ERIAC
EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture e.V.
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ONLINE TRAINING ON ROMANI IDENTITY, HISTORY AND CULTURE

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

Hosted by the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC)
30 October 2026 · 09:50 – 17:45 CET · ONLINE

Registration form: ***https://forms.gle/uCTSoqG5BGfRiYqJ9***
Zoom link: Will be sent to registered participants 24 hours before the event.

Context

The Roma have been an integral part of Europe for over seven centuries, contributing significantly to the continent's cultural, social, and economic fabric. Despite this longstanding presence, Roma remain one of the most marginalised and misunderstood groups in Europe, and antigypsyism — a deep-seated, structural form of racism against Roma people — continues to manifest in institutional, interpersonal, and structural forms.

Public officials at EU, Council of Europe, and national, regional, and local level often make decisions that affect Roma communities without adequate grounding in Roma history, identity, and lived experience, or in the specific human-rights dimensions of antigypsyism. To help close this gap in an accessible, non-academic format, the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) is organising this online training course on Roma identity, culture, and the Roma Holocaust.

Audience: staff of the EU and the Council of Europe; public officials at national, regional, and local level of governance; and the interested public.

Format: fully online, to maximise participation across countries and institutions, with supplementary resources and learning materials for participants who wish to go deeper into any of the topics.

Throughout, the course positions Roma identity, history, and culture within the broader debates currently shaping Europe — on migration, minority and human rights, nationalism and populism, and the future of European integration — underscoring why these questions matter for public officials today.

Objectives

The primary objectives of this training course are:

1. Build a Shared Understanding of Antigypsyism

- Introduce antigypsyism as a specific, structural form of racism directed at Roma, examining its definitions, historical roots, and its institutional, interpersonal, and structural manifestations.
- Equip participants with a human-rights framework — drawing on relevant EU and Council of Europe references — to recognise and address antigypsyism in policy-making and public administration.

2. Deepen Understanding of Roma Identity

- Explore Roma self-identification and the diversity of Roma communities and groups across Europe.
- Help participants recognise the antigypsyism framework from Session 1 within their own institutional context.

3. Ground Participants in Roma History, Including the Roma Holocaust

- Provide a solid grounding in Roma history in Europe, with the Roma Holocaust (Porajmos/Samudaripen) addressed as a central and defining chapter.
- Examine its long suppression from mainstream memory and its ongoing relevance to contemporary antigypsyism and human-rights work.

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4. Recognise and Value Roma Culture

- Present an overview of Roma cultural contributions — with a particular focus on music — recognising Roma culture on its own terms rather than solely through a historical or discrimination-focused lens.
- Encourage participants to connect this appreciation of Roma culture with a rights-based, culturally informed approach in their own professional work.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the training, participants will:

1. Enhanced Awareness and Knowledge

- Gain a clear understanding of antigypsyism, Roma identity, Roma history (including the Roma Holocaust), and Roma cultural contributions.
- Acquire a human-rights framework, grounded in EU and Council of Europe references, for engaging with Roma-related issues.

2. Improved Sensitivity and Competence

- Develop greater sensitivity to the issues facing Roma communities, and build competence in recognising antigypsyism within institutional and societal contexts.
- Gain confidence in approaching sensitive and contentious topics — including the Roma Holocaust — respectfully and accurately.

3. Empowered to Act and Advocate

- Be equipped with practical knowledge and a rights-based, culturally informed approach to apply in their own professional work.
- Leave with supplementary resources and materials to continue learning on Roma-related topics after the course.

4. A More Informed, Rights-Based Practice

- Be better positioned to identify and incorporate human-rights concerns related to Roma and antigypsyism into their own professional decision-making.

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AGENDA

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09:50 – 10:00 CET	**Meeting opening — technical check-in**
10:00 – 10:15 CET	**Welcome address and opening remarks** *By – Dr. Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka – ERIAC Executive Director*
	• Presenting the agenda and speakers.
10:15 – 11:45 CET	**"The Architecture of Exclusion: Understanding Antigypsyism as Structural Racism"** *Session 1 — Antigypsyism* *By – dr. Deszo Mate*
	• Antigypsyism as a specific, structural form of racism directed at Roma: definitions, historical roots, and contemporary manifestations — institutional, interpersonal, and structural. • How antigypsyism shows up in policy-making and public administration. • Relevant EU and Council of Europe human-rights references and frameworks for addressing antigypsyism.
11:45 – 11:55 CET	**Coffee break**
11:55 – 13:25 CET	**"Divided by History, United by Future: Roma Identity and the Politics of Nation-Building"** *Session 2 — Roma Identity* *By – dr. Raul Carstocea*
	• Roma identity and its diversity: self-identification and the plurality of Roma communities and groups across Europe — a plurality shaped by history, yet united by a shared sense of belonging as one people. • Roma identity set against the backdrop of European nation-building processes and nationalism. • How this plays out in participants' own institutional and professional context.
13:25 – 14:25 CET	**Lunch break**
14:25 – 15:55 CET	**"The Unwritten Chapter: Roma History and the Weight of Memory"** *Session 3 — Roma History, including the Roma Holocaust* *By – dr. Raul Carstocea*
	• A grounding in Roma history in Europe, with the Roma Holocaust (Porajmos/Samudaripen) addressed as a central and defining chapter. • Its facts, its long suppression from mainstream memory, and its ongoing relevance to contemporary antigypsyism and human rights work.

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15:55 – 16:05 CET	**Coffee break**
16:05 – 17:35 CET	**"Many Styles, One Thread: Roma History and Culture Through Music"** *Session 4 — Roma Culture* *By – dr. Petra Gelbart*
	• Roma musical traditions across Europe — from flamenco to Balkan brass to jazz manouche — as a lens onto Roma history and culture. • The diversity of Roma musical styles, and the common thread running through them. • How participants can apply a rights-based, culturally informed appreciation of Roma culture in their own professional work.
17:35 – 17:45 CET	**Closing remarks** *By – Claudiu Pamfil*