

ERiac

General Assembly

Held online on December 17th 2018

MINUTES

Participants:

Board Members:

Željko Jovanović, Director of Roma Initiative Office, Open Society Foundations; Chair of the ERIAC Board

Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Other invitees:

Thorsten Afflerbach, Head of division, Roma and Travellers Team, Council of Europe

Almir Huseini, ERIAC staff member

Timea Junghaus, Executive Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture

Katalin Nemeth, ERIAC staff member

Associate members:

Aurel Ionita (Music Band Mahala Rai Banda)

Blake Isaac (Executive Director of the Romani Cultural & Arts Company (RCAC))

Bogdan Maria (PhD, scholar)

Balazova Jarmila (Press Secretary for Human Rights, Ministry of Czech Education)

Casermeyro Pedro (Director Romane Silkovne)

Dragan Mihaela (Theater group Gjuvlipen)

Elezovski Ashmet (Director, The National Roma Centrum Organization)

Grigore Delia (scholar; president of Roma Center „Amare Rromentza”)

Gomez Cortes Ismael (Researcher)

Horvath Gilda /Nancy Black (artist and activist)

Jovanovic Dejan (Teacher, independent researcher of Romani language)

Mirga Andrzej (Chair of the Board of the Roma Education Fund (REF))

Metodiev Emil (Independent artist)

Matkowska Justyna (Plenipotentiary of Ethnic Minorities at Dolny Slask Voivodship; musician)

Mate Dezso (PhD Candidate at the Eötvös Loránd University)

Nasture Florin (Director, National Center for Roma Culture)

Oancea Mihai (Bucharest at the University of Agronomic Sciences)

Pavlovic Dijana (Activist)

Pankok Moritz (Artistic Director, Galeria Kai Dikhas)

Ristic Dragan (Director of Romani Cultural Center - Belgrade)

Redzepi Nadir (Director, REF)

Sijercic Hedina (Experts of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Council of Europe)
Sanchez Fabian (Director, Asociación nacional presencia gitana)
Serban Alina (Actress)
Truksa Roman (Coordinator, Deputy director, Museum of Romani Culture, Brno)
Taho Bledar (Director, IRCA)
Vasilescu George (Artists)
Vargas Miguel Angel (Artists, Roma Theater Pralipé)

1. Organizational matter

ERiac Executive Director Timea Junghaus is appointed as the Chairperson of the General Assembly by the vote of permanent members. Ms. Junghaus appoints Almir Huseini as the minute-taker; the minutes will be reviewed and confirmed by the Chair of the General Assembly. Ms. Junghaus concludes by giving instructions and reviewing the rules for asking questions, taking the floor and voting during the GA.

2. Opening Remarks

Welcome remarks by Ms. Samardzic-Markovic, expressing support to ERiac as a membership-driven organization. Ms. Samardzic-Markovic highlighted that the membership in ERiac brings rights and obligations as well as reassured about the continuous political support of the Council of Europe for the Roma cause and ERiac specifically.

Welcome remarks by Mr. Jovanovic as Chairman of the Board – presentation of the rationale of ERiac, associate membership and the principle of contribution. It was emphasized that members are important not only to ERiac but to the entire Roma movement and that this is a historical moment for ERiac. Mr. Jovanovic applauded associate members for complying with the principle of contribution which represents a paradigmatic shift in the Roma movement.

3. Objectives of the General Assembly and overview of the agenda

ERiac Executive Director Timea Junghaus presents the agenda of the General Assembly: overview of activities and achievements of ERiac; appointment of the 8 Barvalipe academy members; discussion between the members about the ERiac's future and the role of associate members in ERiac. Ms. Junghaus emphasized that the objective of the General Assembly is to officially appoint eight associate members to Barvalipe Academy nominated in different thematic sections.

4. Presentation of ERiac's work in 2017-2018: Major milestones

Timea Junghaus presents ERiac milestones since its creation until the present. The status report includes the overview of the organizational and institutional achievements in 2018 (based on the reading materials provided) and presents the two international programmes: International Cultural Outreach Programme and Cultural Institutional Network Initiative (CINI). Engagement with different stakeholders – including governments, mainstream arts and culture

institutions, Roma organizations and artists - in the ERIAC open space as well as online was also discussed.

5. Appointment of the Barvalipe Academy members

ERiac Program Officer Almir Huseini presented the process of building the associate membership since the launching of the call for associate members. The collected contributions (financial and in-kind) as well as the overview of the distribution of members – including institutional and individual as well as across the four thematic sections was presented. Subsequently, the internal election process conducted in each thematic section was described.

5.1. Role of the Barvalipe Academy

Deputy Director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka briefly described the role of the Barvalipe Academy and presented the 7 members initially appointed by the ERIAC Board.

According to ERIAC statute, the remaining 8 members are to be formally appointed by the General Assembly during which the associate members cast their votes. The 8 members to be appointed by the General Assembly will complete the process of building the Barvalipe Academy.

5.2. Review of the voting results in each section. Overview of the winners and substitutes in each section

Review of the voting results and introduction of nominees elected in each section as candidates to the Barvalipe Academy, presented by the Deputy Director Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka.

Arts and Culture

Nominees: Emilia Rigova (SK), Michaela Dragan (RO)

Substitute: Alina Serban (RO)

Research and Publication in the fields of Arts and Culture

Nominees: Delia Grigore (Ro), Maria Bogdan (Hu)

Substitute: Hedina Sijercic (BIH)

History and commemoration

Nominees: Museum of Roma Culture in Brno* (CZ), Ismael Cortes (ES)

Substitute: Florin Nasture (RO)

Media and Information in the fields of Arts and Culture

Nominees: Gilda Horvath/ Nancy Black (AU), Kali Sara* (HR)

Substitute: Florin Nasture (RO)

* Names of the natural persons to delegated to sit in Barvalipe academy on behalf of the organizations shall be communicated to ERIAC following the appointment.

5.3. Voting by Associate members

Rules for voting through the online system are introduced to the associate members. The associate members are to vote until 15:50 when the final results will be revealed.

5.4. Next steps for the Barvalipe Members

Presentation of the next steps to be taken by the Barvalipe Academy:

- Process of strategic input, 1st full barvalipe meeting and election of 2 delegates to the Pakiv Board.
- Substitution – and their role in the Barvalipe
- Internal work and communication with the Board and the associate membership

6. Role of the associate members

Presentation of the role of associate members as defined in the membership charter and statute - rules and obligations. Next steps are introduced in terms of engagement with members in particular regarding strategy, ideas, contributions and participation.

7. Questions and Answers

The associate members were invited to pose questions to the ERIAC Board and management. They were also given the chance to take the floor to comment. Discussions concerned mainly the future initiatives and the nature of possible collaborations. The associate members inquired about the ERIAC engagement in presence outside of its offices in Berlin; possibilities to open ERIAC branch offices in different countries; the organization of events in different countries with ERIAC support; relevant information about the recent development on the topic of the Venice Biennale.

8. Review of the election results

The members voted unanimously in favor of appoint all nominees as representatives in the Barvalipe Academy.

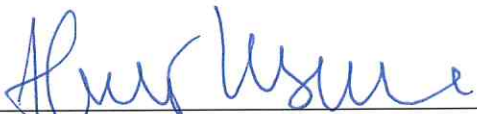
General Assembly decision:

The nominated candidates are officially appointed in Barvalipe Academy. Barvalipe Academy is officially completed.

9. Conclusion and closing of the General Assembly

Timea Junghaus as Chair of the General Assembly concludes and closes the meeting.

Approval date of the final Minute-document: January 10, 2019.


Appointed Minute-taker: Almir Huseini



Appointed Chair of the General Assembly: Timea Junghaus

In compliance with para 13 (10) of the ERIAC Statutes this Minutes are to be prepared, signed by the minute-taker and confirmed by the Chair of the General Assembly. They shall be published on the web portal of the association.