

### **XIII. ERIAC BOARD MEETING**

In-person meeting with online participants **held on June 10, 2024**

#### **ERiac Berlin**

Board Meeting Minutes and Resolutions

#### **Present:**

Board Members:

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

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

Gilda Horvath, Journalist, Member of the Board

Željko Jovanović, President, Roma Foundation for Europe, 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, Executive Vice President, Roma Foundation for Europe

Eleni Tsetsekou, Head of the Roma Team, Council of Europe

Irene Kitsou-Milonas, Senior Adviser, Private Office of the Secretary General and of the Deputy Secretary General

ERiac Management:

Timea Junghaus, Executive Director

Neven Mesec, Finance Manager

#### **Welcome**

Željko Jovanović, Chairman of the Board, welcomed the Board members and Board invitees, introduced the agenda and the objectives of the day. Neven Mesec, finance manager, was assigned as the minute-taker.

**Agenda Item 1: Follow up of XIII. Board Meeting:**

Executive Director and Finance Manager presented 1.1. Status Report of 2023, 1.2. Final Financial Report 2023 for the Jahresabschluss 2023.

The Board emphasized that no action should be set in motion that would jeopardize the ERIAC tax-exempt status under the German law. The Board welcomed that the For-Profit

Company is created independently from ERIAC by the Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative - REDI.

The Board observed the balanced allocation of resources in 2023 Finance Report with a proper division between institutional and programming expenditure. The Board commented how the ratio of the budget spent per strategic pillar seems to match the results emphasized.

The Board took note of and discussed the document ERIAC Organs – Process 2024-25, including the upcoming Barvalipe and Board changes in 2025. The importance of consideration of geographical balance, gender balance, as well as coverage of as many fields as possible in the area of arts, history, language and culture was underlined for the upcoming Barvalipe Academy Members election process. The Board acknowledged that the changes to ERIAC Statute (transferring OSF RIO founding/permanent membership to Roma Foundation for Europe) must be voted by the founding members, in person, at the General Assembly on December 6, 2024, in Berlin.

The Board found that the discussion on ERIAC Organs – Process shall be closely connected to the Strategy 2026.

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

**Board Resolution No. 1.2/10062024 under Agenda Item 1.2:**

1.2 The Board approved the Final Financial Report 2023 for the Jahresabschluss (German Yearend report) 2023.

**Board Resolution No. 1.3/10062024 under Agenda Item 1.3:**

1.3 The Board approved the ERIAC Organs – Process 2024-2025 management document and plan. Mr. Björn Berge and Mr. Ismael Cortes will be reappointed for the

second term as ERIAC PAKIV Board Members in 2025.

The Board instructed management to prepare the Barvalipe Academy Members selection and election (7 members appointed by the Board) process via mail exchange and online voting mechanism. The Board appointments must be completed by October 22, 2024.

The Board will draft and provide the “frame document” of the ERIAC Strategy 2026-2030 by September 2024, in order to ensure that the current Board transfers knowledge and institutional history to the newly forming ERIAC Pakiv Board and Barvalipe Academy.

### **Agenda Item 2: Mid-Year Status Report**

- Finance Manager presented 2024 Mid-Year Financial Status Report 2024. Per the Board's request ERIAC presented an Investment Plan to invest the financial resources allocated only for 2025. Management presented a new risk of potential taxation on the generated interest. Management requested the Board to reconsider the budget limits set in 2020 on personnel-, operational- and programmatic-costs, and set Budget Principles – in relational terms – that better serve efficient financial planning and growth. Management presented the Status Report Narrative May 2024. The CoE

congratulated ERIAC for the results achieved so far. The Board members took note of the closer co-operation between ERIAC and the CoE. In 2024-25:

- The co-operation “Roma Integration Phase III” in Western Balkans and Türkiye – Initiative,
- Contribution at the Venice Biennale at the CoE “70 years of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe” Event.
- The CoE Programme “Roma Holocaust Remembrance and Education (RomaMemory)”;
- Planned joint conference to mark 5 November Romani Language Day,
- ADI-ROM working group on developing the Capacity building program and tools supporting the CM/Rec (2020)2.

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

**Board Resolution No. 2.1/10062024 under agenda item 2.1:**

2.1 The Board approved the Financial Status Report April 2024.

The Board approved the Investment Plan on condition that before implementation, the management gets legal and tax advice and communicates their expert position for the Board.

The Board set the Budgetary Principles with new referential percentages for the yearly budgets, where the personnel shall be 30-40% and direct operational costs up to 20% of the total financial budget/year.

**Board Resolution No. 2.2/10062024 under agenda item 2.2:**

2.2 The Board approved Status Report Narrative May 2024.

**Agenda Item 3: Strategic Shifts 2025**

The Executive Director presented the ERIAC Branch Policy in the format edited by all Board members.

The Board took note on the Field Context Network Analysis written by management.

The Board reviewed the Venues 2025-2030 document and found it useful for the Strategy writing process when they wish to review the final list of proposed venues.

The Board carefully reviewed the Process for Strategy 2026-2030 and connected the writing schedule to the changes in the ERIAC organs in 2024-25.

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

**Board Resolution No. 3.1/10062024 under agenda item 3.1:**

3.1 The Board provided suggestions regarding the ERIAC Branch Policy. After including the suggestions of the Board, the final document shall be circulated by management and will be approved by the Board via an online procedure.

**Board Resolution No. 3.4/10062024 under agenda item 3.4:**

3.4 The Board holds a special online Session on Strategy on September 5, 2024 at 10:00.

This session is to prepare the frame document of the Strategy 2026-30. The Board decided that Management's deadline for the Strategy 2026-30 is February 2025, before the expiration of current Pakiv Board memberships. This Strategy can hold the Barvalipe Academy input (from both 2024 and 2025.)

Minute taker: Neven Mesec, Finance Manager.

Berlin, June 10, 2024

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**Zeljko Jovanovic**  
Chair of the Board

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**Sead Kazanxhiu**  
Deputy Chair of the Board

Signed by:



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**Bjørn Berge**  
Member of the Board

Signiert von:



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**Gilda Horvath**  
Member of the Board

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**Ismael Cortés**  
Member of the Board