

XII. ERIAC BOARD MEETING

Online meeting

December 4, 2023

DRAFT Minutes

Present:

Board Members:

Björn Berge, Deputy Secretary General, Council of Europe, Member of the Board

Ismael Cortés, Member of the Spanish Parliament, Member of the Board

Zeljko Jovanovic, Director, Roma Initiatives Office, Open Society Foundations, Chairman of the Board

Sead Kazanxhiu, Artist, Deputy Chair of the Board

Observers and other invitees:

Mareike Geipel, Deputy Special Representative of the Federal Foreign Office for Relations with Jewish Organisations, Issues Relating to Antisemitism, International Sinti and Roma Affairs, and Holocaust Remembrance

Kinga Rethy, Roma Initiatives Office

Irene Kitsou-Milonas, Council of Europe

ERiac Management:

Timea Junghaus, Executive Director

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director

Neven Mesec, Finance Manager

Excused:

Gilda Horvath, Journalist, Member of the Board

Welcome

Zeljko Jovanovic, Chairman of the Board, welcomed the Board members and Board invitees. He went over the agenda and the objectives of the day. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director, was assigned as the minute-taker. He informed that Gilda Horvath has excused herself from the meeting due to illness.

Agenda Item 1: Follow-up of the XI Board Meeting

Zeljko Jovanovic informed the Board that the process of formal registration of all ERIAC Board members has been completed. He reminded the members that the current mandates expire on November 30, 2025. He provided an update on the establishment of the new Roma Foundation for Europe and explained how ERIAC is positioned within the broader network, how ERIAC operations will be affected and what is the degree of strategic integration with other entities and movements. As the new Roma Foundation for Europe will take over the status of permanent member from OSF, the Board discussed possible legal rearrangement to transfer permanent membership from OSF to the new foundation.

The members of the Board of the Association have passed the following resolutions:

Board Resolution No. 1.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 1:

1.1 The Board took note of the finalization of the Board Registration Process.

Board Resolution No. 1.2/04122023 under Agenda Item 1:

1.2 The Board formally agreed with ERIAC joining the network of entities constituting the new Roma Foundation for Europe. ERIAC Board takes note that ERIAC becoming part of the new Foundation does not affect ERIAC's legal registration. ERIAC Management shall seek legal advice to consider how the permanent membership can be transferred/ or handed over from the OSF to the Roma Foundation for Europe. ERIAC management shall inform the Board in writing

about the procedure that shall be followed to transfer the permanent membership to the Roma Foundation for Europe.

Agenda Item 2: 2023 Management Status Report and Financial Status Report

The Executive Director and the Finance Manager presented 2023 Annual Status Report, including the Management Report: Strategic Analysis 2023 and Financial Status Report October 31, 2023. The Board welcomed the improved management report, which focusses on strategic analysis. The Board discussed developments under each ERIAC strategic pillar. The Board discussed the ERIAC Branch policy and decided to conduct its thorough review in 2024, while discussions with regarding a potential ERIAC branch in Romania may continue, as they are in an advanced stage. The Board urged the management to ensure swift completion of the B1 Romani language book and observing the initial timeline. The Board also suggested diversifying the group of authors and contributors to ensure that the work can be speeded up and does not rely exclusively on one person.

Board Resolution No. 2.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 2:

2.1 The Board will conduct a thorough review of the ERIAC strategic pillar 1: Infrastructure, with a particular focus on the ERIAC Branch policy. An online meeting will take place in April 2024 to discuss ERIAC pillar 1, with the goal of formulating a new and improved approach.

Board Resolution No. 2.2/04122023 under Agenda Item 2:

2.2 The Board took note of the ERIAC Management and Finance Status Reports 2023.

Agenda Item 3: Institutional Matters

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, ERIAC deputy director, provided an updated on ERIAC institutional developments, including the modification of the ERIAC Rules of Procedure document, the drafting of the ERIAC Code of Conduct and the resignation of one of the members of the Barvalipe Academy. The Board considered that the mandate of the current Barvalipe Academy members expires in October 2024. The Board and management shall consider how the Barvalipe can be reenergized. The interaction between Barvalipe Academy and the Board shall be improved by organizing at least one joint meeting a year between the Board and the Barvalipe Academy members, either in person or online.

Board Resolution No. 3.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 3:

3.1 The Board took note and provided comments on the ERIAC Rules of Procedure document. After including the suggestions of the Board, the final document shall be circulated to the Board and will be approved via an online procedure.

Board Resolution No. 3.2/04122023 under Agenda Item 3:

3.2 The Board took note and provided suggestions regarding the Code of Conduct. After including the suggestions of the Board, the final document shall be circulated to the Board.

Board Resolution No. 3.3/04122023 under Agenda Item 3:

3.3 The Board nominated Raul Carstoccea to become a new member of the Barvalipe Academy, taking effect as of January 1, 2024. ERIAC management shall inform him of the nomination and request his agreement to join the Academy. In case of a negative response, the Board shall select a new nominee via an anonymous online survey, reflecting on the two highest-ranking candidates from the previous elections (Hans Calderas and Natasa Tasic Knezevic).

Agenda Item 4: Strategic direction for 2024

Timea Junghaus and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka have presented proposals for strategic direction for 2024, developed at the request of the Board. The ERIAC for-profit initiative was presented by Timea Junghaus, executive director. The Board invited Petrica Dulgheru, executive director of the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative (REDI), to provide feedback and guidance on the ERIAC for-profit initiative to the Board.

Board Resolution No. 4.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 4:

4.1 The ERIAC Board agreed that the management proposal on the 5-year vision, priority locations, is a good basis to develop a concrete proposal next year. ERIAC management shall develop clear criteria for selecting specific locations, allowing them to develop a narrowed-down proposal, with a limited list of locations.

Board Resolution No. 4.2/04122023 under Agenda Item 4:

4.2 The ERIAC Board agreed that the management proposal on Pillar III analysis is a good basis to develop a concrete proposal next year, that includes an action plan that corresponds to the scale of available financial resources.

Board Resolution No. 4.3/04122023 under Agenda Item 4:

4.3 Given the establishment of the Roma Foundation for Europe and ERIAC being one of the four key members of the Foundation's network, the ERIAC Board agreed the management shall explore a 4th scenario of the future for-profit constellation. In that scenario ERIAC would not have any role in the formal set up and thereby ensure the preservation of the ERIAC tax-exempt status without any risk. The scenario should contemplate the relationship between ERIAC and the future for-profit for the right of use and/or transfer of intellectual property.

Agenda Item 5: Financial and Activity Plan for 2024

Timea Junghaus presented the proposals for ERIAC Financial and Activity Plan for 2024.

Board Resolution No. 5.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 5:

5.1 The Board approved the Activity Plan 2024, with the note that the branch policy shall be revised by the Board next year.

Agenda Item 5: Financial and Activity Plan for 2024

Timea Junghaus presented the proposals for ERIAC Financial and Activity Plan for 2024.

Board Resolution No. 5.1/04122023 under Agenda Item 5:

5.1 The Board approved the Activity Plan 2024, with the note that the branch policy shall be revised by the Board.

Board Resolution No. 5.2/04122023 under Agenda Item 5:

5.2 The Board approved the Financial Plan 2024. The Board requested the management to investigate the possibility of using a savings account to mitigate the consequences of inflation (or come up with another feasible arrangement). The Board noted that the budget limitation set by the Board in 2020 does not reflect the growth and needs of ERIAC and that it is necessary to review the limitations for the institutional costs in the future.

Minute taker: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, deputy director. Dated, as above.

Berlin, December 4, 2023

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Zeljko Jovanovic

Chair of the Board

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Sead Kazanxhiu

Deputy Chair of the Board

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Bjørn Berge

Member of the Board

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Gilda Horvath

Member of the Board

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Ismael Cortés

Member of the Board