

ERAC ANNUAL REPORT 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE
AND GOVERNANCE | 2021 - 2025 STRATEGY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY	6
PAKIV BOARD	6
BARVALIPE ACADEMY	7
ERIAN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	7
ERIAN ACTIVITIES 2024	8
ERIAN SERBIA IN 2024	9
SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT AND RESULTS	10
FINANCIAL HEALTH	10
ERIAN'S YEAR AT A GLANCE	12
ERIAN'S YEAR IN NUMBERS.....	13
ERIAN INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE	14
PAKIV BOARD	14
Short biographies of Pakiv Board Members	15
ERIAN Board Activities in 2024	18
BARVALIPE ACADEMY	21
Election of new members.....	21
Short biographies of New Barvalipe Academy Members	22
Barvalipe Academy Meetings in 2024.....	29
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP	31
Financial Contributions	31
Thematic Sections.....	32
Membership Composition	33
ERIAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY	34
ERIAN STRATEGY 2021–2025	36
ERIAN Theory of Change	36
ERIAN Strategic Objectives 2021–2025.....	37
Process for ERIAN Strategy 2026–2030	38

I. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BUILD PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO UPSCALE THE TALENT, VISIBILITY AND QUALITY AMONG THE ROMA ARTISTS AND CULTURAL PRODUCERS	40
IN FILM AND MUSIC	41
SCHOLARSHIP: ERIAC Scholarship for Producers to Join ImpACT Lab Workshops in Cannes.....	41
PARTNERSHIP: European Film Academy	43
EVENT: Antonio Piculeață's concert at Liebermann Villa 4 November 2024	43
IN VISUAL ARTS.....	44
RESIDENCY: Artists in Residence 2024 in Villa Romana, Florence.....	44
<i>Villa Romana Artists in Residence for 2024</i>	<i>45</i>
EXHIBITION: CARGO – of Dust and Ashes 31 July–1 November 2024	46
CREATING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS IN FILM.....	47
PANEL: "Roma (in) Filmmaking" at Cannes Film Festival 2024 with Marché du Film and Think Film Impact 16 May 2024.....	47
PROGRAM: DIGITAL ROMA MUSEUM INITIATIVE: ROMAMOMA	49
EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS: Venice Biennale Collaborations.....	49
<i>EVENT: The OTHER SESSION—Artistic Freedom Under Scrutiny 20 April 2024</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>PANEL: ARTISTS at RISK Pavilion with the support of UNESCO 19 April 2024</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>EXHIBITION: RrOMA LEPANTO 20 April–24 November 2024.....</i>	<i>51</i>
EXHIBITION: OMARA Mara Oláh – DIKH OMARA 1 October–9 November	51
INSTALLATION: RomaMoMA Nomadic Library	52
EXHIBITIONS: Berlin Tales: The Margins Strike Back.....	53
<i>EXHIBITION: Berlin Tales 15 December 2023–5 April 2024.....</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>PANEL EVENT: ANDO FORO 9 April 2024.....</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>THEATRE: ROMÁLAND THEATRE PRESENTATION IN BERLIN</i>	<i>55</i>
<i>EVENT: ROMANI RESISTANCE DAY 16 May 2024.....</i>	<i>56</i>
PUBLICATION AND EXHIBITION: In Search of Eldorado 8–28 November.....	58
PROJECT: EUROPEAN ITINERARIES OF ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE 'ROMHERITAGE'	60
PUBLICATION: Towards a European Route of Roma Cultural Heritage: Common Methodology for Promoting Roma Cultural Heritage in Europe	61
FINAL EVENT: Roma Art of Assembly and ROMHERITAGE Project.....	62
ERIAC SERBIA	63
II. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: 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 MATERIAL.....	65
PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM 2024	66
Barvalipe Roma Online University.....	66
Romani Language Initiative: Launch of Romani Čhib B1 textbook	67

CONFERENCE: 5th International “Safeguarding Our Romani Language” Conference 5–6 November 2024 .	69
PROJECT: ERIAC NETWORK TO ADVANCE ROMA INCLUSION BY COMBATTING AND PREVENTING ANTIGYPSYISM IN THE EU (ERIANET4EU)	71
TRAININGS: Capacity-Building Sessions For ERIAC Members	71
TRAINING: ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE’S FUTURE on Romani History & Culture 10 September 2024	74
POSITION PAPER: On Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching	75
MEETING: WOMNET Meeting “Intersectional Solidarity: Navigating the Journey Towards Communities of Care and Collective Action” 28 October 2024	75
PROJECT: JEKHIPE	77
EVENT: JEKHIPE Kick-off 10 April 2024	78
EXHIBITION: Delaine Le Bas’s Romani Embassy	78
PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS AND MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE ROMA AND SINTI HOLOCAUST	80
PARTNERSHIPS: INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS TEACHING ROMA HISTORY	82
ERIANET SERBIA	83
III. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: ADVANCE THE SENSE OF PRIDE AND BELONGING AMONG THE ROMA	84
ERIANET MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE	85
UKRAINIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE	86
PUBLICATION: Support for Roma Foundation for Europe’s Research on the Roma Situation in Ukraine	86
FELLOWSHIP: ROMA HOLOCAUST VOICES FELLOWSHIP	87
ERIANET SERBIA	89
PROJECT: “Addressing Antigypsyism and Mainstreaming Roma Issues in the Western Balkans and Türkiye”	89
TRAINING: “Transforming Media Narratives” 13–15 September 2024	89
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Regional Media Mentorship Program	91
EXHIBITION: [IN]VISIBILITY: Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation 8 April–19 July 2024	92
INSTALLATION: Illumination of Blegarde Tower for International Roma Day 8 April 2024	94
PANEL: The Roma and Inclusive Remembrance Culture online panel 31 July 2024	94
EXHIBITION: Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide 13 September–6 June 2024	95
CAMPAIGN: Young Roma: (Re)Defining Resistance online campaign	96
IV. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN ERIAC’S INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT	97
PROJECT: ERIANET4EU	98
FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES (FSTP): #ERIANET4EU: 2024 Grants to Protect and Promote EU Values and Rights	98
ERIANET4EU 2024 GRANTEES	100

ERAC COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE) 103

ERAC BERLIN: DIPLOMATIC VISITS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS 105

ERAC SERBIA: DIPLOMATIC VISITS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS 107

FINANCIAL REPORT 108

TABLE: ERAC REVENUE (1 January–31 December 2024) 109

GRAPH: ERAC REVENUE (1 January–31 December 2024) 110

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 2024, ERIAC continued to expand its reach, firmly establishing it as an international organization promoting Roma arts and culture in Europe and beyond.

GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGY

In 2024, ERIAC continued to deliver on the objectives of the ERIAC Strategy 2021-2025, approved by the ERIAC Board in 2020. ERIAC also began preparations for the development of a new strategy for 2026 to 2030, including at the General Assembly and through dedicated strategic sessions amongst all governing bodies.

Alongside ERIAC in Berlin, ERIAC continued its international operations 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. In 2024, ERIAC Serbia continued to formalise its institutional footing as well as contribute innovative projects to the vibrant Serbian arts and cultural scene.

In 2024, ERIAC fulfilled its statutory obligations through the work of its governing bodies.

PAKIV BOARD

In 2024, the Pakiv Board held its meetings on 10 June and 2 December 2024 in Berlin. An additional special meeting was held on 5 September online to discuss ERIAC's Organs Process for Strategy and **the development of the new ERIAC Strategy 2026-2030**. The Board also:

- Approved the Final Financial Report 2023 for the Jahresabschluss (German Yearend report) 2023.
- Approved the Organs Process 2024-2025 management document and plan.
- Approved the Financial Status Report April 2024, Status Report Narrative May 2024, and the Narrative Report 2024
- Provided suggestions on and approved the ERIAC Branch Policy.

BARVALIPE ACADEMY

The Barvalipe Academy held its XI and XII meetings on 26 February and 19 September 2024 online. Upon expiration of the mandates of the existing members of the Academy, 15 new members were appointed in 2024 through a process regulated by the ERIAC Statute.

In 2024, the Barvalipe Academy continued to perform its role as the strategic and consulting organ of ERIAC, including by:

- contributing to and reviewing the ERIAC Calendar of Activities for 2024;
- acting as the monitoring committee for the ERIACNET4EU grants project;
- discussing proposals for closer cooperation between ERIAC members and the board;
- and, discussing the ERIAC strategy 2026 – 2030.

ERiac ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The 8th ERIAC Membership Call concluded on 23 February 2024. The call resulted in **185 applications**, including from **135 individuals** (78 applications were received from individuals who self-identify as Roma) and **47 institutions**, representing a 330% increase from 2023. Following new membership procedures, Section coordinators, together with the ERIAC team, conducted **146 interviews**.

At the end of 2024, there were a total of 146 members in the ERIAC community.

The ERIAC Thematic Section meetings, held on 7 and 10 May 2024, gathered 73 participants, including members, Section Coordinators and ERIAC staff. These meetings provided a platform to present ERIAC membership opportunities, foster discussions on member needs, and explore ideas.

ERIAC ACTIVITIES 2024

In 2024, ERIAC continued to pursue its aim of cultivating a new generation of artists, musicians, curators, and cultural producers through long-term institutional partnerships. In the realm of film, this included establishing a partnership with **Marché du Film** and **ImpACT Lab** at **Cannes Film Festival**, awarding ERIAC's inaugural Scholarship for Producers in May. Through this partnership, ERIAC also conducted a panel discussion at Cannes on the occasion of the International Day of Romani Resistance.

To support the next generation of visual artists, in 2024 ERIAC continued its successful partnership with Villa Romana, jointly providing two Roma artists with a funded residency. ERIAC also hosted a new exhibition, ***CARGO-of Dust and Ashes***, featuring the work of three up and coming artists to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Roma Holocaust. A panel discussion at the opening of the exhibit was supported by the State of Berlin and hosted by independent curator Isabel Raabe.

ERIAC's RomaMoMA initiative continued to blend digital and physical elements in its mission to promote Roma arts and culture. In 2024, RomaMoMA expanded its content with new blog posts and a special exhibition conceived for the 80th anniversary of the tragic murder of Roma and Sinti under the Nazi regime. In 2024, RomaMoma's other achievements included:

- contributing to, supporting, observing and connecting through three initiatives at the **Venice Biennale**.
- supporting an exhibition of OMARA Mara Oláh hosted by gta exhibitions in Switzerland.
- continuing the Berlin Tales event series and exhibition, including with a panel event in partnership with Gorki Maxim Theatre.

In 2024, ERIAC continued to produce and support the development of educational resources, publications, and events on Roma history, culture and language. This included supporting the publication of '*Towards a European Route of Roma Cultural Heritage: Common Methodology for Promoting Roma Cultural Heritage in Europe*', the final output of the **ROMHERITAGE** project; a '*Position Paper with Policy Recommendations on Roma Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching*' under the **ERIACNET4EU** project, and the *Romani Čhib B1 textbook*, launched at the 5th International '*Safeguarding Our Romani Language*' Conference in Strasbourg.

ERIAC also ran the International Program for Educators and Museum Professionals Dedicated to the Memory of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust between June and October as well as launching the Roma Holocaust Voices Fellowship.

The **Barvalipe Roma Online University** launched two new Barvalipe Masterclass lectures and the **ERIACNET4EU** project hosted a second training in the series ***ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE’S FUTURE*** on Romani History & Culture. Finally, ERIAC continued to develop institutional partnerships, including with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the Council of Europe’s Observatory on History Teaching in Europe, to ensure Roma history remains on the agenda.

Beyond education, ERIAC also continued to strive to effect change for Roma through policy-making and advocacy. In 2024, ERIAC launched a major new project titled ***‘Reclaiming Our Past, Rebuilding Our Future: New Approaches to Fighting Antigypsyism’*** (JEKHIPE). The project was launched on 10 April and seeks to address some of the key structural and institutional obstacles in achieving justice and equality in collaboration with a consortium of partners.

Meanwhile, the ***‘ERIAC Network to Advance Roma Inclusion by Combating and Preventing Antigypsyism in the EU’*** (ERIACNET4EU) project continued to leverage culture and cultural diplomacy to promote an equal and inclusive EU. Under a Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission, in 2024 ERIACNET4EU awarded nine grants to cultural activities lasting between 6 and 12 months and hosted a series of capacity building training sessions and meetings for ERIAC members, such as the WOMNET meeting on 28 October.

In 2024, ERIAC held high-level meetings and welcomed diplomatic delegations to ensure that Roma representation in arts and culture remained a priority on the international agenda. This included close collaboration with the **Council of Europe**, where ERIAC made substantial contributions to the Steering Committee on Anti-Discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion, as well as the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues. Highlights also included a visit to the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for discussions with **Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Anna Lührmann**, and hosting the **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O’Flaherty**, at ERIAC’s headquarters.

ERIAC SERBIA IN 2024

In 2024, ERIAC Serbia continued to strengthen its institutional capacity, contribute meaningfully to Roma cultural activities and advance systemic change.

The organization presented two major art exhibitions during the year. The first, ***“(In)visibility – Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation”***, ran from 8 April to 19 July and opened with a vibrant evening of performances, reflections, and remarks from distinguished guests, including **Her Excellency Madam Maja Gojković**, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia. The second



exhibition, **“Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide,”** opened on 13 September and will remain on view through June 2025.

ERIAC Serbia also led the initiative **“Addressing Antigypsyism and Mainstreaming Roma Issues in the Western Balkans and Türkiye”**, as part of the Roma Integration – Phase III Joint Programme of the European Union and Council of Europe. Key activities included a training workshop titled **Transforming Media Narratives: Fostering Cooperation and Skill Development Among Media Professionals in the WB6 Region and Türkiye to Address Antigypsyism**, held in Belgrade from 13 to 15 September 2024, and the launch of a **Regional Media Mentorship Program**.

Strategic advocacy and institutional partnerships remained a central focus. ERIAC Serbia formalized future collaboration through memorandums of understanding with three museums and memorial institutions. It also participated in a number of high-level engagements, including a meeting with the **President of Serbia, Aleksandar Vučić**.

SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT AND RESULTS

In 2024, ERIAC’s social media communities and presence continued to grow steadily. By the end of 2024, ERIAC had 29,400 followers on Facebook and 5,200 followers on Instagram. Both communities grew by approximately 400 followers since the end of 2023.

FACEBOOK		INSTAGRAM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 52 new published posts• 29,400 followers• 5,100 interactions		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 107 new published posts• 5,200 followers• 180,200 views and 2,300 content interactions• 65,600 unique content viewers	

FINANCIAL HEALTH

The financial operations of ERIAC in 2024 reflect the organization's dynamic response to a rapidly evolving cultural and political landscape. The finance team managed the complexities of closing multiple grant cycles (ERIACNET4EU, International Outreach, and RomHeritage), while also navigating stringent EU reporting standards. These efforts paralleled strategic expansion initiatives, such as the establishment of ERIAC Romania, and the development of new partnerships requiring robust financial oversight and forecasting. The total amount of submitted funding applications in 2024 was €11,496,781.80. Overall, the total revenue achieved represents 70% of the target set in the Financial Plan for 2024. Throughout both budget planning and execution,

ERIAC's management maintained a strong focus on efficient and cost-effective use of resources. Expenditures in 2024 were carefully managed within the budgetary framework established by the Board in 2020 and aligned with consultant recommendations on employment and compensation.

Moreover, the continued diversification of ERIAC's programming in film, language education, and transnational cultural policy necessitated adaptive budgeting to accommodate both high-impact cultural events and emerging opportunities. Despite funding constraints in certain areas (e.g. Film initiatives), ERIAC successfully leveraged existing funds and institutional alliances to sustain its core mission and expand its reach.

ERAC'S YEAR AT A GLANCE

JANUARY

ERAC launches 2024 Membership call with renewed process resulting in **41 new members**

MAY

ERAC partners with Marché du Film and Think Film Impact at **Cannes Film Festival**

Performance piece '**CORE – Drept la Replică**' and workshop are held to commemorate Roma Resistance Day

ERAC publishes a '**Position Paper with Policy Recommendations on Roma Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching**'

AUGUST

ERAC and the Fortunoff Archive launch **Roma Holocaust Voices Fellowship**

'**CARGO – of Dust and Ashes**' exhibition opens at ERAC with special panel event to commemorate 80th anniversary of the Roma Holocaust

NOVEMBER

In Search of Eldorado – Roma and Sinti in the Struggle for Representation, a monograph by Nihad Nino Pušija is published with an event featuring a panel and a performance by **Delaine Le Bas**

ERAC hosts concluding panel for the **International Program for Educators and Museum Professionals Dedicated to the Memory of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust**

ERAC co-hosts 5th International '**Safeguarding Our Romani Language**' **Conference** and launches Romani Čhib B1 textbook

APRIL

ERAC contribute to, supports, observes and connected through three initiatives in the frame of the **Venice Biennale**

ERAC co-hosts **ANDO FORO** panel and performance of **Romáland**

ERAC launches new project '**Reclaiming Our Past, Rebuilding Our Future: New Approaches to Fighting Antigypsyism**' (JEKHIPE)

ERAC Serbia launches exhibition **[IN]VISIBILITY: Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation**

JUNE/JULY

ERACNET4EU awards **9 competitive grants** and hosts series of **5 capacity building workshops**

SEPTEMBER

ERACNET4EU hosts the second online training '**ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE'S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU'S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS**'

ERAC Serbia holds regional training on '**Transforming Media Narratives**'

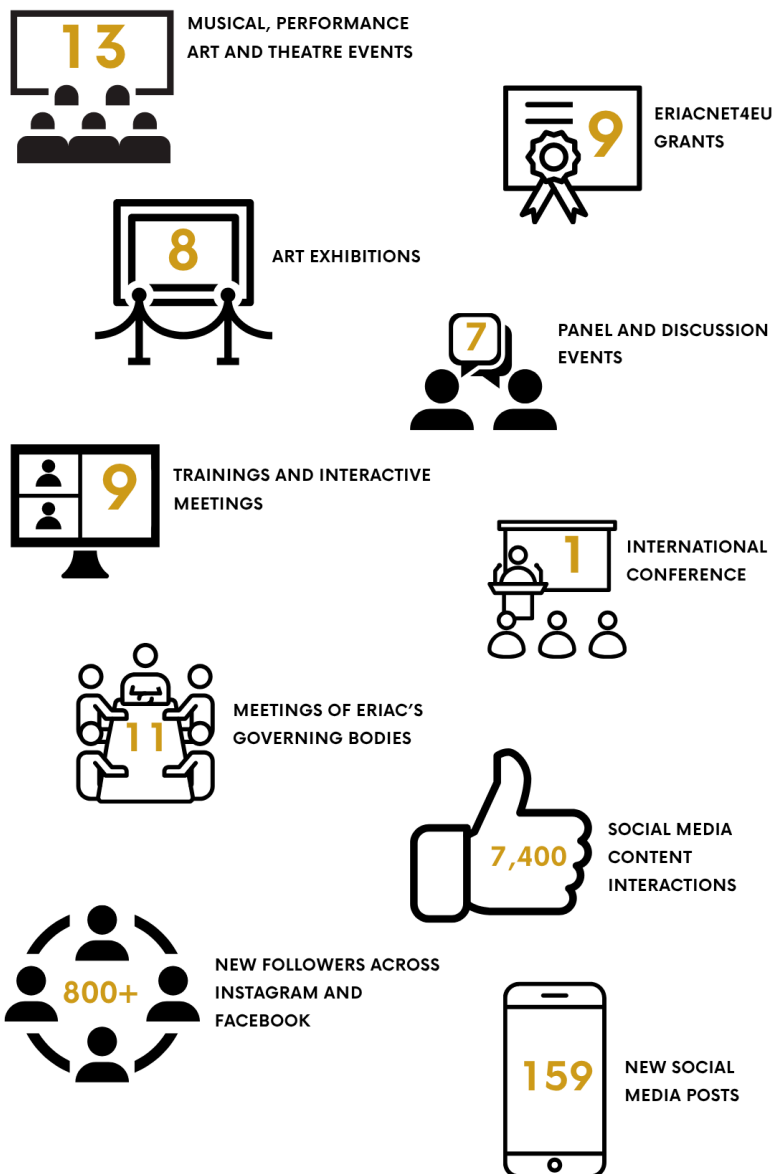
ERAC Serbia opens exhibition '**Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide**'

DECEMBER

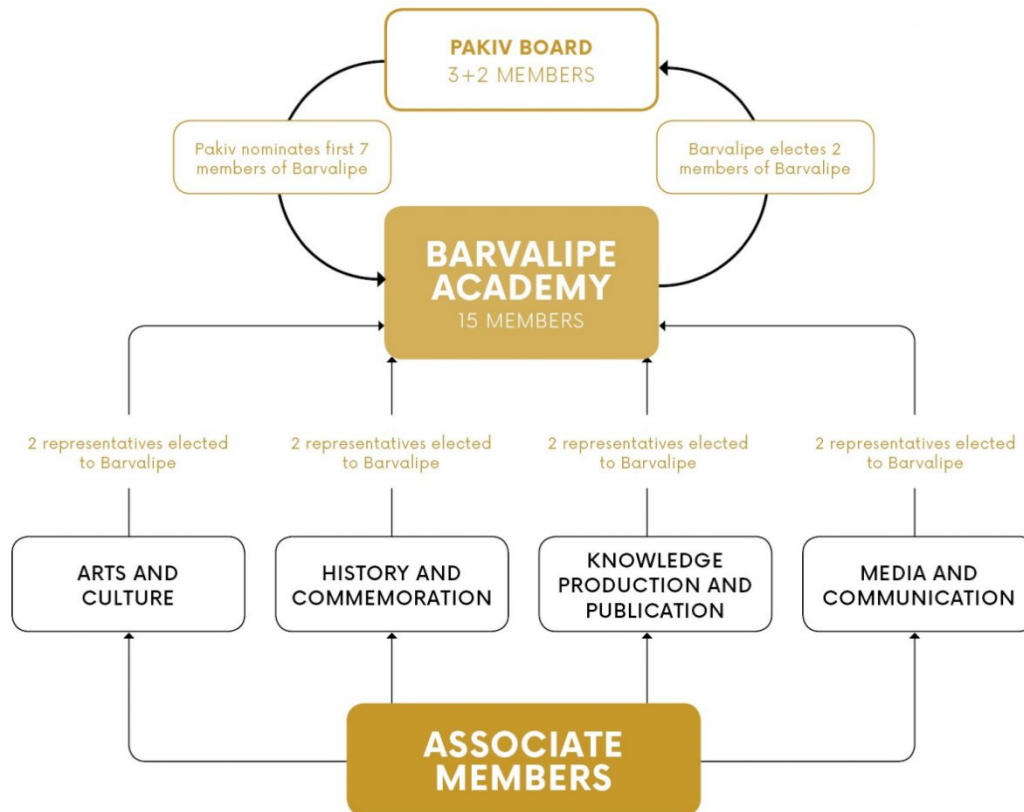
Two-day event '**ROMA Art of Assembly**' is hosted in Berlin, for ERAC General Assembly and to commemorate conclusion of the **ROMHERITAGE** Project

ERAC'S YEAR IN NUMBERS

ERAC and ERAC Serbia



ERAC INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE



PAKIV BOARD

The ERIAC Board is composed of 5 members: 3 permanent members and 2 members nominated by the Barvalipe Academy.

Permanent members of the ERIAC Board:

- **Zeljko Jovanovic**, Chair of the Board, Open Society Roma Initiatives Office
- **Bjorn Berge**, Council of Europe
- **Sead Kazanxhiu**, Deputy Chair of the Board, Alliance pour l'Institut Rom Européenne pour les Arts et la Culture

Members nominated by the Barvalipe Academy:

- Gilda-Nancy Horvath
- Dr. Ismael Cortés Gómez

Short biographies of Pakiv Board Members

Zeljko Jovanovic
Chair of the Board



Zeljko Jovanovic is the president of the Roma Foundation for Europe. 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.

Bjørn Berge has been serving as the Council of Europe's Deputy Secretary General since 1 March 2021. In this role, he is involved in key areas 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. Previously, 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. 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 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.

Bjørn Berge
Council of Europe



Sead Kazanxhiu
Deputy Chair of the Board



Sead Kazanxhiu 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.

Gilda 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 Editor-In-Chief. She is also 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.

Gilda-Nancy Horvath



Nancy Black is the artist alter ego of Gilda Horvath, producing 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. 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 Gómez



Ismael Cortés holds 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. Cortés 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*.

ERiac Board Activities in 2024

The **XIII ERIAC BOARD MEETING** took place on **10 June 2024 in Berlin**.¹ The Board continued to implement the ERIAC Strategy 2021-2025, including by:

- Passing 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.
 - Board Resolution No. 2.1/10062024 under agenda item 2.1:
 - 2.1 The Board approved the Financial Status Report April 2024.
 - Board Resolution No. 2.2/10062024 under agenda item 2.2:
 - 2.2 The Board approved Status Report Narrative May 2024.



¹ Find the abridged minutes of the [2024 Pakiv Board Meetings on the ERIAC Website](#).

- 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.
- The Board also:
 - Confirmed that Mr. Björn Berge and Mr. Ismael Cortes will be reappointed for the second term as ERIAC PAKIV Board Members in 2025.
 - Instructed management to prepare the Barvalipe Academy Members election process via mail exchange and online voting mechanism noting that Board appointments must be completed by October 22, 2024.
 - Planned to 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.
 - Acknowledged the Mid-Year Status Report including closer co-operation between ERIAC and the CoE.
 - Set 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.
 - Took note of the Field Context Network Analysis and Venues 2025-2030 documents written by management.
 - Decided that Management’s deadline for the Strategy 2026-30 would be February 2025, before the expiration of current Pakiv Board memberships.

The special XIV ERIAC Board Meeting was held on 5 September 2024 online. At this meeting, the Board discussed ERIAC’s Organs Process for Strategy and the Framework Document for ERIAC Strategy 2026-2030.

The **XV ERIAC BOARD MEETING** took place on **2 December 2024 in Berlin**. The Board continued to implement the ERIAC Strategy 2021-2025, including by passing the following resolutions:

- Board Resolution No. 1.1/02122024 under Agenda Item 1:
 - 1.1 The Board approved the Narrative Report 2024 as presented by the executive director and as previously discussed and approved by the Barvalipe Academy, based on the strategic pillars and the Strategy 2021-25.

- Board Resolution No. 1.2/02122024 under Agenda Item 1:
 - 1.2 The Board approved the Financial Status Report 2024 as presented by the finance manager and as previously discussed and approved by the Barvalipe Academy, based on the strategic pillars and the Strategy 2021-25.
- Board Resolution No. 3.1/02122024 under agenda item 3:
 - 3.1 The Board approved the ERIAC Strategy Draft 2026-30 November 2024 and preliminary approved Venues Plan 2026-30, requesting management to narrow down the venues while carrying on with the strategy plan.
- Board Resolution No. 4.1/02122024 under agenda item 4:
 - 4.1 The Board approved the Activity Plan 2025.
- Board Resolution No. 4.2/02122024 under agenda item 4:
 - 4.2 The Board approved the Revenue and Financial Plan 2025.

BARVALIPE ACADEMY

Election of new members

The Barvalipe Academy is composed of 15 members who are highly regarded, publicly acknowledged individuals, with competencies in the areas covered by ERIAC activities. Upon expiration of the mandates of the existing members of the Academy, new members were appointed in 2024 through a process regulated by the ERIAC Statute. In accordance with the ERIAC statute, seven members of the Barvalipe Academy were nominated by ERIAC's Pakiv Board.

- **Nedjo Osman** was re-elected for a second and final three-year term
- **Raul Carstoea** was re-elected for a second and final three-year term
- **Jake Bowers**
- **Colin Clark**
- **Bajsa Arifovska**
- **Israel Galvan de los Reyes**
- **Ioanida Costache**

The remaining eight members of the Barvalipe Academy were elected by ERIAC members of each of the four thematic sections. The extensive nomination and election process was held online throughout October and candidates were formally appointed during the VII General Assembly meeting in November 2024.

- Arts and Culture:
 - **Sami Mustafa**
 - **Isaac Blake**
- Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture:
 - **Carol Silverman**
 - **Dezso Mate**
- History and Commemoration:
 - **Pierre Chopinaud**
 - **Rafael Buhigas Jiménez**
- Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture:
 - **Vera Lacková**
 - **Avni Mustafa**

During the first meeting of the newly appointed Barvalipe Academy members, the representatives elected **Jake Bowers** as Chair and **Ioanida Costache** as Vice Chair.

Short biographies of New Barvalipe Academy Members

Bajsa Arifovska



Ms. Bajsa Arifovska, born in 1978 in Kočani, Macedonia, is a renowned multi-instrumentalist and professor of traditional Macedonian instruments. She studied at the Skopje Music Academy and began her professional career with the Dragan Dautovski Quartet, touring internationally and mastering instruments like the kaval, gajda, tambura, and tapan. Bajsa has actively promoted Macedonian and Roma folk music, arranging and conducting the Mandolin Orchestra at the Darhia Roma Cultural Center since 2003 to 2009. She has taught at the Ilija Nikolovski-Luj State Musical High School since 2000 to 2013. Currently she is working in the National Ensemble for Folk Dances and songs – “Tanec” in Skopje, where continue her professional work with composing, arranging and performing. Her work blends Macedonian folk traditions with modern world music influences. She has recorded multiple albums and composed music for the ballet “Broken Dream.” Bajsa continues to perform, teach, and inspire new generations of musicians, making her one of Macedonia’s most respected and versatile musicians.

Mr. Isaac Blake is a Romany dancer, choreographer, and cultural advocate dedicated to promoting Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller (GRT) arts, culture, and representation. He trained at the LABAN Dance Centre (London) and the Martha Graham School (New York), later working in Montreal and across the UK as a choreographer for institutions such as the Wales Millennium Centre and the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, where he continues to teach.

As the Executive Director of the Romani Cultural & Arts Company (RCAC) in Cardiff, UK, Isaac has played a key role in developing and delivering cultural, educational, and advocacy programs for GRT communities. Under his leadership, RCAC has expanded from a voluntary group to a major NGO, working on site-based arts projects, policy development, and cultural preservation across Wales and the UK.

Isaac has also led significant international initiatives, including serving as Dance Curator for RomArchive, where he collaborated with researchers to document and showcase Romani dance traditions globally. His commitment to LGBTQI+ GRT rights has been instrumental in amplifying the voices of GRT individuals, advocating for visibility, and producing the first international LGBTQI+ GRT spoken history archive alongside a complementary e-book. His work continues to shape artistic and cultural policy, strengthen representation, and support social change for GRT communities in the UK and beyond.

Isaac Blake



Jake Bowers

*Chair of the Barvalipe
Academy*

Mr. Jake Bowers is a Romani journalist, producer, and filmmaker with over 20 years of experience in media and storytelling. He trained as a journalist with Johnston Press and the BBC before founding Gypsy Media Company Ltd in 2007, an independent production company dedicated to amplifying marginalized voices in mainstream media.

Through Gypsy Media Company Ltd, Jake has produced impactful content for major broadcasters and platforms, specializing in projects that challenge stereotypes and promote diverse narratives. His notable works include the 2020 remake of George Michael's "Freedom" music video, celebrating LGBTQ+ rights, and Virgin Music's "Alive" video for Chase and Status, which honored Native American culture. In 2022, he produced a cinematic epic poem as part of ERIAC's Proud Roma campaign, showcasing Romani resilience and identity.

Beyond filmmaking, Jake is also an artist blacksmith, currently working on a major sculptural project that will see 12 sculptures commemorating Romani and Traveller history and culture placed across the UK. His multidisciplinary approach to storytelling—through journalism, film, and visual arts—continues to contribute to cultural representation and social advocacy.

Dr Raul Cârstocea is Assistant Professor in Twentieth-Century European History at Maynooth University, Ireland. He has previously worked at the University of Leicester, the Europa Universität Flensburg, the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg, Germany, and at University College London. He has held research fellowships at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, the Institute for East and Southeast European Studies in Regensburg, the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, King's College London, and the Imre Kertész Kolleg Jena. His research interests focus on anti-Semitism, fascism, nationalism, and the Holocaust, and more broadly on state formation and nation-building processes in 19th and 20th century Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and their consequences for minority groups. He is co-editor of the 'Modern History of Politics and Violence' book series at Bloomsbury and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Observatory on History Teaching in Europe at the Council of Europe.

Dr. Raul Cârstocea



Mr. Pierre Chopinaud has been a key Roma activist in France for over a decade, advocating for Roma rights, challenging systemic discrimination, and working to improve living conditions, education, and healthcare for Roma communities. As one of the few voices championing this cause, alongside activists like Samir Mile and Anina Ciuciu, he has played a crucial role in fostering social inclusion and justice.

Pierre Chopinaud



A writer and political scientist, Pierre has significantly contributed to the promotion of Romani literature in France. Since 2005, his translations of Romani poetry have been featured in major literary reviews. His 2020 novel (Editions POL) and 2021 essay on political activism highlight his commitment to shaping public discourse on Roma issues.

Beyond literature, Pierre has actively worked to preserve Roma history and culture. In 2016, he initiated a remembrance event in Paris St Denis, emphasizing the Roma presence in Europe since 1427. As an organizer with La Voix des Roms, he has been instrumental in promoting Romani Resistance Day (May 16), a key symbol of Roma resilience and pride.

His activism, literary achievements, and leadership in Roma advocacy make him a strong figure in the movement for Roma rights and cultural recognition in France.

Ms. Patricia Caro Maya is a Spanish Member of the European Parliament (MEP), psychologist, and feminist activist dedicated to advocating for Roma rights, particularly for Roma women and girls. She assumed her seat in the European Parliament in November 2023, representing the Podemos party.

A strong voice against antigypsyism, she focuses on legislative initiatives to combat discrimination, improve education for Roma children, and address multiple discrimination against Roma women, including obstetric violence. Patricia is also actively engaged in Holocaust remembrance efforts for Roma and Sinti and encourages greater Roma participation in politics.

As one of the few Romani representatives in the European Parliament, she continues to push for structural change and equal opportunities for Roma across Europe.

Patricia Caro Maya



Professor Colin Robert Clark

Professor Colin Robert Clark has worked in UK higher education for more than thirty years. He is currently an Associate Dean (Research and Innovation) and Professor of Sociology and Social Policy in the School of Education and Social Sciences at the University of the West of Scotland (UWS). He joined UWS in 2013. Colin earned his PhD in Social Anthropology and Social Policy from the University of Edinburgh in 2001, working with Professor Judith Okely. Previously, Colin has held academic posts at Glasgow (1994-1996), Newcastle (1996-2005), and Strathclyde (2005-2013) Universities. His research is in the fields of Critical Romani Studies and Ethnic and Racial Studies, as well as looking at specific issues of migration, identity, and citizenship.

Colin has researched and published extensively in these related fields, and he has supervised and examined over 100 PhD students in his career. Some of the journals he has published in include Critical Romani

Studies, Romani Studies, Social Policy and Society, Scottish Affairs, People, Place and Policy, Radical Statistics, Journal of Social Security Law, Work, Employment and Society, and Journal of Oral History. Previous funders of Colin's work include Erasmus, British Academy, Scottish Government, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, and the Economic and Social Research Council.

Outside of UWS, Colin is a director of the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights, and a Trustee of Romano Lav (Roma Voice), both based in Glasgow, Scotland. He is also a member of the Research Advisory Group of the Scottish Human Rights Commission and advises the Scottish Government on Gypsy/Traveller matters, specifically in relation to sites and accommodation. Colin also acts as research advisor to the Traveller Movement and the Advisory Council for the Education of Romanies and Other Travellers, sitting on their respective executive committees.

Dr. Rafael Buhigas Jiménez was trained at the Complutense University in Spain dedicating all his research stages to Gitano/Romani history and culminating with the first PhD thesis written on this population during Francoism and from renewed approaches such as urban history and decolonial theory, to which is added the novel methodology of Critical Romani Studies being one of the precursors of it in Spain. He has been part of scientific committees, organization of seminars and teaching innovation projects around the world. In turn, he has been speaker and coordinator of workshops in more than a dozen national and international congresses, as well as a regular collaborator in institutions and media disseminating Romani history. He has carried out research stays in Argentina, Mexico, London and the United States, in different prestigious centers such as the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. An active participant in Roma social movements in Spain, Rafael focuses on Granada, where he lives in a neighbourhood with a significant Roma presence. He aims to use history and the humanities to bridge academic knowledge with municipal policies and community awareness. He is currently coordinating a research project on "The image of Roma in documentary cinema" at the Autonomous University of Madrid.

**Dr. Rafael Buhigas
Jiménez**



**Israel Galván de los
Reyes**



Mr. Israel Galván, born in Sevilla, Spain, is a revolutionary flamenco dancer and choreographer known for redefining the boundaries of flamenco. Coming from a family of flamenco artists, Galván has developed a unique style that blends traditional flamenco with contemporary performance art. His works often incorporate elements from various cultural rituals, including bullfighting and football, creating a multifaceted expression of flamenco. Galván has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Premio Nacional de Danza (Spain) and the Bessie Performance Award (USA). He is also an associated artist at Le Théâtre de la Ville, Paris.

Ms. Vera Lacková is a film director and producer from Slovakia, currently based in Vienna, Austria. She is the founder of the production company Media Voice and brings a unique insider perspective to ethnic and political Roma themes through her work. Her debut feature-length documentary, *How I Became a Partisan*, explores the forgotten stories of Roma partisans, including her great-grandfather Ján Lacko. The film premiered at the goEast Film Festival in Wiesbaden in 2021, where it received the Federal Foreign Office for Cultural Diversity Award. Lacková has participated in the IDFA Academy and is a member of the European Film Academy. Her upcoming project, *Do Magic*, supported by ERIAC, delves into Romani folklore and intergenerational trauma from the Romani Holocaust. Scheduled for completion in 2026, the film was presented at the Marché du Film in Cannes. Vera's work is recognized for its powerful storytelling and advocacy for Roma representation in cinema.

Vera Lacková



Dr. Dezsó Mate

*Deputy Chair of the
Barvalipe Academy*



Dr. Dezsó Mate is a sociologist with a PhD from Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary. Currently, he is a Research Fellow at the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Studies, Europa-Universität Flensburg, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Research Centre on Antigypsyism, Heidelberg University. Dr. Mate is also a Barvalipe Academy (Knowledge Production, Research, and Publication) member at the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture—ERAC, and a visiting lecturer at Södertörn University's Critical Romani Studies Department in Stockholm. He is an Alumnus of the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (KWI) in Essen. Dr. Mate previously held positions as a Research Fellow and Course Leader at the Central European University – Romani Studies Program in Budapest. He also served as a Visiting Research Associate at the University of Sussex – Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research from 2015 to 2017. Between 2013 and 2018, he contributed as a Junior Research Fellow at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences – Institute for Minority Studies. His research interests encompass dimensions of intersectional and academic antigypsyism, structural racism, social movements, and resilience. His dissertation focused on academic antigypsyism with a social-psychological analysis of resilience.

Mr. Avni Mustafa is a seasoned human rights advocate, trainer, and expert on Roma inclusion, with over 20 years of experience addressing minority rights and fostering inclusion both in Kosovo and across the European Union. Throughout his career, Avni has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to improving the rights, opportunities, and living conditions of marginalized and minority communities, particularly focusing on Roma inclusion and empowerment.

Avni Mustafa



Since 2017, Avni has been actively involved with the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), contributing to initiatives that promote Roma identity, cultural heritage, and societal inclusion. On a national level in Kosovo, he holds the position of Executive Director at Roma Versitas Kosovo, where he leads strategic programs, capacity-building efforts, and advocacy campaigns that address educational, economic, and social challenges faced by the Roma community.

With his wealth of experience in community development, training facilitation, and policy engagement, Avni has become a recognized figure in the regional and European human rights landscape. His work reflects a deep understanding of minority rights issues and an unwavering dedication to creating sustainable, equitable change for marginalized groups.

Sami Mustafa



Mr. Sami Mustafa, a French-Kosovar Roma filmmaker born in Pristina in 1984, is a storyteller of resilience and an advocate for Roma voices in cinema. As the founder of Romawood and the Rolling Film Festival, he has created platforms that amplify Roma narratives and challenge stereotypes. He is also an honorary member of ERIAC and a member of the European Film Academy.

Since 2003, Sami has directed and produced over 50 short documentaries, music videos, and a feature-length film. His 2007 documentary *Road to Home* was the only Kosovar work showcased at the Cannes Film Festival, marking a milestone for Roma representation. His internationally acclaimed 2015 film *Trapped by Law* won multiple awards and was screened across Europe.

Beyond filmmaking, Sami is dedicated to preserving Roma heritage. His 2021 book *Tales from My Grandparents* collects traditional Roma folk stories, inspired by the oral narratives of his childhood. Through the Rolling Film Festival, he has curated over 500 films, produced 50 local works, and engaged thousands in conversations on Roma identity.

Sami's work bridges past and present, reclaiming Roma history through cinema and literature, ensuring that Roma stories are told by Roma voices.

Born in Skopje, Macedonia, Nedjo Osman began his acting career at the Pralipe Roma Theater before graduating from the Film and Theater Academy in Novi Sad. He performed at the National Theater KPGT in Subotica and Serbian National Theaters in Novi Sad and Belgrade.

Nedjo Osman

During the Balkan war, he moved to Germany, where his performances at Theater Mülheim an der Ruhr earned critical acclaim. He has taken leading roles in numerous productions, receiving awards such as the Golden Laurel Wreath (MESS Sarajevo, 1991) and the Yul Brynner Prize

(Berlin, 2003). In 2017, he received the Šaip Jusuf Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to Roma culture. Since 1996, Osman has worked as a freelance actor and director, co-leading Theater TKO / Choreodrama – Romano Theater in Cologne. He has appeared in over 30 films and TV series in Germany, Macedonia, and Serbia. As a journalist, he produced and moderated Romanes-language programs at Radio Multi-Kulti (2000-2002) and Deutsche Welle (2002-2014).

A poet and translator, Osman's work captures Roma life, identity, and love. He has also been an active social worker and mediator, promoting Roma culture and theater to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding between Roma and non-Roma communities.

Carol Silverman, Professor Emerita of Cultural Anthropology and Folklore at the University of Oregon, has dedicated over four decades to the study and promotion of Balkan Romani music, culture, and human rights. Through her extensive fieldwork in Bulgaria, North Macedonia, New York, and Western Europe, she explores the intricate connections between music, politics, ritual, and gender within Romani communities. Her scholarly and activist work has made significant contributions to understanding the cultural politics and dynamics of Balkan music in diaspora contexts.

**Professor Carol
Silverman**



Her landmark publication, *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora* (2012, Oxford University Press), which received the Society for Ethnomusicology's book prize, delves into the complexities of how Romani music operates as both a valued element of global world music markets and a symbol of multicultural identity in cosmopolitan areas. Following this, her book *Balkanology* (2021, Bloomsbury), analyzes the history, politics, and aesthetics of Bulgarian wedding music. Her recent research examines the social and economic aspects of Romani migration via music in transnational contexts. Silverman's extensive publications address critical issues such as the globalization of "Gypsy" music, focusing on its performance, consumption, marketing, and production while critically assessing themes of representation and appropriation. As a committed activist, she collaborates with the US-based NGO Voice of Roma and serves as a curator for Balkan music for the international digital platform RomArchive.eu. Additionally, she is a professional vocalist and educator, deeply engaged in teaching and performing Balkan music.

Her nomination to the Barvalipe Academy is based on her profound impact on cultural understanding, aiming to enrich the academy's mission with her expertise in human rights advocacy for and among Roma.

Barvalipe Academy Meetings in 2024

The Barvalipe Academy held its XI and XII meetings on 26 February and 19 September 2024 respectively. Both meetings were held online.

At the XI meeting of the Academy,² the board discussed:

- Institutional Updates:
 - New membership process established by the Board in 2024 requiring all members—including the Barvalipe Academy members—to re-apply, participate in the interview process and contribute.
 - Process for new appointments by the Board and the General Assembly, noting that the ERIAC management planned to follow up in writing in the second half of the year.
- Review of the ERIAC Calendar of Activities 2024
- Presentation of ERIACNET4EU 2024:
 - Highlights presented on the regranting process and funding limitations.
 - Barvalipe Academy role as the Monitoring Committee to the project noted.
 - Overview of new position paper on history education being developed coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the 2nd of August in 2024.
- Proposals for closer cooperation with ERIAC members and the ERIAC Board:

At the XII meeting of the Academy,³ the board discussed:

- Presentation of ERIACNET4EU status:
 - The membership process was finalized, resulting in a total of 141 members, up from 105 in 2023.
 - Implementation of the regranting scheme through which ERIAC financed 9 of members for a total of €83,750.
 - Thematic Section meetings were organized and, based on the feedback collected during these meetings, five capacity-building activities were organized, with a total of 95 participants. There was also a Training Course on Romani Identity, History, and Culture, which was attended by around 70 participants.
 - The remaining activities to be implemented by the end of 2024 included ERIACWOMNET, an event dedicated to the women of our network, and the

² Find [the full minutes of the XI meeting of the Barvalipe Academy](#) on the ERIAC Website.

³ Find the [full minutes of the XII meeting of the Barvalipe Academy](#) on the ERIAC Website.

position paper. The final activity of the project was the General Assembly, planned for December 5-6 in Berlin.

- Discussion of the ERIAC strategy 2026 – 2030, including:
 - The potential role of AI in advancing Roma rights, history, and culture
 - The role of film in amplifying Roma voices, including documentaries and short films given budget constraints.
 - Roma history and language education as key parts of the strategy.
 - Involvement of Roma scholars in academia and addressing misinformation and stereotypes within academic institutions.
- The election process of the new Barvalipe Academy by 22 October and the General Assembly on December 5th, with a continuation of discussions on strategy development on December 6th.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The 2024 Membership Call was launched on 22 January – and remained open until 23 February. Information about ERIAC membership was available in **16 languages** (Albanian, Bulgarian, Catalan, English, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanes, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish and Ukrainian).

The call resulted in **185 applications**, including from **135 individuals** (78 applications were received from individuals who self-identify as Roma) and **47 institutions**. This represents a 330% increase from 2023, when 56 applications were received.

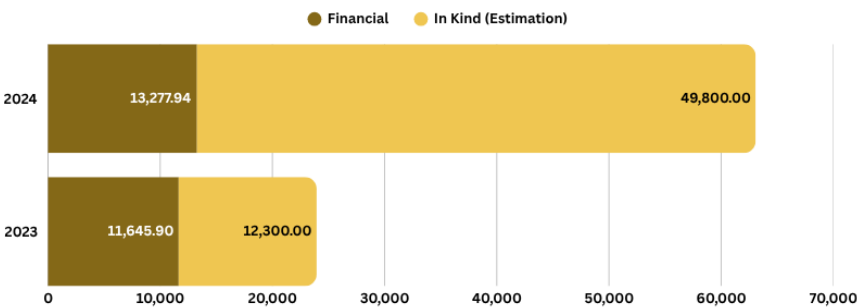
In 2024, following a series of membership discussions in 2023 and at Board request, ERIAC introduced an improved membership procedure to ensure greater engagement and commitment to ERIAC founding principles. This year, an interview process was implemented. Section coordinators, together with the ERIAC team, conducted **146 interviews**.

At the end of 2024, there were a total of **146 members** in the ERIAC community, including:

- **5 Pakiv Board Members**
- **15 Barvalipe Academy Members**
- **126 Associate Members**
 - 98 Individual Associate Members
 - 43 Institutional Associate Members

Financial Contributions

Financial Contributions	13,277.94 €
In Kind Contributions (Estimation)	49,800 €
Total (Estimation)	63,077.94 €



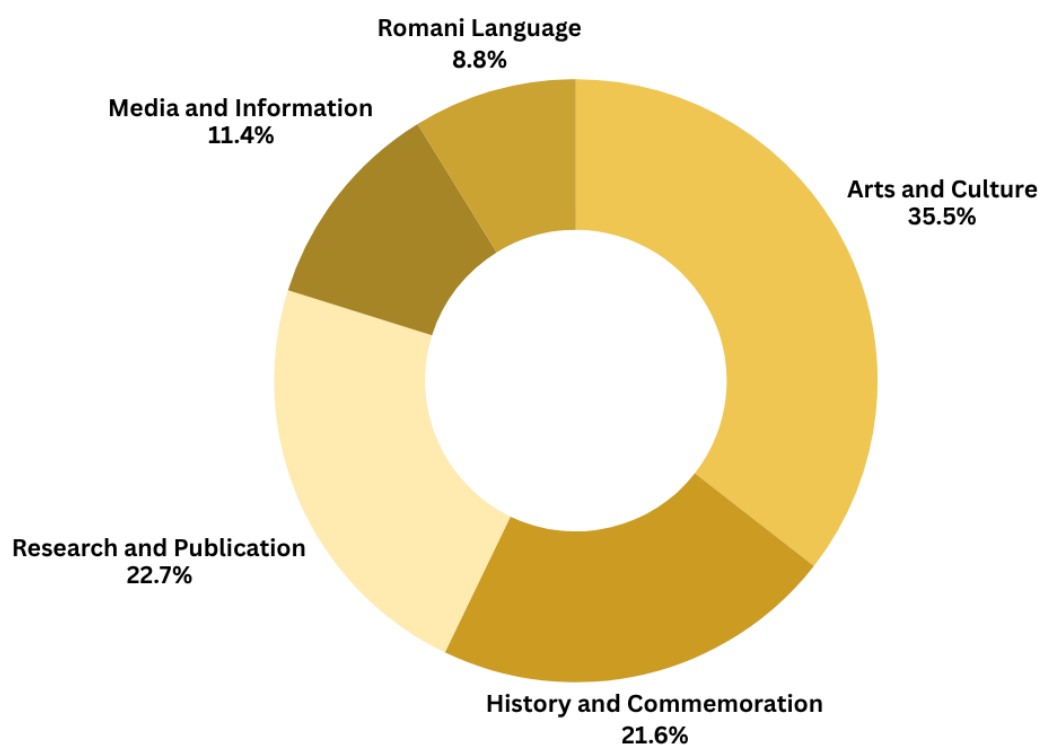
Financial and estimated in-kind contributions for 2023 and 2024.

Thematic Sections

The ERIAC Thematic Section meetings, held on 7 and 10 May 2024, gathered 73 participants, including members, Section Coordinators and ERIAC staff. These meetings provided a platform to present ERIAC membership opportunities, foster discussions on member needs, and explore ideas. Each session, lasting 1 hour and 20 minutes, culminated in the selection of capacity-building topics tailored to the thematic sections.

Thematic section membership

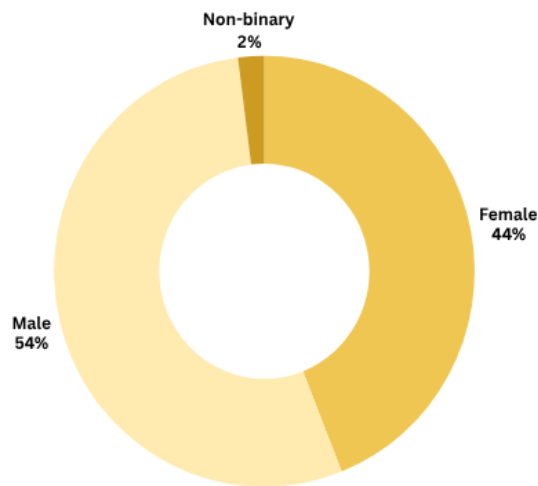
Arts and Culture	97
History and Commemoration	59
Research and Publication/ Knowledge Production	62
Media and Information	31
Romani Language	24



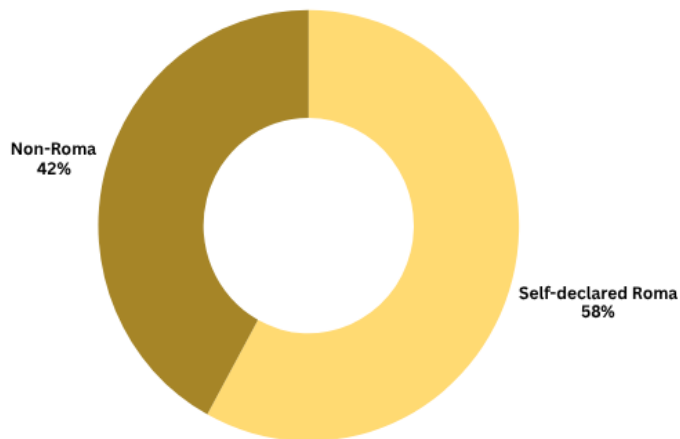
Distribution of Associate Members by Thematic Section in 2024.

Membership Composition

Gender breakdown



Ethnic composition



Geographic composition

ERIAC members come from: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kosovo, Lithuania, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States

ERAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

On December 5–6 2024, ERAC hosted the *Roma Art of Assembly* at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, a hybrid event bringing together members, partners, and supporters to celebrate heritage, culture, and the power of the Roma community.

The Opening Night of the Assembly program on 5 December featured a video address from **Dr. Anna Lührmann**, Minister of State for Europe and Climate at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, highlighting the significance of supporting Roma rights and cultural recognition. **Mr. Zeljko Jovanovic**, Chairman of the ERAC Board and Director of the Roma Foundation for Europe, presented the keynote, reflecting on the Assembly's mission and the collective power of the Roma cultural movement. At the event, **Ms. Timea Junghaus**, Executive Director of ERAC, launched the freshly elected Barvalipe Academy, the advisory and strategic body shaping ERAC's future. The Assembly also commemorated the achievements of the **ROMHERITAGE project**.

The event featured musical performances from:

- **Zea (Alžběta Ferencová)** from the Czech Republic, accompanied by **Antonín Dlapa** on guitar and **Peter Hrnčirik** on cajón.
- **Bajsa Arifovska**, from North Macedonia, blending traditional Macedonian instruments with world music, alongside the Slovenian piano and percussion duo **Harmellogic**.
- A DJ set by **Aldessa**, a Roma feminist and artist from Romania whose music and activism amplify Roma voices.

The second day of the Assembly program was an opportunity for the ERAC Board, Barvalipe Academy, associate members, and ERAC staff to gather for reflection on the achievements of the previous year, debate the new strategy for 2026–2030 and discuss ERAC's strategic pillars. The General Assembly meeting resulted in a successful vote to replace the **Open Society Foundations** with the **Roma Foundation for Europe** as a permanent member.⁴

Roma Art of Assembly 2024 was supported by the Council of Europe, German Federal Foreign Office, Open Society Foundations, and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Union. The Roma Art of Assembly ceremony on 5 December was livestreamed on ERAC's Facebook page and YouTube channel. The programme on 6 December could be attended by members in person and online via Zoom.

⁴ Read the full [minutes of the 7th General Assembly meeting](#) on the ERAC Website.



ERAC STRATEGY 2021-2025

ERAC Theory of Change⁵

ERAC has a 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 widespread and deep-rooted negative prejudice towards Roma in mainstream society”. To pursue this mission, ERAC shall use its unique advantages:

- embodiment within the multilateral system of the Council of Europe (CoE);
- Barvalipe Academy and ERAC membership that gives it an institutionalized source of legitimacy, talent and social capital;
- belonging to the Open Society Foundations (OSF) network, giving ERAC a possibility to work with other transnational Roma organizations, national advocacy campaigns and grassroots movements supported by OSF.

Between 2021 and 2025, it will use these advantages to pursue the following strategic components:

- 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.

⁵ ERAC’s 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.

- 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.

ERAC Strategic Objectives 2021–2025

Since 2021, ERAC 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 ERAC 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.

Process for ERIAC Strategy 2026–2030

In 2024, ERIAC began actively shaping the next phase of its strategic planning. The ERIAC Strategy 2026–2030 writing process has complex and inclusive, mobilizing the knowledge within many layers of the ERIAC organization and network: ERIAC associate membership, team and management, the BARVALIPE ACADEMY, and the ERIAC PAKIV Board. Through an online survey, the process also invited and considered the feedback of stakeholders, donors, diplomatic, and cultural partners. Throughout 2024, the following input has been gathered as part of the strategic reflection process:

1. XIII. Board Meeting discusses Management's Field Analysis Document
2. September 5, 2024, PAKIV Board provides Strategy Frame

3. September 19, 2024, Barvalipe Academy discusses recommendations for Strategy 2026-30
4. December 5, 2024 - conference of incoming and outgoing Barvalipe Academy members
5. December 6, 2024 – In the frame of ERIAC VI General Assembly, Moderated conference and with panel discussions and workshops, designed to reflect on the framework document for Strategy 2026-30 provided by the Board)
6. December 9 - December 31, 2024 Survey for Membership, partners and stakeholders.
7. Collaborative writing of Strategy Management, Barvalipe Chair, Barvalipe volunteers, and Section coordinators based on Board framework document

Throughout 2025, ERIAC management will continue to work on the strategy document with active support of the Barvalipe Academy members and the ERIAC Board. The new strategy draft is to be developed in mid-2025 and its final approval by the ERIAC Board is planned for the last quarter of 2025.

**I. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: BUILD
PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE TO UPSCALE THE
TALENT, VISIBILITY AND QUALITY
AMONG THE ROMA ARTISTS AND
CULTURAL PRODUCERS**



Luna De Rosa, RrOMA LEPANTO (detail),
2024, Mixed media on canvas 210 x 300cm.

2024 PRIORITY: FOSTER A NEW GENERATION OF ARTISTS, MUSICIANS, CURATORS, CULTURAL PRODUCERS WHO WILL BE ABLE TO FULFILL FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED BY THE LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS

IN FILM AND MUSIC

SCHOLARSHIP: ERIAC Scholarship for Producers to Join ImpACT Lab Workshops in Cannes

In 2024, ERIAC announced the forging of a new partnership with Marché du Film and ImpACT Lab, aiming to bridge the gap between Roma representation on film and the lived experience of contemporary Roma communities across Europe. The partnership aimed to address the film industry's responsibility in representing Roma in dominantly stereotypical and racist ways.

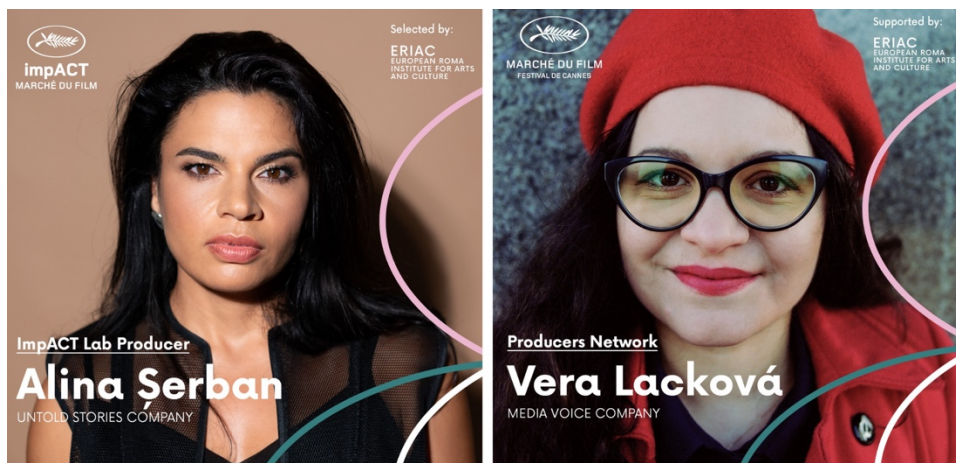
As part of the partnership, award-winning actress, director and producer, **Alina Şerban**, was awarded ERIAC's inaugural Scholarship for Producers, a scholarship enabling her participation in ImpACT Lab Workshops and Marché du Film and Producers Network events during the Cannes Film Festival between 7 and 18 May 2024.⁶



Şerban was awarded the Scholarship on the basis of her in-development debut feature film, “I Matter,” which resonated strongly with the criteria set out by ERIAC, demonstrating both quality and potential for international collaboration.

ERiac also supported the participation of **Vera Láckova** and her in-development documentary “Do Magic” in the Producers Network Events of Marché du Film.

⁶ For more information on the Workshops and Lab, visit the [ImpACT Lab webpage](#).



The selection process involved the review of eight portfolios submitted by self-declared Roma industry professionals dedicated to advancing Roma representation in film. The international jury was comprised of **Katalin Bársony** (Filmmaker, Executive Director of Romedia Foundation), **Jake Bowers** (Journalist, Producer, Filmmaker), **Sári Péli** (Line Producer, Production Manager), and **Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka** (Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture).

Their focus was on identifying emerging producers who not only showcased a commitment to fostering a more sustainable film industry but also met the stringent criteria set forth by Marché du Film. This comprehensive approach ensured that the chosen recipient possessed the necessary qualifications and dedication to effectively bridge the gap between cinematic portrayals and the lived experiences of contemporary Roma communities across Europe.

As a Jury we had the very difficult decision of deciding on only one Romani film maker to send to Cannes... [Șerban's film] had the greatest potential to break the glass ceiling that excludes Romani film makers from mainstream cinema.

Jake Bowers

ImpACT Lab is a program designed to foster international co-production opportunities and guide producers to create meaningful, sustainable, and impactful films. The workshop series aimed to foster an exchange of ideas between producers about sustainable production practices, inclusion in every step of production, definition of impactful content, and reflection on the current industry climate and its evolution. The goal was to generate discussion among the ten participants, allowing knowledge sharing and enriching the participants' perspectives based on the diverse backgrounds of the attendees.

On 14 August 2024, **Șerban**, shared her experiences from the ImpACT Workshop series in Cannes in a webinar where she discussed networking opportunities in Cannes, different aspects of film production and practical knowledge she gained during the workshops.

PARTNERSHIP: European Film Academy

ERIAC strengthened its connections with the European Film Academy (EFA), establishing a partnership that includes participation in the European Film Awards and brings collaboration prospects in Berlin in 2025, focused on diversity and inclusion.

EVENT: Antonio Piculeață's concert at Liebermann Villa / 4 November 2024

In cooperation with the Romanian Cultural Institute Berlin, Liebermann Villa am Wannsee, and the National Roma Culture Center "Romano Kher" from Romania, ERIAC supported the young musical talent, **Antonio Piculeață** to perform his debut concert at Villa Liebermann in Berlin on 4 November 2024. Piculeață was joined by harpist **Maria Bîldea**, and pianist **Iosef Ion Prunner**.

Guests gathered in the historic landmark for the Romanian Royal Music Salon, held in conjunction with the exhibition "**Dora Hitz: The Struggle between Old and New**", which commemorated the centenary of Dora Hitz's passing and her artistic legacy. Hitz, a prominent figure of the modernist movement in Berlin and a founding member of the Berliner Secession, was one of the artists closely associated with the Romanian royal court, with a significant influence on the European art scene.

Piculeață touched and impressed the public with his performance. His close friendship with harpist Maria Bîldea reflected in their profound interpretation of a repertoire featuring prominent composers including Jules Massenet and Vittorio Monti.

The event was held in partnership with the Romanian Cultural Institute "Titu Maiorescu" in Berlin [Rumänisches Kulturinstitut Berlin](#), Liebermann-Villa am Wannsee, National Roma Culture Center "Romano Kher" [Centrul National de Cultura a Romilor-Romano Kher](#), Union of Romanian Musicians [UCIMR](#), and "Constantin Silvestri" Association from Berlin.



IN VISUAL ARTS

RESIDENCY: Artists in Residence 2024 in Villa Romana, Florence

In 2024, ERIAC continued its successful partnership with Villa Romana, furthering a joint commitment to supporting contemporary artists of Roma heritage. This collaboration, which has flourished since 2020, remains a significant milestone in the recognition and promotion of Roma artistic practice.

Villa Romana, founded in 1905, has long been a hub for contemporary artistic production and international exchange. With its program of workshops, exhibitions, and a wide range of public events, Villa Romana strives to promote interaction between artists and the public, to engage and support different local communities and promote practices of sustainable togetherness and ecological imagination.

Through this vital cooperation, ERIAC and Villa Romana jointly provide two Roma artists with a funded residency, offering financial support and accommodation for a month-long stay at Villa Romana. This initiative not only nurtures artistic development but also elevates the visibility of Roma talent in contemporary art circles. For the 2024 residency cycle, **ERIAC and Villa Romana received 24 eligible applications**. The selection process was guided by a distinguished jury comprising experts in art and curation:

- **Elena Agudio** – Art historian, curator, director of Villa Romana
- **Daniel Baker** – Artist, curator of FUTUROMA at the 2019 Venice Biennale
- **Robert Gabris** – Artist, former Villa Romana resident
- **Timea Junghaus** – Curator, art historian, executive director of ERIAC
- **Maria Lind** – Curator, writer, educator, Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy of Sweden in Moscow

The jury established a rigorous selection protocol, ensuring that chosen artists were at a stage in their careers where the residency would yield the greatest benefit. They evaluated candidates on the maturity and excellence of their artistic portfolios, their innovative research methodologies, their commitment to technical refinement, and their potential for artistic growth.

Following a thorough review, the jury unanimously selected **Charly Bechaimont** and **Lila Loisse** as the 2024 residency awardees.

Villa Romana Artists in Residence for 2024

Charly Bechaimont, born in 1991 at Saint-Dié-Des-Vosges, France, is a graduate of the École Supérieure d'Art et de Design de Reims and winner of the Prix Prisme 2022. Based in the Grand-Est region of France, his work is largely transdisciplinary. His practice is mainly autobiographical, taking as its starting point his belonging to the travelling community, but also his homosexuality and the conditions under which these two identities cohabit or, on the contrary, repel each other. By invoking dirt, violence, the caravan or even the figure of the clown, he articulates essentializing clichés to better turn their meaning around and render their stigmatizing character inoperative. In his performances, his body is always at the center. He mistreats it, makes it suffer, in order to show the domination over flesh to which many of his identities are subjected. As for his plastic vocabulary, it's often made up of waste materials and toxic elements (such as lead, cigarette butts and used oil).



Charly Bechaimont: Politique de l'accident: deux hommes, faisant l'amour 2024, Caravan, dimensions variables. Photo @Eva Djen, courtesy of the artist.



Charly Bechaimont, Photo by Nihad Nino Pusija.

Lila Loisse: O baro Dével, installation view (2023), wood, UV prints on acrylic sheets, LED lights, with dimensions of 180x90cm and 100x60cm. Courtesy of the artist.



Lila Loisse, Photo by Nihad Nino Pusija.

Lila Loisse (2000), is a Belgian artist with Sinti Manouche and Moroccan heritage living and working in London. She holds a Foundation and Bachelor's diploma from the Arts University Bournemouth, Master's at the Royal College of Art in Contemporary Art practice and is currently pursuing her second Master at Royal College of Art in a Master of Research. In her work, she addresses traumas and taboos associated with her family's past as well as her own cultural background and identity. She deals with questions such as mental health, intergenerational trauma, and collective memory. These themes are explored through installations, videos, and sculptures in a wide range of media, such as clay, wood, metal, and 3D animations. She works a lot with archives and artefacts from her grandparents of Sinti origin.

EXHIBITION: *CARGO – of Dust and Ashes* / 31 July–1 November 2024

To commemorate 2 August, the 80th anniversary of the Roma Holocaust, ERIAC launched the exhibition ***CARGO – of Dust and Ashes***. The Roma Holocaust is a repressed trauma that has only recently resurfaced thanks to the intellectual and political efforts of Romani elites since the 1960s. In memory of all 500,000 Roma and Sinti murdered in Nazi-occupied Europe, ERIAC presented a collective reconstruction of history through the lenses of the youngest generations of artists of Roma origin.

CARGO brought together the work of three artists, **Charly Bechaimont** (FR), **Anita Horváth** (HU), and **Lila Loisse** (UK), representing Roma communities from across Europe. They embarked on a journey to uncover their own personal histories – of their ancestors, and of their broader communities. They explored the ways that trauma is transmitted through generations, aiming to create spaces for shared memory. By collectively reconstructing their past—a lieux de mémoire of this overwhelming and burdensome legacy—they cast light on a weight that is unseen, yet continues to exert its destructive presence upon the lives of Roma, Sinti, and Traveller communities.

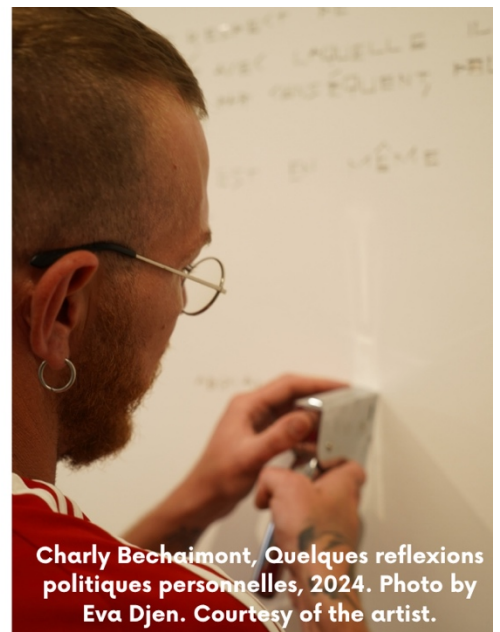
CARGO opened on 31 July 2024, featuring a performance piece and installation by **Charly Bechaimont**, *The Taste of Blood*,⁷ during which the artist delved into a deeply personal yet universally resonant exploration of memory, identity, and historical silence. The performance was



Anita Horváth, *You are not like Those*, 2024. Courtesy of the artist.



Lila Loisse, *Cargo*, 2024, Photograph by Roberts Jansons. Courtesy of the artist.



Charly Bechaimont, *Quelques réflexions politiques personnelles*, 2024. Photo by Eva Djen. Courtesy of the artist.

⁷ A full recording of Bechaimont's performance and other images from the exhibition can be found on the RomaMoMa Blog Post ['Reconstructing History "From Dust and Ashes" | Video'](#).

followed by a panel discussion, supported by *the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion of the State of Berlin*, with the artists in conversation with independent curator **Isabel Raabe**, one of the initiators of RomArchive – Digital Archive of Sinti and Roma.



2024 PRIORITY: TARGET HIGH-FLYING ART AND (CULTURAL) POLITICAL CIRCLES TO PLACE ROMA ON THE CULTURAL MAP OF THE WORLD, TO INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL PERCEPTION OF ROMA

CREATING SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS IN FILM

PANEL: “Roma (in) Filmmaking” at Cannes Film Festival 2024 with Marché du Film and Think Film Impact | 16 May 2024

Following its first attendance in 2023, ERIAC returned to the Cannes Film Festival on the occasion of the International Day of Romani Resistance. Strengthening its partnership with **Marché du Film** and **Think Film Impact**, ERIAC conducted a panel discussion with the aim of highlighting the gap between Roma representation in film and the lived experiences of Roma communities.

The “Roma (in) Filmmaking” panel discussion took place on 16 May 2024, as a highlight of the [Marché du Film at the 77th Cannes Festival](#). The panel featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including **Fatih Abay**, Diversity and Inclusion Officer at the European Film Academy; **Timea Junghaus** from the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture; **Vera Láckova**, Producer, Director, and Founder of Media Voice; **Simon Perry**, Senior Consultant at ACE Producer; and **Dr. Dwayne Menezes**, Board Member of Think-Film Impact Production, as moderator of the discussion.



PROGRAM: DIGITAL ROMA MUSEUM INITIATIVE: ROMAMOMA

The RomaMoMA initiative continues to blend digital and physical elements in its mission to promote Roma arts and culture. The long-term goal is to elevate the talent, visibility, and quality of Roma artists and cultural producers. The Digital Roma Museum serves as a platform to envision and discuss the potential forms of a Roma museum of modern and contemporary art. In 2024, RomaMoMA expanded its content with new blog posts and a special exhibition conceived for the 80th anniversary of the tragic murder of Roma and Sinti under the Nazi regime.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS: Venice Biennale Collaborations

Foreigners Everywhere was the official title of this year's Venice Biennale, which also marked the 60th edition of the International Art Exhibition. ERIAC continued to support the display of experimental cross-disciplinary work of Roma at the Exhibition, mitigating the need for a permanent Roma Pavilion.

Roma contemporary art has been exhibited within the Venice Biennale in 2007, 2011, 2019, and 2022. These instances represent the greatest efforts ever made by Roma to showcase Roma culture at the center of contemporary cultural diplomacy. ERIAC was the commissioner of *FUTUROMA* (2019) and *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (2022) Roma exhibitions, official events of the Venice Biennale. These projects embarked on a search for a sense of community for Europe's largest minority—12 million Roma—reclaiming their belonging as part of the continent's past and future. In this journey of permanent tension between the poetic and the political, between the social and the artistic, bringing Roma presence to Venice represented a colossal undertaking on behalf of the organizers, and the community itself. Visionary leaders, catalysts of the Roma cultural movement continuously returned to Venice to present art of the highest quality standards and to change perceptions: challenging the dominant stereotypes, by highlighting the enormously rich contributions of Romani arts and culture to European societies.

As Roma do not represent any nation-state, and due to the lack of a permanent infrastructure that would host the Roma, ERIAC supports initiatives that draw on the achievements of the first Roma Pavilion, "**Paradise Lost**" (2007).

In 2024, ERIAC contributed to, supported, observed and connected through **three initiatives** in Venice, commending the Council of Europe for the initiative on the 70th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention.

EVENT: The OTHER SESSION—Artistic Freedom Under Scrutiny / 20 April 2024

The OTHER SESSION—Artistic Freedom Under Scrutiny—, was an open art form involving a performative panel, artists, curators, and political representatives, to assess the landscape of

artistic freedom, through dialogues and performances in light of 70 years of the European Cultural Convention. The project looked towards the establishment of an alternative pavilion, an 'Other' Pavilion, to host silenced and neglected voices, practices, ideas, and critiques emerging from the world of art and design. The OTHER SESSION was hosted on 20 April 2024 at Docks Cantieri Cucchini, San Pietro di Castello.

It was presented by the **Experimental Observatory on Artistic Freedom** (OOAF) in collaboration with the **Council of Europe** (CoE).

Timea Junghaus was among the contributors to the discursive panel, and ERIAC also supported a performance piece by **Luna De Rosa**, examining the concept of the borderless nation, prompting an introspection on the very essence of nationality.

Curators: David Liver and Michael Kaethler



Luna de Rosa performing 'Borderless Voices' as part of the event The Other Session

Contributors: Gabriel Fontana, Timea Junghaus, Hicham Khalidi, Katalin Krasznahorkai, Antonio Manuel, Massimo Mazzone, Lesia Pcholka, Annalisa Rimmaudo, Manuel Borja-Ville

PANEL: ARTISTS at RISK Pavilion with the support of UNESCO / 19 April 2024

The ARTISTS AT RISK PAVILION with the support of UNESCO. ARTISTS. RISKS. HUMANS. RIGHTS. was an exhibition and discursive programme at the intersection of the arts and human rights. The AR Pavilion featured art, discursive panels and networking events for and by residents, alumni, partners and those who stand in solidarity with Artists at Risk (AR), the global residency programme for artists at high risk.

The 2024 edition of the AR-Pavilion held particular significance, marking

the 10th anniversary of Artists at Risk (AR). AR has relocated over 850 (principal) artists and art professionals together with over 300 hosting partners around the world in its first, intense decade.

Timea Junghaus, on behalf of ERIAC, contributed to the panel talk: *Art in the Age of Conflict and (Dis)Information* during the opening of the AR-UNESCO Pavilion at Palazzo Zorzi on 19 April 2024.

EXHIBITION: RrOMA LEPANTO / 20 April–24 November 2024

RrOMA LEPANTO refers to the naval Battle of Lepanto (1571), highlighting the role of enslaved Gitanos from Spain and Roma from Italy, tasked with rowing the vessels. The site-specific installation initiates a discourse concerning the (in)visibility and recognition of Roma contributions to European history and societies. The opening of the exhibit was held on 20 April 2024, 4 pm at the European Cultural Centre | Palazzo Bembo, Riva del Carbon.

Curators: Moritz Pankok and Miguel Ángel Vargas Rubio.

Contributing artists: Luna De Rosa, Manolo Gómez Romero, Dariya Kanti, Damian Le Bas, Brunn Morais, Girolamo Porro, Alfred Ullrich, Kálmán Várady.

RrOMA LEPANTO is a project of Foundation Kai Dikhas, in collaboration with ERIAC, the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, and the European Cultural Centre.

EXHIBITION: OMARA Mara Oláh – DIKH OMARA / 1 October–9 November

Presenting more than one hundred paintings, drawings, videos, artists' books and photography, RomaMoMA contributed to the first comprehensive monographic exhibition of OMARA Mara Oláh (1945 – 2020) in Switzerland, hosted by gta exhibitions, ETH Zurich. The exhibition, curated by Fredi Fischli and Niels Olsen was organized in collaboration with Everybody Needs Art and also included RomaMoMA's showcase of its nomadic library – "a library on the road" – created as a study room for Roma art and cultural history. The exhibition opened on 1 October 2024 and ran until 9 November 2024 .

Organized in collaboration between RomaMoMA and the Roma Jam Session art Kollektiv ARCHIV, a special discussion event was held at the exhibition on 18 October 2024. The event featured a talk by Timea Junghaus and a guided tour by Mo Diener. Junghaus spoke about the practice of Omara and RomaMoMA, followed by a guided tour on the Roma Jam Session art Kollektiv ARCHIV. The discussion sought to shed light on institutions and archives that challenge conventional notions of "The Museum" and returned to a subject addressed in the earlier themed exhibition *Unschöne Museen* at gta exhibitions, ETH Zurich.



INSTALLATION: RomaMoMA Nomadic Library

The RomaMoMA Nomadic Library was created in 2021 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the First World Romani Congress. This library “on the road” is intended as a space to preserve, collect and showcase contemporary Roma literary and artistic heritage, while critically interrogating the violence and oppression against the Roma in Europe.

The unique collection, comprising around 100 volumes, celebrates the richness of contemporary Roma literature, art, and cultural heritage while also serving as a critical lens on the historical and ongoing violence faced by the Roma across Europe.

In 2024, the RomaMoMA Nomadic Library was brought to:

- gta exhibitions, ETH Zürich in frame of DIKH OMARA (Mara Oláh) from 2 October - 9 November, 2024
- Schiller Bibliothek, Berlin, from 3 December 2024 - 3 January 2025
- Savvy Contemporary, Historical Children exhibition, from 29 November 2024 - 26 January 2025



EXHIBITIONS: Berlin Tales: The Margins Strike Back

Berlin has consistently played a crucial role in the cultural and social life of the Roma diaspora and Roma have also had a significant impact on the history of the German capital. However, limited initiatives have addressed the intertwined cultural history of Roma and Berlin.

The “Berlin Tales” event series organized by ERIAC sought to confront this gap. Supported by *the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion of the State of Berlin*, the series consisted of art exhibitions, panel discussions and events to unveil the cultural history of Berlin.

In 2024, these events attracted over **470 guests**. They also broadened institutional collaborations, including internationally with **Onassis Stegi**, Greece, and with the **Maxim Gorki Theater**, Germany. The events featured the international debut of young talents including Anita Horváth (HU), Charly Bechaimont (FR), and Lila Loisse (UK).



In addition to the physical exhibitions and events, ERIAC also published **seven video interviews** with artists giving an overview of their work.⁸

EXHIBITION: Berlin Tales / 15 December 2023–5 April 2024

The Berlin Tales exhibition, displayed at ERIAC from 15 December 2023 until 5 April 2024, unveiled the cultural history of Berlin – a narrative that remains largely unknown, concealed, and suppressed yet simultaneously boasts a beautifully rich genealogy. The exhibition showcased key moments and significant contributions made by Roma to Berlin, and their influence on German and European culture since the 1970s to the present day.

The Berlin Tales exhibition aimed to challenge racist representations and combat stereotypical, homogenized depictions of minorities prevalent in mainstream media and society at large. The display also highlighted the boundless creativity of contemporary artists, performers, and musicians of Roma origin. All contributing artists, while of diverse nationalities and personal stories, developed deep connections to Berlin's cultural landscape. These individuals contemplate alternative modes of self-determination and self-representation, inventing new means to narrate the Roma "tale" with the vision to empower and "strike back"—to assert complete control and halt the escalation of contradictions and conflicts within and outside Roma communities. They aspire to envision and create a peaceful and prosperous future for all.

The exhibition was a participatory and cumulative project. ERIAC curated the initial artworks, documents, research materials, archive photos, posters, newspapers, books, videos, websites, and personal memorabilia from the 1970s to the present day. However, the process of building the subjective archive of Roma cultural history in Berlin continued throughout the exhibition's display, with visitors able to submit contributions to the living archive.

The exhibition featured particular artistic contributions from: Emanuel Barica; Luna De Rosa; Mihaela Drăgan; Nihad Nino Pušija; Mersud Selman; Alfred Ullrich; David Weiss.

PANEL EVENT: ANDO FORO / 9 April 2024

As part of the Berlin Tales series, ERIAC presented **ANDO FORO** on 9 April, in collaboration with the **Maxim Gorki Theatre**, to mark International Roma Day. The panel discussion explored the substantial cultural, social, and political presence of Roma in Berlin.

⁸ See, for example, Mihaela Drăgan, artist and co-founder of [Giuvlipen Romania](#), [talking about her video work "The Future is a Safe Place Hidden in my Braids"](#).

The panel was moderated by **Timea Junghaus**, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, and featured:

- **Tayo Awosusi-Onutor** (Singer, author, publisher, Board member of RomaniPhen feminist archive)
- Anestis Azas and Prodromos Tsinikoris (Directors of Romáland)
- **Hamze Bytyci** (Chair of the Board, RomaTrial and Director of Ake Dikhea)
- **Shermin Langhoff** (Artistic Director, Maxim Gorki Theater)
- **Joanna Warsza** (Independent curator, co-curator of the Polish-Romani Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale)



THEATRE: ROMÁLAND THEATRE PRESENTATION IN BERLIN

The ANDO FORO panel discussion took place at the Gorki KIOSK, following a guest performance of **ROMÁLAND**, a co-production by **Anestis Azas** and **Prodromos Tsinikoris**, on the Gorki Theater main stage.

In a blend of fiction and documentation, **ROMÁLAND** features Roma and non-Roma sharing their experiences with and perspectives on ongoing racism – both in Greece and beyond. The production was performed in Greek and Romanes with German and English surtitles.

Later in 2024, **ERIAC** also hosted two screenings of a recording of **“Romáland”** in Berlin, extending the reach of this powerful production to international audiences and fostering dialogue around the themes of Roma inclusion and recognition.

The project aimed to establish robust international collaboration with the Onassis Stegi Foundation and Maxim Gorki Theatre to present **“Romáland”** to ERIAC membership and a broader audience unable to attend the live performances. Through on-site screenings both at ERIAC and Gorki-R studio, the play served as a powerful tool for making audiences acquainted with the realities of the Greek Roma community while fostering cooperation between two cutting-edge theatre institutions.



EVENT: ROMANI RESISTANCE DAY / 16 May 2024

To remember and to practice every day acts of resistance, on the occasion of the International Day of Romani Resistance, on 16 May 2024, ERIAC presented **‘CORE – Drept la Replică’**, the spoken word, live music and art performance by the artist duo **Cat Jugravu** and **Marcos Vivaldi**. The day also featured a two-hour **creative writing and poetry workshop** with the duo titled **‘Excavating Personal Memory: Resistance and Remembrance Culture’**.

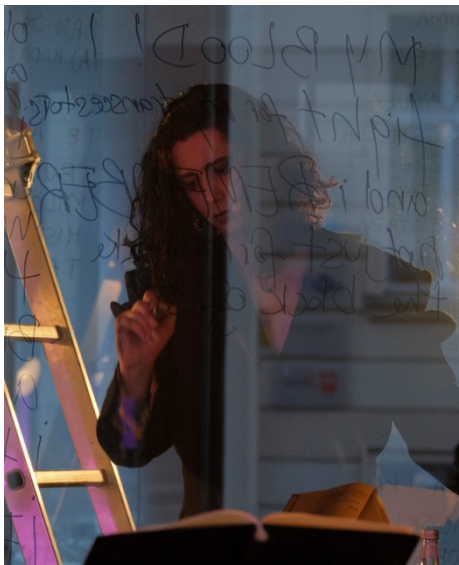
CORE is about Practicing Memory, reshaping the past to ignite the present. The performers sought to bridge the chasms in his-story, thrusting forth voices that have been suppressed including queer and trans*-Romani spirits, to the forefront of collective consciousness. They asserted, ‘the tales of Roma queer kin are not absent; they are whispered, coded, and sung in hushed choruses that tremble in the shadows’.

- With/by: **Cat Jugravu** and **Marcos Vivaldi**
- Live Sound Engineering: **Rey KM Domurat**
- Stage Management: **Ali Bay**
- Production: **QUEERDOS Kollektiv**

The workshop, hosted by Jugravu and Vivaldi, was based on “CORE: Drept la Replica”, and shared a deeper look into the artists’ creative process to explore the excavation of personal memory in relation to the themes of resistance and remembrance culture.

Drawing from Fatima El-Tayeb’s poignant inquiry into the dynamics of collective memory in “European Others,” and reflecting on active remembrance and resistance as an essential practice, the session questioned, challenged, and creatively engaged with Roma history. The workshop asked participants to recall the past and ensure that these memories resonate meaningfully in their contemporary lives. The workshop invited Roma (and non-Roma) participants to engage in introspective exercises and explore different writing formats, such as poetry, letters, manifestos, and fragments. The main objectives were to:

- Investigate the concept of active remembrance.
- Reflect on individual positions when dealing with shadow histories.
- Explore how everyday practices can become acts of active remembrance.
- Discuss the role of communities in carrying out practices of resistance
- Examine the use of art, activism, and academic work to remember those who have resisted



Cat Jugravu and Marcos Vivaldi performing ‘CORE – Drept la Replica’ on 16 May 2024 at ERIAC Berlin. Photos by Igor Buharov.

PUBLICATION AND EXHIBITION: In Search of Eldorado / 8–28 November

In 2024, ERIAC presented the monograph by **Nihad Nino Pušija**, *In Search of Eldorado – Roma and Sinti in the Struggle for Representation*, edited by **Rena Rädle & Vladan Jeremić**. An exhibition curated by RomaMoMA featuring a selection of Pušija's photography, showcasing over 30 years of Roma representation, was displayed at ERIAC from **8–28 November**.

The publication contributes to the ongoing self-representation efforts of Roma communities and balances the negative impact of photography which often perpetuated stereotypes about Roma. The trilingual publication (English, German and Romani) pays tribute to the harmonization process of the Romani language spoken by Europe's largest ethnic minority. The monograph has been printed in a run of 500 copies. The contributing authors are: **Timea Junghaus, Rena Rädle & Vladan Jeremić, Suzana Milevska, André Raatzsch & Emese Benkö, Moritz Pankok and Hedina Tahirović-Sijerčić**.

The opening night, hosted on 8 November, featured a discussion with the authors and editors of the monograph. The evening concluded with a performance by **Delaine Le Bas**, Turner Prize nominee for 2024, titled '*For my Brother Nino, in Search of Eldorado...*' and a reception with live accordion music by **Dejan Jovanovic**. Over 100 guests attended the launch event.⁹

The project was made possible through the support of Hauptstadtkulturfonds (HKF), the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion.



⁹ Watch the full recording of Le Bas' full performance on the RomaMoMA blog post titled '[Delaine Le Bas: "For my Brother Nino, in Search of Eldorado"](#)'.



Delaine Le Bas performing 'For my Brother Nino, In Search of Eldorado', and Dejan Jovanovic performing on the accordion. Photos by Lisa Vlasenko.

PROJECT: EUROPEAN ITINERARIES OF ROMA CULTURAL HERITAGE 'ROMHERITAGE'

The ROMHERITAGE project took place from January 2023 to December 2024, bringing together a group of partners to celebrate and protect Roma Cultural Heritage across Europe. The project received funding from the Creative Europe Programme (CREA) of the European Commission.

The tangible and intangible transnational cultural heritage of Roma people is present across the whole EU, so this project was a small-scale pilot involving three member states plus a European network, that served as a first step for the establishment of a growing number of national itineraries.

The Roma cultural heritage itineraries focused on giving visibility to the most significant Roma cultural manifestations, and linking neighborhoods, sites, museums and documentation, research, cultural and educational centers, which promote the knowledge and recognition of the Roma cultural heritage.

Partners and other stakeholders:

- The project was led by **Asociación Nacional Presencia Gitana** (Spain) in collaboration with three partners:
 - **ERIAC** (Germany)
 - **EPEKA** (Slovenia)
 - **Associazione Thèm Romano** (Italy).

Each partner brought different skills and perspectives to the project. Associate partners like **Instituto Cervantes** (Spain) provided support. The project also engaged a variety of stakeholders from social, cultural, touristic, and economic sectors at local, regional, national, and European levels.

Project Objectives: The main goal of the ROMHERITAGE project was to create routes of Roma Cultural Heritage, with the aim of certifying them as routes of The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Key Activities and Outcomes:

- **Establishment of Cultural Itineraries:** The project identified and certified Roma Cultural Heritage routes in Spain, Italy, and Slovenia showcasing physical and cultural aspects, linking neighbourhoods, sites, museums, research centres, and educational institutions.

- **Promotion of Roma Cultural Heritage:** By highlighting important Romani cultural events, the project raised awareness and appreciation of Roma cultural heritage, emphasizing its importance as part of European and universal heritage.

Impact:

- **Cultural Preservation:** The project contributed to preserving, promoting, and sharing diverse Roma culture and heritage, attracting new audiences.
- **Intercultural Dialogue:** By promoting understanding between communities, the project strengthened dialogue across Europe.
- **Social Inclusion:** By fighting discrimination and promoting active participation, the project worked toward social inclusion.
- **Economic Development:** By supporting local economies and tourism, the project improved economic conditions in targeted regions.

PUBLICATION: Towards a European Route of Roma Cultural Heritage: Common Methodology for Promoting Roma Cultural Heritage in Europe

As the final output of the ROMHERITAGE project, the partners released '*Towards a European Route of Roma Cultural Heritage: Common Methodology for Promoting Roma Cultural Heritage in Europe*', a practical guideline for building national itineraries of Roma culture.¹⁰

Developing national itineraries of Roma culture – as a stepping stone towards an ever-growing European route of Roma cultural heritage – are both needed and timely. By literally placing Roma on the map, we highlight Roma's belonging to national, and European, socio-cultural landscapes.

The long-term aim is to motivate other stakeholders — especially Roma cultural organizations – to develop their own local, regional or national itineraries and in this way contribute to the preservation and promotion of Roma tangible and intangible heritage. Over time, this will enable the creation of a Europe-wide route of Roma culture which, as the Roma, transcends borders, national, religious and linguistic divides.

The common methodology will ensure that similar principles will be respected while developing national itineraries. It will also guarantee that the subsequent routes will follow the criteria

¹⁰ Read the full publication '*Towards a European Route of Roma Cultural Heritage: Common Methodology for Promoting Roma Cultural Heritage in Europe*' on the ERIAC website.

established by the Council of Europe, allowing the Roma routes to eventually become recognized and certified as one of the European Cultural Routes.

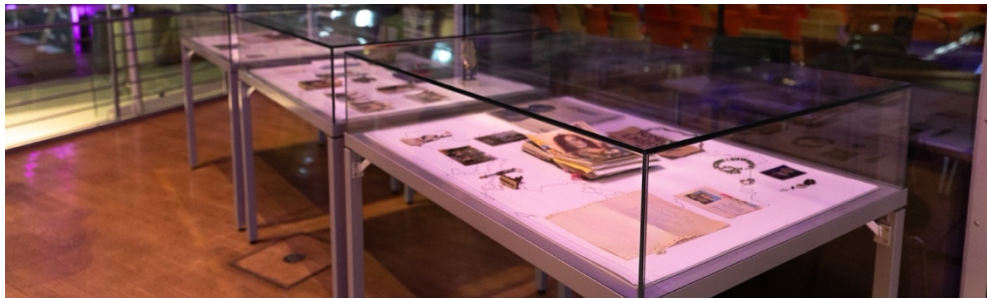
FINAL EVENT: Roma Art of Assembly and ROMHERITAGE Project

On December 5–6 2024, ERIAC hosted the *Roma Art of Assembly* at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin, a hybrid event bringing together members, partners, and supporters to celebrate Roma heritage, culture, and the collective power of the Roma community and to commemorate the achievements of the **ROMHERITAGE project**.

The event featured a display on the significant achievements of the ROMHERITAGE project and featured musical performances from:

- **Zea (Alžběta Ferencová)** from the Czech Republic, accompanied by **Antonín Dlapa** on guitar and **Peter Hrnčirik** on cajón.
- **Bajsa Arifovska**, from North Macedonia, blending traditional Macedonian instruments with world music, alongside the Slovenian piano and percussion duo **Harmelologic**.
- A DJ set by **Aldessa**, a Roma feminist and artist from Romania whose music and activism amplify Roma voices.

Roma Art of Assembly 2024 was supported by the Council of Europe, German Federal Foreign Office, Open Society Foundations, and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Union.



Roma Art of Assembly Ceremony on 5 December included a commemoration of the conclusion of the ROMHERITAGE Project.

ERIAC SERBIA

In 2024, ERIAC Serbia participated in Civil Society and Think Tank Forums within the Berlin Process which resulted in strengthening regional cultural diplomacy and influencing strategic dialogue across the Western Balkans Six region and Türkiye, with four policy recommendations included in the **Berlin Summit Civil Society Recommendations** developed by ERIAC.



ERIAC Serbia also built strategic alliances and prepared to solidify partnerships with institutions through three MoUs, laying the groundwork for sustainable collaboration with:

- “Staro Sajmište” Memorial Center
- Museum of Genocide
- Museum of Yugoslavia



Systemic change was advanced at the regional level through the "Addressing Antigypsyism and Mainstreaming Roma Issues in the Western Balkans and Türkiye" initiative, part of the Roma Integration – Phase III Joint Programme of the European Union and Council of Europe. This included:

- Training on Transforming Media Narratives: 'Fostering Cooperation and Skill Development Among Media Professionals in the WB6 Region and Türkiye to Address Antigypsyism' held from 13 to 15 September 2024 in Belgrade.
- ERIAC Media Section Coordinator Avni Mustafa and Dalibor Tanić, ERIAC member and Editor-in-Chief of Newipe, joined the panel "Media Networks: Boost or Bust," highlighting the importance of networks like ERIAC's Media Section, which brings together 31 dedicated media professionals (individuals and organizations). They discussed the need for Roma perspectives in media and for both Roma-led outlets and Roma representation in mainstream teams. They emphasized that media and donors must recognize Roma as partners, valuing the critical role of Roma voices in media.



II. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: 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 MATERIAL

Mihaela Zatreanu at the launch of the Romani Čhib B1 textbook during the 5th International Conference on Safeguarding Romani Language, held by ERIAC and the Council of Europe.



PROGRAM: INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL OUTREACH

PROGRAM 2024

Building on the success of previous years, ERIAC again conducted the International Cultural Outreach Program 2024 with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office. By strengthening the existing digital and physical infrastructures, enhancing collaborations and institutional communication, the Outreach 2024 project aimed to reinforce ERIAC's role as a referential source for Roma identity and cultural discourses.

The objective of the 2024 program was to consolidate ERIAC's position as a global leader in Roma arts and cultural advocacy, foster international collaboration, and guarantee the representation of Roma voices in diverse cultural settings. The program consisted of six core components which are further detailed in other sections of this report:

- Romani Language Initiative
- Barvalipe Roma Online University
- ImpACT Lab Discussion at the Cannes Film Festival
- Digital Roma Museum Initiative: RomaMoMA
- Romáland presentation in Berlin
- ERIAC Membership

2024 PRIORITY: CONTINUE TO PRODUCE AND FILM BARVALIPE UNIVERSITY LECTURES IN HIGH-QUALITY AND PREPARE PR CAMPAIGN FOR THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Barvalipe Roma Online University

Barvalipe Roma Online University is an online educational platform where Roma and non-Roma can access knowledge about 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. In partnership with Central European University (CEU), this project is part of ERIAC's Roma Cultural History Initiative financed by the German Federal Foreign Office (FFO).

The first course of the Barvalipe Roma Online University launched on September 1, 2020. The inaugural course, "Introduction to Roma Cultural History," presents the history of Romani arrival in Europe, traces Romani cultural, social, and political presence in Europe and reflects on the importance of contemporary Romani knowledge production. The second course was launched on September 21, 2021. Throughout that year, each week a new lecture was live-streamed on Facebook. Following each lecture premiere, there was a

moderated discussion with the lecturer and invited guests with an opportunity for audience questions.

Starting with 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.



In 2024, a new Barvalipe masterclass lecture series was launched to support the Council of Europe's Recommendation for the Inclusion of Roma history into history teaching and school curricula. In 2024, Barvalipe Masterclass lectures were presented by the following experts:

- **Dr. Raul Cârstocea:** History of the Impact that Epidemics and Pandemics had on Roma Communities, including the Covid-19 Pandemic
- **Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka:** Introduction to Roma Political History - A Short History of the Movement

2024 PRIORITY: COMPLETE THE TRANSNATIONAL ROMANI LANGUAGE BOOK B1 AND HOST THE ERIAC INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE CONFERENCE SAFEGUARDING ROMANI LANGUAGE LED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE ROMA AND TRAVELERS TEAM IN STRASBOURG, TOGETHER WITH THE MINORITY LANGUAGES DIVISION OF THE COE.

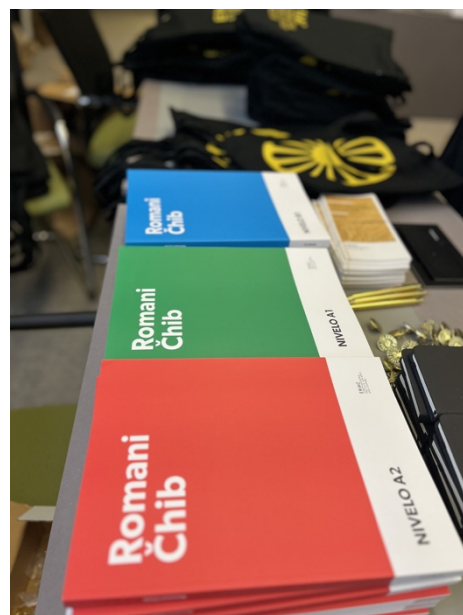
The long-term goal of ERIAC is to become the language and education center for the transnational Romani movement and the community. It aims to continue the preservation, globalization and harmonization of the Romani language and to update the Curriculum Framework for Romani developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe in 2008 as part of the Council of Europe's comprehensive approach to Roma and Traveler issues.

Romani Language Initiative: Launch of Romani Čhib B1 textbook

In 2024, led by Barvalipe Academy Member, **Mihaela Zatreanu**, ERIAC finalized **the Romani Čhib B1 textbook**, advancing the harmonization of the Romani language, in collaboration with a dedicated team of linguists, educators, and creatives. This included the development of 10 units following the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages standards in collaboration with 7 language specialists.

The textbook was officially launched at the 'Safeguarding Our Romani Language International Conference' on 5 November 2024. The book was also marked as a critical resource for cultural preservation and education.

Building on the foundational *Romani Čhib A1* and *A2* textbooks, the *Romani Čhib B1* textbook represents a significant step forward in the global harmonization of the Romani language. Designed for advanced B1 learners, in alignment with the Council of Europe’s Curriculum Framework, based on the common reference levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, this resource enriches linguistic proficiency while deepening cultural engagement. Using the Pan-Vlax transliteration system—a consistent academic standard—*Romani Čhib B1* bridges dialects, creating a shared linguistic structure that honors the unique social and cultural richness of Romanipe.



The B1 textbook extends the series’ focus on linguistic skill-building by introducing advanced grammar, vocabulary, and idiomatic expressions that reflect contemporary Romani life. Crafted by the expertise of 5 Romani linguists and community leaders from various dialect backgrounds, *Romani Čhib B1* strengthens the presence of each dialect while advancing transnational communication and fostering a unified Romani language.

Developed with insights from Romani linguists and language experts, each unit is carefully designed to engage learners in the Romani experience, with themes that range from cultural heritage and identity to emotional well-being and sustainable living. The textbook’s emphasis on real-world applications and collaborative exercises helps cultivate a supportive learning environment that bridges Romani communities.

This manual is tailored for a wide audience—students, educators, translators, and community members—seeking to enhance their Romani language skills and cultural understanding. It serves as a valuable resource for instructors within schools, universities, and community organizations, providing adaptable content to meet diverse learning needs. Additionally, it offers non-Romani individuals a respectful framework for engaging with Romani culture.

The book is part of the long-term collaboration between ERIAC and the Council of Europe for the future of the preservation and education of Romani language, in respect of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and following the stipulations of the Memorandum of Understanding between ERIAC and the Council of Europe. Produced in the framework of the “International Cultural Outreach Program” of ERIAC, financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

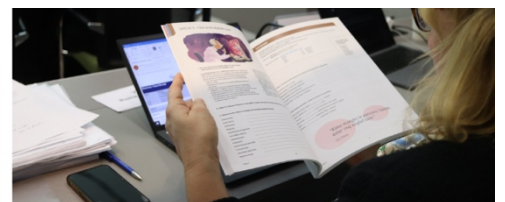
CONFERENCE: 5th International “Safeguarding Our Romani Language” Conference / 5–6 November 2024

In partnership with the Council of Europe’s Roma and Travellers Division and the Division of National Minorities and Minority Languages, ERIAC proudly hosted the 5th International “Safeguarding Our Romani Language” Conference, with live streaming available to allow participation from across the globe.

Key outcomes:

- **Engaged** high-level policymakers, scholars, and educators in panels highlighting innovative practices and policy development
- **Conference Outreach:** 17,000 people were reached via online platforms; 100 physical attendees at the conference in Strasbourg
- **Visibility:** Social media content gathered 18,000 post impressions and 2,400 Instagram views

The event marked a vital part of ERIAC’s *Romani Language Initiative*, which began in June 2020 as part of the *Roma Cultural History Initiative*, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. The conference gathered international experts in Romani language education, linguistics, and cultural heritage, uniting voices from academia, government, and community organizations to continue advancing the *International Romani Language Reform*. Together, they explored strategies to preserve and promote the Romani language through the harmonization of Romani usage across borders.



Conference highlights included:

- In-depth panel discussions on language preservation and harmonization.
- Insights into new teaching materials and language re-learning initiatives designed to support the Romani-speaking community.
- **Special focus on the significance of Romani language education**, cultural identity, and language symbolism for Roma individuals and communities worldwide.
- **The official launch of Romani language books (A1, A2, B1)**, guided by key co-authors, with a particular emphasis on global accessibility and education.

As in previous years, the conference represented an opportunity for cultural-political synthesis and collaboration. By bringing together Roma and non-Roma stakeholders, we're building an enduring platform for the Romani language that supports the next generation and strengthens Roma identity through language.

This year, the Council of Europe and prominent universities were invited to participate, as ERIAC called for further partnerships to advance the Romani Language Initiative on an international scale. The conference was conducted in both Romani and English, with full interpretation services provided by the Council of Europe.



2024 PRIORITY: CONTINUE TO DESIGN AND PREPARE MANUALS FOR MARKETABLE CERTIFICATE TRAININGS

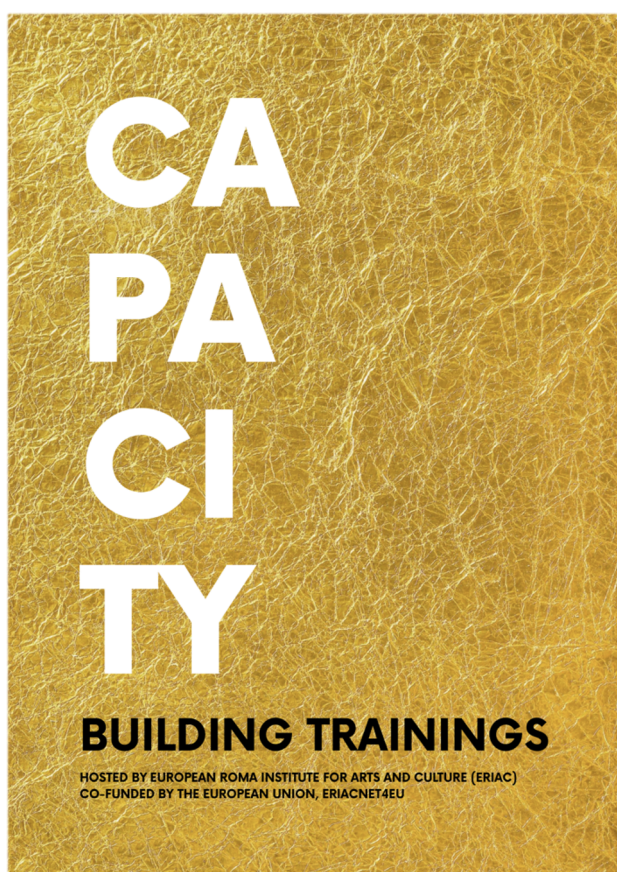
PROJECT: ERIAC NETWORK TO ADVANCE ROMA INCLUSION BY COMBATTING AND PREVENTING ANTIGYPSYISM IN THE EU (ERIACNET4EU)

The ERIACNET4EU network project aims at protecting, promoting and raising awareness of the rights of Roma citizens of the EU and strengthening the EU values of equality, justice and non-discrimination. The ERIACNET4EU project offers expertise, specific know-how and reliable methodologies to support the implementation of the EU Roma framework. The ERIACNET4EU network project is **financed by the European Commission**.

TRAININGS: Capacity-Building Sessions For ERIAC Members

Throughout 2024, under the ERIACNET4EU project, ERIAC presented a series of **five capacity-building activities** aimed at empowering and strengthening the Roma community. These workshops and seminars provided valuable skills, fostered collaboration, and supported the preservation and promotion of Roma culture.¹¹

95 participants attended across the five sessions. Of those who provided feedback, **60% stated they were very satisfied with the workshops**, 20% were satisfied, and 20% were neutral. Additionally, 95% of respondents indicated they would recommend ERIAC membership to others.



¹¹ Find the [full agenda of all five trainings](#) on the ERIAC Website.

1. Empowering Roma Voices: Media Production Skills Workshop

Date: July 10, 2024

Time: 03:00 – 04:30 PM CET

Workshop recording: [available on Youtube](#)

Objective: Introduced participants to media production, focusing on video and audio formats. Taught practical skills in storyboarding, filming, editing, and audio recording. Gave an overview of media production for community advocacy and representation.

Trainer: Sami Mustafa, independent documentary director and producer, founder of Romawood production company, and member of the International Romani Film Commission.

2. Mastering Grant Writing: A Capacity Building Seminar

Date: July 4, 2024

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 AM CET

Workshop recording: [available on Youtube](#)

Objective: Enhanced participants' understanding of grant proposals, identify funding opportunities, and crafting compelling proposals. Taught practical strategies for effective project narratives and budget justification.

Trainer: Lavinia Banu, EU Affairs Consultant with expertise in EU programming, equality, non-discrimination, and social inclusion.

3. Connect & Collaborate: Virtual Networking Event for Network Members

Date: July 9, 2024

Time: 03:00 – 05:00 PM CET

This activity was exclusively for ERIAC members and team.

Objective: Facilitated meaningful connections among ERIAC members enabling the sharing of insights, exploration of collaborations, and strengthening of community engagement.

Moderator: Claudiu Pamfil, experienced project manager and facilitator, with a background in EU-funded projects and volunteer coordination.

4. Romani Language Crash Course: Online Workshop

Date: July 10, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM CET

Workshop recording: [available on Youtube](#)

Objective: Introduced participants to the basics of the Romani language, including vocabulary, pronunciation, and grammar. Fostered interactive learning through conversational practice.

Trainer: Mihaela Zatreanu, Romani language expert, curriculum developer, and author of Romani language textbooks.

5. Healing Historical Trauma: Commemoration and Healing in the Roma Community

Date: July 11, 2024

Time: 04:00 – 05:30 PM CET

Workshop recording: [available on Youtube](#)

Objective: Explored the impact of historical trauma on the Roma community and discussed effective healing practices. Taught practical skills for commemoration and healing strategies.

Trainer: Dr. Ioanida Costache, assistant professor of Ethnomusicology at Stanford University, Romani violinist, artist, and scholar.



TRAINING: ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE’S FUTURE on Romani History & Culture / 10 September 2024

Under the ERACNET4EU project, on 10 September 2024, ERIAC also hosted the second online training **‘ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE’S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU’S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS’**.

Speakers included:

- Cultural Heritage of Roma:
 - **Dr Ivan Periañez Bolaño**
 - **Miguel Ángel Vargas**
- Exploring Roma Identity:
 - **Dr Raul Cârstocea**
- Understanding Antigypsyism:
 - **Dr Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka**
- Roma Agency and Resilience:
 - **Adrian Nicolae Furtună**
 - **Dr Delia Grigore**



The objectives of the training were to:

- increase understanding of Roma identity and history;
- recognize and celebrate Roma cultural contributions;
- address Antigypsyism and promote inclusion;
- provide training tailored for public officials and EU institutions;
- and empower participants with knowledge and tools for advocacy.

Key outputs and outcomes:

- Training attendance: 101 participants.
- Minimal costs to participants given online format.
- Recording of the event available on ERIAC Website.¹²
- Post-training survey results indicated that 100 per cent of respondents were 'Very satisfied' or 'Satisfied' with the workshops and that 100 per cent of respondents indicated that the workshops 'Extremely' or 'Significantly' helped them gain knowledge.

¹² Find the 2024 **'ROMA(NI) PAST – EUROPE’S FUTURE. WHY EMBRACING EU’S LARGEST ETHNIC MINORITY MATTERS'** training recordings on the ERIAC website.

POSITION PAPER: On Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching

In May 2024, under the **ERIACNET4EU** project financed by the European Commission **ERIAC published a 'Position Paper with Policy Recommendations on Roma Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching'**.¹³ The paper was based on the insights and expertise of members of the ERIAC Knowledge-Production and Publication thematic section.

The position paper provides 15 concrete policy recommendations to improve the visibility of Roma history in public memory, education systems, and institutional commemorations. It addresses the urgent need to acknowledge the Roma Holocaust, integrate Roma experiences into national narratives, and ensure that Roma-led commemorative practices receive the recognition and support they deserve.

The paper underscores the critical role of inclusive education and remembrance practices in dismantling antigypsyism and building a more equitable society. It advocates for national and European-level reforms, including the integration of Roma history into formal curricula, access to public memory spaces, and institutional support for Roma-driven initiatives. The recommendations are based on a wide range of experiences and good practices, offering a roadmap to support reconciliation, education reform, and social justice.

MEETING: WOMNET Meeting "Intersectional Solidarity: Navigating the Journey Towards Communities of Care and Collective Action" / 28 October 2024

On 28 October, ERIAC hosted the 2024 WOMNET Meeting 'Intersectional Solidarity: Navigating the Journey Towards Communities of Care and Collective Action' online.

The meeting was attended by 41 participants who engaged in meaningful dialogue. 100% of attendees affirmed the importance of such initiatives and 75% rated the event as highly satisfying and 25% as satisfying. Pre-event feedback highlighted strong support for WOMNET's mission, with 89% endorsing its establishment as a long-term, stable network.

The meeting served to advance dialogue on Roma women's leadership and advocacy, creating a space for intersectional solidarity. The meeting also strengthened collective commitment to sustainable advocacy. Finally it enabled deeper understanding of how multiple identities—such as gender, ethnicity, class, sex and other—intersect to shape

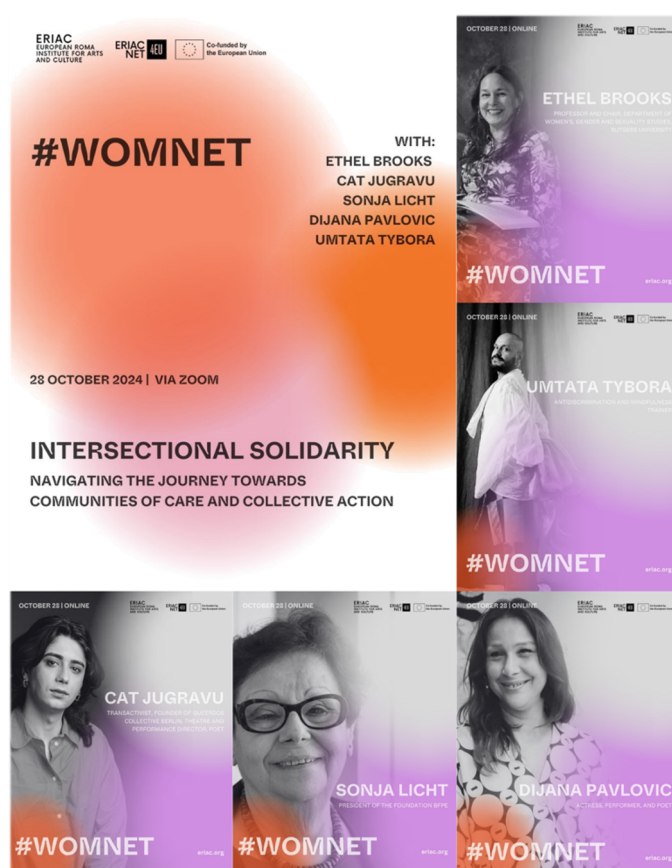
¹³ Read the full '[Position Paper with Policy Recommendations on Roma Remembrance, Commemoration and History Teaching](#)' on the ERIAC Website.

experiences of oppression, resistance and resilience, influencing activism and support within and across communities.

The meeting featured the following sessions and presenters:

- Collective Meditation: Grounding into the Purpose of the Gathering. Facilitated by **Umtata Tybora**, Antidiscrimination and Mindfulness Trainer
- Exploring Intersectional Solidarity: Methodologies of Love with **Ethel Brooks**, Professor and Chair, Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Rutgers University
- Collective Discussion Space: Recommendations for WOMNET facilitated by **Nadja Greku**, Program Manager, ERIAC Serbia
- Women in/and Power: An Exploration of Women's Participation and Leadership in the Political Arena with **Sonja Licht**, President of the Foundation BFPE
- Reading performance by **Cat Jugravu**, Transactivist, Founder of Queerdos Collective Berlin, Theatre and Performance Director, Poet
- Poetry reading by **Dijana Pavlovic**, Actress, Performer and Poet

This meeting provided a space to explore how collective action can be leveraged to dismantle systemic inequalities and promote gender equality, leadership development, access to resources, and advocacy for inclusive policies.



PROJECT: JEKHIPE

In April 2024, ERIAC announced the public launch of the project



"Reclaiming Our Past, Rebuilding

Our Future: New Approaches to Fighting Antigypsyism" (JEKHIPE), financed by the European Commission under the Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values Programme (CERV).

Under the Jekhipe project, the Consortium partners, including the European Roma Grassroots Organisations Network (ERGO), the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC), and the European Center for Policy Studies (CEPS), together with national partners from Czechia (Slovo 21), Germany (Central Council for German Sinti and Roma), Italy (Union of Romani Communities in Italy – UCRI and Romni association), Romania (Roma Center Amare Romentza), Spain (Federation of Roma Associations of Catalonia – FAGiC and Romane Siklovne association), and Sweden (Trajosko Drom), will address some of the key structural and institutional obstacles in achieving justice and equality for Roma.

These obstacles include the lack of acknowledgment of Roma as victims of historical injustices such as slavery or the Holocaust, inadequate compensations and reconciliation processes, lack of access to services and rights, absence of Roma museums and institutional representation in arts and culture, and deficient Roma history teaching. The project aims to restore the humanity and dignity of Roma and provide value to Roma identity, addressing issues that have perpetuated marginalization and victimization of Roma in society.

JEKHIPE focuses on multiple levels of policy-making, including research, monitoring, advocacy, networking, alliances building, awareness raising, capacity building, and empowerment. It aims to engage with national and European institutions, academia, politicians, justice mechanisms, state authorities, civil society, and Roma communities themselves to challenge the status quo on approaching Roma issues, particularly antigypsyism, and propose mechanisms for increased accountability by national governments.

The project aims to:

- Establish expert and/or truth commissions on antigypsyism.
- Develop policy recommendations for EU and national policymakers on transitional justice approaches to address antigypsyism.
- Raise awareness of institutional antigypsyism and policy and legislative developments in the fight against antigypsyism.

- Promote Roma identity, history, and culture to prevent and fight antigypsyism, including incorporating Roma history and culture into school curricula.
- Empower Roma communities and NGOs to recognize and fight antigypsyism.
- Capacitate local Roma civil society and key stakeholders in countering antigypsyism.

EVENT: JEKHIPE Kick-off / 10 April 2024

The Kick-Off event titled “Transitional Justice to Tackle Antigypsyism, Reclaim Our Past and Rebuild Our Future” was held in Brussels during the Romani Week on **10 April 2024**, between 14:00 – 17:30, at the European Committee of the Regions (CoR).

Agenda Highlights:

- Opening Transitional Justice Conference
- Introduction to the Jekhipen Project
- European Working Group on Transitional Justice for Roma
- Concluding the day with reflections from key policymakers and advocates, followed by networking over drinks and refreshments.

EXHIBITION: Delaine Le Bas’s Romani Embassy

As part of JEKHIPE: *“Reclaiming Our Past, Rebuilding Our Future — New Approaches to Fighting Antigypsyism”*, ERIAC was pleased to present a retrospective solo exhibition of Delaine Le Bas, marking the year of her nomination for the Turner Prize. The retrospective show, with original works from as early as 2015 and newly commissioned pieces, opened on December 5 in the frame of the Roma Art of Assembly, the General Assembly of ERIAC members.

Signs of national sovereignty. Places of immunity and inviolability. Symbolic territories of cultural exchange and economic ties. Platforms for negotiation and dialogue. Primary channels of communication — but above all: a piece of homeland offering protection to its citizens. The exhibition asks what are embassies for? And who do they represent?

Romani Embassy is an ongoing installation and performance by Delaine Le Bas, first conceived in 2015 and continuing to the present day. It is a cardboard sign made on the move, a living embodiment of the struggles facing the global Roma community.

Romani Embassy responds to the deepening indifference across Europe toward the Roma and Travellers. The everyday exclusions, the institutional racism, the segregation that persist, even as the hollow rhetoric of diversity and inclusion continues to exclude the very communities it claims to uplift. As an artwork and artistic intervention, Romani Embassy was

inspired by the Aboriginal Embassy, one of the most significant indigenous political demonstrations of the twentieth century.

From the first day of the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, 27 January 1972, Billy Craigie, Burt Williams, Michael Anderson, and Tony Corey stood with a beach umbrella and hand-painted signs outside the Parliament House in Canberra. The Aboriginal Embassy was part of a long history of political consciousness growing since the 1920s. It was a highly political, physically confronting, but also deeply intellectual movement, which through practical steps aimed to transform institutions at the most local level.

There are no embassies for the disenfranchised, for those who slip between the cracks, for those escaping war zones. The Romani Embassy is for all of those who have nowhere to turn for help — and there are many. Societal inequalities are growing, and the divide between the haves and have nots widens with every passing day. Governments and institutions across the globe must confront their role in the continued exclusion of marginalised communities.

From London to Črna Gora, from Venice to Skopje, for over a decade, Delaine Le Bas has taught resistance in her subtle but persistent way of performative protest to Roma, who do not have a nation-state.

A glance, a walk, a simple gesture, a modest but firm posture. Romani Embassy is a silent call, a cardboard sign hung on a piece of string, a poster, a call to action to make a difference for all those who have nowhere to run to for safety, for basic care, for the human rights that every person on this planet deserves.



ERIAC Membership on 5 December visiting Delaine Le Bas' exhibition: Romani Embassy, 2024, Photo by Ivan Erofeev.

PROJECT: INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM FOR EDUCATORS AND MUSEUM PROFESSIONALS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE ROMA AND SINTI HOLOCAUST

From June to October 2024, ERIAC ran the International Program for Educators and Museum Professionals Dedicated to the Memory of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust. The program was funded by the EVZ Foundation and the Federal Foreign Office within the framework of the YOUNG PEOPLE remember initiative. The program included two study visits, to Brno and Berlin, and a series of online meetings. Working in international groups, participants developed educational ideas related to the commemoration of the Roma and Sinti Holocaust, which they presented to a wider audience at an online event on **November 27, 2024**.

2 August 2024 marked the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the so-called “Gypsy camp” at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Roma and Sinti Holocaust Memorial Day. However, Roma Holocaust and history and culture remain underrepresented in mainstream historical discourse on World War II and in media, pop culture, art and museum practices.

This program sought to boost the competences of employees of museums and cultural institutions in Central and Eastern Europe through educational on-site and online meetings. These activities aimed to address the lack of competent knowledge about the Roma and Sinti Holocaust, as well as Roma and Sinti history and culture. The program was prepared by a cross-sector partnership representing the experience of working at a memorial, a historical museum, a contemporary art institution or a foundation operating in the field of supporting Roma communities. The interdisciplinary approach was designed to allow participants to expand their knowledge both historically and in different areas of postwar memory and anti-discrimination education, as well as to understand contemporary processes of exclusion and discrimination.

The program was designed for a group of 18 and was attended by educators and museum professionals from Germany, Poland, Czechia, and across Europe. The in person events took place in Brno, Czech Republic from June 24-27, 2024 and in Berlin, Germany from July 22-25, 2024. Participation in the seminars was free of charge and travel and accommodation costs were reimbursed.

Partners:

- **ERiac** (European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture) <https://eriac.org/>
- **Foundation Towards Dialogue** <https://fundacjastronedialogu.pl/en/home/>

- **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews** <https://www.polin.pl/en>
- **Museum of Romani Culture** <https://www.rommuz.cz/en/>

The **concluding event** was held online on November 27, 2024, from 11 AM to 12:30 PM CET. Participants presented the innovative methodologies in art and education aimed at commemorating the Roma and Sinti Holocaust that had been developed throughout the program.

The focus areas included:

- Commemoration in public spaces
- Digital activism and the role of social media
- Educational activities for the wider community
- Training for professionals in relevant fields
- Artistic expressions as a means of commemoration



2024 PRIORITY: ERIAC AS AN EXPERT CONSULTANT FOR GOVERNMENTS, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, AND UNIVERSITIES ON CURRICULA-DESIGN IN ROMA HISTORY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE IN 2024

PARTNERSHIPS: INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS TEACHING ROMA HISTORY

ERIAC continues to contribute to the development of International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Recommendations for teaching guidelines about the persecution and genocide of the Roma and Sinti during the Nazi era.

In 2024, ERIAC was an active member of the Council of Europe Working Group in charge of preparing a capacity building programme and tools supporting the implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec (2020) On The Inclusion Of The History Of Roma And/Or Travellers In School Curricula And Teaching Materials At National Level.

ERIAC also maintained its collaboration with the Council of Europe through its Observatory on History Teaching in Europe (OHTE). In 2024, ERIAC's Dr Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka presented **two tutorials in collaboration with the OHTE**. The first tutorial, '*How to teach About Roma History and Culture*' was released on 23 April 2024 and gives an overview of the resources produced by the Institute, as well as by the Council of Europe.

The second tutorial, released on 1 August 2024 ahead of Roma Holocaust Memorial Day, is titled '*From Victims to Heroes, How to Teach About the Roma Holocaust*'. In it, Dr Mirga-Kruszelnicka presents valuable resources from ERIAC, museums, the CoE, and more that firmly place Roma voices at the centre of their own history.

ERIAC SERBIA

As ERIAC Serbia has started an initiative to implement Roma history and culture into the school curricula in 2023, in May 2024, ERIAC Serbia and the Roma Education Fund representatives met with Prof. Dr. Slavica Đukić Dejanović, a new Minister of Education of Republic of Serbia, to discuss advancing education for Roma children and youth and continuing the initiative. The meeting resulted in:

- a commitment to explore new mechanisms and strengthen existing measures to support Roma students,
- reaffirmed the initiative to integrate Roma history and culture into the school curriculum,
- highlighted the vital role of Roma women as community change-makers, positioning education as a cornerstone for meaningful inclusion.



+381 11 6906139
www.eriac.org

Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation



Page: [unclear] De Bevo M...

**April 8 - July 19
2024**

ERAC
SERBIA

EUROPEAN ROMA
INSTITUTE FOR ARTS
AND CULTURE SERBIA



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Culture

Luna De Rosa, Zoran Tairović, Ioanida Costache
Jake Bowers, Mina Korać, Nihad Nino Pušija



Embassy
of the Federal Republic of Germany
Belgrade

2024 PRIORITY: BUILD A DATABASE OF FOLLOWERS, VIEWERS, MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ALLIES

ERiac MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL MEDIA COVERAGE

In 2024, ERiac continued working towards its strategic goal to build a comprehensive database of followers, viewers, community members, and allies to foster a robust sense of pride and belonging among the Roma community. This initiative aims to establish ERiac as a key reference point for Roma identity and cultural discourses, utilising narratives and visual content to engage both online and offline audiences.

Following ERiac's partnership in 2023 with Datadat, a specialist in data management and social media observation, to enhance the data-building strategy. ERiac continued with the ERiac Monthly Newsletter: The monthly newsletter continued to be a cornerstone of the communication strategy, providing updates on ERiac's activities, upcoming events, and relevant news. With 2,400 subscribers and an impressive 64% average open/click rate, the newsletter effectively kept our community informed and engaged.

A focused effort on enhancing our social media presence resulted in significant growth and engagement:

- ERiac reached 29,400 Facebook followers through 52 new published posts.
- ERiac's Instagram account grew to 5,200 followers, driven by visually appealing and culturally resonant content. ERiac published 107 new posts in 2024.

Performance Metrics:

- 314,000 Facebook reach and 65,600 Instagram reach: This metric shows the number of unique users who saw our content, highlighting the breadth of our audience.
- 5,100 Facebook content interactions: The high level of interactions, including likes, shares, and comments, indicates strong engagement and interest in our content.

ERiac recognizes that further analysis and adjustment to the communications and database strategy could support deeper and broader engagement with supporters.

PRIORITY IN 2024: OBSERVE, DOCUMENT THE SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE UKRAINE. CONNECT UKRAINIAN ROMA STORIES WITH MAINSTREAM MEDIA. RE-DISSEMINATE THE RESULTS TOWARDS THE ROMA COMMUNITY IN EUROPE

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL INITIATIVE

The conflict in Ukraine has had profound effects on the Roma community. The Ukrainian Cultural Initiative, a pivotal component of ERIAC's strategic efforts in 2023 and 2024, was designed to support and promote the rich cultural heritage of the Roma community in Ukraine. This initiative aimed to foster a sense of pride and belonging among Roma individuals by celebrating their unique cultural contributions and integrating their stories into mainstream narratives.

ERIAC's efforts to document and share their stories have been crucial in fostering understanding and solidarity both within the Roma community and with the wider public.

PUBLICATION: Support for Roma Foundation for Europe's Research on the Roma Situation in Ukraine

In 2023 and 2024, ERIAC supported the RFE's research on the Roma situation in Ukraine, playing a significant role in the creation and preparation of the research report titled **"Fighting for a Fairer Future: The impact of the war in Ukraine on Roma and lessons for post-war reconstruction efforts"**. The report was launched in April 2024.

ERIAC's key contributions included:

- **Identification and Selection:** ERIAC identified and selected five Roma individuals who are actively countering Russian aggression in various capacities, including Roma soldiers on the front line.
- **Creation of Visual Materials:** ERIAC managed the creation of visual materials to accompany the research, producing:
 - **3000 photos**
 - **104 selected** for use in the RFE report
- **Interviews:** ERIAC conducted five interviews featured in the Brussels RFE event. These interviews provided personal insights and firsthand accounts, adding depth and authenticity to the research findings.

FELLOWSHIP: ROMA HOLOCAUST VOICES FELLOWSHIP

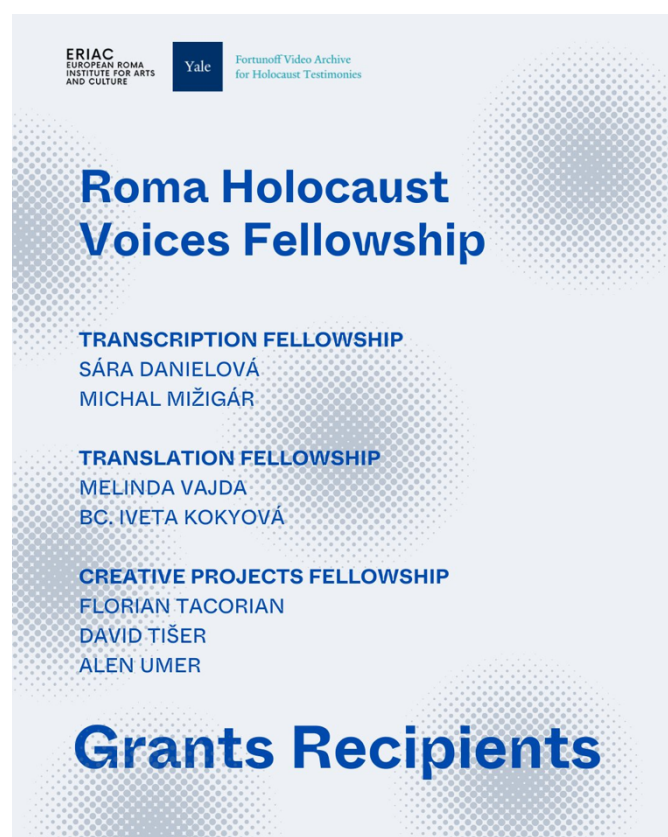
In 2024, ERIAC and the Fortunoff Archive worked in partnership to support the preservation of crucial historical testimonies. In commemoration of the International Roma Holocaust Remembrance Day on August 2, ERIAC and the Fortunoff Archive announced a mini-grant program. The initiative supports translators and creative projects preserving testimonies from Roma and Sinti survivors of the Holocaust.

The Roma Holocaust Voices Fellowship provides an opportunity for researchers, translators, and creators to work with unique archival materials including four video testimonies from Roma and Sinti survivors of the Holocaust, recorded in the Romani language (Czechoslovak dialect, Lovari dialect). The goal of this fellowship is to preserve and promote these crucial historical testimonies through transcription, translation, and creative projects.

Applications for the fellowships were received between July and September 2024 followed by a competitive jury selection process. Throughout this period, **27 applications** were received from which the jury selected **7 outstanding fellows**. The project formally began on 1 November 2024 and is due to be completed in April 2025.

The seven fellowships of €1000 each were awarded to the following recipients to achieve three main outcomes:

- **Transcription Fellowships** to transcribe survivor testimonies in Romanes (Czechoslovak dialect). Awarded to:
 - **Sára Danielová**
 - **Michal Mižigár**
- **Translation Fellowships** to translate the transcribed testimonies into English. Awarded to:
 - **Melinda Vajda**
 - **Bc. Iveta Kokyová**
- **Creative Projects / Publication Fellowships** to produce projects effectively utilising the testimonies to enhance understanding and awareness of the Roma Holocaust,



(such as scholarly research, educational materials, artistic works and community engagement). Awarded to:

- **Florian Tacorian**
- **David Tišer**
- **Alen Umer**

These fellows are transforming the testimonies of Roma and Sinti survivors into accessible and impactful resources that serve a broad spectrum of audiences, including researchers, educators, and artists. Their work will contribute significantly to Holocaust education and the visibility of Roma and Sinti experiences in historical narratives.

This collaboration not only strengthens the relationship between ERIAC and the Fortunoff Video Archive but also paves the way for meaningful initiatives aimed at preserving Roma Holocaust testimonies and fostering creative and scholarly engagement.

ERIAC SERBIA

PROJECT: "Addressing Antigypsyism and Mainstreaming Roma Issues in the Western Balkans and Türkiye"

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture Serbia (ERIAC Serbia) launched an initiative titled *"Addressing Antigypsyism and Mainstreaming Roma Issues in the Western Balkans and Türkiye,"* implemented within the Roma Integration – Phase III Joint Programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe. The project, which started from May 2024, supported the recognition and mitigation of antigypsyism through legal, institutional, and communication frameworks. It aligned with EU and Council of Europe strategic plans and global Sustainable Development Goals by promoting equality, inclusion, and justice. Central to the initiative was the aim to empower media professionals and public servants to challenge stereotypes and better serve Roma communities, fostering mutual understanding and inclusion.

Key project activities included a regional two-day training for media professionals and a media mentoring program for Roma professionals to improve responsible content creation. Additionally, a comprehensive online training program for public servants is planned for 2025 addressing antigypsyism across various sectors—law enforcement, judiciary, education, and healthcare—through modular and national-level trainings. The project should also result in the development of an expert guidebook to support public institutions in identifying and addressing antigypsyism. Altogether, the initiative is reinforcing ERIAC's mission to use arts, culture, history, and media as tools for Roma empowerment and the fight against discrimination.

TRAINING: "Transforming Media Narratives" / 13–15 September 2024

From 13–15 September 2024, 30 media workers, professionals, and content creators from the Western Balkans and Türkiye convened in Belgrade for the "Transforming Media Narratives on Roma" training. The event aimed to empower media professionals to combat antigypsyism and reshape public perceptions of Roma communities through ethical and inclusive reporting. The training provided participants with valuable insights into both the historical and contemporary manifestations of antigypsyism and explored the transformative power of storytelling in media. Sessions covered strategies to counter stereotypes and misinformation, using both mainstream and social media as tools for creating positive narrative change. Participants had the opportunity to engage with experts and reflect on the role of media in challenging prejudice and promoting Roma voices.

Participants explored the *Combing Through Time: Untangling Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide* exhibition, gaining valuable insights into how arts and culture can be powerful tools in combating antigypsyism. The sessions that followed focused on the manifestations of antigypsyism, led by **Nadja Greku**, ERIAC Serbia Program Manager, and a storytelling lab by **Gilda-Nancy Horvath**, Austrian Roma journalist, which explored content creation and the role of pluralism in collective action. Regional media professionals, including **Avni Mustafa**, ERIAC media section coordinator, **Angela Timotijevic-Bojovic**, Junior Project Manager, WB6 Media Project, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH and **Idriz Seferaj**, Project Manager, Innovation. Media. Minds, Deutsche Welle shared their expertise on media networks and opportunities in the region. The event concluded with a workshop on visual representation by **Bela Varadi**, Hungarian born Roma photographer, alongside case studies on combating antigypsyism through social media, presented by social media content creators **Florian Tacorian** and **Anastasiia Tambovtseva**.

By the end of the training, participants expressed a strong commitment to regional cooperation and improving Roma representation in media and combating antigypsyism across the Western Balkans Six (WB6) region and Türkiye. ERIAC Serbia looks forward to further cooperation among and between these Roma and Non-Roma media professionals and ERIAC's media section, ensuring the advancement of Roma representation across the region and beyond.



MENTORSHIP PROGRAM: Regional Media Mentorship Program

In 2024, ERIAC Serbia also launched the Regional Media Mentorship Program. The Media Mentoring Program provides a unique opportunity for media professionals to refine their skills and develop impactful content that highlights Roma narratives. Over a two-month period, each mentee will work closely with an experienced mentor from a mainstream media outlet. Mentors will guide mentees in producing professional, high-quality media content that promotes positive representation of Roma communities and challenges stereotypes.

Through this mentorship, participants will gain hands-on experience, access insights into mainstream media workflows, participate in weekly progress check-ins, and benefit from peer-to-peer learning opportunities. To support their participation, mentees will receive a subsistence allowance of 1400 EUR (total gross amount for two months).

The Program received 21 applications with a competitive jury selection process ultimately awarding **nine mentorships** to:

- Ina Majko
- Migena Kodra
- Amra Ahmetović
- Fatlum Kryeziu
- Haktan Bulut
- Medina Ramić
- Jasmina Beriša
- Leon Ali
- Maja Simić



*EXHIBITION: [IN]VISIBILITY: Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation /
8 April–19 July 2024*

ERIAC Serbia, in collaboration with the Roma Education Fund, Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative, and Roma for Democracy Serbia, proudly hosted the grand exhibition opening of “(In)visibility – Roma Strategies of Self-Reinterpretation” on April 8, 2024, in honor of International Roma Day.

Key impacts:

- Event was covered across six different media outlets providing wide reach to different audiences
- Exhibition attracted over 400 visitors in two months
- Work of six Roma artists exhibited

The exhibition, curated and guided by **Bratislav Mitrović**, showcased the works of prominent artists including **Luna de Rosa, Zoran Tairović, Nihad Nino Pušija, Mina Karadžić, Jake Bowers, and Ioanida Costache**. Through diverse artistic expressions, the exhibition illuminated the complex narratives on Roma identity, explored intersectionality as a lived experience, and highlighted the historical contributions of the Roma community, challenging stereotypes and advocating for social justice and greater recognition of the contribution of Roma to the European cultural heritage. The exhibition was held at the ERIAC Serbia Gallery in Belgrade and was open from 8 April until 19 July 2024.

The opening event commenced with welcoming remarks from **Mr. Bratislav Mitrović**, Acting Director of ERIAC Serbia, and esteemed guests including **Her Excellency Madam Tamara Vučić**, the First Lady of the Republic of Serbia, **Her Excellency Madam Maja Gojković**, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, and **Mr. Miguel Waltereit**, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Serbia.

A thought-provoking reflections segment titled “(In)visible Everyday Challenges, Contributions & Potential of Roma” followed, featuring insights from **Jelena Reljić** of Roma for Democracy Serbia, **Žarko Savić** of Roma Entrepreneurship Development Initiative Serbia, and **Sibina Golubović** of the Roma Education Fund. The highlight of the evening was the conceptual, multimedia art performance titled “Space of Misunderstandings” by **Luna De Rosa**, a Roma artist from Germany. Luna’s performance delved into the intersectional experiences of Roma women, offering a compelling exploration of identity, visibility, and empowerment. Attendees were also treated to a piano interlude titled “(In)visible Harmonies” by **Vitomir Jovanović**, a young Roma prodigy from Serbia. The event concluded with informal networking, fostering

connections and collaboration among attendees committed to promoting Roma arts and culture.

This event was supported by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia.

In commemoration of international Roma Day, ERIAC Serbia, in partnership with RFD Serbia, also implemented an initiative where the Belgrade Tower proudly displayed the Roma flag and commemorated International Roma Day to Roma around the world, making a powerful statement of cultural pride and enhancing the visibility of the Roma community.

Mrs. Tamara Vucic speaking (below) and Luna De Rosa performing (right), at the opening of "(In)visibility - Roma strategies for reinterpretation of property".



INSTALLATION: Illumination of Blegrade Tower for International Roma Day / 8 April 2024

Through the collaborative efforts of ERIAC Serbia and esteemed partners, Roma for Democracy Serbia, under the auspices of the Roma for Europe Foundation, the Belgrade Tower proudly displayed the Roma flag on the evening of April 8th, in celebration of World Roma Day.

Thanks to the tireless advocacy and dedication of ERIAC Serbia alongside our valued partners, this symbolic gesture celebrates the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the Roma community to the cultural and historical heritage of Serbia and the entire world.

While this gesture may not alleviate the everyday challenges faced by many members of our community, it represents a symbolic moment of social and institutional recognition and support for Roma. With small steps, slowly but surely, together we are building a more just, inclusive and better society, for all.



PANEL: The Roma and Inclusive Remembrance Culture online panel / 31 July 2024

On 31 July 2024, ERIAC Serbia hosted the Roma and Inclusive Remembrance Culture online panel. The panel featured three leading regional experts and the thematic focus was current efforts to include the history of the Roma genocide in textbooks and memorial practices, as well as the roles of art, monuments and innovative practices in preserving historical memory. The event sought to foster awareness and dialogue and shape strategies for more inclusive remembrance of the Holocaust.

The speakers were:

- **Ljuan Koka**, prominent Roma political scientist, historian and screenwriter
- **Miško Stanišić**, Holocaust education expert

- **Milovan Pissarri**, historian and international expert on the Holocaust and genocide over the Roma

The panel was attended by **25 participants**.

EXHIBITION: Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide / 13 September–6 June 2024

On 13 September 2024, ERIAC Serbia proudly opened the exhibition “**Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide**”. The exhibition illuminates the often-overlooked narratives of the Roma genocide during World War II and honors the resilience of the Roma community in Serbia and the region. It served as an introduction to a training program focused on the role of media professionals in combating discrimination and antigypsyism, featuring 30 participants from the Western Balkans and Türkiye. The exhibition will remain open to the public until 6 June 2025 and has, to date, been attended by over 100 visitors since opening.

Collaborators: Emanuel Barica, Šimo Dominković, Ljuran Koka, Daniel Petrovski, Milovan Pissarri, Aleksandar Reljić, Miško Stanišić, Danijel Vojak.

Institutional Collaborators: Public Institution Jasenovac Memorial Area, Serbian Military Archive, The Koprivnice City Museum, Town Museum Jastrebarsko, The Museum of Vojvodina, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, The Archives of Yugoslavia.



Opening of “Combing Through Time: Disentangling the Hidden Histories of the Roma Genocide” on 13 September at ERIAC Serbia.

The opening ceremony featured welcoming remarks from **Nadia Ćuk**, Deputy Head of the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade, and Mr. Bratislav Mitrović, Acting Director of ERIAC Serbia. Ms. Ćuk emphasized the importance of media professionals in nurturing a culture of remembrance, stating:

“I am especially pleased that media professionals are present at this exhibition. Media professionals, along with artists, are important allies in promoting solidarity and building a more just society.”

Mr. Mitrović added: “This exhibition is not just an act of remembrance but a space for learning and dialogue, inviting us to rethink the dominant narratives of World War II and include Roma voices and experiences in our shared history.”

This activity is implemented with the financial support of the Roma Integration Phase III Joint Programme of the European Union and the Council of Europe.

CAMPAIGN: Young Roma: (Re)Defining Resistance online campaign

In 2024, ERIAC Serbia undertook an online campaign titled ***Young Roma: (Re)Defining Resistance***. This included:

- Conducting an online survey with Roma from the region on the topic of resistance
 - Designing and publishing 10 statements, translated into Romanes to generate dialogue and awareness
- STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN ERIAC’S INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

IV. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN ERIAC'S INSTITUTIONAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT



PROJECT: ERIACNET4EU

In the frame of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) of the European Union, ERIAC is leading the project ERIACNET4EU: ERIAC Network to Advance Roma Inclusion by Combating and Preventing Antigypsyism in the EU.

ERIACNET4EU is implemented through a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) with the European Commission and is managed through annual operating grants. The long-term goal of the program is to leverage culture and cultural diplomacy to promote an open, rights-based, democratic, equal, and inclusive EU society.

ERIACNET4EU serves the following objectives:

- 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 ERIAC members as well as with other public and private stakeholders
- Raise awareness, information and dissemination activities
- Increase capacities and knowledge-base of members and other stakeholders through training activities
- Grow the network and perform community outreach

FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES (FSTP): #ERIACNET4EU: 2024 Grants to Protect and Promote EU Values and Rights

In 2024, ERIAC again invited applications from EU-based member organizations for grants under the ERIACNET4EU program. Applications were welcome from organizations aiming to change narratives about Roma in Europe through advocacy, cultural diplomacy, and intercultural exchange.

The program also provides project-based support for cultural activities focused on awareness-raising, commemoration, remembrance, research, and education, emphasizing shared European aspects of Romani history. The goal is to address current European challenges and present the Roma experience as a shared European narrative reflecting values of diversity, tolerance, and fundamental rights.



Grants were awarded for projects lasting a minimum of two months and a maximum of one year in the following categories:

- Small Scale Projects (€5,000–€8,000)
- Large Scale Projects (€10,000–€20,000)

Following a [competitive call for projects](#), ERAC received **20 applications** from nine European Union member states between 25 March and 25 May 2024. Of these, four projects were deemed ineligible. The Jury, in a two-stage selection process, awarded **nine projects** from eight EU countries a total investment of **€83,750,00**. The awarded grants are between **€4,750** and **€15,000** with a project support rate of 100% over 6 to 12 months.

ERAC looks forward to seeing the ideas for: changing narratives about Roma in Europe through advocacy, cultural diplomacy and intercultural exchange between Roma and non-Roma; on strengthening the capacity to protect and promote EU rights and values; and on increasing citizen awareness of EU rights and values, become reality with our and support of the European Union.

ERIANET4EU 2024 GRANTEES

GRANTEE: Ara Art

Country/Location: Czech Republic

Project title: Significant Days of the Roma Nation

Project duration: July 2024 – June 2025 (11 months)

Budget received: € 15,000.00

Summary of the project: Project focused on Roma community's important dates: Roma Holocaust Memorial Day; International Romani Language Day; International Roma Day. Aims to raise awareness, break stereotypes via high-quality presentation of Roma artists and inspire youth.

GRANTEE: Association Roma Center "Amare Rometza"

Country/Location: Romania

Project title: The Enlightened Night of Roma Arts against the Dark Days of Antigypsyism

Project duration: July 2024 – July 2025 (12 months)

Budget received: € 15,000.00

Summary of the project: The project aims to organize a sleepless illuminated night of Roma arts performances (literature, theatre, music, visual arts), featuring established and emerging Roma artists, to develop and promote Roma culture as a tool to combat antigypsyism.

GRANTEE: Women for the Future Association/Independent Theatre Hungary

Country/Location: Hungary

Project title: Observers

Project duration: August 2024 – July 2025 (11 months)

Budget received: € 15,000.00

Summary of the project: The project aims to create a new play, theater performance, related video, and educational material focusing on the experiences of Roma intellectuals in Hungary highlighting a taboo and the interdisciplinary contexts of Roma dramas.

GRANTEE: Stiftung Kai Dikhas

Country/Location: Germany

Project title: R^{OMA} LEPANTO

Project duration: April 2024 – May 2025 (12 months)

Budget received: € 10,000.00

Summary of the project: R^{OMA} LEPANTO is a visually impressive art installation (and conference) that takes the historical Lepanto naval battle as starting point for an acute debate about how Roma are continuously excluded but in fact part of European history and society.

GRANTEE: APS Kethane Italia

Country/Location: Italy

Project title: Advocate for the Museum of Romani Genocide and Resistance

Project duration: August 2024 – February 2025 (6 months)

Budget received: € 6,000.00

Summary of the project: The project consists in creating a committee of important historians, intellectuals, politicians and journalists who can carry out a strong advocacy action to create a Museum of Romani genocide and resistance in Milan

GRANTEE: Public Institution Roma Community Centre

Country/Location: Lithuania

Project title: Pilote Action "Roma Eurovision" – Roma Cultural Inclusion and Preventive Antigypsyism Tool through Culture

Project duration: July 2024 – January 2025 (6 months)

Budget received: € 6,000.00

Summary of the project: The project is a pilot with Roma communities from three Baltic States, offering an innovative form of Roma positioning across the EU. It aims to combat antigypsyism in an engaging way for broader European societies.

GRANTEE: Romane Siklovne, Association of Young Roma Students of Bon Paastor

Country/Location: Spain

Project title: Experimental Archeology of Flamenco

Project duration: July 2024 – July 2025 (12 months)

Budget received: € 6,000.00

Summary of the project: Through an exercise in 'experimental archeology' of flamenco we will generate empirical knowledge about the genesis of flamenco

GRANTEE: Romani Divat Social Enterprise

Country/Location: Hungary

Project title: Romani Design: Fashion is Activism

Project duration: July 2024 – January 2025 (6 months)

Budget received: € 6,000.00

Summary of the project: The Romani Design FASHION IS ACTIVISM capsule collection and multidisciplinary performance is an artistic concept of four elements: a collection, an event with fashion show, a workshop, an exhibit, a social media campaign and academic research.

GRANTEE: Pro Bono Publico

Country/Location: Greece

Project title: RomAware

Project duration: July 2024 – July 2025 (12 months)

Budget received: € 4,750.00

Summary of the project: An advocacy campaign based aimed at promoting the inclusion of Roma history and culture in the educational curricula of Greece and Romania, supported by comprehensive targeted research and policy recommendations.

ERiac COOPERATION WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

In 2024, ERIAC collaborated and coordinated closely with different CoE institutions and departments. Through the work of the CoE Roma and Travellers Team and ERIAC Management, initiatives in 2024 were better harmonized than in the previous years.

ERiac continued to contribute to the work of the CoE Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion (CDADI) and the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) including through:

- ERIAC contributions to:
 - CoE Draft Strategy on Roma and Traveler Inclusion (2026–2030)
 - CoE Roma Journalist Award, and the Roma “Cultural Capital Initiative”.
 - CoE-EU Roma Integration Phase III project in the Western Balkans in 2024–25.
 - Teaching Roma and Travellers History. Roma Holocaust Remembrance, Recognition and Education, 11–12 June 2024
- ERIAC leadership of:
 - the CoE Roma Cultural Itinerary Initiative, ROMHERITAGE, closing with a major public event on December 5, 2024 on Pariser Platz
- ADI-ROM thematic visit to Germany in 2024:
 - An ADI-ROM delegation of 15 people, including ADIROM president Manuel Demougeot, conducted a study visit to ERIAC that later proved to be crucial for the successful and impactful realization of the Safeguarding Our Romani Language conference in Strasbourg on 5 November.
 - The visit was centered on ERIAC’s key achievements for 2024 in arts and culture, Roma history and language education, as well as pride and identity. The Committee members were presented the works of three emerging Roma young artists during a guided tour of the exhibition “Cargo - of Dust and Ashes”, curated by ERIAC and currently on display in our Berlin space. The presence of the delegation further strengthened the ongoing collaboration between ERIAC and its partners, committed to advancing the visibility and recognition of Roma contributions in the arts and beyond.
- Partnerships with the CoE Roma and Travelers Team. Including by:
 - inviting ERIAC’s expert contributions during the 80th anniversary of the Commemoration of the Roma Holocaust in 2024, as part of their CoEEU Joint Program on Roma Holocaust Remembrance.

- leading the ERIAC language conference in Strasbourg, together with the Minority Languages Division of the CoE, where the ERIAC language section presented the A1-B1 Romani Textbooks, building on the Curriculum Framework for Romani developed by the Language Policy Division of the Council of Europe.
- ERIAC commenced a conversation with Euroimage and contributed to the work of the European Observatory for History Teaching (both CoE institutions).



ERAC BERLIN: DIPLOMATIC VISITS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

Key meetings:

- On 18 September 2024, on the occasion of the **Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Roma Inclusion**, ERIAC collaborated with the Roma Foundation for Europe and hosted a reception in the ERIAC office of **ministerial delegations from the Western Balkans region**, and **Federal Foreign Office Special Representative Dr. Christian Heldt**.
 - The reception was attended by about 30 guests and sought to ensure a pivotal role for ERIAC in Roma strategy making. The delegation were introduced to a young generation of Roma artists through a guided tour of the exhibition "CARGO – of Dust and Ashes" and a musical performance of Darko Piller on the violin.
 - The occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the Berlin Process and the 5th anniversary of the Declaration of the Western Balkans Partners on Roma Integration within the EU Enlargement Process. Further, In 2021 and 2022, all Western Balkan partners approved new Roma inclusion Strategies and Action Plans for the next 5 to 10 years.
- In October 2024, ERIAC hosted a ministerial reception of around 40 representatives from the Minimum Income Network of the European Commission, after establishing a connection with the German Ministry for Labour and Social.



Ministerial delegations from the Western Balkans region and FFO Special Representative Dr. Christian Heldt visit ERIAC offices on the occasion of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Roma Inclusion.

- In March 2024, the Embassy of Romania in Germany and the Romanian Cultural Institute Berlin visited ERIAC.
- On 5 June 2024, ERIAC hosted MEP Gaby Bischoff (SPD), Zeljko Jovanovic (President, Roma Foundation for Europe), and Timea Junghaus (Executive Director, ERIAC), who shared valuable insights on the contributions of Roma and Sinti to European politics, economy, and culture. The event highlighted the importance of Roma and Sinti voices in shaping Europe's future.
- Timea Junghaus, Executive Director of ERIAC, and Zeljko Jovanovic, President of the Roma Foundation for Europe, visited the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin meeting with Minister of State for Europe and Climate, Anna Lührmann. The visit emphasized the significance of Romani cultural representation ahead of the European Elections on 9 June 2024. The discussions highlighted the invaluable contributions of Roma and Sinti to European culture, politics and economy - promoting the #RomaforEurope2030 agenda, suggesting ways to realize the full potential of the Roma for the benefit of all Europe.
- On 17 December 2024, ERIAC finished the year strong by welcoming CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O'Flaherty, discussing priorities and joint action in response to the escalating human rights violations faced by Roma and Travellers in Europe.



ERIAC SERBIA: DIPLOMATIC VISITS AND HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS

Key meetings:

- Meeting with President Aleksandar Vučić and H.E. Madam Tamara Vučić, First Lady of Serbia, March 2024.
- Meeting with H.E. Madam Vučić, First Lady of Serbia, June 2024.
- Meeting with Michael Roth, former Minister for Europe and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, along with his advisor Dr. Anja Engels, and Karsten Mayer Viehausen, Deputy Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Serbia, May 2024.
- Ms. Nicole A. Chulick, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, Mr. Noah Krystal, Deputy Director of the Office for European Affairs within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor at the U.S. State Department, along with Mr. Ross Conroy from the U.S. Embassy in Belgrade, May 2024.
- Meeting with Anke Konrad, Ambassador of Germany in Serbia, June 2024.



Clockwise from top: Meeting with President Aleksandar Vučić and H.E. Madam Tamara Vučić, First Lady of Serbia; Meeting with Michael Roth, Dr. Anja Engels, and Karsten Mayer Viehausen; Meeting with Ms. Nicole A. Chulick, Mr. Noah Krystal, and Mr. Ross Conroy; Meeting with H.E. Madam Vučić; Meeting with Anke Konrad.

FINANCIAL REPORT

PRIORITY IN 2024: STRENGTHENING ERIAC'S FINANCIAL RESILIENCE THROUGH DIVERSIFYING OUR PORTFOLIO OF DONORS & ACCESS MORE FLEXIBLE FUNDING TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

ERiac's revenue 2024 was **€1.000.953,75**. The fundraising result in 2024 was **€525.460,78**, with additional approved fundraising for the ERIACNET4EU 2025 project for **€351.748,00**. With this the 2024 total fundraising result is **€877.208,78**.

The total Funds managed in 2024 was **€2.986.811,06**.

ERiac managed a rollover of multiyear grants from 2023 (feeding into all budgetary areas) of **€1.985.857,31**.

Total expenditure in 2024 amounted to **€1.628.774,95** distributed between the programming costs of **€770.054,45** (47%), and institutional running costs (personnel and operational costs) of **€858.720,50** (53 %). ERIAC Management was guided by the principles of cost-efficiency and securing the highest possible value for the funds invested.

ERiac' continues to make financial transactions only through electronic payments registered immediately into the ERIAC bank account. Finance management is conducted by ERIAC Finance Management, with the supervision of the ERIAC executive director, according to the German federal financial regulations.

The Year-end Tax Report Jahresabschluss 2023 was prepared by Schomerus and Partner MbB. Schomerus completed an internal audit of ERIAC's finances 2021-23 and assisted with managing external audits towards the European Commission.

In July 2024 ERIAC submitted the Financial Reports for the period 2021-2023 to the German Tax Authority (Finanzamt) for the prolongation of the tax-exempt status. However, because Schomerus' capacities have decreased, ERIAC transitioned future cooperation to the accounting and tax consulting firm Schürmann & Schürmann StB GmbH.

On December 31, 2024, ERIAC held in its bank account the total amount of **€1.358.036,11**, matching the records of Financial management and the auditing and accounting firm Schürmann GmbH.

TABLE: ERIAC REVENUE (1 January–31 December 2024)

Reporting date: 31 January 2025

DONORS	EUR (2024)
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	
Roma Foundation for Europe - Grant on "Network Hub space development and building "	€ 190.000,00
Council of Europe (Institutional support for 2024)	€ 200.000,00
ERiac own resources - donations, returned transfers, membership	€ 18.492,97
TOTAL INSTITUTIONAL REVENUE	€ 408.492,97
PROGRAMING SUPPORT	
Federal Foreign Office Germany - "International Outreach Project 2024"	€ 200.000,00
European Union/ Council of Europe - RomaMemory - "Roma Holocaust Remembrance"	€ 64.000,00
Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion - "Berlin Tales" - Margins Strike Back	€ 73.800,00
European Commission - JEKHIPE	€ 110.263,50
Stiftung EVZ - "Memory of the Holocaust of Roma and Sinti"	€ 8.056,00
European Education and Culture Executive Agency - "ROMHERITAGE"	€ 12.341,28
Hauptstadtkulturfonds - "Auf der Suche nach Eldorado"	€ 57.000,00
TOTAL PROGRAMING REVENUE	€ 525.460,78
PROJECT POST FINANCING	
European Education and Culture Executive Agency - "ERiacNET4EU 2023" (post financing)	€ 67.000,00
TOTAL PROJECT POST FINANCING	€ 67.000,00
TOTAL REVENUE	€ 1.000.953,75

GRAPH: ERIAC REVENUE (1 January–31 December 2024)

Reporting date: 31 January, 2025

