

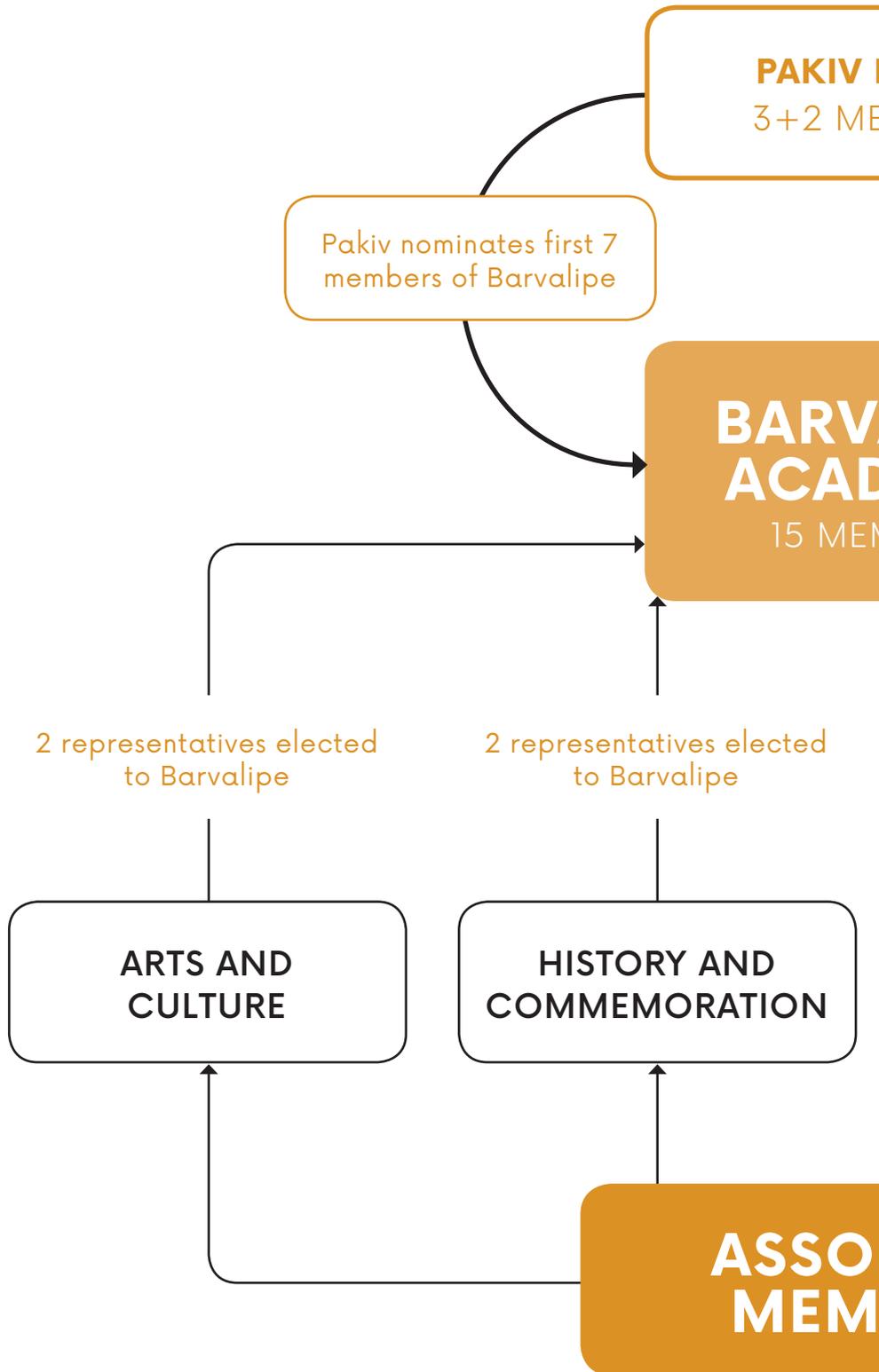


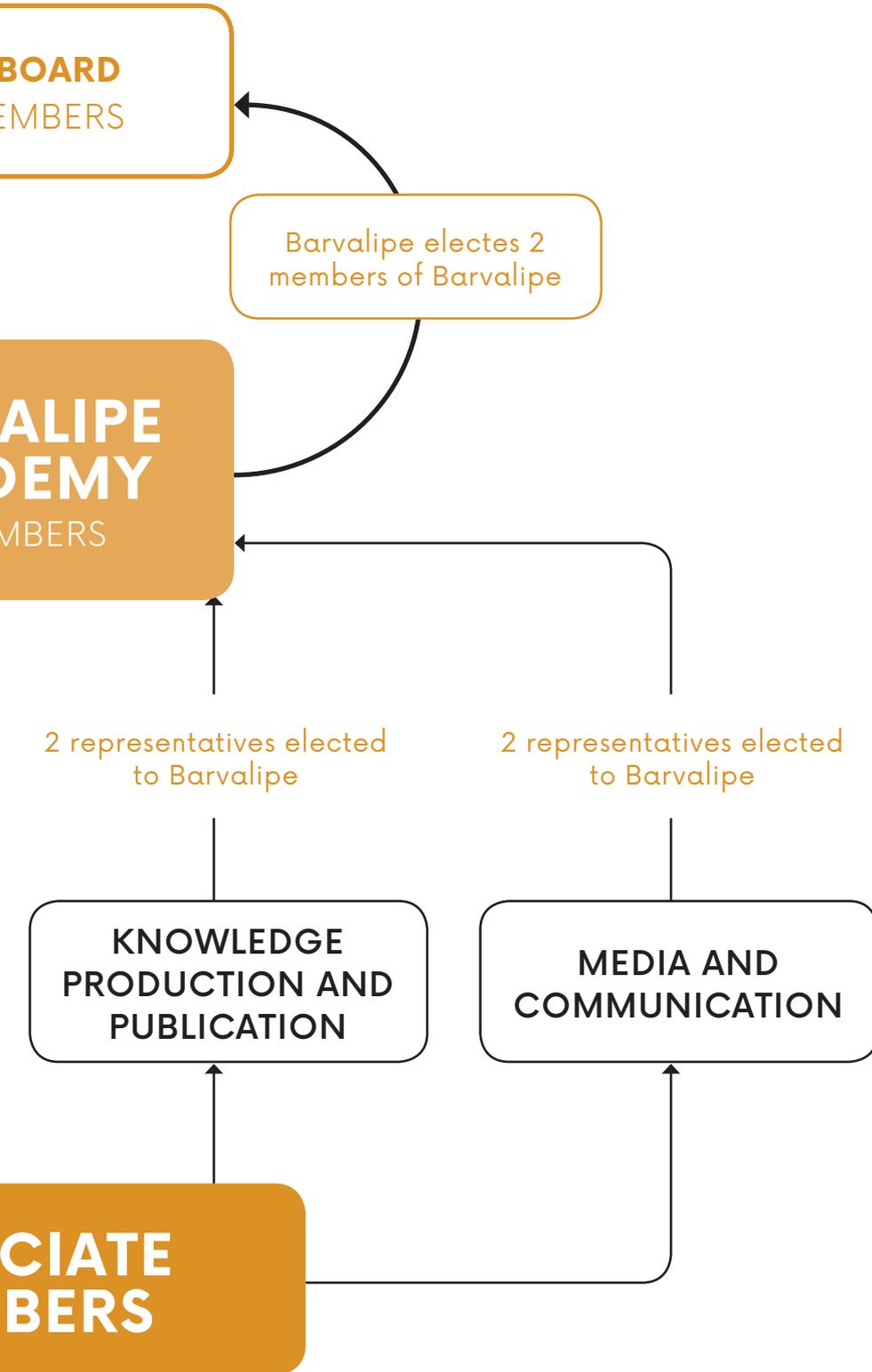
ANNUAL REPORT 2019 OF THE

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V. (ERAC) 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. ERAC is an association registered under German law on 07 June 2017, in Berlin, Germany. ERAC has its headquarters in Berlin but our work is international.

In 2019, ERAC concluded the formation of its governing organs – both the Pakiv Board and the Barvalipe Academy are supporting the institution at its full capacity. ERAC Board finalized the policy on the branch offices and successfully opened the first ERAC branch in the Serbian capital. Furthermore, following the guidelines of the Board, ERAC focused on strengthening its fundraising activities, successfully mobilizing over 400.000 EUR in project support from different public and private donors. ERAC hosted the 2nd call for associate members, increase the ERAC community.

In the beginning of 2019, ERAC concluded the "International Cultural Institutions Network Initiative" project with events hosted in Belgrade, Sevilla and Paris. Between May and November 2019, ERAC presented

fourteen Roma artists at the 58th La Biennale di Venezia. The FUTUROMA exhibition, curated by Daniel Baker, moved Roma contemporary artists beyond the „restrictive motifs of oppression toward a radical and progressive vision of Roma to come“.

In the second half of the year ERAC initiated "Roma Tangible Heritage Network" Project with six exhibitions and events in four cities. The project included a large-scale research about Roma tangible heritage with an accompanied conference in Tensta Kunsthall in Sweden, exhibitions at the ERAC Art Space, a performance of the Roma Jam Session Art Kollektiv from Zürich at the FUTUROMA show in Venice joined by community members from Italy and regional meetings in Belgrade, preparing for the opening of ERAC Serbia.

The concluding event of the project, hosted on December 9 in Berlin, coincided with the ERAC General Assembly, which brought together ERAC associate members in person for the first time. The final event of the year celebrated the first edition of the Tajsja Roma Cultural Heritage Prize, honoring an outstanding Roma individual from the field of arts and culture. The ceremony, accompanied by a memorable concert, applauded Alina Serban as the first awardee of the Tajsja Prize.

Throughout the year, ERAC gained visibility on social media and in both Roma and mainstream news outlets (online, print and TV). This report summarizes the main achievements and offers insights into the activities and programming developed in eight European countries with the contributions of 150 artists and contributors.



GOVERNANCE

- ERIAC finalized the formation of the governing bodies, Pakiv Board and Barvalipe Academy. The first Board Meeting bringing together all 5 statutory members took place on March 21 in Berlin.
- ERIAC strengthened its institutional structure by opening its first branch office in Belgrade, Serbia.
- The Pakiv Board adopted important decisions including approval of the institution-building procedures; adoption of "Rules of Procedures"; approval of the 2nd membership call; approval of policy on ERIAC branches.

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

- Except for the Office Management position, there were no personal changes in the management of ERIAC (Executive-, Deputy management).
- ERIAC welcomed four volunteers and interns, financed by partner universities and Erasmus+ Program. A full-time intern was accepted for a period of 12 months in cooperation with the Central European University. Zsofia Bihari continued to support ERIAC as a Werkstudent (20h/week).
- ERIAC engaged a number of temporary consultants.
- ERIAC has updated its Standard Operating Policies and Procedures (SOPs) which are numbered organizational directives that establish a standard course of actions within a given situation or framework.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

- ERIAC successfully continued the collaboration with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. ERIAC reported on both international cultural outreach programs ("Cultural Institutions Network Initiative" and "Roma Tangible Heritage Network" Project).
- ERIAC prepared its five years' strategy after gathering input from all organs of ERIAC.
- ERIAC built long-lasting strategic partnership with MUCEM; OSF SERBIA, Gorki, Volksbühne and begun discussing strategic collaboration with other institutions and donors.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

- ERIAC, with the support of the C.O.X. Accounting and Consulting Firm, followed the finance management strategy. In the second half of 2019, ERIAC transferred from C.O.X. to Schomerus bookkeeping and consulting firm. The 2019 Financial Report was submitted and approved by the corresponding authorities. The "Tax Exempt" status of ERIAC was confirmed in 2018.
- ERIAC engaged in robust fundraising, with considerable results (see last chapter on finances)

BUILDING THE ERIAC BRAND – ERIAC ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

- 12 official governmental visits to ERIAC, including from US, Germany, Poland, Belgium and mixed delegations from Nordic countries, the EU and Council of Europe delegations, and the South-Eastern European countries.
- ERIAC management spoke at 22 international conferences and events in 9 countries, including in Belgium (European Commission), United States (at MoMA, Harvard University and Columbia University), Germany (among others at Siggenger Begegnungen, Volksbühne, Maxim Gorki or Schloss Bellevue – residency of the German President), Hungary (CEU Summer School and CEU Critical Romani Studies Conference), Italy (Venice, Biennale Arte), Slovakia (Keres Kultura! Banska Bistrica Roma Contemporary Art department), France (MUCEM; Strasbourg) the Netherlands (Amsterdam for Princes Margriet Award), Poland (Krakow for 75th anniversary of 2nd of August, Roma Holocaust Commemoration Day; POLIN Museum) and Romania (Timisoara Biennale).
- ERIAC curated 6 art exhibitions with artists from over 20 countries.
- ERIAC organized 14 cultural events in seven countries: Germany, Italy, France, Romania, Poland, Serbia, Spain.
- ERIAC engaged with institutions and Roma communities in 15 countries through participating, collaborating and/or hosting cultural events.
- In 2019, ERIAC appeared over 70 times in the media, received over 22.000 visitors at the events organized by ERIAC, engaged with 150, mainly Roma contributors (artists, speakers, performers, musicians) and reached 40.000 people on Facebook.

ERAC ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENTAL
VISITS TO ERAC — 12

INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES — 22

ERAC CURATED
ART EXHIBITIONS — 6

CULTURAL EVENTS
AND ENCOUNTERS — 115

VISITORS AT THE EVENTS
ORGANIZED BY ERAC — 22.000

ENGAGED SOCIAL
MEDIA USERS — 35.000

ERAC INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

In 2019, ERAC achieved significant progress with the institution-building process: ERAC finalized the formation of its governing bodies – Pakiv Board and Barvalipe Academy; developed “Rules of Procedure”; strengthened the institutional structure by opening its first local branch office in Belgrade, Serbia; completed the 2nd call for members and developed synergies with its thematic sections regarding the promotion of Roma arts and culture.

1.

PAKIV BOARD



During 2019, the Pakiv Board provided guidance to the ERIAC team by safeguarding the founding principles and ERIAC mission, supporting and overseeing the ERIAC activities and efforts.

Most importantly, ERIAC Board finalized its formation, as foreseen in the Statute – with the nomination of two delegates on behalf of the Barvalipe Academy – Ms. Gilda-Nancy Horvath and dr. Iulius Rostas, the ERIAC Board finally counts with five members voting members. Furthermore, the Board officially accepted the resignation of Nicoleta Bitu, delegated to the ERIAC Board on behalf of the Alliance for the European Roma Institute. Sead Kazanxhiu was nominated as the new ERIAC Board member.

Currently, the ERIAC Board is fully-formed and composed by:

Zeljko Jovanovic (Chair of the Board) is the director of the Open Society Roma Initiatives Office, which supports the voices and leadership of Roma in making their power felt in the policy-making arena.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković has been the Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe since 2012, in charge of the Organization's actions promoting democratic innovation, governance, participation, and diversity.

Gilda-Nancy Horvath is an artist, journalist, project manager, and communications consultant, who built up several initiatives strengthening Roma voices in mainstream media.

Dr. Iulius Rostas is a scholar and activist, former Chair of Romani Studies/Assistant Professor at Central European University in Budapest and editor of the Critical Romani Studies Journal.

Sead Kazanxhiu is a visual artist from southwest Albania, and activist. Trained as a painter at the University of Arts in Tirana (2006 – 2010), Sead Kazanxhiu is among the leading voices of the new generation of Roma artists.

The fully-formed ERIAC Board hosted its first meeting in Berlin on March 21, 2019. The Pakiv Board adopted important decisions including approval of the institution-building procedures, adoption of "Rules of Procedures", approval of the 2nd membership call and approval of policy on ERIAC branches. ERIAC Board also provided the management with clear instructions for the strategy-building process.

2.

BARVALIPE ACADEMY

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

The Academy – composed of 15 members first nominated in 2018 – held its first meeting on 5 February 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia. In a public ceremony, the members took the oath to ERIAC principles and to safeguard and provide guidance to ERIAC, with dignity and pride. As a symbol of their engagement, all Barvalipe members were given a compass – a symbol of their role in providing strategic direction to ERIAC activities. The Academy held a major discussion on the strategy of ERIAC, as well as made several key decisions, fulfilling their obligations defined in the Statute.

Dr. Maria Bogdan was elected Chair of the Barvalipe Academy and **dr. Ismael Cortes** was elected Vice-Chair.

The Barvalipe Academy has a further obligation of appointing two members to the Pakiv Board. Following internal elections, **Ms. Gilda Horvath** and **Dr. Iulius Rostas** were delegated to ERIAC Pakiv Board.

In their replacement, following a procedure approved by the Board, **Mr. Florin Nasture** and **Mr. Miguel Angel Vargas** were nominated as the new members of the Barvalipe Academy.

The Barvalipe Academy, with the participation of its new members, held its second meeting in Berlin on December 9.



3.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

2nd Call for Associate members

The Pakiv Board approved the launching of the 2nd Call for ERIAC members to be on April 8th; the Board maintain the membership contributions fees at the same level as in the previous year.

ERIAC successfully launched and completed the call for associate members (April 8th, 2019 – July 31st, 2019). The membership call was shared in 10 languages and achieved better reach. At the same time, ERIAC successfully retained and renewed membership status of its members for 2019. ERIAC began to collect membership contributions from its old and new members.

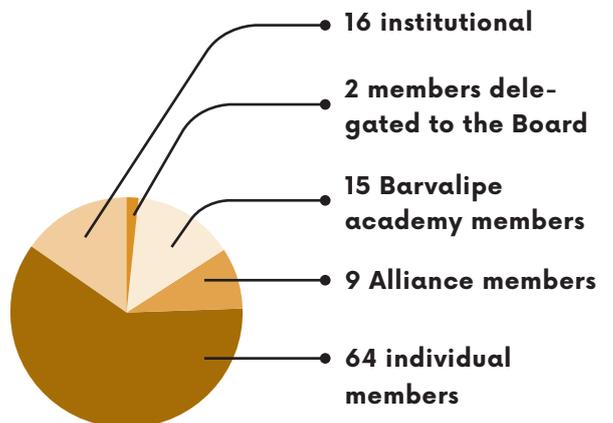
Currently, ERIAC community is composed of **106 members: including 2 members delegated to the Board, 15 Barvalipe academy members (8 of which have been elected from the membership), 9 Alliance members, 64 individual and 16 institutional.**

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. In total in 2019, members contributed with 3700 Euro in fees and in-kind contributions in the form of creative support, artwork donations, volunteering and translations.

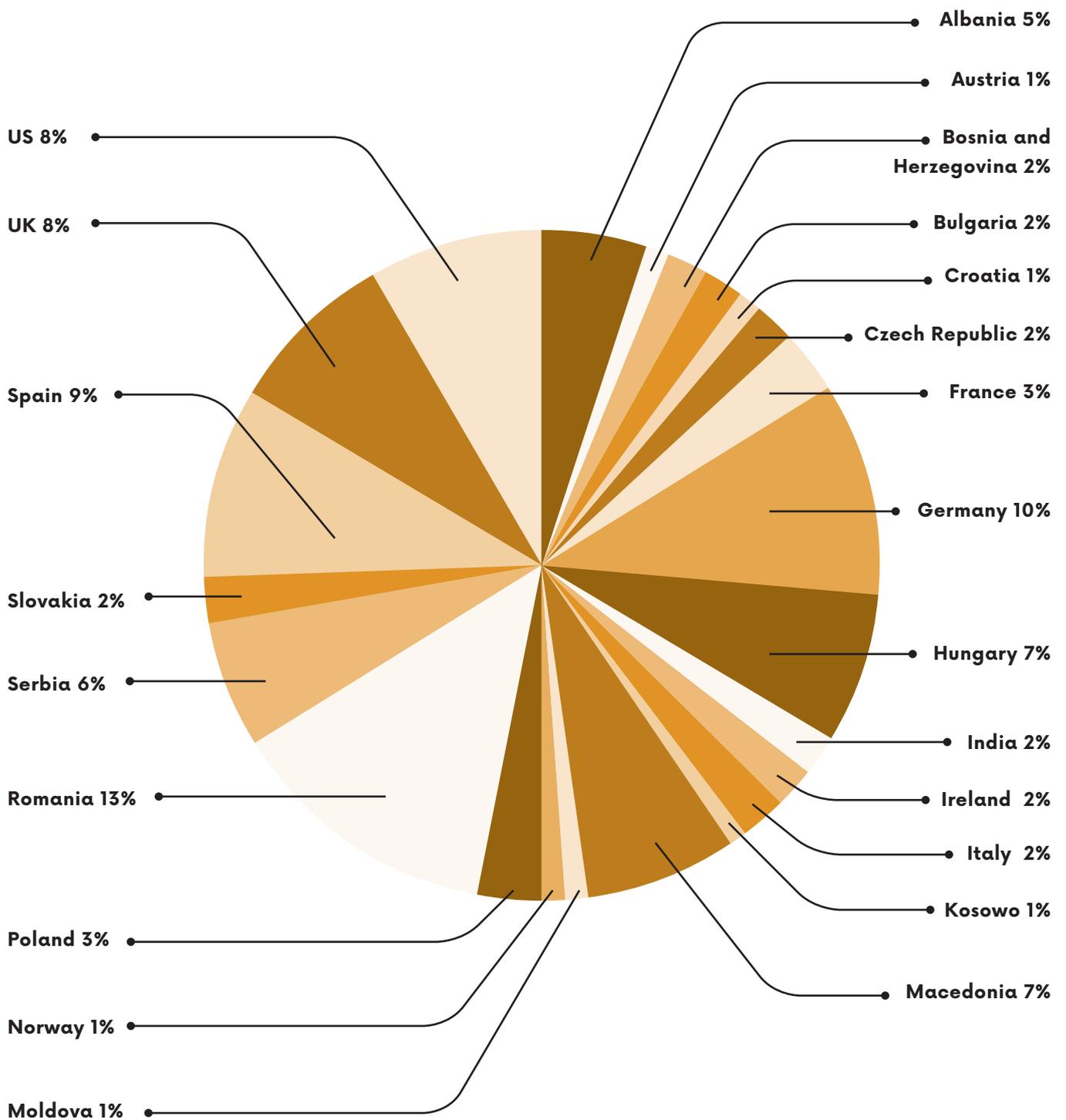
ERIAC established supportive system with the membership's engagement, by elevating Roma arts and culture in Europe, inspiring and collaborating with members' with the objective of promoting Roma culture. ERIAC members showed commitment and contribution to the ERIAC mission by providing support to local events.

ERIAC COMMUNITY

106 MEMBERS



ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION



GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2nd General Assembly of ERIAC took place on 9 December, bringing together associate members, representatives of the ERIAC Board and Barvalipe Academy, and the ERIAC management. This was the first time that ERIAC brought together its community in person to Berlin.

- The main objectives of the General Assembly were:
- Present and discuss ERIAC strategy-building process;
- Discuss the ERIAC community of associative members – introduce new members and renew commitments;
- Create a space for questions and answers from the associate members to ERIAC management and Board.

During the General Assembly meeting, the members discussed the strategy-building process and reflected on the role of the associate membership. The participants gave a feedback to the ERIAC management and confirmed their support to ERIAC. Members reiterated the strong belief that power of culture can shift the stereotypes. ERIAC Members discussed means and dynamics of how ERIAC can help members and how members can help ERIAC grow as an institution which uses the power of Roma culture as a means to fight anti-Gypsyism. Members showed interest in ERIAC growth through opening local offices and express support to become more proactive agents of ERIAC locally, linking their own work with the work of ERIAC.



TAJSA PRIZE



Robert Gabris,
Tajsa Prize, 2019,
courtesy of ERIAC
and the artist

In 2019, ERIAC launched its annual Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize. The Tajsa Prize embodies the founding principles of ERIAC and the spirit of Roma history and cultural heritage while looking onwards, shaping and re-inventing forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generations. The Prize aims to honor outstanding Roma individuals who are leading voices of the Roma cultural movement today. It seeks to encourage Roma pride and promote the creativity, virtuosity and talent of Roma cultural producers. Each year the endowment of the Tajsa Prize will be sponsored entirely by the ERIAC associate membership, in order to promote the pedagogy of Roma contribution, self-determination and self-investment.

In 2019, the Tajsa Prize came with an endowment of 5200 euros, funded exclusively by the membership contributions of ERIAC.

NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

ERIAC invited its community – associate members, Barvalipe Academy members and Board members – to submit nominations to ERIAC. In November, finalists were pre-selected and invited to submit additional materials in support of their candidacy.

Finalists of the Roma Cultural Heritage Prize were:

- Alina Serban (Romania), award-winning actress, playwright and director
- Selma Selman (Bosnia and Herzegovina) media and performance artist and activist
- Robert Gabris (Slovakia/Austria), contemporary artist
- Árpád Bogdán (Hungary), film director and writer
- Hamze Bytyçi (Kosovo, Germany) actor, director, performer and pedagogue

Following the evaluation of the finalists, the Jury composed of Barvalipe Academy members and in consultation with the ERIAC Board announced the winner of the Tajsa Prize during the Prize ceremony on December 9, 2019 in Berlin.

The first winner of the Tajsa Prize, Alina Serban is a Romanian actor, playwright and activist, was later nominated as best leading female actress at the German Film Prize for her role in "Gypsy Queen".

4.

BUILDING THE ERIAC BRANCHES

From the moment of its creation, ERIAC is conceived as an international organization acting as a creative hub and engaging with its target audiences, partners and supporters across Europe and beyond. Its Berlin office is thus envisaged as a headquarter and a central office, coordinating a network of supporting institutions. At the same time, there are unraveling opportunities to open local ERIAC branch, supported by national governments who are motivated to join the international political, social and cultural alliance for the recognition of Roma leadership and arts and culture alongside Germany. These developments make it necessary to develop a joint ERIAC policy, making sure that the institutional growth of ERIAC in the form of branch offices is sustainable, strategic and coherent.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE POLICY ON ERIAC BRANCHES

The objective of opening new ERIAC branches is to extend – through the respect of the ERIAC founding principles – the single and unique mandate of ERIAC to the branch country, its region and make a significant impact on the cultural recognition of Roma. During its meeting in March 2019, the Board adopted the policy on local branches – the policy established that the objective of opening new ERIAC branches is to extend – through the respect of the ERIAC founding principles – the single and unique mandate of ERIAC to the branch country, its region and make a significant impact on the cultural recognition of Roma. Criteria for opening local ERIAC offices:

- **Support and endorsement of national and/or regional government:** ERIAC shall open its branches only in those countries which declare clear and explicit support to the ERIAC mission and commit to provide economic and political support for the establishment of local ERIAC branches. The states and/or regional authorities interested to support an ERIAC branch would need to provide a representative space and base funding for key staff who should develop projects and raise additional funds.
- **Commitment to democracy and Roma rights:** ERIAC embodies integrity towards its principles and its mission. For this reason, ERIAC will only consider those countries as future hosts of local ERIAC branches which represent a clear commitment to democracy, human rights, and Roma dignity. Countries whose politics (and policies) are contrary to the values represented by ERIAC shall be excluded.
- **Vivid art scene:** ERIAC branches should be established in those countries which count with a vivid art scene, allowing Roma artists, creators, and producers to connect to the mainstream contemporary art scene. Cities which are known for their robust and inclusive art scene, preferably capital cities, should be of preference.
- **Significant size of the Roma community:** ERIAC branches should be opened in those countries which count with a significant Roma population, in order to provide a space from which the culture of the local Roma population can be protected and promoted, and enabling international cross-fertilization and exchange across Europe of local Roma identities and cultures.
- **Endorsement and support of the local Roma community:** ERIAC shall not become a competition or duplication of already existing Roma organizations, but shall amplify the efforts already made, and shall support existing organizations and active Roma individuals. An ERIAC branch shall only be under consideration if a local community welcomes the establishment and celebrates the arrival of ERIAC into their country/region/community.

The Board's decision to adopt the Policy on local branches improves the institutional structure of ERIAC by allowing growth and expansion.

OPENING THE FIRST BRANCH: ERCIAC SERBIA

As ERIAC celebrated its first birthday in 2018, ERIAC learned about the interest of the Serbian Government in opening a branch office advocating and representing the ERIAC cause in Serbia, joining the international political, social and cultural alliance for the recognition of Roma leadership and arts and culture. In relation to the contribution of the Serbian government to the ERIAC mission, meetings between Mr. Aleksandar Vucic, President of Serbia and the ERIAC chair, Zeljko Jovanovic began in 2018.



As a result of the adopted policy and the support of the Serbian Government, ERIAC SERBIA was established in October 2019, registered under Serbian legislation as an association. The statute and constellation of the founders – ERIAC Headquarters, Zeljko Jovanovic (as ERIAC Chairman of the Board) and Timea Junghaus (as the ERIAC executive director) – guarantees the relationship of connectedness and high cooperation of the ERIAC branches from the coordinating ERIAC Berlin-based headquarters. Process of setting has followed strictly the ERIAC Policy on local branches, as well as respecting the original road-map and schedule approved by the ERIAC Board.

In November 2019, ERIAC Serbia signed the lease agreement for the office space with the Property Directorate of the Republic of Serbia (Republička agencija za imovinu Republike Srbije). The ERIAC office space is located in the heart of Belgrad at Majke Jevrosime Str. 51. The ERIAC office and art space will occupy the total area of 137.50 m², on ground floor, with street access entrance and a proper open space suitable for art exhibitions and events. Currently, ERIAC is in the middle of the renovation process. The renovation period is free of the rental fee.

In December 2019, Bank account of ERIAC Serbia was opened with a ERSTE bank in Belgrade.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND MANAGEMENT

In accordance with the ERIAC policy, the staff of ERIAC Serbia should embody the ERIAC principle of Roma leadership. The management of ERIAC Berlin Headquarters trains and supervises the ERIAC staff. Centralized coordination of the management will help to oversight as well as mentor the new employees, to ensure quality control and the respect of ERIAC procedures and code of conduct. ERIAC registered Mr. Almir Huseini as the interim representative agent in autumn 2019. Mr Huseini, himself a Serbian citizen and a Roma, has been part of the ERIAC Berlin team since August 2018 and therefore is well familiarized with ERIAC management standards, existing operating procedures and regulations.

In 2020, ERIAC executive director started looking for ways to hire adequate local leadership according to ERIAC founding principles. OSF national foundation in Serbia proposed a Memorandum of Understanding between OSF Belgrade, ERIAC Belgrade and OSF RIO to second a senior expert for 2 years. The expert is not



of Roma origin but has been coordinating the Roma strategy of OSF in Serbia for more than 20 years, very closely connected to both Roma, mainstream arts and culture scene in Serbia and international donors' community. This will be a great asset to make ERIAC Serbia operational relatively quickly while building human resources and supportive network of Roma around it. Ideally, the local branch should count with an initial local staff of 2-4 employees in its first year of operations. An internship and volunteering programs will be introduced to attract junior staff members, targeting Roma youth university students and graduates.

OPERATING PROCEDURES

To ensure smooth transition and the same quality standards in ERIAC Serbia operations, local staff will be trained and supervised by ERIAC management. ERIAC will regulate and monitor that all financial planning, budget allocation, fundraising and grant writing are harmonized between ERIAC Berlin and the Serbian Branch.

The Rules of Procedures will continue to regulate the relationship between ERIAC's statutory bodies and the management. ERIAC will implement the existing standard operating procedures (currently 23 separate policies) for efficient management and quality control of the Branch Office. ERIAC Berlin developed the ERIAC branding, the quality control mechanisms, and the standard operating procedures, which will be shared and further developed, to be followed in the ERIAC Serbia Branch.

FINANCIAL RECOURSES

In accordance with the ERIAC policy on local branches, a new office can only be opened if the government provides support. After a few months of negotiations with the Serbian government, such support was secured. In December 2019, the donation contract signed by the Serbian government's delegated agency, in the total amount of 200.000 Euro, for the period of 4 years. In February 2020, ERIAC SERBIA received the transfer proof of the first installment – the support of 50.000 Euros – released by the Serbian government for the ERIAC SERBIA account.

SECURING FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR ERIAC SERBIA – FUNDRAISING PLAN

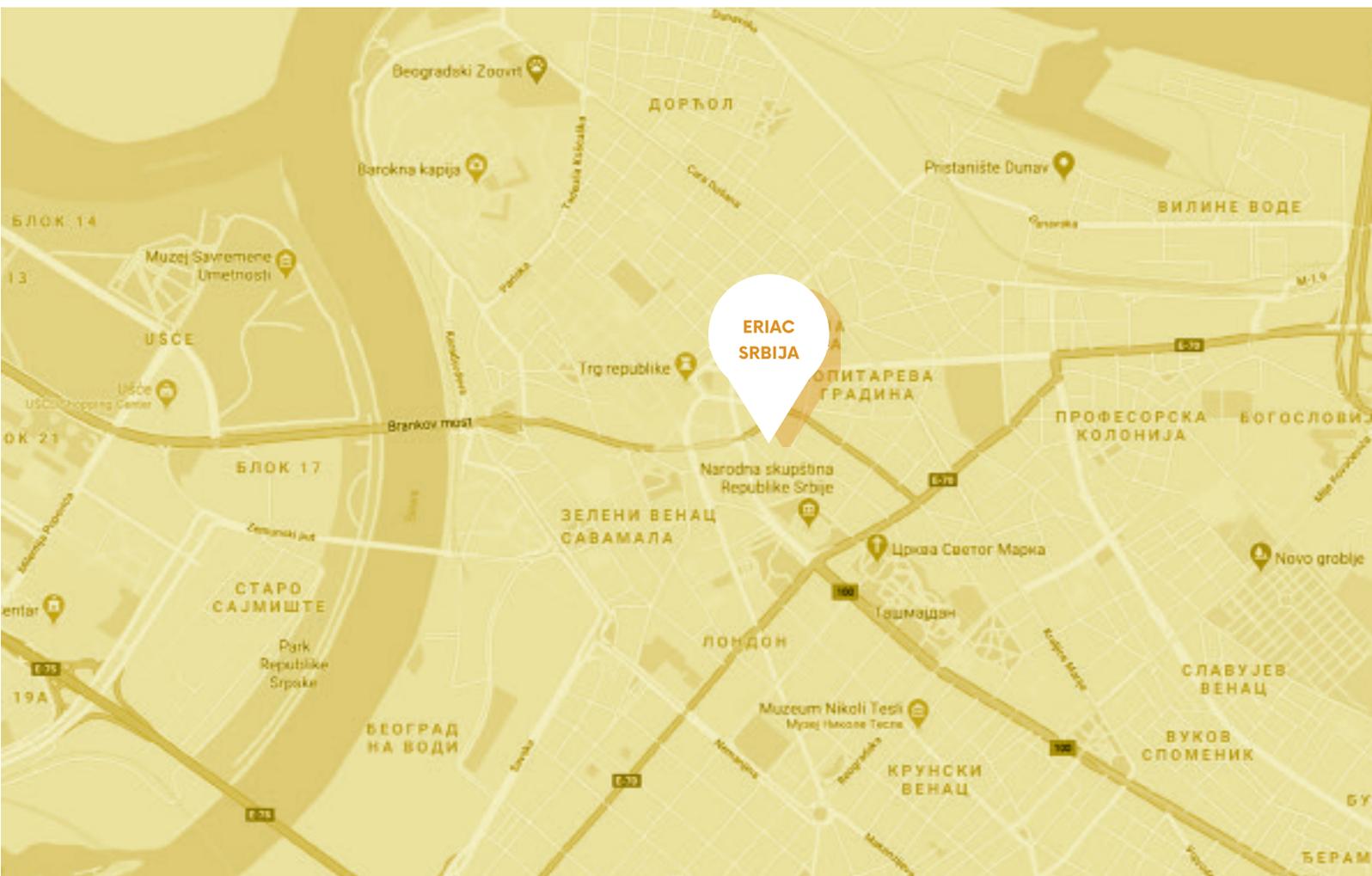
In order to establish long-term financial stability of ERIAC Serbia a robust fundraising strategy will be introduced in the first year of existence. The ERIAC Serbia branch has better chances to access grants in the areas of regional development, and the international grant-making of the EU and IPA funds.

The following will fundraising targets have been identified:

- EU funds, in particular IPA funds for Serbia, as well as specific call launched by the DG NEAR. Whenever possible, ERIAC and ERIAC Serbia will apply as partners in EU-funded grants, to provide greater synergy and cooperation between the central office and the ERIAC branch. ERIAC Serbia will be registered with the PIC Number immediately, in order to make it eligible to apply for funding immediately.
- EEA Grants which provide significant investment in Serbia and across the region
- Governmental agencies providing support in the region, including, for example, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- Governmental grants, including applying on project bases to the Serbian Ministry of Culture and/or Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as cooperating with the German ministries in their work in the region including FFA Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development
- Private foundations active in the region, including for, example, TMU, ECF, Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Cooperation with Roma partners active in Serbia and across the region, including REF and Roma Integration 2020 (RCC)

PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES

ERIAC envisions a small-scale programming in the first year of its establishment gaining momentum for opportunities, alliances and grant/donor engagement with the long-term aim of becoming regional leader in the field of Roma arts and culture.



ERAC INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

ERAC initiated its international activities in late 2017 with the “International Cultural Outreach Program”, financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German government. The aim of the initiatives is to introduce ERAC to diverse audiences in places outside of ERAC’s headquarters in Berlin.

In the framework of the program, seven successful international events took place between January and February 2018 in Seville (Spain), Cracow (Poland), Budapest (Hungary), Prague (Czechia), Rome (Italy), Bucharest (Romania) and Berlin (Germany). ERAC continued its international activities, financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German government with the “Cultural Institutions Network Initiative” (September 2018 – February 2019), focusing on the Balkans, to increase its presence in the region and engage more closely with the rich Roma arts and culture scene. In 2018, four events took place in Zagreb (Croatia), Venice (Italy), Skopje (Macedonia) and Tirana (Albania); two additional events were organized in 2019 in Belgrade (Serbia) and Paris (France). In 2019, starting in August 2019, the third cycle of the outreach program took place with the “Roma Tangible Heritage Network Project”. ERAC organized several exhibitions, conferences and workshops in Berlin (Germany), Venice (Italy), Stockholm (Sweden), and Belgrade (Serbia) focusing on the often marginalized Roma tangible heritage. In the framework of the project financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German government, ERAC initiated an international research on the topic.

ZAGREB

October 30, 2018

Roma Pedagogy for Reconciliation

Croatian Institute of History

VENICE

October 30, 2018

Presenting the FUTUROMA Curatorial Plan

Venice Office of the Council of Europe

SKOPJE/ SHUTKA

November 13, 2018

The Shutka Lessons

Museum of the Macedonian Struggle

TIRANA

November 26-27, 2018

Albania’s Roma Cultural Heritage

National Museum of History

BELGRADE

February 6, 2019

Roma Transgenerational Knowledge Transfer

Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade

SEVILLE

January 15-19, 2019

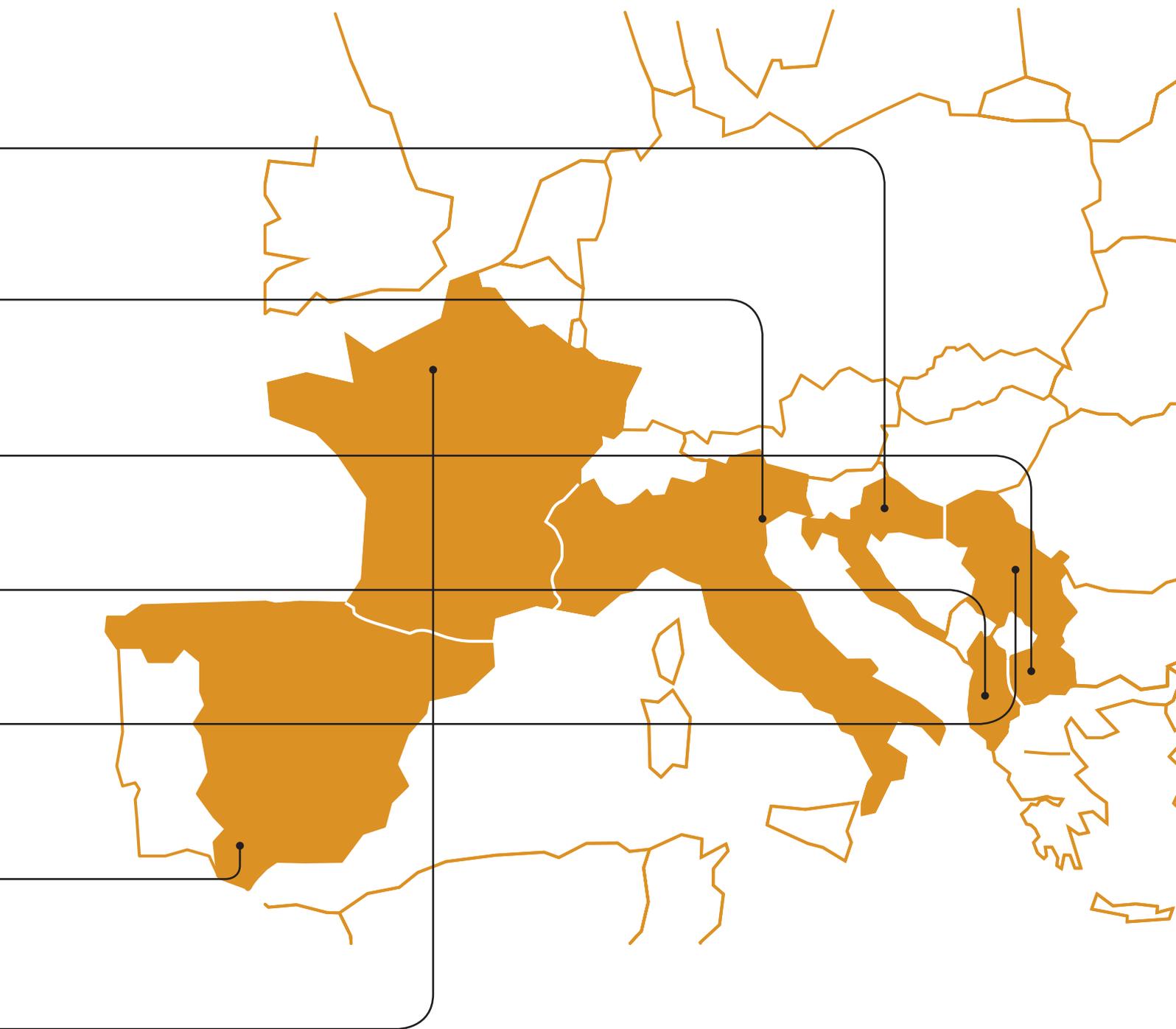
Claiming Recognition of Flamenco Gitano: Reviewing ERAC strategy and presence in a time of political shifts

PARIS

February 19, 2019

Symbolism and visual strategies for building pride and dignity within the Roma community

ERAC'S CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS NETWORK INITIATIVE



1.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS NETWORK INITIATIVE

(September 2018 – February 2019)

Upon completion of the first international event series, the International Cultural Outreach Program (2017 – 2018) focusing on countries of Central and Eastern Europe, ERIAC continued its international activities with the development and implementation of the “Cultural Institutions Network Initiative” (CINI). CINI continued outreach activities exactly where the previous program finished. The aim of this latest initiative was to continue introducing ERIAC to diverse audiences in places outside of ERIACs headquarters in Berlin. This time, ERIAC focused on countries of the Southeastern Europe.

There were seven events planned in seven different countries between September 2018 and February 2019. In line with ERIAC’s mission, these events provided visibility to Roma arts and culture, showcased the highest quality productions of Roma contemporary art, and developed discussions on the most relevant themes related to Roma history and heritage. The events functioned as international forums for dialogue and exchange. At the same time, they were educational, and they intended to shape the way in which majorities understand Roma communities and provide a positive image of beauty and richness of Roma arts and culture. Overall, the CINI program successfully reached its two main goals: reaching out to majority institutions, public authorities, majority arts and culture spaces and at the same time mobilizing support among Roma, building greater self-esteem, identifying talent and expanding the ERIAC membership base.



There were

7 events planned in 7 different countries

between September 2018 and February 2019.

TRANSGENERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Belgrade, February 6, 2019
Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade

ERIAC hosted a one-day public symposium, entitled “Transgenerational Knowledge Transfer” at the Museum of Contemporary Art Belgrade. The symposium provided a space for the examination and promotion of transgenerational knowledge transfer within Roma communities. The symposium discussions featured members of ERIAC’s Barvalipe Academy, the agenda-setting and strategic body of the Institute, the members of which bring together experiences across borders, identities, and generations. These discussions examined topics such as the reclamation of media space, knowledge production, fostering new generations of artists, and history and commemoration. The symposium began with opening remarks by Slobodan Nakarada, the Director of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Dorothea Gieselmann, the Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy in Serbia, Aurora Ailincăi, the Head of the Strategic Partnerships Unit of the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe, and Timea Junghaus, the Executive Director of ERIAC. After the opening, Mihaela Drăgan, the renowned Roma actress, playwright, founder of Roma Feminist Theatre GIUVLIPEN, and member of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy, and Delaine Le Bas, the innovative contemporary artist and member of the Barvalipe Academy, gave a performance.

The event was accompanied by the opening of the art exhibition “Mi Daj Džanol/Mother Knows”, co-created by revolutionary Roma artists: Emília Rigová, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Zoran Tairović, Stevica Nikolić, Dušan Marinković, and Nancy Black. This innovative work examines and enacts solidarity and resistance, allowing for the emergence of a new sense of “Roma people.”

The symposium with 23 contributors, performers and musicians, and 117 participants – many of whom were Roma students and young intellectuals from the region – was covered by two journalists and reached over 1.8K people on social media.





CLAIMING RECOGNITION OF FLAMENCO GITANO: REVIEWING ERAC STRATEGY AND PRESENCE IN TIMES OF POLITICAL SHIFTS

January 15-19, 2019, Seville, Spain



Between January 15 and January 19, ERIAC deputy director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka travelled to the Andalusian capital to meet with Roma and non-Roma allies, partners and institutional contacts to discuss the re-orientation of ERIAC activities in the region and advance with the strategy for protecting and promoting Flamenco Gitano. ERIAC invited their most relevant partners and institutional contacts in Seville for focused cultural diplomacy – meetings to discuss strategies for building cultural and political Alliance. The partners agreed on the need to renew commitment towards Flamenco Gitano and advocate for broader and more coordinated international support as well as closer cooperation among local and regional actors.

SYMBOLISM AND VISUAL STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING PRIDE AND DIGNITY WITHIN THE ROMA COMMUNITY

February 18-19, 2019, Paris, France



The strategic workshop started with an overview of the largest Roma communities in Europe with the focus on empowerment/community building approaches in the past. Taking a forward looking stance, ERIAC management introduced its new strategy as a proposed framework and opened up a discussion on how allies and ERIAC members could potentially play a role in bringing these objectives into reality. In the next part of the workshop, the participants were invited to discuss concrete strategies, to capture the essence of successful mobilizing activities, and think about cultural symbols that could and shall be promoted on a broader scale for boosting Roma pride. The final session of the workshop aimed to pose operational questions by encouraging participants to suggest potential locations, partners, venues and determine the most important steps.

There are a few verifiable and substantial results of the CINI event series. Through the active cooperation that the CINI-project required, numerous mainstream cultural institutions, for example, diverse majority arts and culture spaces, public administration bodies, and international cultural diplomats were introduced to ERIAC. Regardless of the outcomes of negotiations, these institutions certainly have enhanced their understanding of ERIAC principles. ERIAC considers this a major step towards building ERIAC's legacy/network. These contacts may provide a basis for collaborative efforts in the future.

2.

ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE NETWORK PROGRAM

(August – December 2019)

The ERIAC Roma Tangible Heritage Network was the third international event series of ERIAC financed by the Federal Foreign Office of the German Government.

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

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

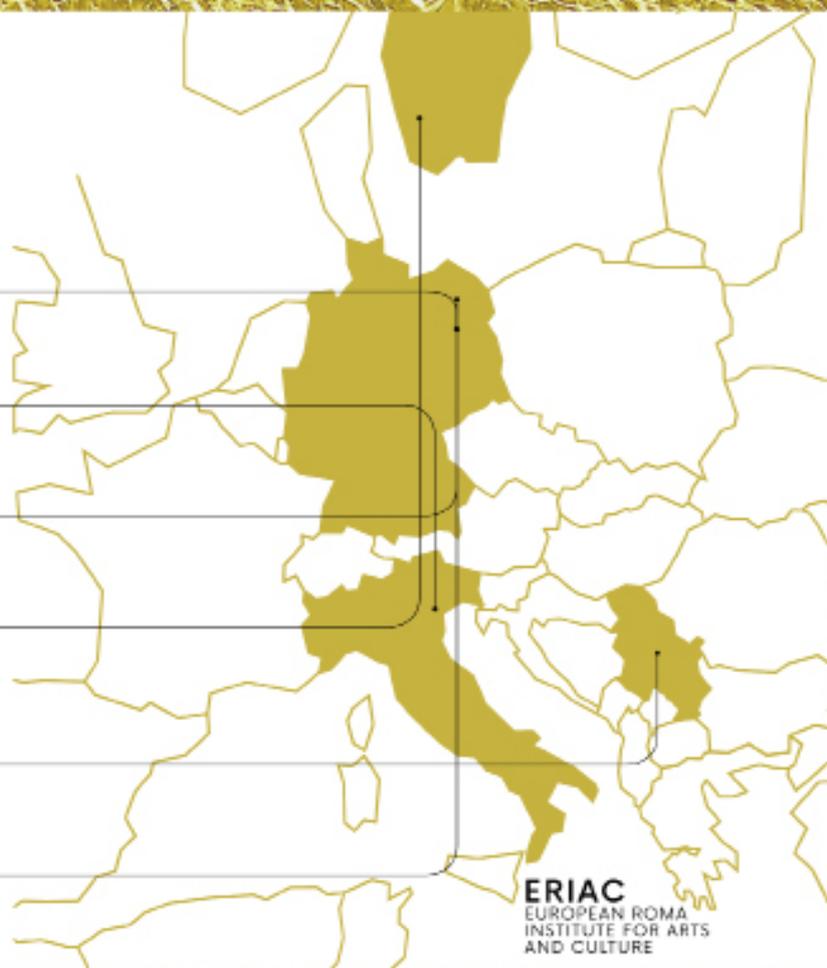
Thanks to RTHN, the third governmental program after OUTREACH and Cultural Institutions Network Initiative (CINI) funded by the Federal Foreign Office, ERIAC not only reinforced already familiarized territories but also stretched its field of presence into a new country, going this time North, to Sweden.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

- Substantial contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge through its network of cultural experts creating grounds for collaboration among different types of stakeholders.
- The RTHN initiative marked the start of ERIAC’s strategic engagement – the stepping stone to building greater synergies between the Nordic member-states and ERIAC’s wider European reach.
- Gathering data from leading institutions, convincing them to be part of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network, and to agree to visualizing and promoting the situation and state of Roma artefacts and cultural history documentation specifically in the Nordic region.
- Created a dynamic dialogue between researchers and public institutions, ensuring that findings can be represented, multiplied and performed in physical spaces.
- Guaranteed sustainability and potential longer-term impact of the findings of the project.

Mobilized high-level diplomatic contacts, mainstream arts and culture institutions, as well as Roma communities, and interested audience members.

ERIANC's Roma Tangible Heritage Network

BERLIN, Germany	August 2 - November 14, 2019 (RE)CONCEPTUALISING ROMA RESISTANCE
VENICE, Italy	October 1 - November 24, 2019 FUTUROMA ROMA EXHIBITION - EVENT SERIES
BERLIN, Germany	November 15, 2019 KATITZI
STOCKHOLM, Sweden	November 28, 2019 ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE NETWORK SYMPOSIUM
BELGRADE, Serbia	December 3-4, 2019 ERIANC IN BELGRADE
BERLIN, Germany	December 9, 2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF ERIANC MEMBERS and TAJSA AWARD CEREMONY feat. DORANTES MUSIC CONCERT



Mapping the policies and institutions which Roma art forms with its Roma cultural producers and tangible heritage can be properly recognized by mainstream society.

Collected exact data about Roma storages and archives in Europe ERIANC created a survey about the condition of the items of artworks, photographs, artefacts, ethnographical objects, music and sound recordings, and documents which represent Roma cultural history.

Assessed the access and participation of the (Roma) public in the museum spaces, archives and other institutions and need for intervention for preservation of Roma artefacts.

Established ERIANC as the organization taking leadership on Roma tangible heritage for further cooperation with Roma and majority organizations, artists, scholars and activists in Europe.

Facilitated the discussion among actors and finding missing links that prevented establishment of a Roma cultural heritage network.

Inspired new alliances and actions among actors on the national and local level towards the utilization of Roma cultural heritage.

Established a supporting mechanism in the form of patronage for networking initiatives for the recognition, value and contribution of Roma arts and culture.

(RE)CONCEPTUALIZING ROMA RESISTANCE – EXHIBITION

August 2, 2019, Berlin, Germany
ERIANC Art-Space

On August 2, 2019, the ERIAC Berlin event entitled (Re) Conceptualizing Roma Resistance marked the opening of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network event series. The event aimed to commemorate International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, and honor the Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust as well as those who were supporters of Roma resistance movements across Europe.

The exhibition featured eight Roma and non-Roma international artists who contemplate the memory of the Holocaust and emphasize the embodiments and narratives of Roma resistance as a central aspect of the Roma experience. The artists, Déry Miklós (HU), Tamara Moyzes (CZ), Daniel Baker (UK), Dushan Marinkovic (SR, SW), Alex Schikowski (DE, HU), Csaba Nemes (HU), Júlia Baki (HU), Kálmán Várady (DE) – contemplate the taboo of the body related to trauma of the Holocaust, they mitigate the question of the power of healing amidst continued and transmitted trauma, and nurture a new narrative of Roma agency and self-determination.

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

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

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



IN NUMBERS:

9 contributors

75 participants

1 media appearance
(Berlin Art Link)

PROMOTING THE FUTUROMA PAVILION – DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENING OF OPRE RROMA

October 4-6, 2019, Venice

Alla Casa del Cinema and FUTUROMA exhibition,
58th La Biennale di Venezia

FUTUROMA was an official collateral event of the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, a powerful project that brought together the diverse contributions of members of Roma communities within European societies throughout history and today.

Curated by Daniel Baker and promoted by ERIAC, FUTUROMA gathered the works of fourteen innovative Romani contemporary artists from eight countries across Europe (Celia Baker, Jan Berky, Marcus Gunnar Petersson, Ödön Gyügyi, Billy Kerry, Klára Lakatos, Delaine Le Bas, Valerie Leray, Emília Rigová, Markéta Šestáková, Selma Selman, Dan Turner, Alfred Ullrich, László Varga)

On the weekend where ERIAC promoted the exhibition in the framework of the film screening a record number of nearly 600 people visited the FUTUROMA exhibition. FUTUROMA was open until November 24, between Tuesday and Sunday between 10:15a.m. to 5p.m. While visiting the exhibition, guests left their contribution in the Monument of Hope. The Monument of Hope, a gigantic gold book testifying for the immense need for inclusion of the Roma minority in the Biennale. The Monument of Hope consists over 4000 testimonies, statements of solidarity and requests of inclusion by artists, politicians, diplomats and public figures of Europe. A selection of the testimonies is available to view online.

IN NUMBERS:

14 artists

3 speakers

50 people at the screening of the documentary Opre Roma!

600 participants at the exhibition
FUTUROMA

Facebook reach: 30.000

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

PERFORMANCE ART: ROMA

JAM SESSION ART KOLLEKTIV

WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS

FROM NORTH-ITALY

October 30, 2019, Venice

FUTUROMA exhibition, 58th La Biennale di Venezia





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

"Switzerland learns from Europe – and the other way round. We are working in this performance on the plasticity of our memories and its translation into sound and movement. Diverse narratives of the past, the present and the future of cross-border Roma History will be woven by performative acts into a carpet of a variety of stories of Europe and Switzerland. They represent the description of the Roma being now and the Roma becoming in the near Future. The performance features the voices of Roma activists and artists, recorded narratives and sound patterns as well as live voices on stage and live instruments played by the musician. The historiography of the Roma in Switzerland and Europe is meant to be seen, heard felt and learned by the performers as well as by the public." /Roma Jam Session Art Kollektiv/

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

IN NUMBERS:

150 participants

5 visitors, curators, people at the screening of the documentary *Opre Roma!*

600 participants at the exhibition FUTUROMA

1 media appearance of the performance

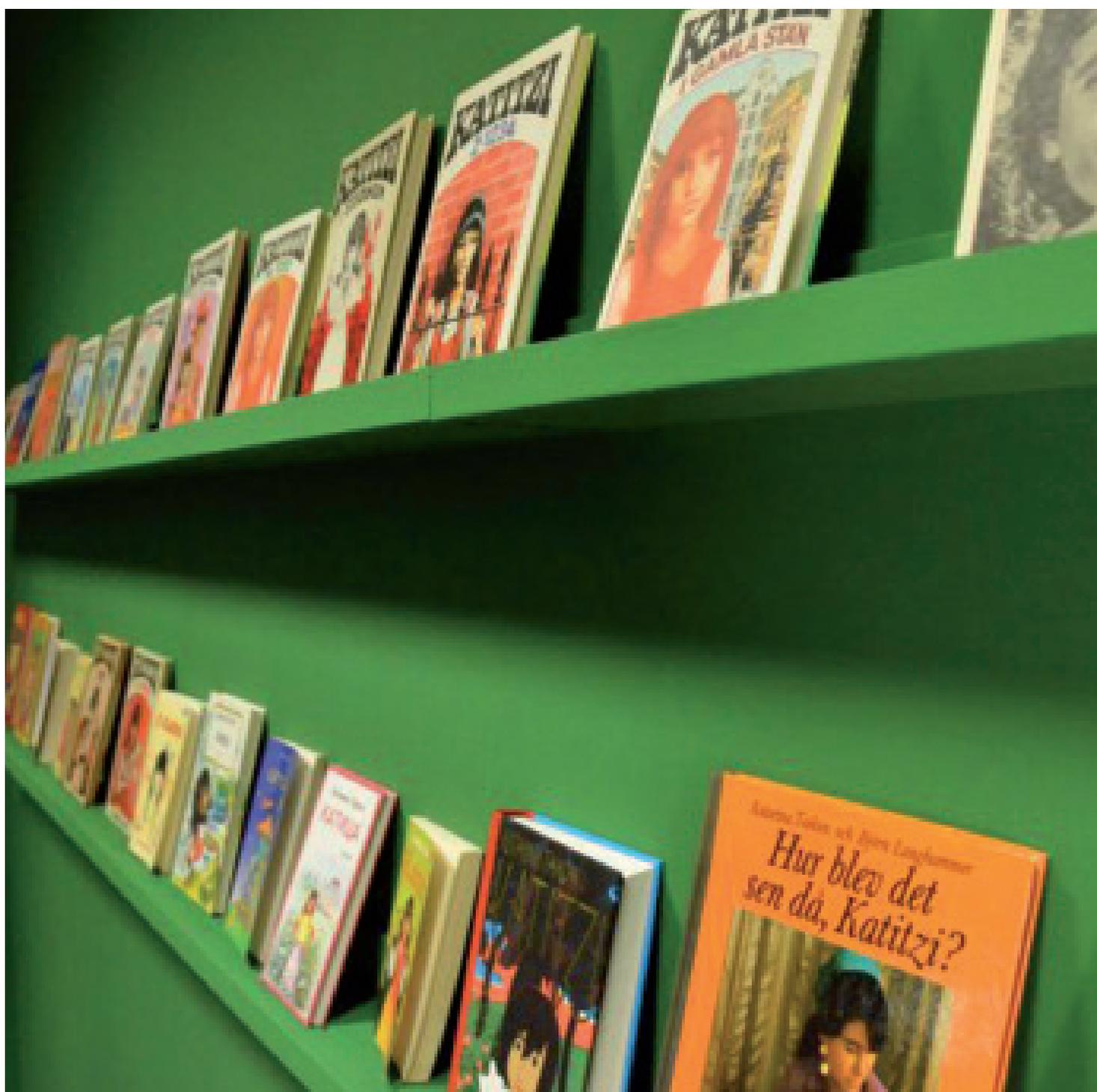
Facebook Reach: 1900

5 institutional partners, supporters of the performance

9 supporters and partners of the FUTUROMA exhibition (Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, Max Kohler Stiftung, UNAR, Foundation for Arts Initiatives, The Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, Foundation Michael Schmidt Stiftung, Stiftung Kommunikationsaufbau)

KATITZI, A LITERARY CHARACTER ROOTED IN REALITY – EXHIBITION

November 15, 2019, Berlin, Germany
ERAC Art-Space





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

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



Following the opening by the Chair of the ERIAC board Zeljko Jovanovic, Nina Katarina Karlsson, Cultural Attaché of Sweden to Germany, and curator Maria Lind introduced the exhibition to the public.

At the end of the evening the audience took part at the literary reading by Angelica Ström, daughter of Katarina Taikon, who offered personal insights into the activism and background of her mother, and answered questions from the audience.

In the framework of the exhibition, ERIAC is promoting the book 'The Day I Am Free' by Lawen Mohtadi including the new English language translation of 'Katitzi', with introduction by Maria Lind, Berlin. Sternberg Press, 2019.

IN NUMBERS:

7 contributors

100 participants

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

100 participants at the exhibition
FUTUROMA

Facebook Reach: 1900

ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM

November 28, 2019, Stockholm
Tensta konsthall, Stockholm

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

Scholars, artists and experts from all around Europe took part in the symposium. The majority of the participants came from Finland, Norway and Sweden. This was due to ERIAC's explicit aim to reach out to all the major stakeholders in the Nordic member states and invite them to cooperate with ERIAC under the umbre-

lla of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network. This way, the symposium did not only function as a tool to collect relevant data and create strategies for the promotion Roma culture; it was also, a stepping stone to building greater synergies between the Nordic member states and ERIAC's wider European reach.

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





meaningful contribution. Specifically, the discussion was focused on four central topics, with a specially designed workshop for each one.

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

- Roma resistance, history and culture
- What Europe can learn from the North
- RomaMoMA, the vision of a transnational Roma Museum
- A Roma cultural heritage manifesto

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

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

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

IN NUMBERS:

19 contributors

100 registered participants

2218 Facebook reach

RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF ROMA HERITAGE IN SERBIA

December 4, 2019, Belgrade, Serbia
Open Society Foundations office

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

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

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

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

ERAC IMPACT AND TAJSA OF ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIZE

December 9, 2019, Berlin
Melia Hotel Berlin/ Maxim Gorki Theater





After organizing large scale international meetings in Berlin, Stockholm, Venice and Belgrade, ERIAC invited the growing associate membership, partners and collaborators to conclude the Roma Tangible Heritage Network and contemplated its impact on Europe, in Berlin.

The meeting consisted of the morning, open to the public conference related to ERIAC Impact, followed by an early afternoon General Assembly, and Barvalipe Academy session. The day closed with a ceremonial evening of the Tajsja Prize with the world-renowned pianist David Pena Dorantes and his guests.

ERIAC IMPACT

ERIAC increases the self-esteem of Roma and decreases negative prejudice of the majority population towards the Roma by means of arts, culture, history, and media. On these grounds, a press conference was organized where the public presentation of ERIAC achievements and future plans were shared with associate members joined by the advocates of the international Roma political movement.

Timea Junghaus, the executive director of ERIAC, opened the public session and welcomed the audience: the ERIAC board, the Barvalipe Academy, the Associate Members, some of the donor representative and the media. The First presentation by Gilda Horvath, ERIAC board member, depicted the structure, dynamics and



the milestones reached by ERIAC up until now. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director of ERIAC, focused her presentation on what ERIAC signifies now, highlighting its pan-European landscape and international programming which engages a broad spectrum of audiences outside of Berlin.

Timea Junghaus reflected on where is the ERIAC's azimuth, in which direction ERIAC towards what wants to go, concluding that the future of ERIAC depends on its members and able to make the impact on the strategic plan which has been created based on gathered data, online surveys and staff meetings.

TAJSA – ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIZE CEREMONY AT THE MAXIM GORKI THEATRE

The Tajsja Prize embodies the founding principles of ERIAC and the spirit of Roma history and cultural heritage while looking onwards, shaping and re-inventing forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generations. The Prize aims to honor outstanding Roma individuals who are leading voices of the Roma cultural movement today. It seeks to encourage Roma pride and promote the creativity, virtuosity and talent of Roma cultural producers. Each year the endowment of the Tajsja Prize is sponsored entirely by the ERIAC associate membership, in order to promote the pedagogy of Roma contribution and self-determination. In 2019, the Tajsja Prize was created with an endowment of 5200 euros, funded exclusively by the membership contributions of ERIAC. The Tajsja Prize is a recognition for a Roma individual working in any of the following domains of arts and culture: All fields and genres of the arts, including visual arts, performing arts, literature, photography, film, design, dance, music, fashion, etc. The nominations for the Prize were submitted by ERIAC associate, Barvalipe Academy and Board members. The Barvalipe Academy – composed of 15 influential Roma arts and culture personalities from across the world who act as ERIAC advisory body – acts as the international jury of the Tajsja Prize.

As the culmination of the Roma Tangible Heritage Network Project, ERIAC brought together over 400 participants for the celebration of the official ceremony of the first edition of the Roma Tangible Heritage Tajsja Prize, and an accompanying iconic cultural program.

The Tajsja Prize ceremony was opened by the sensational Romani-Hungarian singer Monika Lakatos. Roma Actresses Riah Knight and Simonida Selimovic acted as the hosts for the evening. The audience was greeted in a video message by Michael Roth, Minister of State

at the Federal Foreign Office. Timea Junghaus, ERIAC executive director announced the Tajsja Prize finalists. Subsequently, Dr. Maria Bogdan and Dr. Ismael Cortes, Chair and Vice-Chair of Barvalipe respectively, announced the verdict of the jury composed of the 15 members of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy. Alina Serban – Roma actress, playwright and director – was revealed as the winner of the first edition of the Tajsja Roma Cultural Heritage Prize! The laudation speech was delivered by Lord Simon Wolley, cofounder and director of Operation Black Vote and the Board member of the Roma Information Office of the OSF. After the announcement of the winner, the world-renowned pianist and composer DORANTES gave a concert together with the flamenco artist Maria Jose Llergo.

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





IN NUMBERS:

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



INTERNATIONAL ROMA TANGIBLE HERITAGE RESEARCH

Researcher: Dr. Denisa Tomkova, supported by ERIAC Management

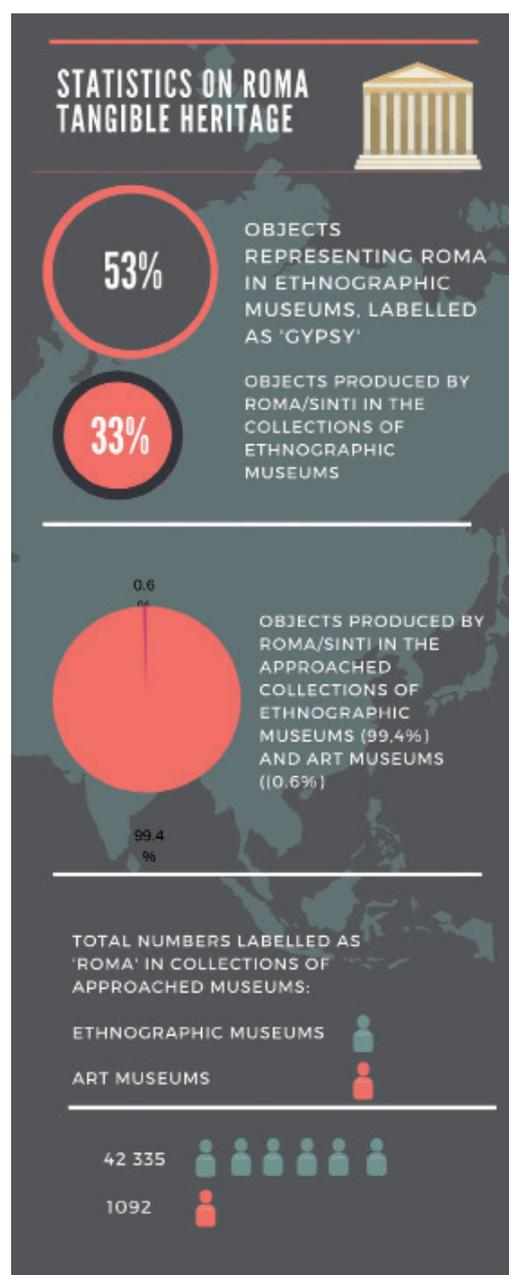
As part of the THN project, ERIAC conducted the mapping of Roma Tangible Heritage in the museums' collections in Europe and beyond. In the open call for fellow, Denisa Tomkova was selected as the author of the background paper.

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

The mapping of Roma cultural heritage research paper is the first ever examination of this topic, it therefore represents a blind spot in academic writing. This lack of any previous research presented us, on the one hand with the challenges in conducting the research but at the same time it also even more highlighted the necessity of such research and its wide scope which opened further paths to examine in the future.

For this report, seventy museums of the national and international level were approached with the questionnaire regarding their collection. Two types of institutions were approached for this research – Ethnographic Museums and Art Museums. The institutions approached were chosen for two reasons: Their pivotal and national role within the national and transnational context and, the probability of their collection holding the Roma artefacts.

The collections of ethnographic museums have proven through this research to be still greatly object-centered. This focus on the objects however lacks a proper scholarship and knowledge about these artefacts. The museums often lack information about the objects' authorship, their history, and their meaning. Most of the Roma produced objects are collected within 'ethnographic' museums framework, compared to art museums.



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS, RESULTS AND IMPACT

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

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

IN NUMBERS:

106 Active contributors
27 Ambassadors, international institutions, government officials
1465 Participants
62 970 Total video views
30 Partners, supporters, volunteers
164032 Facebook reach
16 052 Facebook engaged users
83.5% New visitors to ERIAC website
(top countries: Germany, US, Italy, UK and Sweden)

ERAC INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS



1.

FUTUROMA – OFFICIAL COLLATERAL EVENT AT THE 58TH LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

May 10 – October 30, 2019, Venice, Italy
Official Collateral Event of the 58th La Biennale di Venezia

FUTUROMA was an official collateral event of the 58th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, a powerful project that brought together the diverse contributions of members of Roma communities within European societies throughout history and today.

Curated by Daniel Baker and promoted by ERIAC, FUTUROMA gathered the works of fourteen innovative Romani contemporary artists from eight countries across Europe (Celia Baker, Jan Berky, Marcus Gunnar Petersson, Ödön Gyügyi, Billy Kerry, Klára Lakatos, Delaine Le Bas, Valerie Leray, Emília Rigová, Markéta Šestáková, Selma Selman, Dan Turner, Alfred Ullrich, László Varga).

The opening of the FUTUROMA exhibition took place in Palazzo Franchetti at the heart of Venice, right next to Ponte dell'Accademia on May 10, one day before the official opening of the 2019 Biennale Arte. Beside the exhibiting artists and over 150 guests from the Italian Roma community, international curators and artists, several governmental officials took part, such as Michelle Müntefering, the Minister of State for Culture at the Federal Foreign Office of the German Government.

The exhibition opening included welcoming words by Heiko Maas – Minister of Foreign Affairs in Germany, Zeljko Jovanovic – Chairman of the ERIAC board and Director of Open Society Foundations' Roma Initiative, Snežana Samardžić-Marković – Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe and ERIAC board member, Patrick Gaspard – Director of the Open Society Foundations and Timea Junghaus – Executive Director of ERIAC. The celebration was supported with a performance by Delaine Le Bas and Michaela Dra-

gan, poetry by Dijana Pavlovic and music by Santino Spinelli and the flamenco start Dorantes.

After the celebration in Palazzo Franchetti, the visitors took part in the "March to the Future", led by the exhibiting artist Delaine Le Bas, performing her ongoing artwork "Romani Embassy". At the exhibition, curator Daniel Baker gave an introduction to the exhibition followed by the lectures of feminist scholar Prof. Ethel Brooks, curator and choreographer Rashida Bumbray and Moritz Pankok, director of the Kai Dikhas Gallery. DJ Gypsyrobot – László Farkas led the after-party of the opening celebration.

With 17.932 visitors in 6 months, 35.000 social media reach, 4000 supporting statements in favor of a permanent Roma Pavilion in the book "Monument of Hope", 1500 participants in educational programming (film screening, interactive public performance, guided tours in Italian, English, French, German, Serbo-Croatian and Hungarian), 50 press mentions including articles, reviews and TV program and 30 Roma artists, performers and musicians from eleven European countries contributing to the exhibition and the connecting programming, FUTUROMA was the biggest and most successful project within the first two years of ERIAC's history.

ERiac successfully promoted the vision that social inclusion will not be accomplished without cultural inclusion. Roma artists and intellectuals became ongoing and active contributors – and sometimes even leaders – to the cultural and artistic events, exhibitions and discourses in Europe, strengthening their cooperation and voices. Roma talents, cultural workers and artists

had the chance to connect with each other and to grow their networks in the cultural scene, politics, and art markets. Roma artists could thrive and inspire both the Roma community and general audiences and Roma art gained growing visibility at international art events.

As a direct result of the FUTUROMA initiative, ERIAC built partnerships with international curators, art critics and institutions, such as the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Tate Modern, London or the Künstlerhaus Villa Romana in cooperation with ERIAC, is offering two resi-

dencies to Roma contemporary artists and will feature the FUTUROMA exhibition in Florence (opening postponed due to Covid-19).

FUTUROMA was supported by ten institutions and partners including the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, Foundation for Arts Initiatives, Stiftung Kommunikationsaufbau, Max Kohler Stiftung, UNAR, the Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, the Michael Schmidt Stiftung and Summa Artium.



FUTUROMA

Valérie Leray, Internment Camp for Gypsies 1940-1946, France, 2006. Photograph, 100 x 100 cm. Courtesy of the artist

IN NUMBERS:

17.932 visitors in 6 months

35.000 social media reach

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

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

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

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



Delaine Le Bas, Romani Embassy, Performance, May 10, 2019

2.

ROMA WOMEN WEAVING EUROPE – ROMA FEMINIST THOUGHT AND CONTEMPORARY ART

March 21, May 5, 2019, Berlin
ERAC-Space and Rumänisches Kulturinstitut

On the occasion of the celebration of the International Roma Day (8 April), the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and the Rumänisches Kulturinstitut Berlin (RKI) joined forces to honor Romani women – as leaders and survivors, guardians and re-inventors of culture, revolutionaries and change-makers. In a joint exhibition titled, “Roma Women Weaving Europe,” accompanied by several events, both institutions made visible the Roma feminist thought and contemporary art.

The exhibition tied together the two spaces, the ERAC Gallery and RKI Gallery, which are located on the same street in the very heart of Berlin (Reinhardtstrasse). The project featured a selection of remarkable contemporary artists from Romania and other European countries, including Poland, Finland, Slovakia, and Great Britain. The exhibition included phenomenal artistic creations realized in a variety of media, ranging in diverse forms such as painting, installation art, video-art, textile art, and sculpture.

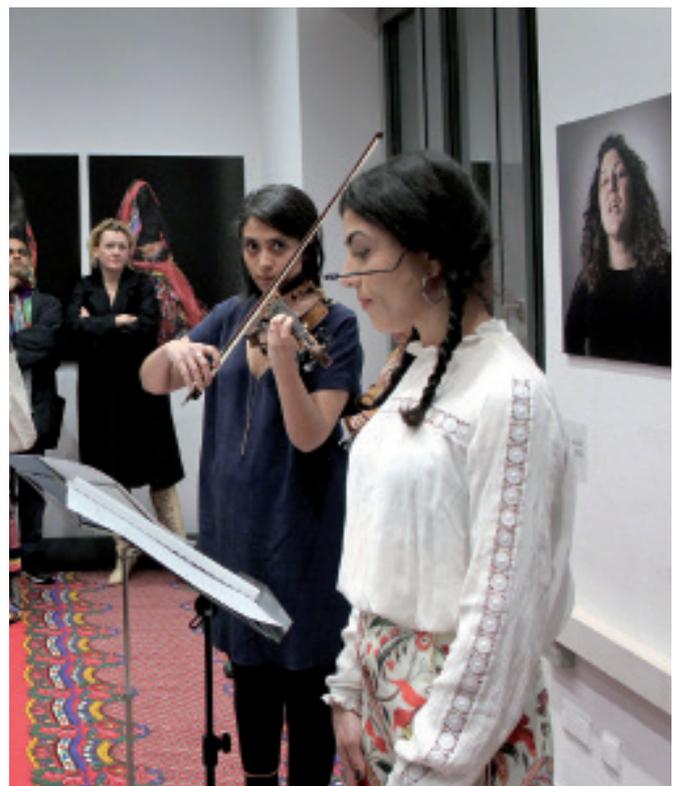
The plethora of issues related to gender inequality have become a major focus of contemporary debates in recent years. The approximately 6 million Roma women within Europe know all too well about the impact of gender inequality. They face multiple and intersectional discriminations – as women, members of a stigmatized ethnic minority, being at higher risk of social exclusion and poverty – which has pushed them to creatively challenge patriarchal and racialized oppression.

EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Ionela Mihaela Cîmpeanu (RO), Ioanida Costache (RO), Mihaela Drăgan (RO), Ana Maria Gheorghe (RO), Delaine Le Bas (UK), Kiba Lumberg (FI), Małgorzata Mirga-Tas (PL), Emília Rigová (SK), Selma Selman (BiH), Alina Șerban (RO), George Vasilescu (RO), urban_roma (RO)

OPENING PROGRAM

The exhibition opening took place on 21 March at 6 p.m. at ERAC (Reinhardtstrasse 41-43) and at 7 p.m. at RKI Berlin (Reinhardtstrasse 14), followed by a performance by Mihaela Drăgan and Ioanida Costache.





THE BEST CHILD IN THE WORLD – PERFORMANCE BY ALINA SERBAN TO CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL ROMA DAY

April 8, 2019, Berlin

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, 8 of April, a guided tour took place at RKI and ERIAC, followed by an artistic performance by Alina Serban. The artist presented a few excerpts from her autobiographical one-woman-show 'I Declare at My Own Risk – The Best Child in The World', following the dilemmas, challenges and revelations that accompany a girl from a poverty-stricken Roma community in Bucharest. The performance tells the story of a Roma's women resilience and represents the first personal story told by a Romanian Roma woman from her perspective, while also depicting the social injustices the Roma minority is facing. Using her own story as a starting point, Alina continued the performance with a discussion on the collective history of Roma in Romania, which she wrote about in her play 'The Great Shame', uncovering 500 years of unknown history of Roma slavery in Romania and its present day implications.

A FEMINIST READING OF ROMA POLITICAL MOVEMENT – PANEL DISCUSSION

June 11, 2019, Berlin

Rumänisches Kulturinstitut

ERIAC and RKI organized a panel discussion about Roma Feminism with Carmen Gheorghe, president of Roma women organization E-Romnja (Romania), Dotschy Reinhardt, singer and activist, CEO of Landesrat der Roma und Sinti Berlin-Brandenburg e.V. (Germany), Jelena Jovanović, scholar, policy and research coordinator at ERGO Network (Serbia/ Belgium), Ramona-Maria Cara, young Roma activist and social worker (Romania/ Germany) and Sandra Selimovic, actress, artist and singer (Serbia/ Austria/ Germany) moderated by Mihaela Zatreanu, linguist, activist and Barvalipe Academy member. By ERIAC and RKI, with the support of Nordisk Kulturfond and Polish Institute Berlin.

3.

“ROMA ARMEE” AT THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL THEATER

June 26, 2019, Bucharest
National Theater I.L. Caragiale

On June 26, 2019, ERIAC presented the critically-acclaimed “Roma Armee” produced by Maxim Gorki Theatre in Berlin at the National Theatre I.L. Caragiale in Bucharest. This was the first time that the “Roma Armee” was presented in Romania. Over 650 guests attended the performance, making it the biggest audience of “Roma Armee” yet!

Directed by influential Yael Ronen, Roma Armee is based on the original idea of Sandra and Simonida Selimovic. The play represents the voices of Roma who are subject to multiple and intersecting discrimination – Roma women, Roma youth and Roma LGBTIQ showcasing the multifaceted beauty of diversity, but in the same time, the intensity of inner drama. This powerful tale reveals the impact of stereotypes, but also the struggle of overcoming, providing a new and inspiring narrative about who the Roma people are. It is also the strongest voice which communicates passionately, authentically and powerfully about the realities of queer Roma, debunking stereotypes within and outside of their own community. With the stage design and costumes by famous Roma artists Delaine and Damian Le Bas, the “Roma Armee” represents an inspiring example of a modern Roma contemporary production of highest artistic quality.

Strategically in Romania, the country with the largest number of Roma, the event aimed at promoting self-narrated voices of Roma community members, in particular those who are subject to multiple and intersecting discrimination. At a time when neo-fascism threatens Europe, a group of actors initiates a Roma army for the purpose of self-defense. The actors are Romnia, Roma and Romani Travellers from Austria, Serbia, Germany, Kosovo, Romania, England and Sweden. They are also Israeli-German-Turkish-Berlin Gadjé – that means that the Roma Army is supra-national, diverse and feminist. By exposing the past and present injustices the Roma throughout Europe have endured, the Roma Army gives way to the process of self-reflection and self-emancipation – initiating a revolution to envisage a peaceful, inclusive and respectful future for all Europeans.

The guest performance of the “Roma Armee”, produced by the Maxim Gorki Theater was organized by the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture (ERIAN) and was hosted at Sala Mare of the National Theater I.L. Caragiale in Bucharest, on the 26th of June 2019, at 20.00.

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the Arts Exchange, Youth Exchange, Human Rights Initiative and Public Health Program of the Open Society Foundations and Goethe Institute in Romania.



4.

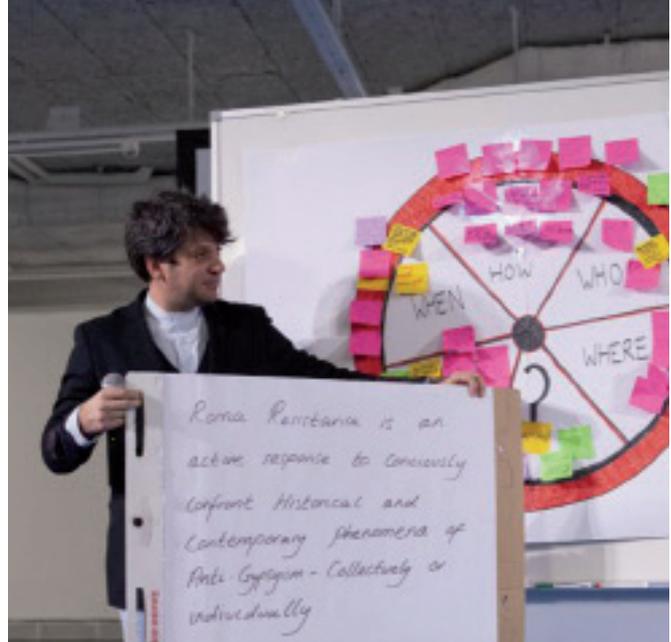
RE-THINKING ROMA RESISTANCE

In October 2019, ERIAC was awarded the grant by "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft" Stiftung (EVZ Foundation) to develop the project "Re-thinking Roma Resistance".

In recent years, the topic of Roma Resistance during the WWII has grown into a powerful symbol that contrasts the notion of Roma victimhood with the acknowledgment of Roma agency and survival. From researchers to the media, the stories of the Roma Resistance during WWII have begun to gain momentum. Inspired in various accounts of the Roma uprising at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on May 16, 1944, the date has been embraced and celebrated by Roma communities across Europe, particularly by Roma youth. In the framework of this project, ERIAC will expand the notion of "Roma Resistance" to embrace other events representing Roma opposition to injustice, both collective and individual, including revolts, participation of Roma in partisan movements and/or independence struggles, escapes, saving and hiding children, as well as the many subversive strategies of Roma survivors in the period post-war aiming at the recognition of the Roma Holocaust. The stories of Roma heroes, connected historical sites and artefacts will be documented and brought to the attention of Roma and non-Roma audiences.

More specifically, the project will:

- Develop a broader definition of the notion of Roma Resistance exploring its different dimensions.
- Elaborate a map of Roma Resistance sites, creating a historical route which commemorates events of Roma Resistance in physical spaces across Europe.
- Research stories of Roma Resistance heroes, in order to make to show the personalized and human side of Roma Resistance. This process will also help to save from oblivion the many nameless heroes and survivors of the Holocaust.



- Develop mapping out of historical artefacts (including archival records, letters, photographs, personal written accounts etc.) as well as cultural and artistic items, which can represent and effectively communicate the stories of Roma Resistance struggle. In this way, the tangible heritage of the Roma history in Europe can be exposed and exhibited through objects.
- Develop a comprehensive bibliography of Roma Resistance, ranging from academic texts, to memoirs and personal testimonies. The bibliography will also include comic books, films, theatre plays, recordings and other sources which can be used for both formal and non-formal education.
- Develop an online/ offline publication, bringing together the findings of the project.
- Illustrate the vivid stories of Roma Resistance, through an exhibition dedicated to Roma Resistance at the ERIAC Art space in Berlin, together with a series accompanying events.

Between October 2019 and July 2020 and with the support of local researchers and experts, ERIAC will document and promote a new narrative of Roma history told from the subjective perspective of Roma survivors.

The first event of the project – the workshop "Roma resistance – history and culture" – took place in Stockholm on November 28th, linked to the "Nordic Cultural Heritage Symposium". The workshop was facilitated by Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Pierre Chopinaud and Jan Selling. In this workshop the participants discussed the term "Resistance" not simply as a modern political movement, but in the broader sense, as a response to Romani oppression, and as a strategy for survival. What does this term mean to the participants? How should we define "Roma Resistance"? What types of behaviors and actions, individual and collective, can be considered as different dimensions of "Roma Resistance"?

5.

THE EUROPEAN MANIFEST FOR ROMA CULTURAL INCLUSION



Oto Hudec, Invisible Museum,
2017, courtesy of the artistp

Where are the transnational spaces and institutional infrastructures for Roma cultural production? How will the Roma people and the Roma contributions become recognized in the (art-) history of Europe? Where are the institutions for whom diversity means true cultural inclusion of the largest minority in Europe? The European Manifesto for Roma Cultural Inclusion addresses the vicious circle that paralyzed Roma arts for over a millennium, prohibiting a truly diverse European cultural scene, and hindering the development of democratic societies.

With the support of the European Cultural Fund (ECF), ERIAC launched the Alliance of Institutions for European Roma Cultural Inclusion to conduct a policy change by inviting all public institutions in Europe working with arts and culture – museums, concert halls, academic institutions, cultural decision-makers, to reshape museum protocols and join the Alliance of Institutions for European Roma Cultural Inclusion! The initiative is part of RomaMoMA, a project initiated by OFF-Biennale Budapest and ERIAC.

RomaMoMA is a transnational, collaborative and discursive art project of the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture (ERIAN) and OFF-Biennale Budapest. It is a platform to envision and discuss the possible forms of a Roma museum of modern and contemporary art that will spread in time and space through a series of exhibitions, discussions, and art projects. It will invite Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural experts, scholars and civil society. RomaMoMA is to perform an institution which, hopefully soon, materializes into a cutting-edge agent of the contemporary arts and culture scene. RomaMoMA is guided and supported by the think-tank, which is assembled of experts of various fields of art

and the humanities, in order to exchange ideas on the necessity and possible roles of a transnational museum of Roma contemporary art, and to come up with a collective proposal for the institution of such a museum. RomaMoMA is guided and supported by the think-tank, which is assembled of experts of various fields of art and the humanities, in order to exchange ideas on the necessity and possible roles of a transnational museum of Roma contemporary art, and to come up with a collective proposal for the institution of such a museum.

After the first closed think-tank meeting of RomaMoMA at the end of 2019, RomaMoMA will start its international programming in 2020.



ERAC EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



1.

CAHROM VISIT – RECEPTION AND DISCUSSION

February 22, 2019

ERIAC-Space

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) hosted a reception for the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM), on 22 February 2019, at the ERIAC office space in Berlin, Germany. The CAHROM group of experts were participating in a three-day thematic visit to Germany, focusing on governmental support for the promotion of Romani arts and culture, Holocaust remembrance, and international cooperation.

During the morning session on the second day of their events, ERIAC was presented by Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of ERIAC, and Dr. Lorenz Bath as a good practice in promoting Roma arts and culture. Later, the committee experts participated in a workshop at the Federal Ministry of the Interior, chaired by Timea Junghaus and Jan Hero, a Slovak CAHROM member. Following the workshop on the topics of defining common challenges and relevant best practices for all member States, as well as possibilities for international cooperation, the group made their way to ERIAC's office space on Reinhardtstraße 41-43, Berlin.

After an introduction by Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director of ERIAC, Ministerial Director Dr. Michael Frehse gave a speech on behalf of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. The group was then given a tour of the current exhibit on display at ERIAC, "Gypsyism Balkanism – Uniting Peripheries," with works from Roma artists Sead Kazanxhiu and Selma Selman, and were additionally shown clips from events of ERIAC's Cultural Institutions Network Initiative. The event concluded with a reception.

2.

IS “AUSCHWITZ ONLY SLEEPING”? CONFERENCE ON SINTI AND ROMA NARRATIVES AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

July 31 – August 1, 2019 Krakow, Poland
Jagiellonian University





“I’m afraid that Europe is forgetting its past and that Auschwitz is only sleeping. Antigypsyist threats, policies and actions worry me greatly and make me very sad.”

Ceija Stojka, Roma Holocaust survivor (1933 – 2013)

In the framework of a large commemoration organized by several Roma organizations on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of 2 August 1944 – the European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day – ERIAC, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, and the ternYpe International Roma Youth Network, organized the conference “Is Auschwitz Only Sleeping” in Krakow, Poland. The conference brought together major stakeholders, artists, advocates, and academics to discuss the representation of Roma memory at the intersection of arts, culture, scholarship, political activism, and the Roma historical narratives and spaces of memory, as well as the civil rights struggle for recognition and against antigypsyism.

Inspired by the quote of Ceija Stojka, a Roma Holocaust survivor and artist, the organizers worked to reflect on the importance of cultivating the memory of the Roma Holocaust for the safety and well-being of Roma communities today. The international conference was honored to include a keynote speech by Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., the legendary African American civil rights activist and founder of PUSH/Rainbow Coalition.

ERAC, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, and the ternYpe International Roma Youth Network linked the commemoration to the “Dikh he na Bister” Youth Event, which brought together over 500 young people from across Europe, as well as the official commemoration of the 2 August Memorial Day, held every year in Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The international conference was accompanied by a contemporary art exhibition, entitled “Tears of Gold/ Sownakune Jasfa”, and curated by Dr. Krzysztof Gil and Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka. The exhibition presented the works of Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Valerie Leray, Emilia Rigova, Marcin Tas and Kalman Varady, all of whom deal with the subject of Holocaust memory. Through art they evoke the trauma of World War II, thus giving a testimony to the memory of the Roma Holocaust as a premise to reclaim identity and existence. The traumatic heritage of the Holocaust is transformed into metaphorical gold, which brings the fragmented pieces of memory to put together the scarred yet beautiful Roma cultural whole.

3.

VILLA ROMANA – ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAM

To mark the upcoming installation of FUTUROMA at the Künstlerhaus Villa Romana in Florence in 2020, ERIAC joined forces with the Villa Romana residency program to offer two residencies to Roma contemporary artists. This exciting initiative draws upon the ground-breaking work, expertise, and vision of both institutions to realize a unique opportunity for Roma artists and marks a significant step in recognition of the importance of Roma contemporary art practice today. Through the cooperation Villa Romana and ERIAC, two contemporary Roma artists can spend 2 month-residencies in Florence. ERIAC and Villa Romana received 12 eligible applications.

The jury meeting took place in ERIAC on October 8, 2019 with the presence of:

- Maria Lind (curator, writer, art critic, co-curator of the 2019 Biennial in Timisoara)
- Daniel Baker (artist, curator of FUTUROMA at Biennale Arte 2019)
- Angelika Stepken (curator, author, director of Villa Romana, Florence)
- Timea Junghaus (curator, art historian, director of ERIAC).

The jury established the rationale that the decision on the residency awardees is based on:

- the chosen artists can – at this stage of their artistic career – benefit best from the residency in Florence
- they submitted portfolios that demonstrate outstanding and mature artistic oeuvres;
- they apply current, timely and relevant research methodologies;
- they have a solid commitment for further development in technique;
- their application suggests an ability of potential improvement of their artistic expression.

The jury awarded Robert Gabris (SK) and Małgorzata Mirga-Tas (PL) with the residency program.





Robert Gabris, *Flowers*, 2019,
courtesy of the artist



Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, *Romnija*,
acrylic and fabrics on board, 2017,
courtesy of the artist

WELCOMING INTERNATIONAL ALLIES IN THE ERAC-SPACE

Marija Pejčinović Burić,
14th Secretary General of the
Council of Europe visits ERAC



ERIAC has a unique and single mandate as the first transnational, European-level organization for the recognition of Roma arts and culture. The ERIAC office in Berlin serves as the headquarters to support the large network of Roma individuals and organizations working in the fields of arts and culture. ERIAC functions as an international hub which strives to promote the activities of Roma organizations, intellectuals, and artists to form multilateral initiatives and regional alliances, and to connect them with the policymakers and leaders of the different national and European levels.

The front office in Berlin gives space to a contemporary art gallery and an educational program which is open to the public and welcomes individual visitors and visitor groups. 2019 was another year with exceptional encounters, discussions with curators, artists, Roma youth activists, teachers and leading European politicians (e.g. Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić visited ERIAC on her first official visit to Germany), from around Europe and beyond in the ERIAC-Space.

In 2019, ERIAC hosted several strategic partners and political allies to contemplate the future of Roma arts and culture together. We thank the visit of:

- Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM)
- U.S. Ambassador in Germany, Honourable Ambassador Richard A. Grenell, in connection to the International Roma Day
- Ms Filiz Polat and Mr Erhard Grundl, members of the German Bundestag of the Greens
- Katarína Mathernová, Deputy Director General at DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR) and Enrica Chiozza, Policy Analyst at the DG Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (DG NEAR)
- Nina Nordström, Finish Director of the Unit for Human Rights Policy and Ambassador to Strasbourg
- Dr. Michael Groß, Consul General of Germany in Cracow
- Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejčinović Burić accompanied by Mr Bjorn Berge, Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers, Mr Miroslav Papa, Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, Mr Daniel Holtgen, Spokesperson of the Council of Europe and other colleagues from the Council of Europe and the German Federal Foreign Office.
- Delegation of the Trust for Mutual Understanding (TMU) with Board Member Jim Enote, CEO of Colorado Plateau Foundation, Barbara Lanciers, TMU director, Irina Yurna, Regional Representative and Alina Enggist, Program Officer.
- Aktion Sühnezeichen Friedensdienste
- Open Society Foundations Diversity and Inclusion team
- Renaissance Foundation
- Goethe Institute Spain
- OSF Public Health Program
- Soros Investment Fund
- European Cultural Foundation (ECF)
- MUCEM
- International Roma Youth Network TernYpe

In 2019, ERIAC continued to host student and teacher groups, learning about contemporary Roma movements, arts, culture and history. Among others, we thank for the valuable discussions with:

- Students of the Lycée Jacques Amyot in Melun, France,
- Schoolclash e.V. organization together with twenty of their recent supported by the Erasmus+ European Commission called Cultural Heritage in Perspective,
- 35 teachers from Poland, taking part in the second edition of the Academy of Anti-Discrimination Education organized by the Jewish Center in Oświęcim, the Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Foundation in Dialogue.

ERAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ARTS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES

Performance by Alina Serban
in the Romanian Cultural Institute
of Berlin (RKI)





While leading ERIAC initiatives, exhibitions, conferences and cultural policy-work with partners from all over Europe and beyond, in 2019 the ERIAC members and executive management continued to support the international arts and culture field. ERIAC served with its expertise to Roma and non-Roma EU policy-makers, and contributed to a number of conferences, art Biennales, book fairs, academic summer school and conferences, thereby strengthening Roma leadership and Roma voices on the field of arts, culture, media and academia.



RECEPTION BY FEDERAL PRESIDENT FRANK-WALTER STEINMEIER

21 January, 2019, Berlin Schloss Bellevue

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture was honored to participate at the cultural evening hosted by the president of Germany, Frank-Walter Steinmeier in the Schloss Bellevue, emphasizing the importance of Roma arts, culture and music.

NEGLECTED VOICES: THE GLOBAL ROMA DIASPORA – CONFERENCE

April 5-6, 2019, Harvard University, Boston

Harvard FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and the Romani Studies Program of the Central European University hosted Neglected Voices: The Global Roma Diaspora, the seventh Annual Roma Conference at Harvard marking the International Roma Day, organized under the honorary patronage of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture. The conference convened scholars and activists to explore the global span of the Romani diaspora and the disparate manifestations of inclusion or exclusion of Roma across the world. ERIAC executive director Timea Junghaus attended the conference on behalf of ERIAC.

THE MULTIPLICATION OF PERSPECTIVES – 10 YEARS OF GLOBAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OF MOMA

28 April, 2019, Museum of Modern Art, New York

The Multiplication of Perspectives offered a variety of lenses through which to consider circulation, entanglement, and disconnection in the museum today, focusing on some of the promises and pitfalls of a “global” approach to art and its histories.

Time Junghaus contributed to the conference with a lecture and a panel discussion together with Natalia Brizuela, Associate Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Berkeley, Victoria Collis-Buthelezi, Lecturer, Department of English, University of Cape Town, South Africa and Harsha Ram, Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley, moderated by Meghan Forbes, C-MAP Fellow for Central and Eastern Europe, MoMA.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF NATIONALITIES (ASN) WORLD CONVENTION

2-4 May, 2019

Columbia University, New York

The Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention is the largest international and interdisciplinary scholarly gathering of its kind, welcoming 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 2019 ASN Convention included two panels dedicated to Critical Romani Studies which counted with the presence of most referenced scholars working in this field. ERIAC, represented by deputy director dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, was engaged in both panels.

CRITICAL APPROACHES TO ROMANI STUDIES

15-17 May, 2019, Central European University, Budapest

With the contribution of several ERIAC Barvalipe members, the CEU Romani Studies held its annual conference in Budapest. With increasing number of Roma and non-Roma scholars using critical theories and methods in their work on and with Roma, proposing a paradigm shift in Romani Studies to challenge the dominant academic and policy discourses. They propose inquiries into the forms of oppression Roma are facing, the importance of racism and structural discrimination for Roma and Romani identity. The conference brought together junior and senior, Roma and non-Roma scholars embracing critical approaches from more than a dozen countries and more than twenty universities.

ROMANI IDENTITIES AND ANTIGYPSYISM – SUMMER SCHOOL

1-12 July, 2019, Central European University, Budapest

The annual Critical Romani Studies summer school focused on the nexus between Romani identities and anti-gypsyism. Anti-gypsyism 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. The aim of this CEU Summer School was to link participating student and scholars with a transitional network of scholars in order to investigate the forms of oppression faced by Roma and to analyze the mechanisms through which exclusion of Roma takes place in different fields of public life.

ERIAC became one of the contributors to the CEU Summer School this year, with Timea Junghaus giving lectures on the topic of "The Epistemic, Political, and Institutional Development of Roma Art".

ROMA HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DISCUSSION IN POLIN MUSEUM

5 August, 2019

POLIN – Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the 2nd of August – Roma Holocaust Memorial day – the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, organized a panel discussion with Roma experts. The event aimed to promote and discuss the importance of the remembrance of Roma and Sinti as Holocaust victims in the context of contemporary Roma identities, the artistic activities, and Roma art between the audience of Roma and non-Roma attendees. The discussion also had raised the question of the role of institutions in the process of shaping the Romani Holocaust memory, among other activities of institutions created by the Roma themselves.

FUTURE POLICIES FOR ROMA (EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

1 October, 2019, Brussels

The European Commission (DG Justice and Consumers in Brussels) organized a workshop entitled “Future policies for Roma”. The discussions focused on forward-looking findings of the recent evaluation of the EU Framework and policy options to address the challenges identified. Participants included National Roma Contact Points, MEPs, civil society (at European, national and local level) as well as international organizations. To prepare the discussions, DG Justice and Consumers disseminated background papers to the participants.

ERIAC advocated for the inclusion of Roma arts, culture, history and identity in the future EU Roma policy post-2020. Furthermore, ERIAC provided a written contribution to the European Commission – the position paper “Roma inclusion as a precondition for social inclusion – ERIAC position paper of the EU Roma post 2020”.

ECF PRINCESS MARGRIET AWARD FOR CULTURE

2 October, 2019, Amsterdam

The European Cultural Foundation launched the ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture in 2008 to recognize cultural change-makers across Europe. The annual award is made in honour of Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, who served as ECF President from 1984 to 2007.

ERIAC’s executive director, Timea Junghaus, was part of the independent, international and interdisciplinary Jury of the 11th ECF Princess Margriet Award for Culture in the presence of TRH Princess Margriet and Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands in Amsterdam and presented the jury report of the award.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON COUNTERING DISTORTION AND PROTECTING THE CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF ROMA

15-18 October, 2019, Bucharest

Dr. Iulius Rostas, ERIAC Board Member, gave a lecture during the conference in Bucharest entitled “Practical Application: Lessons Learned from the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture”.

The four-day regional seminar “Countering Distortion through Governmental Action: Building the Capacity of Government Actors for Promoting and Protecting the Civil and Human Rights of Roma” was organized by AIPR with the support of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and aimed to bring together participants from 11 states in Southeastern Europe, in addition to an international and interdisciplinary instructor team.

KERES KULTURA / WE CREATE CULTURE

22 October, 2019, Matej Bel University, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia

ERIAC celebrated the opening of the #KRUK – the Office of Roma Arts and Culture at Department of Fine Arts of Pedagogical Faculty of Matej Bel University in Slovakia, created by ERIAC Barvalipe Academy member and contemporary artists Emilia Rigova. As part of the celebrations, ERIAC deputy director joined the panel discussion and the opening of the Exhibition KERES KULTURA! / WE CREATE CULTURE! at the Slovak National Gallery.

ART ENCOUNTERS IN TIMISOARA BIENNALE

22-24 October 2019, Timisoara

The Art Encounters Biennial in Timisoara is a cross between an experimental art festival and a contemporary art biennial. It focuses on extensive curatorial research which engages in meaningful dialogues with the historical and the socio-cultural contexts of the city of Timișoara. Timea Junghaus, executive director of ERIAC and Delia Grigore, Roma scholar and member of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy, read together with members of the Romanian Roma community and with the audience, extracts from the essay by the Roma feminist author Ethel Brooks.

POST-2020 EU ROMA STRATEGY: THE WAY FORWARD – REPORT

The Open Society European Policy Institute (OSEPI)

The report serves as a critical analysis of the EU Roma Framework, providing recommendations for the EC on the way forward. Thanks to contributions of seven OSF programs and counting with contributions of key Roma organizations, the report recommends that the next EU Roma Framework upgrade to a fully-fledged strategy, and make the goals in the four policy areas more concrete and realistic to achieve. The paper also argues that the EC should make the next EU Roma Strategy obligatory for member states and put the fight against anti-Gypsyism at the forefront of every policy area.

ERIAC was among one of the contributors to the report, providing essential feedback to the post-2020 future of the Framework, highlighting the need for the new policy strategy to include the field of arts and culture as one of the priority areas. Based on ERIAC's expertise, the social inclusion of Roma will never be possible without cultural inclusion

TOWARDS 2020

The following problems have become apparent during ERIAC's conferences, research activities and personal meetings with community members, Roma intellectuals and government officials during 2019. They will be relevant in the work of ERIAC throughout 2020.

By nature, Roma art forms are transnational and without borders, while national cultural policies tend to support cultural organizations, projects and individuals in a specific country. There is a general lack of public and private funding enabling showcasing Roma arts and culture products transnationally, and which supports explicit collaboration and cross-fertilization among Roma and non-Roma artists across borders.

There is a necessity for state-level or European level policies to counter the unjust process of cultural appropriation. In times of rising anti-Gypsyism in which the public narrative becomes more and more xenophobic and violent where Roma are frequently called the “parasites of Europe”, Roma need to act for themselves and prove these racist offenses wrong.

There is a general belief that arts and culture is a luxury field, far from the daily life of Roma communities who need support in many other social areas (health care, unemployment, education, poverty, etc.). Therefore, it is easier to obtain funding for social, economic and politically orientated projects than for cultural activities. Likewise, the EU Roma Framework, a major Roma-targeted EU policy, concentrates exclusively on socio-economic inclusion, while cultural components are missing altogether. Consequently, there is no EU-level financial instrument which supports the development, promotion and protection of Roma arts and culture across the countries.

It is vital that the next EU Roma policy will embrace politics of recognition alongside of policy of redistribution. In other words, the next EU Roma Strategy needs to include Roma arts, culture and history as one area of engagement, and establish synergies with existing policies, funds and other structures of the European Union in this field. Employing such strategies will play a significant role in fighting anti-Gypsyism. Other intergovernmental bodies, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations should also facilitate the promotion of Roma identity, culture, history and arts. At the same time, private donors should also embrace the Roma arts and culture field.

Roma cultural inclusion is the necessary ingredient for securing equality and justice for Roma in Europe and the world. At the same time, the right to one’s culture is also a human right.

Museums have the power of controlling the narrative of Roma culture and they also have the monopoly over discourse concerning the Roma. Many cultural heritage organizations and protocols grant funding and protection of the heritage from the perspective of nation-states, which can be exclusionary towards ethnic minorities. This leads to a lack of representation of Roma artists in the national museums, where Roma are often being represented as ‘other(s)’ and perpetual outsiders on artworks created by majority artists.

ERIAC sees the need for:

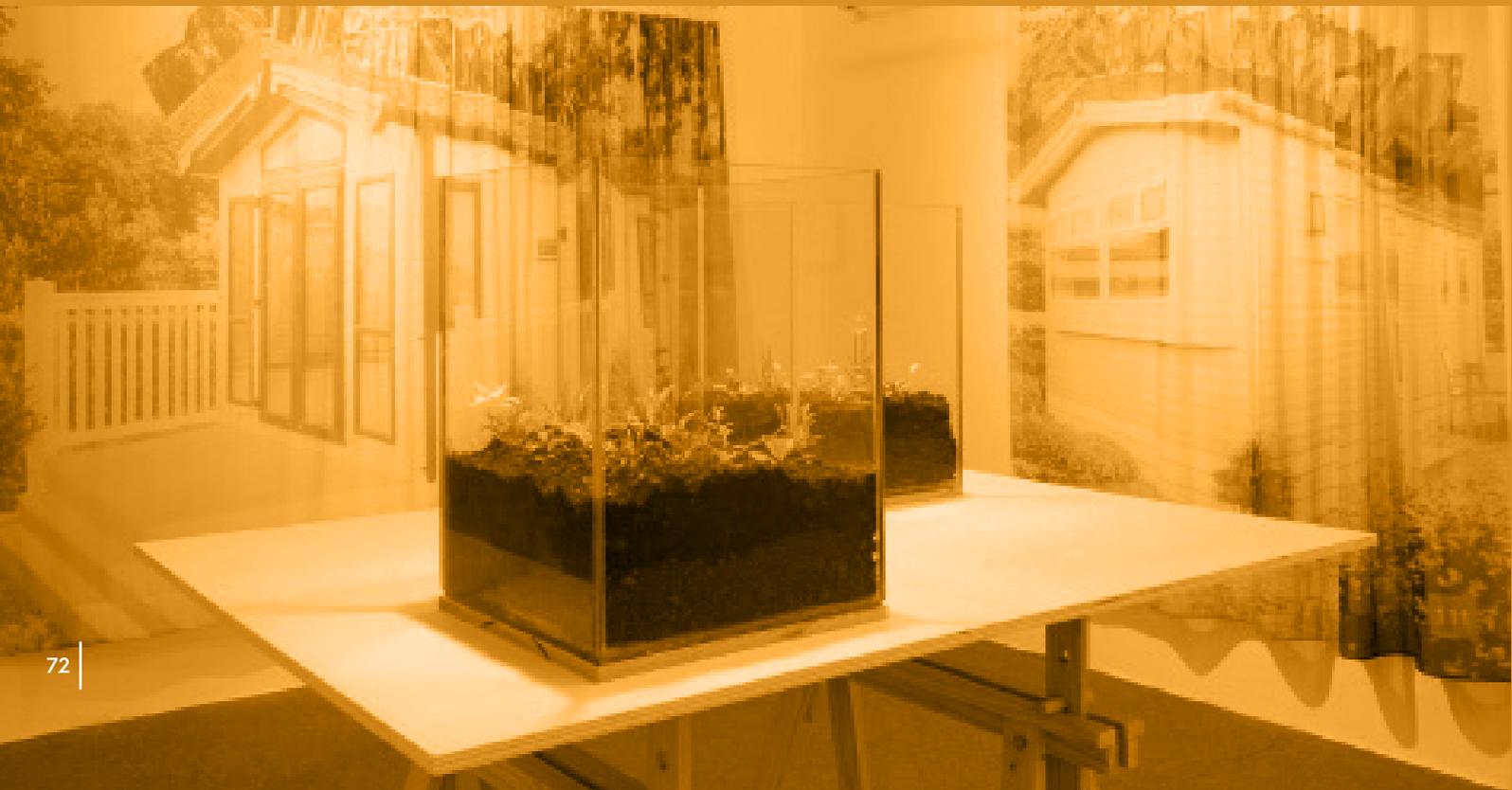
- cross-cultural awareness, redressing of past imbalances, for more inclusion and for the politics of control over cultural heritage.
- for the ethnographic museums to challenge their collections, which are often-problematic character based on ‘othering’ and racist stereotypes, to review the labelling of artefacts, enable the usage of new terminology and replace the derogatory label ‘gypsy’ in their collections, to create new discourses and interpretations of the objects in their collections, to research missing authorship of the objects in their collections, to involve Roma curators, scholars and intellectuals, as well as general Roma community when researching, analyzing, labelling and exhibiting Roma tangible heritage artefacts and to exhibit the Roma objects and take them out of the storage rooms, and so make them accessible to the general public, Roma intellectuals and interested parties.

At the same time, ERIAC will lobby museums and other cultural entities to follow the recommendations of:

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dan Turner, Seeds of Change, 2019,
FUTUROMA exhibition,
courtesy of the artist



The following short paragraph is a summary presenting the monetary activity of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in 2019. The Financial activity in 2019 has fulfilled the provisioned extents of ERIAC's financial planning and had even achieved outstanding results in fundraising with the total revenue of 738.830EUR. An additional 924EUR relates to payments received from incorrect transfers in 2018, whose refunds were made in 2019. Moreover, ERIAC has also managed to keep the expenditures of each of its financial categories (A, B, C, D) specifically within the formerly planned budgets. The total expenses in the 2019 calendar year add up to a total of 859.331EUR, out of which the personnel related expenses were 220.895EUR (25%) and the institution related operative and indirect costs added up to 169.258EUR (20%).

FUNDRAISING RESULTS*

Federal Foreign Office Germany THN	200,000 €
Stiftung Kommunikationsaufbau	20,000 €
OSF Public Health Program	111,438 €
Nordic Culture Fund	13,500 €
Michael Schmidt Stiftung	3,000.00 €
ProHelvetia	2,798.99 €
Goethe Institute Bucharest	3,000.00 €
Summa Atrium	4,138.75 €
Max Kohler Stiftung	17,302.07 €
Foundation for Arts Initiative	26,318 €
Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti & Roma	3,250 €
Stiftung EVZ	40,000 €
European Cultural Foundation	18,000 €
TOTAL FUNDRAISING 2019	462,745.81 €

* Some donors apply more payment instalments during the time as well as after the end of the project period (post-financed), thus payments span over to 2020.

*Some grants arrive in multiple payment instalments, and some arrive only after the project period (post-financed). Some project grants roll into 2020. This is visible only in the detailed Financial Report.

ERIAC continues to secure extensive transparency through electronic payments from the one existing bank account and rigorous financial planning. ERIAC prepared the 2019 cash-based inventory booklet detailing and listing all financial transactions and project grant reports in connection with the operation of the organization.

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

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