

3rd MEETING OF THE ERIAC BARVALIPE ACADEMY

16 November, 2020

16:00 – 17:30 (CET)

Bluejeans/ Online

MINUTES

Participants:

Barvalipe Academy Members:

Jarmila Balazova, Delaine Le Bas, Maria Bogdan, Ethel Brooks, Herbert Heuss, Florin Nasture, Miguel Angel Vargas, Mihaela Zatreanu

Management:

Timea Junghaus

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Minute-taker: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Welcome address by Chair dr. Maria Bogdan. Chairwoman presented the objectives of Barvalipe Academy Meeting, reviewed the agenda and appointed Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka as the minute-taker. Chairwoman underlined that we have a quorum to take decisions. She also indicated that those members who could not attend, will be invited to provide input in writing.

Session 1: Reviewing the Theory of Change

Objective: Reviewing the Theory of Change – developed based on the insights from the survey, ERIAC strategic conversations, Barvalipe and thematic section meetings, based on the proposal of the Board

ERiac executive management, Timea Junghaus presented the Theory of Change. She highlighted that this document is a distilled version, which is developed based on the long discussions and input from:

- Barvalipe Academy members through discussions
- Thematic sections' meetings
- Over 100 members
- Board discussions
- Digested by management

Based on this input, the ERIAC Board concluded that 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.
2. Build on the recent breakthrough CoE commitments to Roma history teaching.
3. Advance the sense of pride and belonging among the Roma.

Main points of the discussion:

- MEDIA is not represented well enough. Media is responsible for the image of Roma in all countries. Work in the field of MEDIA should be reflected in a more explicit way and ERIAC should have impact in the media coverage.
- History is a very important element of reinforcing Roma identity internationally. To do this, ERIAC should develop materials that promote a unifying historical view which can be then adapted in other countries. The material should emphasize common points of identity. Romani language is should be at the core of this process - not by creating a unified language but by promoting the common basis, linguistic things we share. Identity can be reinforced through personalities in Europe that are Roma, for example Nicolae Gheorghe; other famous personalities such as painters, musicians etc. should be included. These personalities should be celebrated as belonging to the broad Roma community, and not only to the nationals of the countries where they come from.
- Regarding building transnational Roma identity, concerns were raised to focus on national level as well, especially on national minority status of Roma. Much of the cultural policies are the competency of member states and not Brussels or Strasbourg. ERIAC can promote transnational identity and reinforce national minority/ identity status at the same time. ERIAC need to write Roma into the history of nations. ERIAC needs to negotiate the transnational and the local. ERIAC should connect the national and the international - use the international tools existing at the CoE and EU. These levels are intertwined.
- Books and publications are important. Online University has a good potential and should be continued.
- Building new ERIAC branches is important and should remain at the core of the ERIAC strategy.
- Digital transformation: the covid-19 put ERIAC online and the management transformed the ERIAC profile to the digital – very active, closer to the community, more visible, educating. It is successful. ERIAC is more powerful because of this.
- The theory of change should clearly indicate a timeline and specific objectives what concretely will be achieved, possibly including indicators and milestones.

- ERIAC should address different levels of education and knowledge-transfer - target the school system and curricula, not only university level, but also focus on primary school, children, high-school. ERIAC should advocate for Romani language teaching in formal school education.
- The theory of change should have different targets – building up Roma transnational identity – to clearly target Roma.
- ERIAC needs to assess the cultural field and the existing institutions which are shaping the Roma arts and culture field – from evangelical churches to festivals to mainstream non-Roma institutions who dominate the cultural field of Roma arts.
- In addressing infrastructure, ERIAC should maintain a careful balance between the virtual and the real.

Session 2: Proposals for the Strategic Objectives and connected activities, 2020-2025

The ERIAC management shared the plan of Activities 2021 and requested input of the Barvalipe Academy, both for short-term (2021) and long-term strategic objectives.

Main points of the discussion:

Social media campaign – what is it about, we need more information?

- There should be a cohesion of activities
- Establishing a calendar of recurring activities is important
- Increased role of Barvalipe Academy in shaping and implementing activities for those who express interest
- More detailed information should be sent well in advance to provide time for reflection
- ERIAC should establish recurring annual event and activities as “ERIANC traditions”
- Successful initiatives should continue

Additional elements which are missing and should be added:

- 40 years of Central Council of German Sinti and Roma - 5/6 February 2022
- Annual celebration of the International Day of Flamenco

Barvalipe Academy recommends to send the excel document by email to provide further comments in writing.

Next steps:

- Barvalipe Academy to provide further information in writing by 20.11
- ERIAC management to share confidential draft of Activities 2021 with the Barvalipe Academy

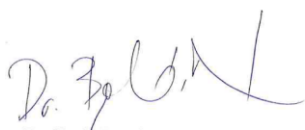
- Next meeting should also address the question of the membership mandate and procedure for renewal and substitution of Barvalipe Members.

The Chair dr. Bogdan thank all present members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 17.30.



Appointed Minute-taker: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

I hereby confirm the correctness of the above minutes of the meeting of the Barvalipe Academy on November 16 2020



Chair of the Barvalipe Academy: Maria Bogdan

In compliance with the ERIAC Statutes and the Rules of Procedure this Minutes are to be prepared, signed by the minute-taker and confirmed by the Chair of the Barvalipe Academy. The abridge version of these minutes shall be published on the web portal of the association.