

**ERAC**  
EUROPEAN ROMA  
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS  
AND CULTURE

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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V. (ERiac) is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations, and the Roma Leaders' initiative – the Alliance for the European Roma Institute. ERIAC is an association registered under German law on 07 June 2017, in Berlin, Germany.

In 2020, ERIAC continued to stabilize as an international organization promoting Roma arts and culture in Europe and beyond.

## Institution-Building, Governance and Strategy

In 2020, ERIAC concluded its strategy-building process. ERIAC Board approved the Strategy, the Strategic Objectives 2021-2025 and the detailed Plan of Activities for 2021, along with a corresponding budget.

Following the Branch Policy and negotiations with the Government of Serbia of the Pakiv Board, ERIAC opened its first local branch with the support of the Serbian government. ERIAC Serbia was officially established in Belgrade in October 2019, as an independent association registered under Serbian law. Since June 2020, ERIAC Serbia has focused on the process of reconstruction/ adaptation of the space, preparation and submission of documents and designs to multiple agencies with the purpose of obtaining all the permits, and initiating and fulfilling all conditions in the investment process. The construction began on September 7, 2020, and concluded in 2020. However, the official ERIAC Serbia launching event was postponed to May 2021 due to the pandemic.

In 2020, ERIAC fulfilled its statutory obligations of its governing bodies:

- **ERiac Associate Membership:**  
ERiac successfully launched and completed the third call for associate members and renewed the membership from the previous years. 76 new members applied: 7 institutional members; 69 individual members; 56 applicants are Roma. After reviewing the applications, the ERIAC Board approved 68 new applicants, who complied with the ERIAC membership criteria.  
On March 31, in response to the outbreak of the pandemic, ERIAC convened an Extraordinary General Assembly, which brought together almost 50 participants from across the world, among the ERIAC Board members, Barvalipe Academy members, associate members and staff.  
On December 14 2020, ERIAC held its annual General Assembly.

ERIAC hosted 6 additional thematic section meetings in 2020: knowledge production (2), media (2), arts and culture (1), history and commemoration (1). The thematic section meetings were organized under the leadership of corresponding Barvalipe Academy members.

- **Barvalipe Academy:**  
The Barvalipe Academy held two meetings in 2020 – 3rd meeting on November 16, 2020 and 4th meeting on December 14, 2020. Barvalipe Academy also held an emergency meeting on April 28 to address the impact of the Covid-19 and discuss the establishment of the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program.
- **Pakiv Board:**  
The Pakiv Board held its meetings on July 6, 2020; October 27, 2020 and November 30, 2020.

## **ERIAC activities, international programming and connecting with the Roma community:**

- In 2020, as a result of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, ERIAC successfully adapted its cultural programming to the digital space to continue offering high-quality and inspiring content on Roma arts and culture.
- ERIAC curated 5 art exhibitions, including 3 in Berlin (at the Volksbühne and ERIAC gallery space), 1 in Florence (FUTUROMA at the Villa Romana) and exhibited works of 24 artists and 1 online (Performing the Museum)
- ERIAC hosted 2 online competitions, receiving around 230 video submissions from almost 500 performers and engaging an online audience of over 2 million people.
- In the framework of the “Roma Cultural History Initiative”, engaged over 200 active Roma and non-Roma contributors, built six institutional partnerships, produced 19 high-quality lectures with the involvement of 19 lecturers and 60 discussants as part of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, and engaged 50 contributors and 23 authors as part of the RomaMoMA initiative.
- In the framework of the “Re-thinking Roma Resistance” project, ERIAC advanced new knowledge and developed innovative educational tools on Roma Resistance history in various countries around Europe, including interactive online map and annotated bibliography, an educational board and online games “Roma Heroes” as well as an edited book.
- ERIAC continued its Residency Program developed in partnership with Villa Romana in Florence. After a competitive call for artists, the Jury selected two Roma contemporary artists: Malgorzata Mirga-Tas and Robert Gabris.

- ERIAC continued to share its expertise and provided input to the Council of Europe and the European Commission. In particular, ERIAC participated in consultations and consistently advocated for the inclusion of Roma arts, culture history and identity in the new EU Roma Framework post 2020.

## ERiac During Covid-19 Pandemic

In 2020, immediately after the outbreak of Covid19 pandemic, ERIAC held an extraordinary General Assembly on March 31, 2020 to re-orientate its activities, in response to the outbreak, ERIAC:

- Convened the Extraordinary General Assembly on March 31 2021 to gather feedback from the ground and assess the strategic reorientation of the ERIAC activities in the face of the pandemic.
- Per the instruction of the Chairman of the ERIAC Board, launched an online questionnaire "Covid-19 impact on Roma arts and culture", to assess the impact in the field of Roma arts and culture, gathering over 150 responses from around 30 countries.
- In response to the global outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic, which severely impacted the Roma arts and culture field, ERIAC aimed to strengthen the resilience of Roma cultural producers by supporting creativity, the spirit of innovation and self-sustainability and created the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program. The ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program is supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) Covid-19 Rapid Responses Pooled Fund created as an Emergency Mechanism to respond to the impact generated by the pandemic. ERIAC also secured contributions from the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI), Documentation and Culture Centre for German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg (DocuZ) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF).
- ERIAC also responded by re-directing its activities. ERIAC successfully transitioned and modified its programming to adapt to the digital space. ERIAC successfully ran a series of online campaigns and events, resulting in increased ERIAC online presence and a growing social media community. These initiatives include RomaMoMA blog posts, weekly Barvalipe Roma Online University lectures and debates, online seminars, webinars and conferences (live streamed), the Roma online dance competition and music competition.

## Strategic Partnerships

- In 2020, ERIAC successfully continued the collaboration with the Federal Foreign Office. ERIAC reported effectively on the "Roma Cultural History Initiative" project and received additional project funding to implement the "Roma component of the German Council of Europe Presidency in 2020". ERIAC

was awarded project funding from the EU in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps, to support 3 Roma volunteers in ERIAC, starting in February 2021.

- ERIAC continued project collaboration with private foundations, with a long-term objective of developing durable institutional partnerships, including with European Cultural Foundation (ECF) and Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft Stiftung (EVZ Foundation).
- ERIAC began strategic collaboration with relevant majority cultural institutions and events, including with OFF-Biennale Budapest, Volksbühne Berlin (Diaspora Europe Festival), Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum – Cultures of the World in Cologne (Resist Exhibition), Villa Romana in Florence (Artist Residency Program), MUCEM in Marseille (Barvalo exhibition).
- Furthermore, ERIAC continued developing strategic collaborations with academic institutions, including the Central European University in Hungary and the Graz University in Austria.
- ERIAC continued to cooperate closely with Roma-led organizations, including Roma Education Fund (REF), Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI).

## Financial Health

The ERIAC monthly book-keeping and the Yearend Financial Report 2020 is created with the support of the Accounting and Consulting firm Schomerus & Partners GmbH. Schomerus audited the Jahresabschluss (Yearly Closing Financial Report 2020) for the Finanzamt (the Tax Authority of Germany).

In 2020 ERIAC precisely followed the Financial Budget 2020, and did not accede any budget lines. ERIAC decreased operational and personal costs (approx. 20%) due to the primarily digital outputs.

ERIAC continued to stabilize. The total revenue in 2020 was 1.384.600,72 Euros. The Institutional Donors -the Council of Europe and the Open Society Foundations renewed their commitment for 2020, the Federal Foreign Office, Germany continued the support of the ERIAC International Outreach, and ERIAC management engaged with major cultural foundations and donors to fundraise 514.238,57 Euros for the ERIAC programming:

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#### ERAC PROGRAMMING FINANCIAL REVENUE 2020

Name of the Grantee/Donor	Title	Received amount(EUR)
FFO Roma Cultural History Initiative	Project grant	200.000,00 €
Stiftung EVZ	Project grant	22.000,00 €
Pro Helvetia	Project grant	2.808,99 €
Nordisk Kulturfond	Project grant	2.003,58 €
Open Society Foundation - Innovation program	Project grant	177.698,80 €
Roma Entrepreneurship Development Association- Innovation program	Matching project funding	25.000,00 €
EU Solidarity Corps - ERASMUS+ program	Project grant	14.727,20 €
FFO Council of Europe Presidency project	Project grant	70.000,00 €
TOTAL REVENUE PROGRAMS 2020		<b>514.238,57 €</b>

## ERAC DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP FEES AND OTHER

Title	Received amount(EUR)
donation	9.167,10 €
membership fees	6.142,74 €
returned amounts and ERAC Serbia return 2019	12.633,64 €
TOTAL DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP FEES:	27.943,48 €

## ERAC ACTIVITIES 2020 IN NUMBERS

- Hosted International Conferences/Symposiums: 2
- ERAC-curated exhibitions: 5
- Hosted online competitions: 2
- Performers participating the online competitions: 497
- Active project contributors to ERAC cultural programming:
  - In the framework of "Roma Cultural Heritage Initiative" program: over 200
  - Exhibited artists: 24
  - Researchers: 12
  - Musicians performing on stage: 15
  - Arts and Culture Innovation Grantees: 56
- Hosted live webinars or discussions: 16
- ERAC General Assemblies: 2
- ERAC Thematic Section meetings: 6
- ERAC Social Media Community:
  - Facebook: 15804 followers
  - Instagram: 1751 followers

## Social Media Impact and Results

The ERAC Facebook community grew to 14.5K followers in 2020, an increase of over 3800% in a year. In 2019 ERAC had 3.366 followers.

In 2020 ERAC got 25.870 comments and 83.389 shares by Facebook users and reached 3.2M people.

- Average weekly reach: 60.000 people
- Average weekly post engagements: over 18,000
- ERAC Barvalipe Online University has an average of 12,000 video reach
- ERAC ROMA FAMILY MUSIC COMPETITION. ERAC received over 160 videos from 365 musicians from 20 countries and engaged over a million Facebook viewers between April 8 and May 16, 2020.
- Hajde Te Khelas – ERAC Dance Contest. ERAC received over 66 videos from 132 dancers from 19 countries and engaged over a million Facebook views between June 8 and July 10, 2020
- The ERAC Instagram community grew to 1751 followers.



# **ERIAC**

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# **INSTITUTIONAL**

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# **STRUCTURE AND**

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# **GOVERNANCE**

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## 1. PAKIV BOARD

The ERIAC Board is composed of 5 members:

Appointed by the ERIAC permanent members:

**Zeljko Jovanovic** 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.

**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.

Appointed by the ERIAC General Assembly:

**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.

In 2020, the Pakiv Board held its meetings on July 6, 2020; October 27, 2020 and November 30, 2020.

In 2020, ERIAC Board continued to lead the ERIAC strategic development.

The ERIAC Board concluded the ERIAC strategy-building process:

- ERIAC completed its strategy-building process, gathered input from all organs of ERIAC and prepared the first draft of the Strategy 2021-2025.
- ERIAC Board approved the Strategy, the detailed Plan of Activities 2021 and the Financial Plan 2021.

## ERIAC Strategy 2021-2025

ERIAC will advance its mission if its strategy combines them with the following strategic components in the next 5 years:

1. Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the talent, visibility and quality among the Roma artists and cultural producers. The infrastructure has several meanings, including establishing new ERIAC branches; building partnerships with mainstream arts and culture spaces and events to exemplify the best of Roma arts and culture; and developing digital infrastructure and digital tools for exhibitions, language and history learning, new ideas for public policy as well as media content generation with positive stories and images about the Roma.
2. Build on the recent breakthrough [Council of Europe Recommendation on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials](#), positioning ERIAC as a key institutional partner that will provide policy input to the CoE secretariat and its member states, as well as by building lasting partnerships with educational institutions, in particular universities.
3. Advance the sense of pride and belonging among the Roma. In cooperation with larger Roma transnational organizations, national campaigns and grassroots movements, ERIAC will run high-visibility events and campaigns to reinforce common belonging, identity discourses and political movement for active citizenship of the diverse European Roma communities. To do so, ERIAC shall maintain a careful balance between highest quality standards and pop-culture, and between representing critical cultural discourses while maintaining a diplomatic character.

The choices of priorities, strategic objectives, activity and budget planning should happen within this strategic framework.

## 2. BARVALIPE ACADEMY

ERIAC Barvalipe Academy consists of 15 members:

- Jarmila Balazova
- Dr. Maria Bogdan
- Prof. Dr. Ethel Brooks
- Dr. Ismael Cortés-Gómez
- Mihaela Drăgan
- Tony Gatlif
- Dr. Delia Madalina Grigore
- Delaine Le Bas
- Florin Nasture
- Emília Rigová
- Romani Rose
- Miguel Ángel Vargas

- Mihaela Zatreanu
- Veljko Kajtazi
- Dr. Jana Horvathova

The Barvalipe Academy held two meetings in 2020 – 3rd meeting on November 16, 2020 and 4th meeting on December 14, 2020.

Barvalipe Academy also held an emergency meeting on April 28 to address the impact of the Covid-19 and discuss the establishment of the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program. Barvalipe Academy members acted as the Jury for the selection of the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Grantees.

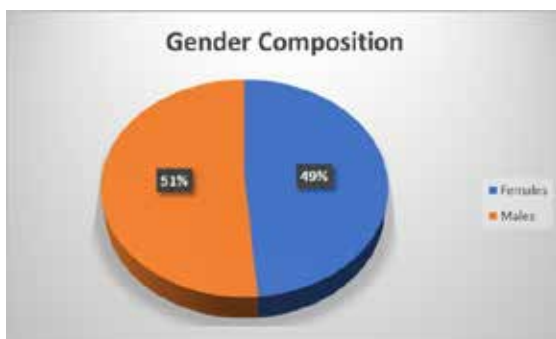
### 3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

#### 3rd Call for ERIAC Associate Membership

In 2020, ERIAC successfully launched and completed the third call for associate members and renewed the membership from the previous years. 75 new members applied: 6 institutional members; 69 individual members; 56 applicants are Roma. After reviewing the applications, the ERIAC Board approved 68 new applicants, who comply with the ERIAC membership Founding Principles.

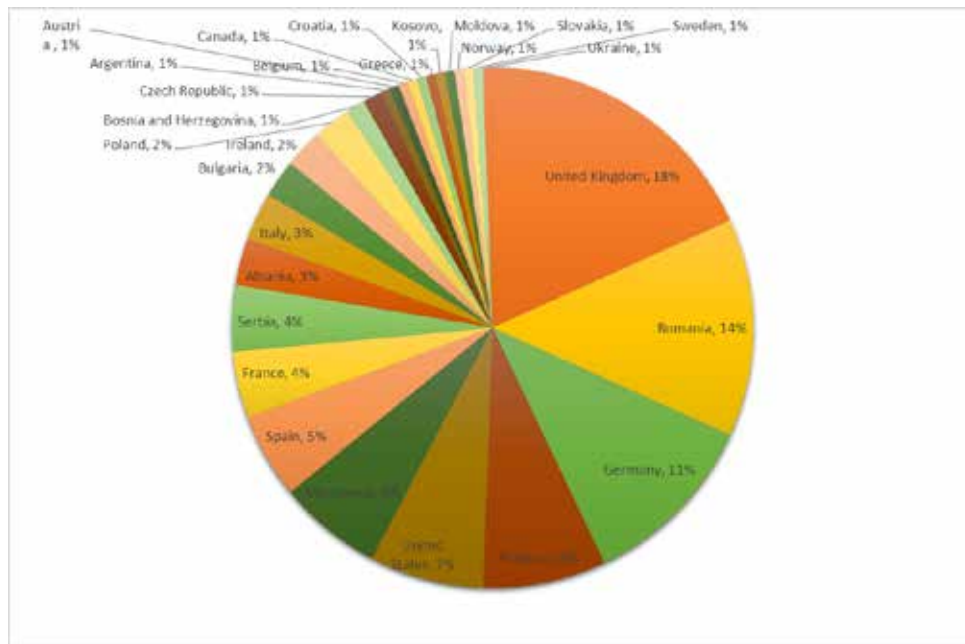
- Respect of the dignity of Romani people and Romani identity
- Diversity and plurality of Romani identities and cultures
- Romani leadership with the support and cooperation of non-Roma
- Engagement and contribution of Romani organizations and individuals in the establishment and ongoing activities of the Institute
- Political autonomy and non-partisanship, openness for collaboration with public authorities and political institutions as partners
- Highest quality standards in the domains of arts and culture, as well as its own operational performance.

ERAC membership is composed of a total of 152 associate members who applied for ERIAC membership status (including 2 members delegated to the ERIAC Board and 8 members delegated to the Barvalipe Academy). Additionally, 8 Alliance members are also provided the associate membership status.



In total in 2020, the ERIAC community is composed of 170 members: 5 Pakiv Board Members (including 3 permanent members), 15 Barvalipe Academy members and 142 Associate Members (122 individual and 20 institutional), and 8 Alliance members.

International Composition of ERIAC brought together 28 countries: (from largest to smallest)

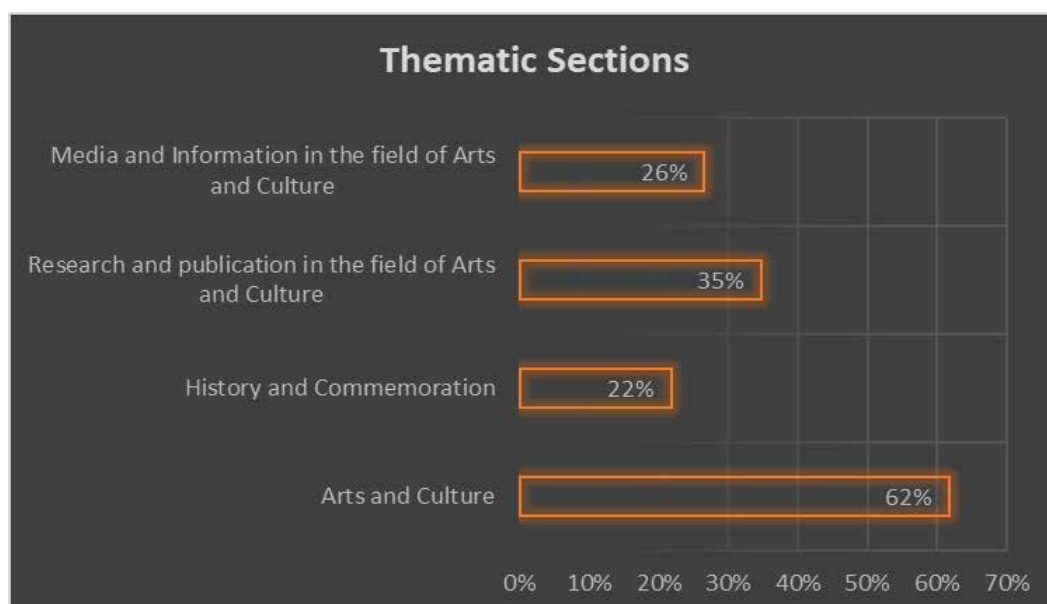


United Kingdom 18%; Romania 14%; Germany 11%; Hungary 8%; United States 7%; Macedonia 6%; Spain 5%; France 4%; Serbia 4%; Albania 3%; Italy 3%; Bulgaria 2%; Ireland 2%; Poland 2%; 1%: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Moldova, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Ukraine.

## ERIAC Thematic Sections

ERIAC membership is organized into four thematic sections. The Romani language is considered a transversal section.

- Arts and Culture - 105 members
- History and Commemoration - 37 members
- Research and publication in the field of Arts and Culture - 59 members
- Media and Information in the field of Arts and Culture - 45 members



In 2020, ERIAC hosted 6 additional thematic section meetings in 2020: knowledge production (2), media (2), arts and culture (1), history and commemoration (1). The thematic section meetings were organized under the leadership of corresponding Barvalipe Academy members.

## ERIAC GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

### ERIAC Extraordinary General Assembly On March 31, 2020

Chair of the ERIAC Board, Zeljko Jovanovic and ERIAC Executive Director, Timea Junghaus, have convened an emergency Extraordinary General Assembly in response to the global Covid19 pandemic, which took place online on March 31, 2020.

In the invitation letter they argued:

"We see that many of our countries are deploying unprecedented emergency tactics, and a warlike language. Simultaneously we observe the weakening of public health, labor and economic systems, putting under threat the 'European project' that has once catalyzed the establishment of our ERIAC.

We know from history and from our own subjective experience that our Roma communities, settlements and residential areas are the first to suffer in times of any crisis situation, and we also feel that the present Covid-19 pandemic is something we cannot be prepared for. Our lives, strategies, plans and activities have never been affected by such unpredictable circumstances and uncertainties. (...)

In such times culture and the arts were first to be marginalized – arts and culture budgets were cut, art was neglected and the significance of culture's potential in keeping people hopeful and human was often forgotten and diminished. We – the ERIAC members and staff – knew that Roma arts and culture was even more severely hit than other European national cultures, and minority culture was not kept on the agenda and minds if we would not make a significant effort from the beginning to keep our culture alive. We had to fight the scapegoating and racism towards our people, but also of public discourse and media. Our transnational unity and solidarity were the greatest asset in this struggle. Our culture will be the only positive public discourse about our people in the coming weeks and perhaps months. Thus, Roma arts and culture were more important than ever: it was our Roma pedagogy to the world about our hope and humanity, our resilience, survival and planetary entanglement."

The General Assembly discussed the observations and perception of ERIAC management and ERIAC membership, and concluded that the following shall remain a priority:

- a. Taking all ERIAC activities to a digital format to provide inspiration and hope in the current extremely difficult circumstances;

- b. Fighting anti-gypsyism and hate speech targeting the Roma community;
- c. Keeping arts and culture on the national and European agendas, while disseminating information and providing support for the survival of the Roma cultural scene.

The General Assembly requested management that ERIAC Barvalipe Academy lead further section meetings of the 4 thematic sections (academic, arts and culture, history and commemoration, media, and language), to discuss further needs in each domain as well as reflect on resources we can mobilize among the members.

The General Assembly informed and oriented ERIAC management to conduct the follow up by:

- Immediate transfer of ERIAC's activities and projects into the digital space, including a full program of 8 of April activities,
- Requested ERIAC to provide a daily publication of news regarding opportunities and resources for Roma arts and culture under #FinancialAid4RomaCulture,
- Instructed ERIAC to mapping of existing responses of international, national and private actors in the field of arts and culture for further advocacy and community support,
- Encouraged the launching of the call for members on the 8 of April, this time indicating that membership fees will not be a requirement for those who are themselves in crisis,
- Encouraged ERIAC to conduct social media initiatives that have viral potential.
- The General Assembly requested further strategic conversation with ERIAC members, allies (REF, REDI, CEU and others) and donors (EVZ, ECF etc.) for developing the interim responses,
- ERIAC was intended to investigate the possibility for reaching out to EAC Commissioner Mariya Gabriel, and EACEA director Mr. Roberto Carlini.

Ahead of the General Assembly, the ERIAC management released a ERIAC Questionnaire on the impact of COVID-19 on Roma arts and culture, to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Roma culture and provide the basis for the redirection of ERIAC's future programming and activities, in order to best serve its community and fulfill its statutory mission.

The General Assembly brought together almost 50 participants from across the world, among the ERIAC Board members, Barvalipe Academy members, associate members and staff.

## **ERIAC General Assembly On December 14, 2020**

ERIAC held its III General Assembly on 14 December 2020.

Chair of the ERIAC Board, Zeljko Jovanović opened the assembly identifying difficulties that the year 2020 brought on the arts and culture world. It was asserted that ERIAC as an institute was affected by the crisis in 2020 but ERIAC stood resourceful and stable. The task of our generation is to leave ERIAC stable to the next generation. In order to achieve this task, we have to rely on the support of members and supporters to remain strong.

All ERIAC statutory bodies, including ERIAC Board members, ERIAC Barvalipe Academy members, ERIAC associate members, and the ERIAC staff came together in the digital space.

The main topics of this General Assembly were:

- Report from the ERIAC management – ERIAC activities in 2020
- ERIAC Strategy: Presentation of the ERIAC Theory of Change and ERIAC Strategic Objectives
- ERIAC 2021-2025: Presentation of ERIAC activities plan 2021
- Building a closer ERIAC community

## **4. ERIAC BRANCHES**

### **ERAC SERBIA**

Following the instructions of the Pakiv Board, ERIAC opened its first local branch with the support of the Serbian government.

In November 2019, ERIAC Serbia signed a lease agreement for the office space with the Property Directorate of the Republic of Serbia (Republička agencija za imovinu Republike Srbije).

The ERIAC Serbia office space is located at Majke Jevrosime Str. 51, in such a prestigious part of Belgrade, enhancing the visibility of Roma arts and culture. It occupies a total area of 137.50 m<sup>2</sup>, on the ground floor, with a street access entrance and a proper open space suitable for art exhibitions and events.

The process of renovation of the premises has been delayed due to the outbreak of Covid19 pandemic. The plans have been developed and finalized by contracted architects and permits have been processed.

The renovation was finalized in Autumn 2020. However, the official ERIAC Serbia launching event had been postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic.

In December 2020, a First ERIAC Serbia Assembly Meeting took place where the Board discussed the reading materials:

- Written report as reflection on the 2020 achievements and challenges, prepared by the ERIAC Serbia management
  - Activates plan and Financial plan, prepared by the ERIAC management
  - Fundraising plan 2021, prepared by the ERIAC management
- The Board approved the Fundraising plan for 2021.



**ERIAC**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**CULTURAL OUTREACH**  
**PROGRAM: ROMA**  
CULTURAL HISTORY  
INITIATIVE (RCHI)



## ERIAC INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM: ROMA CULTURAL HISTORY INITIATIVE (RCHI)

May – December 2020

The Roma Cultural History Initiative built upon the results of the international outreach projects 1-3 to produce and disseminate long-term foundational materials for the preservation and education of Roma language, symbolism for identity and for shaping a transgenerational understanding of Roma cultural history. ERIAC led the creation of tools which facilitate collaboration and communication of Roma communities across social strata, genders, generations and countries.

ERIAC conducts the international cultural outreach programmes for the recognition and promotion of Roma arts and culture with the guidance of the ERIAC organs (membership, Barvalipe Academy, Board).

The results of the initiative are presented through the ERIAC website ([eriac.org/romamoma](http://eriac.org/romamoma); <https://eriac.org/barvalipe-roma-online-university/>; <https://eriac.org/rchi-2020>). Through the Roma Cultural History Initiative, ERIAC has developed long-term strategic collaboration with international institutions and Roma-led organisations.

ERIAC proposed the RCHI project components in order to continue to inspire and stimulate the Roma arts and culture scene, Roma communities and the mainstream public. Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, ERIAC successfully implemented all project measures, as planned in the proposal.

## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The Roma Cultural History Initiative (RCHI) consisted of four complex measures, which focused on production and dissemination of foundational material for the preservation and education of Roma cultural history. The RCHI emphasised the immense field of the cultural heritage of the largest European ethnic minority, the 10-12 million Roma people. This ERIAC project raised awareness about the Roma communities' significant contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge among majority societies, mainstream cultural institutions and European Governments.

Given the uncertainties created by the global Covid-19 pandemic, most of RCHI activities were held online, respecting the travel restrictions and social distancing regulations across Europe. In this way all RCHI events and projects were available to the public worldwide.

Precisely, RCHI 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.

- Gathering data from leading institutions, convincing them to be part of the Roma Cultural History Initiative, and to agree to visualising and promoting the situation and state of Roma language and cultural history.
- 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.
- Mobilised high-level diplomatic contacts, mainstream arts and culture institutions, as well as Roma communities, and interested audience members.
- Mapping the policies and institutions through which Roma art and Roma cultural producers can be properly recognised by mainstream society.
- Mapping the institutions through which Roma language and its specialists can be properly recognised by mainstream society.
- Collected precise data about Roma language teachers, translators, interpreters.
- Established ERIAC as the organisation taking leadership on Roma cultural history education
- ERIAC reached out to its extended Roma Hub – network of Roma organisations and intellectuals – to celebrate the transformative and inspiring power of Roma arts and culture.
- ERIAC is recognised as an ideal collaboration partner by other arts and culture, research, education and academic institutions, donor organisations, national and European/international bodies with a cultural, political (for European stability) and social affairs agenda.
- Raised awareness and promoted knowledge about Roma arts and culture and Roma cultural history among the majority population; positive content about Roma.
- The strong online presence and the publication of all content guarantees the longevity of the project's deliverables and their outreach to broad audiences across the world.
- Development of new methodologies and publishing of the first book for Roma language learning.
- Long-term partnership with communications specialist consultants to support the international network events.
- Used the ERIAC website as an online digital space and the project platform.
- Used ERIAC social media channels (Facebook, Instagram) to stimulate greater visibility and online audience reach.

- Promoted the use of specifically-established hashtags, in particular on ERIAC Instagram in order to increase ERIAC's presence online.
- Employed the newsletter to increase project visibility.
- Documented each event according to the highest quality technical standards to be used again in creative ways to promote ERIAC.

## RESULTS/IMPACT

The international components and online events with contributions from leading Roma scholars, 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 components were multifarious in genre, and always included a cultural component: public conferences, working group meetings, online exhibitions, online courses and discussions, digital library, video material – demonstrating ERIAC's founding principles.

By December 2020 ERIAC built a membership of 150 associate members, including Roma and non-Roma individuals and organisations from across the world.

The visibility, the value of Roma contribution and the growing number of ERIAC supporters, partners and future members continues to ensure ERIAC's stability and growth. The fact that the project includes components open to the general public enables Roma to address the general public and benefit the majority

## RCHI IN NUMBERS:

Active Contributors: More Than 200

Institutional Partners: 6

ERIAC website visits - RCHI + Barvalipe + Romamoma: 9k

Social Media Reach:

Facebook Reach Of Events + Posts Related To RCHI: 9k

Facebook Growth: 370k

Instagram Growth: 350%

Material Objects: More Than 300

Conferences With An Archive Of Written Materials: 2

Cultural Programmes Recorded And Available In The Eriac Archive: 44

## COMPONENTS

### **ROMA CULTURAL HISTORY INITIATIVE**

**ROMANI  
LANGUAGE REFORM**  
and International  
Romani Language Council

**ROMA  
ONLINE UNIVERSITY**  
an online education program  
on Roma cultural history

**RomaMoMa**  
the Digital Roma Museum

**IDENTITY PACKAGES**  
to strengthen  
the Roma cultural movement

**ERiac**  
EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE  
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE



The Alliance for the  
European Roma Institute  
for Arts and Culture

OPEN SOCIETY  
FOUNDATIONS



Academy of Arts

## 1. ROMANI LANGUAGE REFORM



The initiative contains efforts towards an “International Romani Language Reform”, through building on the existing results and updating the Curriculum Framework for Romani developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe in 2008, as part of the Council of Europe’s comprehensive approach to Roma and Traveller issues. The initiative continued the international work on the common Romani language with international experts with proven experience in the field and developed teaching materials based on the Curriculum Framework for Romani. For continuing the international work on the development of the Romani language, ERIAC brought together international experts with proven experience in the field, facilitating cooperation at an international level, setting up common strategies and standards. The following activities had progress: created the database with Romani language teachers, translators and interpreters; establish a network of international Romani language schools – we were in contact with professors from different universities in Europe; organised the International Conference for Romani Language on 5 November 2020; wrote and published the Romani language textbook – level A1 for adults.

### **ROMANI LANGUAGE TEXTBOOK – LEVEL A1**

To produce the textbook, ERIAC has selected two authors based on a competitive process, a methodologist provided by the University of Graz, a photographer, an illustrator, and five language experts as proofreaders.

The textbook includes 10 chapters based on A1 level descriptors. It is written in the common Romani (general Romani), using the most common/ accessible spelling system at the European level. It contains basic information about Romani culture integrated into each chapter. The textbook follows the major themes from the curriculum and includes aspects of modern contemporary society, combining elements from everyday life. The textbook is designed for adults, Roma and non-Roma, who do not know the language and wish to learn it.

The language of the textbook was reviewed by the five Romani language specialists, most of them working at major universities in Europe where the Romani language is studied. The language specialists are speakers of different Romani dialects from different European countries, and their revision aimed chiefly to instill common sense over the language used and contribute to the development of a common transnational Romani language, accessible to most Roma groups in Europe.

After the revision of the language experts, the authors implemented their suggestions and succeeded in harmonising the different opinions. The process concluded with the online meeting with ERIAC management, where the new knowledge produced by the proofreaders was synchronised, and the final manuscript was submitted.

## **SAFEGUARDING OUR ROMANI LANGUAGE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The online conference was organised as a public online event in partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE) and the Plurilingualism Research Unit of the University of Graz on the occasion of the World Day of Romani Language, on 5 November 2020.

The conference brought together 25 of the most relevant experts and practitioners of Romani language, educators and academics who engage with linguistics research, and development of teaching materials, but also professors from different universities in Europe where Romani language is studied. Departing from the notion that Romani language heritage is at risk, the conference aimed to establish cooperation for language harmonisation at an international and national level, to promote the recognition, preservation, development and cultural-political harmony and synthesis for the future of the Romani language.

The event consisted of sessions concentrating on various aspects of Romani language development: status of the Romani language in 2020; current practices in Romani language education; Romani language teaching/re-learning initiatives; transnational development of Romani language and culture; the future of Romani language education 2020-2030.

An important aspect was the recognition and promotion of Romani language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML) of the Council of Europe, and future update of the status of Romani in the Charter, as well as the update of Romani language Curriculum Framework developed by Council of Europe Language Policy Division, and the further cooperation with the states who ratified the Charter.

The conference was translated into Romani and was streamed online, on ERIAC Facebook page, producing 9,600 views.

## **MAPPING PARTNERS, LANGUAGE SCHOOLS, TEACHERS, TRANSLATORS, INTERPRETERS**

ERIAC has launched a public call and invited language specialists to apply and register in our database of Romani language teachers, translators and interpreters. The public call was opened from July until December 15, 2020. Following this announcement, 45 language teachers, translators and interpreters in the ERIAC database.

Supporting institutional partners of the Romani language initiative are Council of Europe, Graz University - Plurilingualism Research Unit, and Goethe-Institute Budapest.

In order to map European Romani language schools, we developed contacts with professors from universities in Europe that organize independent courses within the University of Bucharest, University of Paris-Sorbonne, Charles University (Prague), Pécs University, Novi Sad University; and with those that have university programmes at the universities of Graz, Manchester, and Helsinki. Most were represented at the international conference.

Conference Contributors: 25

Speakers: 21

Moderators: 2

Translators: 2

Language Book Contributors: 10

Language Experts: 8

Creatives: 2

Reach:

Website Reach: 1,400

Facebook Reach: 64,400

Conference Views: 9,600

Institutional Partners: Council of Europe, Graz University - Plurilingualism Research



## 2. BARVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY

The first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University brought together renowned academics from across Europe and the United States in one introductory course on Romani Cultural History. The activities of the online university succeeded in fostering productive discussion among policymakers, leaders of non-governmental institutions, artists, activists and academics. Moreover, it brought important attention to Romani knowledge production and fulfilled a need for a fair and accurate curriculum on Romani arts, history, and culture.



In total, the first course comprises 19 lectures on topics ranging from the Romani Holocaust to the politics of Romani photography, all of which are pre-recorded and archived on ERIAC's YouTube and Facebook pages. The course launched on September 1, 2020, and each subsequent week ERIAC premiered a new pre-recorded lecture via Facebook Live and Zoom. Each lecture premiere was followed by a 45-minute discussion with a panel of invited guests.

ERiac partnered with the Romani Studies Programme at Central European University to bring the online university to fruition.

The first course was made up of three units: a historical overview of the Romani diaspora, the Romani language and Romani enslavement and more, followed by a political unit on antigypsyism, the Roma political movement and intersectional feminism. The final unit covers Romani arts and culture, as well as the politics of representation.

The hybrid lecture premieres-webinars, along with the symposium of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, garnered approximately 52,000 total views on Facebook. The lectures were also archived on the ERIAC YouTube page, where lectures received up to 400 views each. The Facebook reach for the most recent lecture-webinar of the series was 9,400. The Facebook reach of the second lecture, which launched in September, was 14,000. The Barvalipe Roma Online University was covered by online magazine, [digitalmeetsculture.net](http://digitalmeetsculture.net).

## **DIGITAL LIBRARY OF CRITICAL ROMANI SCHOLARSHIP**

The Barvalipe Digital Library is also an investment in creating resources that are readily available to young Roma scholars to support their writing, research and self-representation.

To complement the first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, ERIAC has compiled a Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship. This comprehensive resource features a curated selection of Romani scholarship. The library will house text directly on the ERIAC website and will serve as a keystone for anyone interested in Romani history, arts, culture and theory.

## **CRITICAL PEDAGOGY: ROMANI EMANCIPATION AND POST-COVID EDUCATION**

To complement the first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, ERIAC has compiled a Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship. This comprehensive resource features a curated selection of Romani scholarship. The library will house text directly on the ERIAC website and will serve as a keystone for anyone interested in Romani history, arts, culture and theory.

## **RESULTS/IMPACT**

The activities of the Barvalipe Roma Online University succeeded in fostering productive discussion among policymakers, leaders of nongovernmental institutions, artists, activists and academics. Moreover, it brought important attention to Romani knowledge production and fulfilled a need for a fair and accurate curriculum on Romani arts, history, and culture. The Barvalipe Roma Online University engaged a total number of nearly 100 active contributors. The lectures and discussion series involved 19 lecturers, 60 discussants, three moderators/coordinators, two Romanes translators and a curator for the Digital Library. The online symposium involved 10 presenters, moderators and administrators. Panelists included Thorsten Afflerbach, Secretary to the ADI-ROM, Head of Division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe; Gyula Cserey, acting Head of Unit, Strategy and Investments, DG for Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, European Commission; Redjepali Chupi, Executive Director of the Roma Education Fund (REF) and Gilda Horvath, ERIAC Board Member. ERIAC partnered with the Romani Studies Program at Central European University to bring the symposium to fruition, who put together an academic panel.

Active Contributors: 100

Lecturers: 19

Discussants: 60

Moderators / Coordinators / Curators: 4

Romani Translators: 2

Online Symposium Speakers: 10

Institutional Partner: Romani Studies Program

At Central European University Reach:

Total Facebook Views: 52,000

Total Youtube Views: 8000

Widest Audience Engagement / Lecture: 2,400

Widest Reach / Lecture: 16,300

Conference Reach: 5,800

Website Reach: 3,100

Media, Press: Digitalmeetsculture.Net

### **3. ROMAMOMA THE DIGITAL ROMA MUSEUM**



The transnational, collaborative, and discursive art project RomaMoMA – The Digital Roma Museum invites numerous Roma and non-Roma art experts, artists, curators, and scholars to imagine, discuss and present the possible forms of a Roma museum of modern and contemporary art. RomaMoMA developed as a digital blog on a newly

designed website, developed for the project, on which the virtual discussion and the imagining of the museum takes place.

RomaMoMA has invited Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural experts, scholars and civil society to imagine an institution, which hopefully will soon be realized as a cutting-edge agent of the contemporary arts and culture scene. The aim has been to create a platform where ideas on the necessity and possible roles of a transnational museum of Roma contemporary art could be exchanged, and to come up with a collective proposal for the institution of such a museum.

The blog launched in September 2020, and in total has composed 20 contributions, both in text and in video format, on topics of Roma cultural inclusion, institutional critique and politics of representation. Each contribution is always published both on the newly created website and on ERIAC social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram.

The Digital Roma Museum Initiative has developed new, accessible content through the digital space for contemporary arts and culture, as approved by the RomaMoMA Think Tank members. The RomaMoMA blog and Instagram page functions as a Virtual Roma Museum and as an online space facilitating the research and the finding or the streaming of exhibitions, performances, lectures. In facts, all blog contributors were asked to mention Roma artworks in their submissions, and the Instagram page was curated in order to create an online gallery of Roma contemporary art, on which ERIAC publishes weekly Roma contemporary artworks and Roma related art events. Moreover, the blog was developed with a submenu, "Current events," which functions as an online event calendar.

## EXHIBITIONS & COLLABORATIONS

The initial objective of The Digital Roma Museum Initiative to "perform the museum" collections in physical spaces of partnering institutions was a more difficult goal to reach due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, RomaMoMA managed to collaborate on a number of different projects with several cultural institutions.

Events that ERIAC contributed to and that strengthened the cultural institutional network of RomaMoMA:

- RomaMoMA co-curated the Library of Resistance at Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, opened during the group exhibition Resist!, for which ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus participated as a co-curator.
- RomaMoMA had an initial meeting with the director of Savvy Contemporary Berlin to plan together an exhibition in 2021 about the cultural inclusion of different minorities. This collaboration is to be continued during 2021.
- ERIAC co-organized, together with Volksbühne Berlin, the Diaspora Europe Festival, which took place at Volksbühne Berlin and ERIAC Art Space in December 2020.

- ERIAC continued the collaboration and organisation of the BARVALO Exhibition, which will take place at MUCEUM Marseille in 2023.
- The Kai Dikhas Stiftung in Berlin officially joined the RomaMoMA Think Tank in December 2020.
- RomaMoMA was able to establish an initial contact with Kataoka Mami, the Director of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo and President of the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM), with the aim of crystalising a collaboration on the RomaMoMA initiative. This collaboration is to be further concretised during 2021.
- RomaMoMA actively participated in enriching the "Library of Resistance" created at the Rautenstrauch- Joest Museum in Cologne, by providing a curated selection of Roma related books on topics such as Romani Resistance and Roma Art History.
- The art journal e-flux agreed to publish an article about the RomaMoMA Blog, scheduled for the end of February 2021.

### **NIHAD NINO PUŠIJA: ANDARO ANGLUNO VAST**

In the framework of the European Month of Photography in Berlin, ERIAC featured the new series of Nino Pušija, entitled Andaro Angluno Vast (First-Hand) with portraits of internationally known Romani artists and activists.

Photography is the most historically complex and problematic genre to appropriate the Roma subject. Will the Roma ever be able to dissociate themselves from the traumatising – sexualising and criminalising – practices of photographic representation used throughout the history of anthropology and ethnography? Has it become definitively impossible to turn and re-turn the photographic gaze? Since his first exhibition in Sarajevo (1988), the questions sketched out above have been central to the work of artist and photographer Nino Nihad Pušija.



## RESULTS/IMPACT

The activities of the Digital Roma Museum Initiative succeeded in fostering productive discussion among art makers, cultural institutions, artists and activists. Moreover, the initiative brought important attention to the more than a millennium-long cultural contribution of Roma to European societies and national cultures, which continues to be denied by mainstream art institutions. In fact, Roma cultural heritage has been misinterpreted and racialised as ethnic, naïve and primitive. To date, European majority institutions have failed to include Roma arts and culture into their permanent programming, and to provide art spaces led by Sinti and Roma dedicated to preserving and valuing Romani heritage. RomaMoMA addresses the vicious circle that has paralysed the Roma arts for over a millennium, prohibiting a truly diverse European cultural scene, and aimed at making the role of Roma arts and culture visible, in order to educate and inform the non-Roma population about Roma arts and culture, and to help in creating understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma communities. RomaMoMA – The Digital Roma Museum has engaged a total number of about 50 active contributors, including the involvement of blog authors, project contributors and Think Tank members. The blog included contributions by superstar curators and artists, such as Maria Lind, Meghan Forbes, Delaine Le Bas, Hajnalka Somogyi, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, and Achille Mbembe. Due to the success and positive feedback to the Digital Roma Museum, both OFF Biennale and ERIAC agreed on continuing the project throughout 2021, inviting new contributors and developing new topics to write about, such as Museum and Education / Intercultural Pedagogy and Politics of representation for additional minorities beyond than Sinti and Roma.

The official partner of ERIAC on the RomaMoMA project has been OFF Biennale Budapest. Moreover, RomaMoMA has been supported by the RomaMoMA Think Tank. All members' names can be found on the RomaMoMA website. There have been a total of 23 blog authors thus far, ranging from art curators to political theorists and artists.

Active Contributors: 50

Authors: 23

Institutional Partner: Off Biennale Budapest

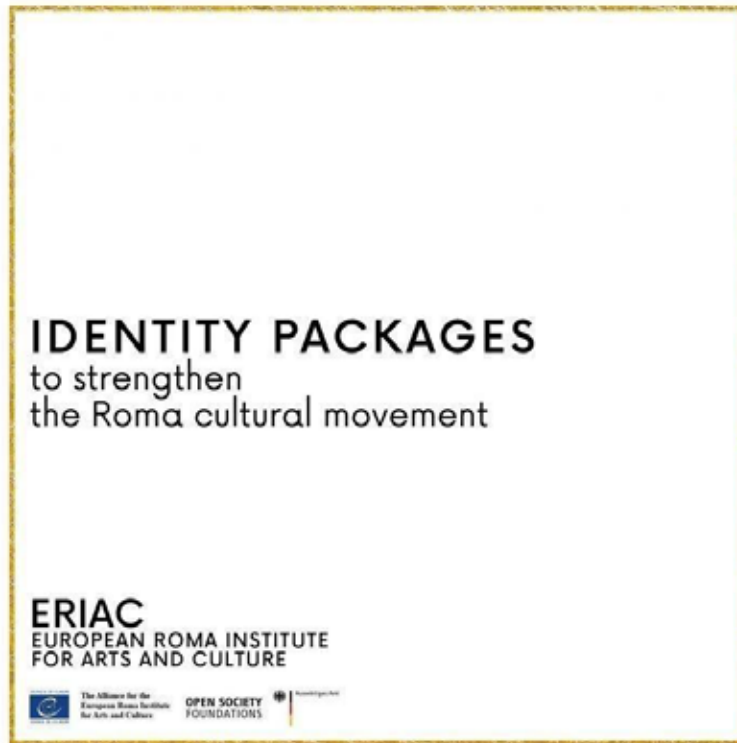
Reach

Instagram Followers +1250

Widest Reach On Facebook / Post: 9,500

Media, Press: E-flux.Com

## 4. IDENTITY PACKAGES TO STRENGTHEN THE ROMA CULTURAL MOVEMENT



The project was born from the objective of introducing ERIAC to diverse audiences in locations outside of ERIAC's headquarters in Berlin, through actual objects, besides the online projects and activities. Through the creation and dissemination of the "identity packages," ERIAC has raised the enthusiasm and mobilised support among Roma and non-Roma individuals, and Roma organisations. The symbolism transmitted by the Roma flag increases Roma unity, identity and activism; thus, belonging and solidarity are strengthened, Roma pride is increased and solidarity is built.

This project was developed in close collaboration with the international network of Roma organisations involved in active citizenship, and community support; thus, it shall pay close attention to the needs and expectations of these organisations and their outreach to the Roma communities. ERIAC convened a series of meetings with the representatives of the Mahala Network. The meetings ensured:

- participation of the entire network and all constitutive organisation on the national level.

### PARTICIPANTS:

Kethane – Roma and Sinti Movement, Italy; Avaja, Northern Macedonia; Opre Roma, Serbia; We Belong Here Association and partners, Hungary; Opre Roma Initiative –

Roma for a Better Slovakia and Europe, Slovakia; Camelamos Naquerar, Spain; Roma Standing Conference Bulgaria; Aresel, Romania.

ERIAC created online solutions and real-life items, thematising, accessorising, and strengthening the Roma cultural movement. The "identity packages", including thematised accessories, but also educational and artistic content, were produced and delivered to local Roma networks.

Based on the ideas discussed within the Mahala network, the following items were mailed, with the aim of contribute to the Roma identity on a European level:

- 1 large Roma and 1 large EU flag;
- 2 Roma and 2 EU conference table flags;
- 30 Pins with Roma flag design.

All items were mailed to the respective Mahala Network organisations to be distributed locally by them.



# **ERAC**

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# **INTERNATIONAL**

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# **PROJECTS**

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## ERIAC ARTS AND CULTURE INNOVATION PROGRAM

In response to the global outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic, which had also severely impacted the Roma arts and culture field, ERIAC aimed to strengthen the resilience of Roma cultural producers by supporting creativity, the spirit of innovation and self-sustainability.

Through cultural initiatives, the Program supported the development of new arts and culture content, fostering knowledge-production and knowledge-transfer and promoting creativity and self-sustainability of Roma artists, entrepreneurs and creators. The ERIAC Innovation Program:



- Encouraged sustainable, long-term impact;
- Stimulated innovation, ingenuity, creativity and virtuosity of Roma creators;
- Sought to activate and mobilize Roma cultural scene to create, to grow, to re-invent, to transform;
- Boosted collaboration across cultural domains, countries, identities, genders and generations, as well as among and across Roma art and culture and community agents;
- Searched for a multiplier effect, benefiting directly or indirectly, Roma families, communities and majority society at large, including through contributions to other ongoing Roma-led initiatives in the field.

The program was structured in 3 CATEGORIES: GOING DIGITAL CULTURE, GOING ENTREPRENEURIAL and GOING SMART. Under each category, applicants could apply for a one-time contribution of between 2.500 – 5.000 euro, paid via bank transfer. The initiatives are expected to last between 3 – 6 months, starting in July 2020.

### Going Digital Culture (Initiatives)

As the mainstream arts and culture scene was by necessity reinventing itself in the digital space, ERIAC and its project partners shall propose innovative artistic and cultural responses to this new reality. Focusing on long-term impact and in response to the global trend of transitioning to the digital, ERIAC aimed to support the transformation of Roma arts and culture entities and individuals into the online space. In this category, ERIAC supported the creation of new arts and culture productions (all genres: including visual arts, animation, film, performative arts etc.). As a core of this

transition, ERIAC encouraged the production of counter-narratives to the increasing far-right and anti-Gypsyism propaganda. Creativity, critical thinking and Roma arts were primary strategies of ERIAC to challenge the wave of lies and dehumanisation, disinformation and misinformation about Roma, and Roma women in particular.

### **Going Entrepreneurial (Fellowship Program with the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative – REDI)**

The lack of formal registration of Roma arts and culture creators made these cultural producers ineligible for support schemes and emergency funds introduced by governments. This Fellowship Program developed in cooperation with REDI, aims to support, coach and mentor the transformation of informal arts and culture creators into cultural entrepreneurs. In this way, ERIAC addresses the challenge that the majority of Roma arts and culture producers operate as freelancers, and many work in the informal economy.

### **Going Smart (Initiatives)**

ERIAC aimed to generate inspiring and powerful educational resources for both the Roma and the majority by focusing on knowledge-production and knowledge-transfer. Under this category, ERIAC supported initiatives focusing on generating new knowledge through innovative research, especially focusing on aspects related to Roma identity, culture, history and heritage. GOING SMART also supported developing methodologies for creative and Roma-led knowledge transfer and on designing materials for Roma identity learning in the framework of formal and non-formal education. ERIAC encouraged lectures, critical reviews, texts, essays that reflect on the current Roma arts and culture and identity-practice.

Both, ERIAC associate members as well as ERIAC non-members were eligible to apply. However, the Selection Committee gave priority to current ERIAC associate members who fulfilled the principle of contribution. The beneficiaries who were not ERIAC members will be invited to apply for ERIAC membership and comply with the principle of contribution.

Information about the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program was available in Albanian, Bulgarian, German, Hungarian, Italian, Macedonian, Romanes, Romanian, Serbian and Spanish.

ERIAC received a total of 118 applications from 24 countries:

- 74 for Going Digital Culture
- 17 for Going Entrepreneurial
- 27 for Going Smart

87 individual applications:

- 51 Women Applicants
- 67 Men Applicants

31 applicants on behalf of companies/ entities/ organizations

The Selection Committee for the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program 2020, composed by the following members:

- Maria Bogdan, Chair of the Barvalipe Academy
- Florin Nasture Member of the Barvalipe Academy
- Emília Rigová Member of the Barvalipe Academy
- Mihaela Zatreanu Member of the Barvalipe Academy
- Iulius Rostas ERIAC Board Member
- Gilda Horvath ERIAC Board Member
- Nadire Shakjiri – Redjepi – on behalf of REDI (Roma Entrepreneurship projects)
- Miguel Ángel Vargas Rubio Member of the Barvalipe Academy

Decided to provide support to 56 projects, from 36 individuals and 20 organisations:

- 33 Going Digital Culture
- 11 Going Entrepreneurial – Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI)
- 12 Going Smart

The ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program is supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) Covid-19 Rapid Responses Pooled Fund created as an Emergency Mechanism to respond to the impact generated by the pandemic. ERIAC also secured contributions from the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI), Documentarian and Culture Centre for German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg (DocuZ) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF).

# ROMA COMPONENT OF THE GERMAN COUNCIL OF EUROPE PRESIDENCY DURING 2020

20 September – 31 December, 2020

## INTRODUCTION

In the framework of the German Presidency of the Council of Europe (CoE), ERIAC organized a series of activities in Berlin, with a strong Roma component to raise awareness about the importance of Roma arts and culture, highlighting the Roma contributions to the majority societies, and advocating for the recognition of Roma arts, culture, history and media among cultural diplomatic circles, as well as for building institutional alliances to fight misrepresentation of Roma and different manifestations of anti-Gypsyism. By targeting the international community, the programme mobilized greater commitment among CoE member states to support Roma arts, culture, history and media. The positive experiences in Germany serve as examples of cooperation and institutional approach, welcoming of Roma contributions.

As a Council of Europe-founded organization, ERIAC has been the right partner to join the Federal Foreign Office (FFO) to organize activities with a Roma component, in the framework of the German Council of Europe Presidency. As the new Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany stated during his speech on 18 November 2020, when Germany officially took over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe:

“[...] and we will also involve minorities in our discussions to promote equal rights. This includes, in particular, Europe’s largest minority – Roma and travellers. And we have a strong partner on which we can rely – the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in Berlin.”

Despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, ERIAC managed to successfully implement the project and achieve the results it set out in its proposal. The slight modification of the original plan of activities, caused by Covid-19 travel restrictions, did not affect the overall objectives.

## OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTED MEASURED AND ACTIVITIES

### 1. 2 EXHIBITIONS AT THE ERIAC ART SPACE

#### a. NIHAD NINO PUSIJA: ANDARO ANGLUNO VAST

25 September 2020 – 15 December 2020

Hosted in the framework of the European Month of Photography (EMOP)

#### b. DIASPORA EUROPE EXHIBITION

15 December 2020 – 17 March 2021

## 2. DIASPORA EUROPE FESTIVAL AT VOLKSBÜHNE BERLIN

### a. OPENING OF DIASPORA EUROPE FESTIVAL AND CEREMONY FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN PRIZE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

10 December 2020

### b. DIASPORA EUROPE: FAMILY ARCHIVES EXHIBITION AT VOLKSBÜHNE'S GLASS-PAVILION

10 December 2020 – 7 January 2021

### c. SINTI\_ZE JAZZ CONCERT: RIAH KNIGHT, SANDRO ROY & JERMAINE LANDSBERGER TRIO FEAT. GIOVANNI WEISS, LAUENBERGER QUARTET FEAT. TAYO

Recorded on 10 December 2020 at Volksbühne Berlin and broadcasted on 27 January 2021

### d. THE ROSENBERG TRIO CONCERT

Recorded on 10 December 2020 at Volksbühne Berlin and broadcasted on 27 January 2021

### e. FERENC SNÉTBERGER SOLO GUITAR IMPROVISATIONS

Recorded on 11 December 2020 at Volksbühne Berlin and broadcasted on 27 January 2021

## PROJECT AIMS:

The project „Roma Component of the German Council of European Presidency during 2020“ focused on providing a strong Roma component to raise awareness about the importance of Roma arts and culture, highlighting the Roma contributions to the majority societies, and advocating for building institutional alliances to fight misrepresentation of Roma and different manifestations of anti-Gypsyism. By targeting the international community, the program mobilized greater commitment among CoE member states to support Roma arts, culture, history and media. The positive experiences in Germany serve as examples of cooperation and institutional approach, welcoming of Roma contributions. Further activities are envisaged in 2021: the project has laid the foundation for its continuation in 2021 during the remaining months of the German CoE Presidency, with two high-level conferences and additional cultural events and exhibitions planned to take place until the end of May 2021.

## MEASURES AND ACTIVITIES

### 1. EXHIBITIONS AT ERAC ART SPACE

September 2020 – March 2021

ERAC's exhibition space provides a platform to the most important tendencies, artists and curatorial perspectives in Roma contemporary Art. These are temporary exhibitions curated, installed and promoted through the ERAC office in Berlin. ERAC proposed to connect these exhibitions with the German Presidency's programming, so that expert – and visitor – groups may join the opening or request a guided tour for the exhibition viewing. Due to the spread of Covid-19, the implementation of activities such as guided tours was only possible for one of the two curated exhibitions, for the second one only took place online.

The following exhibitions have been in the ERAC programme in 2020-2021:

#### 1.1. ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER NIHAD NINO PUŠIJA: ANDARO ANGLUNO VAST

25 September – 15 December 2020 (closed earlier, in October, because of Covid-19 restrictions) at ERAC Art Space

In the framework of the European Months of Photography in Berlin (EMOP), ERAC featured the new series of Nino Pušija entitled Andaro Angluno Vast (First Hand) with portraits of internationally known Romani artists and activists.

Photography is the most historically complex and problematic genre to appropriate the Roma subject. Will the Roma ever be able to dissociate themselves from the traumatizing – sexualizing and criminalizing – practices of photographic representation used throughout the history of anthropology and ethnography? Has it become definitively impossible to turn and re-turn the photographic gaze? Since his first exhibition in Sarajevo (1988), the questions sketched out above have been central to the work of artist and photographer Nino Nihad Pušija.

In its portraits-exhibition Pušija offered new ways to create and perceive authentic images, while dealing with anti-Roma prejudices and their political consequences, such as deportation and assimilation. In doing so, he contributed to the contemporary European art scene's ongoing critical analysis of the role that images of so-called "others" play in the self-image of those portrayed.

The exhibition was officially accepted as part of the prestigious programming of the European Month of Photography in Berlin and it opened on 25 September 2020 at ERAC Art Space with a reception in the presence of Nihad Nino Pušija, the artist, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director of ERAC, Zsófia Bihari, curator, Sofia Erto, assistant curator.

The opening was also enriched by a lecture of art historian Bojana Pejic, which was streamed live on ERAC Facebook.

Visits and guided-tours to the exhibition were offered from the first day. Pusija's series of portraits of internationally known Romani artists and activists was on view for the first time ever at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) in Berlin.

Due to new COVID-19-restrictions, the exhibition was forced to close earlier than planned. ERIAC continued its showing digitally, with a virtual tour on its website, available at: ROMAMOMA Blog ([eriac.org](http://eriac.org))

Despite the restrictions applied to numbers of visitors and despite the early closure, the exhibition was visited by about 160 people.

Curator: Zsófia Bihari

Assistant Curator: Sofia Erto

Installation and Camera: Kornél Szilágyi



## 1.2. DIASPORA EUROPE EXHIBITION

15 December 2020 to 17 March 2021 at ERIAC Art Space

The exhibition presented video material made with European Roma intellectuals, public figures, politicians, artists, citizens and youth, who imagined and performed Romanistan during the months of October – December 2020. The exhibition comprised the video archive, with visual art, cinematographic elements, historical and

personal documents, aiding mediation around the poetic concept of a non-territorial, transnational, diaspora nation: Romanistan.

Due to Covid-19 regulations in Berlin and in accordance with the decisions of the federal and state governments of 25 November 2020, Diaspora Europe opening was virtual, with a video available on all ERIAC digital platforms.

Artists: Daniel Baker, Kálmán Várady, George Vasilescu, Damian Le Bas, Gérard Gartner, Alfred Ullrich

Contributors: Nicoleta Bitu, Mihaela Dragan, Ethel Brooks, Ismael Cortés Gómez, Dijana Pavlović, Iulius Rostas, Gilda-Nancy Horvath, Andre Raatzsch, Anna Mirga – Kruszelnicka, Zeljko Jovanović, Timea Junghaus, Lindy Larsson, Miguel Angel Vargas Rubio, Gonzalo Montaña Peña, Roberto Kyuchukov

This creative adventure built on the discussions of ERIAC with numerous European Roma intellectuals, public figures, politicians, artists, citizens and youth, who imagine, discuss, dispute and perform the idea of Romanistan.

At the exhibition you could also find ROMATOPIA – Roma talk about their Utopia for tomorrow's Europe.

For the podcast "Romatopia – Roma talk about their Utopia for tomorrow's Europe" William Bila and Isabel Raabe met noteworthy community members (artists, musicians, academics, activists) from all over Europe. Aren't Roma role models in terms of solidarity, cultural richness or transnational unity despite national peculiarities – ideal role models for the "idea of Europe"? Isabel Raabe was interested in what the majority societies could learn from Roma, and William Bila in hearing about what being Romani is to other people. And they both wanted to learn about the utopias of their guests.

Idea und concept: Isabel Raabe; Editors: Isabel Raabe and William Bila; Direction: Katja Lehmann;

Sound Design: Selamet and Kefaet Prizreni

The online exhibition is available at: <https://eriac.org/diaspora-europe-eriac/>

Diaspora Europe exhibition counted with the collaboration of: Romatopia podcast, Panni Néder, Galerie Kai Dikhas.

Curators: Timea Junghaus and Andrea Petrus

Installation and Camera: Kornél Szilágyi



## 2. DIASPORA EUROPE FESTIVAL AT VOLKSBÜHNE

December 2020



In December 2020, ERIAC in cooperation with Volksbühne Berlin organized the Diaspora Europe Festival, with the presence of ERIAC's international contacts, including supporters, allies, donors and funders for Roma integration in Europe. The festival was inaugurated on December 10 with the cultural evening organized to celebrate the International Day of Human Rights, and connected to the German CoE Presidency's conference, hosted to mark the 70th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). The opening also featured the ceremony for the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights.

Originally, ERIAC signed the contract with the world-famous musician El Cigala and paid the first instalment of his honorarium upon signing of the contract. ERIAC also successfully secured the venue at the Volksbühne Berlin for free for 10 December, the International Human Rights Day. However, due to the COVID-19 current pandemic and

connected travel restrictions, the El Cigala concert was postponed. For the same reasons, also the planned additional programming on 9 December, including guided tours at ERIAC Art Space for the colleagues of the Federal Foreign Office and the guests of the agency visiting Berlin, with the support and endorsement of the Spanish Embassy in Germany, as well as of the Instituto Cervantes in Berlin, was forced to be cancelled.

Nevertheless, ERIAC was able to create a manifold alternative programme, in line with pandemic restrictions, to connect with the conference organized by the German government to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the European Charter of Human Rights.

Volksbühne's Diaspora Europe Festival invited Sinti, Roma and Jewish communities to take a stand, presenting their own perspectives and narratives for Europe. The programme encapsulated diverse forms and practices developed by Jewish and Roma/Sinti public figures, scholars, artists, performers and citizens to contemplate and employ ideas to create a mutually accessible, translatable and inspirational European culture inviting active participation and engagement. The programme culminated with the festivities of International Human Rights Day on the evening of 10 December 2020. The invited artists and contributors of Diaspora Europe contemplated their own memories, identities, locations, opinions and reflections of living together in Europe, affirming a kaleidoscopic programme presenting a multitude of positions. The complete programme embraced intimate and public discussions, exhibitions, performances, and music concerts, all sharing Jewish and Roma/ Sinti European history and creativity, and revealing the connectedness of our European contemporary reality as a form of constant adaptation, alignment, re-invention and belonging.

## **2.1. OPENING OF DIASPORA EUROPE FESTIVAL AND CEREMONY FOR THE FRANCO-GERMAN PRIZE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

10 December 2020 at Großes Haus, Volksbühne Berlin

On 10 December – the International Human Rights Day, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC), in cooperation with Volksbühne Berlin, invited to watch the opening of Diaspora Europe Festival and the Ceremony for the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights, which was broadcasted live. The live stream was shared both on ERIAC Facebook and on ERIAC Youtube channel.

Detailed programme of the opening speeches and of the Facebook livestream :

- Livestream Opening: Music by pianist Jermaine Landsberger
- Welcome and introduction, presentation of all keynote speakers by the event hosts: Klaus Dörr, Volksbühne Director, Shelly Kupferberg, co-curator of the event, journalist and moderator, Timea Junghaus, ERIAC
- Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the German Federal Foreign Office

- Opening Speech introducing the German Presidency of the Council of Europe
- Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe
- Musical Break pianist Jermaine Landsberger
- Award Ceremony for the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights
  - Commissioner for Human Rights Bärbel Kofler English
  - Anne-Marie Descôtes, French Ambassador to Germany
  - Award acceptance speech by winner Mária Patakyová
- Concert by British Romani singer Riah Knight accompanied by pianist Doron Segal

## **2.2 SINTI\_ZE JAZZ CONCERT: RIAH KNIGHT, ROSENBERG TRIO, SANDRO ROY & JERMAINE LANDSBERGER TRIO FEAT. GIOVANNI WEISS, LAUENBERGER QUARTET FEAT. TAYO**

Sinti\_ze Jazz has been a selection of the “bests” of Sinti Jazz. The concert series brought together the leading musicians mixing contemporary and traditional sounds from diverse Roma/Sinti communities.

The Berlin-based jazz quartet, Janko Lauenberger, interpreted pieces by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in the spirit of the 1930s era. The Sandro Roy Quintet, with Jermaine Landsberger and Giovanni Weiss, performed a unique combination of classical and jazz with traditional gypsy sounds. The young, female virtuosos of Berlin's Roma, vocal jazz scene, UK-born Riah Knight, and the German-Nigerian Afro-Sinti, Tayo Awosusi-Onutor, also joined the evening programme.

The entire Sinti\_ze Jazz Concert was recorded on 10 December 2020 on the main stage of Volksbühne Berlin respecting the COVID-19-Regulations and therefore without any audience. It was then broadcasted on 27.01.2021 – Day of Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism – via the Volksbühne website, and additionally shared on ERAC website, youtube and social media channels.



### 2.3. THE ROSENBERG TRIO CONCERT

The world-famous Rosenberg Trio joined the festival from the Netherlands on 10 December 2020 at Volksbühne Berlin. Inspired by Django Reinhardt, they broadened their oeuvre with classical, pop and bossa nova in gypsy-swing style. Guitarist Stochelo Rosenberg, with his Rosenberg Trio, is an icon of Gypsy Jazz. For over 25 years, the trio has displayed their skills at the most important jazz festivals and in the most renowned concert halls of the world. In 2017, Stochelo Rosenberg recorded the famous soundtrack for the Berlinale opening film, "Django: The Life and Music of a Gypsy Legend".

The entire Rosenberg Trio Concert was recorded on 10 December 2020 on the main stage of Volksbühne Berlin respecting the COVID-19-Regulations and therefore without any audience. It was then broadcasted on 27.01.2021 – Day of Remembrance of the

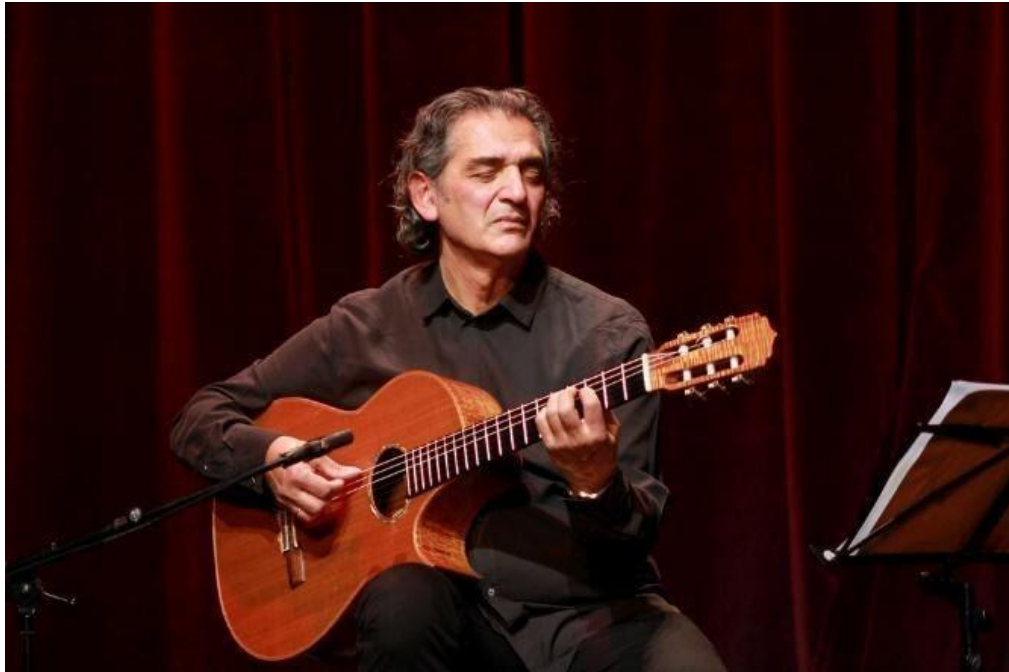
Victims of National Socialism – via the Volksbühne website, and additionally shared on ERIAC website, youtube and social media channels.



## 2.4. FERENC SNÉTBERGER SOLO GUITAR IMPROVISATIONS

Jazz guitarist Ferenc Snétberger is known worldwide for his extraordinary art of improvisation. His compositions range from Hungarian gypsy jazz to Spanish flamenco, from classical guitar to jazzy episodes. He has recorded numerous albums and toured Europe, as well as Japan, Korea, India and the United States. He has performed his concert for guitar and orchestra, "In Memory of My People", with chamber orchestras in Hungary, Italy and Germany, and on the occasion of International Holocaust Memorial Day at UN Headquarters in New York.

The entire Ferenc Snétberger Solo Concert was recorded on 11 December 2020 on the main stage of Volksbühne Berlin respecting the COVID-19-Regulations and therefore without any audience. It was then broadcasted on 27.01.2021 – Day of Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism – via the Volksbühne website, and additionally shared on ERIAC website, youtube and social media channels.



## 2.5. EXHIBITION DIASPORA EUROPE: FAMILY ARCHIVES

10 December 2020 to 7 January 2021 at Glass-Pavilion, Volksbühne

The Family Archives/Diaspora Europe exhibition has been a counterpoint to research into the State Archives. This research was carried out with the participation of Sinti, Roma and Jewish public figures, who volunteered to share their own family collections, connecting to questions of memory, family, belonging and individual perception of self and others. The private archive dissolved the differences and connected the experiences between European citizens.

The opening of the exhibition was possible, since ERIAC and Volksbühne adapted the curatorial concept to the current COVID-19-restrictions and created an exhibition that was completely visible without having to enter the art space.

Curators: Ráhel Rudolf and Sofia Erto

Installation: Kornél Szilágyi

Overall support: Timea Junghaus



## MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS

The projects and online events with contributions from leading Roma artists and those working in the European cultural field provided transnational visibility for ERIAC and showcased both Roma talent and artistic/ cultural excellence. The projects were multifarious in genre, and always included a cultural component, demonstrating ERIAC founding principles.

The Roma Component of the German Council of Europe Presidency emphasized the immense field of the cultural heritage of the largest European Ethnic minority, the 10-12 million Roma people. It raised awareness about the Roma communities' significant contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge among majority societies, mainstream cultural institutions and European Governments.

The visibility, the value of Roma contribution and the growing number of ERIAC supporters, partners and future members keep ensuring ERIAC's stability and growth. The fact that the project included components open to the general public, enabled Roma to address and benefit the majority societies.

Given the uncertainties created by the global Covid-19 pandemic, most of the activities were held online, respecting the travel restrictions and social distancing regulations across Europe. This way all events and projects were available for the public in the whole world.

Precisely, the project attained the following achievements:

1. Successful implementation of all planned measures and activities.
  2. It increased the visibility and credibility of ERIAC as a professional, reliable and visionary cultural institution. In particular, it raised awareness and promoted knowledge about Roma arts and culture among the majority population and it spread positive content about Roma in the mainstream media:
- ERIAC used the ERIAC website and social media channels as the project platforms, connecting with the Roma and Non-Roma organisations of the ERIAC Network.
  - ERIAC established a collaboration with the offices of communications/ public relations of the Federal Foreign Office.
  - ERIAC achieved a significant growth of the ERIAC social media network. It used social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram and Youtube to stimulate greater visibility and online audience outreach.
  - ERIAC Promoted the use of specifically-established hashtags, in particular on ERIAC Instagram, or of Facebook live streams in order to increase its presence online.
  - ERIAC used the newsletter to increase the project visibility.
  - ERIAC documented each event in the highest quality technical standards to be used again in creative ways to promote ERIAC.

## PUBLIC REACH AND VISIBILITY IN NUMBERS

growth of 160%

followers 19k

visitors 160

visitors 100

people 5.7k

viewers 2.7k

ERAC Instagram followers grew from 700 in September 2020 to 1.8k in December 2020, determining a **growth of 160%**.

- ERAC Facebook had a total of **19k followers** in December 2020.
- The only in-presence-event open to visitors has been the exhibition Andaro Angluno Vast at ERAC Art Space. The total number of visitors was **160 people**, in the time period 26 September – 31 October 2020, as the exhibition was forced to close earlier than planned.
- The opening of the exhibition Andaro Angluno Vast at ERAC Art Space on 25 September 2020 was attended by about **100 visitors**, distributed during the day in order to respect COVID-19-Restrictions.
- The opening of the exhibition Andaro Angluno Vast at ERAC Art Space was also streamed live on ERAC Facebook and reached a total of **5.7k people** and had a total of **2.7k active viewers**.

people 9.6k

likes 226k

clicks 816k

The Diaspora Europe Festival opening on 10 December 2020 had the following outreach on **ERAC Facebook**, where the livestream was broadcasted: **9.6k people reached, 226 likes, 816 post clicks**.

people 33.6k

likes 318

views 583

views 200

visitors 160

views 110

- Overall, the Diaspora Europe Facebook posts, excluding the opening livestream, generated a total of: **33.6k people reached, 853 likes and 1.56k post clicks.**
- Overall, the Diaspora Europe Instagram posts generated a total of **318 likes.** The Instagram Diaspora Europe Trailer on IGTV had **367 views.**
- The streaming of the Diaspora Europe Festival Concerts on Volksbühne website in the timeframe 27 January 2021 – 31 January 2021, the time period in which the videos were available, had following total views:
  - Sinti\_ze Jazz Concert: **583 Views**
  - The Rosenberg Triol: **631 Views**
  - Ferenc Snétberger Solo Guitar Improvisations: **725 Views**
- The Diaspora Europe Festival opening on 10 December 2020 had 200 views on **ERAC Youtube** channel
- The Diaspora Europe **main event page** on ERAC Website had up to 160 visitors in the month of December 2020.
- The virtual tour of the exhibition Diaspora Europe at ERAC Art Space had **110 views** on **ERAC Youtube** channel in December 2020.

3. The project gained a general media interest in ERAC and its events, with 10+ articles about the Roma Component of the German Council of Europe Presidency in the press. The strong online presence and the publication of all content guarantees the longevity of the project's deliverables and their outreach to broad audiences across the world.

1. Art Rabbit: Exhibition Andaro Angluno Vast | First Hand Nihad Nino Pusija Andaro Angluno Vast | First-Hand – Nihad Nino Pušija – Exhibition at European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in Berlin (artrabbit.com) accessed 01.02.21
2. Berlin Bühnen: Diaspora Europa: Sinti\_ze Jazz Termin – Diaspora Europa: Sinti\_ze Jazz – Berlin Bühnen (berlin-buehnen.de) accessed 01.02.21
3. Berlin Bühnen: Diaspora Europa: Sinti\_ze Jazz Special Termin – Diaspora Europa: Sinti\_ze Jazz Special – Berlin Bühnen (berlin-buehnen.de) accessed 01.02.21
4. Berlin Bühnen: Diaspora Europa: Ferenc Snétberger: In Concert Termin – Diaspora Europa: Ferenc Snétberger: In Concert – Berlin Bühnen (berlin-buehnen.de) accessed 01.02.21
5. Berliner Zeitung: Festival "Diaspora Europa" digital Festival „Diaspora Europa“ digital – B.Z. Berlin (bz-berlin.de) accessed 01.02.21
6. Berlin gegen Nazis: Diaspora Europa: Rassismus gegen Rom\*nja und Sinte\*zze im Netz Vortrag von Sonja Kosche (Netzaktivistin) Diaspora Europa: Rassismus gegen

Rom\*nja und Sinte\*zze im Netz Vortrag von Sonja Kosche (Netzaktivistin) – Berlin gegen Nazis (berlin-gegen-nazis.de) accessed 01.02.21

7. European Month of Photography Berlin: Andaro Angluno Vast | First Hand EM OP Berlin – European Month of Photography (emop-berlin.eu) accessed 01.02.21

8. Evangelisch.de: Festival „Diaspora Europa“ digital an Berliner Volksbühne Festival „Diaspora Europa“ digital an Berliner Volksbühne | evangelisch.de accessed 01.02.21

9. Hagalil. com: Diaspora Europa Diaspora Europa – haGalil accessed 01.02.21

10. Radio Berlin Brandenburg RBB Kultur: Diaspora Europa – Digitales Festival Volksbühne Berlin. Verortungen und Visionen gegen das Vergessen Diaspora Europa | Digitales Festival an der Volksbühne gegen das Vergessen | rbb24 accessed 01.02.21

11. Radio Berlin Brandenburg RBB Kultur: Diaspora Europa Performances, Konzerte, Diskussionen – Volksbühne: „Diaspora Europa“ – kuratiert von Shelly Kupferberg | rbbKultur (rbb-online.de) accessed 01.02.21

12. Radio Eins RBB: Diaspora Europa Digitales Festival aus der Volksbühne Berlin – Diaspora Europa | radioeins accessed 01.02.21

13. Spreng, Eberhard: „Diaspora Europa“ an der Volksbühne. Der tote Jude ist der geliebte Jude. Diaspora-Europa-Festival-in-der-Volksbuehne | Eberhard Spreng (eberhard-spreng.com) accessed 01.02.21

14. SWR2: Volksbühne Netz-Festival „Diaspora Europa“: Richtung „Multispora“, Richtung Freiheit by Ina Beyer Volksbühne Netz-Festival „Diaspora Europa“: Richtung „Multispora“, Richtung Freiheit – SWR2 accessed 01.02.21

15. Van Magazine: Vereinte Kräfte. Timea Junghaus im Interview »vereinte Kräfte« (atavist.com) accessed 01.02.21

16. Volksbühne Berlin: Grußwort Timea Junghaus zu Diaspora Europa: Grußwort Tímea Junghaus zu Diaspora Europa on Vimeo accessed 01.02.21

4. The Roma Component of the German Council of Europe Presidency during 2020 built-up awareness among institutions, donors and the society at large about the need to support arts and culture as a tool of building cross-cultural respect, tolerance and partnership among peoples and identities. It stimulated growing political commitment of the CoE member states to safeguard, protect and promote Roma arts and culture, and to fight against antigypsyism. In particular, the Diaspora Europe Festival, set within the framework of the German Presidency of the Council of Europe, had a great institutional visibility.

For example, when Germany took over the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe from Greece on 18 November 2020, the new Chair of the Committee of Ministers, Heiko Maas, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, presented the priorities of the German Presidency, which included increasing the quality of human rights protection and of shedding light on the concerns and

expectations of minorities. To this regard, Foreign Minister Heiko Maas mentioned ERIAC in his speech, addressing the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture as a valuable partner:

*"And we will also involve minorities in our discussions to promote equal rights. This includes, in particular, Europe's largest minority – Roma and travellers. And we have a strong partner on which we can rely – the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in Berlin."*

Speech by Federal Foreign Minister Heiko Maas on the Occasion of Greece Passing the Chairmanship in the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe to Germany – Federal Foreign Office ([auswaertiges-amt.de](https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de))

Moreover, several diplomats attended, either in person or virtually, the Diaspora Europe Opening on the festivities of International Human Rights Day on the evening of 10 December 2020. In particular: Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the German Federal Foreign Office, who introduced the German Presidency of the Council of Europe, Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy at the Council of Europe, Commissioner for Human Rights Bärbel Kofler and French Ambassador to Germany Anne-Marie Descôtes, who held the Award Ceremony for the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights.

5. ERIAC reached out to its extended Roma Hub – Network of Roma organizations and intellectuals – to celebrate the transformative and inspiring power of Roma arts and culture.
6. ERIAC has been recognized as an ideal collaboration partner by other arts and culture-, research-, education – and academic institutions, donor organizations, national and European/ international bodies with a cultural-, political – (for European stability) and social affairs agenda.
7. By promoting a Roma component in the framework of the CoE German Presidency, ERIAC built greater ownership among other CoE, who alongside of Germany, would support ERIAC, ERIAC's members, and more broadly – initiative to promote Roma arts, culture and history and to fight against anti-Gypsyism.
8. By December 2020 ERIAC built a membership of 150 associate members, including Roma and non-Roma individuals and organizations from across the world.

# RE-THINKING ROMA RESISTANCE

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

### Description

Re-thinking Roma Resistance is a European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) project, funded by Stiftung Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft (EVZ foundation). Developed between October 2019 and December 2020 with the support of 12 Roma and non-Roma expert researchers, the project sought to initiate change in the European historical and cultural narrative concerning Roma. Namely, the project seeks to challenge dominant discourses which regard Roma as victims, and instead focus on individual stories of Roma heroism and bravery. By “rethinking Roma resistance”, the project provides evidence of multiple ways in which Roma not only fought against oppression and injustice, but also provides a vivid testimony of Roma contribution to national and European struggles for freedom, democracy and justice across Europe.

### Background

Despite the Roma being the largest European ethnic minority, their history on the continent stretching back over 700 years, Romani history remains inadequately remembered and commemorated as part of the national and European canon of history (van Baar, 2011). For years, the genocide of the Roma during World War II was referred to as the “forgotten Holocaust”. Indeed, for decades it was.

In recent years, however, the topic of Roma Resistance during World War II has grown into a powerful symbol that challenges the notion of Roma victimhood with acknowledgement of Roma agency and survival. From researchers to the media, the stories of the Roma Resistance during World War II have begun to gain momentum. Inspired by various accounts of the Roma uprising at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp on May 16, 1944, this date is now annually commemorated by Roma communities across Europe, and particularly Roma youth. In this way, Roma Resistance has become a powerful reference point for Roma social and political mobilisation. While Roma Resistance Day becomes more widely acknowledged and commemorated by a growing number of actors, new research simultaneously challenges whether any uprising took place at all.

As the generation of Holocaust survivors slowly comes to an end, the unique stories of Roma resistance fighters are fading away. A lack of tangible objects with which to recount and represent Roma resistance stories, as well as a lack of commemoration of Roma resistance fighters is a major blind-spot in current efforts to memorialise Roma Resistance Day.

### Project objectives

Designed to re-think Roma resistance in response to the challenges mentioned above, this project seeks to provide a new and broader reading of Roma acts of heroism during World War II and immediately in its aftermath. Furthermore, it seeks to propose

strategies for the proper documentation and commemoration of Roma resistance, including:

- Expanding the definition of Roma resistance to embrace a wider array of acts demonstrating Roma opposition to injustice
- Shedding light on new chapters of Roma resistance by expanding both the chronological (beyond WWII) and geographical scope of research. In particular, the project will recount Roma stories emphasising different dimensions of resistance, both before the war and in its aftermath.
- Reinforcing understandings of Roma agency through sharing stories along with detailed bibliographies and identifying physical sites of resistance. In doing so, this project aims to build on the culture of remembrance among Roma and non-Roma and highlight the role of Roma in broader national and European historical narratives.
- Challenging the dominant historical narrative which regards Roma as victims by focusing on individual and collective Romani stories of overcoming, celebrating Roma resilience.
- Building specific educational strategies and tools through which stories of Roma resistance can be told, represented and taught. Combining formal with informal educational and online and offline tools, it would use arts and culture, combined with historical and archival research to this end.

### **Researching Roma Resistance**

Between November 2019 to December 2020, a group of local researchers and experts investigated and documented stories of Roma Resistance around Europe. Focusing on promoting a new narrative of Roma history, told from the perspective of Roma survivors, the researchers:

- Investigated different manifestations of Roma Resistance in multiple locations, based on existing sources (primary, secondary) as well as providing new evidence to the extent possible
- Presented and documented stories of Roma Resistance heroes, including short biographies of selected protagonists
- Contributed to the mapping of historical sites of Roma Resistance
- Identified artefacts and objects related to Roma Resistance stories (including personal memorabilia, archival records, letters, photos, as well as artworks)
- Contributed to the development of an annotated bibliography on Roma Resistance

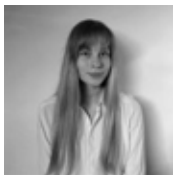
The results of their efforts are the foundation for the educational resources including the map, bibliography and game developed as part of this project.

## Researchers



### **Adrian-Nicolae Furtună**

Adrian-Nicolae Furtună founded in 2011 the Center for Cultural and Social Research "Romane Rodimata". He graduated from the Faculty of Sociology of the University of Bucharest. He is a graduate of the Master of Advanced Sociological Research of the same university. Since 2010 and until now he has published a series of oral history papers and scientific articles on the deportation of Roma to Transnistria, the last of which, published in 2018, being „Roma in Romania and the Holocaust. History, theory, culture.” authorities with Roma-related expertise. „Roma in Romania and the Holocaust. History, theory, culture.” He is currently a PhD student at the Quality of Life Research Institute of Romanian Academy with a topic related to the social memory of Roma slavery in Romanian Principalities.



### **Aurėja Jutelytė**

Aurėja Jutelytė holds a BA degree in Political Science from Vilnius University and an MA degree in International Relations from Central European University. Her academic work focuses on Roma Holocaust, Holocaust commemoration and various international and state-level Roma-related policies. Jutelytė cooperates with Lithuanian media to ensure fair representation of the Roma community in news and provides national public authorities with Roma-related expertise. In cooperation with the Department of National Minorities under the Government of Lithuania in April 2020, Jutelytė edited a book on Roma Holocaust in Lithuania.



### **Dr. Danijel Vojak**

Dr. Danijel Vojak is a research associate at the Institute of Social Science „Ivo Pilar” in Zagreb. In 2011 he finished Phd in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (University of Zagreb). He had published books and papers on the history of Roma in the First World War and Second World War and had been working on several international and domestic projects regarding project history Roma.

In his work he tried to focus on analyzing the relations between indigenous (majority) population and the Roma minority population in this area. His current research focus is on analyzing the position and extent of the suffering of Roma during the Second World War in the pro-Nazi Independent State of Croatia.



## **Educational Forum against Antigypsyism**

The Educational Forum against Anti Gypsyism is part of the Documentation and Cultural Center of German Sinti and Roma, an institution that has its roots in the civil-rights movement of German Sinti and Roma in the 1970s and 1980s.

In its work the Educational Forum has two main objectives: Combating antigypsyism and empowering Sinti and Roma. A variety of educational formats mostly directed at the majority-society helps to raise awareness for the specific stereotypes, mechanisms and manifestations of antigypsyism, both historically and in the present tense. The efforts towards empowerment of Sinti and Roma aim to create safe spaces for members of the minority to meet and to share their perspectives and experiences in order to strengthen their participation in all sectors of society.



### **Dr. Jan Selling**

Dr. Jan Selling, born 1967 in Sweden. PhD in history, Senior lecturer in pedagogy and coordinator of the Forum for Romani Studies at Södertörn University, Stockholm.

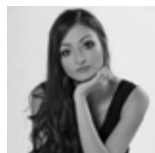
He was a PhD student in Wolfgang Wippermann's colloquium, Free University Berlin (1998-2002). Defended PhD thesis in 2004 on German collective memory discourses on nationalism, commemoration politics and the Nazi past. Conducted several research projects on memory politics in Sweden and Europe, including: Discourse analysis on the establishment of Swedish Living History Forum (Selling 2011), research on theoretical concepts of antiziganism and Swedish history (Selling 2013 and 2015). In 2017 he published a research article on the ICPC Swedish connection and antigypsyism.

As a curator for the Civil Rights section of the RomArchive.eu, he researched with leading international scholars on the history of Roma and Sinti emancipation (Selling 2019a, 2019b, 2019c), and published a historically and internationally comparative monograph (Selling 2020). In 2013 he organized the Uppsala International Conference, "Antiziganism – What's in a Word", and was the principal editor of the resultant conference volume (2015). Latest publication: (monograph in Swedish, 2020) Frigörelsen. Romers och resandes emancipation i Sverige och andra länder. [Becoming free. Emancipation of Roma and Resande in Sweden and Other Countries.]



### **Dr. Jekatyerina Dunajeva**

Dr. Jekatyerina Dunajeva received her PhD at the University of Oregon in 2014. Currently, she is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Pázmány Péter Catholic University's Department of Political Science, as well as a Researcher and Program Manager at Central European University's Center for Teaching and Learning (working with the „SensiClass” Project). Katya is also one of the editors of the Critical Romani Studies Journal. Throughout her career, Katya acted as a consultant, advisor, researcher and political analyst for international and local NGOs, think tanks and other institutions. Katya's research has been published in several book chapters and peer-reviewed journals, exploring topics such as Roma identity, discrimination, nationalism, education, and contemporary Russian and Hungarian politics.



### **Dr. Justyna Matkowska**

Dr. Justyna Matkowska is a Roma activist and researcher. She earned her Ph.D. in Humanities at the University of Wrocław in Poland in 2020. She holds a MA and BA in Polish Literature and Language Studies from the University of Wrocław. She also graduated from the Postgraduate Romani Studies Program at the Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland, and Hawai'i English Language Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the USA. In 2016-2018 she worked as Plenipotentiary of the Governor of Lower Silesia for the National and Ethnic Minorities in Poland. In 2019 she worked as an adjunct faculty at the Hawai'i Pacific University in the USA. In 2020 she had a visiting research position at Central European University.



### **Dr. Lise Foisneau**

Dr. Lise Foisneau received her PhD in Anthropology from the Aix-Marseille University (France) in 2018, as well as a Master's degree in History from Sciences Po Paris (France) in 2014. She is also an associate researcher at IDEMEC (CNRS/AMU) and has worked on historical and anthropological projects such as collecting testimonies of WWII Roma resistant fighters and survivors. She has published several historical and anthropological articles in scientific journals, such as *Ethnologie française*, *Tracés*, *Health and Human Rights Journal*, as well as book chapters.



### **Nicolás Jiménez González**

(Madrid, 1968) Sociologist, Master in Organizational Consulting, Master in Educational Research, co-author of the Resource Guide against

Antigypsyism. He has been a reading teacher of the subject "Roma from Spain. History and culture" at the University of Alcalá de Henares for 3 years.

He writes and edits the blog Pretendemos gitanizar el mundo where he seeks to educate and raise awareness on Romani culture and history proposing a new counter-narrative in which we, the Roma, are protagonists and not only passive objects.

He is currently working as a staff member of the Human Rights Observatory from the Autonomous Government of La Rioja (north of Spain).



### **Niko Rergo (Sergiy Yermoshkin)**

Niko Rergo, born in Odessa, Ukraine in 1953, is a linguist and a lawyer with extensive research experience. He has authored over 60 publications in linguistics, teaching techniques, Romani philology, national minorities; and is an author and co-author of more than 50 analytical reports, draft programs, draft laws, proposals and alike concerning Roma issues, education, national minorities, etc. He is the co-founder and vice-president of the Odessa linguistic Society (1994-1999), vice-editor-in chief and designer of the journal 'Language' (1993-2002, 8 issues).

Since 2015 he has worked at the State Archives of the Odessa region. He has been researching topics related to the history of Roma during WWII. Many of his relatives have perished during the Roma Holocaust.



### **Vera Lacková**

Vera Lacková is a film director and producer from Slovakia. She studied media and journalism in Brno at Masaryk University. She has set up a production company Media Voice. She provides a unique view from the inside of the Roma community. In addition to commercial production, she has also participated on an international documentary film project EUROPE: a Homeland for the Roma, she also directed a short documentary Alica. The film about Roma in resistance – How I Became a Partisan is her feature debut and will be premiered in 2021.

# PROJECT RESULTS

## 1. Stories of Resistance



ERAC aimed to shed light on individual heroes of Roma Resistance to be inspired by real-life individual stories of heroism and bravery. Discover the stories of over 40 men and women across Europe. This section is developed based on the stories discovered and documented by researchers.

<https://eriac.org/stories-of-resistance/>

## 2. Sites of Resistance

Interactive map to discover places across Europe that commemorate events of Roma Resistance. <https://eriac.org/roma-resistance-map/roma-resistance-map>



### 3. Bibliography

Selected bibliography of academic and non-academic sources documenting the history of Roma Resistance

<https://eriac.org/roma-resistance-bibliography/roma-resistance-bibliography>

### 4. "Roma Heroes" GAME

Educational board game featuring real-life stories of 24 Roma heroes.

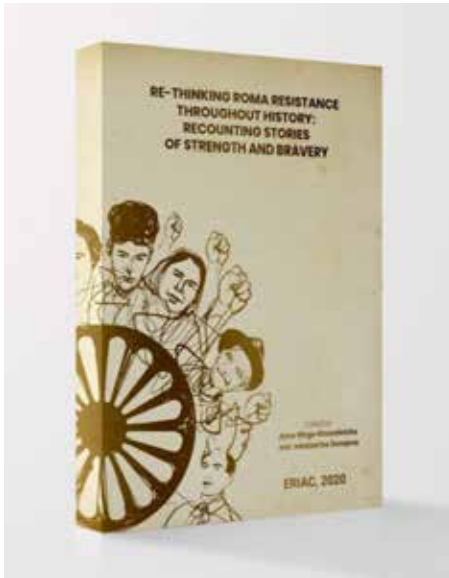
Inspired by the classic children's board game "Guess Who?", "Roma Heroes", developed in the framework of the "Re-thinking Roma Resistance" project, is an educational game that allows the players to discover stories of real Heroes of Roma history while playing. "Roma Heroes" includes custom-made illustrations by Roma artist Emanuel Barica.

In this game, what is relevant is not the Hero's physical appearance but his biography! To guess the character your opponent has, you will need to ask questions about the type of resistance, places of resistance and the historical period.

<https://eriac.org/re-thinking-roma-resistance-heroes-game/>



## 5. Re-thinking Roma Resistance throughout History: Recounting Stories of Strength and Bravery



*Re-thinking Roma Resistance throughout History: Recounting Stories of Strength and Bravery* is a book edited by Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka and Jekatyerina Dunajeva, with chapters written by a diverse group of researchers collaborating with the "Re-thinking Roma Resistance" project.

Synopsis:

*This book contains unique research from a diverse group of researchers who are engaged in re-telling history from the perspective of Roma. With a focus on Roma agency, chapters uncover various forms of resistance and survival strategies that Roma engaged in throughout history. Authors provide personal stories of collective and individual resistance, signs of defiance, as well as acts of love and humanity in the face of*

*persecution — stories that have never been told before.*

<https://eriac.org/re-thinking-roma-resistance-book-roma-resistance/>

## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROJECT “European Youth for European Roma Culture”



The European Solidarity Corps brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop. In the European Solidarity Corps programme, young people aged 18 to 30 years can have cross-border volunteering opportunities with solidarity projects.

In late 2020, ERIAC began its first European Solidarity Corps project entitled „European Youth for European Roma Culture“. Through its activities, developed during a total of 15 volunteering months, this project will engage young Roma interested in volunteering in the fields of European culture and arts, providing them with a unique opportunity to work with the established European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture – ERIAC in Berlin.

The general objective of the project is to engage three European Young people: Roma and/or non-Roma, in the diverse work of ERIAC in Berlin, through which they can learn about Roma culture, identities, artists and their vast representations in Europe. Taking an active role in the organisation of the various ERIAC events – exhibitions, performances, seminars, workshops and trainings – will engage the young volunteers in achieving a positive societal change, namely: youth participation and active citizenship, challenging exclusion, discrimination and antigypsyism through the means of spreading awareness of the rich European Roma culture and arts.

This project also equips the young volunteers with skills and knowledge in the project management cycle, which they later can utilize in future community engagement or on the labour market. Volunteers, Roma or non-Roma, will build connections with young people and artists of different minority backgrounds from all over Europe, and develop a sense of community and unity building solidarity internationally. By being involved in the diverse activities of ERIAC, both volunteers and other participants will strengthen democracy and citizenship in Europe, including accession countries and the UK.

The first volunteer Nataliia Tomenko will start her volunteering experience at the ERIAC working remotely, due to the current situation of the Covid-19 quarantine restrictions, from the beginning of February 2021. Nataliia is working on social inclusion, cultural promotion of Roma, Roma culture, and arts, with a special focus on the emancipation of Roma through the means of arts and culture. She will be engaged in day to day tasks in administration and programming using her background in graphic design and academic research.



# **ERAC EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**



## **FUTUROMA exhibition opens in Villa Romana in Florence**

ERIAC was proud to announce the opening of the FUTUROMA exhibition in Villa Romana, in Florence.

OPENING: 29. April 2020

ADDRESS: Villa Romana, Via Senese 68, 50124 Florenz, Italien

The program was announced at the ERIAC Facebook Page and website.



Dan Turner: Seeds of Change. FUTUROMA, La Biennale di Venezia. Courtesy artist, 2019.

FUTUROMA drew upon aspects of Afrofuturism to explore Roma contemporary art's role in defining, reflecting and influencing Roma culture. FUTUROMA offered new and spontaneous re-interpretations of Roma past, presented and futured via a fusion of the traditional and the futuristic in order to critique the current situation for Roma people and to re-examine historical events. Imagining Roma bodies in speculative futures offered a counter-narrative to the reductive ways that Roma culture has been understood and constructed—thereby moving our cultural expression beyond the restrictive motifs of oppression toward a radical and progressive vision of Roma to come. The confluence of traditional knowledge and contemporary art practice evident within FUTUROMA combines to highlight possibilities for different ways of being. Here, artworks were rooted in the techniques and traditions of the Roma diaspora, but at the same time decisively forward-looking. The acts of remembering and imagining manifest within these artworks point toward ambitious visions of life-affirming futures and at the same time allow reinterpretation of our collective pasts.

With and by: Celia Baker, Ján Berky, Marcus-Gunnar-Pettersson, Ödön Gyügyi, Billy Kerry, Klára Lakatos, Delaine Le Bas, Valérie Leray, Emília Rigová, Markéta Šestáková, Selma Selman, Dan Turner, Alfred Ullrich, László Varga

## Artist Residency Program in Villa Romana, Florence

To mark the upcoming installation of FUTUROMA at The Künstlerhaus Villa Romana in Florence in 2020, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) joined forces with the Villa Romana residency programme to offer two residencies to Roma contemporary artists.

This exciting initiative draws upon the ground-breaking work, expertise, and vision of both institutions to realise a unique opportunity for young Roma artists and marks a significant step in recognition of the importance of Roma contemporary art practice today.

Through the cooperation of Villa Romana and ERIAC, the residence offered artists the opportunity to concentrate on their work, to seek an exchange with other artists in the house and in the regional environment, and to deal with the history of art on site.

The program promoted two selected artists and gave visibility to Roma contemporary arts. An international jury screened the candidates and selected the two artists.

Members of the Jury:

- 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)
- Timea Junghaus (curator, art historian, director of ERIAC)

Selected artists: Małgorzata Mirga-Tas and Robert Gabris.

In the first half of 2020 (February to July), the selected artists were provided with a guest room in the Villa Romana for a period of two months. They also received a monthly scholarship in the amount of 1000 Euro. All travel expenses were covered.



The Villa Romana is a place of contemporary artistic production and of international exchange. Founded in 1905 by artists and patrons, it still works as a non-profit association. Every year it hosts the current Villa Romana award winners as well as international guest artists. With exhibitions and a wide range of events, Villa Romana strives to interact with artists and the public, expand its international network and promote communication with the cultures of the Mediterranean area.  
[www.villaromana.org](http://www.villaromana.org)

## #ROMAREMEMBER: INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR ROMA AND SINTI HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE 2020

# #RomaRemember

2 August - International Roma Holocaust Memorial Day

#RomaRemember: International Campaign for Roma Holocaust Remembrance 2020 reinforced the spirit of solidarity and unity, provided visibility to Roma Holocaust Remembrance activities taking place around the world and mobilized Roma and non-Roma around the same political message.

Through #RomaRemember Campaign we:

- Called on governments to recognize August 2nd as Memorial Day for Sinti and Roma victims of the Holocaust.
- Called on governments to build memorials dedicated to the Roma victims of the Holocaust and to honor and preserve sites of the Roma Holocaust.
- Called on governments to invest in museums, research centres and other institutions dedicated to Roma Holocaust, Roma history and Roma culture.
- Called on governments, educators, teachers and public institutions to include Roma history and culture into official educational curricula and textbooks.
- Called on governments and the international community to acknowledge and fight against antigypsyism as a specific form of racism targeting Roma populations (and to adapt adequate preventive and reactive means to fight it).

On the occasion of the 2nd of August – European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day and in the framework of “Re-thinking Roma Resistance Project” financed by EVZ Foundation, finishin the campaign ERIAC organized a public Webinar “Commemorating the Victims, Remembering the Heroes” on August 3, 2020. ERIAC counted with the presence of Nicolás Jiménez González, Niko Rergo, Dr. Jan Selling, Dr. Justyna Matkowska, Adrian-Nicolae Furtună, Vera Lackova, Dr. Danijel Vojak, Aurėja Jutelytė and Dr. Jekatyerina Dunajeva.



**“COMMEMORATING THE VICTIMS,  
REMEMBERING THE HEROES”**

**PUBLIC WEBINAR**

**On the occasion of the 2nd of August  
European Roma Holocaust Memorial Day**

**In the framework of “Re-thinking Roma Resistance Project”  
financed by EVZ**

**AUGUST 3TH 2020  
16:30 – 18:30**

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**ERAC**  
EUROPEAN ROMA  
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS  
AND CULTURE

**#RomaRemember**

**evz** FOUNDATION  
REMEMBRANCE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FUTURE

## ERIAC ONLINE PROGRAM

### Performing The Museum – Online Exhibition

Apr. 8, 2020 – Online Exhibition

On the occasion of the International Roma Day, April 8th, ERIAC opened its first online group exhibition entitled 'Performing the Museum' that launched on the website on April 8, 2020 at 5p.m. CET.

This exhibition brought together two projects that questioned the absence of Roma representation in arts and culture spaces. Firstly, the project 'Invisible Museum'—initiated by the Slovak artist Oto Hudec in 2017 at tranzit.sk— which challenged the idea of traditional ethnographic role of museums, where "othering" through the observation, documentation and mapping of the essentialized subject was strongly embedded. Hudec's project rather proposed a new kind of institution that served a more discursive, collaborative and emancipatory function. Secondly, and complementary to Hudec's idea, was the proposal by ERIAC and OFF-Biennale in Budapest, RomaMoMA, which imagined a transnational Museum of Roma Contemporary Art.



Curatorial Text by Denisa Tomkova:

'The fault lies not in our stars... but in our institutions and our education,' argued Linda Nochlin in the 1970s when fighting for recognition and inclusion of female artists in art institutions. (1) Art produced by artists of Roma origin represents a similar 'blind spot' of our institutions. This exhibition, entitled Performing the Museum and presented by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) brings together two projects which questions the absence of Roma representation in arts and culture spaces. Firstly, the project "Invisible Museum", initiated by the Slovak artist Oto Hudec in 2017 at

tranzit.sk, challenges the idea of traditional ethnographic role of museums, where "othering" through the observation, documentation and mapping of the essentialized subject is strongly embedded. Hudec's project rather proposes a new kind of institution which serves a more discursive, collaborative and emancipatory function. Secondly, and complementary to Hudec's idea, is the proposal by ERIAC and OFF-Biennale in Budapest which imagines a transnational Museum of Roma Contemporary Art. (2) RomaMoMA is a collaborative, process-based, transdisciplinary, transnational, and discursive art project. RomaMoMA is a platform to envision and discuss the possible roles and forms of such an institution that will spread in time and space in the course of a series of exhibitions, discussions, and art projects. While RomaMoMA enacts various functions of an imagined institution, performing and practicing its workings with the clear goal of promoting and preparing the establishment of a real institution.

In the exhibition *Performing the Museum* these two projects are brought together to connect the initial challenge with the imagined future. This exhibition is performing the imagined museum through dialogues and engagement with exhibited art.

We can see Emília Rigová's video performance *There is No Freedom Without Victory* (2019), which tackles the issues of the Roma identity and history.

The artist has dedicated this work to the commemoration of the International Romani Day (April 8). Rigová is holding the red fabric inspired by traditional Romani headscarves while standing against a strong wind on the beach. The subtitle of this work is 'Isthar', a Mesopotamian goddess of war and love.

Selma Selman's video performance *You Have No Idea* (2016) calls for the urgency to consider the intersectional struggles of Roma female artists. Her work, despite being based on her own experience, presents a universal message and questions the impossibility of communication. As the artist suggests: 'We have no idea about the struggles that others are facing.' Both Rigová and Selman, in their performances, challenge the physical limits of their bodies to convey the urgency of their struggles.

Robert Gabris's *Blue Heart* series (2014) tells very intimate testimonies of the people of a Romani village in Slovakia. The artist collected stories of people who documented their personal memories as tattoos. These engravings in blue ink tell are inspired by the artist's father who spent years in prison where he was a tattoo artist. The act of tattooing can be read as a means of performing a museum. The tattoos enable one to record, to archive and to preserve personal memories. As the artist's father says: 'My body is the place of my life. All my wounds and drawings of my past are there.'

Marcela Hadová, with the Roma women's club *Marka romňakero gendalos*, creates mural paintings in the village of Rankovce in the east of Slovakia. Through painting together in public spaces, this club seeks to establish a community and build relationships among the women in the village. The exhibition presents a photograph print of the mural painted by Hadová and the Roma women's club in Rankovce. Her

work demonstrates that culture is not only formed within the walls of institutions but can have self-sufficient forms and locations.

Similarly, the project Caravan by Daniela Krajčová and Oto Hudec, (2013 onwards) leaves the gallery space and creates an art project within the community. The artists travelled through Slovakia in a caravan and spent a few days with each Roma community. This exhibition presents the video documentation of this project. The videos depict children dancing, singing, playing football, or telling their stories while their drawings, animated on the computer, are presented in the background. The aim of this project is to dispel the prejudices towards the Roma community, and to create a public discourse. At the end of the workshops in each location the artists organised a screening of the video, inviting parents, neighbours and community workers.

The exhibited works described here present the multiple challenges that the Roma face, from the unique intersectional struggle of artists who are Roma and women, to the general difficulty of preserving the Roma memory and history by building relationships through community art projects. Through the exhibited artworks by Roma and non-Roma artists and the accompanying events, Performing the Museum highlights the history of decolonizing museum practices in art history and brings attention to the lack of representation of Roma art in art institutions.

## References

- (1) Linda Nochlin. 1971. Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists? In Nochlin's 1988 book Women, Art, and Power. (Harper and Row/New York), p.150
- (2) RomaMoMA is initiated by OFF-Biennale Budapest based on Tímea Junghaus's initial idea. It is an ongoing project of OFF-Biennale Budapest and ERIAC Berlin.

## Artworks:

Oto Hudec, Invisible Museum, project, videos, museum model and objects (2017) Emília Rigová, There is No Freedom Without Victory, video performance (2019)  
Selma Selman, You Have No Idea, video performance (2016)  
Robert Gabris, Blue Heart series, engravings (2014)  
Marcela Hadová and Marka romňakero gendalos, Flowers, mural/photograph print (2015-2018)  
Daniela Krajčová and Oto Hudec, Caravan project, video (2013 onwards)

Curated by Denisa Tomkova.

Supported by work from ERIAC's side: Timea Junghaus (Executive director) and Zsafia Bihari (Project Coordinator)

Supported by German Federal Foreign Office, Tranzit.sk (Judit Angel), OFF-Biennale (Hajnalka Somogyi)

Original project "Invisible Museum" was supported by Tranzit.sk, ERSTE Foundation and Bratislava Goethe Institut

## International Roma Couch Festival

World Wide (Web) Celebration of the International Roma Day, April 8, 2020.

We Stay at Home but we Celebrate Together!



In 2020, ERIAC was providing an overview of digital celebrations of the International Roma Day organized by ERIAC and by our members, partners and allies. The development of the festival on the ERIAC Facebook page and here the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/247264459743846/>

10:00 ERIAC Associate Membership Call opened on [www.eriac.org/membership](http://www.eriac.org/membership)

13:00 – 14:30 Celebrated 8 of April online – Transnational Call with music, talks and performance hosted by Open Society Roma Initiatives

15:00 Opened the call for STAY AT HOME AND MAKE MUSIC -ERIAC Family Music Competition

16:00 Launched #RomaMoMA with OFF-Biennale Budapest

16:00 – 18:00 WE AIR HERE! Roma Biennale 2020  
[www.facebook.com/RomadayEveryday](https://www.facebook.com/RomadayEveryday)

Moderated by Delaine Le Bas, artist and curator and Hamze Bytyci, actor, performer, director, activist and curator

17:00 Exhibition Opening: Performing the Museum  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1309060212618002/>

18:00 Live stream of Maxim Gorki Theaters "ROMA ARMEE" available online, with English subtitles, for 24 hours.

[www.gorki.de/de/gorki-stream](http://www.gorki.de/de/gorki-stream)

## **Stay At Home & Make Music - Online Family Music Competition**



During lock-down, on International Roma Day (April 8, 2020), ERIAC published a call for Roma musicians, and the future generations of Roma musical talents to stay at home, while enrolling for the grand prize of the Online Eriac Family Music Competition,

ERIAC received over 160 videos from 365 musicians from 20 countries and engaged over a million Facebook viewers between April 8 and May 16, 2020.

The finalists of the competition – the top 15 videos – were selected based on popularity and not the number of views. 15 videos with the highest total number of Likes and Shares were sent to the international jury for their review. The jury members – Dr. Carol Silverman, Mónika Lakatos, Miquel Àngel Vargar, Riccardo Sahiti and David Pena "Dorantes" – selected the winners through anonymous voting online.

The contest call was translated to Romanes, Albanian, Bulgarian, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak and Spanish.

The finalists of the competition – the top 15 videos – were selected based on popularity and not the number of views. 15 videos with the highest total number of Likes and Shares were sent to the international jury for their review. The jury members – Dr. Carol Silverman, Mónika Lakatos, Miquel Àngel Vargar, Riccardo Sahiti and David Pena "Dorantes" – selected the winners through anonymous voting online.



ERIAC received over 160 videos from 365 musicians from 20 countries and engaged over a million Facebook viewers between April 8 and May 16, 2020.

Winners:

1st prize winner (1.500€) – Richard Danyi & His Brothers: Danyi Richard (violin), Lisztes Jenő (cimbalom), Kokeny Laszlo (guitar) and Farkas Richard (Double bass)

2nd prize winner (1.000€) – Tamás Balázs (father) and Tamás Balázs (son)

3rd prize winner (700€) – Alexandra Ruszó (mezzo soprano) and Géza Szajkó (violin player)

12 Audience awards (250€ each) – Ágnes Horváth and Zoltán Mágá; András Sárközi and Rajkó Band; Eli Csóka; Ferenc Tomhán and István Bangó; Lavinia Rusu; Georgina Bordás and Gipsy Band; Ljuba Jovanovic, Tamara Jovanovic and, Zeljko Jovanovic; László Horváth and Balazs Horváth; Ostalinda Suárez, Rosario Montoya and Nuria Clavería; Máté Palásti and Gergő Palásti; Parushevi Family; Romano Glaszo.

The videos are available on Facebook by searching #ERIACMusicContest

## **Online Video Series – Katitzi Exhibition: “A Literary Figure Rooted in Reality”**

Visitors had the possibility to visit ERIAC with previous appointment to see the exhibition or enjoy the curatorial tour online with curator Maria Lind and art critic Övül Durmuşoğlu

The Exhibition “Katitzi – A Literary Figure Rooted in Reality” was on view from June until mid September 2020. Through the exhibition, visitors could learn about the life and works of the Romani-Swedish activist and writer Katarina Taikon.

Watch videos here:

<https://youtu.be/ucrWtooRVd0>

<https://youtu.be/Ra8DUOdRUDw>

<https://youtu.be/lFIGCb-fvWk>

<https://youtu.be/8Lm6-xiP4kY>

<https://youtu.be/RFUSvn3lIf0>

<https://youtu.be/BsFBJtsXrol>

<https://youtu.be/Uw3sCyIJ3aU>

Video recording and edition: Ana Stanic

## Hajde Te Khelas – ERIAC Dance Contest



Hajde Te Khelas – ERIAC Dance Contest called all Roma experts of dance, movement art and choreography, who perform alone, in pairs or in bigger groups from all over the world to present the virtuosity and diversity of Roma dance heritage passed on from generation to generation by applying with a short dance video.

ERIAC received over 66 videos from 132 dancers from 19 countries and engaged over a million Facebook views between June 8 and July 10, 2020.

The finalists of the competition were selected by the international jury members Isaac Blake, Rosamaria Kostic Cisneros, Toby Gorniak, Belen Maya, Sani Rifati and Attila Szanto. The jury watched all videos and chose their 3 favourites, the result was a list of 13 artists which each jury member had to grade following the criteria the guidelines established:

- restoring traditional dance moves and forms;
- virtuosity of movement, and expression of emotions through dance;
- intention of choreography and presentation;
- authenticity of movements of certain regional traditions;
- reinvention of Roma dance heritage in contemporary dance and movement art.

From the 13 dancers, 10 became finalists, being the three first with the highest grades the winners of the contest! An additional prize was given to the video with more views from the Facebook audience.

This was the winner's announcement ERIAC posted on Facebook to reveal the finalists and winners of the Hajde Te Khelas – ERIAC Dance Contest!

1st prize winner (1.500€) – Black Knights Crew

2nd prize winner (1.000€) – Toti Ovidiu

3rd prize winner (700€) – Mocsel Family

Audience Award winner (1.000€) – Vivien Menyhért

Finalists (250€) – Ana Cali, Martinica Ferrara Strova and Federika Lovisi Roca, Vivien Menyhért, Brian Mihaliček, Leonardo Huseini and Aydin Elbasan.

All videos are available on Facebook by searching #EriacHajdeTeKhelas



# **COVID-19**

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# **OUTBREAK**

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Due to the global outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, in an emergency response ERIAC had to cancel all public events and move all activities online. Furthermore, in conversation with other international organizations and with the ERIAC associate members, ERIAC management observed, that:

- Simultaneously with the weakening of public health, labor and economic systems the 'European project' that has once catalyzed the establishment of ERIAC is also under threat.
- Anti-gypsyism and anti-European sentiments grew immediately after the outbreak of the pandemic and continue to gain more ground, while many Roma communities are becoming isolated, discriminated and humiliated and will soon run out of financial and food reserves (if they have not yet, already).
- Roma children and youth across Europe lag behind in education day-by day, lacking the necessary digital connection and equipment to continue their education.
- Amidst the increasing scapegoating, and racism, Roma culture is certainly the only positive public discourse about Roma people at the moment.
- In many European countries, culture and the arts are already marginalized, many culture budgets are already cut. Roma arts and culture is even more severely hit than other European national cultures, and minority culture will not be kept on the agenda.
- Roma will need to make a significant effort to keep Roma culture, arts, heritage and language alive.

Immediately in response to the outbreak, ERIAC:

- Convened the Extraordinary General Assembly on March 31 2021 to gather feedback from the ground and assess the strategic reorientation of the ERIAC activities in the face of the pandemic.
- Launched an online questionnaire "Covid-19 impact on Roma arts and culture", to assess the impact in the field of Roma arts and culture, gathering over 150 responses from around 30 countries.
- In response to the global outbreak of Covid-19 Pandemic, which severely impacted the Roma arts and culture field, ERIAC aimed to strengthen the resilience of Roma cultural producers by supporting creativity, the spirit of innovation and self-sustainability and created the ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program. The ERIAC Arts and Culture Innovation Program is supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF) Covid-19 Rapid Responses Pooled Fund created as an Emergency Mechanism to respond to the impact generated by the pandemic. ERIAC also secured contributions from the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI), Documentation and Culture Centre for German Sinti and Roma in Heidelberg (DocuZ) and the European Cultural Foundation (ECF).

- ERIAC also responded by re-directing its activities. ERIAC successfully transitioned and modified its programming to adapt to the digital space. ERIAC successfully ran a series of online campaigns and events, resulting in increased ERIAC online presence and a growing social media community. These initiatives include RomaMoMA blog posts, weekly Barvalipe Roma Online University lectures and debates, online seminars, webinars and conferences (live streamed), the Roma online dance competition and music competition.

## **ERIAC questionnaire “Covid-19 impact on Roma arts and culture”**

Per the instruction of the Chairman of the ERIAC Board, ERIAC immediately started to survey the direct and specific impact of the pandemic on Roma arts and culture, management formulated response mechanisms – with the input of the membership, the thematic sections, and the Barvalipe academy – and began to mitigate modifications necessary to the ERIAC strategy.

ERIAC gathered input from its membership, preliminary results show that ERIAC members are severely impacted by the crisis:

ERIAC has collected Europe-wide data from beyond its own membership structure. The survey was available in 8 languages (Bulgarian, English, German, Romanian, Romanes, Serbian, Slovak and Spanish).

- The results serve as basis for evidence-based advocacy strategy (intergovernmental organization, national governments and private donors)
- The input provided further basis for the re-assessment of ERIAC strategy on the interim and the long-term.

Results questionnaire "Covid-19 impact on Roma arts and culture:

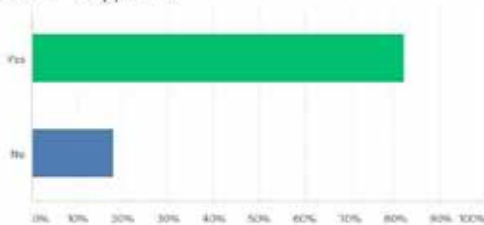
## Questionnaire on COVID-19 impact on Roma arts and culture

Last update: 17th of June 2020

**ERAC**  
EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE  
FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

**Q1: Are you an individual or organization working in the field of Roma arts and culture (including artists, scholars, cultural entrepreneurs, journalists and all others working in the broadly understood cultural domain)**

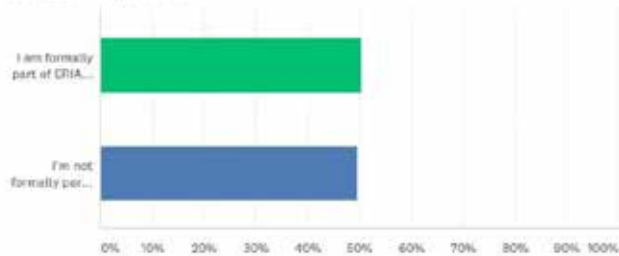
Answered: 78 Skipped: 67



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.05%	64
No	17.95%	14
TOTAL		78

## Q2: Relationship with the European Roma Instituts for Arts and Culture (ERAC)

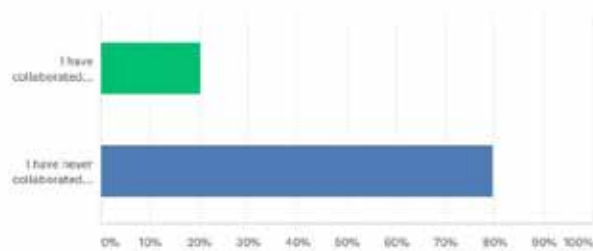
Answered: 127 Skipped: 18



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am formally part of ERAC (as ERAC Member, ERAC Barvalipe Academy Member, ERAC Board Member)	50.39% 64
I'm not formally part of ERAC	49.61% 63
TOTAL	127

## Q3: I'm not formally part of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) structures

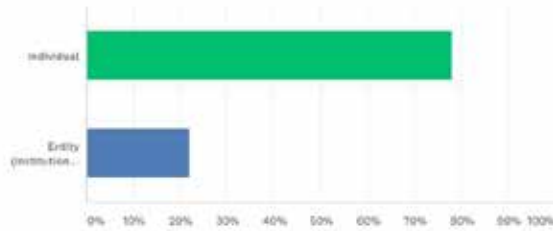
Answered: 59 Skipped: 86



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I have collaborated with ERAC in the past	20.34% 12
I have never collaborated with ERAC before	79.66% 47
TOTAL	59

#### Q4: I am responding as an:

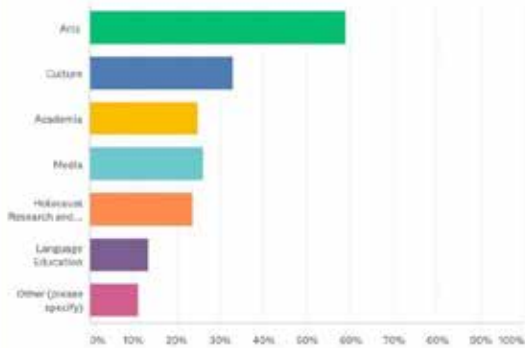
Answered: 123 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Individual	78.05%	96
Entity (institution, organization, informal group, etc.)	21.95%	27
TOTAL		123

#### Q5: As an individual, please specify the domain of arts and culture (multiple choice):

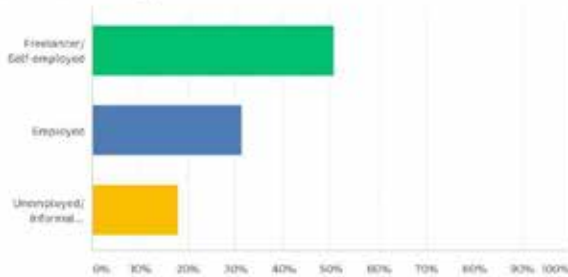
Answered: 88 Skipped: 57



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Arts	59.09%	52
Culture	32.95%	29
Academia	25.00%	22
Media	26.14%	23
Holocaust Research and Education	23.66%	21
Language Education	13.64%	12
Other (please specify)	11.56%	10
Total Respondents: 88		

## Q6: Economic activity status:

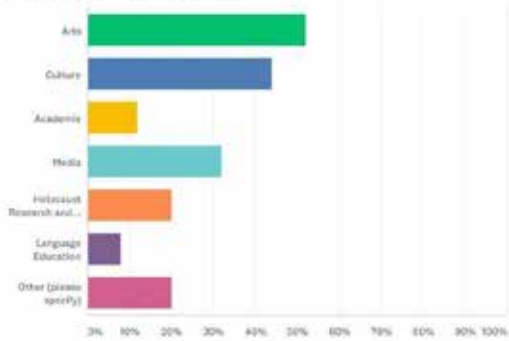
Answered: 89 Skipped: 56



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Freelancer/ Self-employed	50.56%	45
Employed	31.46%	28
Unemployed/ Informal cultural practice	17.98%	16
TOTAL		89

## Q7: As an entity, please specify domain of arts and culture (multiple choice):

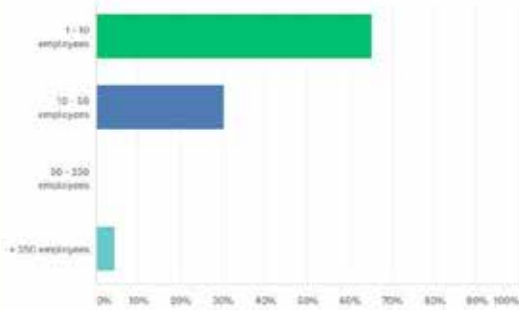
Answered: 25 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Arts	52.00%	13
Culture	44.00%	11
Academia	12.00%	3
Media	32.00%	8
Holocaust Research and Education	20.00%	5
Language Education	8.00%	2
Other (please specify)	20.00%	5
Total Respondents:		25

## Q8: Size of your entity:

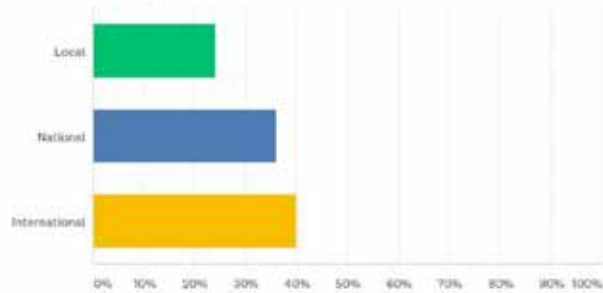
Answered: 23 Skipped: 122



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1 - 10 employees	65.22%	15
10 - 50 employees	30.43%	7
50 - 250 employees	0.00%	0
+ 250 employees	4.35%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>23</b>

## Q9: Scope of activity:

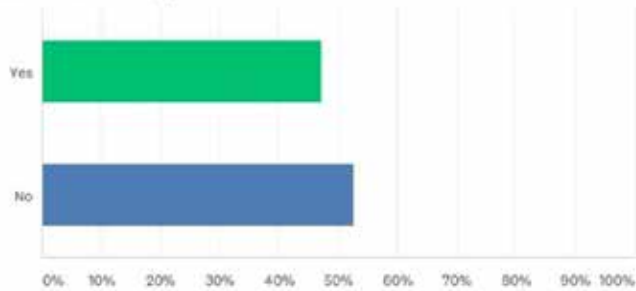
Answered: 25 Skipped: 120



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local	24.00%	6
National	36.00%	9
International	40.00%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>25</b>

## Q10: I have commercial activity in the cultural domain:

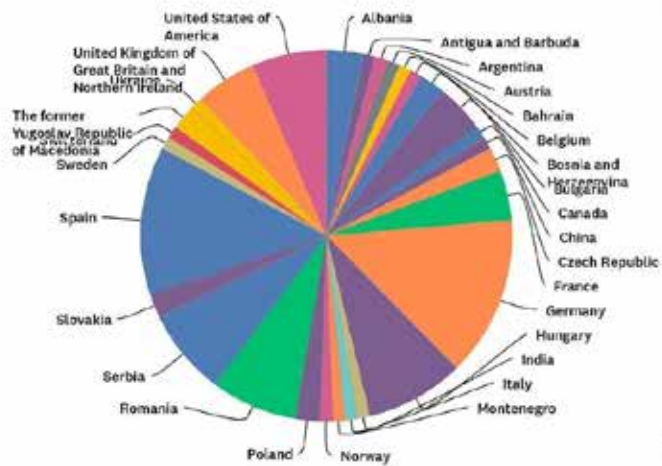
Answered: 112 Skipped: 33



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.32%	53
No	52.68%	59
TOTAL		112

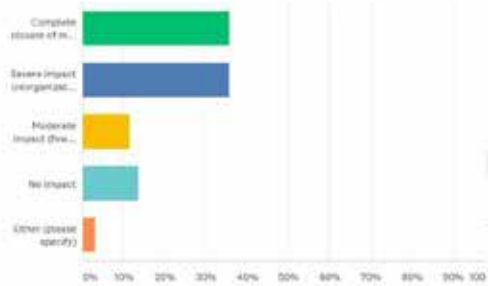
## Q12: Country of residence

Answered: 95 Skipped: 50



### Q13: To what extent have the government measures in your country impacted your activities in the arts and culture field?

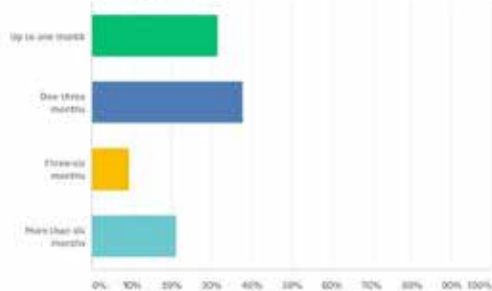
Answered: 95 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Complete closure of my cultural work is necessary (including entrepreneurship/freelancer status)	35.79% 34
Severe impact (reorganization of my activity to adjust to the new reality (for example by switching to online activity, remote service provision, etc.)	35.79% 34
Moderate impact (few changes are necessary)	11.58% 11
No impact	13.68% 13
Other (please specify)	3.16% 3
TOTAL	95

### Q14: How long can your individual or institutional cultural activity /cultural entrepreneurship/organization survive with your current reserves?

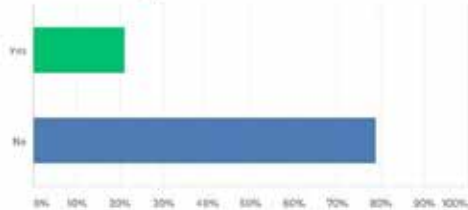
Answered: 95 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Up to one month	31.58% 30
One-three months	37.89% 36
Three-six months	9.47% 9
More than six months	21.05% 20
TOTAL	95

**Q15: Has the government/national cultural fund, the city or municipality cultural department (or any other entity) in your country contacted you for provision of any support as a result of this crisis?**

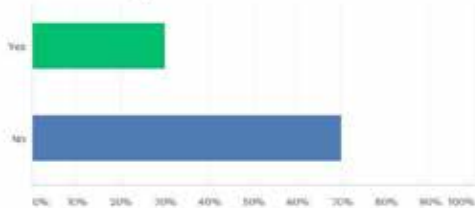
Answered: 95 Skipped: 50



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	21.05%
No	78.95%
TOTAL	95

**Q16: Are you aware of any national, regional or European post-crisis cultural and entrepreneurship- funding or support mechanisms offered to individuals and/ or entities working in the field of arts and culture?**

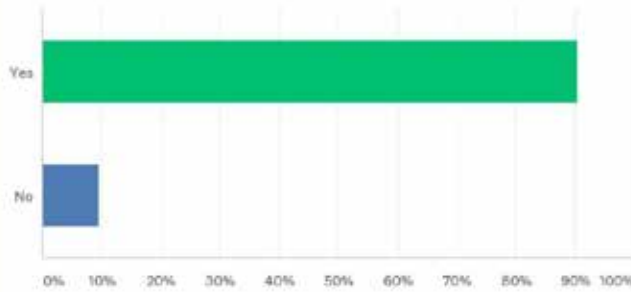
Answered: 93 Skipped: 52



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	30.11%
No	69.89%
TOTAL	93

### Q17: Would you share this with ERIAC?

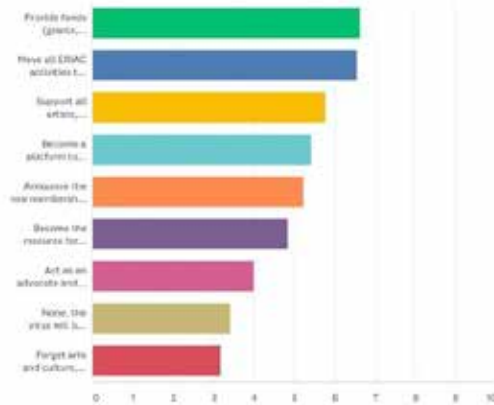
Answered: 31 Skipped: 114



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	90.32% 28
No	9.68% 3
TOTAL	31

### Q19: What mid-term activities do you believe ERIAC needs to take up in response to COVID-19? Please rank from 1 to 9, where 1 is most important and 9 least important:

Answered: 69 Skipped: 76



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL	SCORE	
Provide funds (grants, fellowships, support) as part as possible from the ERAC operational budget.	10.94%	11.03%	10.94%	10.14%	4.11%	0.70%	2.08%	0.00%	0.00%	34	0.10	Because a preference is given to supporting research opportunities in arts and culture aimed to ERAC members and more directly to their contribution.
Help at ERAC activities to solve problems in financial community.	11.38%	11.29%	10.97%	12.07%	10.68%	6.73%	7.25%	2.80%	0.00%	36	0.11	Amongst the main motivation for an April 2019 call for future research to reach out to ERAC management if they are currently not able to make for significant changes.
Support of artists, researchers, cultural workers, NGOs, language learners, etc. for the ERAC membership acts a problem of competence about their culture activities, about the communication of projects as a result of COVID-19 outbreak, so that they can expand national or regional projects, cultural and entrepreneurial building mechanisms.	10.14%	11.38%	11.94%	8.10%	11.74%	7.25%	12.04%	1.45%	0.20%	38	0.12	Initiate the creation of new and structures or the already existing structures.
	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00	Act as an advocate and representative by setting up a "committee" of ERAC cultural practices.
	10.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	10	0.00	Since the ERAC will be a step towards a new and more a region.
	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00	Target who and where, with a multi-level and multi-participant.



**ERIAC**  
**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
**TO INTERNATIONAL**  
**CONFERENCES,**  
**ARTS AND CULTURAL**  
**INITIATIVES**



## **“Who Is Afraid Of Identity Politics?” ERIAC Joined the Discussion at the CEU**

On 23 January 2020 the third roundtable discussion of the Romani Studies Program (RSP) was held, this time the event was jointly organized by the Department of Political Science at CEU. The invited scholars critically reflected on identity politics and the potentials and dilemmas of identity-based activism in the Romani movement.

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), talked about the importance of narratives and stories in identity formation. She critiqued the way Roma identity has been framed by those who are not part of this community and highlighted the importance of first-person narratives which can foster a positive culture, ethnic pride, and affirmation. She also addressed the importance of using identities in plural which can open up the concept and draw attention to its fluid, intersectional and inclusive nature. Dr Mirga Kruszelnicka argued that ERIAC provides a space to negotiate identities and therefore, it is a resource for mobilization.

Ciprian Cătălin Necula, who is part of the Aresel Movement, talked about the role and responsibility of states and scholars in (mis-) recognizing Romani identity. Several nation-states, including Romania, developed historically by creating an inferior Other, a role which Roma had to play. Contemporary states treat Roma as a vulnerable social group and do not recognize it as a nation. In a similar manner, several scholars deny the existence of the Romani nation and Romani identity.

Ismael Cortés, member of the Spanish Parliament, recalled that identity politics was originally emancipatory and post-colonial. Those having a hegemonic identity are threatened by identity politics. However, today identity politics is more and more about exclusion and fragmentation. He highlighted the importance of strategic alliances beyond ethnic identities.

Professor Zsolt Enyedi, who was invited as the discussant from the Political Science department, talked about the implications of focusing solely on identity politics and the way values and interests were overshadowed in recent elections. The 19th century template of nation building does not fit the 21st century. The Romani nation may provide an alternative. However, the success of the Romani movement must be measured by traditional economic and political standards, i.e. economic development and access to politics.

## ERAC joins MUCEM to curate “BARVALO” – an exhibition about Roma

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) and Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MUCEM) in Marseille, France, are proud to announce the beginning of their partnership with the objective of developing an exhibition about European and Mediterranean Romani cultures, professions, and “know-how”.

The exhibition “BARVALO”, will be developed by a curatorial team composed of Jonah Steinberg, professor at the University of Vermont, USA, Julia Ferloni, curator at MUCEM, and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, who will represent ERAC in the curatorial team.

The exhibition is envisaged as a collaborative and participatory project, bringing together Roma and non-Roma contributors. “A Committee of Experts” was established to create a collaborative platform to provide direct input into the exhibition. The “Committee of Experts” is composed of 17 Roma and non-Roma researchers, activists and museologists from across Europe.

Over the next two years the exhibition will be developed through a series of collaborative workshops, engaging directly with Roma community members alongside scholars and curators.

The exhibition will be on display between April and August 2023 and will be accompanied by a program of cultural and educational activities. The opening of the exhibition is set for April 18 2023.

### ABOUT MUCEM

The Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations (MuCEM; French: Musée des Civilisations de l’Europe et de la Méditerranée) is a national museum located in Marseille, France. It was inaugurated on 7 June 2013 as part of Marseille-Provence 2013, a year when Marseille was designated as the European Capital of Culture. By the following year, it had joined the ranks of the 50 most visited museums in the world.

The museum is devoted to European and Mediterranean civilisations. With a permanent collection charting historical and cultural cross-fertilisation in the Mediterranean basin, it takes an interdisciplinary approach to society through the ages up to modern times. The Mucem is interested in the contemporary aspects of European and Mediterranean civilizations. Its collections include more than 350,000 objects, as well as a large assortment of documents, comprising a total of a million works of art, documents and objects, an extraordinary treasure trove that is promoted by means of an ambitious programme of permanent and temporary exhibitions. The 21st century museum aims to be a real cultural centre covering a vast swath of history, making use of all the disciplines of the humanities and social sciences and displaying artistic expressions from both shores of the Mediterranean.

## **Digital High-Level-Conference launching the new “EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation”**

ERIAC participated at the “Digital High-Level-Conference launching the new “EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation” 2020-2030 online high-level conference launched by the German EU Presidency and the Commission.

The presentation and discussion of the new initiative was organised around four panels, which aim to convey different perspectives on the topics through short statements.

Panel 1, ‘Fighting and preventing antigypsyism and discrimination in the EU and beyond’, highlighted the focus of the new initiative, which addresses antigypsyism both as a crosscutting issue in the four priority areas – education, employment, housing and health – and as a self-standing area. It aims to raise awareness among Member States of the common fight against antigypsyism and discrimination.

Panel 2, ‘Promoting participation by empowerment and trust’, gave a voice to different stakeholders, in particular European and national civil society organisations, to discuss best practices and key challenges related to equal participation of Roma, another main target of the new initiative.

Panel 3, ‘Monitoring and reporting to enable policy learning’, reflected the focus on improving target setting, data collection, monitoring and reporting to enable the measurement of progress towards Roma equality, inclusion and participation.

Panel 4, ‘Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Roma’, enabled reflections on the overview of the situation in different Member States stemming from National Roma Contact Points, and national and European civil society organisations, as well as discussions on the impact of the new initiative.

Speakers at the #EURoma2030 high-level conference came from a variety of backgrounds, with Roma fully involved. The event brought together around 400 participants, representing relevant national authorities from the EU Member States, enlargement countries, international organisations, EU and national NGO networks and European Institutions.

## ERIAC Statement:

"Dear Commissioner Dalli, Dear Minister Seehofer, Distinguished participants, Dear colleagues,

We applaud the Commission for continuing to fight the discrimination against Roma. We applaud the Commission for continuing to fight discrimination against Roma. We must complement the Framework's attempts to mainstream equality across policies (such as socio-economic inclusion, artificial intelligence, the European Green Deal, digital inclusion and the fight against hate speech). We seek further information on how these policies connect to the budgetary instruments of the EU.

Much to our regret, the current Framework Strategy is not sufficiently articulated – relegating culture secondary into the guidelines section: into ANNEX 1 of the document where it provides instructions to the member states on how to develop their national strategies, on how to tackle antigypsyism through history and role models, and how to promote awareness of Roma arts, history and culture.

Combating antigypsyism – the horizontal priority – gives us only a definition of the problem. The proven experience of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is that we cannot combat antigypsyism without a rich cultural munition: a positive vision, where an effective counter-narrative and a strong counter-representation is a must.

What is happening to Roma in the form of discrimination, exclusion, antigypsyism is just a proxy of the cultural war, that is taking place in Europe. The cultural war that Orban, Salvini, le Pen and others wage against Europe, plays out in all areas of our lives.

The moment of history that we are in, is to answer the question, what are the values of Europe? The Roma Framework resides in this context.

The Strategy begins with the statement by President von der Leyen, Vice-President Jourová and Commissioner Dalli „We must promote diversity as a wonderful gift that makes Europe strong and resilient."

This calling for diversity as Europe's gift and core strength acknowledges the fundamentally cultural quality of this significant moment in history. Changing of attitudes (as Commissioner Dalli said earlier today) is a cultural uptaking.

The true combating of antigypsyism is the recognition of the power, potential and pride contained in the concept of being a Roma. The counterculture that combats racism and anti-gypsyism is accepting that Roma are qualified and eager to take the leading role in shaping their own future. The counter-representation disseminates the highest-quality standards in arts and culture, it demonstrates the Roma respect for diversity in our communities. These principles are the founding principles of ERIAC, they stand in front of you as the pillars of a potent strategy for diversity and prosperity.

To take up the fight against antigypsyism means to give forms to positive, empowering, genuine visions about Roma. This is indispensable for the nurturing of a next generation of not only Roma but of Europeans, who are aware of our inter-dependencies, mutual contributions, connected histories and our inseparable futures.

Unless the prejudiced concept of Roma among the majority society is challenged, socio-economic progress will be slow or I dare say, impossible. Prejudice and ignorance about Roma needs to be diminished proactively through measures which contribute to changing public perceptions on Roma and educating majority societies.

Robust investment into Roma arts, culture, history and identity can maximize the impact of other policy efforts in other areas. Without this approach, galvanizing public support and political will for the needed investment into Roma inclusion will continue to remain absent.

Let me be clear – investment in the field of Roma culture is not of value only in and of itself. It needs to be understood as a strategy that enables all other efforts in the remaining priority areas to have impact.

European level and state-level cultural policies fail to specifically target the issues that Roma face in the cultural field, and without targeted policies and actions Roma identity, culture and heritage is on the path to be completely demolished.

The Framework strategy needs to aim at durable solutions, such as:

- Recommend cultural policies and financial support specifically targeting the challenges Roma cultural heritage faces;
- Initiate programs for Roma recognition in the majority cultural spaces,
- Establish permanent Roma cultural institutions;
- Ensure access to Roma cultural heritage

- Ensure adequate mechanisms of Roma self-representation, participation and monitoring;

The Framework strategy calls on member states to use existing efforts on culture and heritage, for Roma cultural inclusion, for example: cultural policy frameworks (New European Agenda for Culture, European framework for action on cultural heritage and EU strategy for international cultural relations) and the Council's 2019-2022 Work Plan for Culture). These efforts actually inhibit Roma self-representation and Roma leadership, by setting criteria and expectations that only a consortium of primarily majority institutions with public funding are able to access. None of these EU culture funding mechanisms had a Roma lead partner to date...but hundreds of applicants.

ERIAC through its international network of organisations, and its membership of 143 entities is ready to consult, support and make efforts for the vision of the Framework strategy.

As ERIAC Chairman, Zeljko Jovanovic stated: „The European Commission needs to innovate and spread the message of possibility in European societies, so that stigmatization and racism is confronted by stories of accomplishment, possibility and hope – so that what governments need to do is not in vain”.

# **FINANCIAL**

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# **REPORT**

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The following short paragraph is a summary presenting the monetary activity of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in 2020. The Financial activity in 2020 has fulfilled the provisioned extents of ERIAC's financial planning and had even achieved outstanding results in fundraising with the total revenue of 1.384.600,72 EUR. 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 2020 calendar year add up to nearly 1.000.224,26 EUR, out of which the personnel related expenses were 172.374,45 EUR (17,24%) and the institution related operative and indirect costs added up to 150.193,56 EUR (15 %).

- ERIAC followed the finance management regulations of the German non-profit law with the support of SCHOMERUS Consulting and book-keeping GmbH.
- The 2017 ERIAC Financial Report was submitted and approved by the Finanzamt (Financial Authority) of Germany. The "Tax Exempt" status of ERIAC was confirmed and is valid until 2023.
- The institutional donors made their contributions in 2020: The Council of Europe contributed 200.000 EUR in June 2020, The Open Society Foundations a total of 642.418,67 EUR in January and December 2020; securing the operation of the institution until the end of 2022. Due to the different payment schedule of institutional donors, institutional support matched in December 2020.
- In 2020, ERIAC fundraised 514.238,57 EUR.

#### Fundraising Results\*

FFO Roma Cultural History Initiative	200,000.00 €
Stiftung EVZ	22,000.00 €
Pro Helvetia	2.808,99 €
Nordisk Kulturfonden	2.003,58 €
Open Society Foundation - Innovation program	177,698.80 €
Roma Entrepreneurship Development Association- Innovation program	25,000.00 €
EU Solidarity Corps - ERASMUS+ program	14,727.20 €

FFO Council of Europe Presidency I project	70,000.00 €
<b>TOTAL FUNDRAISING 2020</b>	<b>514.238,57 €</b>

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