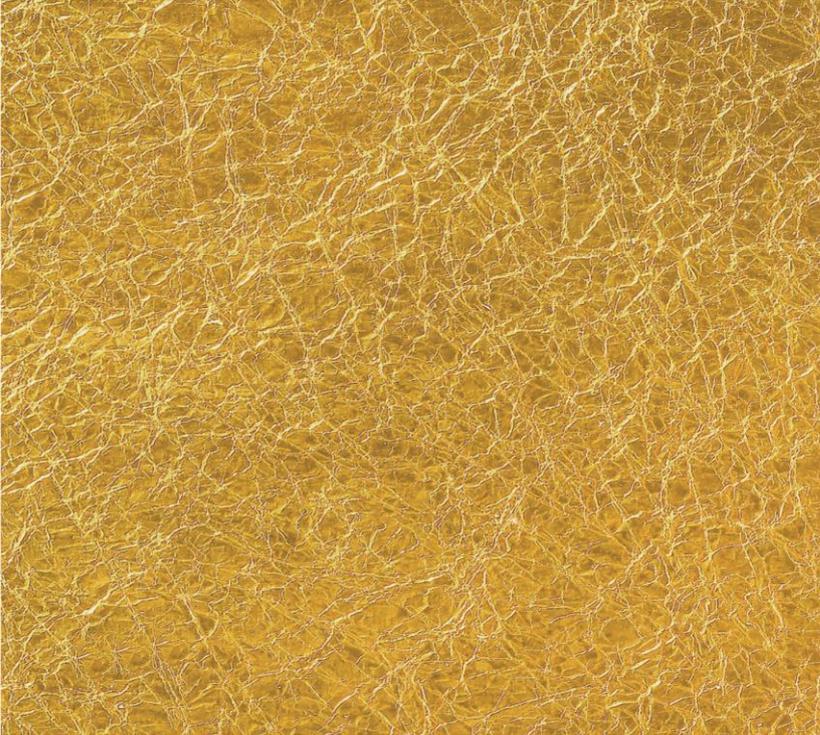


European Roma Institute for
Arts and Culture

NARRATIVE REPORT 2018



European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V.

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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.

Institution-building process: governing organs, institutional structures and associate membership

Summary of institution-building achievements:

Since the beginning of 2018, ERIAC dedicated efforts to advance with the process of institution-building and complete the governing and membership bodies of the Institute.

Pakiv Board Meetings

The first Pakiv Board Meeting took place on January 30th, during which important decisions regarding the institution-building processes were taken. In preparation of the Board meeting, the executive management prepared reading materials and proposed procedures regarding completing the bodies of the Barvalipe Academy and associate membership. The Pakiv Board meeting was attended by Ms. Snezana Samradzic-Markovic, appointed by Secretary General of the Council of Europe to the ERIAC Board, in replacement of Mr. Valeriu Nicolae.

The second Pakiv Board Meeting took place online on October 5th, during which important decisions were taken. In this meeting, the board took important decisions about the 2017 Year-end Financial Report, Rules of Procedure, Board Policy for ERIAC Offices in (additional) Member States and RomArchive (RA) transfer to the future host: ERIAC. The Pakiv Board meeting was attended by: Nicoleta Bitu, Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture; Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of Roma Initiative Office, Open Society Foundations; Chair of the ERIAC Board; Snezana Samardzić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe and Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of Division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe; Lorenz Barth, Head of the Council of Europe Unit, Federal Foreign Office; Timea Junghaus, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture; Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture; Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe.

Minutes prepared by: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Timea Junghaus.

Barvalipe Academy

Achievements

- The Pakiv Board nominated first 7 members of the Barvalipe Academy, composed of distinguished personalities of Roma arts and culture.
- Successfully organized the first General Assembly during which 8 new members were appointed to the Barvalipe Academy.
- The first meeting of the Barvalipe Academy took place in Belgrade on February 5th 2019. During the meeting, in fulfilment of their Statutory obligations, the Barvalipe Academy elected:
 - **Chair:** dr. Maria Bogdan (Hungary) and **Vice-Chair:** dr Ismael Cortes (Spain)
 - **2 new members to the Pakiv Board:** Gilda Horvath (Austria) and dr. Iulius Rostas (Romania)
- ERIAC successfully initiated the strategy-discussion process with the Barvalipe members (more details in documents 5.2 and 6.2).

Associate Membership

Achievements:

- During the first Board meeting, the Membership Charter was discussed and revised. The final version of the Membership Charter, following discussions of the Board and a thorough process of revision, was approved on April 6th, 2018. Based on the Board's guidelines, an online application form was designed and developed: <https://eriac.org/membership/apply-for-associate-membership/>
- The call for associate members was announced on the occasion of celebrating ERIAC's 1st Anniversary (June 8th) and will last until end of July. Until the end of July, an online associate membership portal was designed and programmed, which will be accessed by all members via ERIAC's website.

- ERIAC successfully launched and completed the call for associate members (June 8, 2018 – July 31st, 2018). Out of 93 associate members who initially applied and were accepted, **67 associate members complied with the contribution principle** within the given deadline, becoming members in full right. The composition of the associate membership consists of 11 institutional and 56 individual associate members, organized in four thematic sections.
- ERIAC successfully collected membership contributions:
 - Financial contributions: total of **5200€** from 17 individual members (1700 €) and 7 institutional members (3500€).
 - In-kind contributions: 34 associate members (4 Institutional and 30 individual) contributed with in-kind contribution in the total value of **14000€**.
- ERIAC successfully composed the thematic sections. Thematic Section distribution:
 - Arts and Culture (48 members)
 - Research and Publication in the fields of arts and culture (32 members)
 - Media and Information in the fields of arts and culture (19 members)
 - History and Commemoration (17 members)
- Established a dynamic of engagement with the associate membership through an online membership forum. Launched an internal voting in each thematic section to select the 8 candidates to Barvalipe Academy to be appointed by the General Assembly.
- First General Assembly meeting was organized online on December 17th, 2018.

PAKIV BOARD

First Pakiv Board Meeting

Berlin, January 30th, 2018.

Participants:

- Board Members: Zeljko Jovanovic, Nicoleta Bitu, Snezana Samradzic-Markovic;
- Observers: Kinga Rethy, Hallvard Gorseth, Thorsten Afflerbach, Lorenz Barth, Michael Becker, Karina Häuslmeier, Hannes Ingwersen, Delegate of Mr. Krings from the Office of Minorities of the Ministry of Interior.
- Staff: Timea Junghaus, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Status Report

Executive Director presents the status report of ERIAC since its creation until the present. The status report includes the overview of the organizational and institutional achievements 2017 (based on the reading materials provided) and presents the International Cultural Outreach Programme.

The Board members express their appreciation of the institutional achievements and the amount of work done so far. Board Member requests that the language used in ERIAC communications should be in line with the language used in the Statute. She also recalls that the Rules of Procedure need to be prepared as a matter of urgency; furthermore, she informs the Board that the forthcoming GR-SOC meeting will discuss the Memorandum of Understanding on co-operation between the Council of Europe and ERIAC as well as the draft terms of reference for an evaluation of ERIAC's achievements. In preparation for the GR-SOC meeting, the Board suggests developing a Q&A on ERIAC that will answer key questions and clarify ERIAC's mission and scope of activity.

With regards to the International Cultural Outreach Programme, the Board expresses their appreciation of the scope and extent of the events organized so far those coming up. Board Member underlines the importance of taking advantage of the political impact of the events and the importance of continuity. FFO observer expresses the commitment of FFO to continue supporting ERIAC through projects and invites ERIAC to apply soon with a new proposal to the FFO. Furthermore, German FFO will mobilize political support around ERIAC. Board Member proposes to prepare detailed media reviews and to make the media coverage of that programme available on the ERIAC web site.

Institutional development plan for 2018

The Board discusses the process of completion of the institutional bodies, based on the proposal of the Executive Management. The Board acknowledges the need to stick to the Statute on all matters, and decides to harmonize all existing procedures and documents based on the Statute. This also refers to the language used in the statute, differentiating between "associate members" and "permanent members".

With regards to the membership formation procedure, the Board decides that the Executive management reviews the initial application forms and provides a recommendation on acceptance or rejection of the applicant to the Board. The Board takes an informed decision of the acceptance or rejection of the applicant. The Barvalipe Academy members must only be consulted "in case of doubt".

Based on the proposal of the Executive Management, the Board decides that during the first in-take of members (first round), the time is the only limit and there shall be no limits of the number of applicants.

The Board also agrees that the nominal minimum annual membership fees should be: 100€ for natural persons; and 500€ for legal persons (disregarding of the type of legal entity it is). In exceptional cases in-kind contributions can be accepted in substitution of the fee and this decision should be incorporated into the Membership Charter.

The Executive Management proposed that "language" could be among one of the thematic sections, what the Board acknowledges. However, such change requires approval by the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers. In order to detect the possible interest and importance of creating, or not, a thematic section on

“language” in the future, the Board decided to put the four sections as agreed and to add a fifth option on “language” on the online application form.

Based on the proposal of the Executive Management, the Board modifies the “Membership Charter”; based on the discussion, the Executive Management is to prepare a revised draft of the Membership Charter by February 7th, 2018.

With regards to the Barvalipe Academy formation procedure, the Board decides that the discussion of the nominations of the first 7 Barvalipe Members as well as approval of the Membership Charter, will be done following an online meeting, by the end of February 2018.

Based on the review of the calendar of institutional development proposed by the Executive Management, the Board agrees that the ERIAC bodies should be completed by September 15th. The Second Board meeting, including the additional 2 Board members, should be set in the second half of September.

Plan for cultural activities, alliances and collaborations 2018-2019

Executive Director presents interim strategy and calendar of activities for 2018. Major events as well as fundraising priorities are presented and discussed. Board suggests that Executive Director should provide further feedback regarding the possibilities of Venice office and Biennale, in order to set priorities.

The Board discusses the possibility of ERIAC taking over the RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma. ERIAC has been selected by RomArchive Board as the desirable future host. The Board suggests that Executive Director should prepare a serious assessment of pros and cons for the maintenance of the RomArchive and prepare a 1-page strategy for the possible sustainable take-over of the Archive by ERIAC. A final decision on the RomArchive question is to be taken prior to March 6th, 2018, when the RomArchive Board meeting is taking place. Board Member volunteers to make a proposal for governance and management of the RomArchive at ERIAC.

The Minute-document was prepared by Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka and Timea Junghaus. The final Minute-document was approved on May 3rd, 2018. In compliance with para 7 (4) of the ERIAC Statutes this Minutes is brought to the attention of all members and observers of the Board and the Chair of the Academy. An abridged report on the result of the Board meeting has been published on the web portal of the association.

Second Pakiv Board Meeting

Online, October 5th, 2018.

Participants:

Board Members:

- Nicoleta Bitu, Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
- Zeljko Jovanović, Director of Roma Initiative Office, Open Society Foundations; Chair of the ERIAC Board
- Snezana Samardzić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Other invitees:

- Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of Division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe Lorenz Barth, Head of the Council of Europe Unit, Federal Foreign Office
- Timea Junghaus, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
- Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Director of Anti-Discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Minutes prepared by: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Timea Junghaus

Opening Remarks and Introduction

Following welcoming remarks, the Board approves the agenda.

1. 2017 Year-end Financial Report

Board decisions:

The Board approves the 2017 year-end report subject to the inclusion of the additions requested.

The Board agrees to reflect on the best format and structure of future yearly reports by the ERIAC management to the ERIAC Board and to put this item on the agenda of its next meeting.

2. Rules of Procedure

Board decisions:

The Board instructs the management to prepare revised draft of the Rules of Procedure based on the comments provided during the meeting, which are to be submitted by the end of October 2018. The Board commits to review the revised draft by the end of November by providing feedback online.

The Board decides that the final version of the Rules of Procedure is to be approved during the next Board meeting in 2019.

3. Board Policy for ERIAC Offices in (additional) Member States

Board decisions:

The Board decides that current negotiations with states interested in opening local ERIAC branches should continue, serving as a case study for a future board policy on local branches.

The Board instructs the management to draft a concept note on legal, political, geographical, resource (financial and human), and quality control issues, which shall be circulated to the Board before the next Board meeting.

The Board decides to allocate time during the next in-person meeting to discuss the details of the future policy on ERIAC local branches.

The Board decides that a general policy on ERIAC branches shall be part of the strategic plan approval.

4. RomArchive (RA) transfer to the future host: ERIAC

Board decisions:

The Board will formulate a letter of expression of interest. The draft of the letter should be prepared by ERIAC management by October 12.

The Board decides to request a meeting with the RomArchive management, Kulturstiftung des Bundes, the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Culture in order to convey its interest and its position, and delegated the Chair of the Board to act on its behalf.

The Board instructs the management to provide more argumentation based on an objective evaluation of the value, relevance and risks of the RomArchive to the work of ERIAC. ERIAC management is to send a detailed assessment paper to the Board, which shall include a strategy for the take-over, use and maintenance of RomArchive, to facilitate negotiations and decisions.

5. Conclusions

The Board instructs the management to prepare the minutes of the meeting and circulate them online. The Board will adopt the minutes by written procedure. The Board instructs the

management to suggest the date for the next in-person Board meeting, based on its calendar of activities. Proposed dates should be circulated by the end of October 2018.

Approval date of the final Minute-document: November 14, 2018.

BARVALIPE ACADEMY

What is Barvalipe Academy?

The Barvalipe Academy is the agenda-setting and strategic body of the Institute. It has an advisory and inspirational role, in order to fulfill ERIAC's objectives.

Barvalipe is composed of 15 members – highly regarded, publicly acknowledged individuals, with competencies in the areas covered by ERIAC activities. Two thirds of the Academy members must openly declare their Romani ethnicity, respecting the diversity among the Romani communities. Gender balance must be ensured.

On its first birthday, ERIAC announced the names of the first seven Barvalipe Academy members, nominated by the “Pakiv” Board. These outstanding personalities of Roma contemporary arts and culture scene will fulfil a visionary role, helping to guide ERIAC in defining its strategy and future activities. Congratulations to the Barvalipe Academy Members:

Jarmila Balážová
Ethel Brooks
Tony Gatlif
Delaine Le Bas
Romani Rose
Iulius Rostas
Mihaela Zatreanu

The General Assembly appointed eight new members to the Barvalipe Academy. Following internal elections conducted in each of the four thematic sections of ERIAC, the names of the elected representatives were presented to the plenary of the Assembly. All gathered votes were in favor of formally appointing the representatives of the thematic sections to the Barvalipe. Congratulations to the New Barvalipe Academy Members:

Mihaela Dragan
Emília Rigová
Maria Bogdan
Delia Mandalina Grigore
Ismael Cortés
Museum of Roma Culture in Brno
Gilda Horvath/ Nancy Black
Croatian Romani Union “Kali Sara”

Each section will delegate two representatives to Barvalipe. Two members of Barvalipe Academy, elected internally, are delegated to the “Pakiv” Board and become a bridge which connects the ERIAC's membership with the Board.

ERIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

Call for Associate Membership Opening

Berlin, June 8th, 2018

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the establishment of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN), the call for associate members was announced!

ERIAN 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 ERIAN's values.

Initially, ERIAN's associate members will be organized in four thematic sections, to which associate members should commit:

- Arts and Culture
- History and Commemoration
- Research and Publication in the fields of arts and culture
- Media and Information in the fields of arts and culture

What are the benefits of being an associate member of ERIAN?

Associate Members have key roles in building the resources of ERIAN, engaging in creative exchange and co-production, taking ownership of ERIAN's initiatives and engaging in its decision-making.

As an associate member:

- You will have full access to ERIAN's information and knowledge resources, collections, archives and database
- To the extent possible, you will be involved in ERIAN's program of activities
- You will be invited to suggest cultural and artistic initiatives and partnerships
- Through thematic sections, you will be able to shape ERIAN's priorities and activities
- You will form part of ERIAN's hub as a platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise
- You will be able to display the logo and the name of the Institute in your own activities, according to the conditions set by ERIAN
- You will have the right to participate in the General Assemblies
- You can nominate members to the [Barvalipe Academy](#) or run as a candidate for Barvalipe Academy.

Who can be a member?

ERIAN is open to all Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural managers, interested individuals, civil society organisations, and private sector companies, formal and informal groups, with demonstrated competencies and experience in the field of arts and culture, who support ERIAN's mission and are ready to contribute to implementing ERIAN's empowering vision. Applications are accepted from legal and natural persons.

What are the requirements for becoming an associate member?

- Membership applications are reviewed by the Executive Management and the Pakiv Board based on demonstrated merit and qualifications in the field of broadly-understood arts and culture
- Associate members need to pledge to respect ERIAN's founding principles
- Associate members are expected to pay the annual membership fee

- Associate members are asked to subscribe to thematic sections, according to their preferences and experience. Associate members can subscribe to more than one section.

The Principle of contribution

In accordance with ERIAC's founding principles, the membership is based on contribution in terms of financial, intellectual, material and creative resources, in order to strengthen ERIAC's impact.

The annual associate membership fee for 2018 is established by the ERIAC Pakiv Board is:

- 100€ for natural persons
- 500€ for legal persons

The proof of payment should be sent to eriac@eriac.org once the associate membership application is approved.

In exceptional and justified cases, in-kind and/or material donations will be accepted instead of financial contribution.

Why is the contribution principle important?

The principle of contribution, consecrated in the six founding principles, reflects ERIAC's philosophy and transcends the Institute's establishment, core functions, governance, structure and membership.

The principle of contribution represents a paradigmatic change in which our own individual and institutional resources are offered in service of a shared cause and given for collective use. It aims to install in the ERIAC community a common sense of ownership and mutual accountability, to each other through the extended ERIAC hub, and of ERIAC towards its own membership structures. It promotes the idea of self-reliance and self-dependence, and helps to challenge the common stereotype of Roma claimant attitude.

The principle of contribution also increases the institutional financial independence and builds the collective resources of the entire ERIAC community.

The membership fees paid by the members will be dedicated to support ERIAC's operations and activities and will be accounted for in ERIAC's annual financial reports.

Finally, with fees come the benefits! Check out what are the benefits of being an ERIAC [associate member](#).

ERIAC Associate Membership Results

Following the online call for associate members, all applications were reviewed by the end of August. Since then, ERIAC management and staff have been communicating with the associate members with the objective of progressing with the institution-building process:

- All applicants were informed about the decision regarding their associate membership status;
- The membership forum has been completed and all associate members received access passwords; They have been invited to update their profiles and begin engaging with their fellow members online;
- All associate members were informed about their Statutory obligation of complying with the contribution principle; Only members who applied will be granted full membership and will enjoy the benefits stemming from being members;
- ERIAC staff elaborated an in-kind contribution policy and a system for registering and tracing in-kind contributions.

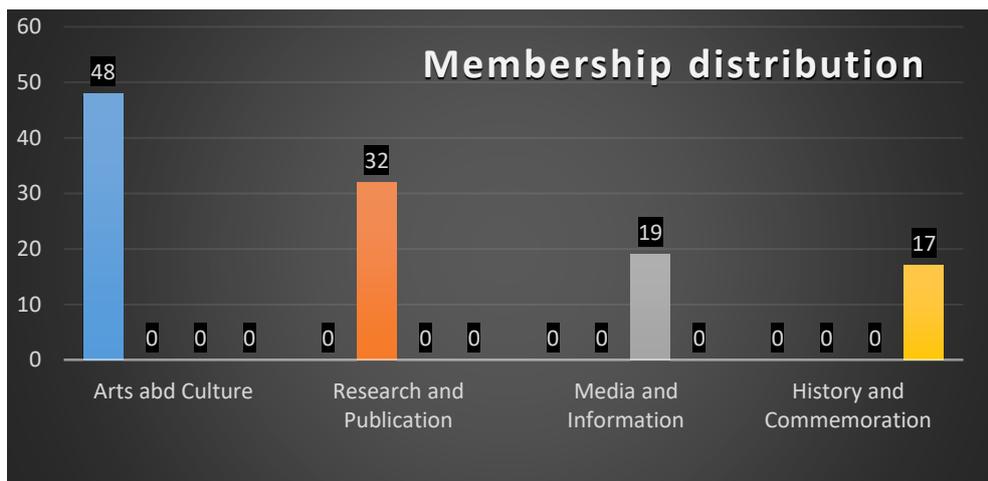
Results

From 93 associate members who initially applied and were accepted as associate members, **67 associate members** complied with the contribution principle within the given deadline. The composition of the associate membership consists of **11 Institutional** and **56 individual** associate members. All 67 associate members who complied with the membership contribution principle, earn the associate member status in its full capacities, rights and responsibilities, including the possibility to participate in ERIAC elections.

Associate member contributions:

- **Financial contributions:** total of **5200€** from 17 individual members (1700 €) and 7 institutional members (3500€).
- **In-kind contributions:** 34 associate members (4 Institutional and 30 individual) contributed with in-kind contribution in the total value of **14000€**.

Distribution of associate members across thematic sections:



*Note that numbers in the thematic section represent members who are in different groups in the same time. The numbers do not represent absolute number of members.

ERiac General Assembly

The first General Assembly of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) took place on 17 December, bringing together associate members, representatives of the ERiac Board, and the ERiac management.

Participants:

Board Members:

Željko Jovanović, Director of Roina Initiative Office, Open Society Foundations; Chair of the ERiac Board, Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Other invitees:

Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe Almir Huseini, ERiac staff member, Timea Junghaus, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture Katalin Nemeth, ERiac staff member

Associate members:

Aurel Ionita (Music Band Mahala Rai Banda), Blake Isaac (Executive Director of the Romani Cultural & Arts Company (RCAC)) Bogdan Maria (PhD, scholar), Balazova Jamila (Press Secretary for Human Rights, Ministry of Czech Education) Casermeiro Pedro (Director Romane Silkovne), Dragan Mihaela (Theater group Gjuvlipen), Elezovski Ashmet (Director, The National Roma Centrum Organization) Grigore Delia (scholar; president of Roma Center „Amare Rroinentza”) Gomez Cortes Ismael (Researcher), Horvath Gilda /Nancy Black (artist and activist), Jovanovic Dejan (Teacher, independent researcher of Romani language) Mirga Andrzej (Chair of the Board of the Roina Education Fund (REF)) Metodiev Emil (Independent artist), Matkowska Justyna (Plenipotentiary of Ethnic Minorities at Dolny Slask Voivodship; musician), Mate Dezso (PhD Candidate at the Eötvös Loránd University) Nasture Florin (Director, National Center for Roma Culture) Oancea Mihai (Bucharest at the University of Agronomic Sciences) Pavlovic Dijana (Activist), Pankok Moritz (Artistic Director, Galeria Kai Dikhas), Ristic Dragan (Director of Romani Cultural Center - Belgrade) Redzepi Nadir (Director, REF), Sijercic Hedina (Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Council of Europe), Sanchez Fabian (Director, Asociación nacional presencia gitana) Serban Alina (Actress), Truksa Roman (Coordinator, Deputy director, Museum of Romani Culture, Brno) Taho Bledar (Director, IRCA, Vasilescu George (Artists), Vargas Miguel Angel (Artist, Roma Theater Pralip).

1. Organizational matter

ERiac Executive Director Timea Junghaus is appointed as the Chairperson of the General Assembly by the vote of permanent members. Ms. Junghaus appoints Almir Huseini as the minute-taker; the minutes will be reviewed and confirmed by the Chair of the General Assembly. Ms. Junghaus concludes by giving instructions and reviewing the rules for asking questions, taking the floor and voting during the GA.

2. Opening Remarks

Welcome remarks by Ms. Samardzic-Markovic, expressing support to ERiac as a membership-driven organization. Ms. Samardzic-Markovic highlighted that the membership in ERiac brings rights and obligations as well as reassured about the continuous political support of the Council of Europe for the Roma cause and ERiac specifically.

Welcome remarks by Mr. Jovanovic as Chairman of the Board presentation of the rationale of ERiac, associate membership and the principle of contribution. It was emphasized that members are important not only to ERiac but to the entire Roma movement and that this is

a historical moment for ERIAC. Mr. Jovanovic applauded associate members for complying with the principle of contribution which represents a paradigmatic shift in the Roma movement.

3. Objectives of the General Assembly and overview of the agenda

ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus presents the agenda of the General Assembly: overview of activities and achievements of ERIAC; appointment of the 8 Barvalipe academy members; discussion between the members about the ERIAC's future and the role of associate members in ERIAC. Ms. Junghaus emphasized that the objective of the General Assembly is to officially appoint eight associate members to Barvalipe Academy nominated in different thematic sections.

4. Presentation of ERIAC's work in 2017-2018: Major milestones

Timea Junghaus presents ERIAC milestones since its creation until the present. The status report includes the overview of the organizational and institutional achievements in 2018 (based on the reading materials provided) and presents the two international programmes: International Cultural Outreach Programme and Cultural Institutional Network Initiative (CINI). Engagement with different stakeholders — including governments, mainstream arts and culture institutions, Roma organizations and artists - in the ERIAC open space as well as online was also discussed.

5. Appointment of the Barvalipe Academy members

ERIAC Program Officer Almir Huseini presented the process of building the associate membership since the launching of the call for associate members. The collected contributions (financial and in-kind) as well as the overview of the distribution of members — including institutional and individual as well as across the four thematic sections was presented. Subsequently, the internal election process conducted in each thematic section was described.

5.1 Role of the Barvalipe Academy

Deputy Director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka briefly described the role of the Barvalipe Academy and presented the 7 members initially appointed by the ERIAC Board.

According to ERIAC statute, the remaining 8 members are to be formally appointed by the General Assembly during which the associate members cast their votes. The 8 members to be appointed by the General Assembly will complete the process of building the Barvalipe Academy.

5.2 Review of the voting results in each section. Overview of the winners and substitutes in each section

Review of the voting results and introduction of nominees elected in each section as candidates to the Barvalipe Academy, presented by the Deputy Director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka.

Review of the voting results and introduction of nominees elected in each section as candidates to the Barvalipe Academy, presented by the Deputy Director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka.

Arts and Culture

Nominees: Emilia Rigova (SK), Michaela Dragan (RO)

Substitute: Alina Serban (RO)

Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture

Nominees: Delia Grigore (RO), Maria Bogdan (HU)

Substitute: Hedina Sijercic (BIH)

History and commemoration

Nominees: Museum of Roma Culture in Brno* (CZ), Ismael Cortes (ES)

Substitute: Florin Nasture (RO)

Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture

Nominees: Gilda Horvath/ Nancy Black (AU), Kali Sara* (HR)

Substitute: Florin Pasture (RO)

5.3 Voting by Associate members

Rules for voting through the online system are introduced to the associate members. The associate members are to vote until 15:50 when the final results will be revealed.

5.4. Next steps for the Barvalipe Members

Presentation of the next steps to be taken by the Barvalipe Academy:

- Process of strategic input, 1st full Barvalipe meeting and election of 2 delegates to the Pakiv Board.
- Substitution — and their role in the Barvalipe
- Internal work and communication with the Board and the associate membership

6. Role of the associate members

Presentation of the role of associate members as defined in the membership charter and statute - rules and obligations. Next steps are introduced in terms of engagement with members in particular regarding strategy, ideas, contributions and participation.

7. Questions and Answers

The associate members were invited to pose questions to the ERIAC Board and management. They were also given the chance to take the floor to comment. Discussions concerned mainly the future initiatives and the nature of possible collaborations. The associate members inquired about the ERIAC engagement in presence outside of its offices in Berlin; possibilities to open ERIAC branch offices in different countries; the organization of events in different countries with ERIAC support; relevant Information about the recent development on the topic of the Venice Biennale.

8. Review of the election results

The members voted unanimously in favor of appoint all nominees as representatives in the Barvalipe Academy.

General Assembly decision:

The nominated candidates are officially appointed in Barvalipe Academy. Barvalipe Academy is officially completed.

9. Conclusion and closing of the General Assembly

Timea Junghaus as Chair of the General Assembly concludes and closes the meeting.

ERiac International Cultural Outreach Program

ERiac
EUROPEAN ROMA

ERiac 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”

“Déjame que te cuente / Allow me to explain”.

Discussion Forum on Gitanos and Flamenco. New Perspectives of an Old Art

Date: January, 24th – 25th, 2018

Location: Espacio Turina (Historical Theatre) / Factoría Cultural, Las 3000, Seville

The event in numbers: 20 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 500 participants, 104 Facebook event likes; 34 media appearances; 3 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 3 institutional partners, supporters and volunteers

The event in Sevilla aimed to initiate the International Cultural Outreach Program by reflecting on Flamenco as a Cultural heritage of Roma/Gitanos in Spain.

Taking stock of the knowledge and practice around the complex relationship between Gitanos and Flamenco and the ambivalence of the theme, there is an urgent need for creating a space where Romani-Gitano artists, researchers and producers can share and discuss the rich diversity of positions towards an art that, in spite of controversy around its origins, is the best example of the contribution of Gitanos to the art world. Flamenco Gitano as an artform originates from the dialogue between practices of resistance, adaptation and creativity of Gitanos and non-Gitanos in the last two centuries. Nonetheless, the Gitano element is inseparable from Andalusia-born flamenco, and in Spain, Europe and world-wide becomes the prism through which we – as Gitanos - are imagined to be as a people. That also means we need Roma people outside Spain take part in this debate as something that belongs and appeal to them too.

This Forum aimed to be a starting point for an important discussion about the contribution, recognition, ownership, current state of affairs and the future of Gitano flamenco, led by mainly Gitano artists, researchers and producers. The Forum led to concrete local, national and international actions to be taken by ourselves: the Gitano artists, producers, experts, researchers, journalists, teachers... in order to make clear that flamenco is linked and inseparable to the history of Roma people of Spain and becomes a language we have been using and will be using in the future, as the way of increasing and enriching the mainstream majority of society.

The event inaugurated ERIAC's International Cultural Outreach Program, with an ambitious program of conferences and debates and was organized in collaboration with the Institute for Arts and Culture of the City Council of Seville (ICAS). The highlight of the event was the concert of the famous Gitano flamenco artist Diego Amador, which took place in Factoría Cultural, a new art centre located in the so-called Las 3000, a peripheric impoverished neighbourhood located on the outskirts of Sevilla, which is home to one of the biggest Romani communities in the South of Spain. The concert of Diego Amador, himself born and raised in Las 3000, inaugurated the Factoria Cultural space. The political and media impact of the concert helped the message of ERIAC to be heard.



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The program of the two-day discussion forum “Déjame que te cuente / Allow me to explain” covered a wide range of aspects of the relationship between Flamenco and Gitanos and was divided in four sections: State of the question and contextualisation of Gitanos and Flamenco; The Future of Gitano teaching; Gitano media communication, archives and publishing; Roma Gitano institutions and Gitano Culture in institutions, companies and business. The variety of themes also reflected the diversity of panellists: writers, sociologists, artists, university professors, journalists, entrepreneurs, theatre directors.... All of them with one thing in common: they all are Roma, self-recognised as Gitanos and are linked to their respective Romani communities. The participants of the forum also aimed at reclaiming flamenco as an art-form from which originates from Roma culture and daily cultural practices. The panelists discussed the possibility for political recognition of Gitanos as creators of Flamenco, having in mind that the 2010 UNESCO declaration of “Flamenco as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” only makes marginal reference to Gitanos. Finally, the participants reflected on how flamenco is perceived outside Spain, by Roma people or wider majorities. Following the vibrant and critical discussions, a short publication will be produced which will include all speeches presented during the forum, as well as the ideas, proposals and suggestions that came from these debates. It’s important to acknowledge that this forum helped to make visible the plurality of views of different Roma-Gitano researchers, writers, experts, scholars, entrepreneurs and artists, demonstrating how Roma-Gitano stakeholders themselves provide a new avenue of understanding flamenco and propose a shift in the paradigm of Gitano flamenco.

Participants of the Forum: José Heredia Moreno, documentary filmmaker; Ivan Perriñez, university researcher and professor; Araceli Ortega, university professor; Juan Manuel Montoya Fernández, Farruquito and flamenco dancer; José María Vargas Peña, public school director and educational psychologist; Antonio Ortega, writer and journalist; Joaquín López Bustamante, writer and journalist; Noelia Cortés, tuitstar and blogger; Nicolás Jiménez González, sociologist, writer and Roma Culture expert; José Vega de los Reyes, researcher, teacher and social worker; Manuel Fernández Campos, manager.

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

Date: February, 1st – 2nd 2018

Location: Galician Jewish Museum, Gallery Szara Kamienica, Cracow

The event in numbers: 25 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 150 participants, 681 Facebook event likes; 12 media appearances; 12 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 7 partners, supporters and volunteers.

The event in Cracow focused on the importance of history and memory, the practices of remembering, commemorating, and the processes of narrating and transmitting history. More specifically, the Cracow event aimed to provide a space in which different stakeholders and institutions could engage in a discussion, assessing the current state of historical and commemorative practices and discuss the future agenda with regards to Roma history. The event provided a forum in which the paths of the Roma movement, especially Roma youth activism, Roma artistic and knowledge production, as well as institutional practice and support, intersected in order to advance in the process of shaping and promoting Roma historical narratives. The event was organized in collaboration with Monika Blaszcak and Jaw Dikh Foundation.



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The event brought together outstanding Roma and non-Roma scholars working in this field from different countries and had three parallel components:

- On the 1st of February, the opening of the exhibition of Romani artists “The Rights to Look”, curated by Delaine Le Bas and Dr. Wojciech Szymański, was inaugurated at the Contemporary Arts Gallery Szara Kamienica, located on the Main Square in Cracow, took place. The exhibition included the artwork of Delaine Le Bas, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Andrzej Mirga (photographs) and Krzysztof Gil; and was

inaugurated by the curators, by Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director of ERIAC and by Dr. Michael Groß, General Consul of Germany.

- On the 2nd of February, 2018 the international expert conference “The Future of Roma History: Remembrance, Historical Justice and the Role of Roma Youth” took place at the Galicia Jewish Museum, located in the heart of the Jewish District in Cracow. The conference was opened with a short speech by Mrs. Krystyna Gil, Roma Genocide survivor and a keynote speech of Dr. Ismael Cortés.
- In parallel to the conference, Roma youth activists Noemi and Delfin Łakatosz organized interactive workshops for high-school students on Roma history.

The Future of Roma Cultural Heritage

Date: February, 9th 2018

Location: Central European University, Budapest

The event in numbers: 34 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 170 participants, 293 Facebook event likes; 1 media appearance; 5 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 8 partners, supporters and volunteers

Analyzing the Hungarian situation, the country coordinator team identified a number of challenges to which ERIAC needs to respond. For one, the legacy of the socialist regime created an institutional ignorance of Roma both in the cultural and the arts realm. As a result, a hiatus is apparent in the domain of Roma arts; despite of the numerous individual attempts to create spaces and dialogue, there is a significant lack of appropriate structures and institutions to catalogue, showcase and promote Roma arts and culture. Roma in Hungary still faces institutional discrimination not only in daily existence, but also in these areas at the societal level. In addition, government efforts of centralization of power in the past 8 years have created an operating environment that increased the isolation of Roma arts and culture efforts and attempts for constructing shared spaces and vision have remained at the level of individual initiatives. In other words, the Roma arts and culture scene continues to be fragmented and forced to operate in a hostile milieu.

Taken into consideration the fragmented nature of the Roma arts and culture scene of Hungary, the highly politicized character of the mainstream arts and cultural institutions, and the inimical environment, we decided to center the Hungarian opening event of ERIAC around dialogue, with the approaches and methodologies of Futures Studies (futurology) as the focal point of the event's activities. We attempted to bring together in a discussion various stakeholder groups. Inviting relevant actors and creating a space for them to interact and engage we aimed to develop mutual learning and form a core group of proponents of ERIAC, which in turn would contribute to shaping the future. In addition, subsequent ERIAC activities in Hungary could be built on this core group of proponents with shared understanding.

To achieve the above goals with our event, ERIAC teamed up with CEU Romani Studies Program (CEU RSP) and the Re-designing Access to European Cultural Heritage Project (REACH) as strategic partners. Together we hosted "The Future of Roma Cultural Heritage". Invitees of the event included Roma artists and scientists, Roma and non-Roma civil society organizations, international organizations, Embassies present in Hungary, the Hungarian Government, and ERIAC's founding organizations with special attendance of Mr. Rolf Moormann, Deputy Head of Political Section and Head of Protocol of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany.



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At the event, Mr. Liviu Matei CEU Provost and Pro-Rector and Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic Chairman of the ERIAC Board delivered opening remarks. A panel discussion on Roma cultural heritage encompassing past, present and future, started the event honoring the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. Panelists included scholars of Romani studies and cultural heritage as well as a member of the European Parliament. Namely, the panelists were Mimoza Gavrani, student, Romani Studies Program CEU, Eszter Gyorgy, professor, Atelier, European Social Science and Historiography Department ELTE, Peter Niedermuller, representative, European Parliament, Iulius Rostas, chair, Romani Studies Program CEU, Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC moderated the panel discussion.

An interactive game of futures planning followed the discussion. In this exciting activity we called the participants to action. Organized around topics closely related to the preservation of Roma cultural heritage we invited all attendees to contribute their expertise and ideas to the dialogue. In this moderated, but free format we planned to establish a shared understanding of what Roma cultural heritage is and how we can all take an active role in preserving and promoting it. As a result of the game, the participant group moved forward to a shared understanding of what Roma cultural heritage is and how we can all take an active role in preserving and promoting it.

The event closed with a reception and a unique concert of two outstanding Romani bands: Saraiman Fusion Band, a Romanian upcoming formation and Romano Drom, one of Hungary's most well-known groups exemplifying the overarching nature of the Romani culture.

“SAR DIČHOLA ROMAŇI KULTURA DUREDER” The Future of Romani Culture”

Date: February 13th, 2018

Location: Czech Center, Korunni Theater, Prague

The event in numbers: 64 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 272 participants, 262 Facebook event likes; 7 media appearances; 10 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 11 partners, supporters and volunteers

The program of the event included an international conference and evening cultural program. It was inaugurated by an informal dinner at Gallery del Arte. The gallery is a newly opened space owned by the Roma journalist Soňa Kalejová. The informal dinner, prepared by Roma and which included traditional Romani dishes, served as an opportunity to meet and inaugurate the discussions among the participants. The deputy director of ERIAC, Anna Mirga Kruszelnicka, the international guests and panelists attended, including Magdaléna Rothová (SK), Amet Jasar (NL), Marian Olivian Mircea (RO) as well as Czech Roma activists and artists from significant organizations (ARA ART, SLOVO 21, Museum of Romani Culture, IQ Roma Servis).

The International Conference entitled “Supporting the Development of Romani Culture: Present Challenges and Opportunities for the Future” took place on February 13th 2018 at 10:00 at the Gallery of Czech Centres. For the occasion, two photo exhibitions of Rishabh Kaul “Backstage Diaries” were presented in the venue which accompanied the conference.

Within the framework of the Prague conference, the participants focused on the presentation of Romani culture in the Czech Republic and abroad, discussed the challenges and obstacles associated with the financing of Roma cultural projects and future development of Roma cultural heritage. The conference was divided into thematic sessions. The conference was inaugurated by dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director of ERIAC, Mrs Jelena Silajdžić, Director of the NGO Slovo 21, Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany, Mr. Christoph Israng and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway, Mrs. Siri Ellen Sletner.

The first thematic session “Support of Romani Culture” introduced the positive examples of Romani culture in the Czech Republic and in other European countries. In this part, the speakers were organizers of Romani cultural events or directors of NGOs, which also focus on Romani culture. They presented their institutions, cultural projects they organize or are currently working on, their funding processes and how would they imagine the future funding of cultural events. David Tišer presented the work of the Roma NGO ARA ART; Zdeněk Ryšavý talked about Romea with their magazine “Romano Vodi”; Ivona Parčiová from IQ Roma Servis presented Amaro records, the recording studio for Roma artists; dr. Jana Horváthová talked about the Museum of Romani Culture and Pavlína Matiová presented the work of Slovo 21 and their Khamoro Festival, the biggest Roma festival in the world. There were also guests from abroad: Magdaléna Rothová from Slovakia introduced Roma Spirit Awards; Amet Jasar, Vice-chairman of the Advisory Committee Sinti and Roma from the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport in the Netherlands described the system of financing of Roma cultural projects in his country and how Roma can apply for grant calls. Karolina Mirga Danek presented the work of the International Roma Youth Network ternYpe. The last guest was Marian Olivian Mircea, coordinator in Mesteshukar ButiQ, the Bucharest-based social enterprise working on revaluing traditional Roma craftsmanship.

The second thematic session “Development of Romani Culture” was dedicated to discussing possible funding support of Romani culture not only on the national but also on the international level. That is why we have invited the representatives of European institutions with focus on Romani culture such as European Cultural Foundation and national governmental representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic or the City of Prague. The Conference counted with the participation of

the Minister of Culture, Dr. Ilja Šmíd, the Prague City Councilor, Mr. Jan Wolf and Mr. Martin Martínek, Head of Government Council for Roma Minority Affairs Unit and Secretariat of the Government Council for National Minorities who underlined their continuous support for Roma cultural and artistic initiatives in the Czech Republic. The conference was concluded by a discussion hosted by Jarmila Balážová, a journalist of Roma origin and the spokesperson of the Minister of Education of the Czech Republic.



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The conference was followed by the public cultural program in the evening which took place at 19:00 in Divadlo v Korunní, a re-known theatre owned by famous Roma politician and former activist Emil Ščuka. The theatre is part of the International Conservatory of Prague, from which the most important Roma artists from all over the Czech Republic come from. During the evening, visitors could taste a variety of Romani culture in all its forms such as music, singing, poetry, performance, alternative art and more. The evening started with Renáta Berkyová, a well-known poet and prose writer. The audience could also see Peter Balogh, a young violinist from the International Conservatory, Milan Kroka and Live Band, whose composer and singer is Milan Kroka is one of the most significant musicians of the Czech scene or Jan Bendig, participant of the Czech Slovak SuperStar competition. Pavlína Matiová and Marta Balážová, young Roma singers and actresses, were also among the performers. They are both members of Roma theater group ARA ART, which is based in Prague. Since 2012, they have been working on the Prague musical scene. The audience could also engage in an interactive performance by Romane Kale Panthera, alternative art group of Roma artists from the Czech Republic.

Tomáš Bystrý, well know editor from the Czech National Radio (Český rozhlas) hosted the Evening Cultural Program. He is also Roma origin. The whole program was concluded by a reception.

European Roots of Roma Arts and Culture – Perspectives of Roma and Sinti Minority in Italy

Date: February 14th, 2018

Location: Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Rome

The event in numbers: 50 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 111 participants, 4324 Facebook event likes; 17 media appearances; 8 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 2 partners, supporters and volunteers

The event had the objective to present ERIAC to Roma organisations and to the main political stakeholders in Italy in order to connect the goals and the principles represented by ERIAC to the specific Italian context. The event was co-hosted by the National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) and took place in the prestigious multi-purpose hall of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers in via Santa Maria in Via 37 in Rome.

The event was inaugurated by the panel “European Roots of Roma Arts and Culture” with the following panellists: Ms. Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of ERIAC, Mrs. Luisella Pavan -Woolfe, Director of the Council of Europe Office in Italy, Mr. Mensur Haliti, Roma Initiative Office (OSF) and Mrs Dijana Pavlovic, President of the Alliance for the European Roma Institute.

The first panel “Future Perspectives of Roma and Sinti Minority in Italy” discussed the current status of Roma in the country and debated about the possibilities for its formal recognition as one of the many ethnic minorities in Italy. The subsequent panel “Teaching history – bases to contrast antigypsyism” discussed the importance of disseminating and including history of Roma in school curricula. The next panel “Majority’s culture and Roma and Sinti minority” focused on the role of the media and scholars in confronting antigypsyism.

The event gathered distinguished Roma and non-Roma speakers, among them: Mr. Roberto Bortone and Mr. Alessandro Pistecchia from National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR); Ms. Giovanna Martelli and Mr. Emanuele Fiano, Members of Italian Parliament; Mr. Luca Bravi and Mr. Alessandro Simoni of the University of Florence; Mr. Andrzej. Mirga, Chair of the Roma Education Fund (REF); Mr. Alfredo Alietti from the University of Ferrara; journalists Mr. Lorenzo Guadagnucci and Ms. Elisa Murgese; Mr. Moni Ovadia, Italian intellectual, writer and actor. Participants have debated on the importance of the recognition of the minority status to Roma and Sinti in Italy, on the importance of teaching the Roma history as a tool to combat antigypsyism and about the importance of the formal recognition of the Roma Holocaust. Other themes discussed included the perspectives for overcoming stigmatizing media coverage of Roma in Italy, and the relationship between the university researchers and the academic world and the discriminated minorities.



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The program was concluded by the concert of famous Roma musician Santino Spinelli and the European Orchestra for Peace directed by maestro Antonio Cericola, with the soprano Federica Serpente, the reciting voice of Dijana Pavlovic and the extraordinary participation of the singer-songwriter Nathalie.

The importance of ERIAC's event was of great importance. It was the first time that in Italy, where the Roma are generally seen and portrayed as a social or security problem, that the existence and the importance of Roma culture has been affirmed on such a high political level and with so many institutional representatives. The involvement of the MPs, of the university teachers, of the intellectuals, journalists, and the great interest they showed during the event will allow to the Roma organisations to follow-up on this event in order to reach the institutional recognition of Roma and Sinti as a national and ethnic minority in Italy. All speeches of the participants will be transcribed and published in way to be accessible to all Roma organisations and institutions interested. (REF); Mr. Alfredo Alietti from the University of Ferrara; journalists Mr. Lorenzo Guadagnucci and Ms. Elisa Murgese; Mr. Moni Ovadia, Italian intellectual, writer and actor.

Roma: Contributions to the Development of the Romanian State

Date: February, 21st – 22nd 2018

Location: Romanian National History Museum, Bucharest

The event in numbers: 10 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 300 participants, 986 Facebook event likes; 25 media appearances; 20 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 25 partners, supporters and volunteers

On the 21st February 2018, starting with 18:00, the first event of European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture – ERIAC took place in Romania, Bucharest. The event date coincided not only with the Centenary celebration of the Romanian state, but also with the celebration of 162 years from the Slavery abolishment on the Romanian Lands. The event was organized in the Romanian National History Museum, the venue having an important symbolic significance. Moreover, the initiative found a great deal of support among high level representatives of many central authorities and organizations, developing partnerships with the National Agency for Roma, National Roma Contact Point – European Funds Ministry, Roma National Cultural Center, Roma Studies Master Program – SNSPA and Romano ButiQ Association.

The event hosted around 120 participants, representatives of central authorities, embassies and NGO's, such as: German Embassy, Israel Embassy, USA Embassy, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of diaspora Romanians.

After the brief inaugural session, the first cultural expression of the event took place - a fragment from the theatrical play "The Big Shame/Marea Rusine" directed by Alina Șerban, a piece that deals with the topic of slavery of Roma in the Romanian and Moldovan countries, and the connection and involvement of the Romanian Orthodox Church in this phenomenon - a debate that is most needed in the Romanian society today, commonly being left out of the public discourse in today's Romania. At the end of the theatrical play, the guests were invited to the museum's lobby for the next artistic action - a concert called "One hundred years of music," by the well-known Roma band Mahala Rai Banda. The concert was not their ordinary piece, but with a lesson-recital, which musically illustrated the history of "lautari" music in Romania over the last hundred years. The artists interpreted in chronological order pieces designed to track the impact of the Roma lautari on Romanian culture and music over time. During the concert, but also after its completion, a cocktail was held in the lobby of the museum, which allowed and sustained the communication between the participants, offering the right framework for impressions, exchanges of opinions and the possibility of establishing future partnerships for the organization of similar events in the future.

On February 22nd, 2018, the "Roma: Participation in the Development of the Romanian State" conference took place, held between 10:00 and 16:00, the location was also the National History Museum of Romania. The conference was attended by about 95 guests, including representatives of the Ministry of Culture and National Identity, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Youth, the Interethnic Relations Department, the Embassy of Norway, the Embassy of Israel, the British Council, the Romanian Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Center of Roma, ISPMN, National Agency for Roma, Central European University, Chamber of Deputies, SNSPA, Faculty of Sociology and Social Assistance, Romanian Peace Foundation, Roma Education Fund Romania, Pakiv Romania, Sastipen and others.



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The event was opened by Mrs. Timea Junghaus from ERIAC and Mr. Ernest Oberlander-Tarnoveanu, the director of the National History Museum of Romania. The conference continued with a short speech session, facilitated by Ciprian Necula, from the organizers part, followed by, Mr. Sergiu Nistor, Romanian Presidency, Ms. Mihaela Toader, Secretary of State, Ministry of European Funds, Dr. Daniel Rădulescu, National Agency for Roma and Mr. Mihai Neacsu, from the Roma National Center for Culture.

The second part of the conference contained 6 academic presentations on Roma contributions to the founding and development of the Romanian state. The communication session was moderated by Professor Dr. Vintilă Mihăilescu. The themes and panel speakers were as follows: "The History of Roma Contribution to the Foundation and Development of the Romanian State between 1918-1945", by Dr. Petre Matei., "Nicolae Gheorghe - 1001 thoughts and 100 years of loneliness. Centenary and Governance", Dr. Vasile Ionescu, "Roma in Romania - a century of cultural stigmatization", Dr. Delia Grigore, "Beyond the walls. Some Considerations on the Life and Religious Practices of Slavery in the 18th-19th Centuries" - Dr. Mirel Bănică, "Mimiu Community" - Dr. Cătălin Berescu, "Roma personalities and their contribution to the development of modern Romanian state" - Dr. Valentin Negoii.

Grand Finale of ERIAC's International Cultural Outreach Program

The concluding event of the International Cultural Outreach Program included two components:

- a lecture by Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and the symposium on “Visions for a New Humanity” led by visionary women intellectuals and inspired in Roma pride and excellence
- Evening celebration at the Maxim Gorki Theatre, featuring the special performance of the “Roma Armee” play and the reception for 150 guests at the Marmorsaal of the Maxim Gorki Theatre.

Visions for a New Humanity: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak and Roma Feminist Scholars Contemplate the Future

Date: February, 26th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

The event, which required previous registration due to limited space, gathered over 50 participants. The lecture as well as the discussion were recorded as a way of preserving this historic event for future generations.

After six successful events in Seville, Cracow, Budapest, Prague, Rome and Bucharest the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture's (ERIAC) final International Cultural Outreach Program took place in Berlin.

While Europe is experiencing an identity crisis, ERIAC proposed a discussion on visions for a New Humanity led by visionary women intellectuals and inspired in Roma pride and excellence. Through mobilizing the knowledge of Roma people, Roma feminists proposed to rethink the relationship between nationalism and diversity, searching for answers of what it means to be European today, in a continent divided by political challenges. This debate also fed into the contemporary discussion of the necessity and inevitability of eradicating patriarchal hierarchies; a process led by women all over the globe.

The shift in cultural and political discourse – from Roma as problem to Roma as potential – is present and ongoing. The Roma arts and cultural scene is a vibrant and inspiring space of self-emancipation and critical discussions in which Roma women are at the forefront. Through mobilizing the knowledge of Roma people, Roma feminists propose to rethink the relationship between nationalism and diversity, searching for answers of what it means to be European today, in a continent divided by political challenges.

In a panel discussion organized in ERIAC's Office and Art Space, outstanding Roma feminist – activists and scholars – Dr. Ethel Brooks: Rutgers University; Dr. Nicoleta Bitu: Chair of the RomArchive Board; Dr. William Bila: President Las Voix des Rroms; Dr. Angela Kocze: Central European University; Timea Junghaus: Director of ERIAC – discussed the transformative potential of transnational alliances and the power of the periphery to renew social cohesion.



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The discussion was inaugurated by a lecture of Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Professor Spivak, (born Feb. 24, 1942, Calcutta, India), is an Indian literary theorist, feminist critic, postcolonial theorist, and professor of comparative literature. She is University Professor at Columbia University, where she is a founding member of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. Considered one of the most influential postcolonial intellectuals, Prof. Spivak is best known for her seminal essay “Can the Subaltern Speak?” and has eleven 11 honorary doctorates from universities across the world. In her lecture, Professor Spivak talked about the need for a “New Humanism” and linked the contemporary scholarly debates to the current situation of Roma.

The event, which required previous registration due to limited space, gathered over 50 participants. The lecture as well as the discussion were recorded as a way of preserving this historic event for future generations.

Evening Gala at the Maxim Gorki Theatre

Date: February, 26th 2018

Location: Maxim Gorki Theatre, Berlin

The event in numbers: 24 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians); 200 (50 + 150) participants, 225 Facebook event likes; 5 media appearances; 4 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials; 7 partners, supporters and volunteers

The ERIAC's International Cultural Outreach Program grand finale was the Evening Gala and celebration at the Maxim Gorki Theatre. During the event, 150 special guests were invited by ERIAC to join the gala, including representatives of Roma organizations from Germany and abroad, country coordinators and local partner organizations, representatives of arts and culture scene in Berlin, foundations, political representatives, artists and producers. The highlight of the event was the special performance of the critically-acclaimed performance of the "Roma Armee" play, produced by the Maxim Gorki Theatre.



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First, the guests were invited to a reception in the foyer of the Maxim Gorki Theatre. Then, all the guests attended the special welcome addresses before the special performance of the "Roma Armee". Zeljko Jovanovic, OSF RIO, was the host of the evening and directed few words of welcome to the audience. Then, consecutively outstanding guests, founders and supporters delivered their speeches: Patrick Gaspard, OSF President; Felix Klein, Special Representative for Relations on Jewish organisations and International matters of Sinti and Roma; Hortensia Völckers, director of Kulturstiftung des Bundes; Shermin Langhoff, director of the Maxim Gorki Theatre and Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of ERIAC. Following the speeches, the audience had the pleasure of experiencing the transformative power of Roma arts and culture in the play "Roma Armee".

After the play, the guests were invited to an evening reception and dinner at the Marmorsaal of the Maxim Gorki Theatre. Music was provided by DJ Gypsy Robot (Laszlo Farkas) throughout the night. A screening of the documentation from all venues of the Outreach Program was presented to the guest.

Final Narrative Report

ERIAC initiated its international activities with the “ERIAC’s International Cultural Outreach Program”. The program aimed 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 served to build up enthusiasm and mobilize support for ERIAC among Roma and non-Roma individuals, communities and institutions. Through the International Cultural Outreach Program, ERIAC mobilized its future membership by sharing and promoting ERIAC’s empowering vision, focusing on arts and culture.

The Program was implemented as planned. Between December 1, 2017 – February 28, 2018, ERIAC successfully developed high-visibility events in six European locations, implementing the project according to the foreseen project planning and realizing the proposed objectives. The six events were concluded by the final event, which took place on the 26th of February in Berlin.

All the events were organized on the initially identified locations and concentrated on the themes and topics defined in the project proposal. There were only slight changes in the calendar of the events – in order to ensure better implementation, higher visibility and greater impact of the events in each location.

In each country, the outreach program had a local ERIAC country coordinator and the events were organized and co-hosted in collaboration with local partners. ERIAC was represented in Budapest, Bucharest and Rome by executive director Timea Junghaus; in Seville, Cracow and Prague by dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director.

Main achievements

ERIAC’s International Cultural Outreach Program aimed to organize the first (6) international meetings of the ERIAC community. More specifically, through the Outreach Program ERIAC achieved:

- To ensure a bottom up formation of the strategic directions of the organization based on Roma leadership;
- To create a line of international events where ERIAC can share its future vision and invite Roma contribution from experts, conferences, partner organizations, collaborators and the other members of the ERIAC Hub;
- To build up future membership of ERIAC by sharing and promoting ERIAC’s empowering vision, focusing on arts and culture;
- 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, potential donors.
- To organize a follow-up event introducing ERIAC to diverse audiences in Berlin;
- To promote the ERIAC mission for Sinti and Roma and to commence a conversation with potential partners and supporters in the frame of high quality cultural events.

Results

The Program resulted in the following outcomes:

- increased interest among Roma cultural producers and intellectuals in the ERIAC activities;
- strategic discussion, together with Roma intellectuals and organizations, about the most important questions and challenges in the Roma artistic and cultural scene enabling to set guiding questions and issues for ERIAC’s future activity;

- through six international events with contributions of the leading Roma artists, intellectuals and activists in Europe provided international visibility for ERIAC and showcase Roma talent and artistic/ cultural excellence;
- the planned events were multifarious in genre – including public conference, working group meeting, exhibition, media campaign, theatre performance, concerts – were based on the ERIAC founding principles. This enabled to give a clear understanding of the progressivity, contemporary character, high artistic and intellectual quality and potential represented by ERIAC;
- The visibility, the value of Roma contribution, and the growing number of ERIAC supporters, partners and future members will ensure ERIAC's stability and growth.

In numbers:

- 273 contributors (speakers, performers, musicians);
- 1673 participants;
- 6875 Facebook event likes;
- 101 media appearances;
- 62 ambassadors, international institutions and governmental officials;
- 60 partners, supporters and volunteers

The project also contributed to increasing ERIAC's visibility, promote the ERIAC brand and its mission, values and founding principles. The outreach of the event can be measured by the impact of ERIAC's events in the social media. For example, on ERIAC Facebook:

- Total Facebook reach since December 31st 2017: 75,245
- Total Facebook "likes" December 31st 2017: 44,799
- Total engaged users since December 31st 2017: 9,452
- Total impressions since December 31st 2017: 145,417
- Total count of video views since December 31st 2017: 5288.

ERIAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative Program



ERIAC continues its international activities with the “ERIAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative,” financed by Federal Foreign Office of the German government. The aim of the initiative is to introduce ERIAC to diverse audiences in places outside of ERIAC’s headquarters in Berlin. For this program, ERIAC has chosen to focus on the Balkans, to increase its presence in the region and engage more closely with the rich Roma arts and culture scene in the Balkan countries.

The project 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. Additionally, through the project, ERIAC will mobilize its current and future membership by sharing and promoting ERIAC’s empowering vision, focusing on arts and culture.

There are seven events planned to be held in seven different countries between September 2018 – February 2019. These events will embody ERIAC’s mission by providing visibility to Roma arts and culture, showcasing highest-quality productions of Roma contemporary art and engaging in discussions on the most-relevant themes related to Roma history and heritage. They aim to educate majorities and provide a positive image of beauty and richness of Roma arts and culture.

ERiac INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Zagreb, Croatia

October 30, 2018

“The Roma Pedagogy for Reconciliation”

Venice, Italy

October 29-30, 2018

“Advocating for the Permanent Roma Presence at La Biennale di Venezia”

Skopje, Macedonia

November 12-14, 2018

“The SHUTKA Lesson – a symposium on the role of the assembly and public gathering of the Roma in different present day and historical contexts in South-Eastern Europe”

Tirana, Albania

November 26-27, 2018

“Recognizing and Celebrating Identity and Culture of Albanian Roma”

The Roma Pedagogy for Reconciliation Event, ZAGREB (ERIAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative Program)

Date: October 30th 2018

Location: Zagreb, Croatia

On 30 October 2018, ERIAC, in partnership with the Croatian Romani Union “KALI SARA,” hosted an event on “Roma Pedagogy for Reconciliation” at the Croatian Institute of History in Zagreb. This event kicked off the ERIAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative (CINI), bringing Roma and Non-Roma scholars together to reflect on the history of the Roma Genocide and the Balkan wars, as well to discuss current recognition and reconciliation efforts.



The event featured a number of distinguished speakers, including Ms. Nina Obuljen Koržinek, the Croatian Minister of Culture, Mr. Furio Radin, the deputy speaker of the Sabor (the Croatian parliament), H.E. Mr. Robert Richard Klink, the Ambassador of Germany to Croatia, MP Mr. Velko Kajtazi, Ms. Suzana Krčmar, the president of the Croatian Romani Union “KALI SARA”, and Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszlenicka from ERIAC.

The speakers unequivocally recognised the importance of the Zagreb event and the importance of investing in the fight against anti-Gypsyism. They also emphasised the Romani people’s contributions to the fields of arts, culture, and science. Ambassador Klink and MP Kajtazi named ERIAC as the most successful initiative of Roma and a “new star of international cooperation”.

Following the opening notes, a public discussion took place. Mr. Alen Tahiri of the Croatian Office for Human Rights and National Minority Rights, Dr. Danijel Vojak, from the Ivo Pilar Institute for Social Sciences, Mr. Graziano Halilović of the Italian NGO Roma Onlus, Mr. Ivo

Pejaković, the director of Jasenovac Memorial Site, and Prof. Dr. Tvrtko Jakovina from the University of Zagreb, discussed the challenges and latest developments in research on the Roma Genocide and Roma history in the Western Balkan countries.

After the event, several participants visited the Roma Cemetery Uštica and the Jasenovac memorial site, where they were informed about KALI SARA's efforts to marking and turning Uštica Roma cemetery into a recognized memorial site.



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, ERIAC was founded in June 2017 in Berlin, Germany, to establish an artistic and cultural presence for European Roma. The Alliance became the driving force in making the Institute a reality, winning support from the Council of Europe, which represents 47 European states, the Open Society Foundation, and the German Federal Government. ERIAC is governed by principles that encourage diversity and plurality of Romani identities and cultures, by Romani leadership, engagement and contributions, and by the highest quality standards in the domains of arts and culture. The Croatian Romani Union "KALI SARA" is the Roma umbrella organisation in the Republic of Croatia and was founded in 2007. It is one of the most prominent Roma organisations in the region.



The Zagreb event is part of ERIAC's Cultural Institutions Network Initiative. In its framework, seven events will be held in seven European countries between September 2018 and February 2019. The events will embody ERIAC's mission by providing visibility to Roma arts and culture, by showcasing the highest-quality productions of Roma contemporary art and by engaging in discussions on the most-relevant themes related to Roma history and heritage. They aim to educate majorities and provide a positive image of the beauty and richness of Roma arts and culture. The Cultural Institutions Network Initiative is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Call for a curator for the Roma exhibition at the 58th VENICE Contemporary Art Biennale

Date: September 27th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

Chairman of the ERIAC Board, Zeljko Jovanovic and Executive Director, Timea Junghaus, as the Commissioners of the collaborative event – publish the present call for the curator of the Roma Exhibition in 2019.

The Shutka Lessons EVENT, SKOPJE (ERIAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative Program)

Date: November 13th 2018

Location: Skopje, Macedonia

On 13 November 2018, in the Museum of Macedonian Struggle in Skopje, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), in partnership with Romalítico – Institute for Research and Policy Analysis – organized a public event entitled “The Shutka Lessons”.

This event was the first ERIAC event in Macedonia and aimed at highlighting the artistic contributions of various Roma artists, the power of arts and culture in raising the voice for social justice, and promoting strategic cooperation between various Roma and non-Roma players in Macedonia’s artistic and cultural scenes.



Following the welcome remarks by Ms. Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC, Ms. Katrin Fröhinsfeld, the Head of Culture and Education Section German Embassy Skopje, and by Mr. Kurto Dudus, the mayor of Suto Orizari, the event proceeded with a panel discussion. The panel discussion brought together Ms. Sevdija Abdulova, editor of “Bijandipe” at the national broadcaster MTV, Mr. Srdjan Amet, a Roma activist, Mr. Aksel Ahmedovski, the Minister without Portfolio responsible for the implementation of the Roma Strategy, and Mr. Elvis Memeti, a policy adviser at the Ministry for Labor and Social Policy, to reflected on the challenges and future of Roma arts and culture in Macedonia.



The second part of the event featured two outstanding Roma artists from Shutka. Durmis Kjazim introduced his original art compilation and Bajsa Arifovska, a musical author of ethnic music and an assistant of the orchestra "Tanec," performed old original Roma music.



The event concluded with the local Roma Theater unique live performance: “Roma Refreshment”. The play’s plot of is based on the history of the Roma genocide in the WWII.



The program is part of European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) Cultural Institutions Network Initiative. The ERAC Cultural Institutions Network Initiative is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Albania'S Roma Cultural Heritage Event, TIRANA (ERIAC Cultural Insitutions Network Initiative Program)

Date: November 26th - 27th 2018

Location: Tirana, Albania

In the framework of the ERIAC Cultural Institution Network Initiative (CINI) an event was held on 26 and 27 November 2018, at the National Museum of History in Tirana.

The two-day event, entitled "Albania's Roma Cultural Heritage," was organised by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) in partnership with the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA), the Albanian Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Culture. The event aimed to provide visibility to Romani artists in the country and to initiate a dialogue about the importance of institutional preservation of Romani cultural heritage. It also presented the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Roma artists to Albanian artistic and cultural scenes and to invite decision makers, institutions, and cultural actors to discuss and develop future prospects for talented Romani individuals in the country.

The event opened on the first day with an exhibition of Romani artists centered around "The Nest", an installation by Tirana-based Roma visual artist Sead Kazanxhiu. "The Nest" symbolizes that Roma communities, including their artistic and cultural heritage, are integral and enriching parts of Albania's past, present, and future. Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, the Deputy Director of European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, H.E. Susanne Schütz, the German Ambassador to Albania, Ms. Eleni Laperi, an art curator and scholar, as well as Sead Kazanxhiu, an artist, made introductory remarks.

Following the exhibition, the participants were invited to visit the Roma Monument, designed by Sead Kazanxhiu, which is located in front of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection premises. The attendees were welcomed by Ms. Adrijana Jaku, the Vice-Minister of Health and Social Protection.

On the second day, a conference on "Celebrating the European Identity and Culture of Roma in Albania" took place. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka of ERIAC, Ms. Senida Mesi, the Deputy Prime Minister of Albania, H.E. Susanne Schütz, the German Ambassador to Albania, Ms. Mirela Kumbaro, the Minister of Culture of Albania and Mr. Olsi Dekovi of the Council of Europe Tirana Office.

Three sessions ensued. The first featured distinguished keynote speakers: Mr. Dorian Koci, the Director of the National Historical Museum, Mr. Erion Xhaibra from the Committee of National Minorities, Ms. Ina Kokedhima from the Albanian Ministry of Health and Social Protection, and Mr. Bekim Murati, the Director of the Agency for Supporting Local Self-Government of the Ministry of Interior. The speakers introduced the challenges and progress made with regard to minority law, the implementation of the Roma Action Plan, and also highlighted the recognition of Roma cultural Heritage.

The second part featured an exhibition by Ms. Farija Mehmeti and Mr. Bajram Mehmeti, Romani artists from Kosovo, who presented their artwork. After the presentation of the artwork, a live performance by Capitol Music Studio entertained our guests.

During the final part of the event, a moderated panel discussion took place featuring artists Ms. Farija Mehmeti and Mr. Sead Kazanxhiu, Ms. Manjola Veizi, the director of the Center for Roma Women Rights, and Mr. Emiliano Aliu of RomaVersitas Albania. The discussion was moderated by Mr. Bledar Taho, the director of the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania (IRCA). The panelists highlighted the Albanian Romani cultural heritage and its immense contribution to the Albanian scene, as well as strategies to promote and increase the visibility of Romani artists in the artistic mainstream and the art world. After the initial presentations, the audience was invited to ask questions and pose comments to the panelists.

The event concluded with an informal reception.



Events

Delegation from the Federal Foreign Office visits ERIAC's premises

Date: January 10th, 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On January, 10th 2018, the Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth, along with a delegation from the Federal Foreign Office visited the brand-new ERIAC office in Berlin. The guests were given a short guided tour of the office, including a guided tour to the current ERIAC exhibition "Transgressing the past, Shaping the Future". ERIAC's staff introduced the upcoming events, organized in the framework of the International Cultural Outreach Program, and discussed the strategic plans for ERIAC's near future. Minister of State for Europe Roth and the delegation representatives were given presents, including Roma artwork and publications about Roma art, as a token of appreciation of their continuous support for ERIAC.



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Reception hosted by the Roma Integration 2020 and ERIAC

Date: February 13th, 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On February 13th 2018, participants of the Regional Conference “Addressing Discrimination and Anti-Gypsyism in the enlargement region” were invited to attend a reception at ERIAC’s Office and Art Space.

The Regional Conference “Addressing Discrimination and Anti-Gypsyism in the enlargement region” was a two-day workshop addressing discrimination and anti-gypsyism in the enlargement region, organized under the auspices of the Regional Cooperation Council’s (RCC) Roma Integration 2020 (RI2020) project. The main objective of the workshop, gathering more than 80 ministerial officials from the Western Balkans and Turkey, was to ensure officials from the enlargement region dealing with Roma integration recognize and understand discrimination against Roma and anti-gypsyism.



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In the framework of the Conference, the participants were invited to attend visit ERIAC’s premises in Berlin. The event included a guided tour of the ERIAC exhibition “Transgressing the past – Shaping the future”, by Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of ERIAC, presentation of the ERIAC’s International Cultural Outreach Program and the premiere of the films from the events organized in the framework of the Outreach Program.

The reception was accompanied by Radio Çorel Quartett – a Roma ensemble composed of two guitars, bass, and violin who presented a selection of Sinto Swing music.

Exhibition “Hidden Roma Masterpieces”

Date: March, 13th 2018

Location: Palais of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg

On March 13th, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) presented the exhibition “Hidden Roma Masterpieces” at the Palais of the Council of Europe. The exhibition, curated by ERAC, was co-organized in collaboration with the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

In the second part of the twentieth century Roma writers, artists, and creators who were using art as a language of self-representation were finally allowed into the mainstream discourse. After the first World Romani Congress in 1971, Roma visual artists began to claim recognition as a group. Until this time, Roma artistic productions were represented as not being the work of individual authors, but rather as collective facts of nature, which only became a concrete representation when they were presented by art collectors or folklorists.

The “Hidden Roma Masterpieces” exhibition in the main building (Palais) of the Council of Europe, curated by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and co-organized by the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, demonstrated that over the past four decades, Roma contemporary art has been one of the most effective means for transmitting the genuine and subjective experience of Roma identity. Through their creations, Roma contemporary artists communicate clearly and powerfully while at the same time regain a voice as subjects rather than objects of inquiry of others.



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The exhibition presented a curated selection of the highest quality Roma contemporary art products from around Europe. The paintings, sculptures, mixed media artworks, videos and textiles represent the Roma cultural heritage which currently remains inaccessible and hidden from the audience.

At present, Roma contemporary art is collected, archived, acquired and studied by several major public institutions, state museums and archives but most of these artworks are still invisible: stored in the basements, archives and storage facilities. While there are thousands

of Roma artworks preserved in state institutions, rarely are they presented in permanent exhibitions of majority institutions in Europe.

The European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 inspires Europe to study and map the public, yet inaccessible Roma cultural heritage in Europe, to consider the future of transgenerational knowledge transfer, claim space for minority representation in permanent exhibitions and celebrate the emancipatory power of Roma arts and culture.

The notion of “Roma art” is the result of the activism and the hard labor of three Roma generations. With the recognition of Roma art, we celebrate the Roma thinkers, activists, organizations, public figures and artists who took part in the struggle for claiming and owning Roma identity and fought for Roma self-definition, self-presentation and Roma authorship. We also praise the non-Roma allies, supporters, mentors and patrons of art, who understand that social inclusion is impossible without cultural inclusion, and believe that the Roma minorities’ well-being is a pre-condition for the stability and prosperity of Europe...

The exhibition included artworks of renowned Romani artists: Damian Le Bas, Delaine Le Bas, Daniel Baker, Gabi Jimenez, George Vasilescu, Gerard Gartner, Imrich Tomas, Lita Cabellut, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Manolo Gomez Romero and Ceija Stojka. The event, attended by representatives of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament, included speeches by Thorbjorn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe; Péter Niedermüller, Member of the European Parliament; Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of the Roma Initiatives Office of the OSF and Timea Junghuas, ERIAC Executive Director. The opening of the exhibition was accompanied by music of the Saraiman Fusion Band from Bucharest.

Visit of the U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Kent Logsdon at ERIAC

Date: April 6th, 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On April 6th 2018, in connection to the International Roma Day, ERIAC was visited by the delegation of the U.S. Embassy in Germany. The meeting, hosted by ERIAC Executive Management, was attended by U.S. Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Kent Logsdon, Ms Sandra Sebastian, Political Specialist, and Mr. Jake Nelson, Secretary of the Political Section.

During the meeting, ERIAC presented the U.S. Embassy delegation with the process of ERIAC’s establishment and its historic character and discussed ERIAC’s activities up-to-date, including the International Cultural Outreach Program and the recent exhibitions and events. ERIAC also discussed the plans for the near future and the possibilities for future collaboration.



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Chargé d’Affaires Mr. Kent Logsdon inquired about the situation of Roma in Germany and in Europe, asked about Germany’s role in promoting Roma arts and culture, nationally and abroad. During the meeting, the issue of the Roma Holocaust Commemoration was discussed, taking stock of important developments in this regard in Germany, the EU and the US, making reference to the appointment of Prof. Ethel Brooks to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council. The meeting concluded with the guided tour of the current ERIAC exhibition “Transgressing the Past, Shaping the Future”.

International Literature Campaign: “A Roma poem that should be read this month”

International Roma Day

Date: April, 8th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On International Roma Day, ERIAC celebrates the contributions Roma poets have made, and continue to make, to the richness of European literature. Contrary to the common perception of Roma culture as a-literary and insensitive to written word, ERIAC wants to visibilize and acknowledge Roma literary creations. On this occasion we ask the ERIAC community, together with contemporary Roma poets, scholars, public figures, and artists from across the global diaspora to choose one Roma poem that should be read this month. We are collecting the video contributions through our Facebook page and via e-mail. The collected videos will be broadcast on the ERIAC website, ERIAC YouTube channel and Facebook page. The final compilation of the International Literature Campaign videos will be shown in ERIAC Office and Art Space.

Visit of the New Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović

Date: April 17th, 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On April 17th 2018, newly appointed Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Dunja Mijatović, visited the ERIAC Office and Art Space in Berlin.

Dunja Mijatović, national of Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been elected last January by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and took up office on April 1st 2018.



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The meeting was hosted by Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director. ERIAC presented the Commissioner with the timeline of ERIAC's establishment and discussed ERIAC's activities during its first months of existence, including the International Cultural Outreach Program and the recent exhibitions and events.

Commissioner Mijatović visited the exhibition "Transgressing the Past, Shaping the Future" and inquired about contemporary Roma arts and culture scene. She expressed her support for the work developed by the Institute and acknowledged that recognition and promotion of Roma culture is a very important step in fighting antigypsyism.

ASN Convention at Columbia University

Date: May, 3rd – 5th 2018

Location: Columbia University, New York City

The Association of Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention is the largest international and inter-disciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, which welcomes proposals on a wide range of topics related to nationalism, ethnicity, ethnic conflict and national identity.

Annually held in the spring in New York City at the premises of Columbia University, the ASN World Convention brings together over 800 scholars from around the world to examine and push forward research on issues of Nationalism, Ethnicity, Violence, Conflict, Economic Development and many other topics. The 2018 ASN Convention for the first time included a panel on Critical Romani Studies, which included Romani and non-Romani scholars.

The Panel was chaired by Professor Peter Vermeersch from KU Leuven in Belgium. The discussant was Ioanida Costache, PhD candidate in ethno-musicology at the Stanford University in the US. Representatives of ERIAC were among the panelists of the „Critical Approaches to Romani Studies” panel.



© Marton Rövid

Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director of ERIAC, presented the paper “Speaking Back: The Emergence of Romani Scholarship and its Implications for Romani Studies”.

Next, dr. Iulius Rostas from the Central European University, Assistant Professor and Chair of Romani Studies, presented the paper “The Challenge of Developing Romani Studies: The Importance of Critical and Inclusive Approaches”.

Then, executive director of ERIAC, Tímea Junghaus spoke about “The Epistemic, Political, and Institutional Development of Roma Art”.

The final paper “From Addressing Anti-Gypsyism to Remediating Racial Injustice” was presented by dr. Marton Rövid, Post-doctoral research fellow at the Central European University.

During the event, the Critical Romani Studies Journal was presented. Critical Romani Studies is an international, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal, providing a forum for activist-scholars to critically examine racial oppression, different forms of exclusion, inequalities, and human rights abuses of Roma. Without compromising academic standards of evidence collection and analysis, the Journal seeks to create a platform to critically

engage with academic knowledge production and generate critical academic and policy knowledge targeting—among others—scholars, activists, and policy-makers.

The journal is edited by a team of Roma and non-Roma scholars who cooperated in the past in organizing conferences and events, including the CEU Summer School on Romani Studies. CRS is published by CEU RSP in cooperation with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture and it is part of the Roma in European Societies initiative.

Resilient Cultural Heritage and Communities in Europe

Date: May, 10th – 11th 2018

Location: Hungarian National Museum, Budapest

ERIAC participates in the REACH Opening conference. The REACH is a major EU Horizon2020 project which aims to contribute to unlock the potential of people to engage in culture and cultural heritage (CH) in order to foster creativity and innovation and, thereby, to empower citizens to face the immense and rapid changes taking place in Europe and beyond.



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Across three years, the REACH project will establish a social platform as a sustainable space for meeting, discussion and collaboration by a wide-ranging network of development bodies, tourism, education, creative industries, CH professionals, academic experts, arts practitioners, professionals in archives and galleries, associations and interest groups representative of non-professionals and local societies, and policy-makers – all those with a stake in the field of culture and CH.

The conference announced the start of the new REACH social platform, presented its research themes and their theoretical framework, illustrated the mechanisms of participation and gathered requirements, needs, and expectations from the users.

Successful examples of participatory processes coming from other initiatives, in the world, were presented and discussed, with contributions from keynote speakers.

Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC, was among the presenters. In the framework of the panel session “Pilot on Minority Heritage” discussed the historic establishment of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture and its importance for preserving and promoting Roma cultural heritage across Europe.

Visit of Dr. Bernd Fabritius

Date: June 1st, 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

Bernd Fabritius, the newly appointed Federal Commissioner for Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities visited ERIAC on the 1st of June 2018.



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Dr. Fabritius, who was born in the region of Sibiu (RO) has been holding this post since March 2018, succeeding Dr. Günter Krings as the Federal Government Commissioner for Ethnic German Resettlers (Aussiedlerfragen) and National Minorities. A Transylvanian Saxon, Dr. Fabritius has also been President of the German Federation of Expellees (BdV) since 2014.

The meeting was hosted by Zeljko Jovanovic, Chair of the Board of ERIAC and ERIAC Deputy Director Dr. Anna-Mirga-Kruszelnicka who presented the brief history of ERIAC's establishment, presented our recent activities and shared ERIAC's plans for the future. The visit concluded with a guided tour of the ERIAC's new exhibition "The Roma Spring – Art as Resistance".

The Power of Protest – Discussion at BOZAR

Date: June 11th, 2018

Location: Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels

On the 11th of June, Patrick Gaspard, president of the Open Society Foundations, received artists, writers and activists in Brussels for a debate on: “L’IMAGINATION AU POUVOIR: THE POWER OF PROTEST IN WORDS, IMAGES ACTIONS.” The event took place at the BOZAR (Palais des Beaux-Arts / PSK) within the framework of the BOZAR’s thematic focus on ‘the legacy of 1968, revolution and Black Protest movements worldwide’.

Ms. Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC, attended and – together with South African artist-activist-musician Kendell Geers, essayist Manu Claeys and Afro-Belgian writer and journalist Heleen Debeuckelaere – discussed protest movements from the 1960s until today.



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The Bozar – a nucleus of the 1968 protests in Belgium – proved the seminal background for a debate on 50 years of cultural protest in Europe, the Americas and Africa. A global struggle for personal liberties, civil rights, racial justice and gender equality that had a powerful effect on the conscience of subsequent generations.

A common trope of 1968, the intersection of the private and the political, was reflected in the discussion as the speakers described how politics and protest shaped their very own lives and how the aesthetics of the 1960s movements influenced their political and artistic viewpoints.

The event was organized by Open Society Foundation (OSF) and BOZAR and followed by a reception.

Secretary General signs Memorandum of Understanding with ERIAC

Date: June, 22nd 2018

Location: Strasbourg

Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Zeljko Jovanovic, Chair of the Board of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC), signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalize co-operation between the two organizations, setting out their respective rights and obligations.

“ERAC is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations (OSF) and the Alliance for ERAC. It is the first cultural representation of the Romani community and was inaugurated on 8 June 2017 in Berlin, Germany. ERAC’s objective is the promotion of arts and culture and education as a means to promote human rights and intercultural understanding and thereby to tackle antigypsyism and discrimination against Roma in Europe and to increase their self-esteem.”



© Council of Europe

European Cultural Heritage Summit: Sharing Heritage – Sharing Values

Date: June, 18th – 24th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

Preserving and Promoting Roma Culture

The European Cultural Heritage Summit is one of the key public events of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH) and will be supported by the EU's Creative Europe Program. Within the summit's framework "Sharing Heritage – Sharing Values", only one event dedicated to Roma culture took place: "Preserving and promoting Roma cultural heritage" at the ERIAC premises.



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After a guided curatorial tour through the Roma Spring exhibition in the ERIAC Art Space, the guests were given an introductory lecture by Timea Junghaus. The executive director of ERIAC spoke about the preservation and promotion of Roma cultural heritage and ERIAC's part in it. Interested guests then engaged in a role playing game where they slipped into the role of Roma activists defending their heritage against an insistent commission.

Panel Discussion "Endangered Heritage / Endangered Values"

In the framework of the European Cultural Heritage Summit, ERIAC contributed to the panel discussion "Endangered heritage / Endangered Values", organized by the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy.

Other panelists included Europa Nostra vice-president Prof. Dr. Irina Subotic (University of Arts Belgrade), cultural journalist Ms. Eliza Marin, US theologian Prof. Dr. Karl Donfried (Smith College) and Ms. Aida Vežić, secretary general of the Network of European Museums (NEMO) and Deputy head of the Bosnian branch of Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB).

CEU Summer School 2018: Romani Identities and Antigypsyism

Date: July, 2nd – 13th 2018

Location: Central European University, Budapest

The summer course is part of the Roma in European Society Initiative funded by the Velux Foundations, Open Society Foundations Roma Initiatives Office, and the Roma Education Fund, in cooperation with Council of Europe.

This year, the Summer School focused on the nexus between Romani identities and antigypsyism. Antigypsyism is a core concept of critical Romani studies, and can be used methodologically, analytically and theoretically as a way of understanding the position of Roma in Europe historically and in the present moment. A growing body of scholarship grounds our understanding of antigypsyism in the Europeanization of the Roma issue and neoliberal regime expansion following the fall of communism. Other scholars originate antigypsyism in the nation-state building process. Some scholars define antigypsyism as an ideology and as a code of conduct that has been central to European culture.



© Kristina Raducan

The aim of this CEU Summer School was to link participating students and scholars with a transnational network of scholars in order to investigate the forms of oppressions faced by Roma and to analyze the mechanisms through which exclusion of Roma takes place in different fields of public life.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) contributed to the summer school: Timea Junghaus, ERIAC's executive director, was one of the faculty members, giving lectures on the "The Epistemic, Political and Institutional Development of Roma Art".

OSCE PA Seminar: “Addressing potential ethnic conflicts through law and good practices”

Date: July, 11th – 12th 2018

Location: Villa Borsig, Berlin

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the German Bundestag, with support of the German Foreign Ministry, hosted a seminar “Addressing potential ethnic conflicts through law and good practices” on July 11-12 at the Villa Borsig in Berlin. The Seminar was organized as a follow-up to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly’s 27th Annual Session, organized in Berlin on 7-11 July 2018.

The seminar took place four years after the launch of the Vienna Process which aims at enhancing parliamentary contributions to finding solutions for the many conflictual developments in recent OSCE history. The focus of this year’s seminar was on national minorities.

ERIAC was the only Roma stakeholder represented at the event. Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka participated in the last session, which focused on the situation of minorities in South and Eastern Europe.



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Other speakers included Mr Kristian Vigenin, Vice-President of the OSCE PA and MP from Bulgaria and a former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mr. Csaba Sogor, MEP from Romania and representative of Hungarian Minority. The session was chaired by Mr Azay Guliev, Vice-President of OSCE PA.

The event was closed with final remarks by Mr. George Tsereteli, President of the OSCE PA and Ms. Doris Barnett, OSCE PA Treasurer and Head of the German Delegation to the OSCE PA.

ERIAC Participates in a discussion at the Bundestag Holocaust Commemoration Practices

Date: August, 1st 2018

Location: German Bundestag, Berlin

On 01 August, a day before the International Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day, ERIAC participated in a discussion organized at the German Bundestag, in the framework of the International Summer Camp, "Remember the past. Respond to the present". The Summer Camp, organized by the Anne Frank Zentrum and Anne Frank House and taking place from 29 July to 03 August, brought together over 100 young participants from 16 countries, part of the worldwide Anne Frank Youth Network. The camp's aim was to discuss the causes and consequences of the turning point of 1938 and also how now, 80 years later, it is remembered in Germany and around the world.



© Anne Frank Zentrum/ Jan Schapira

The discussion at the German Bundestag brought together outstanding speakers to debate the practices of commemoration and represent the voices of the forgotten victims of National Socialism. Participants included Mrs. Gesine Löttsch, the Deputy Chairwoman of the Left Party (Die Linke) and Martin Georgi from the Förderkreis Gedenkort T4 e.V, a representative of the victims of euthanasia. Dr. Mirga-Kruszelnicka, the Deputy Director of ERIAC, joined the discussion to represent the Roma perspective on the practices of commemoration and importance of historical justice in the context of current developments in Europe.

ERAC-CEU INTERNSHIP PROGRAM BEGINS

Date: August, 1st 2018

Location: ERAC, Berlin

In the framework of the Roma in European Societies (RES) initiative of the Central European University (CEU), the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is offering an internship opportunity to qualified alumni of the CEU Roma Access Programs.

RES is funded over the next five years by the Velux Foundations, the Roma Education Fund, and the Open Society Foundations Roma Initiatives Office. The [Romani Studies Program](#) (RSP) is a new academic unit at CEU as of 01 August 2017, encompassing the Roma Graduate Preparation Program (RGPP), the Roma in European Societies (RES) initiative, and teaching and research by its faculty and fellows. The CEU-ERAC Internship program provides a unique opportunity to CEU Roma graduates, who will be placed in ERAC headquarters in Berlin and will work under the supervision of the Executive Management of ERAC.

Following a competitive call, the first two selected applicants are Almir Huseini from Serbia and Katalin Nemeth from Hungary.

Mr. Huseini holds a master's degree in public administration from Central European University. Additionally, he has extensive experience as a consultant, social worker, and researcher for organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and the European Centre for Minority Issues.

Ms. Nemeth received a master's degree in public administration from Central European University in 2016. Since then, she has worked as an assistant at the Roma Access Programs at Central European University and as a trainee at the Financial Mechanism Office – EEA and Norway Grants.

These interns, now part of the dynamic ERAC team, will contribute to the development of ERAC's mission and support the building of ERAC's international hub, which strives to promote activities of hundreds of Roma organizations, intellectuals, and artists in order to form multilateral initiatives and regional alliances. Interns will also conduct research in connection to the Roma contemporary arts and culture scene in Europe.

FOREST: An exhibition on the narratability of Roma Trauma

Date: August, 1st – November 3rd 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

The exhibition of ERIAC for the International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day presents the artworks of Robert Gabris and Emília Rigová and considers the transmitted trauma of the Roma Holocaust, as well as exposes the artists' own wounds to contemplate the impact of the victimizing and paralyzing stories about the Holocaust, violence, oppression, and discrimination inherited through the life stories of family, community, and ancestors by the younger generations. The central notion of the exhibition – Roma resistance – this transformative phenomenon of Roma agency – has the potential to enable the writing of the testimony of trauma, pain, the haunting unassimilable experience of loss, dislocation, and silence, into a new and actual „discourse”.

The artists explore the important aspect of narratability: In their artworks, the concepts of passivity and trauma, are interrelated. They express that the more passive we are and the more traumatic the experience is, the less we (want to) remember. They take action for the “writing” of the narrative, sharing their subjective stories, and testifying. To “testify,” as Shoshana Felman writes, is “not merely to narrate but to commit oneself, and to commit the narrative, to others”^[1] – becomes extended to the victims of present-day anti-gypsyism and racism. Roma survival, resistance, and resilience is encoded into the numerous cultural and political events that have taken place around Europe in the form of political interventions, protests, negotiations with major political bodies, demonstrations, marches, speeches and other public assemblies.

Drawing on the works of feminist philosopher Judith Butler, and applying it to the chart of Roma assemblies of the past, we recognize in the expressive dimension that the very fact of Roma people gathering “says” something even without relying on speech. These actions, as ways of coming together in long-distance solidarity, imply a new understanding of the public space of appearance essential to contemporary Roma politics. By enacting a form of radical solidarity in opposition to oppressive political and economic forces, and performing its embodiments in conferences, cultural events, negotiations, and alliances, a new sense of “Roma people” emerges. As Butler envisions: “Such an impasse can become the paradoxical condition of a form of social solidarity both mournful and joyful, a gathering enacted by bodies under duress, where the gathering itself signifies persistence and resistance.” ^[2]

The artists Robert Gabris and Emília Rigová endeavor for a productive narratability of Roma trauma and provide the pedagogy of Roma art. It is possible to capture the transformative moment when pain becomes a source of power, when the deepest hatred and violence calls for mutual healing, and when Roma transgress their own victimized, paralyzed and traumatized self.

[1] Shoshana Felman, Dori Laub: *Testimony: Crises of Witnessing in Literature, Psychoanalysis and History*, Routledge, 2013. p. 204.

[2] Judith Butler: *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*, Harvard University Press, 2015. p.23.



© Robert Gabris

THE TRUST FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING (TMU) VISITS ERIAC

Date: September 11th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

The Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU) was established in 1984 as a private grantmaking organisation dedicated to improve communication and cooperation between the people of the United States and the countries of Central- and Eastern Europe. TMU supports international face-to-face contact and professional interaction and is shaped by the belief that creative international collaboration encourages global harmony.

It remains the goal of TMU to enable talented people to come together from different countries to freely share ideas and stimulate creativity in a non-political context. A delegation of the Trust for Mutual Understanding visited the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture on 11 September to gain insight into ERIAC's mission and programme work. During a lively discussion, the shared values of our institutions were underlined and possibilities of future collaborations were explored.



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VISIT TO ERIAC BY MS. KATHERINE WATSON OF THE EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION (ECF)

Date: September 12th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

Ms. Katherine Watson, the Director of the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) visited the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture on 10 September.

The ECF is a Netherlands-based independent cultural foundation. Their mission is to “make a tangible impact on civil society, citizen initiatives, public opinion and policy proposals to combat the fragmenting forces jeopardising peace and social progress in Europe”.



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A Delegation of the Norwegian Ministry for Local Government and Modernisation visits ERIAC

Date: September 19th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

A delegation of the Department of Sami and Minority Affairs of the Norwegian ministry for Local Government and Modernisation of the Kingdom of Norway (Kommunal- og moderniseringsdepartementet'same- og minoritetspolitisk avdeling) visited the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture on 19 September. Their chief responsibility is the formulation and coordination of the Norwegian state's policies towards the Sami population and other national minorities such as the Roma and the local Romanifolk/'tateré'.



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The delegation's visit to ERIAC was part of a larger framework of competence building of the ministry, which also included meetings with the Jewish community of Berlin and the Federal Representative for the fight against Antisemitism. The group of 15 Norwegian civil servants discussed with deputy director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka on the topics of Roma representation in arts and culture and the newly established Roma Culture and Research Centre in Oslo.

“Re-Inventing Roma Inclusion” Symposium and “Sukar” Exhibition during the UN General Assembly, NEW YORK

Date: September 24th 2018

Location: New York, USA

During the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) hosted a Symposium and Exhibition at the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany. The ERIAC Symposium “Re-Inventing Roma Inclusion”, supported by the Federal Foreign Office of the German Federal Republic, took place on 24 September 2018.

The event featured a number of outstanding speakers, including:

- Michael Roth, German Deputy Foreign Minister and Minister of State for Europe
- George Soros, philanthropist and founder of the Open Society Foundations
- Thorbjørn Jagland, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- David Gill, Consul General of Germany
- Professor Ethel Brooks, Rutgers University
- Delaine Le Bas, Contemporary artist
- Zeljko Jovanovic, Program Director OSF RIO, Chairman of the Board, ERIAC
- Timea Junghaus, Executive Director, ERIAC



© Jürgen Frank

The aim of the symposium was to present the current trends and approaches for the recognition and support of Roma arts, culture, and leadership in Europe and beyond. The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture also included a discussion on “The Role of ERIAC and the Roma Cultural Scene in (Re-) Building Social Solidarity”.

This to reflect that the recent establishment of the Institution contains the efforts made by the transnational, well-organized, and persistent Roma cultural movement and its non-Roma allies and supporters throughout Europe, who share the understanding that social inclusion is impossible without cultural inclusion, and that the security and well-being of the largest minority is a precondition for stability and prosperity in Europe. The discussion served as well as a space to look beyond the present in order to envision a peaceful, respectful, and prosperous future for the Roma. It was a platform of exchange between those who have been the guardians and allies for transformation, building on the assets within a strong, sukar (beautiful) and self-determined minority.

The “SUKAR” exhibition that remains on display throughout October features works by Daniel Baker, Robert Gabris, Delaine Le Bas, Emilia Rigova, and Alina Serban. “SUKAR” constitutes an attempt to look beyond the Roma stereotypes and representations, and to contemplate a future of prosperous and peaceful co-habitation and mutual respect. The exhibited works extend, comprehend, and step in a conversation with the existing, permanent artworks presented in the exhibition hall of the Consulate General.

The collaborative works, installations, and space-segments attempt a contemplation of the knowledge, strength, and beauty to be shared and educated from within the Roma community. The artists reflect upon the role of the Roma themselves in working responsibly, authentically, and sensitively with the resilient and rich Roma cultural heritage and its immense contribution to national cultures. The artists’ pedagogy here is to preserve Roma artifacts, traditions, occupations, language, beliefs, and knowledge – as a strategy of survival amidst a history of continuous persecution, discrimination, and violence.

During the event, Romani composer and pianist Tomas Kaco performed excerpts from his upcoming album “My Home”.



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OSF Youth Community fellows visit ERIAC

Date: September 24th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On 24 September, ERIAC staff had the opportunity to engage with the Open Society Foundation (OSF) Youth Community Fellows from Slovakia, Romania, and Hungary. During their visit, OSF Fellows were guided through the exhibition “Forest” and introduced to ERIAC’s vision, mission, goals, and current projects. The fellows shared challenges and priorities from their local context and were particularly interested in ERIAC’s outreach program, developments of Roma rights, and the issue of intersectionality.



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Hungarian Civil Society Association Cselekvo Kozosseg visits ERIAC

Date: September 25th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin



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Within the framework of an educational trip to Berlin, the association Cselekvő közösség (“Active Communities”) led by Dr. Mária Arapovics and consisting of local politicians and experts from museums, libraries, and NGOs met with representatives of various cultural institutions in the German capital. On the 25 September, the group visited ERIAC.

After getting insights into the history of the institution and an overview of ERIAC’s events and programme work, the participants were especially interested in learning about ERIAC’s past activities in Hungary, the contemporary Roma art scene, and practical aspects of working transnationally. After a lively discussion and an exchange of good practice, Almir Huseini gave a guided tour through ERIAC’s current exhibition “Forest”.

ERIAC attends the 12th European Platform for Roma Inclusion

Date: October 8th – 9th 2018

Location: Brussel, Belgium

The 12th meeting of the European Platform for Roma inclusion took place on 08 and 09 October 2018 in Brussels, Belgium. In regards to the post-2020 EU Roma Framework, the platform this year focused on housing and health; last year, the platform focused on the topics of education and unemployment.

This year, the Platform was accompanied by a special event celebrating Roma culture and its contribution to the European cultural heritage. Executive director of ERIAC Timea Junghaus inaugurated the EU Roma Platform meeting alongside Vera Jourova, the EU Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Gender Equality, Swedish MEP Soraya Post (also of the Feministiskt Initiativ), and Rodrigo Ballester, a cabinet member of Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Tibor Navracsic.

The evening concluded with the ARA Art Theatre play “And again we slept PINDRAL,” an original performance by the ARA Art Theatre ensemble based on excerpts from texts by Gejza Demeter, Zora Horváthová, Ilona Ferková, Emil Cina and other Romani authors.



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“Against the grain” – Arbeit und Leben visit ERIAC

Date: October 9th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

In the framework of a seminar entitled, “Bilder von Sinti und Roma gegen den Strich gebürstet” (‘Images of Sinti and Roma against the grain’), a group from the organization Arbeit und Leben visited ERIAC on 9 October. During a four-day seminar, the twenty participants visited a variety of institutions and stakeholders that work within the Roma context in Berlin. After a tour of the current ERIAC exhibition, a Q&A on the situation of Roma culture in Europe took place.



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ERIAC attends the 16th CAHROM meeting, STRASBOURG

Date: October 16th 2018

Location: Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France

Timea Junghaus and Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka of ERIAC attended the 16th CAHROM Meeting that took place at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France. During an exchange on Roma cultural inclusion and the role of arts and culture in fighting anti-gypsyism, they discussed the work of the Institute and urged member states to commit to supporting Roma arts and culture.

The CAHROM (Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues) reviews the implementation of policies (national programmes and/or action plans) and identifies good practices of Member States concerning Roma and Travellers, with a goal to promoting implementation of relevant standards of the Council of Europe and contributing to the European database on policies/good practices for the integration of Roma and Travellers. By exchanging information, views, and experience on Member States' policies and relevant measures for Roma and Travellers at a national, regional, and local level it assists Member States in the development and implementation of effective policies for Roma and Traveller integration, balancing the relevant standards and instruments of the Council of Europe, and the specific situation in each Member State.



The committee prepares recommendations, advice, and opinions for the Committee of Ministers, including ad hoc opinions on emerging issues that require urgent attention. It draws up guidelines for the development and implementation of policies which promote the rights of the Roma and Travellers and keeps the situation of Roma and Travellers in Member States under review.

CAHROM reports back to the Committee of Ministers and supports the implementation of relevant activities launched by the Council of Europe, particularly within the “Thematic Action

Plan on the Inclusion of Roma and Travellers (2016-2019)". It also follows its implementation. Moreover, CAHROM ensures co-operation and synergies with the work of other international organisations that are active in this area (i.e. the EU, the OSCE, and relevant UN agencies).

ERIAN visits The Tomi Ungerer Museum, STRASBOURG

Date: October 17th 2018

Location: Musée Tomi Ungerer Strasbourg, France

ERIAN Executive Director Timea Junghaus and Deputy Director Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka visited Musée Tomi Ungerer/Centre International de l'illustration in Strasbourg and met with its director Thérèse Willer. The meeting was attended and facilitated by Dr. Aurora Ailincăi and Mrs. Camille Gangloff of the Council of Europe.

After a curatorial visit of the exhibition, possibilities for future collaboration were discussed, including exhibiting Roma artists in the museum.



Tommy Ungerer (*1931) is a French artist, writer, and illustrator. Born in Strasbourg, Ungerer moved to New York in the 1950s. Inspired by the work of Saul Steinberg (1914-1999) for the New Yorker, Ungerer started creating children's books with Harper & Row, most famously *The Three Robbers*(1961). Ungerer created around 80 books for children in 12 years, before turning to adult and political themes in the 1970s.

Ungerer's illustrations have appeared in the New York Times, Life, Esquire, and the Village Voice and he has worked with film directors like Stanley Kubrick and Otto Preminger. In 1964 he designed the film poster for Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*(1964).

A consistent theme in Tomi Ungerer's work has always been his unwavering support for the European project and as a self-declared "Alsatian and European," he has always advocated European values of tolerance and diversity. As his home region of Alsace borders Germany, Ungerer experienced occupation during World War II, but later saw the beginnings of Franco-German reconciliation. In 2003, he was named Ambassador for Childhood and Education by the Council of Europe. The Musée Tomi Ungerer/Centre international de l'illustration was

dedicated to the artist by his hometown in 2007 and is located in the Villa Greiner in the proximity of the Janus Fountain designed by Ungerer himself.

FUTUROMA – ERIAC Proposal for a Roma Exhibition at the 58th Venice Contemporary Art Biennale

Date: October 30th 2018

Location: Venice Biennale

FUTUROMA, an exhibition commissioned by ERIAC and curated by Daniel Baker, is currently under evaluation by the Artistic Director of the Venice Biennale. It is a proposal under consideration.

The objective of ERIAC's Venice event was to present the selected curator and his curatorial concept for the third Roma Exhibition at the Venice Biennale.

In case the proposal is selected by the Venice Biennale, our international jury, consisting of academic Prof. Dr. Ethel Brooks, filmmaker Tony Gatlif, artist Miguel Ángel Vargas, and ERIAC management decided to select Daniel Baker.

The event was attended by Ms. Timea Junghaus, the Executive Director of ERIAC, Ms. Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, and Ms. Dijana Pavlovic, President of the Alliance for the European Roma Institute. It gathered distinguished Roma and non-Roma artists, scholars and political representatives who discussed the importance of the inclusion of Roma arts and culture into mainstream scenes.



The event is part of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) Cultural Institutions Network Initiative. There are seven events planned to be held in seven countries between September 2018 and February 2019. These events will embody ERIAC's mission by providing visibility to Roma arts and culture, showcasing highest-quality productions of Roma contemporary art, and engaging in discussions on the most relevant themes related to Romani history and heritage. They aim to educate majorities and provide a positive image of beauty and richness of Roma arts and culture. The CINI series is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Exhibition opening: “Gypsyism Balkanism – Uniting Peripheries” by Sead Kazanxhiu and Selma Selman

Date: November 8th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

ERIAC’s new exhibition “Gypsyism Balkanism- Uniting Peripheries,” presenting the inspiring works of Sead Kazanxhiu and Selma Selman, was opened by the Berlin-based performance artist Tanja Ostojic (“Integration Project” – Kunstverein Düsseldorf 2003).



© Benjamin Renter

The opening was attended by the participants of the Western Balkans Forum 4 and included a curatorial guided tour with artist Sead Kazanxhiu. ERIAC also presented its Cultural Institutions Network Initiative, which takes place in several countries of the region.



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The evening was accompanied by the beautiful music of Janko Lauenberger and Daniel Weltlinger.

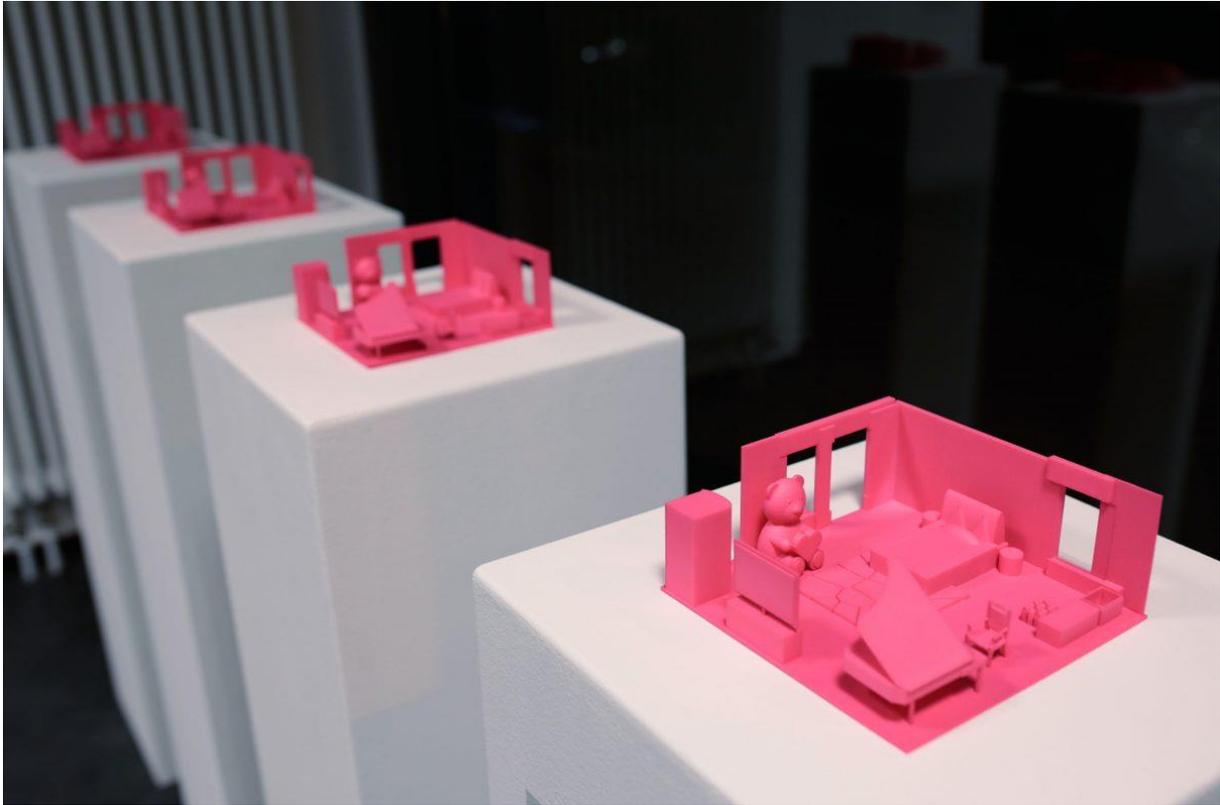


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Gypsyism Balkanism- Uniting Peripheries

The same degree and intensity of generalization, reductionism, and stereotyping apply to the imagining of the Balkans as for the imagining the Roma. As the Bulgarian historian, Maria

Todorova explained in her foundational text, *Imagining the Balkans* (1997): “By the beginning of the twentieth century, Europe had added to its repertoire of Schimpfwörter, or disparagements, a new one that, although recently coined, turned out to be more persistent over time than others with centuries-old tradition”. “Balkanization” not only had come to denote the parcelization of large and viable political units, but also had become a synonym for a reversion to the tribal, the backward, the primitive, the barbarian.



© Benjamin Renter

Both the Roma and the Balkans have been described as the “other” of Europe. It is in the field of the visual where the epistemic and physical violence is the most obvious. The current exhibition in the ERIAC space by contemporary artists Sead Kazanxhiu and Selma Selman explores the conjunction of oppressive visual regimes of Gypsyism and Balkanism. The artists presented do not care to conform to the standards of behavior devised as normative by and for the “civilized world,” they choose artistic strategies which directly and consciously subvert the objectification, feminization, and sexualization of the Balkan and Roma identities. The artworks engage the audience in contemplation: If these oppressive categories naturally collide, is it possible to form a transformative cultural and political front uniting these peripheries?

The exhibition is curated by Timea Junghaus and Zsofia Bihari and is on display at the ERIAC premises until 31 January 2019.

Nicolae Gheorghe Memorial EVENT at ERIAC

Date: November 12th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

Nicolae Gheorghe († 2013), the founder of the Roma Movement in Romania and one of the most influential Roma public intellectuals, was born on 12 November 1946. To honour his contribution and to memorize his ideas the Pakiv European Roma Fund endorsed by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture held the “Nicolae Gheorghe Memorial Event” on 12 November 2018, on-site at ERIAC in Berlin.



As a sign of the exquisite appreciation towards Nicolae Gheorghe’s contribution to Roma movement, ERIAC supported the remembrance of a great leader and his powerful ideas, which elevated and inspired the efforts of Roma for recognition on an international level as well as in his native Romania.



The event was hosted by ERIAC and The Pakiv European Roma Fund, and was organized in the framework of the “Nicolae Gheorghe Memorial Days in Berlin.” The objective of the program was to pay tribute to Nicolae Gheorghe through inspiring youth to reflect on their identity and to become leaders and activists. Roma youth had the opportunity to participate

in movie screenings and debates, as well as to visit the Roma Holocaust Memorial, the German Parliament (Bundestag), and ERIAC.

At ERIAC, the group had the opportunity to present their research on Nicolae Gheorghe's work, life, activism, and impact, as well as to engage in a discussion about the Roma identity. As part of the program, the group had the opportunity to be introduced to ERIAC's mission, vision, and activities. The participants were also given a guided tour of the new ERIAC exhibition "Gypsyism Balkanism-Uniting peripheries." The event ended with a movie screening on Nicolae Gheorghe's life, followed by a discussion on the topic of challenges pertaining to the Roma recognition and acceptance.

Stiftung Evz´s Latscho Diwes Programme visits ERIAC

Date: November 20th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

In its programme, “Latscho Diwes,” Stiftung EVZ (“Foundation for Remembrance, Responsibility, Future”) funds civil society organisations from Central, South, and Eastern Europe that are locally supporting survivors of the Roma genocide. On 20 November 2018, 25 representatives of such organisations from Belarus, Ukraine, and Moldova were invited by Stiftung EVZ for a seminar in Berlin and visited ERIAC.



The goal of the ‘Latscho Diwes’ programme is:

- to work towards the recognition of the survivors of Porajmos;
- to improve the daily situation of Roma by giving them access to medical and social facilities;
- to improve the Romani participation in society by fostering an intergenerational dialogue;
- to improve the material situation of Roma survivors and their kin by supporting measures,
- to support the Roma self-organisation and the voluntary engagement of Roma youth for Holocaust victims and increase visibility;
- to contribute to the societal recognition of Roma and to their inclusion into the respective majority societies.

The visitors were given a curatorial visit of ERIAC’s exhibition “Gypsyism Balkanism” by Sead Kazanxhiu and Selma Selman before entering a discussion with ERIAC Executive director Timea Junghaus on the situation of Roma in the participant’s countries and the perspectives of Arts and Culture work for the Romani communities.

Arts, Culture, Remembrance: A Croatian Delegation visits ERIAC

Date: November 24th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

In the framework of a study visit on remembrance, culture, and “coming to terms with the past,” organised by the Goethe Institute, a delegation of academics, decision-makers, and media representatives from Croatia visited ERIAC on 24 November 2018.

The participants represented the University of Zagreb, the University of Zadar, the Catholic University of Croatia, and the Jasenovac memorial site. Also present were representatives of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Croatian Veterans, and the Croatian Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation.

The Goethe Institute’s study visit focused on German remembrance culture, concepts of “coming to terms with the past” (“Vergangenheitsbewältigung”), and research on inter-generational trauma. Another important part was the work of memorial sites and their concepts for communication and education.

At ERIAC, the Croatian delegation was given a brief tour of the current exhibition by Selma Selamn and Sead Kazanxhiu before embarking on a Q&A led by Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka on “Promoting the Activities of Roma Organisations, Intellectuals, and Artists at National and European Levels”. A lively debate ensued touching the specificities of German and Croatian remembrance culture, the situation of Roma in Croatia, and the work of ERIAC in the fields of arts and culture. Our guests also presented the work of the Jasenovac Memorial site, which is central to Romani remembrance culture and was visited by ERIAC and KALI SARA during the Zagreb event of ERIAC’s Cultural Network Initiative (CINI). Finally, we explored future possibilities for Roma Arts and Culture work in Croatia.



The study visit was part of the visitor's programme of the German Government, that lies under the responsibility of the Federal Foreign Office. The study trips are organised by the Goethe Institute in its function as quango and organs of the German Foreign and Cultural Policy.

The "Besucherprogramm der Bundesregierung" constitutes an important part of the Government's public relations. Their goal is the presentation of an authentic and modern image of Germany in relation to various discourses relating to the specific work of high-level visitors that are selected by the German embassies and consulates abroad.

The Fuen Non-Kin-State working group visits ERIAC

Date: November 28th 2018

Location: ERIAC, Berlin

On 28 November the Non-Kin-State Working Group of the Flensburg-based Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) visited ERIAC in the context of their yearly assembly.

The group was composed of West Frisians (NL), Romansh People (CH) and Ladins (IT). The Roma community was represented by a delegation from Bosnia & Herzegovina, while delegates of Lezghin and Meskhetian Turks came from Russia, Pomaks from Bulgaria, and Ruthenians and Crimean Tatars from Ukraine. Representatives of the Swedish minority of the Scanians, the Aromanians from Romania, and the Germans of Hungary (“Ungarndeutsche”) were present as well. Germany-based minorities were represented by the North Frisians and Sorbians.

Following a viewing of ERIAC’s current exhibition, the participants of the working group joined executive director Timea Junghaus for a Q&A. Then, a presentation of ERIAC’s Cultural Institutions Network Initiative was given, and further possibilities of cooperation were explored and discussed. The FUEN-delegates also informed ERIAC about the success of their Minority SafePack Initiative (MSPI).

The MSPI acts upon the existing differences in norms and standards in the field of minority protection in Europe. While some countries do not recognize or even disregard the aims of minority groups, others actively promote and protect them. The firm belief of the proponents of the initiative is that policies towards European minorities require a degree of standardization and cannot be considered solely within the context of the different nation states.



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Financial Report

- ERIAC, followed the finance management regulations of the German non-profit law with the support of the C.O.X. Accounting and Consulting GmbH.
- The 2017 ERIAC Financial Report was submitted and approved by the corresponding authorities. The "Tax Exempt" status of ERIAC was confirmed by the Finanzamt (Financial Authority) of Germany.
- In 2018 ERIAC received its institutional support from the Council of Europe and the Open Society Foundations, and received the project grants of the Federal Foreign Office (UNGA and CINI) and the Open Society Foundations.
- ERIAC received 5200 Euros of financial contribution by the ERIAC members.

EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE, BALANCE SUMMARY 2018			
REVENUE 2018	Total EUR	639.384,16 €	100,00 %
INSTITUTIONAL			
Council of Europe		200.000,00 €	31,28 %
Open Society Foundation		201.945,62 €	31,58 %
PROJECT SUPPORT		233.338,54 €	
Federal Foreign Office Germany CINI		200.000,00 €	31,28 %
Federal Foreign Office Germany UNGA		19.600,00 €	3,07 %
OSI Programming PRG		13.738,54 €	2,15 %
Membership fees		4.100,00 €	0,64 %
Membership fees on paypal		1.100,00 €	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2018		610.637,82 €	
YEAREND/BALANCE 2018		654.730,61 €	
Security Guarantee, Rent		13389,74	
YEAREND/BALANCE 2018		668.120,35 €	