

ERiac
2nd General Assembly Meeting
Held at MELIA Hotel Berlin, Germany
December 9th 2019

MINUTES

Participants:

Board members:

Horvath, Gilda Nancy

Kazanxhiu, Sead

Rostas, Iulius

Associate members:

Balazova Jarmila (Barvalipe Academy member)

Blake Isaac

Bogdan Maria (Barvalipe Academy Member)

Carmona Tapia Sonia (Independent Andalusian Culture Independent Andalusian Culture)

Casarmeiro Pedro (Romane Siklovne)

Ciko Mihal

Conka Artur

Cortes Ismael (Barvalipe Academy member)

Demirova Abdulova Sevdija

Dezso Mate

Dudek Nina Adele

Elezovski Ashmet

Grigore Delia (Barvalipe Academy member)

Haliti Bajram

Heredia Jose

Kastratovic Jovana

Koch Matthias (Stiftung Kommunikationsaufbau)

Kocze Angela (Barvalipe Academy member)

Koko Ljuan

Leray Valerie

Marian Andriano

Marin Laura Greta

Metodiev Emil

Mirga Andrzej

Montano Gonzalo

Nasture Florin (Barvalipe Academy member)

Necula Ciprian

Pavlovic Dijana

Rigova Emilia (Barvalipe Academy member)

Sanchez Fabian (Asociacion Nacional Presencia Gitana)

Silverman Carol

Skenderi Suad (Romalitiko)

Spinelli Santino

Stria Robin (The Museum of Romani Culture in Brno, Barvalipe Academy member)

Varady Kalman

Vargas Miguel Angel (Barvalipe Academy member)

Vasilescu George

Vera Lackova (Media Voice)

Vicent Bohorquez Jaime (Independent Andalusian Culture Independent Andalusian Culture)

ERiac Management:

Junghaus Timea (Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture)

Mirga-Kruszelnicka Anna (Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture)

Minute-taker: Huseini Almir (ERiac staff member)

1. Opening Remarks and the Organizational matter

Vice-Chair of the ERIAC Board Mr. Sead Kazanxhiu officially opened the General Assembly and excused the absence of the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic. Sead Kazanxhiu

appointed ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus as the Chairwoman of the 2nd General Assembly. Director Timea Junghaus opened the 2nd ERIAC General Assembly and welcomed the guests. Ms. Junghaus appointed Almir Huseini as the minute-taker; the minutes will be reviewed and confirmed by the Chair of the General Assembly.

Ms. Junghaus presented the agenda of the General Assembly. All participants formally agreed to the proposed agenda.

3. Objectives of the 2nd General Assembly

The objectives of the General Assembly meeting were:

- To discuss the future strategic direction of ERIAC, with regards to the hypothesis for change: 1) Culture can change stereotypes and 2) ERIAC needs to growth.
- To discuss the role of the ERIAC associate membership, review the mutual expectations and gather specific proposals and ideas.

4. ERIAC strategy-building process

ERiac management presented the process of building the ERIAC strategy and discussed the hypothesis that will guide the work of ERIAC in the future.

General Assembly reiterated the strong belief that power of culture can shift the stereotypes and that it is not sufficiently used. ERIAC should play a role to increase the recognition of Roma arts and culture, and be the most visible advocate in lobbying for expansion of spaces and funding for Roma arts and culture at the EU and national levels.

General Assembly emphasized that ERIAC needs to develop two-fold strategic direction, one that focuses on mainstream cultural, political institutions and the other that focuses on Roma communities. It was expressed that ERIAC should create alliances with other minorities and create a strong net of minority supporters and exchange ideas across communities. The members highlighted that the Roma communities should be an explicit target group of the ERIAC activities.

To this end, the General Assembly highlighted that ERIAC needs to grow on multiple levels – institutionally, to expand the team in the ERIAC headquarters, financially, to develop larger and more stable budget, through opening local branch offices, by ensuring ERIAC representation locally through associate members. It was also highlighted that ERIAC should expand permanent spaces from which Roma arts and culture can gain visibility, including by setting up an international Roma Museum.

5. ERIAC community and the role of associate members: expectations and proposals

The General Assembly reviewed the rights and obligations of the members as stipulated in the Membership Charter. The ERIAC management presented the ERIAC financial results in the past year and discussed membership contributions. The management highlighted that the membership fees are used to finance the endowment of the Tajsza Prize, in order to reinforce the spirit of self-reliance and invest the contributions back into the Roma community.

The members reflected on the need to change the mindset – not from what ERIAC can do for the members, but what the members can do to strengthen the ERIAC mission.

ERiac Members discussed means and dynamics of how ERIAC can help members and how members can help ERIAC grow utilizing the power of Roma culture to fight stereotypes. It was confirmed that it is a dual process, while ERIAC with its platforms can elevate different local initiatives on the EU level, members can be proactive and advocate for ERIAC growth in their

context creating a net of supporters linking their own work with the work of ERIAC. In this manner, ERIAC can grow and have representation in all EU and non-EU countries.

Associate members highlighted that while a lot of interesting local initiative in the field of arts and culture are being developed, what they lack is visibility, national and international recognition and a network of cross-country cooperation. They suggest that ERIAC can play a role in enhancing the visibility of the members, using ERIAC as a platform.

6. Questions and answers to the management; open discussion and proposals

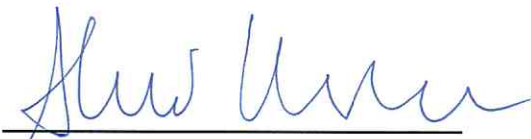
ERiac members congratulated the ERIAC team for the intensive work conducted in the past year. It was noted that the members should take a more active role in the work of ERIAC and provide support to the joint development of the ERIAC mission. Specific ideas and proposals were made.

ERiac should develop honorary patronage system in which it will elevate local initiatives, while all members shall act as ambassadors of Roma culture and support ERIAC mission and ERIAC growth in the form of a ERIAC office. ERIAC members reiterated the commitment to contribute to the ERIAC mission through contribution and as well in fundraising for the opening ERIAC offices in all of the countries in which they work. Members proposed to create fundraising events that will contribute to ERIAC mission and programming fund. ERIAC should create alliances with mainstream institutions and minority institutions for building mutual understanding, exchange ideas and good practices. Members suggested to create a mapping platform, which will serve as an information table of activities of all members.

7. Conclusion and closing of the General Assembly

Sead Kazanxhiu as the Vice-Chair of the Board and Timea Junghaus as the appointed Chair of the General Assembly concluded and closed the meeting.

Approval date of the final document: December 20, 2019



Appointed Minute-taker: Almir Huseini



Appointed Chair of General Assembly: Timea Junghaus

In compliance with para 13 (10) of the ERIAC Statutes this Minutes are to be prepared, signed by the minute-taker and confirmed by the Chair of the General Assembly. They shall be published on the web portal of the association.