



ERIANET NETWORK TO ADVANCE ROMA INCLUSION
BY COMBATING AND PREVENTING
ANTIGYPSYISM IN THE EU

MINUTES OF THE VI ERIAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NOVEMBER 30, 2023

HYBRID EVENT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87535764209>

MELIA HOTEL

(Friedrichstraße 103, 10117 Berlin)

Attendees:

Board members: Gilda Horvath

Non-voting board members: Mareike Geipel

Barvalipe Academy members: Delia-Mădălina Grigore, Isaac Blake, Maria Bogdan, Miguel Vargas Rubio, Mihaela Zătreanu, Nedjo Osman

ERIANET ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:

On-spot: Andrijano Dzeladin, Avni Mustafa-Kurtic, Bela Varadi, Bojan Branković, Carol Silverman, Ciprian Necula, Claire Ann Shillingburg, Daniel Baker, Detlev Boeing, Dezso Mate, Dragan Ristic, Elzbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz, Emanuel Barica, Emil Metodiev, Emiliano Aliu, Enerida Isuf Bilbilaj, Èstèbàn Môrdècái, Fatos Koci, Florina Olariu, Gabi Jimenez, Gonzalo Montaño, Ibrahim Likzelia, Jake Bowers, Malgorzata Mirga Tas, Marian Mocanu, Marko Stenroos, Muamed Malikovski, Nataliia Tomenko, Norbert Horváth, Pablo Vega, Patricia Knight, Pedro Casermeiro, Petrică Dulgheru, Redjepali Chupi, Stefan Simoncic, Umtata Tybora, Verena Meier, Zita Moldovan, Vanesa Horvanova

Online: Norica Costache, Artur Szutenberg, Verena Meier, La Fragua Projects, Bledar Taho, Moritz Pankok

ERIANET Management: Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Timea Junghaus

ERIANET staff: Bratislav Mitrovic, Eglantina Aliu, Neven Mesec, Nadja Greku, Petro Rusanienko

Minutes prepared by: Nadja Greku

Opening Remarks and Introduction

Gilda Horvath, representative of the ERIAC Board welcomed the participants and assigned Timea Junghaus, ERIAC executive director, as the Chair of the General Assembly. Timea Junghaus 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. Nadja Greku was appointed as the minute taker.

Presentation of the ERIAC 2023 activity and finance report:

Timea Junghaus, ERIAC Executive Director, provided a review of ERIAC's achievements in 2023. Junghaus highlighted the recognition of achievements such as the successful Barvalo Exhibition and collaboration with European Capital of Culture 2023 in Temisvar. Emphasis was put on nurturing new Roma talents in various artistic domains. Junghaus stressed the importance of the ROMA MOMA blog which collects critical reviews of contemporary arts events, the Rom-heritage initiative and ERIAC's groundbreaking Barvalo Exhibition being acknowledged by the Historia Prize. ERIAC is observing the situation of Roma directly affected by the war in Ukraine and is in the process of supporting Ukrainian Roma artists through its Arcadia project led by Petro Rusanienko.

Bratislav Mitrovic, ERIAC Belgrade Office Manager, highlighted notable contributions of ERIAC Belgrade office to ERIAC mission, including Visegrad Fund project collaborations, ongoing exhibitions, and participation in the Berlin Process through facilitating the Roma the Force of Nature concert. Mitrovic underlined the successful cooperation with OSCE and REF. He emphasized the recently secured and signed 4-year financial support.

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, ERIAC Deputy Director, provided an update on Roma History and Language Education. Mirga highlighted ERIAC's initiatives such as producing certificate training manuals, Romani language books (A1 and A2 level completed, B1 to be finalized in 2024) and course development completion, and efforts supported by an international cultural outreach project. ERIAC offered tailored training for EU officials on combating anti-Roma racism. Mirga also highlighted the partnership with the Observatory on teaching history and cooperation with IHRA. It was underscored that ERIAC offered tailored training sessions to its membership on various subjects, including AI and Technology in Arts and Culture and Everyday Romani Language.

Bratislav Mitrovic, ERIAC Belgrade Office Manager, reflected on the initiatives and progress on changing curriculums. Efforts in changing curriculums, international organization participation, and combating prejudice and stereotypes were discussed. Mitrovic, highlighted that ERIAC Serbia will continue efforts to include and increase the visibility of Roma in Holocaust memorial sites and promote young Roma holocaust researchers in the upcoming period.

ERIANET management highlighted the Strategic Priorities and Organizational Stability. Focus on Roma pride and identity, fundraising efforts, and stability through various initiatives and cooperation and partnership with the European Commission, Council of Europe, Open Society Foundation and German Federal Foreign Office were reported.

ERIANET Finance Manager Neven Mesec provided a financial overview for 2023, indicating significant expenditure on infrastructure and institutional development in Berlin and Serbia. It was stressed that the ERIANET4EU project contributed to the stabilization of the institution and the sub-granting process was highlighted as one of the effective ways of directly supporting the members.

Q&A Session:

- Members queried ERIANET's proudest achievement in 2023, with answers coming from ERIANET management centering on Barvalo Exhibition and successful efforts to recalibrate membership contributions without friction.
- Questions arose regarding office expansions, campaigns, and plans for representation, with responses detailing criteria for office openings (including the need for states to offer support to ERIANET in opening branches) and underscoring ERIANET's focus on transnational diplomacy.
- Members raised the question of further supporting the member organizations from the non-EU countries, specifically the Western Balkans Region. ERIANET highlighted that it plans to be more present in 2024 through collaboration with the CoE-led Roma integration initiative, specifically through its engagement in the conference and training for Roma and Non-Roma journalists planned for Spring and Autumn 2024. ERIANET acknowledged that the current sub-granting initiative does not include members from the Western Balkans region and hopes to see developments in this area in the upcoming year.

Presentation of ERIANET 2024 programming proposal:

Timea Junghaus, ERIANET Executive Director and Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka, Deputy Director, provided an outlook for 2024. ERIANET management presented plans that encompass continuity in existing strategies, enhancing Roma representation in cultural events, educational initiatives, collaboration with institutions, and expanding diplomatic partnerships. ERIANET is in the process of developing a for-profit plan which will be presented to the Board of which the membership will be informed accordingly. ERIANET's efforts toward establishing branches and engaging with esteemed institutions in Spain and Romania were highlighted for the 2021-2025 period. ERIANET will continue supporting its members through: ERIANET4EU initiative and sub-granting; the Villa Romana Residency that nurtures Romani talents and Arcadia project supporting Roma artists affected by the war in Ukraine.

Membership Status Report:

Eglantina Aliu, Membership Coordinator provided a comprehensive report on the membership development, including reflection on the 2023 call for new members; the value and importance of collected contributions and a demographic breakdown of the current membership. Members were informed of the 2024 membership renewal process and upcoming call for new members.

Anna Mirga-Kruszelnick, ERIAC Deputy Director reiterated ERIAC values and code of conduct.

Gilda Horvath, Board Member, highlighted that the Board interviewed members in the past period with the aim of better understanding their needs. The main conclusion of this survey was that ERIAC members wish to see quality over quantity, which will now shape ERIAC's approach in planning activities and engaging membership. Horath then proceeded to officially welcome the newly joined ERIAC members.

Q&A Session:

- Members raised the question of ERIAC's role in the upcoming five-year period. ERIAC management in response highlighted the importance of strategic consultations and a collaborative approach with members, the Barvalipe Academy, and the Board.
- Members highlighted the need for ERIAC to further promote the work of each member. ERIAC Deputy Director offered various modes to make this possible and encouraged members to reach out to ERIAC whenever they have an upcoming initiative that needs to be further promoted.

The General Assembly adjourned after comprehensive discussions on past achievements, future strategies, and membership engagement. The General Assembly was followed by the Thematic Section Discussion:

- Members deliberated on the ongoing ERIAC strategies, contemplating potential enhancements, reflecting on challenges, and addressing various aspects of the organization's work.
- The thematic section discussion offered a platform for introspection and forward-thinking considerations for ERIAC's continued growth and impact within the context of the ERIAC 2021-2025 Strategy.

Conclusions and closing

The Chair thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.

Nadja Greku
Minute-taker: Nadja Greku



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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timea Junghaus", written over a horizontal line.

Chair of the General Assembly: Timea Junghaus

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.