s budget, proposals for public statements in the field of its activities, proposal and monitoring of guidelines for the role and involvement of ERIAC’s members, proposals and oversight of ERIAC’s communications and presence in the media, social media, in print and online, dialogue with the members of ERIAC, through their thematic sections, and shall assist in fundraising” (Statute, § 9).

Term of the Strategic Plan: 2018-2023. The three to five years is long enough, for the new ERIAC initiatives to take off and show results. Readjustment of the ERIAC objectives shall also be possible after the third year of measuring accomplishments.

Proposed elements of the ERIAC strategy:

- Main assumptions and hypotheses based on the analysis of wider and more immediate contextual factors and actors and the interplay between them, determining the strategic position of ERIAC
- Main ambition for five years, including clear location, nature, and agency for change in targeting proposed discourses in arts and culture, history, academia and the media, including corresponding change objectives
- Synergies in terms of geographic focus across different countries, regions, or localities, demographic priorities across diverse groups, key constituents and stakeholders or external partners with corresponding leverage strategies to increase strategic alignment
- Operational plans in terms of strategy, leadership, and funding aspects of the organization
- Impact assessment framework and corresponding tools for assessment vis-à-vis ERIAC’s main ambition, change objectives, and internal practices for reflection on progress

Financial planning:

- Design an appropriate financial management system for 2018-2023
- Design a fundraising strategy, including strategic engagement with potential donors and project partners.
- Strategy to increase the organizational budget by 50% while decreasing the funders’ contribution to 65% over the grant period.

The bodies involved in strategy writing:

- Pakiv Board (as the guardians of the ERIAC founding principles)
- The Barvalipe Academy – through the associate membership thematic sections, feeding their yearly program plans, action plans into the Barvalipe Academy.
- ERIAC Management.

The actual strategy writing team shall be lean (max. 10 persons), coordinating the writing process and harmonising ideas, plans, and measures into the final textual format.

The Grant Applications submitted by ERIAC management in 2017 already requested strategy related analysis and planning. These applications (Federal Foreign Office of the German Government, Open Society Foundations) should be introduced to the strategy writing team.

Interim strategy and action plan

Governance

- Establish a governance structure by setting up and providing support for the operations of the different bodies of ERIAC; prepare First Board meetings, the Barvalipe Academy's Meetings, and the first General Assembly meeting

Leadership and Management

- Continue to elaborate and introduce Standard Operating Procedures that regulate decision making and internal operations.
- Designing and introducing fellowship, internship, and volunteer programs.

Presence in the public sphere

- Design a communication strategy for ERIAC.
- Develop the website presenting the identity and activities of ERIAC, and providing the platform for the online work of its thematic sections.
- Build a system of support and cooperation with Berlin-based Roma organizations and arts and culture institutions.
- Establish working relationships and coordinate activities with key institutions of Roma leadership on the local, national, and international levels, including with relevant public institutions.

Financial Health

- Final Report FFO Grant by March 20, 2018
- Interim Report OSF First Grant instalment by April 3, 2018
- Lobby for the renewal of the CoE contribution

International cooperation with the Founders, Roma Community and engaging European Member States

Events

ERIAC Launching event

Date: June 8th, 2017

Location: European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, Berlin

On the June 8th, 2017, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture was launched in Berlin during the opening ceremony for the Institute's opening art exhibit, staged in the Lichthof courtyard of the German Federal Foreign Office.

The grand opening was attended by Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the Foreign Ministry of the Federal Republic of Germany; George Soros, chair of the Open Society Foundations; Zeljko Jovanović, chair of the board of ERIAC; Timea Junghaus, ERIAC spokesperson; Sead Kazanxhiu, Romani activist and painter; Dijana Pavlović, chair of the Alliance for ERIAC; and Romani Rose, chair of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. The ceremony was broadcast live on the Facebook.



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It was launched with the opening of an art exhibit featuring Roma contemporary artists from seven countries — reflecting the new institute's focus on creating a space for under-represented Roma artists, performers and thinkers in the mainstream of European art and culture.

The institute was born out of an effort by a broad coalition of Roma scholars, activists, and artists who first created the Alliance for the European Roma Institute to lobby for the idea. The Alliance became the driving force in making the Institute a reality, winning support from the Council of Europe, which represents 47 European states, and the Open Society Foundations of philanthropist George Soros, an energetic advocate for Roma causes.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture will formally open its central Berlin premises in the fall. After the opening, the Institute will launch a Europe-wide call for membership and organize its first artistic and cultural events.

“Transgressing the Past, Shaping the Future”

The ERIAC exhibition provides space for Roma artists and creative thinkers to present artworks, images, objects and ideas that unveil Roma history and contemporary reality as a form of constant adaptation, realignment and re-invention. Roma artists and authors, through their genuine diversity, can transcend boundaries and invite a universal participation.

In the past four decades, Roma contemporary art has been one of the most effective means for communicating clearly and deeply from within the Roma subjectivity. The Roma movement now moves forward – building on its history – to celebrate the future of Roma self-determination. The exhibition presents an array of pedestals, on which art pieces, historical objects and personal memorabilia, together with the new media works, form a comprehensive narrative: unfolding the story of Roma contribution to Europe's history and culture while confessing about the aspects of the personal, the community and the collective experience.

Contemporary art: Daniel Baker, Julia Baki, Tibor Balogh, Gabi Jimenez, Sead Kazanxhiu, Damian Le Bas, Delaine Le Bas, Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, Tamara Moyzes, Csaba Nemes, Emilia Rigova, Alexander Schikowski, Marcin Tas, Alfred Ullrich, Erika Varga.

Music: Ferenc Snétberger with students of the Snétberger Music Talent Center: Áron Beri, Elemér Fehér.

Performance: Mihaela Drăgan and Kristóf Horváth (Giuvlipen Feminist Theatre)

Early Career Researchers Workshop: Interdependencies between Memory Culture and Human Rights in the Context of Romani Communities

Date: November 10th – 11th, 2017

Location: Graz University, RESOWI Centre

ERIAC contributed to the workshop and conference entitled “Interdependencies between Memory Culture and Human Rights in the Context of Romani Communities” organized by the University of Graz. The conference focused on the representation of Roma people in social discourse, changes in the perception of Roma communities, historical rhetoric and human rights.

“How should we, the victims,
continue breathing
when part of today’s
youth longs to
scream ‘Heil!’ again?”

(Ceija Stojka, Interview in Der Standard, June 6th, 2008)

The justification and implementation of human rights often reverts to past atrocities and crimes against humanity. Particularly in the context of marginalized groups, such as Romani communities all over Europe, human rights in the present and past are often intertwined in a complex relationship. Thus, it is often emphasized that “a sense of history is necessary in order to restore dignity and to empower the victims of massive human rights violations into actors for the struggle of securing human rights and dignity for everyone.”

The conference “Interdependencies between Memory Culture and Human Rights in the Context of Romani Communities” gathered expertise on the multifold connections between human rights and memory culture in relation to Romani communities. A thorough investigation of the conference topic demands a multidisciplinary approach to cover the plethora of contexts in which the marginalization of Romani communities throughout Europe can be related to the relevance (or lack thereof) of historical narratives of Romani suffering. Therefore, the conference’s goal is to discuss how memory culture regarding the persecution of Romani people under National Socialism presently connects to human rights awareness and implementation.

The underlying research project located at the University of Graz combines the explanatory power of history and human rights law to examine the immense shift in experience of Central European Romani communities vis à vis their history and social positions. Changing circumstances for marginalized groups in public life and education systems and the implementation of the corresponding human rights are of specific interest for the legal analysis. The increasing awareness about human rights violations towards contemporary Romani communities has a direct relation to the mainstreaming of Romani suffering as a core element of European history, according to the project's preliminary findings. As argued in the project, these processes result in an increasingly abstract and less-specific culture of memory that remains outspoken about historical perpetration but non-committal towards present social injustice. In these contexts, Romani victims of the past are remembered, but contemporary Romani communities are more often excluded than given a voice.

Whilst the above-mentioned research project has a cultural studies and legal focus, it also included elements of historical and social studies, critical racism and gender/queer studies or other disciplines as well and created an environment for wide-ranged, yet topic-focused discussions able to enrich all participants' research by exploring new angles on the issues at hand.



Roma Art Label Exhibition

Date: November 15th, 2017

Place: Bucharest

Opening celebration supported by Goethe Institut and Democratic Federation of Roma.

ERIAC contributes to the Opening of the Roma Art Label Exhibition Opening.

Romanian Artists artists George M. Vasilescu, Mihaela Cimpeanu, Eugen Raportoru, Denis Nanciu, Eugen Raportoru contemplate the notion of Roma art.

Roma Body Politics is an extensive and intercultural (Roma – non-Roma) exhibition series and educational program aimed at exploring, documenting and making visible the Roma body politics in present-day Europe. The project, which was realized with the help of Roma artists and intellectuals, focuses on the depiction, representation and participation of Roma – and especially Roma women – in the media, art and public life. The exhibition No Innocent Picture is the first event of the program series.

The exhibition presents how the social assignment of Roma Bodies to an underclass is a historical construct that has multiple origins, rooted in the institutions of both slavery and mass media. It theorizes how race is enacted in the moment of the gaze, and how this spectatorial surveillance complicates social relations because of how it is historically and inextricably woven into the European collective consciousness and the European cultural ethos via popular media.



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Roma scholars, diplomats, public figures and intellectuals posed as models for Déri Miklós's psychoanalytical photographic portraits. Moreover, each of them undertook to embody a well-known Roma stereotype, assisted by Kriszta Szakos stylist and Zita Kozári makeup artist. Thus, they took on the roles of the "Gypsy girl", the "ghetto dweller", the "gangster", the "Gypsy musician", the "Gypsy Madonna", the "King of the Gypsies", the "fortune-teller", the "voivode", etc.

The participants are Rodrigó Balogh, founder and art director of the Independent Theater Hungary, Katalin Bársony, executive director of Romédia Foundation, Mária Bogdán, media researcher, researcher at the Institute for Ethnic and National Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Ágnes Daróczi, researcher of ethnic minorities, civil rights activist, Clara Farkas, producer, Hungarian National Film Fund, Dr. Rita Izsák, special rapporteur on minority issues, United Nations, Tímea Junghaus, art historian, researcher at the Institute for Art History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Zeljko Jovanovic, program director, Open Society Foundations, Roma Initiatives Office, Bettina Kállai, music producer, Iulius Rostas, sociologist, PhD, visiting lecturer at Corvinus University, Marius Tabă, monitoring and evaluation officer, Roma Education Fund.

It is important to engage the historicity of the Roma body and the different encryptions of the Roma body for what they reveal about existing racially xenophobic tendencies that are re-distributed and recycled in mass-mediated cultural practices. For this research, we chose the vehicle of critical, historical analyses through photography, which recounts the genesis of the phenomenon, while mapping contemporary parallels, and grappling with age-old questions like: What do we see and how are Roma bodies led to be seen? Which social, political and cultural practices deconstruct the body image of Roma people?

The mission of the exhibition is the liberation of the Roma body – and therefore the liberation of Roma people. Roma bodies are not described here as a way to objectify, re-shape or disfigure Roma. Instead, the Roma body is the vehicle in this initiative for finding specific practices to "re/configurate diasporic gazes into subjects and to invite ourselves to be viewers; to uncover the colonial discourse inscribed in us and to depict it in exhibitions so that it is quasi disenchanted, to unmask the Western master-discourse as a historical legend".

Symposium “Collecting, Curating and Presenting Roma”

Date: November 30th, 2017

Place: Goethe Institute, Bratislava

ERIAC conceptualized and contributed to the symposium “Collecting, Curating and Presenting Roma”.

What is the current topography of Roma collections in Europe, and how do Slovak cultural initiatives and artists’ strategies contribute to it? Which institutions preserve and present Roma cultural heritage? What is an ethical and effective strategy for collecting Roma-related information, objects, and cultural artefacts? How can Roma archives be compiled and curated accurately and constructively? How can Roma artefacts, and history be presented without the romanticized elements of outdated ethnographic museum exhibitions?



© ERIAC

These questions are at the core of the symposium entitled “Collecting, Curating and Presenting Roma”. Representatives of diverse institutions, as well as researchers, art critics, Roma intellectuals and artists — together with the audience will examine the questions mentioned above and their relevance in current mainstream Slovak discourse. The invited experts have extensive experience in methods for working sensitively and productively with Roma cultural memory and knowledge production by Roma, and in dealing with the challenges connected to digitalization in museums, collections and archives.

The symposium was a collaborative event of the Goethe Institute Bratislava, tranzit.sk, RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma, and Spolka. The supporter of symposium is RomArchive’s Visual Art Section.

Conference “Decolonizing North”

Date: December 7-8th, 2017

Location: Royal Institute of Art and Konsthall C, Stockholm

ERIAC contributes to the Decolonizing North International Conference.

The north is not only a geographical expression; it indicates often a power relation based on presumption of superiority. Despite violent border regimes and colonial processes on indigenous populations, northern European countries have scarcely dealt with their self-image of colonial powers. Is decolonization today a possible political project of liberation against this historical prejudice? What is at stake and how should we position ourselves within an imperative process of decolonization in relation to land and knowledge? In particular, how to de-align from the reproduction of oppressive structures and look instead to new alliances between native and migrants' populations, and towards solidarity practices within art, discourse and immediate locality.



© Camilla Aviaja Olsen & Cecilie Ullerup Schmidt

Addressing a range of topics in relation to contemporary colonial forms, inner-nordic colonialization of Sámi and Inuit, reflections on decolonizing terminologies, white supremacy the conference will be focusing on questions of decoloniality and its meaning for the particularities of North Europe today.

Decolonizing North is initiated by Konsthall C in collaboration with CEMFOR, Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Racism, Uppsala University and the Decolonizing Architecture advance course at Royal Institute of Art in Stockholm.

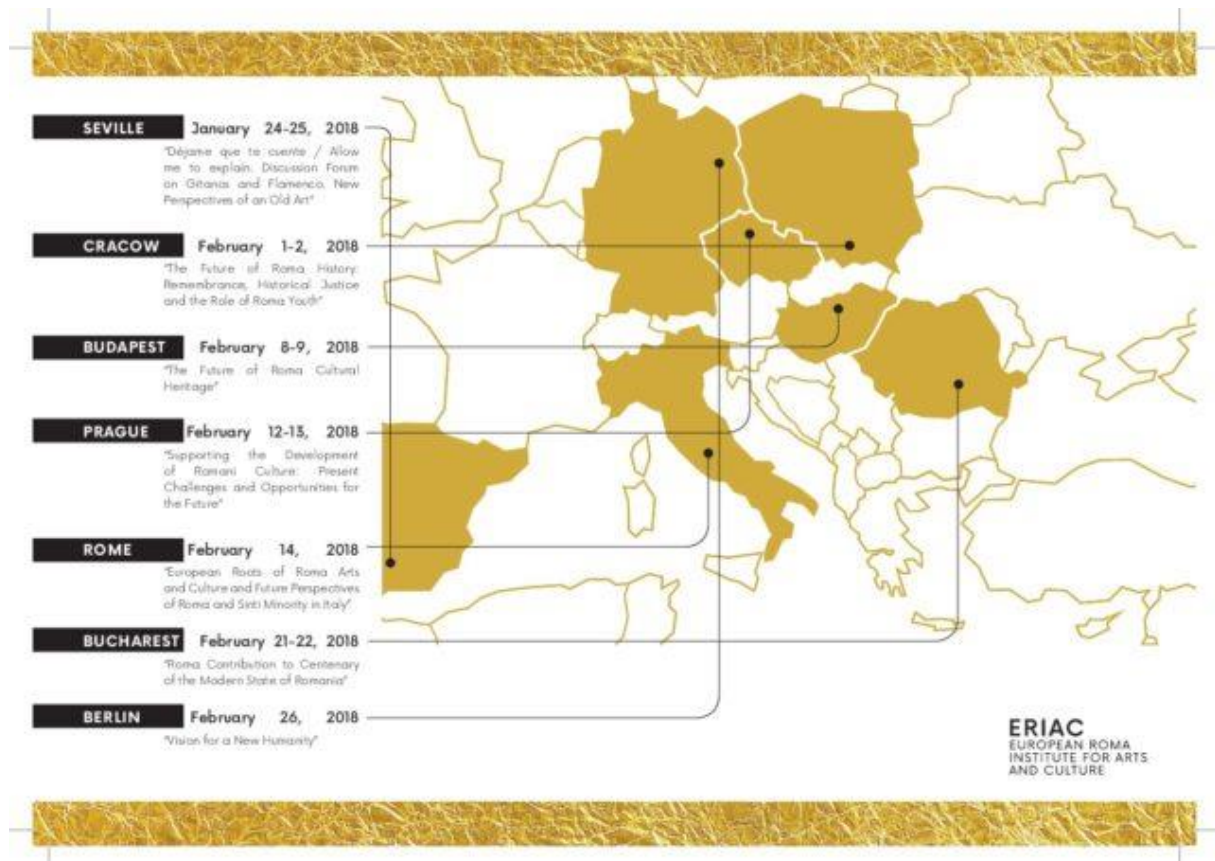
Invited speakers: Lesley-Ann Brown, Gurinder K. Bhambra, Gunilla Larsson, Encarnacion Gutierrez-Rodriguez, Tone Olaf Nielsen.

Respondents: Ylva Habel, Patricia Lorenzoni, Timea Junghaus and Stefan Helgesson

Artists: Anawana Haloba, Katarina Pirak Sikku, Minna L. Henriksson, Santiago Mostyn, Camilla Aviaja Olsen & Cecilie Ullerup Schmidt, Saskia Holmkvist and Ellen Nyman.

ERIAC International Cultural Outreach Program

ERIAC initiated its international activities with the “ERIAC’s International Cultural Outreach Program” on December 1st, 2017 with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. The six country program series will need to be carried out by February 28, 2018. ERIAC is represented in Budapest, Bucharest and Rome by Executive Director Timea Junghaus, in Seville, Cracow and Prague by Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director, and the local ERIAC Country coordinators of the events.



The aim of the International Outreach Program is to introduce ERIAC to diverse audiences in places outside of ERIAC’s headquarters in Berlin and to ensure a bottom-up formation of the strategic directions of the organization based on Roma leadership. The outreach program serves to build up enthusiasm and mobilize support for ERIAC among Roma and non-Roma individuals, public and private institutions, mainstream cultural and artistic institutional partners, as well as potential donors. Through the outreach program, ERIAC will mobilize its future membership by sharing and promoting ERIAC’s empowering vision, focusing on arts and culture.

The following events were conceptualized in 2017:

ERIAN
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

ERIAN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Seville

January 24-25, 2018

“Déjame que te cuente / Allow me to explain. Discussion Forum
on Gitanos and Flamenco. New Perspectives of an Old Art”

Cracow

February 1-2, 2018

“The Future of Roma History: Remembrance,
Historical Justice and the Role of Roma Youth”

Budapest

February 8-9, 2018

“The Future of Roma Cultural Heritage”

Prague

February 12-13, 2018

“Supporting the Development of Romani Culture:
Present Challenges and Opportunities for the Future”

Rome

February 14, 2018

“European Roots of Roma Arts and Culture and Future Perspectives of
Roma and Sinti Minority in Italy”

Bucharest

February 21-22, 2018

“Roma Contribution to Centenary of the Modern State of Romania”

Berlin

February 26, 2018

“Connecting Peripheries for De-colonizing Europe.
Common Vision for a New Humanity”

Financial Report

Narrative

ERIAC opened the bank account in 2017 and received:

- OSF transferred first instalment - 99.993,66 euros - of the OSF Grant so that ERIAC could make November and December Lease contract payments.
- The Council of Europe transferred 400. 000 euros.
- The German Federal Foreign Office Grant 180.000 euros

ERIAC began operation with a total of: **679.993,66** euros.

ERIAC has no cash payments or cash office. All payments (transfers and card payments) are tracked through the bank account statements.

The 2017 Total Yearend (December 31, 2017) balance was **639.374,01** euros:

The 40.619,65 euros in 2017 were spent on the following major expenditures:

- Office Lease Security Payment: 13.389,74 Euros (CoE)
- Office Lease, 4456.58 Euros /month (CoE)
- Salaries, consultancy fees: 3500 /month (CoE)
- Employee benefit: housing, relocation 1500 Euros/month (CoE)
- Branding, graphic design, printing, reception, lightbox
- Furniture
- Installation, space renovation, maintenance
- Outreach project

The bank account statements and book-keeping charts are available upon your request.