

TERMS OF REFERENCE – Roma Resistance Research Assistant

Job title: Roma Resistance Research Assistant

Duration of appointment: February 14th - April 14th, 2020

Deadline for applying: February 7th 2020

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) is seeking research assistants to contribute to the development of the project [“Re-thinking Roma Resistance”](#), financed by the EVZ Foundation.

Background information:

In recent years, the topic of Roma Resistance during the WWII has grown into a powerful symbol that contrasts the notion of Roma victimhood with the acknowledgement of Roma agency and survival. From researchers to the media, the stories of the Roma Resistance during WWII have begun to gain momentum. Inspired in various accounts of the Roma uprising at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on May 16, 1944, the date has been embraced and celebrated by Roma communities across Europe, particularly by Roma youth. In this sense, the Roma Resistance has become a powerful reference point for Roma social and political mobilization. However, a narrow reading of the history of Roma Resistance – limited to the event of Roma uprising in Auschwitz – may reverse the transformative, emancipatory and mobilizing potential that the stories of active resistance represent and will overshadow the many other stories of heroism in the face of injustice of Roma individuals and communities throughout Europe.

“Re-thinking Roma Resistance” project, financed by the EVZ foundation, will develop an expanded definition of “Roma Resistance” as well as explore and document its diverse manifestations throughout modern history in various geographical locations. The project will present a new narrative of the “Roma Resistance” which represents intimate and subjective experiences of the Roma survivors, witnesses and their families.

Objectives of the assignment:

Under the direct supervision of ERiac’s executive management, four local researcher assistants covering different European regions will contribute to the implementation of the “Re-thinking Roma Resistance” project, by researching local stories of resistance in specific geographical areas. In collaboration with other partners involved, the researchers will provide regional perspectives on heroism during the WWII, and its aftermath, as well as during other chapters of European and national histories.

In particular, the researchers will be expected to:

- Research different manifestations of Roma Resistance in multiple locations, based on existing sources (primary, secondary) as well as, to the extent possible, provide new evidence
- Present and document stories of Roma Resistance heroes, including short biographies of the selected protagonists
- Contribute to the mapping of historical sites of Roma Resistance
- Identify artefacts/ objects related to the Roma Resistance stories (including personal memorabilia, archival records, letters, photos as well as artworks)

- Contribute to the development of an annotated bibliography on Roma Resistance

Methodology:

Before engaging in the project, the researcher will be given a detailed introduction into the work of ERIAC, the objectives of the project, the expectations with regards to the development and submission of the final deliverables. The researchers will be provided with detailed instructions as to the outputs of the project.

Due to the restricted time-frame of this project, the report will be based on the following data-collection methodology:

- **Desk research** based on initial research developed by ERIAC in-house;
- **Literature review;**
- **Participation in project events/ workshops organized in the framework of the project by ERIAC;**
- The researcher is encouraged to expand the scope of consultation beyond desk research to embrace tangible evidence including **archival materials**, letters, documents, journalistic articles, original archive film/ audio footage, as well as other tangible artefacts that can represent and depict Roma Resistance struggles.
- Furthermore, the researchers are encouraged to seek new knowledge **through interviews, oral histories directly with the survivors, witnesses and/or their family members**. In this sense, Roma and non-Roma partners should also be treated as sources of knowledge.

Qualifications and Competencies:

- University degree in social sciences, political science, history, Holocaust studies or related discipline.
- Proficiency in English and excellent writing skills a willingness to be involved in draft revisions.
- Experience developing similar research papers related to Roma history, in particular the Roma Holocaust.
- Prior research experience, using mixed method of data collection and data analysis.
- Knowledge of contemporary debates, including in scholarship, art and activism, related to the Roma Resistance is an asset.
- Knowledge of a second European language is an asset.
- Must be comfortable with working with multiple partners and coordinating online.
- Must be comfortable with short deadlines and regular reporting on progress.
- **Applicants from Roma/Sinti/Traveller background are highly encouraged to apply.**

Ethics:

The Researcher shall unconditionally be able to identify with the founding principles of ERIAC:

- 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.

Remuneration:

- **Single fee of 2000 EURO (EURO)**, paid in two installments upon submission of a legally issued invoice. First installment will be paid upon the signing of the contract. Second installment will be transferred once the final report is submitted.

Application instructions:

Applications from all suitably qualified candidates, irrespective of gender, disability, marital or parental status, racial, ethnic or social origin, color, religion, belief, or sexual orientation are welcome. Candidates of self-declared Roma origin are particularly encouraged to apply.

Applications should include:

- Up-to-date professional CV (max. 4 pages).
- Letter of motivation of maximum 500 words.

IMPORTANT: In the motivation letter, please **include a specific mention of the countries/ regions** where you would be willing to develop research and/or where you have previously developed research.

Applications should be written in English and sent to eriac@eriac.org in one email. Please write “**Roma Resistance Research Assistant**” in the subject line of the email.