

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (ERiac)
On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the First World Roma Congress**

8. April 2021

17:30 – 18:30 CET

HELD ONLINE

MINUTES

Attendees:

Board members: Gilda Horvath, Željko Jovanović

Observers: Anita Czikonczy (RIO), Kinga Rethy (RIO)

Barvalipe Academy: Maria Bogdan, Delia Grigore, Florin Nasture, Miguel Angel Vargas, Mihaela Zatreanu

ERiac Associate Members: Sonia Carmona, Xhekson Cela, Rosa Cisneros, Jo Clement, Miroslav Ciuba, Imogen Di Sapia, Mate Dezso, Nina Dudek, Asmet Elezovski, Iancu Gabor, Beatrice Hamblett, Emilie Herbert Pontilier, Jose Heredia, Gabi Jimenes, Jovana Kastratovic, Ljuan Koka, Vera Lackova, Aluna Lepaduta, Justyna Matkowska, Andrzej Mirga, Gosia Mirga-Tas, Elzbieta Mirga Wojtowicz, Emil Metodiev, Gonzalo Montano, Avni Mustafa, Sami Mustafa, Moritz Pankok, Dijana Pavlovic, Salament Prizereni, Nadir Redjepi, Fabian Sanchez, Inger Sigfridsson, Samat Skenderi, Suad Skenderi, Sebastian Serifovic, Santino Spinelli, Bledi Taho, George Vasilescu

ERiac Team: Timea Junghaus, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Joanna Khandijeva, Andrea Petrus, Silvija Nešić, Jake Bowers, Livia Marschall, Denisa Tomkova, Natali Tomenko, Eglantina Aliu, Neven Mesec, Agota Szilagy, Jadranka Ivkovic

Minute-taker: Almir Huseini

Opening Remarks and Introduction

Chair of the ERIAC Board, Željko Jovanović, acting as the Chair of the General Assembly, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Chairman appointed Almir Huseini as the minute taker. He presented the agenda and the objectives of the meeting.

Special-produced version of the Romani anthem „Gelem, Gelem“ is played.

The Chair in his welcoming address emphasized the importance of coming together and celebrating our International Roma Day. On the 50th anniversary of the First World Roma Congress it is important that we are here and that we celebrate Romani courage and self-determination. Romani leaders in 1971 had the courage to proclaim Romani nation across borders and strive for self-determination. ERIAC was inspired by the idea of taking the legacy forward by creating an institution which will celebrate and unify Roma in all its diversity. As a sign of an appreciation to all Roma experts, leaders, artists and historians, the ERIAC alliance, board and members all attendees gave a big round of an applause.

Report by the ERIAC management

ERIANC Executive Director Timea Junghaus started by reflecting on the importance of today's meeting. She emphasized the importance of the 8th of April 1971 when Roma artists, producers and leaders shaped the Roma world by claiming the recognition as a group and forming a common transnational platform.

Timea Junghaus begun the Management report by highlighting that ERIAC is at the turning point as the Board has finally approved the ERIAC 2021-2025 strategy, shaping the ERIAC priorities and strategic objectives:

1. Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the visibility of Roma talent;
2. Build on the inclusion of the Roma materials in the history teachings.
3. Advancing the sense of pride and belonging of Roma.

She reminded that attendees that strategic goals are defined with support of all the members and those could be achieved with the members' active support. Executive director presented updates regarding the opening of ERIAC first branch - the ERIAC Serbia based in Belgrade is hosting an "open doors" on this day. ERIAC associate members continue to contribute to building alliances with majority institutions and partners. With support of the ERIAC members, ERIAC continues to produce major results that contribute to the Romani community in different fields for the recognition of Roma arts and culture. ERIAC achieved what everyone always wanted being a cultural embassy of all Roma.

ERIANC Deputy Director, Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka asserted the success of ERIAC which is proved by the high number of members who applied in 2020: 76 new members applied in 2020, growing the overall ERIAC community to 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. She reminded the participants of the importance of complying with the principles of contribution which supports our collective cause, reinforces our pride and independence. ERIAC is stronger thanks to its members – and they should be the carriers of the ERIAC mission as multiplies and local ambassadors that lead the true change on the ground. On this date, ERIAC announced launching the 4th call for members for 2021.

Presentation of the ERIAC Census campaign and discussion

Jake Bowers and Livia Marschall were introduced as the new ERIAC team members responsible for leading the new census campaign project. Jake Bowers and Livia Marshal described the Census campaign's objective to engage with Roma communities across Europe emphasizing the Roma pride, unity and courage. The Assembly were given a detailed presentation of the robust, inclusive and broad campaign including visual identity, items production, public interventions online and offline to increase the unity, pride and Roma identity. ERIAC invited its members to take part in the campaign and support performative actions online and offline.

The participants were invited to use the visual identity of the campaign, especially the special commemorative designs developed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Roma Day.

The members of the Assembly discussed the principles of the campaign and provided specific ideas for actions and interventions. The Assembly discussed the next steps.

Before closing of the General Assembly the attendees were invited to a joint action of taking a collective selfie using the campaign visual identity with a raised fist and say together "Opre Roma".

With this action, the Chair of the General Assembly thanks all the participants and closed the meeting.

Approval date of the final Minute-document: April 10, 2020.

Zeljko Jovanovic



Chair of the General Assembly: Zeljko Jovanovic
Signed the original document

Almir Huseini



Appointed Minute-taker: Almir Huseini
Signed the original document