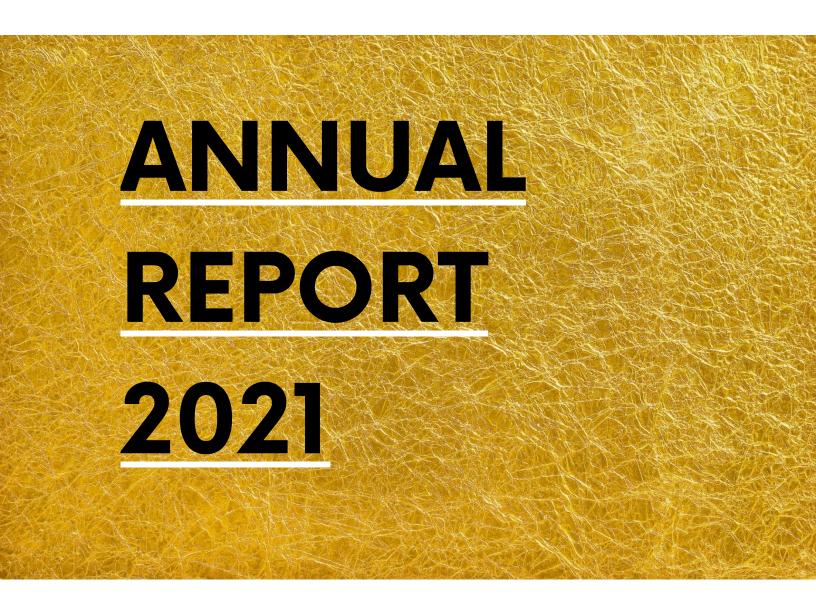
### ERIAC EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE



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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 and launched in Berlin, Germany on June 8, 2017.

In 2021, ERIAC continued to stabilize as an international organization promoting Roma arts and culture in Europe and beyond.

### Governance and Strategy

In 2021, ERIAC focused on developing initiatives which meet the ERIAC Strategic Objectives 2021-2025, approved by the ERIAC Board in 2020. In 2021, ERIAC limited its operations to the initiatives included in the detailed Plan of Activities for 2021, and respecting the corresponding budget, approved by the Board.

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. The official ERIAC Serbia launching event was postponed to May 2021 due to the pandemic.

In 2021, ERIAC fulfilled its statutory obligations of its governing bodies:

- ERIAC Associate Membership:
  - ERIAC successfully launched and completed the fourth call for associate members and renewed the membership from the previous years. 64 new members applied: 12 institutional and 52 individual members. After reviewing the applications, the ERIAC Board approved 64 new applicants, who complied with the ERIAC membership criteria.
  - ERIAC hosted two General Assembly meetings: one extraordinary public assembly organized on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the First World Roma Congress on Thursday, April 8th, 2021. The IV General Assembly meetings took place on December 9, 2021, in Belgrade, Serbia.
  - ERIAC hosted 6 additional thematic section meetings in 2021: 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 2021 – 5th meeting on September 24, 2021, and 6th meeting on November 24, 2021.

In 2021, the 3-year mandates of the Barvalipe Academy members, appointed in 2018, expired. Following the ERIAC Board meeting and the IV ERIAC General Assembly, new members were appointed to the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy.

In accordance with the ERIAC statute, 7 members of the Barvalipe Academy were nominated by the permanent members of ERIAC. The 7 members appointed are:

- Ethel Brooks
- David Peña Dorantes
- Tony Gatlif
- Nedjo Osman
- Romani Rose
- Iulius Rostas
- Mihaela Zatreanu

The remaining 8 members of the Baravlipe Academy were elected by the associate members through the thematic sections. Each section delegated two representatives to Barvalipe. Following the nomination process and elections conducted in each thematic section, the General Assembly appointed the following representatives to the Barvalipe Academy:

- Arts and Culture:
  - Miguel Angel Vargas
  - o Santino Spinelli
- Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture:
  - Maria Bogdan
  - o Delia Mandalina Grigore
- History and Commemoration:
  - o Ismael Cortés
  - Museum of Roma Culture in Brno
- Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture
  - o Gilda Horvath/Nancy Black
  - Isaac Blake

### Pakiv Board:

The Pakiv Board held two Board meetings: on October 8, 2021, and on December 9, 2021.

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

- ERIAC continued its collaboration with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, implementing the "International Membership Engagement Initiative". This project engaged over 189 active Roma and non-Roma contributors, produced 22 high-quality events with the involvement of 15 lecturers and 69 panelists and moderators as part of the Barvalipe Roma Online University and engaged 98 contributors, 15 authors (curators, artists), 11 translators and 15 authors; 27 contributors as part of the RomaMoMA initiative and 35 contributors, 25 conference speakers, 4 conference moderators, 2 conference speakers, 2 conference translators and 3 language council members as part of the Language Reform.
- ERIAC launched the "Roma component program within the framework of the German Presidency of the Council of Europe in 2021". Following on the success of its project in 2020, ERIAC continued the activities in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in 2021. ERIAC hosted a series of events and conferences as the Romani Language Reform Conference on November 5; and Hate Speech and Antigypsyism in the Media Conference, to raise awareness of the importance of awareness of the importance of Roma arts and culture by highlighting the contributions of Roma to majority societies and advocate for the building of institutional alliances to combating the misrepresentation of the Roma and the various manifestations of Antigypsyism.
- In 2021, as a year of the continuing 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 art exhibitions, including 3 in Berlin (at the ERIAC Berlin gallery space) and 3 in Belgrade (ERIAC Serbia Space and at the National Theater of Belgrade). In total, ERIAC featured the works of 24 artists. Additionally, ERIAC contributed with a curatorial concept to the exhibition RESIST! The art of Resistance at the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne curated the exhibition Art and Healing- A Roma Contribution for Europe at the Schafhof European Center for Art Upper Bavaria, co-curated program of the Off-Biennale Budapest 2021, partnered with the Autostrada Biennale to feature work of the Polish Romany artist Małgorzata Mirga-Tas in Prizren, collaborated on the exhibition of the Bosnian artist Selma Selman at the Kasseler Kunstverein in Kassel. and participated in the Vulnerable Archives project coordinated by Savvy Contemporary in Berlin.

- ERIAC hosted the Winners Caricature Competition, part II of the Council of Europe Project, receiving 9 portfolio submissions.
- ERIAC continued its Residency Program developed in partnership with Villa Romana in Florence. After a competitive open call for artists, the Jury selected two Roma contemporary artists: L'uboš Kotlar and Norbert Oláh.
- ERIAC developed the branding of and launched the Proud Roma, Free Europe transnational campaign in April 2021, marking the 50th anniversary of the birth of the Romani civil rights movement. The campaign, run by a coalition of international, national and grassroots Romani organisations, is designed to strengthen Roma pride and identity, and to mobilise Roma to declare their ethnic identity in the national censuses across Europe. In 2021, ERIAC contributed to 3 national census campaigns in Slovakia, North Macedonia and Bulgaria and produced the short film "Proud Roma" written and directed by Spanish-Romani filmmaker Pablo Vega and starring Alina Şerban and Tony Gabarry.
- In the framework of WEAVE, ERIAC developed three LabDays. The first one in relation to the Biennale Arte 2022 in Venice, the second on the International Day of Romani Language and the third one showing the opportunities that artist residencies bring to Roma artists.
- 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 2021. Furthermore, on May 21, 2021, ERIAC had the pleasure to deliver an online course for the staff members of the European Commission entitled "ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE'S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU'S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS".
- TAJSA PRIZE 2021, Ceremony held on December 10 2021, at the National Theater of Belgrade, Serbia and the Winner was Zita Moldovan!

### Strategic Partnerships

- In 2021, ERIAC successfully continued the collaboration with the Federal Foreign Office, the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations and the Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture.
- ERIAC received the independent auditor who conducted the 3rd independent evaluation of ERIAC for the periods September 2019 July 2021, commissioned by the Council of Europe. The completed audit report was positive and provided relevant recommendations to the ERIAC Board and team. ERIAC was awarded additional project funding to implement the "Roma component of the German Council of Europe Presidency in 2021".

- ERIAC was awarded project funding from the EU in the framework of the European Solidarity Corps, supporting 2 Roma volunteers in ERIAC who joined the team in 2021.
- ERIAC became a partner of the International Press Institute (IPI) and MIDAS who announced the call for applications for the NewsSpectrum Fellowship. The fellowship is open to journalists and other media professionals working for minority-language media in the EU (including Roma and migrant languages) and aims to encourage working partnerships between minority- and majority-language news outlets. As part of this collaboration, ERIAC became a majority partner hosting 3 Roma fellows: Emil Metodiev, Artur Conka and Roma organization Romane Romnja.
- The RomaMoMA project, conceived jointly with the Off Biennale Budapest curatorial team, and hosted by ERIAC secured financial support from the Sigrid Rausing Trust and initiated a partnership with the International Committee for Museum and Collections of Modern Art.
- ERIAC began strategic collaboration with relevant majority cultural institutions and events, including the Venice Biennale, documenta 15, Manifesta 14 (Host City Pristina, Kosovo), Milano Triennale, Villa Romana in Florence (Artist Residency Program), the Schafhof European Center for Art Upper Bavaria, the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, the Kasseler Kunstverein, the Autostrada Biennale, the Savvy Contemporary in Berlin, and the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM).
- Furthermore, ERIAC continued its developing strategic collaborations with academic institutions, including the Central European University in Hungary, the Graz University in Austria and the Department of Romani Studies at Södertörn University (SH). With the Södertörn University (SH), ERIAC announced their institutional partnership to join forces in advancing critical Romani scholarship and ensuring greater presence of Romani scholarly voices in academic settings offering two university courses on Critical Romani Studies.
- ERIAC continued to cooperate closely with Roma-led organizations, including International Partners as: Open Society Roma Initiatives Office (RIO), Roma Education Fund (REF), Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI); and National Partners as: Aresel (Romania), Avaja (North Macedonia), Kethane (Italy), Roma Standing Conference (Bulgaria), 1Magyarorszag Kezdemenyezes (Hungary), Idetartozunk Egyesulet (Hungary), Opre Roma Srbija (Serbia), Hrdí Rómovia na slobodnom Slovensku (Slovakia), KOSINT (Kosovo), Opre Roma Kosovo, Asocijacija mladih Roma Aksiom (Bosnia) and Camelamos (Spain).

### Financial Health

ERIAC maintains monthly book-keeping and creates a Yearly Financial Report for 2021 with the support of the Accounting and Consulting firm Schomerus & Partners GmbH. Schomerus continuously audited ERIAC's finance throughout 2021 and assisted the Management with the external audits. In 2021 two successful independent audits took place in ERIAC. Künstlersozialkasse (KSK) conducted the audit, providing the outstanding report on the ERIAC's administration of the compulsory payments of the social security for artists and collaborators. Additionally, Council of Europe conducted programing and financial audit of ERIAC in October 2021, with the audit report confirming immaculacy in project implementation, administration and finances of ERIAC. 2021 ERIAC Management worked on new procedures and practices to maintain additional stability in the finance management of ERIAC.

ERIAC in 2021 achieved revenue of 730.295,69 EUR. From year 2020 ERIAC carried to 2021 a financial roll-over in multi-year project commitment of 919.530,27 Euros. The institutional donor Open Society Foundations committed to support ERIAC with institutional funding in the upcoming 2022 and 2023, while Council of Europe in 2021 and 2022 respectively. ERIAC Management put additional effort in fundraising: and achieved 516.449,23 EUR of programing support. The Federal Foreign Office Germany continued its financial support to ERIAC programming for the International Outreach project.

The financial expenditure of 901.296,73 EUR in 2021 was fully in compliance with the Yearly Program of Activities and Budget Plan approved by the Board. The Financial resources (Revenue and rollover) in 2021 and the expenditures in comparison to the previous years shows the stabilizing of the finances, and a planned longer term institutional susutainability of the ERIAC Institution.

ERIAC 2020 ROLLOVER IN TO 2021		
Name of the Grantee/Donor	Title	Rollover amount (EUR)
Council of Europe (2017-2020)	Institutional support	296.940,91 €
Open Society Foundations (2020-2022)	Institutional support	544.913,69 €
Open Society Foundations Roma Armee Grant	Project grant	55.895,10 €
ERIAC Innovation Grant - Matching Fund ECF	Project – post financed	-5.850,00 €
ERIAC Innovation Grant - Matching Fund DOKUZENTER	Project – post financed	-7.000,00 €
Jügend fur Europa - ERASMUS +	Project – post financed	14.727,20 €
ERIAC own resources - Donations	Own resources	14.267,10 €
ERIAC own resources - Membership	Own resources	5.636,27 €
TOTAL ROLLOVER TO 2021		919.530,27€

ERIAC PROGRAMING FINANCIAL REVENUE 2021		
Name of the Grantee/Donor	Title	Received
		amount (EUR)
Federal Foreign Office, Germany	Project grant	180.000,00 €
Open Society Foundations - Census Campaign	Project grant	260.964,73 €
Sigrid Rausing Trust	Project grant	16.847,27 €
Europeana WEAVE	Project grant	36.834,73 €
Dokuzenter - Innovation grant	Matching project funding	12.850,00 €
	-Post financed	
International Press Institute	Project grant	8.952,50 €
TOTAL REVENUE PROGRAMS 2021		516.449,23
		€

ERIAC DONATIONS, MEMBE	rship fees and other
Title	Received
	amount (EUR)
Donations	0,00 €
Miscellaneous, returned amounts	10.956,01 €
Membership fees	2.890,45 €
TOTAL DONATIONS, MEMBERSHIP FEES	13.846,46 €

### **ERIAC ACTIVITIES 2021 IN NUMBERS**

- Hosted International Conferences/Symposiums: 3
- ERIAC-curated exhibitions: 6
- Hosted online competition: 1
- Active project contributors to ERIAC cultural programming:
  - In the framework of "International Membership Engagement Initiative" program: over 200
  - Active Contributors: 189Institutional Partners: 10
  - Offline Events 3
  - Online Events: 19
  - Website Visits: 13000
  - Facebook Reach of Events and Posts: 158152
  - Facebook Growth: 5%Instagram Growth: 5%
  - Conferences with an Archive of Materials: 3
  - Cultural Programs Recorded and Archived: 21
  - Musicians performing on stage: 17
- ERIAC General Assemblies: 2
- ERIAC Thematic Section meetings: 6
- ERIAC Barvalipe Academy meetings: 2
- ERIAC Board meetings: 2
- ERIAC Social Media Community:
  - Facebook: 17.437 followersInstagram: 2537 followers

### Social Media Impact and Results

The ERIAC Facebook community grew to 17.4K followers in 2021, an increase of over 3.057 followers in a year. In 2020 ERIAC had 14.5K followers.

In 2021 ERIAC Social Media Impact mainly on Facebook and Instagram achieved the numbers below:

- Average weekly reach: 44.2K
- Average weekly post engagements: over 5.4 K
- ERIAC Barvalipe Online University has an average of 9.2 K
- ERIAC TAJSA 2021: 15.9K
- The ERIAC Instagram community grew to 2537 followers.

## ERIAC INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

### 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 policymaking arena.

Snežana Samardžić-Marković is 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 2021, the Pakiv Board held its meetings on October 8, 2021 and December 9, 2021.

In 2021, 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 2022 and the Financial Plan 2022.

### ERIAC STRATEGY 2021-2025

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

 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

Following the ERIAC Board meeting and the IV ERIAC General Assembly, new members were appointed to the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy. The 3-year mandate of the Barvalipe Academy members, appointed in 2018, expires in 2021.

In accordance with the ERIAC statute, 7 members of the Barvalipe Academy were nominated by permanent members of ERIAC. The 7 members appointed are:

- Ethel Brooks
- David Peña Dorantes
- Tony Gatlif
- Nedjo Osman
- Romani Rose
- Iulius Rostas
- Mihaela Zatreanu

The remaining 8 members of the Barvalipe Academy are elected by the members through the thematic sections. Each section delegated two representatives to Barvalipe. Following the nomination process and elections conducted in each thematic section, the General Assembly appointed the following representatives to the Barvalipe Academy:

### Arts and Culture:

- Miguel Angel Vargas
- Santino Spinelli

Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture:

- Maria Bogdan
- Delia Madalina Grigore

History and Commemoration:

- Ismael Cortés
- Jana Horvathova, on behalf of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno

Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture:

- Gilda Horvath/Nancy Black
- Isaac Blake

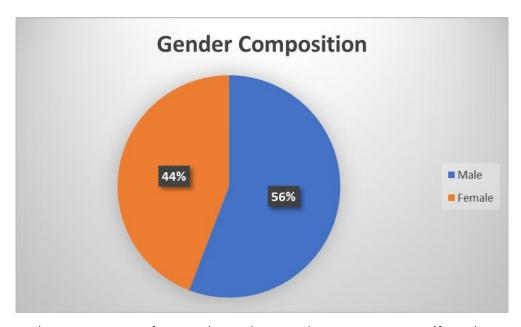
The Barvalipe Academy held two meetings in 2021 – 5th meeting on September 24, 2021, and 6th meeting on November 24, 2021.

### 3. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

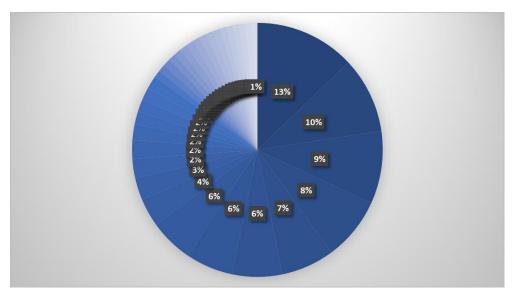
### 4th Call for ERIAC Associate Membership

In 2021, ERIAC successfully launched and completed the fourth call for associate members and renewed the membership from the previous years. 64 new members applied: 12 institutional members; 52 individual members. After reviewing the applications, the ERIAC Board approved 64 new applicants, who comply with the ERIAC membership founding principles.

In total in 2021, the ERIAC community is composed of 235 members: 5 Pakiv Board Members (including 3 permanent members), 15 Barvalipe Academy members and 215 Associate Members, including 173 individual and 34 institutional, and 8 Alliance members.



International Composition of ERIAC brought together 34 countries: (from largest to smallest)

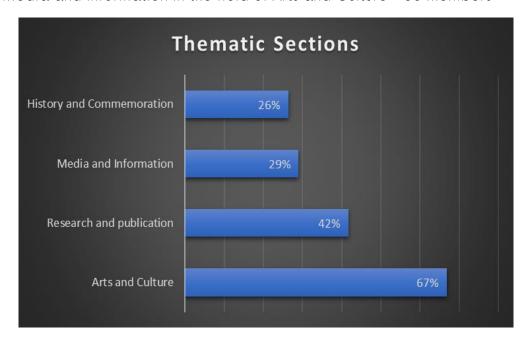


Romania, 14%; Germany, 10%; United Kingdom, 10%; North Macedonia, 9%; Serbia, 7%; United States of America, 7%; Spain, 6%; Hungary, 6%; Bulgaria, 4%; France, 3%; Albania, 3%; Slovakia, 3%; Poland, 2%; Canada, 2%; Czech Republic, 2%; Ireland, 2%; Italy, 2%; Argentina, 1%; Brazil, 1%; Greece, 1%; India, 1%; Luxembourg, 1%; Moldova, 1%; Norway, 1%; Philippines, 1%; Russia, 1%; Switzerland, 1%; Ukraine, 1%; Austria, 1%; Belgium, 1 %; BiH, 1%; Croatia, 1%; Kosovo, 1% and Sweden, 1%.

### **ERIAC Thematic Sections**

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

- Arts and Culture 157 members
- History and Commemoration 62 members
- Research and publication in the field of Arts and Culture 98 members
- Media and Information in the field of Arts and Culture 68 members



### ERIAC GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

### ERIAC Extraordinary assembly

ERIAC held an extraordinary General Assembly organized on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the First World Roma Congress on Thursday, April 8th, 2021.

Chair of the ERIAC Board, Željko Jovanović emphasized the importance of coming together and celebrating our International Roma Day, which means celebrating Romani courage and self-determination.

All ERIAC statutory bodies, including ERIAC Board members, ERIAC Barvalipe Academy members, ERIAC associate members, and the ERIAC staff came together in a digital spirit to also formally kick off the Proud Roma Free Europe campaign aiming at strengthening Roma pride and identity.



The international campaign was aiming at strengthening Roma pride and identity developed in the context of the upcoming census collection which took place in 2021 and 2022 in most European countries. The international campaign provided multiple opportunities to Roma communities to be directly involved in different online and offline activities. Through the campaign, ERIAC also reinforced the national connections among our members and allies, to ensure greater presence and impact in Roma communities across Europe.

### ERIAC IV General Assembly

On December 9, 2021, at 18:00 – 20:00 CET, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) held its IV General Assembly meeting, which took place in a hybrid form – physically in ERIAC Serbia and REF offices and online via ZOOM.

For this meeting, all ERIAC statutory bodies, including ERIAC Board members, ERIAC Barvalipe Academy members, ERIAC associate members, and the ERIAC staff came together.

Before the official start of the General Assembly, the members were invited to a guided tour through the "Romani Chib" exhibition to ERIAC Serbia space. Then, the meeting continued to the conference room of the Roma Education Fund space.

Executive Director of ERIAC, Timea Junghaus opened the assembly pointing out the importance of respecting the Covid-19 Pandemic measurements and gathering together the ERIAC statutory bodies (offline and online). Chair of the ERIAC Board, Zeljko Jovanović continued the welcoming speech by mentioning the growth of the ERIAC community following the annual call for members to 235 members. The ERIAC community includes brilliant scholars, talented artists, and cultural producers of all genres of the arts, as well as important organizations doing groundbreaking work promoting Roma culture and history. We are equally proud to have among us committed non-Roma allies, who are contributing to the fight for the dignity and respect of Roma.

The main objectives of the General Assembly that were discussed during the meeting were the following:

- Presentation of the ERIAC 2021 activity and finance report;
- Presentation of ERIAC 2022 programming proposal;
- The formal appointment of the Barvalipe Academy members delegated by the four thematic sections with open voting offline and online.
- Open Discussion





TAJSA ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIZE CEREMONY



The TAJSA Roma Cultural Heritage Prize Ceremony was the culmination of the International Membership Engagement Initiative project, ERIAC's fifth cycle of

international programming, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. After organizing large scale international meetings and conferences, both digital and hybrid, the ERIAC associate members came together to strengthen their international cooperation and to celebrate the nominees and the winner of the 2021 Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize.

The Tajsa Prize honors an outstanding Roma individual who is enriching Roma arts and culture, embodies the founding principles of ERIAC, drawing inspiration from Roma cultural heritage while shaping and re-inventing forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generation.

The Tajsa Prize is special – it was sponsored entirely through the membership fees of ERIAC associate members, to nurture the spirit of community support, investing into Roma talent and creativity. The endowment of the Tajsa Prize in 2021 was of 5000 euros.

From all nominations submitted by the ERIAC community – associate members, Barvalipe Academy members and Board members – a pre-selection committee selected 5 finalists.



The International Jury composed of Barvalipe Academy members and in consultation with the ERIAC Board, announced the winner of the Tajsa Prize during the Prize ceremony on December 10, 2021 at the National Theater in Belgrade, Zita Moldovan.

### 4. ERIAC BRANCHES

### ERIAC SERBIA Official Opening of ERIAC Serbia

The process of establishing ERIAC Serbia is closely aligned with the ERIAC Policy on local branches, as well as respecting the original roadmap and schedule approved by the ERIAC Board.

The formal establishment of ERIAC Serbia was concluded in a timely manner, and according to the original schedule. In October 2019, ERIAC Serbia registered under Serbian legislation as an association. The statute and constellation of the founders – ERIAC Berlin Headquarters, Zeljko Jovanović (ERIAC Board Chair), and Timea Junghaus (ERIAC Executive Director) – guarantees the relationship of connectedness and dependency of the ERIAC branches upon the coordinating ERIAC Berlin-based headquarters.

In November 2019, ERIAC Serbia signed a lease agreement for office space with the Property Directorate of the Republic of Serbia (Republička agencija za imovinu Republike Srbije). The ERIAC office space is located in the heart of Belgrade, at Majke Jevrosime St. 51. The ERIAC office and art space occupy a total area of 137.5 m2, on the ground floor, with a street-access entrance, and a proper open space suitable for art exhibitions and events.

ERIAC Serbia opened at Majke Jevrosime 51 in Belgrade on 8 April 2021.

On the occasion of World Roma Day, in the context of an event on their new premises, ERIAC Serbia opened its doors to the media and representatives of state institutions and organizations, including the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Council of Europe, Regional Cooperation Council – Roma Integration and Roma Education Fund. All guests had the opportunity to view the new space, enter into dialogue with the ERIAC Serbia team, and share ideas about collaborative work and potential cooperation.

During these visits, two documentaries were screened: Romanistan Dialogue, produced by ERIAC, and Paper, Horse and Birds, produced by artist Zoran Tairović and

supported by Open Society Foundation Serbia (OSFS). Media partners for the event were RTS, RTV, and Novi Magazin web portal.

The celebration of World Roma Day and the 50th anniversary of the First World Roma Congress hold special significance for Roma in Serbia and for ERIAC Serbia. Roma intellectuals from Serbia stand strong among the visionaries of the world Roma movement. From the beginning, the Roma movement in Serbia has placed culture at the center of its activities, viewing culture as a cornerstone of activism for the equal status of the Roma community in society, as is befitting. This legacy reminds us that culture is an indispensable element of the constant struggle and aspiration of the Roma towards a better future.

ERIAC Serbia promotes the cultural values of Roma in Serbia through its activities, and opens their space for critical artistic review, for the exchange of creative ideas, the presentation of artistic achievements, and also for dialogue and development of mutual respect and understanding through expanding knowledge and a positive image of Roma. With the priority of promoting Roma arts and culture, and Roma identity, artists are offered the opportunity to present themselves through their own artworks. Institutional partnerships are crucial for the preservation and promotion of Roma identity. We look forward to a bright future with ERIAC Serbia. You can watch the Opening of ERIAC Serbia in ERIAC's YouTube channel.





### Cultural events that promote Roma culture and art and in Serbia

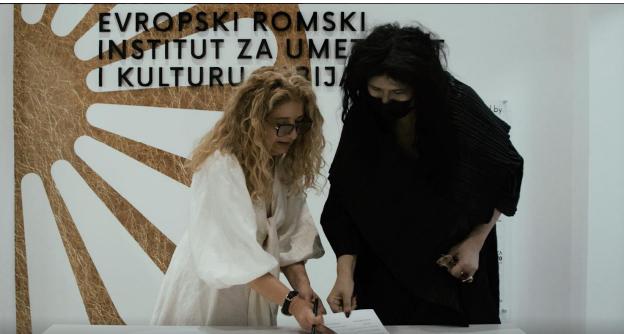
In order to achieve the visibility of Roma culture and Roma artists and creators, in addition to building the infrastructure, ERIAC Serbia worked in parallel on the presentation of Roma creativity and marking important events in Roma history. On that occasion, exhibitions, concerts, film screenings and small-scale artistic events were organized due to respect for epidemiological measures. So far, the following events have been organized:

The first exhibition "ROMA RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE" was set upon 16th of May as a memorial to the Roma uprising in Auschwitz-Birkenau. Artists whose artworks were exhibited are Roma from different European countries (Rifet Bajramović, Lajos Gabor - Joar Nango, Ľuboš Kotlár, Estefanía Ruíz, Norbert Oláh, Selma Selman, Zoran Tairović). From Serbia, paintings by multimedia artist Zoran Tairovic were exhibited. As part of the exhibition, documentaries by Selma Selman and Zoran Tairovic were shown. The exhibits at the exhibition were shown through a promotional film of the same name.



Marking the World Music Day in cooperation with the National Theater of Belgrade. This day was marked by a concert at the ERIAC Serbia Gallery with the participation of Natasa Tasic Knezevic, soloist of the Opera of the Serbian National Theater in Novi Sad, Dejan Maksimovic, tenor, champion of the Opera of the National Theater in Belgrade, Irina Skorikov, cellist and Gorana Zurgus, harpist of the Opera Orchestra National Theater in Belgrade. Following the concert, ERIAC Serbia and National Theater of Belgrade signed a Memorandum of Understanding which should serve as a document to start important cooperation in the future and which by National Theater of Belgrade, a public institution, recognizes ERIAC Serbia as an important part of the Serbian cultural scene.





**European Holocaust Remembrance Day, August 2<sup>nd</sup>** - On this occasion, a screening of the documentary *A ti boze prezivi*, written by Ljuan Koka and a panel discussion with Ljuan Koka, author of the film and member of the ERIAC Serbia Advisory Board, was organized, Redjepali Cupi, director of the Roma Education Fund and Jelena

Krivokapic Nikolic, lawyer and activist of the OPRE ROMA movement. The discussion was interactive and served as an occasion for a meaningful dialogue with the participants, guests of the event. The whole event was streamed via ERIAC Serbia Facebook page and followed by local communities throughout Serbia.



The second exhibition, Romani Chib, opened on November 5<sup>th</sup>, World Day of Romani Language. The paintings of Zoran Tairovic, who analyzes Roma culture through the philosophy of Tarot brought by the Roma to Europe, and the photographs of Nino Pusija, which show Roma men and women, artists, creators, activists, are on display. The photographs are accompanied by definitions of terms important for the culture and life of the Roma community in the Romani and Serbian languages.



### Roma Music Initiative

Roma musicians carry socio-economic and cultural capital through their activities, which is not recognized in the formal labor market as a resource from which they can exercise their labor rights, nor were they able to receive one-time financial assistance in 2020 through mitigation measures consequence of COVID 19 provided by the Government of Republic of Serbia for artists and cultural workers. Due to the specific situation of Roma musicians, ERIAC Serbia, in partnership with the Opre Roma movement, has launched an initiative to ensure equal treatment for this group of informal actors in the music industry. Our goal is for Roma musicians to exercise their right to financial support according to the same criteria as other cultural professionals. Based on a public call, ERIAC Serbia has identified musicians and professionals in the music industry who meet the criteria set by the Ministry of Culture. Based on the insight into the applications and the accompanying documentation, the expert commission made a proposal of the candidate for the support program, which was sent to the Ministry of Culture for final consideration. A decision by the Ministry of Culture is expected to ensure that 700 musicians receive one-time financial assistance. Through this project, ERIAC Serbia has also gained insight into the Roma present on the Serbian music scene, plans to include them and expand its membership and improve activities in the field of music performance.



### REF-ERIAC Internship program

Through cooperation with the Roma Education Fund, five interns were hired to work on mapping cultural resources in Serbia, creating a quiz on Roma history, setting up exhibitions, communicating through social networks, etc. It is expected that, in cooperation with the Roma Education Fund, ERIAC Serbia will provide engagement for new interns in 2022.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with OSF Serbia

ERIAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Open Society Foundation Serbia on joint action to promote Roma culture and history in Serbia.





# ERIAC INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

### **INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE 2021**

The INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE, financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany (FFO) is an ERIAC initiative to build on the results of the international outreach projects 1-4, to facilitate and strengthen membership engagement.

ERIAC conducts the international cultural outreach programs 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 (RomaMoMa; Barvalipe Roma Online University; Safeguarding our Romani Language; IV General Assembly and TAJSA Prize). Through the Roma Cultural History Initiative, ERIAC has developed long-term strategic collaboration with international institutions and Romaled organisations.

ERIAC proposed the IMEI 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.



Building on previous international cultural outreach projects, the International Membership Engagement Initiative (IMEI) facilitated and strengthened the engagement of Roma and non-Roma individuals and organizations who are committed to ERIAC's values to support the exchange of creative ideas across borders, and to promote Roma organizations, intellectuals, and artists to form multilateral initiatives and regional alliances.

ERIAC conducts the international cultural outreach programs 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; eriac.org/Barvalipe-online-university; eriac.org/international-membership-engagement-initiative/). Through the International Membership Engagement Initiative ERIAC has developed long-term strategic collaboration with international institutions and Roma-led organizations.

ERIAC proposed the IMEI project components to continue to inspire and stimulate the Roma arts and culture scene, Roma communities and the mainstream public. Despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, ERIAC converted its routine and success in organizing cultural events for both online and offline audiences into a hybrid approach to increase virtual presence and strengthen real engagement.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

The International Membership Engagement Initiative consisted of five complex measures, which focused on facilitating and strengthening the engagement of its community for continuing the production and dissemination of foundational material for the preservation and education of Roma arts and culture and initiating new collaborations with Roma and majority institutions.

Given the uncertainties created by the global Covid-19 pandemic, all IMEI activities were held online or hybrid (offline and online), respecting the travel restrictions and social distancing regulations across Europe. In this way all IMEI events and projects were available to the public worldwide.

### Precisely, IMEI attained the following achievements:

 Substantial contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge through the network of cultural experts creating grounds for collaboration among different types of stakeholders.

- Created a dynamic dialogue between researchers and public institutions, ensuring that findings can be represented, multiplied, and performed in physical and digital spaces.
- Strengthened capacity of Roma in support of progress: developed methodologies, recognition and reputation for further project funding, grand applications, sponsorships.
- Strengthened the relationship between ERIA as an institution and its current and potential future members (both individuals and institutions).
- Guaranteed sustainability and potential longer-term impact of the findings of the project.
- Mobilized high-level diplomatic contacts, mainstream arts, and culture institutions, as well as Roma communities, and interested audience members.
- Gathering data from leading institutions, convincing them to be part of the International Membership Engagement Initiative, and to agree to visualizing and promoting the situation and state of Roma language and cultural history.
- Initiating and conducting collaborations with institutions through which Roma art and Roma cultural producers can be properly recognized by mainstream society.
- Initiating collaborations with institutions through which Roma language and its specialists can be properly recognized by mainstream society.
- Strengthened ERIAC as the organization taking leadership on Roma cultural history education and promoted this role among national Roma organization and majority institutions.
- ERIAC is 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.
- Raised awareness and promoted knowledge about Roma arts and culture 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 reviewing of the first book for Roma language learning.
- 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.
- Reinforcing presence and international relations in the Balkans through our activities in Belgrade.

### RESULTS / IMPACT

The components were multifarious in genre, and always included a cultural component: public online and offline conferences, working group meetings, exhibitions, online courses and discussions, digital library, blog, online and offline award ceremony – demonstrating ERIAC's founding principles. By December 2021 ERIAC built a membership of 240 associate members, including Roma and non-Roma individuals and organizations 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 societies.

All content developed in the framework of the project is used and made accessible beyond the project period, and the strong online presence and the publication of the content guarantees longevity of the project's deliverables and their outreach to broad audiences across the world. The content published in the framework of Barvalipe Online Roma University and the Digital Roma Museum Initiative are all designed to generate and promote knowledge that will be accessible to all audiences online.

The real-life events, such as exhibition openings, conferences, or the Tajsa Prize Ceremony strengthened the ERIAC community, facilitated participation, engagement and collaboration of the ERIAC membership for shaping future ERIAC projects, and gained visibility for ERIAC in majority institutions and press.

### **IMEI IN NUMBERS**

Active Contributors: 189 Institutional Partners: 10

Offline Events: 3 Online Events: 19 Website Visits: 13000

Facebook reach of Events and Posts: 158152

Facebook Growth: 5% Instagram growth: 5%

Conferences and archive materials: 3

Cultural programs recorded and archived: 21



# **BARVALIPE ONLINE UNIVERSITY**

# Barvalipe Online University – Course 2021 – European Roma History

The second course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University, 'European Roma History', aimed at developing historical narratives about the centuries of presence and contributions of Roma in various countries and regions of Europe and the world. To compensate for the lack of historical knowledge, the invited scholars shaped the understanding of Roma as integral to the mainstream national and regional histories. The course lectures positioned Roma at the heart of the national historical discourses and not, as it has been until now, at its periphery. The course traced the local Roma histories in European countries and the Americas and included a reflection on the future of Roma communities in Europe.

To ensure that Roma and non-Roma benefit from the course, most lectures were delivered in local languages, with subtitles provided in English and Romani language.

15 webinars were organized, out of which 14 focused on European countries' Roma history and 1 webinar on the Americas. The webinars were held in local languages, English subtitles were developed for each video lecture (except the UK and Americas lectures). We have been developing Romani subtitles as well for 12 lecture videos.

# Barvalipe Online Library

The Barvalipe Online Library was developed by a curator and two external consultants. It was launched on December 8, 2021, with 102 articles. It reached its goal to become an easily accessible, rich online educational site in the field of Critical Romani Studies for students and scholars who are interested.

A critical turn in Romani Studies, requires a process of decolonization and an evaluative reframing of our current bibliographies. The Barvalipe Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship addresses, in part, a need for a rigorous, scholarly resource that collects reliable academic literature and research about the Roma and other related communities, developed from the critical perspectives of Romani scholars.

The collection is organized into several, contiguous, broad thematic sections that reflect particular avenues of current research, primarily (though not exclusively), led by Roma and other Romani scholars, namely: Romani Histories and Herstories, Romani Identity Politics, Romani Movements and Political Activism; Romani Feminist Thought and Activism; the Romani LGBTI Movement, Knowledge Production, Antigypsyism – Anti Romani racism and racialization; Romani Cultures and Narratives; Art History; Language and Linguistics; Romani Children.

# **BOU 2021 IN NUMBERS**

## **CONTRIBUTORS**

98 total contributors
15 lecturers
69 panelists and moderators
11 translators
1 curator of online library
2 consultants of online library

### **REACH**

total reach on Facebook: 81.188 total views on Facebook: 2780 total engagement on Facebook: 2680 traffic on website generated: 568

views on YouTube: 207

# "EUROPEAN ROMA HISTORY"

# September 2021 - January 2022

DATE	TOPIC	LECTURER	PANELIST	MODERATOR
21- Sep- 21	Арлизмот (седентарноста) како одлика на историјата на Ромите во Македонија/ Arlism (sedentary) as a feature of the history of Roma in North Macedonia	Ljati† Demir	Redjepali Chupi, Daniel Petrovski, Victor A. Friedman, Sevdija Abdulova Demirova, Mirdita Saliu	Marija Sulejmanova
28- Sep- 21	историята на ромите в българия/ History of Roma in Bulgaria by Prof. Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov	Hristo Kyuchukov	Stela Kostova, Rusin Kostev, Biser Alekov,Lilyana Kovatcheva	Violeta Naydenova
5- Oct- 21	EL PUEBLO GITANO DE ESPAÑA. HISTORIA Y PRESENTE DE UNA IGNORANCIA SUPINA/ The Romani People of Spain. History and Present of a Supine Ignorance	Araceli Cañadas Ortega	Ismael Cortes, Ana Giménez Adelantado, Ivan Periáñez- Bolaño, Rafael Buhigas Jiménez	Miguel Angel Vargas
12- Oct- 21	Rom e Sinti in Italia/ Roma and Sinti in Italy by Santino Spinelli	Santino Spinelli	Paola Trevisan, Tina Magazzini, Luca Bravi	Dijana Pavlovic
19- Oct- 21	Történelem és Identitás/ History and Identity	Agnes Daroczi	Aladar Horvath, Melinda Rezmuves, Béla Rácz	Maria Bogdan
26- Oct- 21	ISTORIA ROMILOR DIN ROM NIA DIN PERSPECTIVA MEMORIEI SOCIALE/ History of Roma People in Romania from the Perspective of Social Memory	Adrian- Nicu Furtuna	Ciprian Necula, Delia Grigore, Vasile Ionescu, Iulius Rostas	Ioanida Costache
2- Nov- 21	История Русских Ромов (конец XVII – XXI веков)/ The History of Russian Roma	Nadezhda Demeter	lon Duminica, Valdemar Kalinin, Kirill Kozhanov, Ilona Makhotina	Nataliia Tomenko

9- Nov- 21	Le Rom du Journal Officiel de la République Française/ The Roma of the official journal of the French Republic	Jacques Debot	Jean Luc Poueyto, Sarah Carmona,Valerie Leray, Gabi Jimenez	Alina Maggiore
16- Nov- 21	Svensk Resande/Romsk historia från dåtid till nutid/ Swedish Traveller/Roma history, from past to present	Britt-Inger Lundqvist	Jan Selling, Robert Brisenstam, Lawen Mohtadi, Fred Taikon	Linda Lindqvist
23- Nov- 21	Geschichte des Holocaust und der Bürgerrechtsbewegung der Sinti und Roma/ History of the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Movement of the Sinti and Roma	Romani Rose	Oliver von Mengersen, Karola Fings, Frank Reuter	Verena Lehmann
30- Nov- 21	Historia e romëve të Kosovës/ The History of Roma in Kosovo	Edis Galushi	Bashkim Ibishi, Jehona Xhaferi, Shpresa Agushi, Daut Qullagji, Vlora Latifi	Mimoza Gavrani
7- Dec- 21	'Looking in one's hand': a lecture on the history of Roma in Britain	Damian Le Bas Jr	Colin Clark, Adrian Marsh, Thomas Acton, Jo Clement	Lisa Smith
14- Dec- 21	Dějiny Romů v českých zemích/ The History of the Roma in the Czech Lands	Jana Horvathova	Klara Orgovanova, Zuzana Kumanova, Jan Hero	Jarmila Balazova
11- Jan- 22	Romanies in the Americas	lan Hancock	Ethel Brooks, Mariana Sabino Salazar, Esteban Acuna	Aline Miklós
18- Jan- 22	Istorija Roma u Srbiji/ History of Roma in Serbia	Slavica Denic	Osman Balic, Milovan Pisarri, Ljuan Koko	Marina Vasic

# LANGUAGE REFORM

# Romani Language Textbook – level A1



In 2020 ERIAC published the test edition of the Romani language textbook – level A1 for adults, as part of ERIAC's Language Initiative, based on the Council of Europe Curriculum Framework for Romani. The textbook was written in general Romani/Inter-Romani; it incorporates lexical and grammatical features from multiple Romani varieties, having as aim to set up a harmonized Romani that will be accessible to a larger number of Roma in Europe. In order to improve the test edition and make the book ready for printing and classroom use, the Romani Language Initiative in 2021 organized a series of consultations with experts in Romani linguistics and language education, to receive feedback on the textbook.

Invaluable feedback was given by the Initiative's Language Council, which consisted of academic experts of Romani of various dialectal backgrounds – Zuzana Bodnárová (Researcher, Plurilingualism Research Unit, University of Graz), Melinda Rézműves (Director, Hodász Roma Country House Museum), Cristian Pădure (Lecturer, University of Bucharest). The members of the Language Council were asked to thoroughly study the test edition and submit an elaborate list of corrections and suggestions, which were also discussed during two online meetings. Zuzana Bodnárová participated in the process of reviewing the test editions also as a methodological advisor and had a series of consultations on improving the teaching material with Mihaela Zatreanu, lead expert of the Romani Language Initiative.

In order to involve outstanding specialists in the evaluation and reviewing process, a survey was created, which covered all aspects of the textbook. Ten distinguished experts of Romani filled in the survey: Ian Hancock, Hristo Kyuchukov, Lilyana Kovatcheva, Zemfira Kondur, Diana Kililova, Gheorghe Sarău, Delia Grigore and the experts of Romani filled in the survey: Ian Hancock, Hristo Kyuchukov, Lilyana Kovatcheva, Zemfira Kondur, Diana Kililova, Gheorghe Sarău, Delia Grigore and the members of the Language Council. Thomas Acton wrote a thorough evaluation about the textbook's linguistic choices and strategies. In the line of consultations, an important meeting took place with the participation of Sándor Trippó, language policy expert of the Goethe-Institut, Mihalea Zatreanu and Zuzana Bodnarova. During the course of the meeting, Sándor Trippó gave a professional evaluation of the methodology of the textbook, and also provided expert advice on integrating listening activities into the teaching material.

Based on the feedback gathered from the survey answers and the consultations, Mihaela Zatreanu, lead expert of the Romani Language Initiative and author of the textbook, created a corrected pdf of the book with more than one thousand entries.

A beginner's Romani-English vocabulary was also created in this phase of the Initiative's work.

Södertörn University decided to use the textbook for language teaching in their Romani Studies Program during the academic year 2021/2022.

# Romani Language Conference





On November 5, the World Day of Romani Language, ERIAC organized the Second International Conference "Safeguarding Our Romani Language", in partnership with the Council of Europe and the University of Graz.

The conference brought together experts, practitioners and legislators who participate in the protection and promotion of the Romani language. The aim of the event was to oversee the status of Romani, to discuss the issues of language preservation, the topic of transnational harmonization, as well as the practices in Romani language education.

Further goal of the conference was to establish cooperation for language harmonization at an international level, to design future strategies for preserving the language heritage, and to fulfill the general need in Europe for Romani language education. The conference was held online, providing a platform for international participants from various countries. Special significance was given to the use of Romani during the event.

The conference was organized in connection with WEAVE (Widen European Access to Cultural Communities Via Europeana), as the second LabDay by ERIAC.

# Language Reform in Numbers

## Contributors

35 contributors
25 conference speakers
4 conference moderators
2 conference translators
3 Language Council members
1 external consultant
REACH
views on facebook: 2300

views on youtube: 72 participants in zoom: 60 reach on facebook: 6412

# **Partnerships**

2 new partner institutions (WEAVE Europeana, Södertörn University)3 existing partners (University of Graz, Council of Europe, Goethe Institute Budapest)

# **ROMAMOMA**



# The RomaMoMA Blog and its Collaborations

Launched in 2020, the RomaMoMA project, consisting of RomaMoMA Library and digital blog, seeks to mobilize Roma artists and cultural institutions to raise awareness among institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders about Roma inclusion, educate the non-Roma population about Roma arts and culture, and to create understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma communities. RomaMoMA Blog succeeded to reach some of the important members of the art establishment, and as a result, during 2021 many of our initiatives that had been in development since the establishment of ERIAC and launching RomaMoMA came into fruition: the increasing number of art institutions, including Tate, the International Committee for Museum and Collections of Modern Art, the Manifesta Foundation, Milan Triennale and Kasseler Kunstverein reached out to ERIAC in recognition of our activities. ERIAC participated in the Autostrada Biennale 2021, the Off Biennale Budapest 2021, and started collaborations with Schafhof European Center for Art Upper Bavaria and SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin. The new and lasting partnerships will allow ERIAC to join the following top-level art world events in the coming year: Manifesta 14 Prishtina, Documenta 15 in Kassel, Milan Triennial, and the 59th International Art Exhibition in Venice.

In addition to these real-life interactions, RomaMoMA strengthened its online presence through the RomaMoMA blog with weekly posts authored by both well established (for example Joanna Warsza, the CuratorLab Program Director at Konstafck and cocurator of the Autostrada Biennale) as well as emerging (for example Joci Marton or Sebijan Fejzula) theoreticians and critics. We published weekly texts by authors from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Northern Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, and the United Kingdom. ERIAC's consistent and intentional presence in on- and offline spaces has been a tool for raising awareness among European institutions, policymakers, and stakeholders about Roma inclusion, educating the non-Roma population about Roma arts and culture, and helping to create understanding, tolerance and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma communities.

There were two RomaMoMA online conferences organized within IMEI project in collaboration with the WEAVE (Widen European Access to Cultural Communities Via Europeana), the Council of Europe representation in Venice, and Villa Romana Florence, that were accessible via zoom and live streamed over Facebook.

# RomaMoMA Events

# Roma Self-representation in the History of the Venice Biennale

October 11th

Participants: Luisella Pavan-Woolfe (Head of Office, Council of Europe representation in Venice), Dr. Rosa Cisneros (Roma scholar, flamenco historian), Timea Junghaus (ERIAC director), Prof. Dr. Ethel Brooks (Associate Professor at Rutgers University U.S), Daniel Baker (curator of the FUTUROMA Exhibition at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019); Miguel Ángel Vargas (art historian), Ilina Schileru (curator of Eugen Raportoru: The Abduction From The Seraglio & Roma Women | Performativity and the Politics of Healing and Listening at the 59th Venice Biennale 2022), Eugen Raportoru (painter, visual artist, selected artist of Roma Exhibition at the 59th Venice Biennale 2022)

# The role of Artist Residencies in Promoting Roma Art

November 19th

Participants: Angelika Stepken (Villa Romana Florenz Director), Timea Junghaus (ERIAC Director), Norbert Olah (Villa Romana Artist in Residence 2021), Lubos Kotlar (Villa Romana Artist in Residence 2021).

# RomaMoMa in Numbers

# Contributors

27 contributors
15 authors (curators, artists)
11 speakers
1 editor
REACH
Instagram growth: 5%
views on Eacebook: 2778

views on Facebook: 2778 blog traffic on website: 1700

views on zoom: 90 views on YouTube: 108 reach on Facebook: 6171

# **Partnerships**

New partnerships include the Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum in Cologne, Kasseler Kunstverein in Kassel, Autostrada Biennale, Manifesta Foundation, documenta 15, Schafhof European Center for Art Upper Bavaria, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, and SAVVY Contemporary in Berlin.

# TAJSA ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE PRIZE CEREMONY



The TAJSA Roma Cultural Heritage Prize Ceremony was the culmination of the International Membership Engagement Initiative project, ERIAC's fifth cycle of international programming, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office. After organizing large scale international meetings and conferences, both digital and hybrid, the ERIAC associate members came together to strengthen their international cooperation and to honor the nominees and the winner of the 2021 Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize.

# Tajsa Cultural Heritage Prize Award Ceremony and Concert

December 10, 2021, Belgrade

Venue: National Theatre Belgrade

# About the Tajsa Prize

The Tajsa Roma Cultural Heritage Prize was launched in 2019 by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC). Embodying the ERIAC founding principles, the Tajsa Prize honors a Roma individual who – by drawing from Roma cultural heritage – enriches the Roma arts and culture scene as well as shapes and reinvents forms of Roma cultural expressions for the next generation. The prize awards an outstanding Roma creative as one of the leading voices of the Roma cultural movement today. The

Tajsa Prize is entirely sponsored by ERIAC Associate Members through their membership fees. This allows for the unique re-distribution of those contributions back to the community by supporting the development and growth of an exceptional Roma professional in the field of arts and culture. As ERIAC's Executive Director put it: "The Prize is the embodiment of Roma contribution, the most important condition and most noble characteristic of Roma leadership." The prize is designed by leading Roma artist Robert Gabris and consists of an endowment of 5.000 Euros. The nominations for this year's Tajsa Prize were submitted by the ERIAC community. The jury of the Tajsa Prize consists of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy composed of 15 influential and internationally acclaimed Roma arts and culture experts from across the globe. They have selected five from all fields and genres of the arts, including visual arts, performing arts, literature, photography, film, design, dance, music, fashion.

# Nomination and selection process

ERIAC invited its community – associate members, Barvalipe Academy members and Board members – submitted nominations to ERIAC via the nomination template. The nominees were Roma individuals from any of the many groups represented under the over-arching term "Roma", disregarding of nationality, age, gender, or sexual orientation. The 5 nominated finalists were: Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, Zita Moldovan, Sami Mustafa, Selma Selman, and George Vasilescu.



Following the evaluation of the finalists, a Jury composed of Barvalipe Academy members in consultation with the ERIAC Board announced the winner of the Tajsa Prize during the Prize ceremony, Zita Moldovan on December 10, 2021, in Belgrade.

ERIAC honored the 2021 awardee of the Tajsa Prize with a memorable ceremony on December 10, 2021, at the National Theatre of Serbia. It was a historical event, which shall be the foundation of long-lasting cooperation between the Roma community and the Serbian state institutions for culture.

# The Ceremony

The Tajsa Prize ceremony was opened with a preview of Pablo Vega's new short film entitled "Proud Roma" followed by the up-and-coming young Serbian-Romani talents Silvija Nesic and Aleksandra Aleksandrovic singing the Romani anthem "Gelem gelem". The audience was greeted by Svetislav Goncić, Director of the National Theatre in Belgrade, Gordana Predić, Special Adviser at the Ministry of Culture and Information and Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of the Open Society Roma Initiatives Office and Chair of the ERIAC Board. Before announcing the winner, the all-female Serbian-Roma band, Pretty Loud took the stage. The winner, Zita Moldovan thanked for the acknowledgement of her work and emphasised the resilience of Romani artists in her speech. The Laudatio was delivered by Sonja Licht, the President of the Foundation BFPE for a Responsible Society and laureate of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

After the announcement of the winner, Danijel and Darko Piller dazzled the audience with their virtuosity on violin and accordion. They were joined on stage by the world-renowned Serbian Romani soprano Nataša Tasić Knežević, who performed an unforgettable interpretation of Carmen in Romanes language, wearing a special hand-made custom by the Hungarian fashion designers Erika and Helena Varga. Last but not least the famous German-Sinti violinist Sandro Roy performed together with the jazz pianist Jermaine Landsberger. They were joined on stage by the Berlin based British Romani singer and songwriter Riah Knight.

After the ceremony the extended ERIAC members, allies, politicians, and cultural leaders came together to emphasize the need for international cooperation in combating the harsh economic and social impact of the global pandemic on Roma communities throughout Europe. The Covid-19 pandemic had, and continues to have, a devastating impact on Roma communities. Roma are at a higher risk of death from COVID-19 than non-Roma. The tragedies of lost lives are accompanied by loss of income and jobs, limited access to healthcare and growing insecurity. ERIAC and its allies collected donations for the local Roma community in cooperation with Opre Roma Serbija and mobilized matching contributions from local governments, international donors and individuals.

The Tajsa ceremony was live streamed and accessible online via both ERIAC's website and social media.

# TAJSA in Numbers

# Contributors

24 contributors20 artists4 speakers

# **Participants**

260 participants3587 online participants (reach: 10843)20 ambassadors, curators, supporters

# ERIAC EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

# ROMANI ČHIB ROMANI LANGUAGE NOVEMBER 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022

Reinhardtstraße 41 – 43 10117 Berlin Opening: 5 November 2021 18:00-20:00h



Phenjalipe (s.) O hatjaripe ke e džuvlja si phangle ando solidariteto jekh avrjasa pal e kondicie, eksperience thaj khetane butja

# Sisterhood

(n.) The understanding that women are interconnected in solidarity based on shared conditions, experiences, or concerns









# ERIAC EXHIBITIONS BERLIN – BELGRADE

The ERIAC space located in the heart of Belgrade opened on May 26, 2021, the office and art space occupies a total area of 137.5 m2, on the ground floor, with a street-access entrance, and a proper open space suitable for art exhibitions and events. The Belgrade office provides space for exchange and dialogue between ERIAC and stakeholders in the Balkan area, the membership engagement of the Balkan countries, and the ERIAC programming. This work already resulted in the Tajsa Prize Ceremony taking place in the National Theater of Belgrade.

The two ERIAC offices (Berlin, Belgrade) function as physical spaces of Roma contemporary art. For the celebration of the International Romani Language Day on November 5<sup>th</sup>, ERIAC curated two exhibitions on this topic in the two spaces.

# ROMANI ČHIB | ROMANI LANGUAGE

The exhibition is an investigation into aspects of Roma identity and their complex entanglement with language and different systems of knowledge production. While some notions, expressions and definitions only exist in, and are thus unique to, the Romani language, others are in stark contrast to the meaning commonly assigned to those words by majoritarian culture.

# Berlin

Curators: Timea Junghaus, Andrea Petrus

Artists: Marina Roselle, Nataliia Tomenko, Daniel Baker

Belgrade

Curator: Timea Junghaus

Artists: Nino Pusija, Zoran Tairovic

# ERIAC INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

# WEAVE - Widen European Access to cultural communities Via Europeana

April 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

WEAVE – Widen European Access to cultural communities Via Europeana project, developed during 2021 and continuing in 2022, aims to develop a framework to link the tangible and intangible heritage of cultural communities, safeguarding the rich and invaluable cultural heritage which they represent. WEAVE is a project funded by Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), an EU funding instrument to promote growth, jobs and competitiveness through targeted infrastructure investment at European level.

The consortium created for WEAVE is properly balanced and composed of partners with complementary expertise and well-aligned organisation priorities that match the objectives of the project and understand Europeana, its principles and strategy.

The consortium perfectly covers the broad mix of stakeholders that are needed to successfully undertake such a project: cultural community representatives, content holders, innovative SMEs as technology providers, research organisations focused on ICT and scholars working in the area of cultural communities and heritage, complemented with an accredited Europeana aggregator and the Europeana Foundation.

Thus, consortium partners span the entire value chain including partners with long term expertise in the collection, preservation and curation of intangible cultural heritage and the heritage of cultural communities at risk, some of which also having academic relevance in the interpretation and consideration of the value of these resources in the landscape of European heritage.

As an added value, all the partners are included in wide networks of cultural heritage communities both locally and internationally, thus offering the opportunity to easily reach bigger and smaller cultural institutions for project awareness, dissemination and network-building.

The consortium partners are: IN2 (Coordinator), ERIAC, PHOTOCONSORTIUM, Coventry University, CRDI – Ajuntament De Girona, PédeXumbo, TOPFOTO, ARCTUR, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa, ThinkCode, KU Leuven and Europeana.

WEAVE contributes to preserving for future generations the richness of the European identity and its cultural plurality. In 2022 the project will aggregate over 5,000 new high-quality records to Europeana related to the rich and invaluable cultural heritage of minority cultural communities and showcase these collections in a set of engaging editorials and a virtual exhibition.

The project carries out capacity building activities to develop a closer connection between cultural heritage institutions (CHIs), minority cultural communities and Europeana. Additionally, in 2022 WEAVE will develop a set of open and reusable tools which will employ a mix of AI, machine learning, natural language processing, big data analysis and innovative interface engineering. The toolkit will allow the management of annotations, semi-automatic recognition of specific gestures and movements and visualisation of performances and 3D models.

Finally, it will offer training, capacity building and guidelines with a focus on proper handling of immaterial cultural heritage and working with vulnerable and marginalised communities.

During 2021 the capacity building activities developed by ERIAC were three LabDays. LabDays aimed to involve different cultural communities connecting them to CHIs and Europeana through virtual and physical events.

1. Roma Self-representation in the History of the Venice Biennale - 11 October 2021







The event took place at the Council of Europe Office in Venice and online in ZOOM.

In the past there have been various exhibitions of Roma culture and contemporary art in the frame of Venice Biennales, namely in 2007, 2011 and 2019, which represent the greatest efforts ever made by Roma to present Roma art in an international stage in the center of contemporary cultural diplomacy. But in the lack of collecting, archiving and non-existent museum institutions to house artefacts, once these Roma exhibitions

are dismantled, their histories become vulnerable and their achievements carry on only as interpersonal – and later transgenerational knowledge, which slowly – with the means of digital remembrance – constitute a new form of intangible cultural heritage. The Roma exhibitions are not connected to the prestigious locations, and known spaces of the Venice Biennale, but to the non-spaces of digital-discussions, oral histories, letter and in-person exchange, archival documents, and digital exhibitions.

The "Exhibition" of the largest European minority is considered a "collaborative event", and not a national pavilion. Roma do not have a national pavilion/building/space, while being the largest national minority to many of the exhibiting national representations. As a consequence, the precarious Roma minority's presence at the Biennale is possible only if Roma pay the entrance fee as a collaborative event (30,500 Euros) to the Biennale Office, in addition to spending to rent the exhibition space in Venice. In these circumstances, the chance for permanent, tangible representation of Roma in the most prestigious European art event is unimaginable.

The LabDay discussion mitigated the need for a permanent Roma Pavilion as the place to motivate the development of innovative projects and experimental cross-disciplinary work of Roma. In the context of the Venice Biennale, the Roma Pavilion has the potential to become the safe space won by the Roma struggle, a place of intuition, new ideas, discourses, and trends in European contemporary art.

# Speakers:

- Luisella Pavan-Woolfe, Host, Head of Office, Council of Europe representation in Venice, supporter of ERIAC's initiatives for cultural inclusion, e.g., FUTUROMA Exhibition in 2019, the 2022 exhibition
- Timea Junghaus, Art historian, contemporary art curator, Executive director of ERIAC, curator of the Roma Exhibition PARADISE LOST at the 52nd Venice Contemporary Art Biennale (2007)
- Prof. Dr. Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor at Rutgers University (U.S), School of Arts and Science, and Chair of Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies; Research interests: Visual Cultures, Artistic Practice, Camps and Encampment, Digital Media and Belonging, Nationalism, Post-colonialism and Critical Race Theory
- Daniel Baker, artist of Paradise Lost at the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007) and Call the Witness Exhibition at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011); curator of the FUTUROMA Exhibition at the 58th Venice Biennale (2019); Jury of Roma Exhibition Venice Biennale (2022)
- Miguel Ángel Vargas, Art historian, theatre director, Flamenco researcher, member of Factoría Cultural – Polígono Sur, Institute for Culture and Arts of the Council of Seville and Jury of Roma Exhibition Venice Biennale (2019 and 2022)

- Ilina Schileru, graphic artist, cultural manager, and curator of Eugen Raportoru: The Abduction from The Seraglio & Roma Women | Performativity and the Politics of Healing and Listening at the 59th Venice Biennale (2022)
- Eugen Raportoru, painter, visual artist, selected artist of Roma Exhibition at the 59th Venice Biennale (2022)
- 2. Safeguarding Our Romani Language Second International Conference 5 November 2021

On the World Day of Romani Language, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) organised the Second International Conference "Safeguarding Our Romani Language", in partnership with the Council of Europe and the University of Graz. The conference was part of WEAVE and the International Membership Engagement Initiative (p. 41).

3. The Role of Artist Residencies in the Promotion of Roma Contemporary Art - 19 November 2021



For centuries, art-loving benefactors regarded the offering of guest studios to individual artists as a kind of romantic patronage, enabling artists to live and create in bucolic settings. Artist residencies provide artists with the time, space, and materials they need to create new work or to focus on their artwork-related research. Moreover, residencies are important career boosters because they provide artists with the opportunity to form relationships with their peers and receive mentoring from influential artists and industry professionals.

The vast majority of Roma artists, however, lack the prerequisites to be invited to many artist residencies. This system tends to exclude self-taught artists, artists who have not graduated from arts programmes at elite white institutions, and artists who do not have powerful advocates. The consequence of so many Roma artists being shut out of higher tier residencies is that they remain with lower industry status, receive little publicity, achieve fewer museum acquisitions, and their work is sold at lower price points.

Since 2020, the joint programme of Villa Romana Florence and ERIAC has been the premier residency for artists of Roma descent. During our webinar, it was discussed the role of art residencies in advancing individual careers and the promotion of marginalised cultures. The cultural managers behind the trailblazing initiative, Angelika Stepken of Villa Romana and ERIAC's Timea Junghaus will be joined by the 2021 artists-in-residence L'uboš Kotlar and Norbert Oláh, to discuss the pros and cons of this kind of positive action targeting ethnicity in the field of arts and culture.

# Speakers:

- Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director
- Angelika Stepken, Villa Roma Florence Director
- Norbert Oláh, Artist in Residence, Villa Romana Florence, 2021
- Lúboš Kotlar, Artist in Residence, Villa Romana Florence, 2021

# Moderator: Katarzyna Pabijanek

By 2022, WEAVE will collect and aggregate to Europeana over 5,000 new high-quality records related to different types of cultural communities, including 3D models and point clouds, videos and photos and showcase these collections in a set of engaging editorials and a virtual exhibition.

Additionally, WEAVE will develop a set of open and reusable tools to allow the management of annotations, semi-automatic recognition of specific gestures and movements and visualisation of performances and 3D models.

In 2022, ERIAC will aggregate over 300 records to Europeana, videos and images of conferences, international events, exhibitions, and major milestones of ERIAC history. Additionally, ERIAC will contribute to the creation of a virtual exhibition in Europeana about Roma, curating different chapters featuring Roma identity, history, activism, resistance, contemporary art, etc.

# ROMA COMPONENT OF THE GERMAN COUNCIL OF EUROPE PRESIDENCY DURING 2021

February 1 - May 31, 2021

In the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, ERIAC organised a series of activities to raise awareness of the importance of Roma arts and culture by highlighting the contributions of Roma to majority societies and advocating for the building of institutional alliances to combat the misrepresentation of the Roma, and the various manifestations of antigypsyism. The program was financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and is a continuation of activities developed in 2020.

The project aimed to encourage greater commitment of the member states of the Council of Europe to support art, culture, history, and media of the Roma, and to strengthen the cooperation and the institutional approach that welcomes the contributions of Roma, following the example of Germany. ERIAC's programming included art exhibitions, online international conferences, and youth engagement events.

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HATE SPEECH AND ANTIGYPSYISM IN THE MEDIA

10-11 March 2021

The international conference, "Hate Speech and Antgypsyism in the Media", was hosted by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), in cooperation with the Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team, and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, and aimed at examining the phenomenon of hate speech against Sinti and Roma communities and individuals.

The event built upon the conclusions of the digital conference, "UNBOXING HATE SPEECH: European Impulses for Respect and Solidarity on the Web", hosted by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), on 18 February 2021. The international conference brought together Roma and non-Roma stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience in this field, as well as mainstream media stakeholders, including media professionals, journalists, and representatives of social media platforms, to jointly discuss the experiences of Sinti and Roma communities and individuals. The conference was divided into three thematic blocks and focused on multiple and complementary strategies to combat hate speech and Antigypsyism through both preventive and responsive approaches. The conference also reflected

explicitly on the role of social media and the strategies of fighting hate speech online.



The main objective of the conference was to address the urgency of the issue of hate speech, which remains a global phenomenon that disproportionately affects Sinti and Roma around Europe and the world. Both in the traditional media outlets as well as online, in particular on social media, Sinti and Roma are victims of discriminatory and hateful discourse, misinformation, misrepresentation and fake news, all considered as manifestations of Antigypsyism.

The conference outputs include a written report in English and Romanes, and the video, available on the ERIAC conference website and ERIAC YouTube channel.

# RESULTS / IMPACT

The Hate Speech conference brought together 40 international Roma and non-Roma stakeholders with relevant expertise and experience in this field, as well as mainstream media stakeholders, including media professionals, journalists and representatives of social media platforms, to jointly discuss the experiences of Sinti and Roma communities and individuals. The conference focused on multiple and complementary strategies to combat hate speech and Antigypsyism, through both preventive and responsive approaches. The conference also reflected explicitly on the role of social

media and the strategies of fighting hate speech online. The conference speakers included: Tatjana Andelić (Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues), Ambassador Michaela Küchler (the Special Representative for Relations with Jewish Organisations, Issues Relating to Antisemitism), Michael Roth (Minister of State for Europe), Hallvard Gorseth (Head of Antidiscrimination Department, Head of Department), Tommaso Chiamparino (EU Code of Conduct to prevent and counter the spread of illegal hate speech online), Bastiaan Winkel (Vice-Chair of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Combatting Hate Speech), Alen Tahiri (Substitute Rapporteur on Antigypsyism, Hate Speech and Violence, Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues [ADI-ROM]), Dan Doghi (Chief of the CPRSI, Senior Adviser on Roma and Sinti Issues), Ismael Cortes (Member of the Spanish Congress), Roberto Bortone (Member of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Combating Hate Speech), Anja Reuss (Central Council of German Sinti and Roma), Snežana Samardžić-Marković (Director General, DG Democracy, Council of Europe), Romani Rose (Chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma), and Zeljko Jovanovic (Chairman of the Board of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture).

The conference was live streamed through ERIAC Facebook, with over 5000 active views over the two days of the conference.

Conference speakers/panelists: 40

Moderators: 6 Rapporteurs: 1

Romanes Interpreter: 1

Institutional Partners: Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team, and the Central Council of German

Sinti and Roma

Total Facebook reach: 28.994

Livestream on Facebook reach: 25.294

Website reach: 897 page visits Total YouTube reach: 51 views

# Media coverage:

Portal UDAR – Zero tolerance of Antigypsyism is the task of politics and our entire society – UDAR (portal-udar.net)

Romea.cz, March 19, 2021 – Romani Experts

Discussed Hate Speech and Antigypsyism in the Media

Gitanos RTVE – https://www.rtve.es/alacarta/audios/gitanos/gitanos-plataforma-khetanefundacion-secretariado-gitano-frentediscriminacion-28-03 21/5829429/?fbclid=lwAR28Fu6GnPo7SYPwIO1mOZ4EfJf0QowXMLwb0svOYh5ocVJR QshjHinAgSc

ADI-ROM MEETING CULTURAL PROGRAMME ONLINE on 16 March 2021



ON THE OCCASION
OF THE 3rd ADI-ROM MEETING,
COUNCIL OF EUROPE
16 MARCH 2021, 18.30-19:15

As part of the online meeting of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADIROM), ERIAC hosted an online cultural programme, including exclusive online opening of the Family Archives exhibition. The event took place on the occasion of the 3rd ADI-ROM meeting. The programme commenced with music by Sandro Roy, Hermaine Landsberger Trio, feat. Giovanni Weiss, followed by the welcome by hosts: Stefan Mayer (Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community) and Tatjana ANDELIC (Chair of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues, Council of Europe). The programme continued with the ERIAC introduction by Timea Junghaus (Executive Director of ERIAC) and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka (Deputy Director of ERIAC), followed by the exclusive Family Archives exhibition tour and discussion, featuring artists: Alfred Ullrich, Tayo Onutor, and Vera

Lacková. The programme concluded with the additional optional evening programme: the premiere of Vera Lacková's documentary film, "How I Became a Partisan" (89 min).

# RESULTS / IMPACT:

The event was private and exclusively for the staff of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM). It has consequently inspired new alliances and actions and formed new networks and visibility.

# FAMILY ARCHIVES EXHIBITION on 17 March 2021



The Family Archives exhibition engaged with research into the public and institutional archives. This research was carried out with the participation of European Sinti and Roma public figures, intellectuals, artists, citizens, and youth, who were willing to share their own family collections and experiences. The private archives dissolved the differences and connected the experiences between European citizens, unveiling Sinti and Roma diasporic history as a significant contribution to the common understanding of contemporary Europe. This touching journey comprised childhood memories, precious personal family relics, statements of self-definition and photographic

material, all intertwined to explore the poetics of belonging, history and the past, offering new perspectives for a mutual, polyphonic European future. To respect the privacy of all participants, the presented individuals, their voices and family relics were displayed in anonymous form.

The online opening, with virtual exhibition tour and the discussion, "The Significance of Roma Subjective Archives", with contemporary artist Alfred Ullrich, singer and activist Tayo Onutor, and filmmaker Vera Lacková, was live streamed through ERIAC's Facebook page. The video is permanently available on ERIAC's YouTube Channel and Facebook page.

Opening speakers: 3

Curators: 3

Romanes Interpreter: 1

Total Facebook reach: 7.700 Website reach: 132 page visits Total YouTube reach: 44 views

Media coverage:

Art News Portal: https://www.artnewsportal.com/art-news/family-archives-exhibition?A=SearchResult&SearchID=10572840&ObjectID=1327254&ObjectType=35 Kubinaut: https://www.kubinaut.de/de/termine/family-archives-exhibition/Art

Rabbit: https://www.artrabbit.com/events/family-archives

# JOAKIM ESKILDSEN AND NIHAD NINO PUŠIJA: A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY INTO ROMA LIVES on 25 March 2021



This exhibition was organised in cooperation with, and in the space of, the Federal Foreign Office, and was opened on 25 March 2021. The exhibition depicted a photographic journey into Roma lives traversed by renowned photographers, Nihad Nino Pušija and Joakim Eskildsen, who each confront the complexity of contemporary Roma portraiture through different artistic strategies.

# **CURATORIAL TEXT:**

Joakim Eskildsen's series is a personal confession of his encounters with Roma communities between 2000 and 2006. We can see in image after image that the photographer has listened acutely to the individuals he walks among, and to the landscape in which their lives take shape. It is the photographer's attitude, characterised by empathy and respect, which is directly communicated in the photos and which accounts for the special status of the works presented here. Poverty is not idealised in these pictures, or even transfigured into the supposed "culture" of the Sinti and Roma but is understood as a consequence of social disadvantage and exclusion. Eskildsen neither glosses over, nor voyeuristically exploits this structurally conditioned poverty of the people in his images. To categorise Eskildsen's work as "documentary" would be perhaps to underestimate its unwavering aesthetic, its compositional inventiveness, and the artist's commitment to creating authentic and empathetic Roma

representations. In recent years, many photographers have taken it upon themselves to critically examine Roma depiction in photography, to reflect upon the perception of Roma promoted by photography, and to consciously investigate another form of portrayal. Among them are the Bosnian photographer of Roma origin, Nihad Pušija. In his present series of portraits of internationally known Romani artists and activists, Pusija sets a milestone for an affirmative, positive intervention in the history of photography. His photographs present powerful and self-determined Sinti and Roma, who embody strong contemporary Roma leadership. The visual journey of the exhibition evolves from domestic interiors and lyrical landscapes to present-day portraits of strong, successful, and self-determined contemporary Roma individuals, melding the notions of identity and representation, and offering meditations on the power of photography.

The opening was live streamed on ERIAC's Facebook page and reached 4.400 people.

# The opening programme:

- Opening Speech by Ambassador Michaela Küchler
- Virtual tour through the exhibition
- Introduction to the exhibition, with photographers Nihad Pušija and Joakim Eskildsen, in discussion with ERIAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus
- Musical break
- Discussion, "Hear the Roma Model Speak!", about Roma representation in contemporary photography. With actress and playwright Mihaela Dragan, and singer, songwriter, and actress Riah May Knight; moderated by Timea Junghaus.

Exhibited artists: 1 Opening speakers: 6 Romanes Interpreter: 1

Total Facebook reach: 5.700 Total YouTube reach: 116 views Website reach: 292 page visits

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: ROMA YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

7-9 April 2021



The international conference was organised by the Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It was prepared and implemented in cooperation with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), and in close association with Ternype, the European Roma Grass Roots Organisations Network, Phiren Amenca and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. The conference aimed at strengthening the knowledge of Roma and Traveller history, culture and identity as a factor enhancing social inclusion and participation of Roma and Traveller young people.

# ITS SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WERE:

- To support cooperation among Roma and non-Roma youth leaders by meeting, interacting, and learning about the role of Roma history and culture in shaping the identities and perceptions of Roma youth in Europe today.
- To support the dissemination and usage of Council of Europe standards and educational resources, in particular the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials, the handbook "Right to

Remember", and the role of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture therein.

- To motivate participants and their organisations in their work as disseminators of education about Roma and Traveller history, culture and identity, as well as Roma Holocaust Remembrance.
- To reflect upon and propose action regarding expressions of Antigypsyism today, such as online hate speech, Holocaust denial and misrepresentations of history.
- To collect and disseminate experiences and expectations about promoting the participation and inclusion of Roma and Traveller young people.
- To celebrate Roma cultural diversity and engage young people and youth organisations to the celebrations of International Roma Day (8 April) and the 50th anniversary of the First World Romani Congress, held in 1971 in Orpington, Kent, United Kingdom.

A recent study on Roma youth participation concludes that in Europe, policies have yet to mention and address systematically and continuously the needs of Roma youth. To date, targeted policies, standards, and programmes specific for and with Roma youth have almost never been developed and implemented at the local, national, and European levels. National and European institutions have avoided or neglected recognising and including the specific history, needs, and challenges of Roma youth in mainstream policies and measures. This neutral, "one fits all" approach in policies and recommendations targeting a diverse spectrum of European young people has ignored and denied the reality of racism and historical and structural inequalities faced by Roma youth and other racialised young peoples.

To ensure inclusive policies, the conference aimed to show that Roma young people must be included in youth and Roma policies and programmes in all stages, from design to evaluation. Moreover, to be effective and trustworthy, policies, including youth policy, ought to incorporate anti-racist and social inclusion measures. Conference youth participants: over 120 Institutional Partners: Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe, in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. It is prepared and implemented in co-operation with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), and in close association with Ternype, the European Roma Grass Roots Organisations Network, Phiren Amenca and the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma.

Total Facebook reach: 40.100

Total livestreams on Facebook reach: 34.900

The highest single livestream reach: 6.700

Total YouTube reach: 121 views Website reach: 162 page visits

Media coverage: Tagesschau: "Roma Youth Conference" at 11:50 https://www.tagesschau.de/multimedia/video/video-847281.html

Sonia Carmona: ¿Hasta dónde llega nuestro desconocimiento sobre la realidad

gitana? In COLEGIOS CREATIVOS

Opening speakers: 3

Curators: 3

Romanes Interpreter: 1

Total Facebook reach: 7.700 Website reach: 132 page visits Total YouTube reach: 44 views

# Media coverage:

Art News Portal: https://www.artnewsportal.com/art-news/family-archives-exhibition?A=SearchResult&SearchID=10572840&ObjectID=1327254&ObjectType=35

Kubinaut: https://www.kubinaut.de/de/termine/family-archives-exhibition/

Art Rabbit: https://www.artrabbit.com/events/family-archives

# CARICATURE COMPETITION FOR ARTISTS OF ROMA ORIGIN



To commemorate the uprising in the Auschwitz concentration camp on 16 May 1944, on Romani Resistance Day, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) announced an international competition for Roma visual artists, graphic designers,

cartoonists, and talented individuals to submit their political drawings, cartoons and caricatures. Proposals engaging directly with satirizing political subjects, criticising current or past political events, or expressing a certain socio-political phenomenon in a humorous way, were welcomed. ERIAC was seeking drawings, sketches, and graphics with the potential to convincingly argue for a political cause, with a humorous, satirical and sociopolitical message. The jury looked for strong visuality engaging with the complexity of the relationship between governments and Roma, Europe, minority and majority societies, European democracies, the development of Roma self-determination, press freedom, Roma demography, the upcoming Census, or any other political aspect of contemporary Roma life. A jury of contemporary artists, curators and media experts selected 3 winning artists. The artists each received a 300 Euro prize.

# MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Emília Rigová (contemporary artist, Barvalipe Academy member, head of Roma Arts and Culture Department at University of Matej Bel in Slovakia)

Lela Savić (founding editor of La Converse and Svato, the Quebec chapter lead of Canadian Journalists of Colour)

Jake Bowers (British Romani journalist, producer, media teacher and filmmaker)

# CARICATURE COMPETITION WINNERS:

Ilona Makhotina Kristián Horváth Juan Andres Amaya Torres

Lela Savić: "Kristian's piece is very strong, depicting a symbolism of strength. His pieces show how our strength comes from our past, and this is what unites us. Ilona's work represents the real life of Roma people without exoticisation. Her work is young, contemporary, very moving and refreshing. Juan's piece provides a very complex narrative: he used a plurality of experiences in one image (e.g., the BLM movement, the Holocaust), many references within one work. He has depicted the violence against Roma people".

Jake Bowers: "Ilona's work is playful, colourful and raw, but at the same time not exoticising. It portrays how Russian Roma live through horrible cold winters in tents, which is a sign of enormous strength. Juan's work represents liberation and uprising. Nazis were brainwashed, but the Resistance to them must be remembered. This work is created within a tradition and in reference to Spanish art history (e.g., Picasso, Goya), and it reveals Juan's own identity of being both Roma and Spanish at the same time.

Kristian's work displays ambiguity: on the one hand, it depicts the colourful wheel and flowers, and on the other hand, negative emotions, and exclusion through the symbol of the wire. These pieces demonstrate how one's own identity can be oppressive in its own way".

Emilia Rigová: "This competition brought together artists from many different places (Russia, the Czech Republic, Spain, Hungary, etc.), who jointly comment on the events which are connected to the collective consciousness of us all. In a very straightforward way, they all comment on oppression. In the purest artistic form, they have all depicted very complex historical events".

Caricature Competition Open Call:

Languages of the call: 11

Total Open Call Facebook reach: 31.100

Instagram reach: 220 likes Website reach: 349 page visits

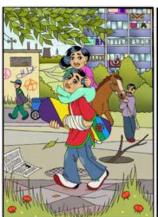
Caricature Competition Announcement

The winning works were presented in an online exhibition: https://eriac.org/winners-

caricaturecompetition/

Winners Announcement Facebook reach: 1.575

Instagram Reach: 127 likes Website reach: 121 page visits









# EXHIBITION: ROMA RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE

The exhibition opened on 16 May 2021 and is on view in the galleries at ERIAC Berlin and ERIAC Serbia in Belgrade until 25 July 2021.

# **CURATORIAL TEXT:**

We can only comprehend the 600 years of resilience and survival of the Roma minority in Europe if we recognise the Roma scholarship, knowledge, oral and ritual traditions, festive events, and social practices, concerning nature and the universe. Just as all other Roma contributions to life on Earth, the Roma connectedness to nature, the different forms of environmental consciousness, and the ideas and practices for sustainability within Roma communities have been (just as all other Roma histories) oppressed, uncollected, underestimated or misinterpreted by stereotyping, without the corrective impact of the Roma themselves. Young Roma artists and authors confess their hopes and fears, in an attempt to transfer fragments of the past, and to share Roma heritage, traditions and skills that have built, and continue to build, an environment in which humans' peaceful coexistence with Nature and with each other is a foundational principle. Exhibiting artists: Daniel Baker, Rifet Bajramović, José Manuel Fernández Cortés, Lajos Gabor – Joar Nango, Ľuboš Kotlár, Renata Roxana Mihaly, Estefanía Ruíz (Mil Duquelas), Zita Moldovan (Loly), Norbert Oláh, Marina Rosselle, Selma Selman, Zoran Tairović

Total Facebook reach: 2.330 Total YouTube reach: 74 views Website reach: 284 page visits

# Media coverage:

ArtRabbit: https://www.artrabbit.com/events/roma-resistance-and-resilience

Berlin Art Link: https://www.berlinartlink.com/2021/05/14/eriac-exhibition-romaresistance-day/

Graiul Maramureşului (Romanian): http://www.graiul.ro/2021/05/14/renata-mihaly-expune-laberlin





## PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT "ROMA COMPONENT OF THE GERMAN COUNCIL OF EUROPE PRESIDENCY DURING 2021"

The project, "Roma Component of the German Council of Europe Presidency during 2021" consisted of seven complex project elements which focused on raising awareness of the Roma arts and culture by highlighting the contributions of Roma to

majority societies and advocating for the building of institutional alliances to combat the misrepresentation of the Roma, and the various manifestations of Antigypsyism.

The project aimed to encourage greater commitment of the member states of the Council of Europe to support art, culture, history, and media of the Roma, and to strengthen the cooperation and the institutional approach that welcomes the contributions of Roma, following the example of Germany. ERIAC's programming included art exhibitions, online international conferences, and youth engagement events. The project, "Roma Component of the German Council of Europe Presidency during 2021" was successful in raising awareness about the Roma communities' significant contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge among majority societies, mainstream cultural institutions, and European governments. Due to the restrictions prescribed by the global Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of the project's events and activities took place online, respecting travel restrictions and social distancing regulations across Europe. The given restrictions contributed to the project's wider dissemination, as the project became available online for much broader audiences globally, through online streams and public events.

#### Specifically, the project attained the following achievements:

- A substantial contribution to European culture by promoting new knowledge through ERIAC's network of cultural experts creating grounds for collaboration among different types of stakeholders.
- Germany's recognition of the definition of Antigypsyism, thanks to ERIAC's activities and initiatives.
- The drafting of a Roma Youth Statement addressed to the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the partners and participants of the Roma Youth Conference.
- Proposed strategies of challenging and preventing hate speech in the media.
   Building a counternarrative through Roma-led media initiatives.
- Reflected on the role of social media and the strategies of fighting against hate speech online.
- Supported the participation and inclusion of Roma young people in creating policies and programmes.
- Guaranteed the sustainability and the potential long-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.
- Is mapping the policies and institutions through which Roma art and Roma cultural producers can be properly recognised by mainstream society.

- Established ERIAC as the organisation taking leadership on Roma cultural history education for further cooperation with Roma and majority organisations, institutions, scholars, artists and activists across Europe.
- Inspired new alliances and actions among actors on the national and local levels towards the recognition of Roma cultural heritage.
- Through a strong online presence, guarantees the longevity of the project's deliverables and their outreach to broad audiences worldwide.
- Established the ERIAC website as an online digital space and the project platform.
- Employed ERIAC social media channels (Facebook, Instagram) to stimulate greater visibility and online audience reach.
- Documented each event according to the highest quality technical standards, in creative ways, to promote ERIAC.
- Created important media partnerships, which furthered the project's dissemination.

#### **RESULTS AND IMPACT**

The transnational visibility of both ERIAC and the community of Roma artists, intellectuals, journalists, and cultural producers, was ensured through artistic events, exhibitions, discussions and international conferences. All ERIAC events made a high impact on international audiences online, and are furthermore sustainable, as they remain online as a foundation for future events, projects, and for further audiences. This visibility, the value of Roma contributions, 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 majority societies. Furthermore, art exhibitions organised within this project have been promoted through mainstream art journals and media, which has secured the visibility of ERIAC's activities among broader art audiences in Berlin and beyond. Institutional Partners: Council of Europe Roma and Travellers Team, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Youth Department and the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe, in the framework of the German Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, Open Society Foundations, The Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture and Federal Foreign Office.

ERIAC website visits: 2.237 Facebook reach: 117.449

Facebook growth: 778 followers 1 February 2021: 18.676 followers 23 May 2021: 19.454 followers Objects: 3

Conference written outputs: 1 Video documentation materials: 12

#### PROUD ROMA FREE EUROPE - CENSUS CAMPAIGN



The Proud Roma Free Europe campaign is run by a coalition of international, national and grassroots Romani organisations across Europe. The international partners in the campaign are the Open Society Roma Initiatives Office (RIO), the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), Roma Education Fund (REF), and the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI).

The National advocacy partners are Aresel (Romania), Avaja (North Macedonia), Kethane (Italy), Roma Standing Conference (Bulgaria), Opre Roma Srbija (Serbia), Opre Roma (Slovakia), and OPRE ROMA Kosovo (Kosovo).

In 2021, ERIAC engaged in 5 transnational activities and contributed to 3 national census campaigns in Slovakia, North Macedonia, and Bulgaria.

#### TRANSNATIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. April 2021: ERIAC launched the Proud Roma, Free Europe campaign to strengthen Romani pride and identity, and to encourage civic participation – also marking the 50th anniversary of the First World Roma Congress. The multilingual platform proudroma.org was also launched with a joint visual identity that ERIAC developed to

brand the transnational campaign as well as the commemorative activities around April 8th.



2. May 16, 2021: Transnational Romani Resistance Week – Mobilizing communities locally to stand up against the rise of far-right formations and ideologies, transnational Romani resistance marches were held in more than 70 locations Europewide.



Links: https://proudroma.org/main-page/keeping-the-flame-of-romani-resistance-join-the-transnational-romani-resistance-week/; https://proudroma.org/main-page/transnational-romani-resistance-event-highlights/

**3.** June 2021: Racism kills – In a joint response to the death of Stanislav Tomas, the network, with the support of ERIAC, penned a letter to the President of the European Commission. Protests were held across Europe demanding justice for victims of racism and police brutality.

"Racism Kills. Roma want to live" online campaign and petition published in 7 languages on proudroma.org.



#### Links:

https://proudroma.org/main-page/racism-kills-roma-want-to-live/; https://proudroma.org/main-page/roma-call-on-eu-to-address-police-brutality-in-wake-of-stanislav-tomas-death/

**4.** August 2, 2021: In a message of unity and with the objective of raising awareness of the tragic fate of Roma during WWII, as part of the Proud Roma Free Europe campaign, ERIAC and a transnational network of Roma movements and institutions came together in a series of offline and online events across Europe.

Inspired by the work of Spanish-Romani artist Rocio Montoya, ERIAC created a visual campaign commemorating the Roma Holocaust. ERIAC shared materials on the history of the Roma Holocaust and the role of Roma arts and culture – including literature and visual arts – in conveying the wartime traumas Roma communities experienced. Short historical texts on local Holocaust histories in Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Serbia were published online, and limited-edition merchandise was shared with the network to support local community events and commemorations (1 large PRFE flag, 1 large Roma flag, 25 medium flags, 35 hand flags, 25 T-shirts, 35 bags, 250 stickers, 125 buttons). In addition, 'Roma Remember' billboards were placed in strategic locations in North Macedonia, Slovakia, Kosovo, and Serbia to raise awareness about the Roma Holocaust.

Local partner activities on 2 August were supported by ERIAC as part of a broader effort to facilitate a common identity among Europe's Roma and position the network as an international movement.









5. November 5, 2021: Proud Roma Free Europe celebrates Romani Language Day

On the occasion of the World Day of Romani Language on 5 November, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) released a collection of Romani language materials under the umbrella of the Proud Roma Free Europe campaign.

The materials, which were available across PRFE's digital platforms, were designed to raise awareness of the importance of preserving and promoting the Romani language. Among the materials released were a series of fun facts about the Romani language and a collection of poems in Romani written by Roma poets and writers like Ilija Jovanović or Rani Romani. As part of its mission to establish a stronger transnational Roma identity, all the materials were branded with the Proud Roma Free Europe visual identity and were available for free use on its website.

Through its platforms, local online and offline initiatives developed by the national advocacy partners of PRFE were also promoted.



5 NOVEMBER
WORLD DAY OF ROMANI LANGUAGE



#### NATIONAL CENSUS CAMPAIGNS:

#### 1. Slovakia

In partnership with the Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) of the Open Society Foundations and the Roma-led civic initiative Opre Roma, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) launched its 'Proud Roma in Free Slovakia' (Hrdí Rómovia na Slobodnom Slovensku) campaign. Designed to mobilise Roma communities throughout Slovakia to declare their ethnic identity in the 2021 national census, the campaign ran until 6 June 2021, when the data collection for the census ended.

As part of the campaign, ERIAC co-produced a campaign video featuring well-known Slovakian Roma personalities such as singers Igor Kmet'o and Gitana, political figure Eduard Čonka from the Office of the Government for Roma Communities, and boxer Viliam Tanko, designed to encourage Roma pride and raise awareness of the importance of participating as Roma in the national census.

Link: https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=318820849838841

ERIAC also hosted 5 online Barvalipe Talks in order to create deeper knowledge of identity, local history and politics in relation to the census with Slovakian Roma artists and well-known personalities Emília Rigová, Nadežda Malčeková, Gitana, Erika Godlová, and Nataša Slobodníková. The talks were moderated by Vera Lackova and Milan Berko.

#### 2. North Macedonia

The national census in North Macedonia, originally planned for the beginning of April, took place between 5 and 30 September 2021. The online registration for Macedonian nationals living outside the country was available from March until the end of the census period. Following the leading up to the census period in September, ERIAC and AVAJA collaborated on various transnational activities that brought together the entire network to stand together in unity, commemorating key Roma events in the calendar and reacting to issues of racism and police brutality. ERIAC provided visual identities, platforms, funds, and cultural and historical expertise to support a unified transnational campaign, to mobilise the PRFE network, and to build a stronger cross-country solidarity and joint identity among the local teams and communities.

There were four major highlights operating on a transnational level:

- (1) 8 April International Romani Day Together with the local teams and international partners, ERIAC created a shared visual identity, and launched the PRFE campaign/website on 8 April 2021, also celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World Romani Congress.
- (2) 16 May Transnational Romani Resistance Week Mobilizing communities locally to stand up against the rise of far-right formations and ideologies, transnational Romani resistance marches were held in more than 70 locations Europe-wide. In North Macedonia, people from 11 different localities Gostivar, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Kochani, Shtip, Berovo, Debar, Kavadarci, Vinica, Saraj and Gjorche Petrov, and Strumica came together to take part in the joint initiative.
- (3) 2 August Roma Holocaust Memorial Day Inspired by the work of Spanish-Romani artist Rocio Montoya, ERIAC created a visual campaign commemorating the Roma Holocaust. Short historical texts on local Holocaust histories in Macedonia were published online, and limited-edition merchandise was shared with AVAJA to support local community events and commemorations (1 large PRFE flag, 1 large Roma flag, 25 medium flags, 35 hand flags, 25 T-shirts, 35 bags, 250 stickers, 125 buttons). In addition, 'Roma Remember' billboards were placed in four strategic locations in Skopje to raise awareness about the Roma Holocaust.
- (4) Racism kills In a joint response to the death of Stanislav Tomas, the network, with the support of ERIAC, penned a letter to the President of the European Commission. Protests were held across Europe demanding justice for victims of racism and police brutality. launch of the Proud Roma Free Europe campaign and the postponement of the census, the collaboration between ERIAC and national advocacy partner AVAJA resumed in early June. Regular coordination meetings were held to set nationally relevant targets and tailor ERIAC's engagement to the local context.

#### **COMMON VISUAL IDENTITY**

1. PRODUCING GIVEAWAYS – MERCHANDISE (T-SHIRTS, BAGS, FLAGS) TO SUPPORT OFFLINE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD.

ERIAC supported AVAJA in the local production of a significant amount of merchandise and other giveaways. During the bilateral coordination meetings, it was agreed that AVAJA would create the merchandise designs in-house and oversee production based on the agreed budget. Upon the completion of the first drafts, ERIAC reworked and finalized the designs with AVAJA to be more consistent with the PRFE branding.

In addition, for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> commemorations, ERIAC delivered a package of branded items, including bags, T-shirts, flags, and other Proud Roma materials for local distribution. The target group were Roma communities on a local level.

While produced and distributed quite late in the campaign due to lack of capacity on the ground, the provided merchandise was received well by AVAJA and the members of the communities; they are one of the pillars of local activism. They also provide powerful and engaging visual material for publications and social media.

ERIAC's contribution to the final merchandise designs was crucial to ensure consistency with the PRFE branding and emphasize the transnational aspect of the PRFE initiative. While local adaptations are encouraged, major adjustments to the designs approved by the network should be limited to ensure the recognisability of the PRFE campaign on a transnational level.

Based on feedback from the local teams, there is a continuous need for Roma flags on the side of the community. As such, ERIAC should continue to provide branded merchandise to local teams provided that local production and distribution is possible. Centralized production and distribution should be kept to a minimum as it is costly and time-consuming.

#### COMMUNICATION:

#### TRANSLATION AND PROMOTION OF CENSUS BACKGROUND PAPER

ERIAC published an English and Macedonian edited version of Suad Skenderi's article to provide context for the upcoming census and raise awareness about the importance of Roma participation. The target group were Roma individuals in North Macedonia, general public.

Both English and Macedonian versions were well received and had significant views (216 and 4765 views on PRFE website, respectively).

The promotion of the census background paper was necessary to provide reliable and up-to-date data on the census and greater presence and awareness of the local context in public discourses and among the wider Roma population. To increase impact, it should be shared widely during the knowledge and attention phase.

#### 2. NATIONAL-LEVEL REPORTING ON PRFE WEBSITE

One of ERIAC's important activities was to support the work and public visibility of AVAJA by reporting on their activities and achievements, discussing the

relevance of the census, and providing regular updates on issues surrounding the census procedure. ERIAC published a total of 27 North Macedonia-related articles on the PRFE website in Macedonian, English and Romani, out of which 11 were published during the census period, tracking the day-to-day progress of the campaign. The target group were Macedonian Roma and transnational network, press.

Based on feedback from the local team, English and Romani language articles that amplify local movement-related activities within the wider network are especially valuable. It is a unique platform that informs the transnational network about national-level developments and is a reliable source of information for the international press. Within the peak census period, the PRFE platform provided summary-like content with the purpose of informing the Macedonian public and growing the recognition of AVAJA among new audiences and geographies.

To achieve even higher visibility and impact, greater harmonization of capacities is needed to ensure a more complementary content production between ERIAC and the local teams.

# 3. ACTIVE AND COORDINATED PRESENCE ON ALL PROUD ROMA FREE EUROPE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS INCLUDING FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER:

Throughout the campaign, the PRFE social media platforms served as loudspeakers for the local campaign, and for the content published by AVAJA.

ERIAC supported AVAJA's communications output by developing social media campaign messaging templates in ENG, MK and ROM for free use and adaptation, extracted partially from the census background paper and other historical texts. Launched during the impact phase, the SM templates focused on demonstrating the power, unity, confidence and agency of Roma individuals, groups and the wider community.

After clarifying the strategic approach to online communication and functional division between the teams, ERIAC aimed to follow the following principles:

- movement-related, national-level messaging is to be posted by local movement and shared by Proud Roma (reinforcing relevance through transnational identity and/or elevating local campaign towards Europe-wide community)
- messages with more identity/artistic focus and more abstract campaign messaging with ties to the local campaign as well as messages with a

transnational focus tying the different campaigns together are to be posted by Proud Roma and shared/reinforced by local movement

Online communication was boosted through targeted advertising with Datadat.

On the countdown to 30 September, ERIAC engaged its members to publicly announce their participation in the census and – as respected public figures – be carriers of the messages of pride and dignity, demonstrating power among Roma publicly. The target group were Roma communities on a national/transnational level, non-Roma allies, and other partner organizations.

Sharing, reposting and amplifying partner content is necessary to fulfill the essence of the transnationality of the campaign. In order for the content sharing to become more efficient, the PRFE targeting strategies have to be revisited and harmonized with the experiences and knowledge of the local team during each campaign phase.

Due to the irregularities on the ground regarding the census procedure, there was a stoppage in 'positive' campaign messaging during the impact phase of the campaign. ERIAC participated in the daily coordination meetings to stay informed about local developments, formulate strategic responses (shift in focus to reporting on manipulations) and align its communications output with AVAJA.

From the perspective of growing and engaging the PRFE audience, there must be a larger focus on new, original content that brings visibility to the national movements, and at the same time, connects the dots between the different national campaigns. A two-way cooperation between ERIAC and the local teams has to be established to drive traffic to the PRFE platforms, and in turn, increase the visibility of the local campaigns on a transnational level. This was only partially achieved due to the limited capacity of the teams and the difficult political context that restricted the implementation of a consistent communications strategy.

#### ONLINE ACTIVITIES / CONTENT PRODUCTION

#### 1. BARVALIPE TALKS:

AVAJA and ERIAC organized a total of four panel discussions within the framework of the BARVALIPE TALKS series. The first panel was held on 24 August on Roma assimilation in North Macedonia with antigypsyism and Roma Holocaust expert Mustafa Jakupov, moderated by Daniel Petrovski. The series continued from mid-September with three additional talks:

- 17 September: The power of performing arts: Past and present of Roma performing arts in North Macedonia with Dzijan Emin (conductor and musician), Bajsa Arifovska (musician), and Nedjo Osman (actor).
- 24 September: Power through language: promoting Romani language and literature in North Macedonia with Sevdija Demirova Abdulova, dr. Ljatif Demir, Mirdita Saliu, and Sejdo Jasharov.
- 2 October: **The power of Roma women in North Macedonia** with Kjmet Amet, Salija Bekir Halim, Nadire Redzepi, Selva Mustafi and Ramiza Sakip, moderated by Marija Sulejmanova. The target group were Roma and non-Roma intellectuals and activists

The panels generated exciting and engaging discussions and aimed to provide empowering content during the peak census period. Due to technical difficulties, the first two panels were not cross streamed on all host platforms but the problem was resolved for the last two discussions. The panels were held in Macedonian and Romani languages combined. The last panel was held solely in Macedonian.

In terms of views and interactions, the panel on the power of Roma women proved the most popular with 3,2K views combined (AVAJA, PRFE and ERIAC Facebook pages), while others reached between 1000-2000 views.

The scheduling of the talks was delayed due to the added workload of the teams caused by the irregularities and manipulations on the ground which required urgent and strategic responses. While the talks would have benefitted from more promotion and follow-up, as well as earlier timing, they remain a rich and valuable resource for further knowledge sharing within the wider transnational Roma community. Based on feedback from AVAJA, we should explore possibilities of releasing edited versions, translations, thematic editions cut together from different countries for wider reach and to support upcoming campaigns.

#### BARVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DR. LJATIF DEMIR

ERIAC launched the second edition of the Barvalipe Roma Online University lecture series, scheduling the lecture in Macedonia during the census period. The lecture – The History of Sedentary Roma in the Republic of North Macedonia – was followed by a live panel discussion. The target group were Roma and non-Roma intellectuals.

The lecture complemented well the narrative of the census campaign; Professor Ljatif used historical data to underlie the importance of Roma participation in the census and the longstanding presence of sedentary Roma in North Macedonia.

The lecture proved to be highly successful and generated a lot of visibility. The video has been viewed by around **25,000 viewers**, and received over 400 reactions, likes and shares.

The university lectures are an important platform to ensure greater presence and awareness of historical, cultural, and artistic narratives in public discourses by Roma. Similar to the Barvalipe Talks, they are a rich and valuable resource for further knowledge sharing. For greater impact, and conditional upon the census timeline, the historical material should be incorporated into the national & transnational-level social media messaging.

#### 3. CAMPAIGN VIDEOS

ERIAC provided support for the production of two campaign films. AVAJA conceptualized the videos in cooperation with RCC; ERIAC contributed to the narratives and finalized the English language translations. The team also participated in the joint release of the videos and used its platforms (PRFE and ERIAC) to boost the visibility of the campaign. The target group were Roma communities on a national/transnational level, non-Roma allies.

Campaign videos – whether intended for traditional- or social media platforms – are well-suited for online promotion and are a popular and engaging content format to present the campaign narrative. Their reach extends beyond the local team and network structures and builds a mainstream audience. Based on the PRFE performance overview, video shares are the second-best performing post types after link shares; in the case of N. Macedonia, they resulted in 21K and 9.5K views per campaign video.

#### 4. FILM SCREENING AND THEATRE PERFORMANCES

ERIAC planned to organize film screening events and theatre performances – with the possibility of a few hybrids offline-online screenings and performances in some communities where the infrastructure was available – in order to foster cultural awareness and pride. Due to a lack of capacity on the ground, ERIAC and AVAJA decided against holding offline screenings and looked into the possibilities of organizing screening events online. ERIAC was corresponding with Sami Mustafa from Rolling Film Festival to curate a list of films and obtain screening rights. We pursued to get the screening rights of 'Mangava Disco Punk', 'Flames of God' and 'When the Road Bends – Tales of a Gypsy Caravan' but disengaged due to the heightened uncertainty of the field and a lack of

feedback on the proposal from the local team. Similarly, we contacted Orhan Jasharovski, Amet Jasar, Nedjo Osman, and Sanela Emin to organize a theatre performance but did not move ahead with any concrete plans. The target group was Roma communities on a local level.

As a cultural component and owing to its community-organizing potential and artistic/educational value, ERIAC should pursue the possibilities of offline/online film screenings and theatre performances in other countries as well. With the added purpose of intensifying ERIAC's engagement on a local level and reinforcing a sense of pride among Roma communities through arts & culture, ERIAC should curate a list of relevant films and theatre plays per country, per campaign phase in other census countries during the preparatory phase.

#### **OFFLINE ACTIVITIES**

#### 1. HIGH-LEVEL EVENT

ERIAC and AVAJA conceptualized and introduced a draft agenda for a high-level kick-off event during the weekly coordination meetings in July. The objective was to bring together high-level officials a few days ahead of the starting date of the census to reflect on the crucial importance of Roma having the freedom and pride to declare their ethnicity in North Macedonia. The half-day kick-off event was planned to take place at the Museum of Contemporary Arts in Skopje with high-level government officials and representatives of international organizations and institutions in attendance to reflect on the census, the campaign objectives, and the importance of preserving, promoting, and educating about Roma arts, culture and history. We planned to invite the Prime Minister and targeted both the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education to build political power for advancing Roma cultural inclusion in the region. The target group were Roma and non-Roma intellectuals and political representatives.

The Proud Roma Free Europe high-level event was postponed indefinitely upon RIO's instructions. It was canceled very late in the organizational timeline after the draft agenda had been prepared, the list of invited guests confirmed, the venue request sent out, official invitation letters drafted, informal inquiries made, and partner organizations brought on board. While one of the main objectives was to build public and political support for the cultural inclusion of Roma in North Macedonia, the census framing was regarded untimely due to the progress made during the first half of the census campaign (before the postponement).

The intensive preparation of the event took a lot of energy from both teams and the last-minute cancellation had a negative impact on their performance and enthusiasm. While ERIAC and AVAJA agree that clarification was needed in terms of the framing of the event and the advocacy goals of each entity, a clear decision-making mandate between the ERIAC-RIO-AVAJA teams, better communication flow and timely approval/feedback before implementation should be achieved.

#### 2. MURAL PAINTING

In an effort to contribute to the programming of 1-day Mahala events in up to 3 strategic locations where Roma identity was weaker, ERIAC reached out to artists who could facilitate a community event and create a mural/graphic recording to capture what was happening in the communities or create a long-lasting artwork – a symbol of pride for the local community – about the history of the community and/or the history of Roma in Macedonia. The target group were Roma communities on a local level.

Due to a lack of capacity on the ground and ad hoc planning – coupled with ERIAC's limited knowledge of the field (knowledge of local communities, local spaces, required permits) – this activity was not implemented. However, as a cultural component and a performative intervention, mural painting / street art should be organized in upcoming campaigns due to its strong community-organizing potential and educational value.

#### LOCAL COUNTRY COORDINATOR

Semran Sulejman was hired as a full-time country coordinator for 3 months between July 14 and October 14, 2021. His support in the coordination and implementation of the agreed activities, his familiarity with the campaign and knowledge of Macedonian were indispensable for the smooth operation between the teams and local service providers as well as ERIAC's national-level communications output. While he served as an important connecting point between the different teams, his local knowledge and presence in the field could have been taken advantage of to a greater extent. For future census campaigns, the involvement of a country coordinator earlier on in the campaign will improve the timely implementation of activities.

#### 3. Bulgaria

The Bulgarian census period was preceded by various transnational activities led by ERIAC, which brought together the Bulgarian and other national advocacy teams to stand together in unity, commemorating key Roma events in the calendar and reacting to issues of racism and police brutality. ERIAC provided visual identities, platforms,

funds, and cultural and historical expertise to support a unified transnational campaign, to mobilize the PRFE network, and to build a stronger cross-country solidarity and joint identity among the local teams and communities.

The Bulgarian census took place between 7 September and 10 October 2021. Both online and in-person phases of the census were extended beyond the initial closing dates due to suspected irregularities reported to the National Statistical Institute – among others, by activists of national advocacy partner Roma Standing Conference. During this period, and in line with the prevailing covid-19 restrictions, ERIAC and RSC developed a set of cultural outputs and online activities to support the census campaign.

There were four major highlights operating on a transnational level:

- (1) **8 April International Romani Day** Together with the local teams and international partners, ERIAC created a shared visual identity, and launched the PRFE campaign/website on 8 April 2021, also celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World Romani Congress.
- (2) 16 May Transnational Romani Resistance Week Mobilizing communities locally to stand up against the rise of far-right formations and ideologies, transnational Romani resistance marches were held in more than 70 locations Europe-wide. In Bulgaria, close to 200 people from 8 localities joined the initiative.
- (3) 2 August Roma Holocaust Memorial Day Inspired by the work of Spanish-Romani artist Rocio Montoya, ERIAC created a visual campaign commemorating the Roma Holocaust. Short historical texts on local Holocaust histories in Bulgaria were published online and limited-edition merchandise was shared with RSC.
- (4) Racism kills In a joint response to the death of Stanislav Tomas, the network, with the support of ERIAC, penned a letter to the President of the European Commission. Protests were held across Europe demanding justice for victims of racism and police brutality.

Leading up to the census period, the ERIAC team held several discussions with the activists of Roma Standing Conference and consultants of RIO. Together, we put together a draft plan of activities and possible ways of cooperation. Upon synchronizing our strategic approaches, we concluded that ERIAC can provide support in the following activities to enhance the impact of the campaign:

#### **COMMON VISUAL IDENTITY**

1. PRODUCING GIVEAWAYS – BROCHURES, POSTERS, MERCHANDISE (T-SHIRTS, BAGS, FLAGS) TO SUPPORT OFFLINE ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD.

ERIAC produced a significant amount of merchandise and other giveaways to support RSC in their fieldwork. We printed 10.000 brochures and 800 large posters with information on the census, which were distributed by activists of RSC on site in altogether 51 communities. Furthermore, ERIAC provided 150 Roma flags, Proud Roma stickers and buttons and 400 T-shirts with Proud Roma designs. Additionally, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August commemorations, limited-edition T-shirts and bags were distributed (1 large PRFE flag, 1 large Roma flag, 25 medium flags, 35 hand flags, 25 T-shirts, 35 bags, 250 stickers, 125 buttons). The target group were Roma communities on a local level.

The provided merchandise and info packages (flyers, posters) were received well by RSC and by the members of the communities; they serve as entry points to the local communities and are one of the pillars of local activism. They also provide powerful and engaging visual material for publications and social media.

Based on feedback from the local teams, there is a continuous need for Roma flags on the side of the community. The PRFE flag with the fist logo is a popular item and a welcomed symbol of power and agency. As such, ERIAC should continue to provide branded merchandise to local teams provided that local production and distribution are possible. Centralized production and distribution should be kept to a minimum as shipping is costly and time-consuming. Similarly, increasing community presence and campaign visibility through informative flyers and posters should be continued.

#### COMMUNICATION:

#### RADIO SPOT

In order to reach a wider, not necessarily politically engaged audience, ERIAC and RSC launched a radio ad at Radio Veselina, one of the leading commercial radio stations in Bulgaria playing Roma music, with a monthly reach of 1.065.091 listeners. Together with RIO, ERIAC and RSC formulated and broadcasted the following messages in Bulgarian:

- i. We owe it to our ancestors and the future generations of Roma to show the real number of Roma living in Bulgaria. Declare your Roma identity proudly and freely in the national census.
- ii. The census matters. The number of Roma will inform the number of Roma teachers, doctors, policemen and the size of investment in our communities. Make sure you declare your Roma identity proudly and freely in the national census.

The target group were Roma individuals in Bulgaria, general public.

The messages running 3-4 times a day during the period between 17 September and 10 October reached approximately 1.000.000 listeners (monthly reach of Radio Veselina), which can be considered a significant reach.

Similar advertising on traditional media platforms (TV and radio) must be considered for any future campaigns as a mean to reach a more general public and bring the campaign messages into the mainstream.

#### 1. NATIONAL-LEVEL REPORTING ON PRFE WEBSITE

One of ERIAC's important activities was to support the work and public visibility of RSC by reporting on their activities and achievements, discussing the relevance of the census, sharing individual stories of pride, and providing regular updates on issues surrounding the census procedure. ERIAC published a total of 27 Bulgaria-related articles on the PRFE website in Bulgarian and English, out of which 14 were published during the census period, tracking the progress of the campaign. The target group were Bulgarian Roma and transnational network, press.

The articles were well received by RSC and were a valuable source of professional press content. With limited capacities to regularly report on activities and developments on the ground, RSC used the PRFE platform as a source of information for media professionals.

To achieve even higher visibility and impact, greater harmonization of capacities is needed to ensure a more complementary content production between ERIAC and the local teams (both summary-like material as well as promotional content about upcoming events and activities).

#### ACTIVE AND COORDINATED PRESENCE ON ALL PROUD ROMA FREE EUROPE SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS INCLUDING FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND TWITTER:

Throughout the campaign, the PRFE social media platforms served as loudspeakers for the local campaign, and for the content published by RSC.

ERIAC supported RSC's communications output by developing social media campaign messaging templates in ENG, BG and ROM for free use and adaptation. Launched during the impact phase, the SM templates focused on demonstrating the power, unity, confidence and agency of Roma individuals, groups and the wider community. During this same period, ERIAC re-published its

dance and music competition videos from Bulgaria with a call-to-action message to further demonstrate power within the community and encourage widespread participation in the last days of the census.

After clarifying the strategic approach to online communication and functional division between the teams, ERIAC aimed to follow the following principles:

- movement-related, national-level messaging is to be posted by local movement and shared by Proud Roma (reinforcing relevance through transnational identity and/or elevating local campaign towards Europe-wide community)
- messages with more identity/artistic focus and more abstract campaign messaging with ties to the local campaign as well as messages with a transnational focus tying the different campaigns together are to be posted by Proud Roma and shared/reinforced by local movement

Online communication was boosted through targeted advertising with Datadat. The target group were Roma communities on a national/transnational level, non-Roma allies, other partner organizations.

Sharing, reposting and amplifying partner content is necessary to fulfill the essence of the transnationality of the campaign. In order for content sharing to become more efficient, the PRFE targeting strategies have to be revisited and harmonized with the experiences and knowledge of the local team.

From the perspective of growing and engaging the PRFE audience, there must be a larger focus on new, original content that brings visibility to the national movements, and at the same time, connects the dots between the different national campaigns. A two-way cooperation between ERIAC and the local teams has to be established to drive traffic to the PRFE platforms, and in turn, increase the visibility of the local campaigns on a transnational level.

Posts with a cultural component prove popular and receive less hateful comments than those with historical or census-related messaging. ERIAC should continue to promote such material and fine-tune its ad targeting strategies and audience database in cooperation with the local teams.

## 3. ENGAGING ERIAC COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE CENSUS

As ERIAC has a large network of Roma intellectuals and respected public figures who can be considered representatives of different Roma causes and communities, we aimed to engage them as carriers of the messages of pride

and dignity and to demonstrate power among Roma publicly. The target group were Roma individuals, general public on a transnational level.

ERIAC's efforts to mobilize the ERIAC membership to bring visibility to the campaign did not fulfill its expected impact. We started to engage the members too late in the campaign, therefore, widespread mobilization was not achieved. ERIAC member contributions focused on cultural content production (Barvalipe Talks, Barvalipe Online University, online theatre screening), but more could have been achieved with regard to strategic communication if we had involved the ERIAC membership during the preparatory phase, as originally planned.

#### ONLINE ACTIVITIES / CONTENT PRODUCTION

#### ORGANIZING TALKS AND ENGAGING EXPERTS ON CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL TOPICS

Together with RSC, we organized two Barvalipe Talks on The Power of Roma Women in Bulgaria and on History, Identity and Power within the framework of the census campaign. The talks were designed to keep up the engagement and interest of Roma intellectuals and activists and their allies. The target group were Roma and non-Roma intellectuals and activists.

The two screenings generated exciting discussions but were timed too late towards the end of the campaign due to the heavy workload of both teams during the peak census period.

Based on the feedback from RSC, similar talks are much needed for the mobilization of the Roma middle class and politically active community and should be organized throughout the entire campaign with a more targeted marketing build-up.

In addition, the talks are a rich and valuable resource for further knowledge sharing within the wider transnational Roma community; we should explore possibilities of releasing edited versions, translations, thematic editions cut together from different countries for wider reach and to support upcoming campaigns.

## 2. BARVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY LECTURE AND PANEL DISCUSSION WITH DR. HRISTO KYUCHUKOV

ERIAC launched the second edition of the Barvalipe Roma Online University lecture series, scheduling the lecture in Bulgaria during the census period. The target were Roma and non-Roma intellectuals.

The university lectures are an important platform to ensure greater presence and awareness of historical, cultural, and artistic narratives in public discourses by Roma. Similar to the Barvalipe Talks, they are a rich and valuable resource for further knowledge sharing; for greater impact, and conditional upon the census timeline, the historical material should be incorporated into the national & transnational-level social media messaging.

## 3. LIVE RECORDING AND SCREENING OF THE MONODRAMA 'GYPSY WHEEL' ON SOCIAL MEDIA

In order to boost the cultural element of the campaign, ERIAC and RSC selected and organized a live-streamed performance of the popular Bulgarian-Roma monodrama 'Gypsy Wheel' with Natalija Cekova, tackling issues of Roma identity and history. We organized a studio and the technicalities for live streaming. The show was screened twice during the census period. The target group were Roma and non-Roma individuals, general Bulgarian public

The livestream and the screening garnered much attention, especially on RSC's Facebook page (cross-streaming on PRFE Facebook was not enabled due to a technical issue). It was nevertheless in the top 5 best performing organic posts based on engagement on Facebook. The follow-up article in ENG was in the top 5 best performing Bulgarian organic posts based on reach (based on Data studio data).

Expanding the cultural component of the campaign is necessary to engage the wider Roma community and enhance the sense of cultural pride and community belonging to a greater extent. ERIAC should continue to build on its own expertise and the expertise of its members to provide cultural input to the campaigns and provide greater visibility of Roma contributions and achievements on a transnational level.

#### 4. FILM SCREENING EVENT

ERIAC planned to organize film screening events – with the possibility of a few hybrids offline-online screenings in some communities where the technical setup was available – in order to foster cultural awareness and pride. Due to the covid-19 restrictions and a lack of capacity on the ground, ERIAC and RSC decided against holding offline screenings and looked into the possibilities of organizing an online event. ERIAC was corresponding with Sami Mustafa from Rolling Film Festival to curate a list of films and obtain screening rights. We pursued to get the screening rights of Bulgarian documentary 'Concrete Pharaohs' via Taskovski Films, Agitprop and HBO Europe, but were not able to

deliver in time due to the unresponsiveness of the sales agencies. The target group were Roma communities on a local level.

As a cultural component and owing to its community-organizing potential, ERIAC should pursue the possibilities of offline/online film screenings in other countries as well. With the added purpose of intensifying ERIAC's engagement on a local level and reinforcing a sense of pride among Roma communities through arts & culture, ERIAC and Rolling Film Festival aim to partner up to curate a list of relevant films per country, per campaign phase in other census countries.

#### **OFFLINE ACTIVITIES**

Offline interventions were limited due to the prevailing covid-19 restrictions and lack of capacity on the ground. While we explored options for billboard production (Aug 2 and census period), based on the discussions with the RSC team, ERIAC did not deploy a billboard campaign in Bulgaria.

#### LOCAL COUNTRY COORDINATOR

ERIAC advertised the position of Country Coordinator for Bulgaria twice but did not receive any qualified applications or was not able to move ahead with contracting suitable candidates due to a conflict of interest with OSF. As an ad hoc solution, our Bulgarian-speaking colleague shifted her focus towards the Bulgarian campaign and provided support for the implementation of the agreed activities, including corresponding with local service providers.

#### **GENERAL IMPACT AND CONCLUSIONS**

After the census campaign in Bulgaria concluded, the PRFE team began its impact assessment activities and gathered relevant data using the following evaluation tools: analysis of social media outreach and engagement (organic and paid), website statistics, online surveys, internal and bilateral reflection sessions.

The feedback from the reflection meetings – including identified successes and shortcomings, lessons learned, and possible improvements for the future – are reflected in this report.

All in all, the cooperation brought about:

- a) an **increase in numbers of Bulgarian Roma** (638.000) who declared themselves as Roma in 2021 compared to the previous census, based on the informal count conducted by RSC
- b) greater visibility of positive discourses about Roma on social media and traditional media to strengthen Roma pride

- c) growing community engagement in a total of 51 locations in Bulgaria
- d) greater presence and awareness of historical, cultural, and artistic narratives in public discourses by Roma
- e) strengthened ties between ERIAC as a transnational entity and RSC as a Bulgarian-based activist movement; a friendly atmosphere and good working relations based on trust with increased potential for long-term collaboration between the teams beyond the campaign
- f) an increased sense of joint mission and mutual support across countries and entities; stronger partnership between Roma Standing Conference and other national teams via transnational activities and campaigning
- g) growth and increased engagement of ERIAC membership in Bulgaria
- h) increased the number of ERIAC associate members in Bulgaria

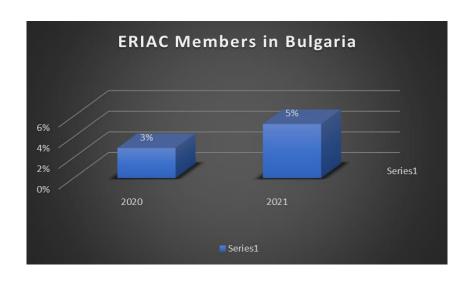
However, it is important to conclude that when conducting a campaign on a transnational level, there must be ample time to locate a local coordinator to serve as a connecting point between the local team and ERIAC. Based on feedback from both the RSC and the PRFE team, the lack of a local coordinator slowed down the administration of the campaign and made the timely implementation of some activities difficult. Furthermore, both teams signaled the need for a more in-depth kick-off meeting, to set up the general terms of the cooperation and administrative operating procedures in order to prevent difficulties in communication and to clarify the division of labor per output. Finally, it is also important to mention that due to the constantly changing political and global atmosphere (covid-19, instability of Bulgarian political system, repeated Bulgarian elections etc.), there was a significant amount of unpredictability and uncertainty, which required constant adaptability and ad hoc solutions - and which proved draining for both teams.

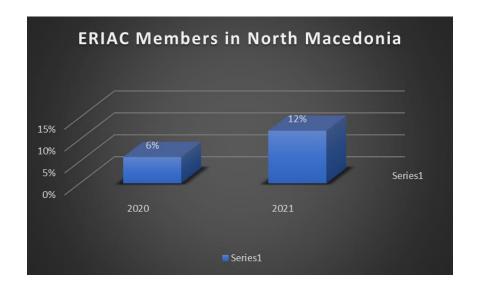
Nonetheless, the significant output and the successful cooperation between ERIAC and RSC calls for the continuation of the transnational agenda and for uniting our resources and skills of political mobilization, and our cultural and historical expertise to establish a larger-scale collaboration.

We have successfully laid the groundwork for mobilizing the ERIAC membership on a local level and developing closer connections between ERIAC members and RSC, and established a fruitful and forward-looking cooperation, which serves as a long-term basis for more joint cultural-political campaigning with Roma Standing Conference beyond the scope of the campaign. In addition to the planned transnational activities, ERIAC will work closely with Emil Metodiev in the framework of the IPI fellowship with

the objective of developing high-quality journalistic and visual content featuring members of the PRFE network.

- Proud Roma Free Europe had also a great impact on the ERIAC Membership field: The Membership community in general increased with 35% in the 4th call of this year.





#### "PROUD ROMA" FILM



Produced by ERIAC as part of the PRFE campaign, the short film 'Proud Roma' was written and directed by Spanish-Romani filmmaker Pablo Vega, and stars Alina Şerban and Tony Gabarry.

Inspired by the 1940 film 'The Great Dictator' – created by and starring Charlie Chaplin, who unbeknownst to many was of Roma origin – the short film 'Proud Roma' reflects the richness and diversity of the Roma nation. The film challenges dominant historical narratives and negative stereotypes of Roma while recalling the many cultural and historical contributions Roma have made to Europe over the centuries.

'Proud Roma' is a contemporary Roma manifesto and a tribute to Roma pride and cultural heritage.

The international premiere of 'Proud Roma' was held on January 25, 2022, and is published online on ERIAC's social media channels. One month after its release, the short film has over 131K views.

## EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS PROJECT "EUROPEAN YOUTH FOR EUROPEAN ROMA CULTURE"



The European Solidarity Corps brought together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offered an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who wanted to help, learn and develop. In the European Solidarity Corps programme, young people aged 18 to 30 years could 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 engaged 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 was to engage European Young people: Roma and/or non-Roma, in the diverse work of ERIAC in Berlin, through which they could learn about Roma culture, identities, artists and their vast representations in Europe. Took an active role in the organisation of the various ERIAC events – exhibitions, performances, seminars, workshops, and trainings – engaged 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 equipped the young volunteers with skills and knowledge in the project management cycle, which they later could 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 strengthened democracy and citizenship in Europe, including accession countries and the UK.

The first volunteer Nataliia Tomenko started her volunteering experience at the ERIAC working remotely, due to the situation of the Covid-19 quarantine restrictions, from the beginning of February 2021 until the end of November 2021. Nataliia was 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 was engaged in day-to-day tasks in administration and programming using her background in graphic design and academic research.

Nataliia is an artist and Roma activist, born in 1994 in Kremenchuk/Ukraine. She completed her MA in Cultural Heritage Studies: Academic Research, Policy, Management at Central European University in Vienna. In addition, she holds an MA in Graphic Design from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts. Currently, she is working at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture ERIAC as an intern while dealing with a range of responsibilities from programming and administration. In parallel with that, she is working as a board member and a Creative Director at the Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture ARCA in Ukraine. Also, Nataliia is a National Volunteers Coordinator and Roma Rights Defender at the European Roma Rights Centre in Ukraine on a volunteering basis with the aim to support the principal's work in defending the human rights of Romani people across Europe and fighting against digital antigypsyism. In the main time, she is dealing with the visual representation of Roma history and culture while establishing Art projects connected to Roma cultural heritage and Roma Genocide for instance.

The second volunteer Eglantina Aliu started her volunteering experience at the ERIAC working physically in the ERIAC Berlin Office, on November 1, 2021. Eglantina was engaged in day-to-day tasks in administration and programming using her background in management and finance.

Eglantina is a Roma activist, born in 1997 in Rrogozhine/Albania. She completed her MA in Risk Management and Finance at Luarasi University in Tirana, Albania. with a degree in Finance Banking from the European University of Tirana, Albania. She also finished one of the Roma preparatory programs with the support of the Romani Studies Program, at the Central European University in Budapest.

# NEWSSPECTRUM FELLOWSHIPS – COLLABORATIVE PROJECT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE (IPI)



In 2021, ERIAC entered a partnership with the International Press Institute (IPI) and MIDAS to launch together the NewsSpectrum Fellowship.

The fellowship is open to journalists and other media professionals working for minority-language media in the EU (including Roma and migrant languages) and aims to encourage working partnerships between minority- and majority-language news outlets.

NewsSpectrum expects to fund 40 fellowships in 2021 through two schemes: Collaborative Reporting Fellowships and Professional Placement Fellowships.

The Collaborative Reporting Fellowship supports reporting projects carried out by journalists working at minority-language media (including regular freelance contributors) in collaboration with a majority-language media outlet. The Professional Placement Fellowship supports custom short-term work placements or study visits by minority-language media professionals at majority-language media. It can be used to support collaborative skills and knowledge exchange on various aspects of the newsroom, including news reporting, digital transition, business models, audience engagement and community building.

As part of this collaboration, ERIAC became a majority partner hosting 3 Roma fellows: Emil Metodiev, Artur Conka and Roma organization Romane Romnja. The three collaborative projects have been approved in late 2021 and are being produced until February 2022. The project outputs, including photographic, journalists and audiovisual content, will be published on the ERIAC and Proud Roma Free Europe websites and social media in 2022.

## SIGRID RAUSING TRUST PROJECT - PERFORMING ROMAMOMA IN REAL SPACE

ERIAC managed to secure support of 15,000 GBP from the UK-based charity Sigrid Rausing Trust (SRT). The project supported by SRT, Performing RomaMoMA in Real Space, lasted from February till December 2021. The project aimed at changing existing narratives about Roma through increasing awareness on behalf of the influential, mainstream cultural institutions and their public about the cultural history of Roma, and their contribution to the mainstream European culture. As a result of this project, the presence of Romani artworks and artists in the contemporary art scene was increased and the questions about the marginalized position of Romani arts were introduced within the mainstream discussions about contemporary art scene. The SRT support enabled ERIAC to perform the prefiguration of the Roma cultural institutionthe RomaMoMA Library- in four strategically selected mainstream cultural institutions in order to strengthen the support base for inclusion of Roma into the majority society through raising awareness about the Roma contribution to the majority culture and society. Moreover, resources from the SRT grant allowed ERIAC to initiate and build relationships with four high-level, internationally acclaimed cultural institutions in strategically selected locations: Budapest, Hungary, and Berlin, Freising and Cologne in Germany. The institutions were selected based on their recognition for Roma art, their openess to recognize and endorse the Roma contribution, and their readiness to give ERIAC full leadership in the project representation. Through initiating and implementing partnerships with the cultural institutions that were identified in the grant application as most critical partners with potential to reach to critically predisposed art-consuming audiences on the one hand and enjoying considerable recognition within the art world on the other, ERIAC achieved to consolidate its position as a respectable partner and actor of the international art world.

The SRT grant enabled ERIAC to present RomaMoMA Library within the following spaces:

- · Rautestrauch-Joest Cultures of The World Museum in Cologne (DE), within the blockbuster exhibition RESIST! The Art of Resistance 01.04.2021-09.01.2022
- · Schafhof European Center for Art Upper Bavaria in Frieising (DE), within the exhibition Art and Healing. A Roma Contribution to Europe, 24.07.2021-26.09.2021
- · Off Biennale Budapest in Budapest (HU), 23.04.2021-30.05.2021
- · Vulnerable Archives project at Savvy Contemporary in Berlin (DE), accompanying the exhibition of Bili Bidjocka, 16.09.2021-31.10.2021

#### The main outcomes of the project:

- ERIAC's position consolidated as a transnational, collaborative and discursive platform aiming at advancing cultural inclusion of Roma, the largest minority of Europe, and a respectable partner and critical voice within the cultural institutions-led conversation about art as a vehicle for the decolonial process
- New partnerships build through participation in the above-mentioned projects
- Institutions and their audiences educated about the cultural history of Roma and their contribution to the majority culture
- Awareness about the epistemic, political, and institutional developments connected to the notion of Roma art increased

# ERIAC EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

## ON-LINE COURSE ON ROMANI CULTURE FOR THE STAFF OF THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

"ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE'S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU'S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS"

On May 21, 2021, ERIAC had the pleasure to deliver an online course for the staff members of the European Commission.

#### Context and objectives

The Roma (commonly referred to as "Gypsies" which is considered an ethnic slur) have been part of the European and national histories and cultural landscapes for over 700 years. On May 21, 2021, the Roma constituted the biggest ethnic minority in Europe with some 10 million citizens in the EU, and a global diaspora of over 15 million people. Yet despite their centuries-old presence, the Roma remain largely unknown to majority societies. As a people, the Roma are mostly thought of and treated as a social problem, perceived through the prism of marginalization, exclusion and poverty. Moreover, the Roma today are the most stigmatized and the least accepted minority group in the EU; diverse manifestations of antigypsyism – the specific form of racism against the Roma people – are a regrettable feature of daily lives of Roma in Europe. On the other hand, however, the Roma remain a highly resilient and creative population whose diverse contributions to European social, cultural, economic, political, artistic, and even linguistic fields are yet to be acknowledged and embraced.

This online training course provided a brief overview of Roma history and culture as a point of departure to reflect on the social, political, cultural, economic and environmental importance of positioning Roma at the core of EU's public debates regarding our societal futures. The course specifically tailored for the European Union Institutions staff members explored the difficult, sensitive or contentious issues related to Roma and antigypsyism, and help identify and incorporate human rights concerns into their own work.

#### Content of the course

The training built on scholarship produced in the framework of the Bavarlipe Roma Online University, to reflect most recent and influential academic discussions in the field of Romani Studies. The Barvalipe Roma Online University, created by ERIAC in partnership with the Central European University (CEU), is an online educational platform where Roma and non-Roma can access knowledge about the Roma identity(ies), history(ies) and culture(s) thorough a collection of high-quality lectures

delivered by leading Roma scholars on topics ranging from the Roma Holocaust to Roma cultural productions.

The course comprised of two parts:

The first part offered with a brief overview of Roma history and culture.

The second part of the course provided elements of reflection on the social, political, cultural, economic, and environmental importance of positioning Roma at the core of EU's public debates regarding our societal futures.

To create a dynamic and participatory learning space, each segment of the course included a lecture as well as at least thirty-minutes of discussion. The course relied on audio-visual materials to provide more engaging resources and illustrate the discussion. The course was delivered by a group of experienced Roma scholars, with relevant expertise in the field, including knowledge of the most-recent discussions in Romani studies as well as most-recent Roma-related EU developments. Colleagues of the Unit Non-Discrimination and Roma Co-ordination, European Commission DG Justice and Consumers moderated the day.

Links: https://eriac.org/on-line-course-on-romani-culture-for-the-staff-of-the-institutions-of-the-european-union/

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARTIST RESIDENCY WINNERS 2021 IN VILLA ROMANA, FLORENCE



International Guest Artists 2021: L'uboš Kotlar and Norbert Oláh/ A cooperation between the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) and Villa Romana, Florence

Villa Romana is a site of contemporary artistic production and of international exchange. Founded in 1905 by artists and patrons, it continues to operate 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 promote interaction between artists and the public, to expand its international network, and to provide insight and communication with the cultures of the Mediterranean region. www.villaromana.org

Villa Romana and ERIAC were pleased to announce the winners of their joint artist-in-residency programme for 2021, following a successful collaboration in 2020.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) has joined forces with the Villa Romana residency programme to offer two residencies to contemporary artists of Roma heritage. This exciting initiative draws upon the ground-breaking work, expertise, and vision of both institutions to realise a unique opportunity for Roma artists and marks a significant step in recognition of the importance of Roma contemporary art practice today. Through this cooperation, Villa Romana and ERIAC offer each artist a guest room in the Villa Romana for a period of two months. ERIAC and Villa Romana received 11 eligible applications.

The jury meeting took place online via the Zoom platform on 9 April 2021 with the presence of:

- Daniel Baker (artist, Curator of FUTUROMA at Biennale Arte Venezia 2019)
- Timea Junghaus (curator, art historian, Executive Director of ERIAC)
- Maria Lind (curator, writer, educator, Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy of Sweden in Moscow)
- Angelika Stepken (curator, author, Director of Villa Romana)

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

- the chosen artists can at this stage of their artistic carrier benefit best from the residency in Florence
- they submitted portfolios that demonstrate outstanding and mature artistic oeuvres;
- they apply current, timely and relevant research methodologies;

- they have a solid commitment to further enhancement in technique;
- their application suggests a capacity for development of their artistic expression.

The jury made the following decision:

The jury decided unanimously that the two residencies in 2021 shall go to L'uboš Kotlár and Norbert Oláh.



**L'uboš Kotlár**, born 1991 in Slovakia, studied Photography and New Media at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava, the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, and the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture in Helsinki (2012 – 2018). Since 2012, he has had several solo shows in Slovakia and also worked as a curator. In 2018 he was awarded the Grand Prix by the Biennial of Theatre Photography in Slovakia.

Norbert Oláh, born 1990, studied at the Hungarian University of Fine Arts (2010 – 2016) and completed one year with the Erasmus programme at the Faculdade de Belas-Artes da Universidade de Lisboa. Since 2015, he has received several awards and scholarships, and had exhibitions in Hungary and Austria. His recent artistic work focuses on a kind of painterly cartography of one of Budapest's rapidly changing urban districts, where he also lives and works.

# EUROPE'S ROMA REMEMBER HOLOCAUST VICTIMS AS PART OF THE ANNUAL COMMEMORATIONS OF AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

Each year, August 2nd marks Roma Holocaust Memorial Day – a day of official remembrance for Romani victims of the genocide, which took place during the Second World War.

In a message of unity and with the objective of raising awareness of the tragic fate of Roma during WWII, as part of the Proud Roma Free Europe campaign, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) and a transnational network of Roma movements and institutions, came together in a series of offline and online events across Europe.

During the days prior to 2 August, ERIAC and its partners shared information about the history of the Roma Holocaust and the role of Roma arts and culture, including literature and visual arts, in conveying compelling accounts of the wartime traumas the Roma communities experienced.

As part of August 2nd commemorations, events took place led by local Romani civic organizations in Bulgaria, Serbia, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Slovakia. Among the activities planned are movie screenings, poetry readings, billboard campaigns and much more. Especially this year, as part of the online campaign we invited Spanish-Romani artist Rocio Montoya to develop a common visual identity to raise awareness of the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day. The designs, including posters, cover pictures, Facebook profile picture frames and billboard designs were made freely available for all to use.



Every year on that tragic day, Sinti and Roma worldwide come together to commemorate the more than 500,000 Romani people who were murdered in camps, fields, and unmarked trenches all across Europe during WWII. Despite this fact, the Holocaust of Sinti and Roma, until today, does not form part of the canon of European history and remains largely unknown. Most countries have no dedicated monuments to Roma victims, and research on the Roma Holocaust is still rudimentary.

The lack of recognition of the Roma Holocaust reflects the longstanding discrimination faced by Sinti and Roma communities. The Roma Holocaust Memorial Day is thus an important rallying point for the community and advocates of anti-racism to challenge ongoing hate speech and violence against Roma, which persists until the present day, particularly in response to the rise of populism and far-right movements across Europe in recent years.

Links: https://eriac.org/europes-roma-remember-holocaust-victims-as-part-of-the-annual-commemorations-of-august-2nd/; https://eriac.org/roma-remember-campaign-visual-identity/

# ERIAC CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, ARTS AND CULTURAL INITIATIVES

# ERIAC AND DEPARTMENT OF ROMANI STUDIES AT SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY JOIN FORCES TO DEVELOP UNIVERSITY COURSES

In 2021, ERIAC and the Department of Romani Studies at Södertörn University (SH) in Sweden announced their institutional partnership to join forces in advancing critical Romani scholarship and ensuring greater presence of Romani scholarly voices in academic settings.

As part of the partnership agreement, Södertörn University in cooperation with ERIAC offered distance-based academic courses in Critical Romani Studies and Romani language.

The course "Critical Romani Studies: Emancipatory Perspectives on Romani Issues I" (7.5 ECTS), developed in partnership with ERIAC, built on lectures developed by seminal Romani scholars in the frame of the Barvalipe Roma Online University.

SH also offered a unique course of Romani language "Roma 1A (1): Overview of the Roma language, structure, grammar, dialects, and history" (7.5 ECTS), using the A1 Romani language textbook developed by ERIAC in 2020.

About the Department of Romani Studies at Södertörn University

The Department of Romani Studies at Södertörn University was established in March 2021, building on the governmental assignment the University has had since 2013 to promote Romani access to higher education and create an academic basis for Romani language studies.

The department has declared to strive to achieve the best possible cooperation between Roma and non-Roma in all areas of education and research, and to use scholarly methods that are emancipatory and employ critical perspectives on power.

The department, which from 2022 was called Department of Critical Romani Studies, promoted the development of critical academic perspectives through a close collaboration with Roma civil society and academic institutions.

Distance Courses in English spring 2022 (application date 15 October 2021):

Critical Romani Studies: Emancipatory Perspectives on Romani Issues I

https://www.sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/programmescourses/courses/undergraduate/critical-romani-studies-emancipatory-perspectiveson-romani-issues-i Critical Romani Studies: Emancipatory Perspectives on Romani Issues II, Essay

https://www.sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/programmescourses/courses/undergraduate/critical-romani-studies-emancipatory-perspectiveson-romani-issues-ii-essay

Antigypsyism in Comparison with Afrophobia, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Anti-Sami Racism I

https://www.sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/programmescourses/courses/undergraduate/antigypsyism-in-comparison-with-afrophobiaantisemitism-islamophobia-and-anti-sami-racism-i

Antigypsyism in Comparison with Afrophobia, Antisemitism, Islamophobia and Anti-Sami Racism II, Essay

https://www.sh.se/english/sodertorn-university/programmescourses/courses/undergraduate/antigypsyism-in-comparison-with-afrophobiaantisemitism-islamophobia-and-anti-sami-racism-ii-essay

Roma 1A (1): Overview of the Roma language, structure, grammar, dialects and history

https://www.sh.se/program-kurser/kurser/grund/romani-chib-1-oversikt-over-spraket-romani-chib-struktur-grammatik-dialekter-och-historia?fbclid=IwAR1uRJOxzM0oRPGUJ\_MxKpH95YYu\_J9UZLVqd2OrI6G1B1lOB6YkbHFAMCA

### ERIAC COMMEMORATES THE VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM WITH THE DIGITAL FESTIVAL "DIASPORA EUROPE"

On the occasion of the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of National Socialism on 27 January, ERIAC and Volksbühne invited the audience to a digital edition of "Diaspora Europe". For five days, the audience discovered contemporary artistic perspectives of Roma, Sinti and Jews on Europe, its history and present time. In the form of performances and dance, concerts, and discussions, the two curators Tímea Junghaus and Shelly Kupferberg presented narratives of memory, localisation, questioning and visions of living together in Europe.

The festival programme was available on demand from 27 January, 11:00 a.m. until 31 January, 10:00 p.m.

ERIAC and Volksbühne's Diaspora Europe Festival invites Sinti, Roma and Jewish communities took a stand, presenting own perspectives and narratives for Europe. The programme encapsulates 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 invited artists and contributors of Diaspora Europe contemplated own memories, identities, locations, opinions and reflections of living together in Europe, affirming a kaleidoscopic programme presenting a multitude of positions.

The Roma components of the festival were curated by ERIAC in the framework of the German Presidency of the Council of Europe. Watch below the welcoming of our Executive Director and curator Timea Junghaus:

Detailed Programme of the Roma components of Diaspora Europe:

Ferenc Snétberger – Solo Guitar Improvisations

Video of the concert available for free here from 27.01.21, 11:00 am until 31.01.2021, 10:00 pm

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.

Sinti\_ze Jazz with Riah Knight, Rosenberg Trio, Sandro Roy & Jermaine Landsberger Trio feat. Giovanni Weiss, Lauenberger Quartett feat. TAYO

Video of the concert available for free here from 27.01.21, 11:00 am until 31.01.2021, 10:00 pm

Sinti\_ze Jazz is a selection of the "bests" of Sinti Jazz. The concert series brings together the leading musicians mixing contemporary and traditional sounds from diverse Roma/Sinti communities. The Berlin-based jazz quartet, Janko Lauenberger, interprets pieces by Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli in the spirit of the 1930s era. The Sandro Roy Quintet, with Jermaine Landsberger and Giovanni Weiss, performs 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, are also joining the evening programme.

Sinti\_ze Jazz Special with The Rosenberg Trio

Video of the concert was made available for free on the ERIAC website from 27.01.21, 11:00 am until 31.01.2021, 10:00 pm

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".

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "FROM SLAVERY TO MOVEMENT AND POLICIES"



The Roma Education Fund, the Civic Platform Aresel, Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative – REDI and European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture – ERIAC invited the audience to an international conference titled "From Slavery to Movement and Policies", which was scheduled to kick-off on February the 20th, at 19:00 (EET/UTC +2).

The event was organized on the 165th anniversary of the liberation from slavery of the Roma ethnics in Romania. On February the 20th 1856, the infamous institution of Roma slavery was ended with the enactment of the "Legislation for the emancipation of all Gypsies in the Romanian Principality". With the final act of abolition, almost 250,000 Roma slaves became legally free, after almost 500 years in slavery.

This online event, which was streamed live on Facebook, featured the first public projection of the film "LETTER OF FORGIVENESS" – directed by Romanian Roma actress Alina Şerban.

Bilet de iertare / Letter of Forgiveness – Official Trailer from Alina Serban – Untold Stories on Vimeo.

We were honored to mention, among the guests and speakers who were participating in the online debates:

Mrs. Anca Dragu, President of the Romanian Senate

His Excellency Mr. Andrew Noble, Ambassador of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Romania

Lord Simon Woolley of Woodford, President of British Initiative Operation Black Vote

Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic, Director of Open Societies – Roma Initiatives Office and Chair of ERIAC (Moderator)

Mrs. Tímea Junghaus, Executive Director ERIAC

Dr. Ciprian Necula, Founder of Aresel and President of Roma Education Fund

Representatives of African American Movements from the United States of America (TBC)

The draft program of the event can be found on ERIAC social channels.

#### WORLD ROMA CONGRESS. 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION

ABOUT WORLD ROMA CONGRESS ART

On the 8th of April 2021 we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the groundbreaking 1st World Romany Congress which took place in London in 1971 and which has been a milestone of the International Romany Movement. Arts and Culture have been a strong inspiration for the political movement of Sinti and Roma and continue to play an essential role as a form of civic expression as well as a strategy of emancipation and cultural resistance.

This exhibition was curated by Beverley Carpenter (Oblique Arts, UK) and Moritz Pankok (Stiftung Kai Dikhas). It was planned as a physical exhibition at the 198 Gallery and Contemporary Learning space in South London. We anticipate that this show will take place later in the year.

Due to Covid-19 visitors were able, to view five online galleries: -The curator's selection includes sculptures, paintings, drawings and photography from Damian Le Bas, Imrich Tomáš, Gérard Gartner and other artists who have produced iconic works. -The Commissioned Artworks gallery shows works that were selected by a jury from Europe wide applications. Klára Lakatos, George Vasilsescu and 8 further artist's work. Jury: Beverley Carpenter, Moritz Pankok, Isaac Blake (Romani Cultural and Arts Company) and Miguel Angel Vargas (ERIAC).

-The Archive Gallery introduced viewers to Melanie Spitta, filmmaker, and important historical figures in Roma history. -The Artist's Gallery contains work from Bogumila Delimata, from Poland and József Ferkovics from Hungary, among others. -Finally, there is an Educational Gallery where there is work from organisations such as the BUDAÖRSI TANODA Foundation in Budapest.

For more information visit: worldromacongressart.com

LIVE OPENING WAS ON APRIL 7, 2021



#### CONFERENCE: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO ROMANI STUDIES

Online conference organized by the Romani Studies Program at Central European University in partnership with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

31 May - 4 June 2021

Roma have been an object of academic inquiry for centuries. In spite of the increasing number of articles, studies, and books, especially since the collapse of communism, Roma participation in shaping the discourses on themselves has remained limited. In the name of scientism and objectivity, Roma have been de facto excluded from knowledge production.

In 2021, an increasing number of activist scholars urged a paradigm shift in Romani Studies to challenge the dominant academic and policy discourses. They propose inquiries into the forms of oppression Roma are facing, the importance of racism and structural discrimination for Roma and Romani identity. The conference brings together junior and senior, Roma and non-Roma scholars embracing critical approaches.

This 2021 conference included a special panel on the restitution of Romani artworks and artefacts. The struggles for racial justice and decolonization force cultural institutions, museums, and galleries all over the world to critically reflect on their past, their exhibited objects, and their present narratives. Similarly, to that of other colonized communities, Romani culture has been perceived and studied as "exotic", "oriental", "primitive", and "naïve art". Romani artefacts and artworks have been "collected" by museums and galleries all over Europe.

Selected papers have been published in the open access journal Critical Romani Studies. Earlier issues are available at https://crs.ceu.edu/.

Panelists were: Timea Junghaus (Executive Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture)

Delaine Le Bas (Visual artist) TBC

Nanette Snoep (Director of the Etnographic Museum of Cologne)

Maria Lind (Director of Tensta konsthall, Stockholm)

Anna Szasz (Curator of the RomaMoMa project of Off-Biennale Budapest)

You can watch the conference on ERIAC's social media channels.



# DELEGATION OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FCNM VISITED ERIAC

On September 25, 2021, the Delegation of the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) visited the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in Berlin to gain insight into ERIAC's mission and programme work. The Delegation was formed by Ms Marie B. Hagsgård (in respect of Sweden), Mr Martin Collins (in respect of Ireland), Detlev Rein (in respect of Germany) and were accompanied by Agnes von Maravić, Policy Advisor of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

The visit was hosted by Iulius Rostas, Member of ERIAC Board; Andrea Petrus, Project Coordinator and curator of the exhibition "No Innocent Landscape" and Marc Hörler, ERIAC Office Manager.

The visit consisted of a small tour around the current solo exhibition of Valérie Leray "No Innocent Landscape" and a posterior discussion about ERIAC mission, presence nationally and internationally and programming, emphasizing ERIAC's work of bringing Roma arts and culture to the most prestigious cultural institutions and events like Venice Biennale, Milano Triennale, OFF-Biennale Budapest, among others.

As the Council of Europe states on its website "This is the fifth visit of the Advisory Committee to Germany. The delegation is having meetings in Bredstedt, Berlin and Cottbus with representatives of the government as well as civil society and representatives of national minorities to discuss the implementation of the Framework Convention. Following this visit, the Advisory Committee will draw up its fifth opinion on the implementation of the Framework Convention in Germany containing specific findings and recommendations for follow-up. The fifth opinion is expected to be adopted and published in 2022."

The European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) is the most comprehensive multilateral treaty devoted to minority rights. Adopted under the auspices of the Council of Europe, it sets forth a number of principles according to which States are to develop specific policies to protect the rights of minorities.



# ERIAC JOINED THE 12TH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DIALOGUE WITH ROMA AND TRAVELLER CIVIL SOCIETY

On November 2-3, 2021, representatives of ERIAC joined the 12th meeting of the Council of Europe Dialogue with Roma and Traveller civil society (Concept note + Romani version).

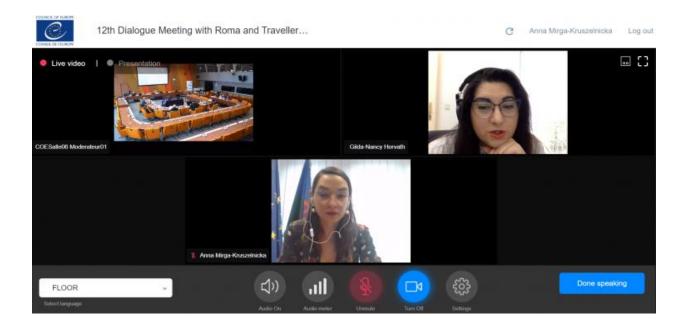
The meeting took stock of recent developments in the teaching of Roma and Traveller history and Holocaust remembrance at school and in non-formal learning environments such as Youth work and trainings, and Holocaust remembrance memorials and places. Participants were also invited to present and discuss different civil society and member State measures and examples of good practice in these fields.

#### The meeting:

- Provided an opportunity for joint reflection between representatives of Council
  of Europe bodies and members of the Council of Europe Secretariat as well as
  representatives of Roma and Traveller civil society on the inclusion of the history
  of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials;
- Reviewed the situation of teaching Roma and Traveller history in different member states through analysing recent developments in the field of history teaching and Holocaust remembrance;
- Identified and propose appropriate measures and tools to support the inclusion of the history of Roma and Travellers and their tangible and intangible cultural heritage, arts and language in school curricula and teaching materials;
- Provided an overview and discuss relevant Council of Europe recommendations and curriculum development instruments as well as practices to support curricula and teaching material reforms leading to the inclusion of the history of Roma and Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials;
- Highlighted and exchanged examples of Roma and Traveller history and culture related good practices and initiatives on developing school curricula, teaching materials and other learning resources.

In session 5: International work, cooperation, available financial resources and support for developing Roma and Traveller history teaching and Holocaust Remembrance, moderated by journalist and ERIAC Board Member Gilda Horvath, dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director of ERIAC, presented ERIAC initiatives related to Roma Holocaust history teaching. In her presentation, she provided short insights into two flagship ERIAC projects: "Re-thinking Roma Resistance" project and the Barvalipe Roma Online University.

You can read more about this on ERIAC's social media channels.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

The below paragraph represents a summary of the monetary activity of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in 2021. ERIAC in 2021 achieved the long-term goal of institutional stabilization with institutional donors making financial commitments for 2022 and 2023. Financial activities of ERIAC in 2021 followed forecasted financial planning, including planned programing revenue increase and keeping the expenditure inside the planned budget. Total revenue of 730.295,69 EUR contained 70,72 % of the programing funds fundraised by ERIAC Management, and 27,39% of institutional support commitment by Council of Europe paid for the upcoming 2022. From year 2020 ERIAC carried to 2021 a financial roll-over in multi-year project commitment of 919.530,27 Euros. In 2021 ERIAC managed financial resources in the amount of 1.649.825,96 €.

Expenditures in 2021 kept the structure of the planned budget, with the total expenses of 901.296,73 EUR. The amount covers complete programing costs, personnel, and institutional operative expenses.

- In execution of monetary transactions and financial activities, ERIAC followed regulations of the German non-profit law.
- In 2021 ERIAC Financial reports for 2018, 2019, and 2020 were submitted to the Finanzamt for the assessment to prolong ERIAC's "Tax Exempt" status. Accounting company Schomerus & Partners GmbH provided support to ERIAC in submitting necessary documents.
- ERIAC had two major audits in 2021, first audit took place in March by Kuenstler Socialkasse, while in the second part of 2021 Council of Europe's audit confirmed immaculate and outstanding administrative practices and standards in the financial management of the organization.
- In 2021 Council of Europe made the institutional contribution for 2022 of 200.000,00 EUR. Due to different payment schedules, Open Society Foundations will contribute to the institutional funding in 2022 with the funds for operational and personnel expenses for 2022 and 2023.
- Additionally, ERIAC fundraised 516.449,23 EUR for programing activities.

#### Total Financial Resources Managed

ERIAC FINANCIAL REVENUE 2021		
Name of the Grantee/Donor	Title	Received
		amount (EUR)
Council of Europe	Institutional funding	200.000,00
		€
Federal Foreign Office, Germany	Project grant	180.000,00 €
Open Society Foundations - Census Campaign	Project grant	260.964,73 €
Sigrid Rausing Trust	Project grant	16.847,27 €
Europeana WEAVE	Project grant	36.834,73 €
Dokuzenter - Innovation grant	Matching project funding	12.850,00 €
	-Post financed	
International Press Institute	Project grant	8.952,50 €
ERIAC Donations, Membership fees, returned	Own resources	13.846,46 €
payment		
TOTAL REVENUE PROGRAMS 2021		730.295,69
		€

ERIAC 2020 ROLLOVER IN TO 2021		
Name of the Grantee/Donor	Title	Rollover
		amount (EUR)
Council of Europe (2017-2020)	Institutional support	296.940,91 €
Open Society Foundations (2020-2022)	Institutional support	544.913,69 €
Open Society Foundations Roma Armee Grant	Project grant	55.895,10 €
ERIAC Innovation Grant - Matching Fund ECF	Project – post financed	-5.850,00 €
ERIAC Innovation Grant - Matching Fund DOKUZENTER	Project – post financed	-7.000,00 €
Jügend fur Europa – ERASMUS +	Project – post financed	14.727,20 €
ERIAC own resources - Donations	Own resources	14.267,10 €
ERIAC own resources - Membership	Own resources	5.636,27 €
TOTAL ROLLOVER TO 2021		919.530,27€

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The Alliance for the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture