

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) e.V.

Membership Charter

Adopted by the ERiac "PAKIV" Board on April 6th 2018

Introduction

1. The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) e.V. is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations, and the Alliance for the European Roma Institute (*Alliance pour l'Institut Rom Européenne pour les Arts et la Culture*). ERiac's objective is the promotion of arts and culture and education as a means to promote human rights and intercultural understanding and thereby to tackle anti-Gypsyism and discrimination against Roma in Europe and to increase their self-esteem.
2. Six founding principles define the Institute's establishment, governance, structure and membership:
 - Respect of the dignity of Romani people and Romani identity
 - Diversity and plurality of Romani identities and cultures
 - Romani leadership with the support and co-operation of non-Roma
 - Engagement and contribution of Romani organizations and individuals in the establishment and ongoing activities of the Institute
 - Political autonomy and non-partisanship while remaining open to collaborations with public authorities and partnerships with political institutions
 - Highest quality standards in the domains of arts and culture, as well as in the Institute's own operations

Purpose of the Charter

3. The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERiac) e.V. ("the Institute") is a not-for-profit association under German law, set up to support suitable efforts of collecting, exchanging and showcasing works of art and culture of Romani origin or linked to the situation of Roma in Europe.
4. The Institute has two categories of membership: "permanent members" and "associate members". The Council of Europe, the Open Society Institute and the Alliance pour l'Institut Rom Européenne pour les Arts et la Culture are permanent members of the Institute.
5. The Institute is open to associate members in compliance with Article 12 of its Statute. It co-operates with the widest possible range of interested institutions, initiatives and individuals in all parts of Europe and beyond, and from all cultural backgrounds. Associate members have a key role in building the cultural, intellectual and organisational resources of the Institute.
6. This Membership Charter sets out the rights and obligations of ERiac's associate members and defines the mechanisms for their involvement in the Institute's activities.

Criteria for associate membership

7. Associate membership of the Institute is open to Roma and non-Roma artists, cultural managers, interested individuals, civil society organisations, and private sector companies wishing to support the Institute, sharing its aims and values, and embracing the six founding principles. Applications are accepted from legal and natural persons.
8. Associate membership can be obtained by filing an online or written application with the Executive Director of the Institute. Associate membership becomes effective after confirmation.

Thematic sections

9. Associate members are asked to subscribe to thematic sections, according to their preferences and experience. Associate members can subscribe to more than one section.
10. The initial thematic sections are:
 - Arts and culture
 - Media and information in the fields of arts and culture
 - History and commemoration
 - Research and publication in the fields of arts and culture.
11. After consultation with the associate members, the Board is entitled to adapt thematic sections within the framework of arts and culture.

Rights

12. To the extent possible, associate members will be involved in the Institute's programme of activities. Associate members are invited to suggest cultural and artistic initiatives and partnerships.
13. Through its presence on the web and in social media, the Institute will provide associate members with a platform for the exchange of ideas and expertise.
14. Associate members have access to the knowledge base of the Institute.
15. Associate members have the right to display the logo and name of the Institute in their own cultural activities, according to the conditions set by the Institute. The Executive Director will provide standard artwork and display material on the Institute to interested associate members.
16. Associate members have the right to participate in the General Assembly.

Responsibilities

17. ERIAC's associate members agree to be bound by the Institute's Statute and Membership Charter, and to promote its aims and values, and respect the Institute's six founding principles. They agree to uphold and enhance the reputation of the Institute, and to support the implementation of its programmes.
18. The associate members agree to respect and follow the Institute's internal policies and regulations.

19. The associate members are responsible to register to at least one thematic sections and to pay annual membership fees.
20. The yearly membership fee to be paid by associate members is set by the Board ("PAKIV"). The annual fee is announced on the Institute's website. In exceptional cases, the in-kind contributions may be accepted in substitution of the annual membership fee.

Participation of associate members in the decision-making process

21. Associate members vote to nominate members of the "Academy" ("Barvalipe") in the section to which they have subscribed. Every associate member can cast one vote. Associate members who have subscribed to more than one section, shall choose one section in which to vote. The vote will be conducted online. The two candidates receiving the highest and second-highest number of votes in each thematic section shall be presented to the General Assembly for appointment to the "Academy".
22. Members of the "Academy" shall be natural persons with exceptional experience in the fields of activity of the Institute and in good public standing. The "Academy" should in principle be composed in such a way that persons of Roma origin have a majority, with due regard to gender, generational and regional balance.
23. Associate members vote in the General Assembly to appoint up to eight representatives to sit on the "Academy" for a term of office of three years. Re-appointment is possible once. Every thematic section can be represented by up to two representatives.

Settlement of disputes

24. Disputes concerning the programme activities of the Institute, the election process and its results, associate members' compliance with this Membership Charter or any other part of the work of the Institute shall be submitted to the Board ("PAKIV").
25. An associate member can be excluded from the Institute for good cause. The exclusion becomes effective with a respective resolution of the Board. The associate member has to be heard before the decision.