

ERiac
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

ANNUAL
REPORT
2022

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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 2022, ERIAC continued to stabilize as an international organization promoting Roma arts and culture in Europe and beyond.

Governance and Strategy

In 2022, 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 2022, 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 continued its operation in 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 office had its first anniversary on May 2022.

In 2022, ERIAC fulfilled its statutory obligations of its governing bodies:

- ERIAC Associate Membership:

The 5th ERIAC call for associate members was concluded on July 31, 2022. We have received a total of 43 applications: 42 individual applications (including 28 who self-identify as Roma) and 1 institutional application. Among the applicants there are again outstanding Roma arts and culture personalities. We would also like to note that this year among 43 applications, 16 applications came as a response from countries in Southeast Europe (Balkan region).

In 2021 the ERIAC community (including permanent members, Barvalipe Academy, associate members) was composed of 233 members, in 2022 our community grew to 276 members in total.

To dynamize the ERIAC membership community from within and ensure smooth communication across ERIAC statutory bodies, in 2022, ERIAC launched a call for ERIAC thematic section coordinators. The thematic section coordinators – facilitating the work in Arts and Culture; History and Commemoration; Media and Communication; Research and Publication; Romani Language sections – were responsible for the following tasks:

- In cooperation with the ERIAC management and ERIAC Membership Coordinator, provide support in the preparations of the thematic section online and offline meetings, trainings, retreats and the General Assembly;
- Take minutes of thematic sections meetings;
- Ensure engagement of current and future ERIAC members in the corresponding thematic sections;
- Mobilization participation of ERIAC members in thematic section meetings;
- Preparing questionnaires or engagement activities to gather input from the thematic section members;
- Attract new members during the annual call for members;
- Channel expertise and recommendations on thematic section priorities to ERIAC Statutory bodies and the ERIAC management;
- Attend ERIAC Membership meeting series and provide a 2-pg written policy recommendation of membership culture and contribution;
- Facilitate the implementation of ERIAC Membership Charter and ERIAC code of conduct.

After a competitive call, the Barvalipe Academy members which acted as the selection committee, has selected the five thematic sections coordinators.

- Arts and Culture Thematic Section – Dragan Ristic
- History and Commemoration Thematic Section – Nataliia Tomenko
- Knowledge Production/ Research and Publication – Dezso Mate
- Media and Information – Avni Mustafa
- Romani Language – Andrijano Dzeladin

In 2022 the membership-section coordinators and Zeljko Jovanovic, Gilda Horvath, Board Members propose a phase II. followed by the initial Board Approval, in which management and the section coordinators - with the support of an online questionnaire - raised awareness of the founding principles of ERIAC, the contribution and engagement obligation and collected the membership fees! On August 20, 2022 ERIAC launched the phase II - awareness raising.

ERIAC hosted additional thematic section meetings in 2022: knowledge production (1), media (1), arts and culture (1), history and commemoration (1) and romani language (1), all members meeting (1), membership trainings per thematic sections and several section coordinators meetings for the phase I and phase II of membership.

Barvalipe Academy:

On January 26, 2022, the Barvalipe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) held its seventh meeting. This was the first meeting of the complete Barvalipe Academy with the members who were newly nominated by the

Board and appointed by the [General Assembly](#), following internal elections conducted in each of the four thematic sections of ERIAC in December 2021. To fulfill its statutory obligations, the seventh Barvalipe Academy meeting had the objectives of appointing two new members to the Pakiv Board and electing new Chair and Vice-Chair of the Barvalipe Academy.

Following the internal voting procedure, the two new members of Barvalipe Academy appointed as delegates to the Board of the Association are:

- Gilda Horvath (re-appointed for the second term) – 12/12 votes
- Ismael Cortes – 12/12 votes

After the voting for the representatives delegated to the Board the meeting continued with voting for the Chair and Vice-chair of the Barvalipe Academy statutory body, which previously were represented by Maria Bogdan (chairwoman) and Ismael Cortes (vice-chair). The internal voting produced the following result:

- Maria Bogdan – elected as Chairwoman (re-appointed for the second term)
- Santino Spinelli – elected as Vice-Chair

In accordance with ERIAC Statute, no Board member can also be a Barvalipe Academy member. Following the Rules of Procedure and internal regulations deriving from the ERIAC Statutes, and elected substitutes in each corresponding section, presented during the ERIAC General Assembly on December 9 2021, will be delegated to the Barvalipe Academy.

These are, accordingly:

- Substitute for Gilda Horvath, appointed by the Media and Information thematic section: Sami Mustafa
- Substitute for Ismael Cortes, appointed by the History and Commemoration thematic section: Hristo Kyuchukov

The VIII Barvalipe Academy meeting was held on December 2, 2022.

This meeting served as an approval of the Financial and Activity Plan of 2023. Barvalipe Academy delegated Dr. Maria Bogdan to present together with the Management on December 9, the Activity Plan of 2023, Financial Plan of 2023 and ERIAC Narrative Report 2022.

Barvalipe Academy Members:

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 were elected by the members through the thematic sections.

Arts and Culture:

- Miguel Angel Vargas
- Santino Spinelli (Vice Chair of Barvalipe Academy)

Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture:

- Maria Bogdan (Chair of the Barvalipe Academy)
- Delia Madalina Grigore

History and Commemoration:

- Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov
- Jana Horvathova, on behalf of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno

Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture:

- Sami Mustafa
- Isaac Blake

Pakiv Board

In 2022, the Pakiv Board held its meetings on April 21, 2022 and December 5, 2022.

In 2022, 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 2023 and the Financial Plan 2023.

ERAC ACTIVITIES 2022 IN NUMBERS

- Hosted International Conferences/Symposiums: 3
- ERAC-curated exhibitions: 3
- Hosted online competition: 1
- Active project contributors to ERAC cultural programming:
 - Active Contributors: over 200
 - Institutional Partners: 10
 - Offline Events 5
 - Online Events: 25
 - Website Visits: 9004
 - Facebook Reach of Events and Posts: 123, 414
 - Facebook Growth: 61%
 - Cultural Programs Recorded and Archived: 21
 - Musicians performing on stage: 8
- ERAC General Assemblies: 1
- ERAC Thematic Section meetings: 18
- ERAC Barvalipe Academy meetings: 2
- ERAC Board meetings: 2
- ERAC Social Media Community:
 - Facebook: 28, 400 followers
 - Twitter: 1, 654
 - Instagram: 3, 694 followers

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT AND RESULTS

The ERAC Facebook community grew to 28.4K followers in 2022, an increase of over 10 K followers in a year. In 2021 ERAC had 17.4K followers.

The ERAC Instagram community grew to 3694 followers in 2021, an increase over 1,157 followers in a year. In 2021 ERAC instagram had 2537 followers.

Twitter: 1, 654

ERIAC INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

PAKIV BOARD

The ERIAC Board is composed of 5 members:

On January 26, 2022, the Barvalipe Academy of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) held its seventh meeting. This meeting had the objectives of appointing two new members to the Pakiv Board. Following the internal voting procedure, the two new members of Barvalipe Academy appointed as delegates to the Board of the Association are:

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Appointed by the ERIAC permanent members:

Zeljko Jovanovic (Chair of the Board) is the director of the Open Society Roma Initiatives Office, which supports the voices and leadership of Roma in making their power felt in the policy-making arena. Jovanovic comes from a family of Roma ethnic background which, through a belief in hard work, self-determination, and education, moved from multi-generational extreme poverty to the middle class in Serbia. Before joining the Open Society Foundations in 2006, he worked for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on elections and public policy and for Catholic Relief Services on civil society development. He also has established and led a local Roma organisation and community radio programming, as well as volunteered for Roma political parties and protested for democracy during the Milosevic regime in Serbia. He has also trained and mentored non-profit managers, advocates, and leaders internationally. Jovanovic has degrees in law from the University of Belgrade and in public policy from the University of Oxford. He also completed the Executive Education Program on Strategic Management at Harvard University. He is a member of the Aspen Institute network.

Bjorn Berge - Council of Europe

Mr. Bjørn Berge serves as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. As Deputy Secretary General, he is involved in a number of key areas of the work of the organisation, including advising and overseeing the implementation of the Secretary General's reform agenda, in line with the decisions and priorities of the Committee of Ministers. His

priorities include shaping the programme and budget, while ensuring that the **organisation's activities have maximum impact in advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.** He also oversees the Council of Europe's staff policy, as well as other key areas of the work of the organisation. Before taking up his post, Mr. Berge was Director General and Secretary to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Between 2009 and 2017, he served as Director of the Private Office of the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, helping to prepare, coordinate, and implement a number of comprehensive reforms of the Council of Europe. Mr. Berge has over thirty years of international professional experience. As a former Norwegian diplomat, he served as International Adviser to the Prime Minister **and as Deputy Director of the Foreign Minister's Cabinet, responsible for all matters related to Parliament.** He also served as a speechwriter to three Norwegian Foreign Ministers. Mr. Berge has published several books on a range of issues relating to speech writing and speeches, as well as articles on **the Council of Europe's mandate and work.** He was a Fulbright Scholar and holds a M.A. in International Relations from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington D.C., USA.

Sead Kazanxhiu (Deputy Chair of the Board) is a visual artist from southwest Albania. He was trained as a painter at the University of Arts in Tirana (2006 – 2010), **where he obtained his bachelor's degree.** Kazanxhiu comes from a family of Roma ethnic minority. This fact has profoundly shaped his childhood years in Baltez, a village nearby Fier, where he was raised in an environment sensitive to social and cultural inequalities. In a community well aware of hierarchical structures and un-privileged positions within a nation-state, the very condition of being an Albanian Roma citizen turned out to be **a determining factor for Kazanxhiu's status of an artist as well as for his** overall cultural practice so far. Thus, it comes as no surprise that the issues of prejudice, exclusion, discrimination, and racism have taken center stage both in his artistic and activist work. His uncompromising position with regard to unfair treatment of Roma ethnic group presents but a platform to voice individual dissent about the racially biased dynamics that, unfortunately, continues to shape contemporary European worldviews – on a daily basis, inside and outside of official political arenas. In this sense, his image-making contributes to positive efforts of a single artist to restore the dignity of a community forcefully and unjustly cornered at the outskirts of European democracy. Kazanxhiu is also the founder of STHAN Cultural Centre, and currently, he is following the Albanian School of Political Studies.

Appointed by the ERIAC General Assembly:

Gilda-Nancy Horvath is an artist, journalist, project manager, and communications consultant. She started her career in grassroots projects for the Romani community in Vienna, Austria. Soon after, she started working for

the Austrian Public National Broadcaster ORF. She has also written numerous articles for the Romani cause and worked with many international projects connected to Romani activism, art, and politics. After 10 years in front of and behind the camera at ORF, she started educating and qualifying young **Romani people in her project: "romblog.at," where she** is the Editor-In-Chief. She is also the co-founder of a record label for Romani music, fatherandbastards.com. Since 2013, she is a member of the Romani Dialogue Platform of the Federal Chancellery of Austria, consulting and discussing the implementation of #RomaStrategy2020.

Nancy Black is the artist alter ego of Gilda Horvath and produced her first song in December 2016, after being threatened by people who had spread false information about Roma in the media; they claimed that all Roma in Austria would give their support to the far-right candidate at the Presidential Elections in Austria on 04 December 2016. Horvath protested against this kind of manipulation and became a target of hate speech and defamation **after that. Her rasping "Trushula" was a clear answer**; this was the day Nancy Black was born. Nancy Black also produces video mixes, video installations, and digital/visual art and writing texts and poetry with a strong connection to the language Romanes and the situation of Romani people.

Dr. Ismael Cortés hold a PhD in International Studies of Peace, Conflicts and Development by the UNESCO Chair of Philosophy for Peace at Universitat Jaume I. He has been a researcher at the University of Nottingham, the International University of Andalusia and the Carlos III University. He has been an expert consultant in the OSCE – ODIHR project **"Turning words into action. Combating anti-Semitism and other forms of intolerance (2015-2018)"**. **He** has worked as a policy analyst for think tanks such as the Center for European Policy Studies and the Open Society European Policy Institute. He was a postdoc fellow of the Roma Studies Program at Central European University. He coordinated the book *Dimensions of Antigypsyism in Europe*. Currently he serves as an MP in the Spanish Parliament. Dr. Cortes also authored several articles in scientific journals and international newspapers. His last book is *Sueños y sombras sobre los Gitanos. La actualidad de un racismo histórico*

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- Delia Madalina Grigore

History and Commemoration:

- Dr. Hristo Kyuchukov
- Jana Horvathova, on behalf of the Museum of Roma Culture in Brno

Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture:

- Sami Mustafa
- Isaac Blake

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

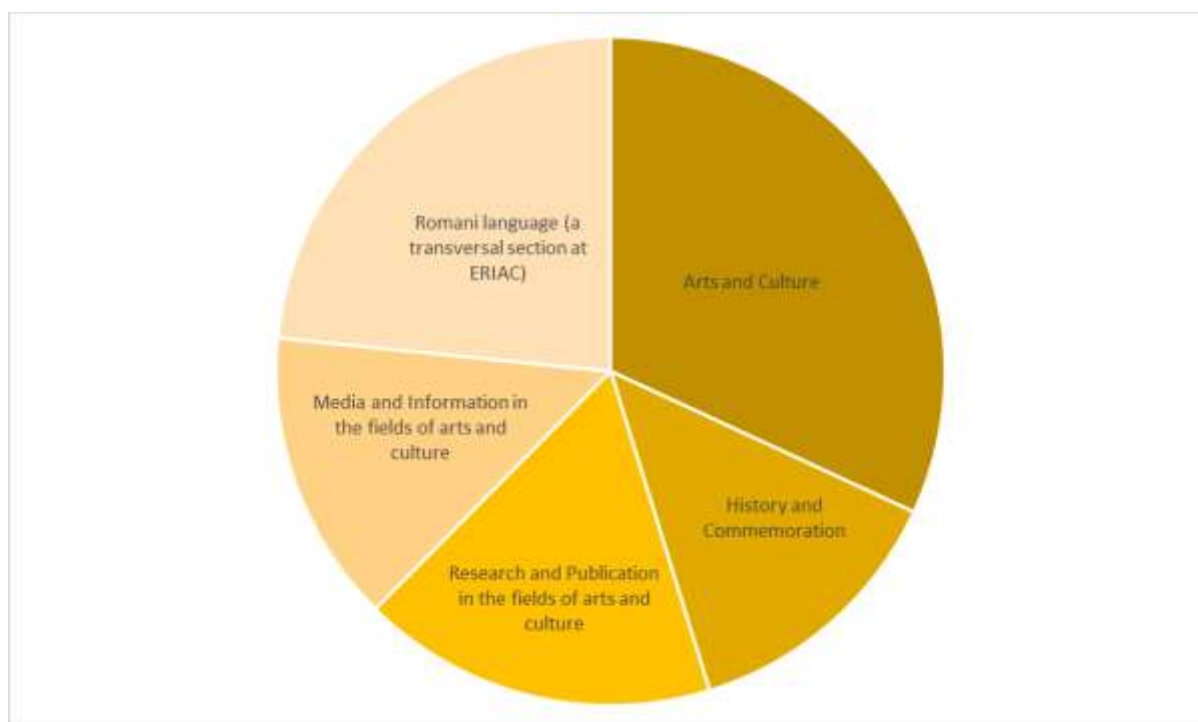
5th Call for ERIAC Associate Membership

In 2022, ERIAC successfully launched and completed the fifth call for associate members and renewed the membership from the previous years. 43 new members applied: 42 individual members and 1 organisational member. After reviewing the applications, the ERIAC Board approved 43 new applicants, who comply with the ERIAC membership founding principles.

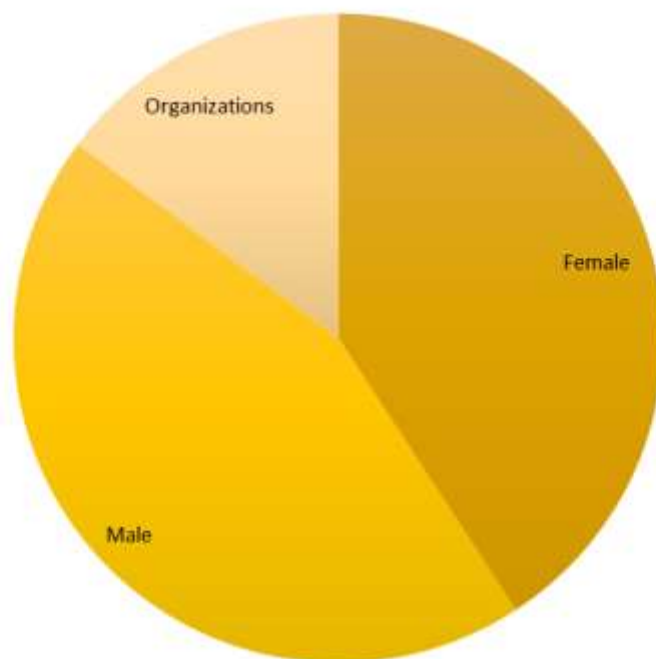
In total in 2022, the ERIAC community was composed of 276 members: 5 Pakiv Board Members, 15 Barvalipe Academy members, 8 Alliance members and 248 Associate Members, including 211 individuals and 37 organisations.

ERIAN Thematic Sections in 2022

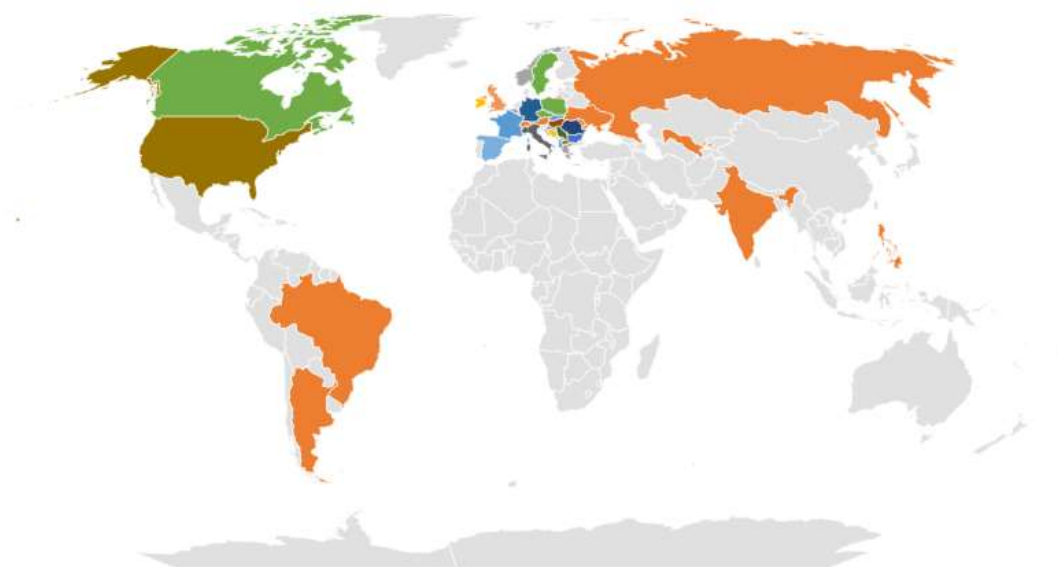
- Arts and Culture - 180 members
- History and Commemoration - 75 members
- Research and publication in the field of Arts and Culture - 97 members
- Media and Information in the field of Arts and Culture - 80 members
- Romani Language - 132 members



ERIAC Membership's Gender Breakdown



ERIAC's Membership Internal Composition



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ERAC Thematic Sections

ERAC membership is organized into four thematic sections. The Romani language is considered a transversal section. In 2022, ERAC Membership was in a transition period.

To dynamize the ERAC membership community from within and ensure smooth communication across ERAC statutory bodies, in 2022, ERAC launched a call for ERAC thematic section coordinators. The thematic section coordinators – facilitating the work in Arts and Culture; History and Commemoration; Media and Communication; Research and Publication; Romani Language sections – were responsible for the following tasks:

In cooperation with the ERAC management and ERAC Membership Coordinator, provide support in the preparations of the thematic section online and offline meetings, trainings, retreats and the General Assembly;

- Take minutes of thematic sections meetings;
- Ensure engagement of current and future ERAC members in the corresponding thematic sections;
- Mobilization participation of ERAC members in thematic section meetings;
- Preparing questionnaires or engagement activities to gather input from the thematic section members;
- Attract new members during the annual call for members;
- Channel expertise and recommendations on thematic section priorities to ERAC Statutory bodies and the ERAC management;
- Attend ERAC Membership meeting series and provide a 2-pg written policy recommendation of membership culture and contribution;
- Facilitate the implementation of ERAC Membership Charter and ERAC code of conduct.

After a competitive call, the Barvalipe Academy members which acted as the selection.

1. Arts and Culture Thematic Section Coordinator – Dragan Ristic



Next to his studies at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts, the guitar remains his greatest love, and with that, he founded Kal Band. In the Greek language, Kal means – a good road, and in Sanskrit and Romanese – black.s Studies at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts – Theory of Film and Media.

He originates from a musical family; his father and grandfather played the violin, and his first love was the accordion which he started playing at the age of seven. However, he turned to the guitar at the age of fifteen as he realized that rhythms that were a bit different better fitted him than traditional ones.

Initially, his music stands out with his exotic sound, where in a very specific way he combines a tradition with modern currents. His notes are addictive and joyful, so it is not surprising that Kal, at the Festival in Lester – the United Kingdom, was declared the Phoenix of Art.d he is the lead vocal and guitar of the same.

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Along with his musical career, his vocational career also continues.

2. History and Commemoration Thematic Section Coordinator – Nataliia Tomenko



Natali Tomenko (1994 Kremenchuk, Ukraine) is an artist and Roma activist. She completed her MA in Cultural Heritage Studies: Academic Research, Policy, and Management at Central European University in Vienna. She additionally holds an MA in Graphic Design from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts. Currently, she is a board member and a Creative Director at the ARCA: Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture in Ukraine. Natali is also a National Volunteers Coordinator and Roma Rights Defender at the European Roma Rights Centre in **Ukraine on a volunteer basis, with the aim of supporting the principal's work in** defending the human rights of Romani people across Europe and fighting against digital anti-Gypsyism. In the meantime, she engages with the visual representation of Roma history and culture, in the framework of art projects connected to Roma cultural heritage and Roma Genocide.

3. Knowledge Production/ Research and Publication Thematic Section
Coordinator – Dezso Mate



Dr. Dezso Mate is a Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities, Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (KWI), Essen, Germany.

Dezso Mate has a PhD in Interdisciplinary Sociology from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary. He is a former Advanced Research Fellow of the Romani Studies Program at the Central European University. He was a Visiting Research Associate at the Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research, University of Sussex and a Junior Research Fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dezso worked as an international consultant at the Open Society Foundations, where his work focused on the intersectional challenges in public healthcare settings faced by Romani LGBTI people.

4. Media and Information Thematic Section Coordinator – Avni Mustafa



Avni is a human rights activist, trainer and expert on Roma Inclusion. He has been working on Minority issues for over 15 years and holds a BA in Management from the University of Pjeter Budi.

Avni was born in Prishtina, in 1987. Lives Plemetina, a small multi-ethnic village in Kosovo. Avni's mother tongue is Romani, speaks fluently in 3 languages: Albanian, English and Serbian. As a young activist, Avni managed local NGO "Romano Resaibe", here he published an article entitled "The needs and problems of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian in the municipality of Obiliq", which has shaped his interest and engagement with the topic over the years. His professional experience includes working with Balkan Sunflowers International, as a production media manager, where he produced over 50 eyewitness reports related to Roma life in Kosovo and North Macedonia. All reports were broadcast by public television in Kosovo RTK.

He was the Director of the Rolling Film Festival, for films made by and about Roma to fight discrimination and dispel negative stereotypes, which were well attended by all facets of Kosovo society. He also worked as a trainer and production manager during the shooting of Cikore Filmya.

Since June of 2017, Avni is the Executive Director of Roma Versitas Kosovo, a leading student support organization with more than 10 different programs and projects seeking better inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members in Kosovo's society.

5. Romani Language Thematic Section Coordinator – Andrijano Dzeladin



Andrijano Dzeladin is a Roma from Macedonia, based in France. He is a journalist and the Director of Radio Atlanta Roma.

In 2022 the membership-section coordinators and Zeljko Jovanovic, Gilda Horvath, Board Members propose a phase II. followed by the initial Board Approval, in which management and the section coordinators - with the support of an online questionnaire - raised awareness of the founding principles of ERIAC, the contribution and engagement obligation and collected the membership fees! On August 20, 2022, ERIAC launched the phase II - awareness raising.

ERIAC hosted additional thematic section meetings in 2022: knowledge production (1), media (1), arts and culture (1), history and commemoration (1) and romani language (1), all members meeting (1), membership trainings per thematic sections and several section coordinators meetings for the phase I and phase II of membership.

ERIAC V. General Assembly

The ERIAC V. General Assembly was held on December 8-9, 2022 at ERIAC Berlin, Reinhardtstrasse 41-43, 10117, Berlin.

The ERIAC General Assembly was the occasion where we invited the ERIAC members, Barvalipe Academy, the Pakiv Board, the management and the team, and **ERIAC's supporters, partners, and allies to gather for the nourishing ritual of reflection and hatching new plans.** The meeting was envisioned as a two-day long respite, a dwelling where our community can flourish and collectively celebrate **Roma people's labor, creativity, and intellect.** The event showcased the highlights of artistic contributions from every part of the Romani diaspora, including the Venice Biennale featured artists Malgorzata Mirga-Tas and Eugen Raportoru.

The event was part of the initiative ERIACNET4EU – ERIAC Network to Advance Roma Inclusion by Combatting and Preventing Antigypsyism in the European Union.

The General Assembly's program was:

11:30 – 12:45 LUNCH RESTAURANT CINQUE

Restaurant Cinque, Reinhardtstraße 27d, 10117 Berlin

13:00 – 18:45 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ERIAC, Reinhardtstraße 43, 10117 Berlin

13:00 Welcome remarks - Timea Junghaus (Executive Director, ERIAC)

13:05 Keynote Speech - Zeljko Jovanovic (Chairman of the Board, ERIAC)

13:20-13:35 Inauguration Ceremony of New Members lead by Gilda-Nancy Horvath (Journalist, cross-disciplinary creator, ERIAC board member)

13:45-14:35 Arts and Culture Thematic Section

"Visibility of Roma Artists in the Mainstream Context"

Moderated by: **Dragan Ristić** (Cultural producer, composer, founder of KAL band)

Timea Junghaus (Executive Director, ERAC)

Discussants: Miguel Ángel Vargas (Art historian, theater director, curator, researcher), Sonia Carmona Tapia (Theater director, actress, oral storyteller), Jake Bowers (Journalist, film maker, artist blacksmith), Dijana Pavlovic (Activist, actress, artist, politician)

14:40-15:30 Knowledge Production, Research and Publication Thematic Section

“ERAC’s Single and Unique Mandate in Knowledge Production”

Moderated by: **Dezső Máté** (Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen KWI, AiE Fellow)

Discussants: Delia Grigore (Writer, academic, president of the **Association Roma Centre “Amare Rromentza”**), Sami Mustafa (Independent documentary filmmaker, producer and writer), Carol Silverman (Researcher, teacher, activist, performer), Adrian Tudor (Cultural producer, communications coordinator Aresel NGO)

15:30-15:45 Break

15:45-16:35 Media and Information Thematic Section

“Roma Media for Efficient Political Advocacy”

Moderated by: Gilda-Nancy Horvath (Journalist, cross-disciplinary creator, ERAC board member)

Discussants: Mária Bogdán (Communication and media researcher, postdoctoral fellow at Heidelberg University), Avni Mustafa (Human rights activist, trainer), Sebastijan Serifovic (Advocacy Team Leader, Opre Roma Kosovo)

16:40-17:30 History and Commemoration Thematic Section

“Roma History with Pride, Power and Self-Determination”

Moderated by: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka (Deputy Director, ERAC)

Discussants: Emiliano Aliu (Lecturer, executive director of Roma Versitas Albania), Ciprian Necula (Chair of Roma Education Fund), Ljuan Koko (Historian, Romani language expert), Maria Sulejmanova (Program manager Romalítico/Avaja)

17:30-17:45 Break

17:45-18:35 Language Thematic Section

“Language and Political Culture”

Moderated by: Andrijano Dzeladin (Journalist, founder of Roma News)

Discussants: Hristo Kuychukov (Professor of Linguistics and leading specialist in the field of Romani language), Rami Raim (Community guide, cultural interpreter, entrepreneur, politician), Gyula Vámosi (Founder of KaskoSan Roma Charity, film producer, translator), Mihaela Zatreanu (Teacher and leading expert for ERIAC Romani Language Initiative)

18:45 Buses to Hotel Motel One Tiergarten

An d. Urania 12/14, 10787 Berlin, Germany

19:00 ERIAC Closes

20:00 BUSES TO PARTY

Salon Babette, Karl-Marx-Allee 36, 10178 Berlin

Meeting point: Hotel Lobby

20:30 – 00:00 PARTY AT SALON BABETTE

Salon Babette, Karl-Marx-Allee 36, 10178 Berlin

20:30 – 21:00 Finger Food & Drinks. Music by The Pillers

21:00 Zeljko Jovanovic (Chairman of the Board, ERIAC) and Timea Junghaus (Executive Director, ERIAC) announcing winner of the Proud Roma Talent Competition

21:15 Concert by Gipsy Groove

22:30 DJ Nomi

00:00 BUSES to Hotel Motel One Tiergarten

An d. Urania 12/14, 10787 Berlin, Germany

Private buses organized by ERIAC

9 DECEMBER 2022

10:30 – 13:00 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ERiac, Reinhardtstraße 43, 10117 Berlin

10:30 Reflection by the Barvalipe Academy - Dr. Mária Bogdán, Chair of the Barvalipe Academy

10:50 Report 2022 by ERIAC Management

11:30 Q&A

12:00 Exhibition Opening

Woman to Woman. **Małgorzata Mirga-Tas** and Eugen Raportoru

The V. General Assembly had 65 offline and 16 online participants.





ERAC STRATEGY 2021-2025¹

ERAC Theory of Change²

In order to advance the unique mission as the transnational Roma organization established “to promote artistic and cultural creativity of Roma to a European audience, and thereby to increase the self-esteem of Roma in Europe and to tackle the the widespread and deep-rooted negative prejudice towards Roma in **mainstream society**”[3], ERAC shall use its unique advantages: (1) embodiment within the multilateral system of the Council of Europe (CoE); (2) Barvalipe Academy and ERAC membership that gives it an institutionalized source of legitimacy, talent and social capital; (3) being part of the Open Society Foundations (OSF) network that gives it a possibility to work with other transnational Roma organizations, national advocacy campaigns and grassroots movements supported by OSF.

With these advantages in mind, ERAC will advance its mission if its strategy combines them with the following strategic components during 2021-2025:

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 ERAC 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.

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 ERAC 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.

Advance the sense of pride and belonging among the Roma. In cooperation with larger Roma transnational organizations, national campaigns and grassroots movements, ERAC 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, ERAC shall maintain a careful balance between highest quality standards and pop-culture, and between representing critical cultural discourses while maintaining a diplomatic character.

¹ This public document is an abridged version of the internal ERAC strategy paper which has been approved by the ERAC Board on November 30, 2020.

² The Theory of Change was approved by the Board on October 27, 2020.

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

ERIAC Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

Since 2021, ERIAC continues with the Strategic Objectives 2021-2025.

1. Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the talent, visibility and quality among the Roma artists and cultural producers

Physical infrastructure

- Open new ERIAC Branches;
- Develop partnerships with mainstream arts and culture institutions to showcase Roma contemporary arts and culture at leading mainstream art institutions and most prestigious European Biennales and Festivals;
- Target universities to develop lecture series, conferences and Roma history education methodologies in collaboration, with inter alia, leading higher education institutions and Roma organizations;
- Develop initiatives and materials aiming at safeguarding Romani Language teaching and promotion.

Digital infrastructure

- Continue existing initiatives and develop new ones which build digital infrastructure for the visibility and prosperity of Roma art; Roma history education; archiving of publications and studies on Roma history and knowledge; as well as media initiatives, as a tool to fight antigypsyism by providing positive counter-narratives and encourage Roma self-representation.

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

- In partnership with leading Roma organizations, develop referential history and cultural history-teaching materials; introduce them in formal and informal education practices and provide consultancy, training and teaching services (both through a learning community and through teacher-training strategies).

3. Advance the sense of pride and belonging among the Roma

- Provide Roma organizations and communities with identity-related accessories, symbols, and materials, shared history and language education tools and methodologies;

- Grow the community through social media and digital events, in particular through regularly organized talent competitions, creative informal online education tools, hosting and broadcasting annual celebrations and commemorations;
- Develop creative campaigns to shape Roma identity and pride;
- Provide support and work in service of the transnational Roma movement;
- Foster innovation by responding to crisis situations on the one hand, and applying latest trends and technologies for the arts, culture and identity of the Roma community.

4. Cross-cutting objective: ERIAC institutional stability and development

- Strong partnerships and cooperation with the CoE and CoE Member States;
- **Membership engagement through ERIAC members' presence and visibility in** ERIAC representation and programming;
- Strong public visibility, growing online and offline community and audience;
- To ensure appropriate resources which correspond with the ambition of the strategy, the objective of the association is a robust fundraising strategy seeking potential core funding and project funding, as well as strategic partnerships with key Roma-led institutions, major cultural public and private foundations and Institutions as well as with international arts and culture organizations, networks and initiatives.

1. Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the talent, visibility and quality among the Roma artists and cultural producers.

Physical infrastructure

Open new ERAC Branches

ERAC Serbia

After more than a year of existence, ERAC Serbia is slowly finding its place within the cultural scene of Serbia. ERAC Serbia is becoming an institution recognized by cultural institutions in Serbia as an important and leading organization in the field of Roma culture and art. This statement is confirmed by the partnerships and collaborations that were achieved during 2022 through various activities carried out with different organizations and institutions.

As the first branch office of ERAC Berlin, ERAC Serbia has same Strategy, missions and goals. Therefore, following the Strategy and Action Plan, ERAC Serbia focused its activities during 2022 on building the institutional structure, but also on the realization of program goals and activities in four priority areas of action.

Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the talent, visibility and quality among the Roma artists and cultural producers.

Establishing cooperation with institutions/organizations and building strategic partnerships

As written in the long-term Strategy, ERAC Serbia wants to establish cooperation with all relevant institutions, including relevant ministries and cultural institutions. A special strategic goal is to establish a partnership for the implementation of joint initiatives.

OSF entities

In the past year, emphasis was placed on strengthening the partnership with the entities of the Open Society Foundations. Through frequent cooperation, partnerships with the Roma Education Fund, the civil movement Opre Roma Serbia and the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative Serbia were strengthened. Various events and activities were organized and initiatives were launched.

Government institutions

As discussions began in 2021 with the Ministry of Education about the introduction of Roma history and culture into the school curriculum, in 2022 ERIAC Serbia launched the Initiative and signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Institute for the Improvement of Education and the Roma Education Fund. The initiative was supported by the National Council of the Roma National Minority.

Civil society organizations, festivals and events

Proof that ERIAC Serbia is becoming recognizable on the cultural scene of Serbia and the region is the collaborations that were achieved during 2022. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Association of Fine Artists of Serbia (ULUS), the Intercultural Theater from Mali Idjos, and cooperation was achieved with the Cultural Center of Belgrade and the KotorArt Festival from Montenegro, as well as the Roma Cultural Center and Roma Versitas Kosovo. Also, cooperation was initiated with the Youth Biennial, which belongs to ULUS and which young artists and activists want to revive and strengthen in the future..

- Romodrom - in cooperation with the Roma Cultural Center, a project called "Romodrom" was realized, which was carried out through two events with the aim of educating the majority population about culture, traditional heritage and the participation of Roma in the cultural and socio-scientific life of Serbia.
 - On the occasion of the opening of Romodrom, a panel discussion entitled "Roma in cinematography of Serbia" was held, where Goran Gocic, writer, journalist and film critic, Sreten Jovanovic, film producer, Radenko Rankovic, professor of film production and Gordana Nesovic, journalist, spoke. The event was closed with a concert by the Amaro Del group, who have nurtured Roma music for years.
 - The continuation of the Romodrom was organized in the premises of the European Roma Institute for Art and Culture, where a discussion was held on the topic "PR and marketing management of events from Roma culture". Participants in the discussion were Predrag Vujovic, president of the PRA agency, Dimitrije Bukvic, sociologist and journalist, Bratislav Mitrovic, manager of the ERIAC Serbia office, and Gordana Nesovic, journalist of Radio Belgrade and editor of the Romano Them radio show.

The project is also supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue, the Ministry of Culture and the City Secretariat for Culture of the City of Belgrade.



- The autumn exhibition in Cvijeta Zuzoric - ULUS - in cooperation with the Association of Fine Artists of Serbia, ERAC Serbia participated in the production of the exhibition "Exit strategies - (in)visible breakup tactics" curated by Branko Popovic. The exhibition featured the work of more than 40 artists and groups, questioning what happens when art leaves its conventional territory and slips into collaborative situations in other territories. ERAC Serbia presented an installation in the space, an artwork by Sead Kazanxhiu, "The Golden Nest".



- October Salon (Belgrade Biennale) – organized by the Cultural Center of Belgrade, ERAC Serbia presented itself by showing a short documentary film – "Lex Homeless", by artist Zoran Tairovic in the KCB cinema, which tells about the fate of a single mother of fourteen children from Molovina. After the screening, there was also a conversation with the author of the film and Ivan Velisavljevic, film critic and associate of the Academic Film Center. "This film is a symbol of living souls, the fiction of "heaven in heaven", and dead lives, the reality of "hell on earth" in the quarry of political execution. The castle here is not a poetic figure, but a living image built by people petrified by a history of waste, under the complete rule of Mephistophelian oligarchs. Through the directorial process, I created a film drama from my experiment, on the topic of social statuses and political attitudes assigned to the statements of homeless people, which is full of impudence, and unrestrained mockery of traditional and inviolable moral and aesthetic norms. It is precisely the germ of a new worldview in the second decade of the 21st century, with a focus on the original work "King Ibi" by Alfred Jarry, the founder of avant-garde, dada, and surrealism" as the artist himself says.



- Novi Sad - European Capital of Culture 2022 – together with the Intercultural Theater, the exhibition "The Other Side of the Image" was organized. The exhibition of contemporary artists Zoran Tairovic (Serbia), Sead Kazanxhiu (Albania), Nihad Nino Pusija (Germany / Bosnia and Herzegovina) and artist Delaine Le Bas (Great Britain) at the Svilara Cultural Station and the Serbian National Theater in Novi Sad focuses on research the space "behind the image", with the aspiration to show conceptions and creative processes from the inside, from the very artistic practice and visual language of these artists, whose works are connected by decolonization and critical approach to the institution of art.



- KotorArt art festival – ERIAC Serbia participated in the KotorArt international art festival in Kotor, Montenegro, where two programs were implemented within the festival with the aim of promoting Roma cultural producers. The programs were named "Modifying Error 404 | ERIAC presents".
 - Respected artists and cultural producers, Zoran Tairovic, Sead Kazanxhiu and Alina Serban discussed the role of artists and cultural institutions in the promotion of Roma cultural heritage and the deconstruction of the position of Roma art on the European cultural scene from the contribution of Roma artists to mainstream artistic production to recognizable and visible Roma contemporary art in itself. The discussion was accompanied by a musical performance by a

fantastic duo, brothers "The Pillers" and one of the best jazz guitarists of today, Ferenc Schnetberger.



- As part of the second event, ERIAC presents, we organized a concert by the music group Kal. Kal creates eclectic sound is created by the symbiosis of various musical genres, such as the music of the Western Balkans, swing, jazz, blues and pop. In the combination of the Balkan style and the Romani rhythm, the original aesthetic of the mole stands out, which western music critics called Rock'N'Roma and Gypsy Rockabilly.



- Manifesta 14 Prishtina Western Balkans Project– ERIAC Berlin organized an exhibition in 2022 as part of the Manifesta 14 biennale, which took place this year in Prishtina. As part of the program, a public debate on contemporary trends in Romani art was held in the premises of ERIAC Serbia, with participation of Sead Kazanxhiu, an artist from Albania, Aleksandra Aleksandrovic, an ethnomusicologist from Serbia, Bertan Selim from the Prince Klaus Foundation, Hedwig Fijen, the funding director of Manifesta and Timea

Junghaus, the executive director of ERIAC. Additionally the exhibition "All the Birds are Praying for our Children" was opened in the ERIAC Serbia gallery on 2 August 2022.



Embassies

ERIAC Serbia strives to maintain good relations with the German Embassy in Serbia by inviting representatives of the embassy to events and responding to their invitation, where representatives of ERIAC Serbia had the honour of being guests of the German Embassy at a reception marking the German Unification Day opened by the newly elected ambassador, Anke Konard. We attended the visit and the panel discussion where one of the panellists was Annalena Baerbock, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Also, we had the honour of hosting Mr Adis Ahmetovic, member of the Government of the Republic of Germany and ambassador for the Western Balkans, who, as part of his visit to the countries of the Western Balkans, expressed his desire to visit ERIAC Serbia, and on the recommendation of his colleague from the Government and the Minister of Culture and media of the Republic of Germany, Claudia Roth, who visited ERIAC Serbia and conveyed positive impressions. ERIAC Serbia hosted the meeting, which was attended by the representative of the OSCE mission, Vladimir Garcia, the representative of the Romacted program of the Council of Europe, Marina Vasic, and the representative of the Roma Education Fund, Adi Sinani. We had the honor of hosting Mr Dr Frederik Jørgens, Deputy Head of Department 209 for the Western Balkans at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Germany and Mr Miguel Waltereit, First Secretary and Head of the Culture Department and Spokesperson of the German Embassy. In addition to the great connection with the German Embassy, we also hosted the Deputy Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden, Mr Alexandre Peir Dutray. At the invitation of the Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden, ERIAC Serbia also participated in the event of the presentation of the book in memory of the Holocaust, as well as the Nordic Euro Pride. Cooperation with the USA Embassy was also established. A representative from the political department of the USA Embassy, Mr Ross Conroy, visited the ERIAC Serbia gallery and had the opportunity to see the current exhibition, to learn about our activities and plans for the future, and the visit of Ambassador, Christopher Hill, was also initiated.



Build on the Council of Europe Recommendation on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travelers in school curricula and teaching materials

Integrating the content of Roma culture and history into a mandatory part of the school curriculum of the Republic of Serbia

After successfully held meetings with the Minister of Education, Branko Ruzic, and the State Secretary, Anamarija Vicek, a verbal agreement was reached on the launch of the Initiative on the introduction of Roma history and culture content into the school curriculum and research conducted on the current representation of Roma topics in the compulsory school curriculum, during 2022. In 2008, ERIAC Serbia, together with the Roma Education Fund, gathered representatives of important actors who would support the Initiative. We held a meeting with the National Council of the Roma National Minority, which, as an official state institution, supported the Initiative and appointed its representative for further cooperation. The initiative was also supported by the Council of Europe Belgrade Office, which enabled direct communication with the Council of Europe.



At the initiative of the Ministry of Education, we established cooperation with the Institute for the Improvement of Education (ZUOV) and held two meetings where we agreed on the procedures for our participation in the reform of the school curriculum for primary and secondary schools, which will begin in 2022 and last four to five years and with which signed a Memorandum of Cooperation.

We formed a working group with fifteen members, made up of Roma intellectuals from various fields and representatives of the organizations that launched the Initiative. During five months, four working group meetings were organized. Based on the prepared Term of Reference document, the working group made the first Proposal of topics and content from the history and culture of the Roma for introduction into teaching and learning programs. This Proposal will be discussed with the expert team

of ZUOV, after which work will be done on its further elaboration, as well as the analysis of existing topics and content from Roma history and culture in school programs.



Advance the sense of pride and belonging among Roma

Cultural events that promote Roma culture and art

In order to achieve the visibility of Roma culture and Roma artists and cultural producers, in addition to building infrastructure, ERAC Serbia worked in parallel on the presentation of Roma creativity and the commemoration of significant events in Roma history. The following exhibitions, concerts, film screenings and artistic events were organized:

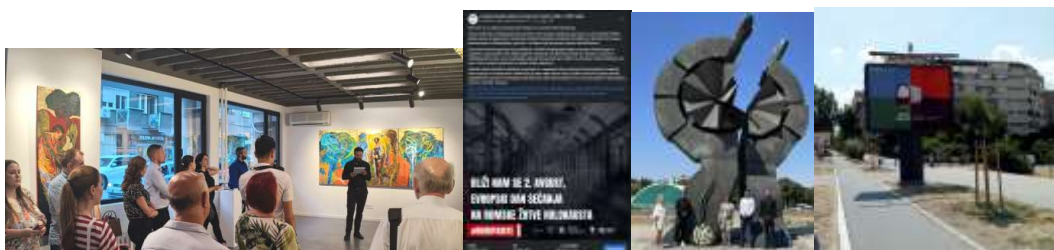
- In partnership with the Opre Roma movement and RCC Roma Integration, International Roma Day on April 8th was marked through a discussion on the participation and importance of culture and art in the Roma movement. The ceremony began with the performance of the Roma national anthem, followed by a panel discussion "Culture as inspiration", and the event closed with a concert by Iva Barcic and the Very Naiss Band.



- Roma Resistance Day was marked together with the Opre Roma movement by organizing a big concert "Roma, Force of Nature" in which world stars, Istanbul Strigns, led by Mehmetan Disbudak, fantastic Roma artists such as Bekir Haliti, Aca Nikolic Cergar with orchestra, Natasa Tasic Knezevic, Marko Sabanovic, Bosko Jovanovic and Zikica Jovanovic, as well as national stars such as Jelena Tomasevic, Sanja Vucic, Andreana Cekic, Madam Piano, Jadranka Jovanovic and Marina Barac. The Open Society Foundations and the Roma Education Fund made a big contribution to the organization of the concert.



- The European Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day was marked together with the Opre Roma movement, the Roma Education Fund and Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative through raising awareness through online activities and public advertising channels, as well as visiting the memorial to the victims of the Genocide in the Second World War, the Staro Sajmiste in Belgrade. Also, as part of the Manifesta 14 festival, and on the occasion of the European Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day, the exhibition "All the birds are praying for our children" was officially opened, where the works of Farija Mehmeti, Sead Kazanxhiu and Zoran Tairovic were presented and a tribute was paid to the recently deceased Bajram Haliti by reading poetry in Romani and Serbian languages.



- The International Roma Language Day was marked in the premises of ERIAC Serbia, together with the Roma Education Fund, by organizing a panel discussion "The Roma language as the basis of identity and barrier to assimilation". The event was enhanced by the recitation of poetry by Rajko Djuric, Slobodan Berberski, Jovan Nikolic, Trifun Dimic and Bajram Saitovic in Romani and Serbian languages accompanied by guitar.



- In cooperation with the Opre Roma Serbia movement, ERIAC Serbia organized a panel discussion "Proud Roma through history". The panel discussion aimed to explore the trajectory of the Roma minority's struggle for self-determination, demonstrating Roma pride and power through role models and cultural, artistic

and historical narratives from the Roma position. Also, together with colleagues from Berlin, ERIAC Serbia provided creative support to the Opera Roma Serbia movement.



Proud Roma, free Serbia campaign

Strengthening the Roma identity and overcoming prejudices gained even more importance in 2022 because ERIAC Serbia, together with the Opre Roma Serbia movement, the Roma Education Fund and Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, participated in the campaign "Proud Roma, Free Serbia" as part of the transnational campaign at the European level "Proud Roma, Free Europe" on the occasion of the census held in Serbia, with the aim of promoting Roma's contribution to Serbian and European culture, awakening pride and encouraging the free declaration of belonging to the Roma national identity. Symbolically, on the Roma Resistance Day, the concert "Roma, Force of Nature" organized in the Madlenianum theater and supported by various organizations and institutions, marked the beginning of the campaign. The art film "Hurjasa" by director and journalist Jake Bowers was realized, which was broadcasted through social networks, and whose goal was to motivate Roma to freely declare their identity in the census. For the same purpose, a moderated discussion "Roma through history" was recorded, focused on Roma identity, in which Zoran Tairovic, Dragoljub Ackovic, Bajram Haliti, Natasa Tasic-Knezevic, Slavica Vasic and Jelena Krivokapic-Nikolic participated.



What ERIAC Serbia is particularly proud of is the opportunity to host group and individual visits to the gallery where people have the opportunity to see current exhibitions, learn about Roma cultural producers, learn about their work and hear the stories they tell in the different visual language they use.



Visitors have the opportunity to hear about ERIAC's missions and activities and learn more about Roma culture. Also, ERIAC Serbia serves as a space that other organizations use for their purposes, as the BFPE Foundation for a Responsible Society did, where it used the opportunity to organize its final event and awarding of diplomas within the framework of the Annual Seminar 2022 program in our premises and introduce ERIAC Serbia with its program participants and guests. Also, this opportunity was used by the Roma Education Fund and the Opre Roma Serbia movement.



Institutional stability and development

Engagement of advisory board members

The role of the Advisory Board of ERIAC Serbia was invaluable for the organization during 2022. With their knowledge, experience and work, the members of the board contributed to the development of the organization and facilitated the easier implementation of the Strategy and Activity Plan. The priority for the next year is to maintain a good correlation between the ERIAC Serbia team and the Advisory Board, where the common goal is the growth and development of the organization.

REF Internship program

As was planned the previous year, and during 2022, ERIAC Serbia cooperated with the Roma Education Fund, within which five interns were engaged for four months with

the aim of including and familiarizing themselves with the work of the ERIAC Serbia and ERIAC Berlin organizations, organizing events, setting up exhibitions and communication through social networks, as well as researching and mapping cultural resources in Serbia and working on a project that was started with the previous generation of interns – Roma History and Culture Quiz – which will serve educational purposes through digital channels in order to facilitate brought closer to the younger audience that is growing up in the age of the Internet and digitization.



Although the ERIAC Serbia team gained additional experience and knowledge during 2022, the support and help of colleagues from ERIAC Berlin is very valuable and still necessary for achieving good results and creating high-quality events. The team from Berlin is helping to raise both the administrative and programming capacities of the team from Belgrade, so this kind of cooperation is expected in 2023 as well. It is expected that ERIAC Serbia will establish a larger initial team in the coming period, while the network of external collaborators occasionally engaged in certain activities as needed is already functioning.

Building a community of young Roma artists and cultural producers, promoters of Roma culture

Continued mapping of existing resources, i.e., collection of data on artists, non-governmental organizations and artistic/creative groups dealing with cultural, artistic and creative content in Serbia and the region. The data was diligently collected by our interns under the supervision of the ERIAC Serbia team. We currently have a database that contains 78 individual actors in the field of culture, 73 non-governmental organizations, 56 public institutions and 9 festivals. It was agreed to create a plan and methodology to present their knowledge, skills, and creativity through the activities of ERIAC Serbia and ERIAC Berlin in order to contribute to the achievement of strategic goals.

Fundraising

ERIAC Serbia enjoys the support of the RS Government thanks to which it has secured space in the city center. It also has many years of financial support from Dunav Insurance. This support is intended for the institutional functioning of the organization, but it is not sufficient for optimal institutional work. In order to ensure financial institutional stability, ERIAC Serbia, in addition to the Open Society Foundation,

approached potential donors from the EU and the Balkan region in order to secure additional funds for institutional development and program activities.

During the implementation of the project, meetings were held with GIZ, the German Development Bank, UNICEF, the Embassy of the Republic of Germany, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Sweden, the Smart Balkans program of the Norwegian Embassy and the Visegrad Fund. Unfortunately, donors do not provide institutional support, and throughout 2022, due to the war in Ukraine, they adapted their strategies to the new geopolitical context. Calls for tenders with goals and topics from the area of activity of ERAC began to be published only in the fall and at the end of the year. We have been supported by the Visegrad Fund V4 program for our artistic activities. Drafting of project proposals for Creative Europe, Smart Balkans and the American Embassy is underway.

MUCEM

At the beginning of July ERAC launched an open call for contributions to the Barvalo exhibition, which will be held at the Museum of Civilisations of Europe and the Mediterranean (Mucem), in Marseille, in May 2023. This exhibition, focused on Romani cultures and professions, is designed in collaboration with Rom, Sinti, Gitano, Manouche and French Traveller representatives from France and across Europe.

ERAC was in the search for an artist to collaborate on the design of a visual representation of anti-gypsyism as a physical form. The installation work proposed by activist and conceptual artist Luna de Rosa was selected by the Jury, to be developed further in collaboration with the curatorial team of *Barvalo*.

Luna de Rosa's installation work consists of a collage representing the root causes and components of anti-gypsyism, through photographs, documents and texts placed in different layers, "as a metaphor for something that is not yet totally visible, but rather concealed". The work is composed of different materials such as photos, black wool, pieces of newspapers, sheets of acetate, texts, which together try to tell some real and imagined historical events about the history of Romanes communities.



Luna De Rosa: The Structure of Antigypsyism, installation detail, 2022, mixed media

Villa Romana, Florence

Scholarship in Florence

In 2022, once again we joined forces with the Villa Romana (Florence) residency programme to offer an artistic residency for two Roma contemporary artists. Founded in 1905, Villa Romana is a place of contemporary artistic production and international exchange. As an artists' residence, Villa Romana is hosting the winners of the Villa Romana Prize, the oldest German art prize. With exhibitions and a wide range of events, Villa Romana strives to interact with artists and the public, expand its international network and promote communication with the cultures of the Mediterranean area.

The joint residency programme initiative draws upon the ground-breaking work, expertise, and vision of both institutions to realise a unique opportunity for young Roma artists and marks a significant step in recognition of the importance of Roma contemporary art practice today. As in previous years, this year, we offered a one-month residency to two Romani artists to provide them with an opportunity to concentrate on their work, to seek an exchange with other artists in the house and in the regional environment, and to deal with the history of art on site. In order to be

eligible, applicants had to self-declare a Roma identity and present artistic work of compelling quality. Each candidate had to submit their CV and portfolio, without the obligation to add a description of the planned project during the residency. The application deadline was 16 January 2022, and the Jury meeting was on 21 January 2022.

The international jury, consisting of: Angelika Stepken (curator, author, Director of Villa Romana), Timea Junghaus (curator, art historian, Executive Director of ERIAC), Maria Lind (curator, writer, art critic, co-curator of the 2019 Biennial in Timisoara), and Daniel Baker (artist, curator of FUTUROMA at Venice Biennale 2019) established the protocol for the decision on the residency awardees as based upon the following criteria:

- the selected artists can – at this stage of their artistic career – attain the most benefit from the residency in Florence;
- they have 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 selected artists were Luna De Rosa (1991, Italy) and Dariya Kanti (1991, Uzbekistan). They were provided with one month residency, and a stipend in the amount of 1000 Euro. Travel expenses were covered.



Dariya Kanti: Nightingale, 2019, 70×80 cm, graphite on paper media



Dariya Kanti: L.U.N.G.S., 2021, 60×90 cm, mixed media

Dariya Kanti (1991, Uzbekistan) studied at the National Institute of Arts and Design K. Behzod (Tashkent) in the Faculty of Fine Arts, at the Department of Easel and Book Graphics, and then at the St. Petersburg Stieglitz State Academy of Art and Design in the Faculty of Monumental – Decorative Art, at the Department of Art Textiles (2012-18), where she received the red diploma and certificate for Best Senior Project of 2018. Kanti has participated in municipal, regional and international exhibitions. Since 2018, her work has been published in such international art publications as Voice of Artists (Issue 10, Artit Publisher & Online Art Gallery, London), and Negromundo magazine (Spain), among others.

Kanti attended the residency between 26 August and 26 September 2022.



Luna De Rosa: The Drowned World, installation / performance, 2019, mixed media, Bregenz, Austria

Luna De Rosa (1991, Italy) is an activist and conceptual artist who works and lives between Berlin and Milan. She received her Master's in Visual Arts from the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera in Milan. She has collaborated with various foundations and galleries, and with other international artists. She began to write for the Italian art magazine Segno in 2019, and to collaborate as a member of the platform UCRI (Union of Romanes Communities in Italy), where she continues to contribute as both artist and writer. De Rosa was part of the production team of the Il Roma Biennale in Berlin in 2021, curated by Delaine La Bas and Hamze Bytyci, and organised by Roma Trial.

De Rosa attended the residency between 1 October and 1 November 2022. During her residency she was focusing on working on the project TheTree of Antigypsyism commissioned for Barvalo exhibition at MUCEM.

GOSSIPS

8 April – 31 August 2022

Location: Reinhardtstraße 41-43, 10117 Berlin

ERAC celebrates the International Romani Day (8 April) with the opening of the exhibition **Gossips** featuring three young and upcoming artists representing **contemporary Roma women's art**.

Featuring the two ERAC-Villa Romana awardees: Dariya Kanti (1991, lives and works in Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and Luna De Rosa (1991, lives and works in Berlin, Germany), and Nataliia Tomenko (1994, fled from Kremenchuk, Ukraine and currently living and working in Vienna, Austria), artist in residence for ERAC in 2021, the exhibition welds together three artistic positions that bring together notions of Roma identity, feminist strategy and ecology while staying true to their specific aesthetics and methodologies.

Dariya Kanti's **surreal, captivating and carefully crafted imagery unfolds into** emanating and symbolic icons. They become catalysts for speculative storytelling, referencing oral history and its mode of transmission as an important part of Roma culture as well as creating a specific time-space configuration that allows her to speculate on the future and to develop feminist narratives on womanhood and ecology.

Luna De Rosa's work explores questions of Roma identity and womanhood and the politics and poetics of its visual representation. She creates stunning and dense images that almost metaphorically follow the friction and clashing realities of ideas connected to being an artist, Roma and a woman in search of a mode of existing in the in-between, of being multiple of staying irreducible.

Nataliia Tomenko captures the daily life of a Ukrainian Romni (young Roma woman) virtuously using various graphic and printmaking techniques. In linocuts and ink drawings, she creates visual vocabularies that connect to expressions in the Romani language and thereby process and transform key aspects of Roma politics and identity.

It is in borrowing feminist historian Silvia Federici's reading of the word gossip that these three voices tune in together and resist and build worlds effectively: "In early modern England, the word 'gossip' referred to companions in childbirth not limited to the midwife. It also became a term for women's friends, with no necessary derogatory connotations. In either case, it had strong emotional connotations."^[1]

^[1]Silvia Federici, *Witches, Witch-Hunting, and Women* (Oakland, CA: PM Press, 2018), 35-36."

Text by Timea Junghaus and Marc Hörler

The opening event took place on 7 April 2022, Tomenko and De Rosa attended giving to the audience a tour of their artworks. Tomenko gave an emotional speech

about the situation of Roma in Ukraine. The video is available under this link:
<https://youtu.be/ynibM7J2OFk>.

Nataliia Tomenko (1994, Ukraine) is an artist and Roma activist. She completed her MA in Cultural Heritage Studies: Academic Research, Policy, and Management at Central European University in Vienna. She additionally holds an MA in Graphic Design from the Kharkiv State Academy of Design and Arts. Currently, she is working at ERIAC: European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture as an intern, engaged with a range of responsibilities in programing and administration. In parallel, she is working as a board member and a Creative Director at ARCA: Agency for the Advocacy of Roma Culture in Ukraine. Tomenko is also a National Volunteers Coordinator and Roma Rights Defender at the European Roma Rights Centre in Ukraine on a **volunteer basis, with the aim of supporting the principal's work in defending the** human rights of Romani people across Europe and fighting against digital anti-Gypsyism. In the meantime, she engages with the visual representation of Roma history and culture, in the framework of art projects connected to Roma cultural heritage and Roma Genocide.

Venice Biennale

Eugen Raportoru: The Abduction from the Seraglio

Roma Women: Performative Strategies of Resistance

Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

On view at Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti

Campo S. Stefano 2945, 30124 Venice

23 April – 27 November 2022, from Tuesdays to Sundays, 09:30-17:30

Curated by Ilina Schileru

Commissioned by Zeljko Jovanovic and Timea Junghaus on behalf of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)

With special contributions from: Ethel Brooks, Ioanida Costache, Mihaela Drăgan, Carmen Gheorghe, Delia Grigore, Angéla Kóczé, Dijana Pavlovic, Alina Șerban



The Abduction - exhibition in numbers

- 34.853 visitors in 7 months (April 20-November 27)
- 190 visitors per day on average
- 133.345 social media (Facebook) reach
- 10 blogposts on ERIAC website, 9 blog entries under RomaMoMA
- 9 partnerships with majority arts and culture institutions
- 5 important governmental interactions including the governments of Italy, Romania and Serbia
- 41 Roma arts and culture producers, musicians were involved and benefit from collaborations in the frame of the exhibitions
- 6622 persons reached via the live transmission of the opening ceremony event on ERIAC Facebook
- 220 guests participated at the opening ceremony held on April 22nd
- 370 entries in the exhibition guest book
- 7 short videos created to present Roma women perspective in relation to the exhibition.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN) presented the installation series and paintings of Romanian artist of Roma origin, Eugen Raportoru, in the frame of the Roma exhibition titled *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, accompanied by *Roma Women: Performative Strategies of Resistance*, Collateral Event of the 59th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Iliana Schileru. The

Roma exhibition opened on April 22nd in the frame of the *Milk of Dreams*, official title of the 59th International Art Exhibition in Venice.

Commissioners

Zeljko Jovanovic and Timea Junghaus at the opening ceremony of *The Abduction*



©Carlo Morucchio

ERIAC Achievements

- ERIAC created long-term partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute and other majority art institutions from Romania, such as the National Museum of the Romanian Peasant and the National Museum of Contemporary Art from Bucharest (MNAC)
- ERIAC created strong partnership with international organizations supporting Roma arts and culture such as the ERSTE Foundation
- ERIAC connected to majority art spaces promoting Roma contemporary art, such as the Zacheta Gallery from Poland
- ERIAC took steps forward in the realm of cultural diplomacy, the Italian government showing serious interest in establishing an ERIAC permanent office and gallery space in Italy; ERIAC also secured strong presence of the Romanian and Serbian governments at the opening ceremony
- ERIAC strengthened relationships with international artist and curators, such as Simone Leigh who visited the opening of *The Abduction* exhibition, or Attila Kim, commissioner of the Romanian Pavilion
- ERIAC continued spreading the message about the importance of cultural inclusion next to social inclusion and maintained its goals to further advocate for a permanent inclusion of Roma arts into the National Pavilions of La Biennale

- ERIAC succeeded in bringing this high-level event closer to the community by inviting Kethane members to be present and celebrate the success of two Roma artists in parallel
- ERIAC excelled in attracting visitors to the Roma exhibition by securing and exhibition space next to Academia bridge, in the strategically located building of the prestigious Istituto Veneto

All the previous Roma Exhibitions (in 2007, 2011, and 2019) in Venice were established in the frame of the Biennale as Collaborative Events, therefore preparations for the 2022 edition of La Biennale started with the organization of a LabDay and an official visit to the Biennale Office on 11 October 2021. With a long history of exclusion, the Roma minority started once again with an enormous disadvantage even before arriving to Venice: the exhibition of the largest European minority was and remained to be **considered a “Collaborative Event”, and not a National Pavilion**. However, in 2022 we also witnessed a historic moment, where Malgorzata Mirga-Tas represented Poland in the Polish National Pavilion, and at the same time the entire transnational Roma community. ERIAC acted as project partner for the exhibition of Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, nevertheless, could have not realized the Roma exhibition – collateral event, without the generous support of its institutional and project partners.



Two Roma artist in Venice: Malgorzata-Mirga Tas and Eugen Raportoru in front of Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti on the opening ceremony of The Abduction, 22 April 2022
©Nihad Nino Pušija



Movimiento Kethane community members in front of the Polish Pavilion, ©Nihad Nino Pušija

Roma Women video and live performances

The installation works and paintings of Eugen Raportoru have undergone artistic and participatory interventions by Roma women artists who collaborated within the exhibition project.

The exhibition showed video works of Mihaela Dragan, Alina Serban and Ioanida Costache, while during the opening ceremony further Roma women, namely Dijana Pavlovic and Ethel Brooks took up the exhibition space and filled it in with their personal (her)stories, narratives and interventions.

Healing rituals presented by Mihaela Drăgan during the opening ceremony of The Abduction,

©Nihad Nino Pušija ©Carlo Morucchio



Dokumenta fifteen

Probably the most groundbreaking achievement in the history of ERIAC's exhibition-making practice, our participation in documenta fifteen was initiated by the invitation from the long-term partner and collaborator the Off-Biennale Budapest. Held every five years in Kassel, Documenta is one of the most important artworld events and is the most visited artistic event in Germany. The exhibition curated by curatorial team of seven (Daniel Baker, Ethel Brooks, Tímea Junghaus, Hajnalka Somogyi, Eszter Szakács, Katalin Székely, Miguel Ángel Vargas) showcased works of ten distinguished Romani artists: Daniel Baker, János Balázs, Robert Gabris, Sead Kazanxhiu, Damian Le Bas, Małgorzata Mirga-Tas, Omara (Mara Oláh), Tamás Péli, Selma Selman, Ceija Stojka. The exhibition, entitled *One Day We Shall Celebrate Again: RomaMoMA* at documenta fifteen was on view from June 16 till September 25. It marked the first occasion when Roma artists exhibited within the highly coveted framework of documenta. Despite a series of artistic and political scandals accompanying this year's edition of documenta, the exhibition received significant critical acclaim and contributed to raising visibility of Romani arts at the prestigious mainstream cultural event. The success of the exhibition can be attributed to at least three factors (1) high quality of artworks and compelling curatorial concept, tracking the cultural history of Roma in Europe, (2) very strategic placement of the exhibition in the main building of documenta Fridericianum, (3) building on the critical acclaim around the work of Off-Biennale Budapest collective.



Roma Pavilion: 23rd International Exhibition Milan Triennale



Emília Rigová: "And the One Doesn't Stir without the Other"

Exhibition Site: Roma Pavilion, 23rd International Exhibition Milan Triennale. Viale Emilio Alemagna, 6, 20121 Milano MI, Italy

15 July – 11 December 2022

Commissioner: European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture



oltáRIG, 2021, installation view, And the One doesn't Stir without the Other ©Davide Mandolini

“AND THE ONE DOESN'T STIR WITHOUT THE OTHER”

At the Roma Pavilion* at the 23rd International Exhibition Milan Triennale, ERIAC presented the work *oltáRIG* by Slovak artist, Emília Rigová (b. 1980). The installation was originally conceived as a central piece of the 2020 retrospective exhibition Kale Bala, Parno Muj (Black Hair, White Mouth) held at the Schemnitz Gallery in Banská Štiavnica, Slovakia. Due to pandemic measures, the exhibition was prepared as a virtual event, and it was only in Milan, that the work could be shown in-person for the first time. 2022 marks the 10th anniversary of the inception of Emília Rigová alter ego Bári Raklóri which anticipated a turn in her work towards critical exploration of the concepts of social identity, and topics with specific emphasis on Romani identity and Romani culture. From the vantage point of her own self-exploration and self-representation, Rigová takes an intersectional approach to the frameworks of collective and individual identification and labelling. The installation *oltáRIG* symbolically reflects on the decade of this thematic preoccupation, and its presentation at the Romani Pavilion in Milano therefore underscores the fact that Rigová became a distinctive voice among artists self-identified as Roma, and also in national and the international contexts. Emília Rigová, who was featured in previous important presentations by ERIAC, including Roma Women Weaving Europe and Futuroma in 2019, is gaining more international visibility with her current show at Vienna's Mumok. Moreover, the Triennale exhibition, combining Rigová's own installation with private altars documenting personal histories of members of Romani diaspora living in Milan, provided ERIAC with important and strategic opportunity to strengthen collaborative relationship with Italy-based Roma activists. The exhibition was also an unprecedented diplomatic success, as ERIAC was invited to commission its contribution to the 23rd International Art Exhibition Milan Triennale on equal footing with nation states, in the Roma Pavilion and with the Roma flag flying among the flags of other invited participants- member states. This is in a striking contrast to ERIAC's experience at International Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia, where the status of Pavilion is denied and ERIAC has to exhibit with the collateral event format.



*Emília Rigová: oltáRIG, 2021, detail, installation view, And the One doesn't Stir without the Other
©Davide Mandolini*



Emília Rigová (*1980) a/k/a Bári Raktóri, is a Slovak visual artist and academic of Roma origin and laureate of the Oskár Čepan Prize. She teaches art at the Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica (SK), where she established the Office of Roma Art and Culture in 2019. Rigová is a trained sculptor. **She studied stone carving at Bratislava's School of Applied Arts and later the Sculpture Department of the Academy of Arts in Banská Bystrica.**

The exhibition comprised of installation, video, photography, found objects, and a community art project involving contributions from the members **of the Roma community, who responded to artists' invitation to mount their own altars and display personal memories and stories.** The realization of this site-specific installation and the involvement

of local artists and activists eager to share their personal stories was made possible through collaboration between ERIAC and Movimento Kethane, an Italy-based Roma civic organization. Through the collaboration with the local community, the exhibition unfolded as a site-specific Wunderkammer, the tangible materialisation

of the diversity of Roma identities and experiences, despite the homogenizing majoritarian narrative.

The Roma community members that exhibited their personal objects and reliquiaae were:



Dijana Pavlović. Italian actress, activist, politician and leader of Movimento Kethane, the movement uniting Roma and Sinti from Italy. Born in Serbia, she has campaigned for language rights for Roma and Sinti and against forced evictions in Italy, as well as working with disadvantaged youth in and around Milan. A dedicated mother and a devoted leader, her life revolves around the fight for justice for the Roma community in Italy and transnationally.



Noèl Maggini, of Sinti origin. Fashion designer, freelance stylist and activist. Noèl has always been very proud of his Roma origins, which serves as source of inspiration in his creative work as well. He studied at the Loretta Oltremari Fashion School, and now he is the artistic director of Maison Noèl Maggini. Living and working in Milan, Italy, he devotes most of his free time to Movimento Kethane, and inspires many young Roma to never stop pursuing their dreams.



Toni Deragna. Singer and Roma activist from Italy. He is from a small village close to Milan, which is officially called **by the authorities "The Roma Camp."** Born in a family with a tradition of strong community leadership and a desire to advance the living conditions and rights of Roma and Sinti in the settlements, Toni is a creative soul, who likes to sing, paint and do artistic design in his free time. He is an active member of Movimento Kethane and the international Opre Roma Association, following the steps of his great grandfather, Valentino Deragna.



Miguel Fiorello Lebbiati. Roma activist and sculptor, is an Italian Roma and Sinti of many subgroups, including Kalderash. A truly devoted member of the Kethane Movement, and a proud father of two kids. He has inherited not only the stories of survival and resistance, but also the wisdom of his ancestors, who on one hand were travellers performing in circuses in Luna parks shows, and on the other hand worked as artisans, metal workers, craftsmen. An activist and an artistic soul, he does sculpting as a hobby.



Mykhailo Shpakov. Ukrainian Roma activist, who moved to Italy 3 years ago, and currently pursues his studies in computer sciences in Milan. He followed the steps of his parents, who also left Ukraine to make a living and create a better future for their children. However, the sweet memories of his former homeland and his strong ties to friends and family left behind keep motivating and inspiring him in this new

situation, which he confronts with dignity and success.

The opening took place on 14 July 2022 with musical performances by Toni Deragna singing Gelem Gelem and Mihai Florian, accordionist playing Romanian Roma compositions.

The opening ceremony included speeches from Dijana Pavlovic, ERAC Member and President of Movimento Kethane; Emília Rigová, artist; Stefano Boeri, president of Milan Triennale; Sead Kazanxhiu, ERAC Board Member, and a message from undersecretary Benedetto Della Vedova:

"I regret I am not able to attend in person, in the extraordinary setting of Palazzo dell'Arte, the launch of the exhibition of the artist Emília Rigová, at the 23rd Triennale Milano International Exhibition. The Triennale is among the most prestigious institutions in the Italian artistic scene. Throughout the 20th century, the Triennale promoted and upheld the unity of art and is a reference model for the cultural and economic life of our country. A success that has been made possible thanks to an intense production of magnificent events, exhibitions, seminars and educational activities, which have transformed the Triennale into a center of innovation and creative research that operates for multiple audiences and targets. **Emilia Rigová's exhibition, curated** by Timea Junghaus, is a meaningful opportunity to appreciate and value the complex history of the Roma transnational minority, and to explore the story of the construction of its identity and its perception within the European context. Cultural diversity is a pivotal issue in today's global society. The promotion of intercultural dialogue aims at making diversity a source of mutual enrichment by fostering inclusivity through promotion of the cultural heritage of socio-ethnic minorities. In such a frame, art is a privileged tool, as it facilitates continuous interaction and mutual exchange by raising public awareness and interest in the relevance of adopting a crosscutting multicultural approach. Cultural diversity goes hand in hand with the objective that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has pursued through the constant planning of cultural diplomacy initiatives: Italy strongly believes that culture and art are strategic tools at the service of the national interest, both aimed at fostering rights and freedoms, promoting mutual knowledge among peoples and peacefully settling international disputes. With the new Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is implementing innovative projects aimed at strengthening cooperation with the Italian cultural industry. A strategic role is played by our network, made of 84 Italian Cultural Institutes and over two hundred diplomatic-consular missions, whose capillarity represents a precious added value. The strong collaboration between Farnesina and our Cultural Institutes has in fact made it possible to initiate, develop and disseminate cultural creative paths in various fields of art, proving to be a real driving force for Italian cultural promotion. To conclude, I would like to thank once again the Milan Triennale, and its current President Stefano Boeri, for its outstanding contribution in the field of art and culture: thanks also to your commitment, Italy is

strengthening its cultural radiance in the world and its role as a bearer of strategic demands such as peace, equity, rights and freedom.”

Milan Triennale Impact

Building ERIAC presence at the mainstream art world:

- It is the first time in 99 years of Milan Triennale that Roma were invited to be exhibited, and quite an unprecedented occurrence in the mainstream art world that is still governed by the nation- state, olympic game logic.
- The quality of exhibition is impeccable
- Announcements in Eflux and Kulturstiftung

Strengthening the voice of Roma artists and cultural producers:

- Emília Rigová
- Community collaborators: Dijana Pavlovic, Noell Maggini, Toni Deragna, Fiorello Miguel Lebbiati, Mykhailo Shpakov (excellent proof of the diversity of Roma and Sinti community in Italy)
- Music: Mihai Florian, Toni Deragna

Stewarding existing connections:

- Dijana Pavlovic, ERIAC member, Kethane President, Roma culture champion
- Stefano Boeri- President of Milan Triennale, explicitly interested in inviting ERIAC in three years again (follow up)
- Serbia Deputy Prime Minister Maja Gojkovic (The Ministry of Culture was willing to support the recital of Ilya Marinkovic, who eventually got COVID and did not perform)
- Undersecretary Benedetto Della Vedova (sent message endorsing ERIAC, no show due to the governmental crisis)
- Kethane- ERIAC contributed with 15 k EUR to Movimento Kethane so they can organize accompanying cultural event within Triennale in September

Forming new partnerships

- Slovak Cultural Institute in Rome

Press coverage:

- <https://www.milanosud.it/la-bandiera-dei-rom-e-sinti-sventola-insieme-altre-alla-triennale/>
- <https://www.ilgiorno.it/milano/cronaca/rom-e-sinti-protagonisti-alla-triennale-1.7877890>
- <https://ilmirino.it/triennale-23-esposizione-quello-che-non-sappiamo-di-non-sapere/>
- <https://www.exibart.com/arte-contemporanea/quant-mondi-siamo-alla-triennale-si-cercano-risposte/>
- The live stream was also available on Italian newspaper page Il Fatto Cotidiano

Opening Livestream available here:

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanRomaInstituteERAC/videos/1426750414506223>



Press coverage:

<https://www.milanosud.it/la-bandiera-dei-rom-e-sinti-sventola-insieme-altre-alla-triennale/>

<https://www.ilgiorno.it/milano/cronaca/rom-e-sinti-protagonisti-alla-triennale-1.7877890>

<https://ilmirino.it/triennale-23-esposizione-quello-che-non-sappiamo-di-non-sapere/>

<https://www.exibart.com/arte-contemporanea/quant-mondi-siamo-alla-triennale-si-cercano-risposte/>

Live stream:

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanRomaInstituteERAC/videos/1426750414506223>

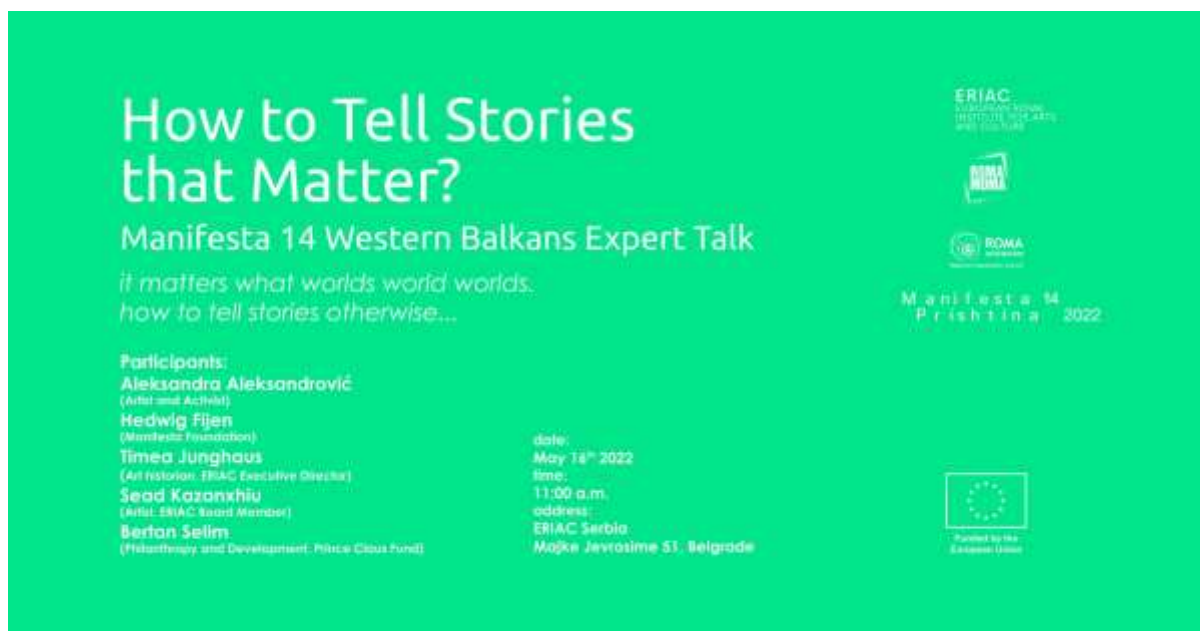
The live stream was also available on the Italian newspaper page Il Fatto Cotidiano

Manifesta 14 Western Balkans

2021 brought ERAC the opportunity to join the artistic team of Manifesta 14.

Manifesta, the so-called European Nomadic Biennial, is a very prestigious art event, ranked number 4. In the world's ranking of art biennials (after Venice Biennale, documenta, and The Whitney Biennial). Our contribution was delivered within the EU-supported project, Manifesta 14 Prishtina Western Balkans Project: Co-Producing Common SPace and Shaping Formations of Solidarity in the Western Balkans and Beyond, bringing together Manifesta Foundation and ten cultural institutions from across Western Balkans. ERAC's contribution was aimed at ensuring that Romani cultural producers and artists are meaningfully included in the Biennial. In the first stage of the collaboration, ERAC provided Manifesta Foundation and Manifesta 14 Cultural Mediator with orientation about Romani art scene, in order to ensure that Romani artists will be represented in the artistic program. As a result, the 14th edition of Manifesta featured work of Selma Selman and Sami Mustafa, whose works were presented in Prishtina and a group exhibition "All That we Have In Common" curated by the Roma Jam Session Collective in the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje, Northern Macedonia. Additionally, ERAC curated three programs within the Biennial and provided financial support for filmmaker and artist Sami Mustafa to raise visibility of his contribution to Manifesta 14.

1. Expert Talk: *How to Tell Stories that Matter?* Moderated by ERAC Executive Director Timea Junghaus, the conversation featuring contributions from Hedwig Fijen (Manifesta Founder and Director), Bertan Selim (Prince Claus Foundation), Sead Kazanxhiu (ERAC Board Member, artist), and Aleksandra Aleksandrovic (artist and educator), aimed at reflecting on the role of physical infrastructure for Romani artistic production in dismantling negative narratives about Roma and fostering a positive image of Roma.



2. Exhibition: *Roma Rajni: RomaMoMA Library ft. Daniel Baker and Farija Mehmeti.*

Location: National Library Kosovo, Sheshi "HASAN PRISHTINA" p.n, Prishtina, Kosovo.

22 July – 30 October 2022. Bringing together the installation *Adjacent* by Daniel Baker and the painterly oeuvre of Farija Mehmeti, the exhibition highlights the cultural history of Roma by showcasing the RomaMoMA Library. The RomaMoMA Library was created in 2021 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the First World Romani Congress. It is dynamic and nomadic, engaging with local contexts wherever it travels. Comprising some 150 books on contemporary Roma literary, artistic and cultural heritage, the library's growing collection showcases this rich Roma legacy, while critically interrogating the violence and oppression faced by the Roma in Europe.



Daniel Baker observing Farija Mehmeti's artwork. © Esko Duraki



Farija Mehmeti. Born in Pristina in 1978, lives in the village of Lepina. Mehmeti started painting in 2001 after watching her brother Bajram paint scenes of Roma life. She paints portraits of Romani women, mostly from imagination, showing their colourful way of dressing up, in order to preserve this tradition and the culture of the Roma.

Daniel Baker is a Romani Gypsy artist, researcher, and curator. Originally from Kent, and currently based in London, his work is exhibited internationally and can be found in collections across the globe. Baker earned a PhD in 2011 from the Royal College of Art, with his dissertation, "Gypsy Visuality: Gell's Art Nexus and its



Potential for Artists", after previously earning an MA in Sociology/Gender and Ethnic Studies from Greenwich University, and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Ravensbourne College of Art and Design. Baker has contributed to numerous exhibitions, held various residencies, and curated several commissions. He previously worked as an exhibitor and consultant for the first and second Roma events at

the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia – "Paradise Lost" and "Call the Witness", which took place during the 52nd and 54th International Art Exhibitions of La Biennale di Venezia, respectively. In 2018, hosting an open call for curators, an international jury consisting of Professor Dr Ethel Brooks, Tony Gatlif, Miguel Ángel Vargas, and ERIAC management selected Baker to curate the Roma Collateral Event at the 58th La Biennale di Venezia. Baker's work examines the role of art in the enactment of social agency, through an eclectic practice that interrogates contemporary art discourse and its social implications via the reconfiguration of elements of the Roma aesthetic.

RomaMoMA Library

It was created in 2021 by ERIAC to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the First World Romani Congress. It is dynamic and nomadic, engaging with local contexts wherever it travels. Comprising some 150 books on contemporary Roma literary,

artistic and cultural heritage, the library's growing collection showcases this rich Roma legacy, while critically interrogating the violence and oppression faced by the Roma in Europe. RomaMoMA Library is a "library on the road" that has been hosted by different institutions like SAVVY Contemporary (Berlin, Germany); Schafhof: the European Center for Art Upper Bavaria (Freising, Germany); Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Venice, Italy). This library is not to be understood as a classical library that exclusively collects and preserves books and knowledge in order to make them accessible to the public, but rather an open and dynamic library, which, taking its departure from a body of materials built by ERIAC expertise, will be further developed in the course of the exhibition/event/hosting period, together with the visitors and the institutions. The library is a "study room", where everyone can come to read, discuss and comment on texts, and to produce new knowledge together. In line with emancipatory educational approaches, the RomaMoMA Library critically reflects the white, Western canon and expands it with postcolonial theoretical perspectives and voices from the Global South and diasporic communities.

The opening took place on 21 July 2022. The speech of Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director, followed opening addresses from Jan-Axel Voss, Deputy Head of the Mission at the German Embassy in Prishtina; Gazmen Salijevec, Deputy Minister of Communities and Returns; Sylejman Elshani, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport; Emilia van Lynden, Head of Marketing, Communications, Publications and Audience Development Manifesta 14; and artist Farija Mehmeti who delivered a speech in Romanes, interpreted by Avni Mustafa, ERIAC Media and Information Thematic Coordinator and Director of Roma Versitas Kosovo.

The event was accompanied by a concert by Gipsy Groove outside of the National Library of Kosovo.



Jan-Axel Voss, the Deputy Head of the Mission at the German Embassy in Prishtina ©Esko Duraki



Gazmend Salijevec, the Deputy Minister of Communities and Returns ©Esko Duraki



Sylejman Elshani, the Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport ©Esko Duraki



Emilia van Lynden, Head of Marketing, Communications, Publications and Audience Development Manifesta 14 ©Esko Duraki



The opening event was attended by over 160 people including cultural experts, curators, artists, diplomats and politicians. Overall, the exhibition *Roma Rajni: Romamoma Library featuring Daniel Baker and Farija Mehmeti* received 14.612 visitors from 22 July to 30 October 2022.

Manifesta Impact - Achievements:

Building ERIAC presence at the mainstream art world

- Roma artists exhibited for the first time in the National Library of Kosovo
- Roma artists in Manifesta featured for the first time
- The quality of exhibition is impeccable
- Announcements in Eflux

Strengthening the voice of Roma artists and cultural producers

- Farija Mehmeti, artist
- Daniel Baker, artist and curator
- Community collaborators: Avni Mustafa (Roma Versitas Kosovo), Sami Mustafa (film director, Kosovo), and Edis Glushi. Roma activists and experts of the local context
- Music: Gipsy Groove

Stewarding existing connections

- Avni Mustafa, ERAC Media and Information Thematic Section Coordinator, Executive Director of Roma Versitas Kosovo, human rights activist, trainer and expert on Roma Inclusion.
- Edis Galushi, artist and professional Romani language translator
- Jan-Axel Voss, Deputy Head of the Mission at the German Embassy in Prishtina
- Gazmen Salijevic, Deputy Minister of Communities and Returns
- Sylejman Elshani, Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport
- Hedwig Fijen, Director Manifesta
- Emilia van Lynden, Head of Marketing, Communications, Publications and Audience Development Manifesta 14
- Explicit support from RomaMoMA Think Tank

Forming new partnerships

- Autostrada Biennale, meeting to discuss future collaboration
- British Council, willing to support Roma artists in future ERAC projects

Press coverage:

<https://www.e-flux.com/announcements/466696/roma-rajni-romamoma-library-ft-daniel-baker-and-farija-mehmeti/>

<https://www.exibart.com/progetti-e-iniziativa/manifesta-14-77-autori-quattro-pilastri-il-programma-di-100-giorni-a-pristina/>

<https://www.artlyst.com/previews/manifesta-14-prishtina-in-kosovo-unveils-unparalleled-events-guide/>

<https://artreview.com/manifesta-pristina-almost-half-kosovar-artists-for-pristina-edition/>

<https://insideart.eu/2022/04/07/manifesta-14-ricostruire-il-kosovo-attraverso-larte-contemporanea/>

<https://www.monopol-magazin.de/manifesta-14-gibt-konzept-und-kuenstlerliste-bekannt>

<https://ocula.com/magazine/art-news/manifesta-14-pristina-announces-artists/>

<https://www.artlyst.com/previews/manifesta-14-prishtina-in-kosovo-unveils-unparalleled-events-guide/>

More information:

<https://eriac.org/opening-this-week-roma-rajni-romamoma-library-ft-daniel-baker-and-farija-mehmeti/>

<https://eriac.org/roma-rajni-romamoma-library-ft-daniel-baker-and-farija-mehmeti-opening/>

This project was implemented within the framework of Manifesta 14 Western Balkans project, and was co-funded by the European Union.

3. All the Birds Are Praying for Our Children

Location: ERIAC Belgrade. Opened on August 2, marking commemoration of the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, the exhibition showcases the works of three Romani artists: Sead Kazanxhiu, Farija Mehmeti, and Zoran Tairovic, whose works celebrate the Romani people's resistance, resilience, and healing. The exhibition was organized within the framework of the Manifesta 14 Prishtina, evoking Donna Haraway's concept of the "Chthulucene" highlighting the inextricable linkages between humans and other-than-human species. Kazanxhiu, Mehmeti and Tairović share the vision of healing as a type of embodied orientation or engagement with the world, which has the potential to reach across boundaries of the skin, honouring the past and offering ways of continuing to imagine the interdependencies of existence in a community. Additionally, the artists offer new doors into developing a more liveable future. While art cannot save our people from the ravages of daily living or historical contingency, it can summon us forth and reconnect us to ourselves as a living force. The title of the exhibition comes from the poem by Papusza „Tears of Blood”, in English translation by Yala Korwin.

KotorArt Festival

To mark our fifth anniversary and to celebrate our first programmatic contribution to the International Festival KotorArt, we created a programme of conversations with trailblazing cultural activists and artists from the region, who have supported ERIAC from its inception within the KotorArt Festival in Kotor, Montenegro. The invitees: Sead Kazanxhiu, Alina Serban and Zoran Tairovic, distinguished artists and cultural promoters from Albania, Northern Macedonia, Romania and Serbia, will engage in the conversation about the power of art to change social attitudes and contribute to a more healthy and equitable society. Using their expertise and experience from across the artistic disciplines, including visual and performative arts, the speakers will discuss the role of artists and cultural institutions in promoting Roma cultural heritage, starting from adjusting the majoritarian school curricula to interrogating harmful and stereotypical depictions of Roma in the mainstream culture. The program of conversations was accompanied by musical programming with contributions from The Pillers, Ferenc Snetberger and Kale Band.



Artists at Risk

Following up on earlier good experience of partnerships aimed at providing Roma artist with artist residency opportunities, and building on ERIAC's experience around documenting violations of human rights of Roma refugees from Ukraine in the immediate aftermath of Russian attack on Ukraine in February 2022, in October 2022 ERIAC joined forces with the Artists at Risk (AR) residency programme to offer an artistic residency for Roma contemporary artists, curators, and other art practitioners from Ukraine. Artists at Risk (AR) is an initiative of non-profit association Perpetuum Mobile registered in Finland since 2013 and works at the intersection of human rights and the arts. AR established the network of arts and non-profits, municipalities, states and international organisations to assist, relocate and fund artists who are at risk of persecution, oppression or fleeing war or terror. AR hosted artists in 26 locations in 19 countries globally, prior to the Ukraine war. Recently AR cooperated with the Swedish SWAN network, UNESCO and Goethe Institute. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion, currently over 500 hosting institutions have joined the platform across Europe in order to relocate and support the over 1000 art practitioners at risk from Ukraine. The programme welcomes contemporary artists, curators, and other art practitioners, with a self-declared Roma identity, who are from or have permanent residency in Ukraine. The applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, and the decision about the placement is made based on availability of hosting institutions. The programme covers the cost of relocation, accommodation and a monthly allowance. The allowance rates are established by the programme depending on the cost of living at the location of the hosting institution. The programme is envisioned to accommodate up to ten applicants for a period of minimum three months. The call for applicants was launched on 5 December 2022, and the applications are being review on a rolling basis.

Timisoara Capital of Culture

ERIAC joined the consortium formed by the municipality of Timisoara and the Intercultural Institute from Timisoara in order to support the implementation of the programming within the European Capital of Culture Timisoara 2023. The objective of the partnership is to ensure visibility of Romani artistic producers and participation of the Roma audience in activities planned for 2023. ERIAC managed to include the annual Romani Language Conference, held on November 5, in the European Capital of Culture Timisoara 2023 Planning Workshop and in the programme of the European Capital of Culture Timisoara 2023. Additionally, ERIAC Board Members and staff participated in the Planning Workshop in November 2022 in order to ensure quality and inclusive programming for 2023.

The Cultural Roots of Sinti and Roma Jazz

July 2022

This initiative lead by Gabriel Condon, DAAD scholar and doctoral student-researcher from the University of Michigan, United States, and supported by ERIAC

celebrated the rich tradition of Sinti and Roma jazz.



The project unfolded on one side a series of interviews to document the intersection of Sinti and Roma jazz music with the culture, philosophy, and teaching methods of the musicians who perform it. The series illustrates the importance of jazz to Sinti and Roma communities, and also demonstrates the unique contribution of Roma and Sinti musicians to European jazz. Gabriel Condon conducted the interviews.

The interview of Tschavolo Carlito

Vlasák and Carlos Kaja Vlasák is available on Youtube:

<https://youtu.be/gfI3CY9JJuM>

Tschavolo Carlito Vlasák has been playing guitar since he was ten years old, in the genre called 'gypsy jazz', whose creator is guitarist and composer Django Reinhardt (French Roma 1910-1953). He has performed in the Czech Republic and abroad. In 2021, he opened the 23rd edition of the Khamoro Festival, where his debut CD, Django Always — Back to the Roots, was presented. For the first time in the history of the Khamoro festival, Czech and German musicians performed together in the genre of gypsy jazz. Django Always, a group with Tschavolo's father, Carlos Kaja

Vlasák, and Josef Feco, has performed as a guest at international festivals in Germany several times

On the other side ERIAC presented "A Concert of Sinti and Roma and American Jazz" at Stiftung Kai Dikhas in Berlin. The musicians that were part of this initiative were Sandro Roy, violin; Jermaine Landsberger, piano; Janko Lauenberger, guitar; Gabriel Condon, guitar.

Support was provided by ERIAC, the German Academic Exchange (DAAD), and the University of Michigan International Institute, the Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, and the School of Music Theater, and Dance EXCEL Enterprise Fund, United States.

Develop initiatives and materials aiming at safeguarding Romani Language teaching and promotion.

Language Initiative

The long-term goal of ERIAC through the Romani Language Initiative is to become the language and education center for the transnational Romani movement and the community.

The initiative contains efforts towards an international Romani language reform, and continues the international work on the standardization of Romani language.

To keep up with previous years' tradition, ERIAC organized the Third Romani Language Conference - Safeguarding our Romani Language, at the West University of Timisoara on 5 November, 2022, in the framework of Timisoara European Capital of Culture 2023. The conference was also streamed online.

LINDOS SAMA PAL AMARI ROMANI ČHIB TRINTO INTERNACIONALO KONFERENCIA

SAFEGUARDING OUR ROMANI LANGUAGE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

5 NOVEMBER 2022

ERIAN
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE



2023 Timișoara 2023
European Capital of Culture



Funded by
City of Timișoara
Center for Projects



Digital infrastructure

Continue existing initiatives and develop new ones which build digital infrastructure for the visibility and prosperity of Roma art; Roma history education; archiving of publications and studies on Roma history and knowledge; as well as media initiatives, as a tool to fight antigypsyism by providing positive counter-narratives and encourage Roma self-representation.

RomaMoMA Blog

We have published 15 texts on RomaMoMA Blog covering a wide range of issues and highlighting ERIAC's participation in the mainstream cultural events, including documenta fifteen, La Biennale di Venezia, Milan Triennale and Manifesta 14. The authors of the Blog represent diverse geographical and academic background, and their texts constitute a significant contribution to the growing scholarship on Romani artistic production. We were especially excited about publishing from Romani artists (Norbert Olan and Daniel Baker), recognized curators and scholars like Suzana Milevska, Vladan Jeremić or Călin Dan. Additionally, we were able to showcase the texts from a younger generation of Romani scholars and critics like Ioanida Costache and Selma Pezerović.

WEAVE - Widen European Access to Cultural Communities via Europeana

April 2021 - September 2022

WEAVE – Widen European Access to cultural communities Via Europeana project 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.

In particular, the project will aggregate over 5,000 new high-quality records to Europeana, and showcase these collections in a set of engaging editorials and a virtual exhibition. The project will carry out several capacity-building activities to develop a closer connection between cultural heritage institutions (CHIs), minority cultural communities and Europeana.

Additionally, WEAVE builds upon the results of CultureMoves and 50sKaleidoscope Generic Services Projects. It is developing open and reusable tools that 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.

Furthermore, the project will demonstrate how the WEAVE Toolkit can be used by CHIs to better promote collections that would otherwise remain hidden, in educational and destination tourism contexts.

Project partners

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 also 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 have 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.

- IN2 Digital Innovations GmbH – Germany (Coordinator)
- European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V. – Germany
- PHOTOCONSORTIUM – International Consortium for Photographic Heritage – Italy
- Coventry University – United Kingdom
- CRDI – Ajuntament De Girona – Centre De Recerca I Difusió De La Imatge – Spain
- PédeXumbo – Associação para a Promoção da Musica e da Dança – Portugal
- TOPFOTO – Topham Partners LLP – United Kingdom
- ARCTUR d.o.o. – Slovenia
- Universidade NOVA de Lisboa – Portugal
- ThinkCode Ltd. – Cyprus
- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven- Belgium
- Stichting Europeana – The Netherlands

Tasks

Cultural communities' engagement in the age of digital Cultural Heritage

Using and extending the participatory LabDay methodology developed by Coventry University (COVU) in the previous CultureMoves Action (2017-EU-IA-0171), this task is responsible for involving different cultural communities connecting them to CHIs and Europeana through virtual and physical events. At least one event will be organised by each of the partners representing one of the cultural communities involved in the Action (i.e. Roma community, traditional Portuguese dance and culture, historical dance community, daguerreotype photography community, Slovenian CH community).

ERAC engaged with content contributors to provide valuable samples of Roma tangible and intangible heritage artefacts that will be included in the Europeana collection.

The items will be selected based on the following criteria

- relevance and/or historical importance; authenticity (produced by Roma)
- quality of digitalization (meeting the standards);
- possibility of clearing the copyrights.

ERAC members will be invited to propose items to be included while the final selection will be supervised by ERAC management (with experience and expertise in curating). An emphasis will be placed on contemporary objects, especially examples of contemporary art produced by Roma artists, to counterbalance the dominant folkloric/ethnographic, and often a stereotypical representation of Roma people.

This is relevant due to the following reasons:

- a dominant part of the current items in Europeana collections website labelled as "Roma/Gypsy" include items which are either produced by non-Roma (for example, ethnographic photographs of the Roma) or represent an imagined representation of the Roma (for example, works of art which fetishize/exotifies the imagined "Roma", as a representation of an archetype/stereotype);
- contemporary artistic practice is developed by Roma people themselves, giving an authentic and subjective representation of Roma identity and culture;
- as Europeana collections website include much fewer objects of contemporary art, these newly aggregated items will provide an added value to the entire collection.

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- THREE LABDAYS

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

In this first ERAC LabDay organized in the framework of WEAVE – Widen European Access to Cultural Communities Via Europeana, a discussion was launched to promote a more permanent exhibition of Roma art and heritage in the context of the prestigious Venice Contemporary Art Biennale. The event took place at the Council of Europe Office in Venice and online in ZOOM.

Concept: "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 mitigates 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.”

- Second International Conference – “Safeguarding our Romani Language” – 5 November 2021

On November 5, the World Day of Romani Language, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERAC) 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.

ERAC goal is to establish cooperation for language harmonization at an international level, to design future strategies for preserving the language heritage, and to fulfil the general need in Europe for Romani language education. This year we put special emphasis on the theme of heritage preservation involving digital tools. The conference was held online, providing a platform for international participants from various countries. Special significance will be given to the use of Romani during the event. Read more.

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

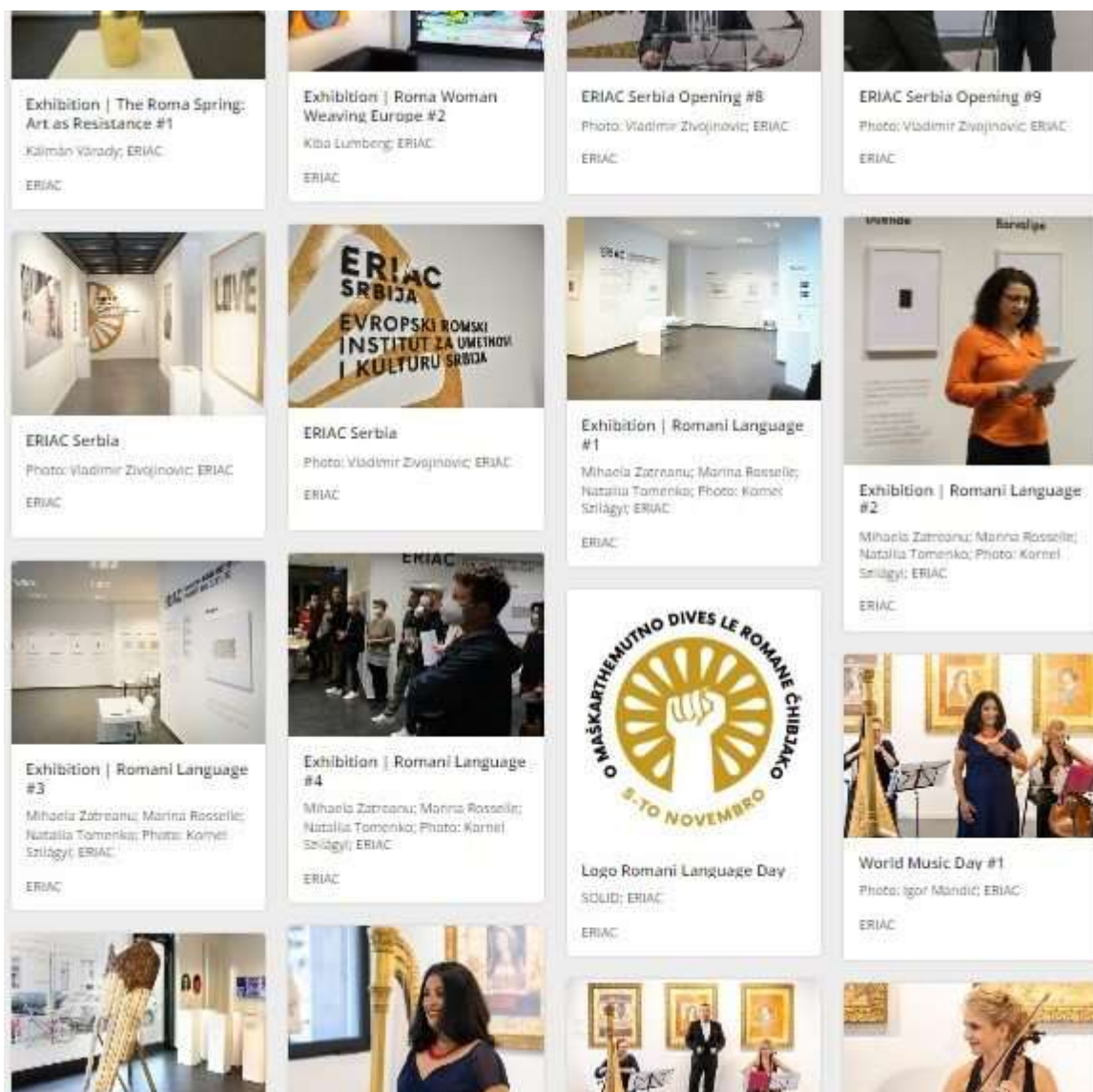
Since 2020, the joint programme of Villa Romana Florence and ERIAC has been the premier residency for artists of Roma descent. During our webinar, it was discussed the role of art residencies in advancing individual careers and the promotion of marginalised cultures. The cultural managers behind the trailblazing initiative, **Angelika Stepken of Villa Romana and ERIAC's Timea Junghaus** were joined by the 2021 artists-in-residence **Lúboš 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. [Read more.](#)

- EUROPEANA COLLECTION

ERIAC aggregated for the first-time content to Europeana from Roma about Roma. **In fact, when navigating Europeana's collections, Roma heritage and arts resulted** underrepresented so far, thus determining a bias in the representativity of Europeana content as for the diversity of European cultures and communities. Some scanned documents and images in black and white existed, but these mostly featuring ethnographic content, and aggregated by traditional institutions without the involvement of a Roma community representation. Also, the lack of contemporary collections about Roma perpetuated the idea of Roma as passive elements of cultural and artistic contributions to history and society, thus not giving justice to the richness and vitality of this community and its heritage and creative values.

For this reason, in order to enrich the diversity of Europeana content and to foster better representation of the Roma community, ERIAC aggregated and published for WEAVE an exclusive collection of images and videos showcasing Roma-related exhibitions and artworks, and interesting materials sourced from conferences, symposiums, political events, concerts, lectures, projects where Roma artists, contributors, scholars, politicians and experts are also featured. An added value for the quality of this brilliant collection is the license of such copyrighted materials, that allows for reuse in educational context.

ERIAC collection in Europeana is [visible here](#).



The overall number of records for WEAVE: 298 items of which 47 videos and 251 images

Content quality level:

- 281 items in tier 3
- 14 items in tier 2 due to the size of the available digital file
- 3 items in tier 1 due to the size of the available digital file
- Metadata quality level: tier C

- EXERCISE OF CO-CURATION

The project experimented with an exercise of co-curation on Roma heritage collections, jointly conducted by WEAVE partners TopFoto and ERIAC.

Digital collections of various types of heritage are an immense resource for knowledge sharing, and Europeana is the EU flagship initiative to make this common

heritage accessible to any type of users. Europeana and its network of partners enable cultural heritage institutions to share their collections, that are composed of **content (i.e. image, video, sound...)** and **descriptive information (i.e. the metadata)**: Europeana sets inclusive but also very specific standards for content and metadata quality, under the Europeana Publishing Framework, and Europeana Aggregators like Photoconsortium enable the technical process for publishing the collection (i.e. content + metadata) in the Europeana portal.

However, the responsibility of curation for the collection relies on the shoulders of the cultural heritage institution that preserves the collection. There are often cases where the collections contain contested heritage or heritage that depict minority/marginalized communities; and, especially in the case of very old collections, it is very likely that the original descriptions of the items, or that the items themselves (e.g. heritage colonial videos or photographs), include inappropriate terminology and offensive language towards the community that they intend to represent. While awareness is rising in the cultural heritage sector on the importance of a mindful approach in diversity and inclusion to make cultural heritage truly representative, not always the cultural heritage institution holding the content is fully aware of the problematic or insufficient metadata that are exposed; or may not have inside the full knowledge for appropriate curation or correction.

To provide a participatory approach in solving this problem, WEAVE experimented with an exercise of co-curation jointly conducted by partners TopFoto, one of the most renowned photographic agencies, and ERIAC, the European Roma Institute for **Arts and Culture**. **Media experts in Roma heritage from ERIAC's network were invited** to review the collection about Roma heritage that TopFoto intended to provide for publication in Europeana.

- VIRTUAL EXHIBITION ABOUT ROMA

This exhibition, curated by guest author Dr Adrian R Marsh and an afterword by Imogen Bright Moon, follows a discovery path from misrepresentation to renaissance of Romani arts and heritage, also exploring the histories of Roma communities and opening a window to their contemporary artistic expressions.

Dr Adrian Marsh was commissioned by ERIAC to be the writer and curator of the first exhibition about Roma written by Roma in Europeana editorials.

Access the exhibition here:

<https://www.europeana.eu/en/exhibitions/the-renaissance-of-romani-representation>

- WEAVE CONFERENCE

The final WEAVE Conference took place on 17 September 2022 online and in presence in Girona, Spain.

The programme opened up with several keynote speakers, continued with presentations of the main project outcomes and of the effort in building the capacity of cultural heritage institutions for digital transformation and better engagement with communities.

CIMAM Webinar: Mobile, Virtual, Ephemeral: Collections of the Future?

The CIMAM webinar went a step further by taking a look at four different and **radical approaches to the idea and practice of possible museums' collections**. The curators of the four diverse initiatives shared their experience: on virtual museum hosting international collections of Roma art (Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) spoke on behalf of RomaMoMA), on mobility and establishing a relationship with local communities (Sofia Dourron from Museo La Ene in Buenos Aires), on co-owning the collection of **artists' novels developed by M HKA (Joanna Zielinska and David Maroto from The Book Lovers collective)** and on managing artistic heritage and collections in times of war by Piotr Rypson, Adjunct Professor at New Media Department, Polish-Japanese Academy of Computer Technology; Curator at the Jewish Historical Institute and Chair of ICOM Poland.

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

In partnership with leading Roma organizations, develop referential history and cultural history-teaching materials; introduce them in formal and informal education practices and provide consultancy, training and teaching services (both through a learning community and through teacher-training strategies).

Barvalipe Roma Online University

Barvalipe Roma Online University is an online educational platform where Roma and non-Roma can access knowledge about the Roma identity(ies), history(ies) and culture(s) through a collection of high-quality lectures delivered by leading Roma scholars on topics ranging from the Roma Holocaust to Roma cultural productions. The courses launched throughout 2020 and 2021 consist of a total of 30 lectures delivered by renowned Roma scholars. Together with the [Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship](#) and the [So Nakhlo blog](#), they comprise a complete curriculum of Roma Cultural History that proposes a canon and acts as a reference for Roma cultural history.

In 2022 ERIAC focused on the production of educational videos in a conversational tone that are easier to digest for larger audiences. The idea of the Barvalipe Masterclass was born from the desire for a more appealing presentation and higher-quality production.

Language Initiative

The long-term goal of ERIAC through the Romani Language Initiative is to become the language and education center for the transnational Romani movement and the community.

The initiative contains efforts towards an international Romani language reform and continues the international work on the standardization of Romani language.

As part of the Romani Language Initiative in 2022 ERIAC published the revised and corrected version of Romani Language Textbook for Adults – level A1 complemented with audio material, and while engaging a team of experts of the field, developed and published the Romani textbook level A2.

3. Advance the sense of pride and belonging among the Roma

Provide Roma organizations and communities with identity-related accessories, symbols, and materials, shared history and language education tools and methodologies;

Grow the community through social media and digital events, in particular through regularly organized talent competitions, creative informal online education tools, hosting and broadcasting annual celebrations and commemorations;

Develop creative campaigns to shape Roma identity and pride;

Provide support and work in service of the transnational Roma movement;

Foster innovation by responding to crisis situations on the one hand, and applying latest trends and technologies for the arts, culture and identity of the Roma community.

CENSUS - Proud Roma Free Europe

"Proud Roma" [Barikane Roma] film release

ERIAC, in collaboration with Spanish-Romani filmmaker Pablo Vega, produced the short film 'Proud Roma' as part of the transnational *Proud Roma, Free Europe* initiative. The film challenges dominant historical narratives and negative stereotypes of Roma while recalling the many cultural and historical contributions Roma have made to Europe. The movie also challenges the victimisation of Roma throughout the centuries and offers a bold and courageous manifesto of Roma love and dignity. The film was released in 5 languages. Since its premiere on 25 January 2022, the film has reached more than 500,000 views on ERIAC social media platforms.

Roma, the Force of Nature

On the occasion of the 78th anniversary of the Roma uprising in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp (16 May 1944), ERIAC and Opre Roma Serbia organised the musical event "**Roma, the Force of Nature**". The event displayed traditional, classical, and modern musical creations to paint the centuries-long journey of Roma from India to Europe, the pain of the genocide during World War II, and the fight of Roma for survival, pride, and freedom. The event brought together exceptional performers of Roma and non-Roma origin from Serbia and beyond. The event was also the official launch of the "**Proud Roma, Free Serbia**" campaign.



Fig. 1 Roma, the Force of Nature (16 May 2022, Belgrade)

IPI NewsSpectrum Fellowship

With the support of the International Press Institute (IPI) as part of the NewsSpectrum Fellowship program, ERAC financed Roma journalists to develop high-quality journalistic content featuring members of the Proud Roma, Free Europe (PRFE) network and in line with the campaign's mission to boost Roma pride and encourage civic engagement among Roma:

- *The Proud Roma Movements* by Emil Metodiev

Through a series of interviews and portraits, *Proud Roma Movements* offers a snapshot of the European Roma movements of today. It features members of several Roma-led national organisations that are part of the *Proud Roma, Free Europe transnational network*, and reveals the movements' main ambitions as well as challenges in their fight for the prosperity of Roma. The series includes interviews with members of Opre Roma Serbia, Aresel, AVAJA, and Roma Standing Conference.

- *Covid: The UnMasking* by Artur Conka

ERAC in collaboration with UK-based Roma filmmaker Artur Conka, developed a short documentary about Roma fighting Covid-19, featuring stories of community self-help and agency during the pandemic. The movie explores the challenges, myths, and fears surrounding Covid among Roma people in Serbia and in the UK during the lockdown. At the same time, the film aims to offer a positive perspective by uncovering stories of Roma-led efforts and initiatives to fight Covid-19 and by highlighting the important role of Roma women in their communities.

- *ARTromnja* by Romane Romnja

ARTromnja is a collaborative project between ERIAC and Romane Romnja, born out of a necessity and shared ambition to combat the prevalence of Roma misrepresentation – especially with regard to Roma women – in the media. The ARTromnja project aims to amplify Roma women's voices and highlight Roma women's contributions to the field of arts and culture through the personal accounts of six Sinti and Roma women artists and changemakers. The video series features Simonida Selimovic, Sandra Selimovic, Mihaela Dragan, Concetta Sarachella, Natasa Tasic Knezevic and Zita Moldovan as they reflect on their lives and professional achievements, their personal struggles and their evolution as artists while discussing topics such as intersectionality, prejudice against women, and the patriarchy.

Proud Roma throughout the History of Serbia

ERIAC in collaboration with *Opre Roma Serbia* and *ERIAC Serbia* organised the **panel discussion** "Proud Roma throughout the History of Serbia". The event took place on 5 July 2022, on the premises of ERIAC Serbia in Belgrade. The event was organised as part of the *Proud Roma, Free Europe* campaign in Serbia and explored the dynamics of the local Roma movement through the lens of history, academia, civil society, political activism, and arts and culture; conveying messages of Roma pride, and highlighting the importance of civic engagement among Roma, as a duty to ensure a better future for our communities.

The panel was comprised of Roma personalities Dragoljub Acković, the late Bajram Haliti, Nataša Tasić Knežević, Zoran Tairović, Jelena Krivokapić Nikolić, and Slavica Vasic.



Proud Roma throughout the History of Serbia Panel Discussion (5 July 2022, Belgrade)

'Proud Roma' interview series in Romania

During the Romanian census, ERIAC and *Arese/* produced an [interview series](#) featuring prominent Romanian Roma personalities. The video interviews aimed to fill in the knowledge gap in narratives of local Roma history and Roma cultural education developed from the Roma positionality, both historically and currently.

The interviews were published on the *Proud Roma*, *Free Europe* and *Aresel* online platforms (16 - 31 July 2022) featured leading Roma figures: [Ciprian Necula](#), [Mihaela Zătreanu](#), [Alina Șerban](#), [Luiza Medeleanu](#), [Florin Manole](#), [Alin Banu](#), [Adrian-Nicolae Furtună](#), [Eugen Raportoru](#), [Petre Matei](#), [Valentin Negoii](#), [Delia Grigore](#), [Petrică Dulgheru](#), [Raisa Mihai](#).

"Hurjasa" short film release

ERIAC and RCC Roma Integration produced the short film "[Hurjasa/ We Will fly](#)", a cinematic portrait of over 30 Roma role models from the Western Balkan region. Narrated in the Romani language, the film was written, produced and directed by British Romani journalist Jake Bowers and is directly inspired by the Black American poet Maya Angelou's civil rights anthem "Still I Rise".

The film was released in July 2022 to inspire Roma individuals across the Western Balkans to proudly declare their Roma ethnicity in the upcoming censuses. The film premiere was followed by an online [panel discussion](#) with the creators of the film.



Poster of Hurjasa, announcing its premiere on 22 July 2022

August 2 - International Day of the Roma Holocaust

Each year, 2 August marks Roma Holocaust Memorial Day – a day of official remembrance for the Roma victims of the genocide which took place during the Second World War. Roma Holocaust Memorial Day is an important rallying point for the transnational Roma community and 2022 was no exception. Our transnational network marked the event with a series of commemorations across Europe as part of a wider initiative to raise awareness about the Roma Holocaust and fight for its recognition in the canon of European history. Remembering and honouring the memory of the Sinti and Roma victims of WWII, is a reminder of the injustices suffered by Roma – an important incentive to encourage unity and help fight ongoing racism and discrimination faced by our community today.

“Proud Roma - the Hungarian Roma movement and the 2022 census”

On the occasion of the 2022 census in Hungary, ERIAC and Roma Sam organised a panel discussion exploring the history of the Hungarian Roma movement and self-organisation through the lens of Roma identity, political activism, and Roma arts and culture. The event took place on 7 October at the Rácz Gyöngyi Community Center in Budapest with the venue's Roma Local History Collection as a backdrop.

The panel comprised of distinguished Hungarian Roma professionals, scholars, and activists Jutka Bari, Gábor Molnár István, **Melinda Rézműves** and **Béla Rácz**, moderated by Csaba Oláh and Melinda Vajda. The event also featured a performance by ERIAC members Romano Glaszo.



‘Hungarian Roma movement and the 2022 census’ panel discussion (7 October 2022, Budapest)

PROUD ROMA TALENT - ERIAC Online Competition

ERIAC launched its PROUD ROMA TALENT competition on 26 October, 2022. All European self-declared Roma were eligible to apply with video submissions in MUSIC, DANCE and all other PERFORMANCE genres to show the world that Roma identity is plural, diverse and rich. ERIAC received over 250 submissions from 18 countries. ERIAC published 161 eligible videos and engaged over 3.2 million viewers online between 26 October and 31 December, making this one of ERIAC's highest-visibility events to date. The announcement of the winners took place on 8 December, live-streamed from the ERIAC General Assembly celebration in Berlin.



European Anti-Racism Summit 2022



On 21 March 2022, the Commission organised the European Anti-Racism Summit 2022 with the support of the ARDI Intergroup of the European Parliament and Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI/CoE) with the involvement of civil society, equality bodies and grassroots organisations. Last year, the meaningful participation of youth in the fight against racism was also highlighted within the context of the European Year of Youth 2022.

On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the European Anti-Racism Summit 2022 gathered numerous key stakeholders revisited the importance of the need to continue our concerted efforts in the fight against racism in the European Union.

Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director, participated in the Break-out session 4: Examination of the past.

Watch the Break-out Session 4 here: <https://www.antiracism-eusummit2022.eu/agenda/break-out-session-4-examination-of-the-past-restitution-and-decolonisation-of-public-spaces/>

Conference: Plurilingual Policy Experimentation (PLE) in the context of Romania



Despite the Council of Europe's decades-long engagement with Romani issues, the educational inclusion of Romani children and adolescents continued to present major challenges. Successive recommendations from the Committee of Ministers

were clear about the political principles and social values that should shape policy, and equally clear about the outcomes that policy implementation should achieve. Only very few of them, however, concerned themselves with those aspects of policy that shape classroom practice. In 2018-19 a Council of Europe expert group set out to elaborate more detailed guidance, proposing new ways of managing the educational inclusion of Romani children and adolescents. The group's proposals, which had implications for the educational inclusion of other linguistic and cultural minorities, were based on the Council of Europe's concept of plurilingual and intercultural education, which was the focus of the Recommendation recently approved by the Committee of Ministers.

Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director, was one of the speakers at the opening remarks.

PROGRAM: [PROGRAM OPENING CONFERENCE ROMANI/PLURILINGUAL POLICY EXPERIMENTATION](#)

WEBINAR: Teaching the History of Minorities in Europe: the Case of Roma History



On the occasion of 8 April – International Roma Day, [ERIAC](#) participated in a webinar focusing on **“Teaching the History of Minorities in Europe: the Case of Roma History”**. The webinar was organised by the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe in cooperation with the Roma and Travellers Team of the Council of Europe.

The debate was in the company of:

- **Ms Anamarija Viček:** State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Serbia and Bureau Member of OHTE's Governing Board

- Raul Cârstocea, Researcher and Lecturer at Maynooth University and Vice-Chair of OHTE's Scientific Advisory Council
- Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, anthropologist, Deputy Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

The discussion was moderated by Ms Oana Tabă, Project Manager within the Roma and Traveller Team of the Council of Europe. The event was held online on 14 April 2022 between 16.00 and 17.30, in French and English.

WEBINAR | Roma and Memorialization: Advancing Recognition and Remedy for the Dark Chapters of the Past and their Impact on the Present



The UN Human Rights Office Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section (OHCHR IPMS), in collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, and the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance together with the CEPS-led project [CHACHIPEN](#), World Council of Churches (WCC), Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAN),

and other civil society partners held an international stocktaking roundtable on 15 September 2022. The event was slated to take place in Geneva. This international stocktaking roundtable invited us to examine the current state of recognition of the dark chapters of history related to 'anti-Gypsyism' or 'antigypsyism'. The event explored how the legacies of this historically-rooted structural form of racism against Roma are impeding the right to know and the right to truth and justice.

4. Cross-cutting objective: ERAC institutional stability and development

Strong partnerships and cooperation with the CoE and CoE Member States;

Membership engagement through ERAC members' presence and visibility in ERAC representation and programming;

Strong public visibility, growing online and offline community and audience;

To ensure appropriate resources which correspond with the ambition of the strategy, the objective of the association is a robust fundraising strategy seeking potential core funding and project funding, as well as strategic partnerships with key Roma-led institutions, major cultural public and private foundations and Institutions as well as with international arts and culture organizations, networks and initiatives.

ERACNET4EU



In the frame of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Union, ERAC is launching a new project: ERACNET4EU: ERAC NETWORK TO ADVANCE ROMA INCLUSION BY COMBATTING AND PREVENTING ANTIGYPSYISM IN THE EU.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

With the adoption of the new EU Roma Framework, the EU and its member states move towards implementation where expert advice as well as reliable partners on all levels of policy-making and implementation (local, regional, national, European) are needed.

ERACNET4EU project will offer the expertise, specific know-how and reliable methodologies to support the implementation of the new framework.

ERACNET4EU project aims at protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights of Roma citizens of the EU and thereby at strengthening the EU values, in particular of equality, justice and non-discrimination and thus contributing to building a more democratic EU where all citizens can enjoy equal access and protection of their rights. It aims to do so by providing support to ERAC network members, including civil society organizations active at local, regional and transnational level, to increase their capacities, establish channels of communication and participation with public authorities and EU institutions to ensure their active engagement in policy implementation and design targeting Roma. At the same time, it will result in providing informed, reliable, consolidated and quality input to European and national policy-makers and public institutions, to increase the effective implementation of strategies and laws that affect the lives of Roma in the EU.

ERACNET4EU serves the following objectives:

1. Ensure quality input to policy-making and policy-implementation at local, regional, national and EU levels through mutual learning and exchange of good practices among/ between ERAC members as well as with other public and private stakeholders
2. Awareness raising, information and dissemination activities
3. Increasing capacities and knowledge-base of members and other stakeholders through training activities
4. Growing the network and community outreach

WORK PERFORMED AND WORKING PACKAGES

The activities performed during the project period were organised into five Working Packages. To ensure smooth coordination for all work packages and mechanisms of quality control, general management concentrated on effective coordination of the implementation, established mechanisms of quality control and evaluation. The

following tasks were covered: kick-off events (internal and public), administrative and management coordination, finance administration and management, internal quality monitoring, and reporting.

The activities of Working Package 2 concentrated on mutual learning of good practices and activities. Results and achievements of these activities include: increased capacity of ERIAC Members to develop coherent and coordinated transnational activities, to promote relevant policy objectives at EU level; stronger relationships between the ERIAC Members; providing a link between Roma experts, researchers and policy-makers at European level, and facilitating interaction between scientists, academia and decision-makers. These results were achieved through the active engagement of ERIAC members in thematic section meetings, networking opportunities, and especially the Annual Networking Event of ERIAC Members, Roma CSOs and stakeholders, and the General Assembly meeting.

Training activities (Working Package 3) carried out during the project period included a series of capacity-building trainings for ERIAC network members, public information session and training for non-members, and awareness raising activities on Roma identity, history and culture. These activities resulted in expanding the capacity of ERIAC Members to develop coherent and coordinated policy contributions and increase the quality of their participation in policy-making processes. Moreover, they also led to an increased knowledge based of public servants and/or representatives of public institutions.

To ensure greater impact and expand the ERIAC network's reach a Membership Call was released (Working Package 4), and specific activities were held to ensure greater engagement of Roma women. These activities lead to stronger community engagement, and greater Roma women engagement, all together resulting to a greater network and community outreach.

During the project period all the milestones set in the project proposal were achieved: project kick-off, thematic guidance of the ERIAC members, improved capacities of the network members, annual membership in-take, communications strategy.

IMPACT AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The project contributes to strengthening the EU values, in particular of equality, justice and non-discrimination and thus contributes to building a more democratic EU where all citizens can enjoy equal access and protection of their rights by protecting, promoting and raising awareness of rights of Roma citizens of the EU.

Since its creation, ERIAC has been consistently building a counter-narrative about Roma people in Europe that focuses on contributions, talents, achievements and shared cultural heritage and histories between Roma and non-Roma on European level and in national contexts. The prestige associated with the ERIAC brand as well

as high-visibility of initiatives and events has already contributed to greater awareness and recognition of Roma contributions among the majority. Furthermore, through its founding principles and statute document, Roma leadership, interethnic dialogue and gender balance are encoded into ERIAC operations and governance. Through its high visibility ERIAC promotes the pedagogy of Roma leadership and gender equality effectively.

Long-term impacts of the project:

- Empowerment of Roma community leaders and civil society organisations to engage constructively in policy-making process on local, national and EU levels.
- Building of a network of Roma and non-Roma stakeholders committed to Roma cultural inclusion as a tool to fight antigypsyism and improve the well-being of Roma.
- Providing authentic and reliable information about Roma identities, cultures and histories in Europe as a basis for proposing comprehensive policy responses on local, national and international levels.
- Spreading the pedagogy of gender awareness and gender equality.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

2022 Call for New Members

Kick-off Event

ERIACWOMNET Meetnig

Bringing the EU Close to Roma

Roma(ni) Past - **Europe's Future. Why Embracing EU's Largest Ethnic Minority Matters.**
Online Training on Roma History, Identity and Culture

Annual Networking Meeting

General Assembly

European Solidarity Corps

The European Solidarity Corps brings together young people to build a more inclusive society, supporting vulnerable people and responding to societal challenges. It offers an inspiring and empowering experience for young people who want to help, learn and develop. In the European Solidarity Corps programme,

young people aged 18 to 30 years can have cross-border volunteering opportunities with solidarity projects.



The 2023 volunteer Bianca Stanea already started her volunteering experience at the ERIAC at the beginning of October until end of November 2022. Bianca 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. Her main interests include documentary filmmaking and visual arts as ways of capturing social issues and activism.

Conferences, symposiums and events

ERIAC joins the Council of Europe in hosting the Roma Youth Together 2022 Conference

The seminar Roma Youth Together 2022 brought together 30 young people who are youth leaders or youth workers in Roma and Travellers communities. It was organised by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe in cooperation with Phiren Amencia International, ERGO Network and the European Roma Institute of Arts and Culture.

The seminar aimed to re-connect Roma youth leaders with European youth policy processes and exchanges on strategies and priorities for youth empowerment and participation.

Its specific objectives were:

- to reconnect and share recent experiences and challenges that emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic and their impact on Roma youth;
- to collect the input and feedback on the draft of the Recommendation on Roma youth participation including the thematic priorities in this field;
- to identify strategies for empowerment of Roma youth and Roma communities beyond the work on Roma youth participation;
- to connect young people to plan joint action to celebrate the International Roma Day;

- to engage participants in the preparation of the youth campaign on revitalising democracy, in particular on the theme of meaningful youth participation;
- to reconnect and to strengthen partnerships with European youth organisations and networks working in the field of Roma participation



Symposium: Institutions and Resistance – Alliances for Art at Risk

On 12 February 2022, the »Institutions and Resistance – Alliances for Art at Risk« symposium brought together activists, artists of all genres, and representatives of institutions to resist the »Threats and Risks« faced by art, free creativity and thought and imagine alliances to strengthen the field in the turbulent global predicament.

Where would you go if the world fell apart? What if your colleges and museums were hijacked? Militias and mafias ruled? Your friends and colleagues were hunted or killed?

This is not a test. It is a reality, right now, in several regions of the world. Its horrific face was vanquished in western Europe only 77 years ago. Will we see it again?

Institutions and Resistance – Alliances for Art at Risk is a two-day symposium on resistance and change, and how cultural institutions can be active agents in countering inegalitarian, anti-democratic, authoritarian and eco-destructive forces. New alliances, programmes and concrete policies are being sought to be imagined,

conceived or developed, from a local to a transnational level, together with activists and movements. How can these alliances be activated in times of crises to resist or create pressure on governments, corporations and other power-brokers?

New alliances and forms of resistance are urgently needed in the times of existential risks. We are entangling manifold threats: societal, economic, ecological and other potentially catastrophic emergencies. Both at home and abroad, these are compounded by problems related to forced migrations and violent persecution in several geopolitical regions – from Afghanistan to Belarus, from Kazakhstan to China, from the Amazon to the African and Far-East Asian tropics.

Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director, participated in the Section 2 of the Symposium “Institutions as Resistance”, moderated by Vivienne Chow.

The participants to this Section were: Reza ‘Asung’ Afisina (Ruangrupa), Farid Rakun (Ruangrupa), Marita Muukkonen (AR) and Ivor Stodolsky (AR), Jessica de Abreu, Ehsan Fardjadniya, Mariam Ghani, Katherine Schofield, Waldemar Tatarczuk, Barış Seyitvan, Yama Rahimi, Elisabet Goula Sardà (curator CCCB), Hrag Vartanian (editor-in-chief and co-founder of Hyperallergic, art critic, curator, artist, and lecturer), and Gitte Zschoch (General Secretary ifa – Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen), moderated by Vivienne Chow (Arts and culture journalist).

UKRAINE

Roma for Roma: Documenting the Oral History of Roma Refugees from Ukraine

Following the outbreak of the war in Ukraine and the mass exodus of refugees, ERIAC took immediate action to document the experiences of Roma refugees from Ukraine and the work of Roma organisations and activists in response to the humanitarian crisis.

In order to record and document the situation of Roma fleeing Ukraine as well as Roma-led actions to help refugees on the borders of Ukraine, ERIAC deployed documentation teams in Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The teams built a [digital archive](#) to document the Roma historical memory of the war, focusing on stories of survival, resistance, solidarity, and humanity, as well as providing reliable

evidence of cases of mistreatment and discrimination experienced by Roma refugees. A selection of materials from the digital archive were published on the *Proud Roma Free Europe*, and *ERAC* platforms.



9 March 2022 – A family in Záhony waiting to return back to Ukraine despite not knowing what remains left of their home. Photographed by: Ede Judt / European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM 2022



ERIAC
International Cultural Outreach Program 2022

Building on the experience of the 5 previous Outreach projects, ERIAC conducts the International Cultural Outreach Program 2022 with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. Through strengthening the existing digital and physical infrastructures, collaborations and institutional communication, the general aim of this year's Outreach project is to enforce ERIAC's role as a referential source for Roma identity and cultural discourses.

ROMANI LANGUAGE INITIATIVE
Romani Language Textbook A1 + A2

BARVALIPE ROMA ONLINE UNIVERSITY
Educational Platform and Digital Library

RomaMoMA
The digital Roma museum

VENICE BIENNALE
Eugen Raportoru: The Abduction from the Seraglio & Roma Women: Performative Strategies of Resistance

ERIAC EXHIBITIONS BELGRADE & BERLIN
All the Birds are Praying for our Children & Manolo Gómez: Ya es hora - Now is the time

MEMBERSHIP
Increasing visibility of ERIAC as a membership-based organization

ERIAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

EUROPEAN UNION

OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS

The Embassy of the
European Roma Institute
for Arts and Culture

German Foreign Office

The International Cultural Outreach Program 2022 was an ERIAC initiative to build on the results of the international Outreach projects 1-5, to strengthen the existing digital and physical infrastructures, collaborations and communication with the aim of **enforcing ERIAC's role as a referential source for Roma identity and cultural discourses.**

ERIAC proposed the International Cultural Outreach Program components in order to continue to inspire and stimulate the Roma arts and culture scene, challenge **mainstream arts spaces and introduce new talents.** ERIAC's **presence and physical participation** got strengthened with the larger visibility its project received at international art festivals and biennales, occupying a more central role both in the curatorial selections as well as in physical spaces.

Barvalipe Online University

Barvalipe Roma Online University is an online educational platform where Roma and non-Roma can access knowledge about the Roma identity(ies), history(ies) and culture(s) through a collection of high-quality lectures delivered by leading Roma

scholars on topics ranging from the Roma Holocaust to Roma cultural productions. The courses launched throughout 2020 and 2021, consists of 15 lectures delivered by renowned scholars. Together they comprise a complete curriculum of Roma Cultural History that proposes a canon and acts as a reference for Roma cultural history.



Within the 2022 Outreach program, ERIAC focused on the production of four new educational videos, on script-based, educational content in a conversational tone that is easier to digest for larger audiences.

ERIAC scaled down the production to focus on less number of outputs but with higher-quality production: engaging speakers with excellent rhetoric skills, who are the most prominent Roma academics and voices in their field of expertise.

ERIAC improved the format of talks for more engaging experience: filmed one masterclass with each lecturer and produced short clips (approx. 2-3 minutes long) which were promoted on social media, improving visibility of ERIAC BOU outputs with clearer target groups.

Dr. Adrian Marsh: An Introduction to Romani History, Ethnicity and Identity, part I and part II

Dr. Adrian R. Marsh is of U.K. Romany-Traveller origins, a researcher in Romani Studies and an expert consultant in Romani and Traveller early years education, working with Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities and NGO's (such as ERIAC, the RomArchive, and the Edirne Romanlar Foundation) in the UK, Sweden, Turkey, Egypt, Azerbaijan, and across Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe. His lecture serves as a short introduction to Romani history, ethnicity and identity, for Roma who would like to know better their history and for non-Romani people who are interested in learning something new, certainly not included into school curricula.

History /s ethnicity, in the context of establishing identities in the historical record, and the history of the Romani people is no different in this, to that of the surrounding non-Romani populations they live amongst. Romani people have been confused by the

application of different and contradictory labels, from those outside the communities, seeking to ascribe identities and characteristics that bear little resemblance to the actuality.

Dr. Iulius Rostas: An Introduction to Antigypsyism

Dr. Iulius Rostas is a Visiting Professor at the National School of Political Studies and Administration (Romania) and teaches courses on racism at the University of Stuttgart and Dortmund University of Applied Sciences, currently living and working in Berlin. He has worked for the Open Society Foundations, the European Roma Rights Center and the Government of Romania and consulted the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the World Bank, the European Commission and the Roma Education Fund.

Anti-Gypsyism, or anti-ziganism is the term used to describe the theoretical framework used to analyse anti-Romani and Traveller racism, a particular form of discrimination and exclusion directed towards communities of Romani and Traveller ethnicities most frequently, though erroneously described as 'Gypsies'. In his lecture, Dr. Rostas parts from definitions, assumptions, gives examples to manifestations, mechanism, features, and consequences of antigypsyism, and presents examples for concrete actions to combat it through acknowledging past history of oppression, educating citizens, police reform and legislative review, implementing coherent and inclusive policies, etc.



Dr. Iulius Rostas and Dr. Adrian Marsh during the shooting of the Barvalipe masterclasses in Bucharest, Aresel studio, 2022

Dr. Delia Grigore: On Roma Poetry and Literature

Delia Grigore is a Roma writer, researcher and activist from Romania, with a PhD in visual arts from the Institute of Ethnography and Folklore of the Romanian Academy. She serves as president of the association **Rroma Centre "Amare Rromentza"**, and has been working in the Roma movement for more than two decades. An author of three books and numerous articles and studies on Romani culture and literature, she edited *Rromane Dikhimata (Rromane Perspectives): Anthology of Rromani Literary Creation* in 2018. A poet and writer, Grigore is a lecturer at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Romani Language and Literature Section, and also member of the Writers Society "Costache Negri" in Romania.

This lecture aims to introduce the participants to the milestones of Romani literature's history from its beginnings until nowadays. The lecture familiarizes participants with the phenomenology of the Romani literature, covering its evolution, marked both by opportunities for development as well as obstacles. The scope of this lecture is to demonstrate that the literary works carry and transmit to the reader, the interior lives and lived experience of the Roma as well as to underline Romani literature's contribution to the development of what we can call the new or the modern Romanipen.

To complement the Barvalipe Roma Online University, ERIAC continued expanding the Digital Library of Critical Romani Scholarship, a comprehensive resource featuring a curated selection of Roma scholarship. The library in progress houses texts directly on the ERIAC website and serves as a keystone for anyone interested in Romani history, arts, culture and theory. Throughout 2022, the Library curator and two expert consultants expanded the collection with 36 new articles in total, bringing into focus a greater wealth of resources and references which support Romani and Traveller scholars, researchers, and intellectuals, especially younger members of the communities, to explore further with knowledge production that challenges the prevailing, non-Romani *episteme* (from the Ancient Greek, *epistēmē*, [philosophically] to know, to understand).

The Library has broadened with a collection of Non-Romani Critical Scholarship on Romani Histories and Her-stories, recognizing that the allies and advocates of Gypsy, Roma, Traveller people who have built up bodies of work that are essential, need to be a part of the Library. This way 9 out of the 36 total new entries belong to the collection of Non-Romani Critical Scholarship.



RomaMoMA

The Digital Roma Museum Initiative encourages new content to be developed and aims at "performing the museum" collections in physical spaces. More specifically

ERIAC mobilizes support of mainstream arts and culture professionals, curators, artists, institutional representatives to build an alliance of supporting institutions for Roma arts and culture.

It is not an exaggeration to state, that 2022 was a 'golden year' for ERIAC which represented a milestone in the existence of the institution, as through RomaMoMa ERIAC was present not only at Venice Biennale with installation works and paintings of Romanian Roma artist Eugen Raportoru, but at documenta fifteen in Kassel, at the 23rd Milan Triennale in Milano and at Manifesta 14 in Prishtina.

ERIAC published 15 texts on RomaMoMA Blog covering a wide range of issues and highlighting ERIAC's participation in the mainstream cultural events, including documenta fifteen, La Biennale di Venezia, Milan Triennale and Manifesta 14. The authors of the Blog represent diverse geographical and academic background, and their texts constitute a significant contribution to the growing scholarship on Romani artistic production. We were especially excited about publishing from Romani artists (Norbert Olan and Daniel Baker), recognized curators and scholars like Suzana Milevska, Vladan Jeremić or Călin Dan. Additionally, we were able to showcase the texts from a younger generation of Romani scholars and critics like Ioanida Costache and Selma Pezerović.

Language Reform



The long-term goal of ERIAC through the Romani Language Initiative is to become the language and education center for the transnational Romani movement and the community.

The initiative contains efforts towards an international Romani language reform, and continues the international work on the standardization of Romani language.

As part of the Romani Language Initiative in 2022 ERIAC published the revised and corrected version of Romani Language Textbook for Adults – level A1 complemented with audio material, and while engaging a team of experts of the field, developed and published the Romani textbook level A2.

The Romani Language Textbook for Adults A2 was written by ERIAC Barvalipe Academy Member, Mihaela Zătreanu, who also served as an expert consultant for the "Reference for Languages / Curriculum Framework for Romani developed by the Council of Europe" and who was the leading author of the Romani Language book

level A1. Further to this, ERIAC brought together 5 specialists in order to review, proofread the Romani language textbook A2, and provide their input towards the standardization of the language.

ERIAC managed to achieve the objectives of this project throughout 2022, as it continued the international work on the standardization of Romani language with the international experts with proven experience in the field; developed the language book A2; developed audio material to complement language book A1 and A2 accessible through the ERIAC website.

Cover of *Romani Čhib* A2 textbook, written by Romani language expert *Mihaela Zătreanu*, methodologist *Zuzana Bodnarova* from the University of Graz and proofread by Romani linguists, members of ERIAC's Language Council, namely *Diana Kirilova*, *Bagir Kwiek*, *Melinda Vajda*, *Cristian Pădure*.



ERIAC Exhibitions

ALL THE BIRDS ARE PRAYING FOR OUR CHILDREN

2nd August – 30th October 2022, ERIAC Belgrade

Artists: Farija Mehmeti, Sead Kazanxhiu and Zoran Tairovic



ERAC Serbia joined the [#RomaRemember](#) action to commemorate all Roma victims of the Holocaust, on Roma Holocaust Memorial Day with the exhibition celebrating **Romani people's resistance, resilience and healing** – interwoven in the artworks of Sead Kazanxhiu, Farija Mehmeti, and Zoran Tairović.

Within the mainstream culture, the history of Romani suffering is overshadowed by a socio-political anti-Gypsy consensus enabling continuous and systematic discrimination of Roma. The exhibition interrogates the potential of re-writing of the testimony of trauma, pain, and the haunting unassimilable experience of loss, dislocation, and silence, into a liberating discourse of healing and hope.

Sead Kazanxhiu's giant *Nest* (2012-2022) - evocative of swallows' nests- reminds us that despite the changing regimes and shifting hierarchies, what we perceive as 'marginal' **has always been there, has always built its own homes and shelters**, proposing new ways of belonging and enacting change. Roma have always nurtured their own alternative knowledge and ways of being together, and we can still learn from these practices today.

Farija Mehmeti's series *Roma Women* (2012-ongoing) displays a multifaceted mosaic of imaginary characters to contemplate and honour the everyday heroism in and struggle for the existence of ordinary Roma women. These portraits are vehicles to remember and unearth suppressed Roma forms of knowledge on strategies for reproductive health or the preservation of mental health and healing practices in general as well as Roma wisdom on nature and the cosmos. In memory and embodied experience of these pasts, the portraits also serve as a reminder for the elders in the community that hold and pass on this knowledge.

Zoran Tairović's oeuvre accuses the industrial modernity's worship of rationality for marginalizing Romani people along with other alternative forms of knowledge such as **the imagination and the unconscious**. Tairović aims at exposing the strategic erasure of the Romani Holocaust from the collective memory of genocides that happened in Europe in the 20th century.

The three artists use their individual visual vocabulary to enable a look through time in honouring the past and offering ways of continuing to imagine the interdependencies and inseparability of existence in the community while offering doors to making new more livable futures. While art cannot save our people from the ravages of daily living or historical contingency, it can summon us forth and connect us back to ourselves as a living force.



The honour to open the exhibition had Jadranka Ivkovic, ERIAC Serbia director, accompanied by Bratislav Mitrovic, ERIAC Serbia office manager as well as friends from civic movement, Opre Roma Serbia. Stevica Nikolic and Ivan Demirovic read a poem in Romanes and Serbian in honour and memory of the Roma scholar and leader, Bajram Haliti, who passed away recently.

The opening event had political as well as civic representation on behalf of State Secretary, Mr Stevan Gligorin, Commissioner for the protection of equality, Ms **Brankica Jankovic, Head of UN Resident Coordinator's Office in Serbia**, Ms Fioralba Shkodra and representatives of Opre Roma Serbia, Roma Education Fund and Open Society Foundations Serbia and Belgrade Fund for Political Excellence.

MANOLO GÓMEZ: YA ES HORA - NOW IS THE TIME

Manolo Gómez: Ya es hora – Now is the time

9 September – 31 November 2022

On view at ERIAC, Reinhardtstraße 41-43, 10117 Berlin

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 10-17h

Opening event: 8 September 2022 at 18h

The exhibition, *Ya es hora – Now is the time*, presented 18 prints by the Andalusian Gitano contemporary artist, Manolo Gómez (Spain, 1967). The black and white abstract works are a continuation of his experimentation with non-figurative expressions, and a conscious manifestation of a personal political and identity

strategy, transforming the substance of Gitano Flamenco into painterly compositions. Romani and Gitano communities understand Flamenco as an art form of resistance, with the flow of knowledge, creativity and life energy expressed in multiple genres, including dance and music, but also in visual art, theatre, literature and design. Gómez hit upon an ingenious translation of the Flamenco of the Gitanos into a pictorial language of forms, gestures and textures.

The exhibition assembled by Manolo Gómez and Moritz Pankok (Kai Dikhas Foundation) reflects relevant, timely and political questions **for today's audience**, addressing how to fight and create artistic strategies to counter racism, (neo)fascism, and social injustice.

The exhibition "Manolo Gómez. Ya es hora - Now is the time" is part of the project "Dias de Ira - Days of Rage - Helios Gómez returns to Berlin" by Álvaro Garreaud and Moritz Pankok, funded by HKF Hauptstadtkulturfonds, IMPACT Förderung 2022 and Stiftung Kai Dikhas and in cooperation with ERIAC European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture and Stiftung Kai Dikhas.

Photo documentation: Opening on 8 September 2022



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Exhibition video documentation:

Youtube - <https://youtu.be/pE4IktmSyYE> (12 views)

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/EuropeanRomaInstituteERiac/videos/771426644161999>

(248 Views)

The exhibition opening was attended by 40 people, including the Board of the Kai Dikhas Stiftung, Luna De Rosa (current selected artist for the Villa Romana residency programme in cooperation with ERIAC), Malgorzata Mirga-Tas (artist of the Polish Pavilion of the Biennale Arte in Venice 2022).

Additionally, the exhibition was visited on 14 September by a group of 65 students of the New York University Stern School of Business. Timea Junghaus, ERAC Executive Director and Agota Szilagyí did a tour of the exhibition to the students, which had also the opportunity to ask questions.



Visit of NYU Stern

WOMAN TO WOMAN

The exhibition featuring two Roma artists who exhibited at the 59th International Exhibition la Biennale di Venezia: Eugen Raportoru and Malgorzata Mirga-Tas. The exhibition opened on 5 December 2022 and lasted through February 2023.

The exhibition concept was inspired by a text of Ethel Brooks, a leading feminist Romani scholar, pointing to subversive alternatives of reclaiming these stereotypical **depictions of Romnia. Brooks postulates a practice of radical recognition** *'as a way to understand our place in the world as Romani women, as a mode of seeing, really seeing, each other, Romnia, in the midst and through the mist of fraught legacies of racism, colonialism, and patriarchy'*

With Brooks' narrative as a touchstone, the exhibition explored an ontology of Romani women, centering on radical agency and self-determination while daring to present a femininity defined by strength, solidity, and power. The show channeled the anonymous reproductive labor of Romani women through a poetic body of paintings, lithographs, and tapestries that concern themselves with race, beauty, community, and care.

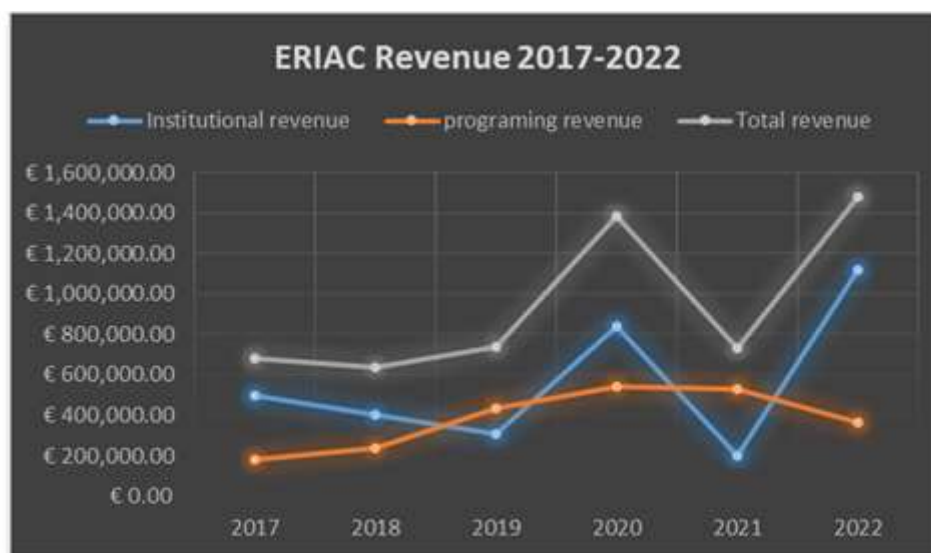
Financial Report

The below paragraph represents a summary of the financial activity of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in 2022. ERIAC achieved significant financial results, with the highest ever financial indicators in addition to having the European **Commission's commitment as a long-term donor**. The financial activities of ERIAC in 2022 followed the forecasted financial plan and aligned the expenditure of the planned budget with the recommendations of the ERIAC Board and project grants obligations. Total funds managed by ERIAC in 2022 were 2.231.056,69 EUR.

ERIAC's revenue results for 2022 were 1.482.527,46 EUR marking a three-digit revenue growth (103%) in comparison to 2021. Programming revenue in 2022 revenue results was 25%, while the institutional revenue was as high as 75% due to **the significantly increased Open Society Foundations' Institutional support for 2022 and 2023 paid out completely to ERIAC in January 2022.** Additionally, Council of Europe contributed with the commitment to the institutional funds of ERIAC for the upcoming y 2023 in July 2022.

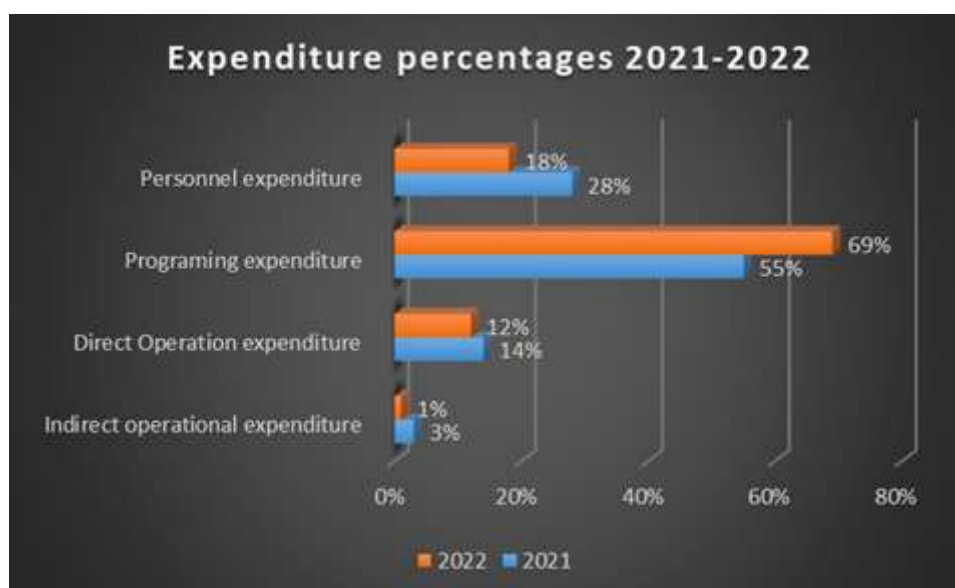
Funds of 2.231.056,69 EUR ERIAC Managed in 2022 included 748.529,23 EUR of institutional (75%) and programming (25%) rollover from 2021, while the funds rolling over from 2022 into 2023 of 769.047,34 EUR proves the ERIAC holds **donors' trust in managing multiannual funds.**

In 2022 ERIAC expenditures were kept inside the planned budget and closely monitored by the Accounting company Schomerus and Partners MbB. Total expenditure in 2022 amounted to 1.462.009,35 EUR distributed between the programming costs of 1.011.956,84 EUR (70%), and institutional running costs (personnel and operational costs) 450.052,51 EUR (30%). Despite the 104% increase from y 2021 in programming costs, ERIAC maintained a similar level of institutional expenses y 2021 – 405.185,31 EUR, y 2022 450.052,51 EUR, **proving ERIAC's commitment to responsible financial management.**



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- In the execution of monetary transactions and financial activities, ERIAC followed regulations of the German non-profit law.
- In 2022 ERIAC received prolonged "Tax Exempt" status until December 31, 2024. German tax authorities "Finanzamt" reconfirmed high-level of transparency level and due diligence in the financial practices of ERIAC. Accounting company Schomerus & Partners MbB provided support to ERIAC in submitting necessary documents.
- ERIAC had two project audits in 2022, first was the audit of the Outreach 2021 project by the Federal Foreign Office Germany, while the subject of the second audit was an expenditure of the ERIACNET4EU project performed by the independent auditor. Both audits confirmed immaculate and outstanding administrative practices and standards in the financial management of the organization.
- In 2022 Council of Europe made the institutional contribution for 2023 of 200.000,00 EUR. Due to different payment schedules, Open Society Foundations contributed to the institutional funding in 2022 with the funds for operational and personnel expenses for 2022 and 2023 in the amount of 893.415,53 EUR.
- Additionally, ERIAC fundraised 364.065.24 EUR for programing activities.

Fundraising Results*

Federal Foreign Office, Germany	200.000,00 €
Fundraising for Venice - Erste Stiftung	12.500,00 €
Fundraising for Venice - Stiftung Kai Dikhas	15.000,00 €
International Foundation Manifesta	7.742,40 €
European Education and Culture Executive Agency - ERIACNET4EU	120.000,00 €
CRF - International Press Institute	8.822,84 €
TOTAL FUNDRAISING 2021	364.065,24 €

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture ERIAC

Reinhardtstrasse 41-43 Ground floor

DE-10117 Berlin

eriac@eriac.org

Tel.: +49 (0) 30 406 337 33

Edited by: ERIAC Team

ERIAC
EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE

**OPEN SOCIETY
FOUNDATIONS**



Federal Foreign Office

**The Alliance for the
European Roma Institute
for Arts and Culture**