

ERAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

ROMA
TANGIBLE
HERITAGE
NETWORK
NARRATIVE REPORT

August 1st – December 31st, 2019



Federal Foreign Office

Report on Expenditures of Funds

(Grant Code: FKZ AA05180016)

Allocation

From the German Federal Foreign Office

Grant Receiver

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
Reinhardtstr 41-43
10117 Berlin

Type of Grant

Project Support

Sum of Grant

200.000

Type of Financing

Advanced funding

Purpose of Allocation

Implementation of the ERIAC Roma Tangible Heritage Network
(THN) project

Project Period

August 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

Related documentation

ERIAC Roma Tangible Heritage Network
Financial Report

ERIAC's Roma Tangible Heritage Network

BERLIN,
Germany

August 2 - November 14, 2019
(RE)CONCEPTUALISING ROMA RESISTANCE

VENICE,
Italy

October 1 - November 24, 2019
FUTUROMA ROMA EXHIBITION - EVENT SERIES

BERLIN,
Germany

November 15, 2019
KATITZI

STOCKHOLM,
Sweden

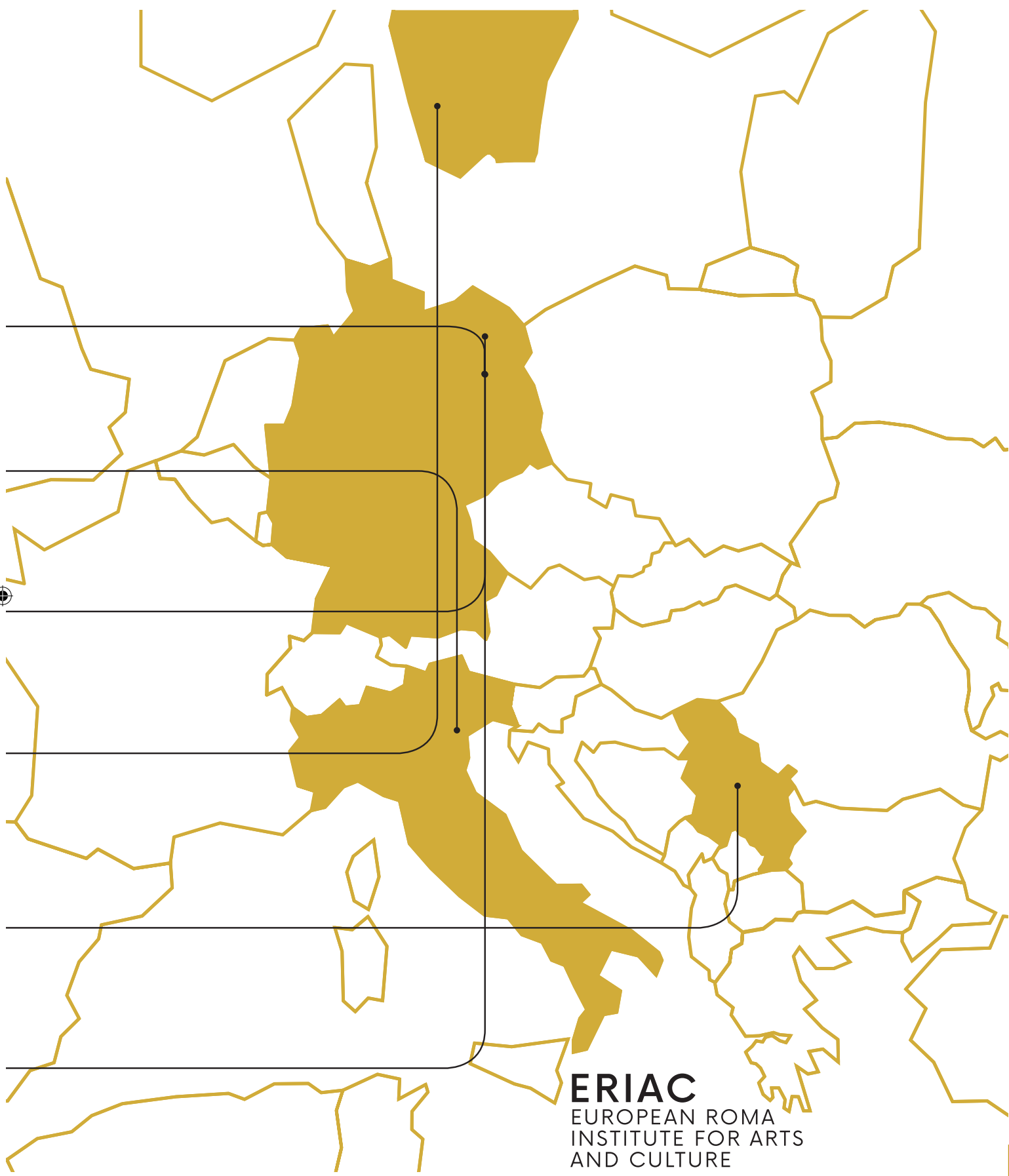
November 28, 2019
ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE
NETWORK SYMPOSIUM

BELGRADE,
Serbia

December 4, 2019
RETHINKING THE FUTURE
OF ROMA HERITAGE IN SERBIA

BERLIN,
Germany

December 9, 2019
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ERIAC MEMBERS and
TAJSA PRIZE CEREMONY feat. DORANTES
MUSIC CONCERT



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FINAL REPORT

The ERIAC ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE NETWORK was the third international event series of ERIAC financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German Government.



ERIAC created a series of international events where it shared its future vision and invited Roma contribution from experts, conferences, partner organizations, and collaborators. ERIAC started to engage in the partner countries in 2017 through the first International Cultural Outreach Program supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. This initiative was aimed to formalize the support and alliances ERIAC has built over the past two years. In the second international program: The Cultural Institutions Network Initiative further grew the ERIAC network primarily in Central- and Southeast Europe. During this initiative ERIAC established a connection with the Serbian government and the cultural /non-profit sphere.

The aim of the present ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE NETWORK PROJECT was to organize the exchange through six large-scale, regional meetings inviting an international, primarily Roma and expert audiences in order to build a network for institutions, organizations and collectors who create the map of Roma tangible heritage in Europe. The focus on tangible heritage of the Roma past has shed light on institutional cultural histories identifying the artefacts and the archival- and conservation strategies connected to Roma arts and culture. It enlightened all participants about the immense need to collect storages and artefacts in Europe.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The Roma Tangible Heritage Network (RTHN) organized six far-reaching, high-visibility events, which focused on the broadly understood Roma cultural heritage. The THN PROJECT emphasized the immense field of the cultural heritage of the largest European Ethnic minority, the 10-12 million Roma people. This ERIAC project raised awareness about the Roma communities' significant contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge among majority societies, mainstream cultural institutions and European Governments.

Thanks to RTHN, the third governmental program after OUTREACH and Cultural Institutions Network Initiative (CINI) funded by the Federal Foreign Office, ERIAC not only reinforced already familiarised territories but also stretched its field of presence into a new country, going this time North, to Sweden. Precisely, THN attained the following achievements:









- Substantial contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge through its network of cultural experts creating grounds for collaboration among different types of stakeholders.
- The RTHN initiative marked the start of ERIAC's strategic engagement - the stepping stone to building greater synergies between the Nordic member-states and ERIAC's wider European reach.
- Gathering data from leading institutions, convincing them to be part of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network, and to agree to visualizing and promoting the situation and state of Roma artefacts and cultural history documentation specifically in the Nordic region.
- Created a dynamic dialogue between researchers and public institutions, ensuring that findings can be represented, multiplied and performed in physical spaces.
- Guaranteed sustainability and potential longer-term impact of the findings of the project.
- Mobilized high-level diplomatic contacts, mainstream arts and culture institutions, as well as Roma communities, and interested audience members.
- Mapping the policies and institutions which Roma art forms with its Roma cultural producers and tangible heritage can be properly recognised by mainstream society.
- Collected exact data about Roma storages and archives in Europe ERIAC created a survey about the condition of the items of artworks, photographs, artefacts, ethnographical objects, music and sound recordings, and documents which represent Roma cultural history.
- Assessed the access and participation of the (Roma) public in the museum spaces, archives and other institutions and need for intervention for preservation of Roma artefacts.
- Established ERIAC as the organization taking leadership on Roma tangible heritage for further cooperation with Roma and majority organizations, artists, scholars and activists in Europe.
- Facilitated the discussion among actors and finding missing links that prevented establishment of a Roma cultural heritage network.
- Inspired new alliances and actions among actors on the national and local level towards the utilization of Roma cultural heritage.
- Established a supporting mechanism in the form of patronage for networking initiatives for the recognition, value and contribution of Roma arts and culture.

RESULTS/IMPACT

The international events with contributions from the leading Roma artists, intellectuals, and those working in the European cultural field provided transnational visibility for ERIAC and showcased both Roma talent and artistic/ cultural excellence. The planned events were multifarious in genre, and always included a cultural component – public conference, working group meetings, exhibitions, media campaigns, performance, public installations, music concerts – demonstrating ERIAC founding principles. By December 2019 ERIAC built a membership of 90 associate members, including Roma and non-Roma individuals and organizations from across the world.

At the same time, each event was organized around a different aspect of broadly-understood Roma arts and culture, reflecting on the most relevant and outstanding issues in each region. The visibility, the value of Roma contribution and the growing number of ERIAC supporters, partners and future members ensure ERIAC's stability and growth. The fact that events included components open to general public enabled Roma to address the general public directly and benefit the majority societies.

THN Numbers

	Active contributors	106
	Ambassadors, international institutions, government officials	27
	Participants	1 465
	Total video views	62 970
	ERIAC website visits	20 067
	Partners, supporters, volunteers	30
	Facebook reach	164 032
	FB engaged users	16 052
	New visitors to ERIAC website (top countries: Germany, US, Italy, UK, Sweden)	83.5%

Calendar of Events

Berlin

August 2, 2019

Exhibition Opening - (Re)Conceptualizing
Roma resistance

Venice

October 4-6, 2019

Promoting the FUTUROMA Pavilion together
with the Council of Europe Venice Office
- documentary film screening of OPRE ROMA

Venice

October 30, 2019

Public Performance of Roma Jam Session
Art Kollektiv (Zürich) with community members
from Mantova, Milan, Lucca, Rome and Venice-Mestre

Berlin

November 15, 2019

Exhibition Opening – Katitzi,
a Literary Character Rooted in Reality

Stockholm

November 28, 2019

Roma Tangible Heritage Network Symposium

Belgrade

December 4, 2019

Rethinking the future of Roma Heritage in Serbia

Berlin

December 9, 2019

TAJSA of Roma Heritage

1.

EXHIBITION OPENING - (RE)CONCEPTUALIZING ROMA RESISTANCE

August 2, 2019, Berlin, Germany

Venue: ERIAC Office and Art Space
Country coordinator: Zsafia Bihari



AUGUST 2, 2019, BERLIN, GERMANY

On August 2, 2019, the ERIAC Berlin event entitled (Re)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance marked the opening of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network event series. The event aimed to commemorate International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, and honor the Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust as well as those who were supporters of Roma resistance movements across Europe. The exhibition featured eight Roma and non-Roma international artists who contemplate the memory of the Holocaust and emphasize the embodiments and narratives of Roma resistance as a central aspect of the Roma experience. The artists, Déry Miklós (HU), Tamara Moyzes (CZ), Daniel Baker (UK), Dushan Marinkovic (SR, SW), Alex Schikowski (DE, HU), Csaba Nemes (HU), Júlia Baki (HU), Kálmán Várady (DE) – contemplate the taboo of the body related to trauma of the Holocaust, they mitigate the question of the power of healing amidst continued and transmitted trauma, and nurture a new narrative of Roma agency and self determination.

As part of the evening program, the guests received a guided tour around the exhibition from Director Junghaus and from one of the exhibiting artists, Tamara Moyzes. The event provided an opportunity for the audience to informally engage with each other, with the artworks and learn more about ERIAC's knowledge production activities in relation to reclaiming narrative about Roma and Sinti Holocaust and Roma Resistance.

This event had a high significance in strengthening the visibility for the Roma Resistance as the central aspect of Roma experiences in the work of ERIAC and many Roma contemporary artists. The exhibition was open to the public until November 10, 2019, from Monday to Friday between 10 am and 5 pm.

The current ERIAC exhibition is an adaptation of the (Re)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance exhibition -first presented at the Europäisches Zentrum der Künste in 2016 in Dresden, and later extended at the Goethe Institute, Prague.



THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

9 contributors

75 participants

1 media appearance (Berlin Art Link)

2.

PROMOTING THE FUTUROMA PAVILION TOGETHER – DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING OF OPRE ROMA

October 4-6, 2019, Venice

Venue: Venice, Alla Casa del Cinema
FUTUROMA exhibition, 58th La Biennale di Venezia
Partners: Council of Europe Venice Office
Country coordinator: Zsafia Bihari



OCTOBER 4-6, 2019, VENICE

What is FUTUROMA?

FUTUROMA was an Official Collateral Event of the 58th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, a powerful project that brought together the diverse contributions of members of Roma communities within European societies throughout history and today. Curated by Daniel Baker and promoted by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V. (ERIAN), FUTUROMA gathered the works of fourteen innovative Romani contemporary artists from eight countries across Europe (Celia Baker, Jan Berky, Marcus Gunnar Pettersson, Ödön Gyögyi, Billy Kerry, Klára Lakatos, Delaine Le Bas, Valerie Leray, Emília Rigová, Markéta Šestáková, Selma Selman, Dan Turner, Alfred Ullrich, László Varga). While FUTUROMA marked the third time Romani artists are presented in the Biennale Arte, it is the first time the initiative is led by Roma themselves. The multinational, multilingual, multi-religious and transnational Roma community of over

12 million people across Europe does not fit into the narratives of the national pavilions. Romani arts have so far remained invisible to the majority audiences. FUTUROMA thus set a strong signal in striving for a permanent presence at the world's most prestigious contemporary arts event.



THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

17.932 visitors in 6 months

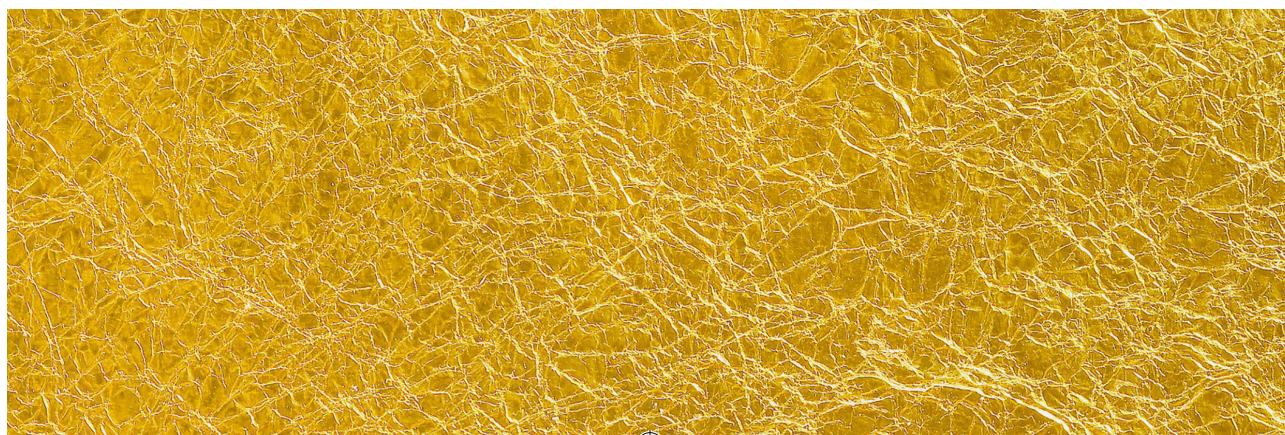
35.000 social media reach

4000 supporting statements in favour of a permanent Roma Pavilion in the book "Monument of Hope"

1500 participants in educational programming (film screening, interactive public performance, guided tours in Italian, English, French, German, Serbo-Croatian and Hungarian)

50 press mentions including articles, reviews and TV program about FUTUROMA

30 Roma artists, performers and musicians contributed to the exhibition and the connecting programming from eleven European countries





ERIAN promoted the FUTUROMA Pavilion together with the Council of Europe Venice Office at the documentary film screening OPRE ROMA and invited the audience for guided tours of the FUTUROMA exhibition of the 58th La Biennale di Venezia, engaging the viewers with the art of 14 international Romani artists from eight countries. The curatorial tours took place on October 6, 2019 in Italian. On the weekend where ERIAC promoted the exhibition in the framework of the film screening a record number of nearly 600 people visited the FUTUROMA exhibition.

FUTUROMA was open until November 24. between Tuesday and Sunday between 10:15a.m. to 5p.m. While visiting the exhibition, guests left their contribution in the Monument of Hope. The Monument of Hope, a gigantic gold book testifying for the immense need for inclusion of the Roma minority in the Biennale. The Monument of Hope consists over 4000 testimonies, statements of solidarity and requests of inclusion by artists, politicians, diplomats and public figures of Europe. A selection of the testimonies is available to view online.

THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

14 artists

3 speakers

50 people at the screening of the documentary Opre Roma!

600 participants at the exhibition FUTUROMA

Facebook reach: 30.000

3 institutional partners, supporters (CoE Venice Office, Alla Casa del Cinema, Director of the movie)

3.

PUBLIC PERFORMANCE OF ROMA JAM SESSION ART KOLLEKTIV (ZÜRICH) WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM MANTOVA, MILAN, LUCCA, ROME AND VENICE-MESTRE AT.

October 30, 2019, Venice, Italy

Venue: ERIAC's FUTUROMA exhibition

Partners: Council of Europe Venice Office, RJSaK, Kethane – Rom e Sinti per l'Italia,

Pro Helvetia – Swiss Arts Council, Stiftung Corymbo

Country coordinator: Zsolia Bihari



OCTOBER 30, 2019, VENICE, ITALY

As commissioner of the FUTUROMA exhibition, an official collateral event of the 58th La Biennale di Venezia, ERIAC presented the new work of the Roma Jam Session art Kollektiv "CHROMA - THE FUTURE IS ROMA - We Pass The Mic To Europe."

"Switzerland learns from Europe - and the other way round. We are working in this performance on the plasticity of our memories and its translation into sound and movement. Diverse narratives of the past, the present and the future of cross-border Roma History will be woven by performative acts into a carpet of a variety of stories of Europe and Switzerland. They represent the description of the Roma being now and the Roma becoming in the near Future. The performance features the voices

of Roma activists and artists, recorded narratives and sound patterns as well as live voices on stage and live instruments played by the musician. The historiography of the Roma in Switzerland and Europe is meant to be seen, heard felt and learned by the performers as well as by the public." /Roma Jam Session Art Kollektiv/

Beside the general audience, the performance hosted by ERIAC at the FUTUROMA exhibition brought together 90 Roma community members, activists and artists from different Italian cities, highlighting the importance of Roma audiences discussing and interpreting Roma contemporary art, rooted in Roma knowledge, heritage and creativity.





THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

18 contributors
 150 participants
 5 visitors, curators, people at the screening of the documentary Opre Roma!
 600 participants at the exhibition FUTUROMA
 1 media appearance of the performance
 Facebook Reach: 1900
 5 institutional partners, supporters of the performance
 9 supporters and partners of the FUTUROMA exhibition (Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, Max Kohler Stiftung, UNAR, Foundation for Arts Initiatives, The Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, Foundation Michael Schmidt Stiftung, Stiftung Kommunikationsaufbau)

4.

EXHIBITION OPENING – KATITZI, A LITERARY CHARACTER ROOTED IN REALITY

November 15, 2019, Berlin, Germany

Venue: ERIAC Art Space, Berlin
Partners: Tensta Konsthall
Country coordinator: Zsafia Bihari



NOVEMBER 15, 2019, BERLIN, GERMANY

The subject of the exhibition produced during the RTHN and still on show at ERIAC Berlin is Katarina Taikon's (1932-1995) autobiographical figure Katitzi. She is the main character of thirteen children's books, and eight comic albums originally published in Swedish between 1969 and 1982. Called "the Martin Luther King Jr. of Sweden", Taikon was a writer, actor, and activist who, together with friends and her sister, the silversmith Rosa Taikon, led the struggle to change the dire conditions for Roma people across the country. The exhibition includes first editions and translations of the Katitzi books, comic albums, and illustrations by Björn Hedlund, as well as articles, reviews, films, TV programmes, photographs, etc. The exhibition highlights and discusses a unique young female character from the world of children's and young people's literature whose Roma background is a central feature to the story. Katitzi, along with the internationally well-known

figures like Nils Holgersson and Pippi Longstocking, is one of the most significant characters of children's literature in Sweden. Hundreds of thousands of children and adults have read the books – in 1980 alone, they were borrowed 432,000 times from libraries across the country. The story, not long after its publishing, appeared as a comic book as well as a magazine; later, the TV series based on Katitzi became widely popular. It has recently been adapted for the stage as well. The book series Katitzi has not only been a fascinating read for many generations, but was also a significant example of the new type of realistic children's literature emerging in the 1960s. Managing to find her way to an acceptable existence and, in time, to self-realization, despite her pretty dreadful circumstances, the character of Katitzi provides the reader with an insight to a Swedish society impacted by ethnic and social tensions as well as to the situation of Roma living in the country.



Following the opening by Zeljko Jovanovic, chair of the ERIAC board Nina Katarina Karlsson, Cultural Attaché of Sweden to Germany, and curator Maria Lind introduced the exhibition to the public. At the end of the evening the audience took part at the literary reading by Angelica Ström, daughter of Katarina Taikon who offered personal insights into

the activism and background of her mother, and answered questions from the audience. In the framework of the exhibition, ERIAC is promoted the book 'The Day I Am Free' by Lawen Mohtadi including the new English language translation of 'Katitzi', with introduction by Maria Lind, Berlin. Sternberg Press, 2019.



THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

7 contributors

100 participants

2 ambassadors, curators, supporters (Embassy of Sweden to Germany, Tensta Konsthall)

100 participants at the exhibition FUTUROMA

Facebook Reach: 1900

5.

ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

November 28, 2019, Stockholm

Partner and venue: Tensta konsthall, Stockholm
Country coordinator: Alexander Torell



NOVEMBER 28, 2019, STOCKHOLM

On November 28, 2019, ERIAC held the large scale, international symposium on Roma tangible Heritage in the contemporary art center, Tensta konsthall, in Stockholm. The aim of the symposium was to bring together local Roma communities, NGOs, public institutions and researchers to map and discuss the future of Roma tangible heritage in Europe. To ensure that the target audience was reached, ERIAC partnered with one of Sweden's most prominent Roma organizations and only Roma literary publisher, É Romani Glinda.

Scholars, artists and experts from all around Europe took part in the symposium. The majority of the participants came from Finland, Norway and Sweden. This was due to ERIAC's explicit aim to reach out to all the major stakeholders in the Nordic member states and invite them to cooperate with ERIAC under the umbrella of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network. This way, the symposium did not only function as a tool to collect relevant data and

create strategies for the promotion Roma culture; it was also, a stepping stone to building greater synergies between the Nordic member states and ERIAC's wider European reach.

The day was opened by a panel discussion between Deputy Head of Mission of German Embassy to Sweden, Manfred Schöler, the Director of Tensta Konsthall, Cecilia Widenheim, ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus, ERIAC board members Gilda Horvath and Iulius Rostas, and former Swedish Member of the European Parliament Soraya Post. The continuation of the symposium thereafter featured an experimental and democratic workshop methodology that was utilized to ensure that each participant was able to make a meaningful contribution. Specifically, the discussion was focused on four central topics, with a specially designed workshop for each one.





Each group was made up by a mix of Roma and non-Roma artists, scholars, activists and representatives from public institutions. The results of the four discussions were synthesized into tangible outcomes that after the workshops were presented to the rest of the participants in a plenary session. All participants took part in this production, but the workshops were led by a group of facilitators that had helped to shape the format of the outcome in advance.

- Roma resistance – History and culture. Facilitated by ERIAC deputy director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Jan Selling, professor of Romani studies at Södertörn College, and Pierre Chopinaud, executive director of the French Roma organization La voix des Roms. The outcome of the discussion was a mind map in the form of the Roma Chakra wheel.
- What Europe can learn from the North. Facilitated by the art critic Christina Zetterlund, the author Fred Taikon and his daughter Maria Taikon, who together with her father run É Romani Glinda. The outcome of the discussion was a geographical map.
- RomaMoMa – The vision of a transnational Roma Museum. Facilitated by the curators Maria Lind and Hajnalka Somogyi. The outcome of the discussion was a museum protocol.

- A Roma cultural heritage manifesto. Facilitated by the Roma activist and director of Tehara Media, Dusan Marinkovic, ERIAC executive director, Timea Junghaus, and the Roma writer and activist Delia Grigore. The outcome of the discussion was a manifesto written on a ten-meter long scroll.

After the workshops, the Swedish State Secretary to the Minister for Culture and Democracy, Helene Öberg, delivered a speech emphasizing the significance of the event. She also took a private meeting with the ERIAC management to discuss future possibilities. Furthermore, the day featured a book reading by Maria Lind and the Swedish Roma singer Hans Caldaras from Lawen Mohtadi's biography of Katarina Taikon, *The Day I Am Free*. Swedish Roma artist, singer and actor Lindy Larsson gave a closed the event by giving a performance accompanied by his accordionist Miriam Oldenburg, based on the play *Roma Army*.

ERIAC organised parallel meetings with government, SIDA and the following museums: with Julia Ferloni from MUCEM in Marseille, Elin Thomasson from Hälsinglands Museum and Katariina Lillqvist from Finnish Museum of Roma Culture.

The Symposium attracted significant attention from the press. Journalist from Swedish national radio Cultural News ("Kulturnyhetera"), Radio Romano and Paletten, Sweden's longest-running art magazine, were there to cover the symposium.

THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

19 contributors
100 registered participants
Facebook Reach: 2218

6.

RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF THE ROMA HERITAGE IN SERBIA

December 4, 2019, Belgrade

Venue: Open Society Foundation, Serbia office
Country coordinator: Almir Huseini



In the framework of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network Project (RTNH) on December 4, 2019 in Belgrade (Serbia), ERIAC organized bilateral meetings and a working group with the aim of establishing the diversity of approaches towards cultural recognition through the knowledge transfer between ERIAC allies on the strategies on Roma Tangible heritage in Serbia and Balkan context as well as possible collaboration methods. The Roma Tangible Heritage Project (RTNH) emphasized the endangered but immense field of the cultural heritage of the Roma people in Serbia and Balkan region, which lacks visibility and mainstreaming. The topics of the exchange were addressed with international and local Roma and majority organizations present in Serbia as well with the ERIAC members and donors.

The program of the Serbian event from the presentation of FUTUROMA exhibition transformed into a series of working groups and meetings due to unfortunate and unforeseen circumstances: partly due to the unforeseen floods affecting exhibition condition, and partly due to the extended contracting and renovation of the Serbian office space.

ERIAC executives held bilateral meetings with Michael Pietsch-Director of Cultural department of the German Embassy in Belgrade and Orhan Usein-Director of the Regional Cooperation Council for Roma Integration 2020 to strengthen ties with important allies in Serbia discussing possible mutual contribution and collaboration in the area of Roma culture. The working groups focused on Roma tangible heritage and opened up a discussion on the history of Roma tangible heritage, strategies, challenges and means of reclaiming and utilizing its power to shift and shape discourses of Roma art and culture.

Beyond strengthening bonds between actors, ERIAC achieved galvanizing contemporary Roma art and culture in Serbia and Balkan region. In particular, participants discussed Roma tangible heritage reclaiming efforts and utilization of Roma cultural heritage as a medium to shift the discourse on Roma culture in Serbia and the region, cultural inclusion as a pre-condition of social inclusion, and formulation of possible strategies for creating Roma cultural heritage network among ERIAC alliances in Serbia and Balkan region. These bilateral meetings and focused discussions served as a base for establishing Roma cultural heritage network.

It was in the past decade the potential of Roma tangible heritage was not used to its full potential in order to address issues pertaining to the Roma culture. The existence of efforts to promote Roma culture and cultural heritage in Serbia and Balkans were advanced in the period between 1970-1990. However, those initiatives remained silent during the period 2000-2020. Recently there have been tendencies to revive those initiatives, which still lack of visibility and reach.

The recent strategic approach regarding Roma culture and Roma cultural heritage is underdeveloped with a moderate number of small project based initiatives which lack longevity and impact. Roma culture is not included in any official strategy or action plan. Especially not in the context of changing narratives on Roma culture. Funds for advancing Roma culture are also very scarce in the Serbian context. It was concluded that lack of strategic direction and lack of funds on the national level for culture prevents utilizing the potential of Roma culture. To address these challenges, ERIAC and its allies recognized a need for a network on Roma cultural heritage with the aim of uplifting existing initiatives through increasing the visibility of Roma culture.

PRESENT PARTICIPANTS: German Embassy in Serbia, Open Society Foundation (OSF Belgrade), The Roma Education Fund (REF), Council of Europe in Belgrade, Regional Cooperation Council 2020, ERIAC associate members, Arts and culture experts, artists, scholars.

7.

TAJSA OF ROMA HERITAGE

December 9, 2019, Berlin

Venues: Melia Hotel Berlin/ Maxim Gorki Theater
Country coordinator: Umtata Tybora



DECEMBER 9, 2019, BERLIN

TAJSA of Roma Heritage was the culmination of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network RTHN project, ERIAC's third cycle of international programming, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. After organizing large scale international meetings in Berlin, Stockholm, Venice and Belgrade, as well as presenting FUTUROMA in a new international location, ERIAC invited the growing associate membership, partners and collaborators to conclude the Roma Tangible Heritage Network and contemplated its impact on Europe, again in Berlin. The meeting consisted of the morning, open to the public conference related to ERIAC Impact, followed by an early afternoon General Assembly, and Barvalipe Academy session. The day closed with a ceremonial evening of The Tajsza Prize with the world-renowned pianist David Pena Dorantes giving classical music concert.

ERIAC Impact - public presentations on the day:

ERIAC increases the self-esteem of Roma and decreases negative prejudice of the majority population towards the Roma by means of arts,

culture, history, and media. On these grounds, a press conference was organized where the public presentation of ERIAC achievements and future plans were shared with associate members joined by the advocates of the international Roma political movement.

Timea Junghaus, the executive director of ERIAC, opened the public session and welcomed the audience: the ERIAC board, the Barvalipe Academy, the Associate Members, some of the donor representative and the media. The First presentation by Gilda Horvath, ERIAC board member, depicted the structure, dynamics and the milestones reached by ERIAC up until now. Anna Mirga, deputy director for ERIAC focused her presentation on what ERIAC signifies now, highlighting its pan-European landscape and international programming which engages a broad spectrum of audiences outside of Berlin. Director Timea reflected on where is the ERIAC's azimuth, in which direction ERIAC towards what wants to go, concluding that the future of ERIAC depends on its members and able to make the impact on the strategic plan which has been created based on gathered data, online surveys and staff meetings. (images featuring morning session)

THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

70 registered participants

MEDIA:

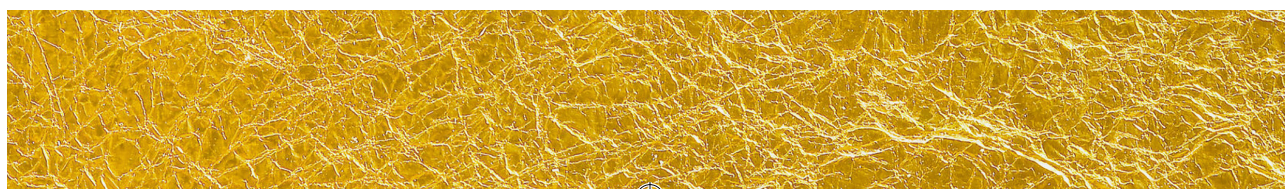
The events of the day were all live streamed, published and became accessible online through diverse channels (youtube, www, radio): ERIAC Impact session - live stream

20 000 radio listeners

7 interviews featured on Radio Beograd, Serbia

1825 live stream views

6393 live stream reach



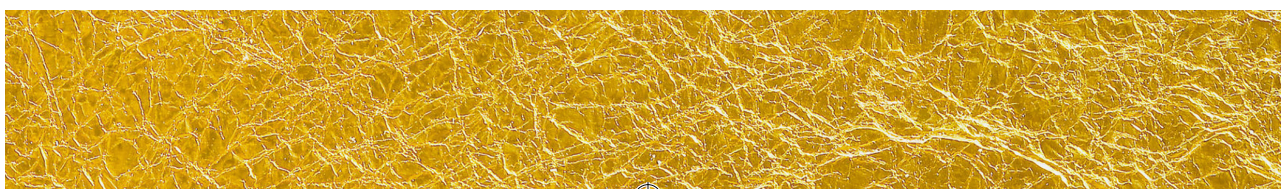


GENERAL ASSEMBLY

During closed assembly session in the afternoon, the members engaged in strategic discussion and connected the outputs of the THN project to their own local contexts and institutions. The meeting was a dedicated platform not only for idea exchange, but also for a feedback directed to the ERIAC's Board and management.

BARVALIPE ACADEMY MEETING

The Barvalipe Academy was established as a group of the most distinguished Roma minds. The 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. Direct impact and public presence of ERIAC is possible through the members and through Barvalipe academy ambassadors who expressed their wish that ERIAC is to serve as a gate opener for their projects in their countries. This meeting was online for the members and recorded for the documentation.



Tajsa Cultural Heritage Prize Award Ceremony and Concert

About the Tajsa Prize

The Tajsa Prize embodies the founding principles of ERIAC and the spirit of Roma history and cultural heritage while looking onwards, shaping and re-inventing forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generations. The Prize aims to honor outstanding Roma individuals who are leading voices of the Roma cultural movement today. It seeks to encourage Roma pride and promote the creativity, virtuosity and talent of Roma cultural producers. Each year the endowment of the Tajsa Prize is sponsored entirely by the ERIAC associate membership, in order to promote the pedagogy of Roma contribution and self-determination. In 2019, the Tajsa Prize was created with an endowment of 5200 euros, funded exclusively by the membership contributions of ERIAC. The Tajsa Prize is a recognition for a Roma individual working in any of the following domains of arts and culture: All fields and genres of the arts, including visual arts, performing arts, literature, photography, film, design, dance, music, fashion, etc.

Nomination and selection process

ERiac invited its community – associate members, Barvalipe Academy members and Board members – to submit nominations to ERIAC via the nomination template. The nominees shall be Roma individuals from any of the many groups represented under the over-arching term “Roma”, disregarding of nationality, age, gender or sexual orientation. In November, finalists were pre-selected and invited to submit additional materials in support of their candidacy. Following the evaluation of the finalists, a Jury composed of Barvalipe Academy members and in consultation with the ERIAC Board announced the winner of the Tajsa Prize during the Prize ceremony on December 9, 2019 in Berlin.



Later, in the afternoon members visited ERIAC Art Space for curatorial tour on current Katitzi exhibition.



The prize was designed by Robert Gabris, Roma contemporary artist.



ERIAC celebrated the first awardee of the Tajsá Prize with a memorable concert on December 9, 2019 at the Maxim Gorki Theater.



The Tajsá Prize ceremony was opened by the sensational Romani singer Monika Lakatos. The audience was greeted in a video message by Michael Roth, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office. After the announcement of the winner, the world-

renowned pianist and composer Dorantes gave a concert together with together with Flamenco artist Maria Jose Llergo. The laudation speech was delivered by Lord Simon Wolley. (image feat. Artists on the stage)

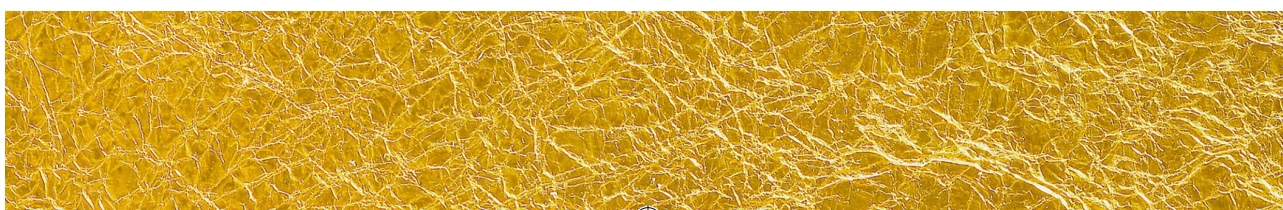


After the ceremony the extended ERIAC members, allies, politicians and cultural leaders celebrated the winner, Alina Serban with the concert of Afro-Sintezza singer Tayo Awosusi-Onutor and DJ Nomi.
(image from the party in foyer)

Tajsa ceremony was live streamed and was accessible online via both ERIAC's and other media channels: Tajsa Prize 2019 live stream

THE EVENT IN NUMBERS:

19 contributors
4 artists, 8 musicians
2 speakers
440 participants
20 ambassadors, curators, supporters
Facebook Reach: 28091



ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE RESEARCH

As part of the THN project, ERIAC conducted the mapping of Roma Tangible Heritage in the museums' collections in Europe and beyond. In the open call for fellow, Denisa Tomkova was selected as the author of the background paper.

The Roma Tangible Cultural Heritage refers to physical artefacts produced, maintained and transmitted intergenerationally in a society. According to this definition then, the cultural heritage of one community is essential for its identity and for its future generations. The knowledge and accessibility of one's own cultural heritage is important, for several reasons: for collective memory and for the self-knowledge of the community. And it has spiritual and historical value for the people of the community. Lack of policy and political commitment towards preserving, conserving and developing Roma arts and culture, in particular Roma cultural heritage, leads to cultural impoverishment and loss. Roma lack spaces and resources to conserve, document, develop and disseminate the diverse manifestations and artefacts of Roma culture. The mapping of Roma cultural heritage research paper is the first ever examination of this topic, it therefore represents a blind spot in academic

writing. This lack of any previous research presented us, on the one hand with the challenges in conducting the research but at the same time it also even more highlighted the necessity of such research and its wide scope which opened further paths to examine in the future.

For this report, seventy museums of the national and international level were approached with the questionnaire regarding their collection. Two types of institutions were approached for this research –Ethnographic Museums and Art Museums. The institutions approached were chosen for two reasons: Their pivotal and national role within the national and transnational context and, the probability of their collection holding the Roma artefacts. The collections of ethnographic museums have proven through this research to be still greatly object - centred. This focus on the objects however lacks a proper scholarship and knowledge about these artefacts. The museums often lack information about the objects' authorship, their history, and their meaning. Most of the Roma produced objects are collected within 'ethnographic' museums framework, compared to art museums.





RESEARCH CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

It is vital that the next EU Roma policy will embrace politics of recognition alongside of policy of redistribution. In other words, the next EU Roma Strategy needs to include Roma arts, culture and history as one area of engagement, and establish synergies with existing policies, funds and other structures of the European Union in this field. Employing such strategies will play a significant role in fighting anti-Gypsyism. The following problems have become apparent during the course of this research into European museums on the Roma tangible heritage:

- The lack of representation of Roma artists in the National museums.
- Roma being often represented as 'other(s)' and perpetual outsiders.
- The museums have the power of controlling the narrative of Roma culture and they also have the monopoly over discourse concerning the Roma.
- Many cultural heritage organisations and protocols granting funding and protection of the heritage from the nation-state perspective, which can be exclusionary towards ethnic minorities
- The need for cross-cultural awareness, redressing of past imbalances, for more inclusion and for the politics of control over cultural heritage.

For the ethnographic museums we propose the following recommendations:

- to challenge their collections, their often-problematic character based on 'othering' and racist stereotypes.
- to review the labelling of artefacts, enable the usage of new terminology and replace the derogatory label 'gypsy' in their collections.
- to create new discourses and interpretations of the objects in their collections.
- to research missing authorship of the objects in their collections.
- to involve Roma curators, scholars and intellectuals, as well as general Roma community when researching, analysing, labelling and exhibiting Roma tangible heritage artefacts.
- to exhibit the Roma objects and take them out of the storage rooms, and so make them accessible to the general public, Roma intellectuals and interested parties.

For the art museums we propose the following recommendations:

- to start collecting art works by contemporary Roma artists and to ensure the inclusive art collecting and exhibiting.
- to challenge the idea of cultural elitism and the hierarchy of aesthetics and taste.
- to avoid colour-blindness of curatorial staff in relation to their collections. Art museums should be aware of the representation of minorities in their collections, and to have knowledge of the prejudice and injustice these minorities have been facing and know the challenges of these artists to be included in the mainstream art.
- to act as catalysts of public discourse to bring for more respect and understanding in the society through art.



MEDIA AND PRESS RESULTS

24 media publications

Roma Contact Point

<https://rroma.org/en/>

24 vakti:

<https://24vakti.mk/finalists-of-the-tajsa-roma-cultural-heritage-prize-2019-announced/>

Contextus.hu

<https://contextus.hu/tajsa-dij-2019-aline-serban-roma-dij/>

Mezikulturní dialog

Evropský romský institut ocení Romy, kteří se angažují v kultuře a umění

Vysílání živě: Slavnostní předávání ocenění Tajsa 2019 pro Romy, kteří se angažují v kultuře a umění

Historicky první ocenění Tajsa Prize získala herečka, režisérka a dramaturgyně Alina Serban

Listal.com - Alina Serban:Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize 2019

<https://www.listal.com/video/10797753>

rts:

<http://www.rts.rs/page/radio/sr/story/23/radio-beograd-1/3767013/romano-them.html>

<http://www.rts.rs/page/radio/sr/story/23/radio-beograd-1/3770014/romano-them.html>

Romea.cz:

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world/live-broadcast-today-gala-awards-ceremony-tajsa-2019-for-roma-in-the-arts-and-culture>

<http://www.romea.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/zahranicni/budeme-vysilat-zive-slavnostni-predavani-oceneni-tajsa-2019-pro-romy-kteri-se-angazuji-v-kulture-a-umeni>

Berlin Art Link:

<http://www.berlinartlink.com/2019/12/09/the-week-dec-09-31-2019/>

<https://www.berlinartlink.com/2019/09/04/reconceptualizing-roma-resistance-at-eriac-berlin/>

Zentralrat der Deutschen Sinti und Roma:

<https://zentralrat.sintiundroma.de/veranstaltungen/tajsa-roma-cultural-heritage-prize-2019/>

regio-active berlin:

<https://www.regioactive.de/konzert/tajsa-prize-ceremony-and-dorantes-concert-berlin-maxim-gorki-theater-2019-12-09-n0HGbPQzXk>

Gorki Theatre:

<https://gorki.de/en/tajsa>

Tip Berlin:

<https://www.tip-berlin.de/this-week-in-berlin-9-15-december/>

Mezikulturní dialog:

<https://www.mezikulturnidialog.cz/clanky/historicky-prvni-oceneni-tajsa-prize-ziskala-herecka-reziserka-a-dramaturgyne-alina-serban/>

Udar:

<http://www.portal-udar.net/en/eriac-romski-kulturni-i-umjetnicki-uticaj-koji-se-siri-evropom/>

TIME.rs:

<https://time.rs/nastani/935971a7bb>

Youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4ZJus1mUv8&t=580s>

Venice.it

<https://evenice.it/arte-cultura/public-performance-rjsak-futuroma>

Romano Atmo

"Romska Sztuka" in: Romano Atmo 5/2019 (83) Nine-Page Essay about FUTUROMA.

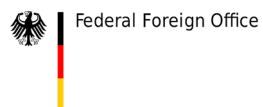
Zitty

<https://www.zitty.de/event-archiv/musik-konzert/dorantes-maria-jose-llergo-monika-lakatos-10059395/>

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