

IV. BOARD MEETING
European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
ERiac
Online
July 6, 2020
Abridged Report

Participants:

Board Members: Lorenz Barth (delegated to the Board by the Federal Foreign Office, in non-voting capacity), Gilda Horvath (delegated to the Board by ERIAC Barvalipe Academy/membership), Zeljko Jovanovic (delegated to the Board by the Permanent Member: Open Society Foundations), Sead Kazanxhiu (delegated to the Board by the Permanent Member: Alliance for European Roma institute for Arts and Culture), Iulius Rostas (delegated to the Board by ERIAC Barvalipe Academy/membership), Snežana Samardžić-Marković, (delegated to the Board by the Permanent Member: Council of Europe).

Other invited participants: Thorsten Afflerbach, Kinga Rethy, Daniel Stinsky (delegated to the Board by the Federal Foreign Office, in non-voting capacity)

Management: Timea Junghaus, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Minutes prepared by: Timea Junghaus, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Opening Remarks and Introduction

The Chair Zeljko Jovanovic opened the agenda and welcomed all the participants. He presented the objectives of the meeting and provided background information to the strategic discussion. The draft of the ERIAC strategy document submitted as reading materials for the Board's consideration provided the basis for the discussion.

The Board approved the agenda.

Session 1: Opening of the strategy discussion

Each Board member responded to two questions posed by the Chair:

- 1. What makes you happy and proud of ERIAC?**
- 2. What makes you dissatisfied and hesitant about ERIAC?**

The Board reflected on responses and identified elements which are relevant for the future ERIAC strategy.

Session 2: Theory of change

The Board discussed the elements of the ERIAC theory of change proposed by the management. The Chair invited Board members to reflect on this by addressing the following questions:

1. What does it take to increase the self-esteem of Roma?
2. What does it take to decrease prejudice among the majority population?
3. What can ERIAC do about these given its organizational nature, resources, dependencies, and limitations?

The Board reflected on these questions having in mind the ERIAC's statutory objectives and took the following decision.

Board Decision:

The theory of change needs to articulate the unique profile and nature of ERIAC taking into account the multilateral system of the Council of Europe, the connection to the Open Society Foundations and its broader membership community.

Session 3: Challenges

The Board reflected on the challenges identified in the draft strategy document (pages 16–31). This originates from implicit or explicit expectations and assumptions about ERIAC that could reinforce or undercut ERIAC’s strategy in the future. The challenges identified are:

- Highest standards of quality vs. popular culture
- Founders assumptions vs. fundraising reality
- ERIAC’s mandate vs. Roma Identity politics
- ERIAC membership contributions vs. engagement
- Art’s principal role vs. current uncertainties

The Board discussed the challenges, following the summary made by the management.

Session 4: Conclusions about the next steps

The Board discussed next steps and took the following decisions.

Board decisions:

- 1. ERIAC management should develop a revised theory of change document and submit it to the Board.**
- 2. The Board decided to hold another meeting in the fall to continue the strategic discussion.**

Chair thanked all the participants and closes the meeting.

Minute-taker: Timea Junghaus

Chair of the ERIAC Board: Zeljko Jovanovic

In compliance with para 7 (4) of the ERIAC Statutes, this Minutes is brought to the attention of all members and observers of the Board and the Chair of the Academy. An abridged report on the result of the Board meeting shall be published on the web portal of the association.