

**IV. GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
OF THE EUROPEAN ROMA INSTITUTE FOR ARTS AND CULTURE (ERiac)**

**9 December 2021**

**18:00 – 19:30 CET**

**HYBRID MEETING**

**ERiac SERBIA Office in Belgrade**  
Majke Jevrosime 51, 11 000 Beograd

**AND ONLINE**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83266508927>

**Attendees:**

Board members: Gilda Horvath, Sead Kazanxhiu, Thorsten Afflerbach (delegated by the Council of Europe), Zeljko Jovanovic.

Non-voting board members: Kinga Rethy.

Barvalipe Academy members: Delia Grigore, Maria Bogdan, Miguel Angel Vargas, Mihaela Zatreanu.

**ERiac ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

Physically: Alexandru Aristide Fifea, Andriano Marian, Ashmet Elezovski, Asip Selim, Carol Silverman, Diana Kirilova, Dragan Ristic, Emil Metodiev, Fabian Sanchez Garcia, George Mihai Vasilescu, Inger Sigfridsson, Ismet Jasarevic, Lela Savic, Ljuan Koko, Muamed Malikovski, Nadir Redzepi, Nataliya Tsekova, Nikolay Kirilov, Osman Balic, Redjepali Chupi, Saimir Bakalli – Joscelyn Foundation, Sami Mustafa, Sanela Emin, Silvija Nestic, Sinisa Knezevic, Xhenson Cela, Xhesika Korra – IRCA.

**Online:**

Adrijano Dzeladin, Almir Huseini, Ando Glaso, Andrzej Mirga, Ara Aparat, Daniel Baker, Detlev Boeing, Dezso Mate, Elena Resnick, Gem Hall, Gonzalo Montano, Hans Calderas, Imogen, Bright Moon, Isaac Blake, Jake Bowers, Lilijana Saj Kovavica, Matthias Koch, Milutin Jovanovic, Mortiz Pankok, Nedjo Osman, Nikolay Kirilov, Pedro Casaimeiro, Roma Jam Session, Timea Nagy.

Management: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Timea Junghaus.

ERiac staff: Eglantina Aliu, Nataliia Tomenko

Minutes prepared by: Nataliia Tomenko

**Opening Remarks and Introduction**

Timea Junghaus, ERIAC executive director, welcomed the participants online and physically in Berlin. She shortly presented the agenda and the objectives of the meeting and informed the participants that the General Assembly is taking place simultaneously online and offline. She explained the rules for participation in-person, including the existing covid regulations as well as the rules for participating online via ZOOM. She introduced Eglantina Aliu as the new ERIAC membership coordinator. Nataliia Tomenko was appointed as the minute taker.

### **Session 1: Presentation of the ERIAC 2021 activity and finance report**

Timea Junghaus and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka presented the ERIAC 2021 activity and finance report. The structure of the management report followed the ERIAC Strategic objectives:

- I. STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
Build physical and digital infrastructure to upscale the talent, visibility and quality among the Roma artists and cultural producers
  
- II. STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
Build on the Council of Europe recommendation on the inclusion of the history of Roma and/or Travellers in school curricula and teaching materials
  
- III. STRATEGIC PRIORITY  
Advance the sense of pride and belonging among Roma

Following the presentation of the activities, Timea Junghaus shared the ERIAC fundraising results in 2021.

Following the presentation, the members were invited to discuss the achievements. The members discussed the importance of the Romani language and highlighted that they request that simultaneous translations English-Romani are provided for the ERIAC General Assemblies, as was the discussed in the past.

### **Session 2: Presentation of ERIAC 2022 programming proposal**

Prior to the presentation of the ERIAC 2022 plan, Chair of the Board Zeljko Jovanovic welcomed the ERIAC members.

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka presented the activity plan for the upcoming 2022, outlining the planned activities in connection to the ERIAC strategic objectives. Timea Junghaus highlighted that the 2022 plan is entirely ERIAC strategy-driven.

Following the presentation, the members were invited to discuss the priorities and activities in 2022. Members provided multiple ideas and suggestions. Members underlined the importance of involving as many Roma scholars and experts as possible in the ERIAC academic and linguistic work. It was also suggested that ERIAC should expand the scope of academic institutions where Roma are leaders. Members also inquired about the status of ERIAC Media Initiatives, including collaborators with the International Press Institute (IPI) or the Deutsche Welle.

Members congratulated the management and all the contributors for the successful past year but also highlighted that maybe it is too many activities planned for 2022, considering the resources. Members considered the plan ambitious.

Members were also encouraged to provide institutional support, connections and partnerships to provide greater presence to ERIAC and support the fulfillment of the ERIAC objectives.

Chair of the Board encouraged the members to think from a different perspective: considering the ERIAC strategic objectives, each thematic section should provide specific input on how, from the standpoint of their corresponding thematic sections, these objectives can be achieved? How much money should be spent in each thematic section? How can we measure impact?

### **Session 3: Open questions to ERIAC – discussion regarding ERIAC membership fee contributions**

Chair of the ERIAC Board opened the floor for the discussion on ERIAC membership contributions. He reminded the membership that contributions are not only monetary. All the members should consider the best interests of ERIAC to accomplish the strategic objectives.

One of the members initiated a motion to abolish or suspend the ERIAC membership fees due to the impact of the covid pandemic.

The members discussed the principle of contributions. Many members argued against the motion, considering the principle of contribution as relevant and symbolic, which contributes to building independence and shared ownership of the ERIAC work. Most members agreed that the principle should be maintained, however, more clarity should be given to defining what is meant by contribution, different payment options (sliding scale). Members were reminded that the fees are not only to be paid financially, but also in kind.

The participants agreed that the discussion regarding contributions should continue in thematic sections and should be analyzed in more detailed to establish a shared understanding.

### **Session 4: Appointment of the Barvalipe Academy members delegated by the four thematic sections**

In the last session, ERIAC management presented the outcomes of the appointment of the ERIAC Barvalipe Academy members, including the decisions taken by the Board and the outcomes of the elections conducted in each thematic section.

The General Assembly was informed that the ERIAC Board reappointed the first 7 members of Barvalipe Academy for the second term, namely:

- Delaine Le Bas - declined
- Ethel Brooks
- Iulius Rostas
- Jarmila Balážová
- Mihaela Zatreanu - confirmed
- Romani Rose
- Tony Gatlif

The Board has also voted for substitute candidates, in case any reappointed nominees do not accept their second term. Final composition of the first 7 is pending the approval of the nominees.

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka presented the results of voting in each thematic section for the 8 representatives to the Barvalipe Academy to be appointed by the General Assembly. After presentation of the voting results, in each thematic section, including noting the substitutes, the General Assembly voted for the appointment of the new members as follows:

#### **1. History and Commemoration Thematic Section**

Appointed to Barvalipe Academy:

- Ismael Cortes
- Museum of Romani Culture in Brno

SUBSTITUTES:

- Hristo Kyuchukov
- Sanela Emin

VOTING BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Agreed: 14 Offline and 12 Online
- Against: 1

#### **2. Research and publication Thematic Section**

Appointed to Barvalipe Academy:

- Delia Grigore
- Maria Bogdan

SUBSTITUTES:

- Delia Grigore
- Hristo Kyuchukov

VOTING BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Agreed: 19 Offline and 10 Online
- Against: 0

#### **3. Arts and Culture Thematic Section**

Appointed to Barvalipe Academy:

- Miguel Vargas
- Santino Spinelli

SUBSTITUTES:

- Dragan Ristic
- Rosemary Cisneros

VOTING BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Agreed: 17 Offline and 10 Online
- Against: 0

#### **4. Media and information Thematic Section**

The elections in this thematic section were non-conclusive: Gilda Horvath received the highest number of votes, followed by three nominees with the same number of votes, namely

Zita Moldovan, Sami Mustafa, Isaac Blake. The General Assembly voted to elect the second representative to the Barvalipe Academy as follows:

- Zita Moldovan
  - 2 Offline and 5 Online = 7 Total
- Sami Mustafa
  - 8 Offline and 2 Online = 10 Total
- Isaac Blake
  - 4 Offline and 9 Online = 13 Total

Appointed to Barvalipe Academy:

- Gilda Horvath
- Isaac Blake

SUBSTITUTES:

- Sami Mustafa
- Zita Moldovan

VOTING BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

- Agreed: 14 Offline and 10 Online
- Against: 1

The voting for the appointment of the 8 representative of the thematic sections was complete. The term of the appointed representatives is for 3 years, starting on December 9 2021 – December 9 2024.

### **Conclusions and closing**

The Chair thanked all the participants and closed the meeting with a note that a structured and systematic discussion about membership and contribution shall be organized in 2022 and that we should consider how to build a better practice of elections and appointments.



---

Minute-taker: Natalia Tomenko



---

Chair of the ERIAC Board: Zeljko Jovanovic

In compliance with para 7 (4) of the ERIAC Statutes, this Minutes is brought to the attention of all members and observers of the Board and the Chair of the Academy. An abridged report on the result of the Board meeting shall be published on the web portal of the association.