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CAHROM THEMATIC VISIT ON GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMANI ARTS AND CULTURE AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE, AS WELL AS RELATED INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

CAHROM thematic visit to Berlin, Germany, 20-22 February 2019

THEMATIC REPORT

¹ The term “Roma and Travellers” is used at the Council of Europe to encompass the wide diversity of the groups covered by the work of the Council of Europe in this field: on the one hand a) Roma, Sinti/Manush, Calé, Kaale, Romanichals, Boyash/Rudari; b) Balkan Egyptians and Ashkali; c) Eastern groups (Dom/Garachi, Lom/Bosha and Abdal); and, on the other hand, groups such as Travellers, Yenish, and the populations designated under the administrative term “Gens du voyage”, as well as persons who identify themselves as Gypsies. The present is an explanatory footnote, not a definition of Roma and/or Travellers.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and context of the thematic report and visit

During the 13th CAHROM plenary meeting held in Prague, Czech Republic, on 31 May-3 June 2017, the CAHROM member on behalf of Germany introduced recent developments concerning the recognition and fight against anti-Gypsyism, as well as the remembrance of the Roma Holocaust. The Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM) also heard on the same occasion a presentation on the origins, mission and work of a German RomArchive initiative.

During the same Prague CAHROM plenary meeting, it was also announced that a joint Open Society Foundations and Council of Europe initiative, the European Roma Institutes for Arts and Culture (ERAC), was officially registered as a charitable association, following a Court decision, on 28 May, 2017. with its seat in Berlin. The launching event of this Berlin based cultural organisation took place at the Lichthof at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin on Thursday, 8 June, 2017. ERAC has a unique and single mandate as the first transnational, European-level organization for the recognition of Roma arts and culture. ERAC exists to increase the self-esteem of Roma and to decrease negative prejudice of the majority population towards the Roma by means of arts, culture, history, and media. ERAC acts as an international creative hub to support the exchange of creative ideas across borders, cultural domains and Romani identities. ERAC aims to be the promoter of Romani contributions to European culture and talent, success and achievement, as well as to document the historical experiences of Romani people in Europe. ERAC exists to be a communicator and public educator, to disseminate a positive image and knowledge about Romani people for dialogue and building mutual respect and understanding.

Germany had earlier only participated in one thematic meeting, as a partner country. The meeting in question was the CAHROM peer-to-peer thematic visit on the protection, preservation and teaching of languages spoken by Roma, Sinti, Kaale and Yenish held in Graz, Austria, 29-31 March, 2017². At the 14th CAHROM plenary meeting held in Strasbourg on 24-27 October, 2017, the German CAHROM member indicated Germany's intention to host their first thematic visit on Romani arts and culture and Roma Holocaust remembrance in 2018 or 2019.

During the 15th CAHROM plenary meeting held in Athens, Greece, on 22-25 May, 2018, the German CAHROM member confirmed that Germany will host a thematic visit in Berlin, addressing governmental support for the promotion of Romani arts and culture, and Holocaust remembrance, as well as related international cooperation, in early 2019 and that the visit would probably include a visit to the ERAC premises. This proposed thematic visit attracted a lot of attention from CAHROM members, with no less than 12 countries represented in CAHROM expressing an interest to be a part of it: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Italy, Latvia, the Republic of Moldova, Norway, the Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Due to the exceptionally high number of interested countries, the CAHROM Bureau and Secretariat requested the partner countries apply to the thematic meeting through demonstrating their motivation in the written form.³

² Consult the report of this CAHROM thematic visit on CAHROM website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/roma-and-travellers/thematic-reports>.

³ In the meantime, CAHROM experts from Bulgaria, Norway and the United Kingdom decided to withdraw from the thematic visit. They may contribute to the thematic report. Since the CAHROM budget rules do not allow the Council of Europe to cover the travel and

Another criterion for the selection process was the number of thematic visits in which the countries concerned had taken part between the years 2012 and 2018⁴.

At its 15th meeting, the CAHROM also noted that the proposed Terms of Reference of CAHROM for 2018-2019 included, under “specific tasks”, the drafting of a CM Recommendation on the inclusion of the teaching of Roma history, including Roma Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula. The committee agreed to set up a working group that would be composed of five CAHROM members (from Armenia, Finland, Germany, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland) in addition to the CAHROM Chairperson (from Montenegro) and a consultant. Three meetings of this drafting group have already taken place and a final draft recommendation on the inclusion of Roma and/or Travellers’ history in school curricula and textbooks might be approved by the CAHROM in its 18th plenary meeting in Strasbourg, France, on 28-31 October, 2019.

A CAHROM thematic report on the teaching of Roma history and Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula, was already approved by the Committee and published on its website following the CAHROM thematic visit held in Košice, Slovak Republic, 7-9 November, 2017, in which representatives from the Committee on the genocide of Roma of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) took part⁵.

During its 16th plenary meeting in Strasbourg on 16-19 October 2018, the Committee held an exchange of views with Dr Timea Junghaus (Executive Director of ERIAC), and with Ms Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka (Deputy Director of ERIAC). They presented a promotional video and reports on ERIAC’s past and future activities, highlighting the role of arts and culture in fighting anti-Gypsyism. The CAHROM congratulated ERIAC for the wide range of activities conducted in a relatively short period of time and welcomed the fact that ERIAC had planned a series of events in the Western Balkans, whilst suggesting the organisation could arrange similar events in the Nordic countries in the near future⁶. On that occasion, members of the CAHROM took note of ERIAC’s Executive Director’s appeal to receive member states’ support for its actions and activities.

1.2 Composition of the thematic group of experts

Experts from Austria, Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Slovak Republic, Switzerland and Ukraine took part in the visit. The complete list of participants can be found in *Appendix 2*. Bulgaria, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom had initially expressed an interest to be part of this thematic group but withdrew their participation before the organisation of the thematic visit. Their expectations and experiences have been reflected in the present report as far as possible.

subsistence costs of more than 6 partner countries’ experts, Austria, Sweden and Ukraine have proposed to join at their own costs. This was agreed by the CAHROM Bureau and the hosting country.

⁴ The CAHROM Bureau is indeed required to give priority to countries having participated less, according to the guidelines for CAHROM thematic visits [document CAHROM (2013)26].

⁵ See this thematic report on CAHROM website: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/roma-and-travellers/thematic-reports>.

⁶ An ERIAC side event on the margin of the 7th International Roma Women’s Conference (Espoo, Finland, 25-27 March 2019) under the Finnish presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, is under consideration.

1.3 Expectations and motivations from the hosting and partner countries

Germany, the hosting country of this thematic visit, indicated in its official letter received on 27 December, 2018 that the protection of the rights of national minorities have been of great importance to the German government for many years and that the promotion of Romani arts, culture and Holocaust remembrance has been very successful; for example, through the work of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) and the setup of a digital arts and culture archive called RomArchive.

The German hosting authorities indicated that they would like to devote this thematic visit to the sharing of experiences, challenges and best practices regarding the culture of remembrance and the promotion of Romani arts and culture. They wanted the thematic visit to have a strong as possible focus on international cooperation in relation to the abovementioned topics.

Austria reported that the Austrian National Contact Point for the EU was actively working and contributing to the promotion of Romani arts and culture and Holocaust remembrance. The year 2018 was an important year of remembrance for Austria. Indeed, in 1938 Germany annexed Austria which became a very important event for Austrian post-war consciousness. Therefore, the Austrian general public was made, and would further be made, aware of the Second World War, and in particular, the Holocaust. This thematic visit would provide a great opportunity to show the other member States what has been done on Holocaust remembrance over the last few years in Austria and, in particular, concerning the genocide of Roma and Sinti. Education is central in Austria's Holocaust remembrance policy. For example, the project "[Roma Thanae](#)"⁷, commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, includes in its curriculum Roma and Travellers prosecuted during the Holocaust. Most of the material offered is suitable for students in secondary education and can be used in subjects such as History and Social Studies/Political Education, German, Geography and Economics. In addition, Austria has been engaged in Holocaust remembrance on a broader level in several international bodies, such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), the European Union, and the Council of Europe.

Belgium, and in particular, its French Community, has developed policies supporting the preservation of the memory of the genocide against Roma and Travellers. These policies have various objectives, including collecting, promoting, utilizing and preserving testimonials and organising visits to memorial sites and seminars for teachers. The Mediation Centre and other organisations work in this context in order to set up projects for the preservation and dissemination of the memory of persecutions and crimes against humanity including the genocide against Roma and Travellers.

Italy highlighted the efforts made in 2018-2019 by the National Office Against Racism (UNAR) in remembering the Porrajmos. The Italian Ministry of Education organised an International Seminar "*A policy response towards inclusive education: introducing Roma history teaching into national school curricula*" in Rome, 11-12 December, 2014. The topics discussed included teaching of Roma Holocaust.

Latvia referred to projects - entitled "Roma History remembrance project: Living Memory" (2017) and "Roma History remembrance-project: for the benefit of the victims of Nazism" (2016) implemented by the NGO "Roma

⁷ <http://www.romane-thana.at/index.php>.

Culture Centre” in co-operation with two other NGOs; “Europa Romade Foorum Eestis” (Estonian Roma NGO) and “Saare Roma” (Lithuanian Roma NGO) funded by the European Union Programme "Europe for Citizens". In the framework of these projects many activities have been organised. For instance, conference on the victims of the Roma Genocide during the Second World War (in Latvia), exhibitions and workshops on the Roma Holocaust for school teachers in Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland as well as updating, digitalizing and archiving Roma victims’ living stories’ and providing compensations for the victims of the Roma genocide.

In addition, in 2017 the Ministry of Culture elaborated and published informative material on the Roma genocide in both Latvian and English. The Ministry of Culture, also in the framework of the Latvian Roma Platform project, organised educational lectures on Romani culture and history, and held an exhibition called “Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941-1945)” in the municipalities of Jelgava, Tukums, and Ventspils. The aim of this exhibition was to raise awareness among the representatives of municipalities, teachers, social workers, as well as representatives of local NGOs and Roma.

Since 2015, the government supports the Museum of Roma Art and History in Riga as well as the organization of the International Romani Culture Festival “Roma World” organised annually by the NGO "Roma Culture Centre".

The Republic of Moldova has recently joined the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and adopted the 2017-2019 Action Plan on implementing the Moldovan Parliamentary Declaration for accepting the final report of the International Commission for the Study of Holocaust, presided by Elie Wiesel. The topic of "Roma Holocaust" is currently included in several Moldovan school textbooks. In 2018, the Ministry of Education issued a special chapter for the school curricula to be included in the school year of 2019 with reference of grade 1-4 (referring to 6-9 years old children). The teaching materials will be published in ethnic minorities’ languages under the module "The history, culture and traditions of ethnic minorities". In 2017, the “Holocaust Centre for Culture and Memory” was inaugurated.

Norway has carried out several projects and initiatives. In February 2015, The Norwegian Center for Holocaust and Minority Studies published the report “*Å bli dem kvit*” (“Getting rid of them”) following a research project examining the history of Norwegian Roma and the Holocaust. On 8 April 2015, the International Roma Day, Prime Minister Erna Solberg apologised to Norwegian Roma for past injustices and promised a collective redress scheme. In dialogue with Roma, it was decided to create a Roma Culture and Resource Center. The Center opened in 2018 and holds cultural activities, a mediator service, an after-school club for children and youth and a TV-station.

The Slovak Republic indicated that its Government is committed to protecting national minorities and creating conditions for their development in the area of preservation and development of their identity, language, culture and traditions. It hosted a CAHROM thematic visit on the teaching of Roma history, including Roma Holocaust, in textbooks and school curricula. The meeting was held in Košice, on 7-9 November, 2017 and supported several initiatives:

The Romathan Theatre was established by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in May 1992 in Košice. It is envisaging to present performances on the Roma Holocaust and contemporary anti-Roma threats in both Romani and English, for both national and international audiences.

The Museum of Roma Culture, is a specialised part of the Slovak National Museum Martin. In 2013, the collections of the museum consisted of 396 exhibits. An important role in terms of support for Roma culture and language is played mainly by the year-long standing exhibition "*Romano drom*" / "*Road of the Roma.*"

The National Documentation and Information Centre for Romani Culture hosted by **The National Science Library** in Prešov during the period of 2011-2014. The mission was to map, identify and document living expressions and heritage of the Romani culture and to create of new digital cultural objects (eborndigitalobjects) in the following areas: literature and oral history, musical heritage and crafts. The centre's aim is to document various expressions understood as part of Romani culture and Roma cultural heritage in Slovakia, in order to strengthen the identity of members of the Roma ethnic minority, and to look at this minority not only among members of the majority but also in themselves.

Several large-scale Roma festivals are being arranged in Slovakia. Here is a listing of only the biggest ones: Roma people (by Cultural Association of the Roma of Slovakia), Gypsy Fire (by Lavuta Civic Association), International Gypsy Fest (by Roma Production Association), Festival of Roma Culture Balval fest (by Cultural and Educational Citizens Association of Lahúd Drom), The Ternipen Roma Festival (by Roma Ternipen Center), Romano Hangoro (by Cespom Civic Association); European Roma Blacksmith Symposium in Dunajská Lužná, Colored World / Coloriskeri luma (by Romano kher / Roma House which has also arranged in cooperation with the National Educational Center a literary-art competition for primary school pupils, children from children's homes and community centres), and last but not least, CINEAMA – a nationwide contest of amateur films proclaimed by the National Educational Centre, in which the young Roma authors from Rimavská Sobota presented themselves.

Sweden indicated that it had worked a lot on the promotion of Romani arts and culture and Holocaust remembrance as integrated parts of its National Strategy for Roma Inclusion. The publication of the White Paper on abuses and rights violations of Roma during the 1900s⁸, the mission of the Swedish Commission against anti-Gypsyism⁹, as well as the current work of the Swedish government to study how a national centre for Roma issues could be established as a governmental body, are all practices that Sweden would have liked to share during the thematic visit. At the same time Sweden was interested to learn about how other countries had dealt with these issues, particularly in relation to their domestic inquiries on how the above-mentioned national centre for Roma issues could be established. The government was also planning to host an international conference to commemorate the 20-year anniversary of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust that was held in the year 2000. The thematic visit was also of interest to Sweden because they wanted to collect useful information for the planning process of the Holocaust Forum.

Switzerland indicated that it has been very involved in issues relating to the memory of the Holocaust, particularly through the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, which chaired the IHRA in respect of

⁸<https://www.government.se/information-material/2014/03/white-paper-on-abuses-and-rights-violations-of-roma-during-the-1900s/>.

⁹<http://www.minoritet.se/user/motantiziganism/english/index.html>.

Switzerland in 2018. Furthermore, the theme of promoting of Romani arts and culture is very current in Switzerland as an Action Plan has been developed *inter alia* for promoting Yenish, Sinti and Roma cultures and discussing measures related to the teaching of Sinti and Roma cultures, including the persecutions that both of these groups suffered.

Ukraine is one of the few countries, along with Croatia, Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic whose parliament officially recognised the genocide of Roma during the Second World War and officially commemorates 2 August as Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day.

In the past several years, the Ukrainian Government has implemented several project-based activities on the Holocaust. In May 2013, the Ukrainian Centre for Studying Holocaust History, within the framework of the fourteenth I.B. Medvinski annual call for research papers and creative work, held a meeting dedicated to the tragic destiny of Roma in the occupied territory of Ukraine during the Second World War. In addition, beginning in 2013, the Centre for Studying Holocaust History, with the support of the German fund Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future, extended its work on the three-year research and education project *Genocide of Roma (Gypsies). During the Time of Occupation of Ukraine (1941-1944): Exploration, Teaching, Commemoration*. The objectives of the project are to promote research, introduce documentary sources and establish oral histories on the destinies of Roma in the occupied territory of Ukraine in the Second World War and to stimulate research on the Roma and Sinti genocide by historians. The Ministry of Culture of Ukraine has also a long experience in promoting Romani arts and culture.

The **United Kingdom** will build a new Holocaust Memorial that will remember victims of Nazi persecution, including Roma and Sinti victims. In addition to this, the UK Government published the Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, signalling its strong commitment to building a society that works for everyone, especially integrating the most vulnerable.

1.4 Programme of the thematic visit

The programme (*Appendix 1*) included meetings and discussions with several relevant ministries and state agencies, such as the Commissioner for Matters related to ethnic German resettlers and national minorities, the Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, the European Roma Institute for Art and Culture (ERAC), the Stiftung Denkmal and other civil society actors.

2. EXAMPLES OF JOINT INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND INITIATIVES IN RELATION TO THE PROMOTION OF ROMANI ARTS AND CULTURE AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

2.1 [Teaching Roma Genocide through joint Council of Europe \(CoE\) and Organisation for Security and Cooperation \(OSCE-ODIHR\) website](#)¹⁰

Remembrance, particularly remembrance of the events which occurred during the Second World War, remains a sensitive and painful issue for Roma. Remembrance and teaching of Roma history will reduce anti-Gypsyism and increase understanding and tolerance among people. Work covered by the Council of Europe (CoE) and [OSCE/ODIHR](#) includes the production of teaching materials on Roma history and culture, the organisation of events and working meetings on the Roma genocide, and the setting-up of the website devoted to Roma Remembrance.

[This joint CoE/OSCE-ODIHR website](#)'s sole function is to provide instruction on the Roma genocide. It contains teaching materials devoted to the Roma and Sinti victims of the Second World War and comprises a database on the Roma genocide, with a virtual library of the best-known and most useful publications, and an interactive map on which countries can indicate the distinctive features of their Holocaust history at national level. The website also provides information on curricula, available teaching materials, school textbooks, places of remembrance, and innovative practices introduced by ministries, civil society, international organisations, museums and schools. The website has been created in reference to three key documents, namely [Council of Europe's Recommendation \(2001\)15](#) on "history teaching in twenty-first century Europe", [OSCE Decision No. 3/03 : ACTION PLAN](#) on improving the situation of Roma and Sinti within OSCE area, chapter V. Improving access to education (2003) and [Council of Europe's Recommendation \(2009\)4](#) on the education of Roma and Travellers.

2.2 [Council of Europe and ERTF Joint Commemoration Events on Roma Holocaust](#)¹¹

The European Roma and Travellers Forum (ERTF) organised in co-operation with the Council of Europe the International Conference "*The Forgotten Voices*" in the Romanian Parliament, Bucharest, 7 April, 2016. The Conference conclusions and recommendations were published and served as a basis for further reflection on the teaching and remembrance of the Roma Holocaust. Every 2 August, the Council of Europe together with the ERTF commemorate the Roma and Sinti victims of the Holocaust. ERTF has also been active in developing the 2008 Council of Europe Curriculum Framework for Romani.

2.3 [European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture \(ERIAC\)](#)¹²

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (ERIAC) is a joint initiative of the Council of Europe, the Open Society Foundations, and the Roma Leaders' initiative "Alliance for the European Roma Institute".

¹⁰ <http://roma-genocide.org/en/about>

¹¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/holocaust>

¹² <https://eriac.org/about-eriac/>

ERAC functions as an international hub which strives to promote the activities of Roma organizations, intellectuals and artists, to form multilateral initiatives and regional alliances, and to connect them with the policymakers and leaders of the different national and European levels. ERAC front office in Berlin accommodates a contemporary art gallery and an educational programme which is open to the public and welcomes individual visitors and groups. It has a unique mandate as the first transnational, European-level organisation for the recognition of Romani arts and culture and endeavours to increase the self-esteem of Roma and to decrease negative prejudice of the majority population towards the Roma by means of arts, culture, history, and media.

2.4 INSCHOOL PROJECT:¹³ Joint European Union and Council of Europe Cooperation

The European Union and Council of Europe have implemented a joint project on “Inclusive schools: making a difference for Roma children” targeting schools where Roma children learn in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, the Slovak Republic and the United Kingdom. Instead of focusing on the child as *the problem*, INSCHOOL puts at the heart of its action the education system and its capacity to respond to the needs of Roma children, to celebrate differences and support their learning experience.

As part of its awareness-raising efforts, INSCHOOL published a cartoon "[A Close Call](#)"¹⁴. It is a story of a little boy whose life could have been very different today, if he had not been accepted in an inclusive school. It is a story of exclusion, hope and lives changed by teachers' dedication to developing each and every child's true potential.

2.5 Memorandum of Understanding between the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and The Council of Europe

The IHRA and the Council of Europe have signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#).¹⁵ The purpose of the Memorandum is to enhance their cooperation on combating antisemitism, xenophobia, hate crimes and other forms of extremism. This cooperation aims to raise awareness of the importance of Holocaust education and remembrance in the member States, including coordination of measures to open national archives, encouraging governments to strengthen Holocaust education in their societies and sharing best practices.

2.6 Joint Cooperation between the Council of Europe, the Georg Eckert Institute (GEI) and the Roma Education Fund (REF)

The Roma Education Fund¹⁶, the Georg Eckert Institute and the Council of Europe research, “The Representation of Roma in European Textbooks”¹⁷ was a joint project conducted between 1 October, 2016, to 31 December, 2018, to analyse the representation of Roma in the school textbooks used in European countries.

¹³ <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/en/web/inclusive-education-for-roma-children>

¹⁴ <https://rm.coe.int/a-close-call-ambassadors-for-inclusive-schools/16808b4ead>

¹⁵ https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/sites/default/files/memorandum_of_understanding.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.romaeducationfund.org/>

¹⁷ <http://www.romaeducationfund.org/news/ref/news-and-events/representation-roma-european-curricula-and-textbooks>

In the first phase, country reports provided information on the presence of references to Roma in national secondary curricula. In the second phase, an analysis of the curricular excerpts provided an evaluation on how Roma are referred to¹⁸. The final results were used to draft a complete study on the portrayal of Roma in European school curricula which shows that there is a very limited amount of mentions of Roma in textbooks in general but also in the analysed key-subjects such as history, geography and civic or social studies.

3. NATIONAL PRACTICES AND GOVERNMENTAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROMOTION OF ROMANI ARTS AND CULTURE AND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

3.1 Germany (hosting country)

The German Sinti and Roma were recognised as a national minority in 1997 when the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities was implemented. Two years earlier (1995), the German Romanes language was accepted as a minority language within the structure of the Council of Europe's Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. In Germany, the key-actor in the implementation of policies on national minorities is the [Federal Government Commissioner for Matters Related to Ethnic German Resettlers and National Minorities](#). The responsibility for promoting arts and culture, building and preserving Holocaust memorial sites and historically significant Roma places lies primarily with the federal states (Länder) and local authorities. The civic involvement also plays an important role; it has been the trigger for the establishment of some important memorials and initiatives. In Germany, the memorial sites themselves, their operators, associations, the research and educational institutions and civil-society groups are called on to take action in this area, initiatives are not ordered by the state. In line with the independence from political instructions, there exists a variety of the different operators of memorial sites and projects with responsibility at local, regional and interregional level and with individual and collective commitment.

The federal government, the federal states and local governments are promoting such initiatives in the framework of their areas of responsibility.

The role of the Federal Government is to engage in tasks which are of a national importance, namely developing favourable legislation, criteria and provision of funds for cultural institutions and initiatives. The biggest share of public spending on culture is borne by local authorities and the federal states. Memorials sites and places of remembrance with a significant national or international value are funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), on the condition of involvement of the host federal state and based on a specified set of funding criteria.

Both institutional and project funding is provided. In this context, national minorities benefit from a broad concept of funding and support at all levels. In 2018, the institutional funding from the Federal Government was 23.572.000 Euro. Besides, the Federal Government was extensively involved in project funding.

Furthermore, BKM allocates financial support to help maintain the cultural identity of national minorities (German Sinti and Roma, Danish minority in Schleswig-Holstein, North and Sater Frisians and Sorbs). The legal basis for support is in accordance with two covenants of the Council of Europe: The Framework Convention for

¹⁸ <http://www.gei.de/en/departments/knowledge-in-transition/the-representation-of-roma-in-european-curricula-and-textbooks.html>

the Protection of National Minorities¹⁹ and the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages²⁰. BKM currently funds two Sinti and Roma institutions of national importance that promote Romani arts, culture, history and Holocaust Remembrance. These institutions are The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (with a 100% state funding) and the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (with a 90% state funding). Both aforementioned institutions are based in Heidelberg.

3.1.1. Romani Arts and Culture

The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma, est. 1982) is an independent umbrella organisation covering 17 regional associations. The Central Council was able to bring about the formal recognition of the genocide by the then Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in 1982 and [the German government erected a national memorial to the Sinti and Roma of Europe murdered under the National Socialist Regime in 2012](#). The memorial, designed by Dani Karavan, was officially inaugurated on 24 October 2012 by Chancellor Angela Merkel in the presence of President Joachim Gauck.

Thanks to the Council's efforts, the German Sinti and Roma were legally recognised as a national minority in 1997 and German Romanes was recognised as a minority language under the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages in May 1995.

The Council functions as the biggest civic and political representation body of the German Sinti and Roma. It works for equal participation of the Sinti and Roma in politics and society and supports them as a national minority. The Council also works for the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on the national level and has a permanent dialogue both with the Federal Government and the regional governments. It supports meetings with survivors of the holocaust, is working to protect the graves of Sinti and Roma who were persecuted by the Nazis and regularly organises travels to historical memorial sites both in Germany and abroad. The Central Council regularly represents the interests of the Sinti and Roma at EU, Council of Europe and OSCE conferences. The institution is also member of several national and international minority organisations.

The 2015 study paper "[Anti-gypsyism in the German Public Sphere: Strategies and Mechanisms of Media Communication](#)" depicts for the first time in detail the effects and principles of anti-Gypsyist resentment and prejudice in the German media. Another 2017 critical expert study on the German movie "[Nellys Abenteuer](#)" - "[Nelly's Adventure](#)" condemned the usage of stereotypical representations of Roma in the movie as manifestations of anti-Gypsyism. The same criticism was made about the French film "[A bras Ouverts](#)" and the Croatian film "[The Little Gypsy Witch](#)".

3.1.2 Holocaust Remembrance

The Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma (Dokumentations- und Kulturzentrum Deutscher Sinti und Roma) was established as a memorial to Sinti and Roma people who were killed by the National Socialists Party. The Centre has the first permanent exhibition in the world focusing on the genocide

¹⁹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/at-a-glance>

²⁰ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages>

of the Sinti and Roma. Furthermore, it is committed to protecting and promoting German Romanes in accordance with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Centre houses the world's first permanent exhibition on the genocide perpetrated upon the Sinti and Roma by the Nazis. Collections of the Centre include a mobile exhibition at the Memorial and Museum in Auschwitz-Birkenau entitled [Racial Diagnosis "Gypsy"](#). The Centre has also established a website called "[the Nazi genocide of the Sinti and Roma and the long struggle for recognition](#)" and manages [the online portal "Memorial to Sinti and Roma"](#), containing visual and descriptive register of all existing memorial places related to the Sinti and Roma Holocaust in Germany and abroad. The centre has recently published a first illustrated children's book telling about the genocide against the Sinti and Roma. This book called "[Else's story](#)" is based on the fate of the then 8-year-old Else Schmidt.

The Centre is also a member of [The International Council of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future \(EVZ\)](#), [IHRA - International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Zentralrat Deutscher Sinti und Roma \(Central Council of German Sinti and Roma\)](#) and the [Alliance against Antigypsyism](#). The promotion of Romani arts and culture and Holocaust remembrance in Germany is supported by [the Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe](#), through participation in commemorative ceremonies, contributions with publications, panel discussions, exhibitions and more. The Foundation – the only Remembrance Foundation which is completely funded by the German government - is a member of the international [Alliance for solidarity with the Sinti and Roma of Europe](#). Moreover, nearly all memorial sites and places of remembrance in Germany focus on Holocaust remembrance. Numerous initiatives, exhibitions and specific days of remembrance with a specific relation to the Sinti and Roma take place in the different memorial sites.

3.2 Austria (partner country)

The Ethnic Group Act (Volksgruppengesetz) of 1976 gives special rights for the respect and promotion of the minority groups of Austria. The Roma gained official recognition as an ethnic minority group in 1993. The National Minorities Act states that the federal government shall promote measures and projects that serve to preserve and safeguard the existence of its autochthonous national minorities, their traditions, characteristics and rights, and facilitate the promotion of intercultural projects.

In 1977 the Federal Chancellery began to grant promotional funding to national minorities. Additional promotional funding for the specific purposes of national minorities is granted by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, and regional and the local entities. National minorities can also obtain funding from other sources, whilst observing the respective general requirements, such as for film productions and promotion of adult education or research. Austria is a state party to the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities²¹ and in 2001 it ratified the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages²². [The Constitutional Service Directorate \(CSD\)](#) of the Federal Chancellery is the National Contact point for the implementation of the national Roma integration Strategy up to 2020. CSD represents the Austrian government at the Council of Europe's Ad hoc Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (CAHROM).

²¹ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/minorities/at-a-glance>

²² <https://www.coe.int/en/web/european-charter-regional-or-minority-languages>

There are two institutionalised bodies for governmental collaboration with Roma people. The Roma Advisory Council held its first meeting in 1995. It is a body set to advise the Federal Chancellery, the Federal Ministers and their Land government in matters concerning ethnic groups. The Council is comprised by Roma from NGO's, Roma members of political organizations and Roma members of religious community.

3.2.1 Romani Arts and Culture

[The Roma dialogue platform](#)²³, founded by the Constitutional Service Directorate in 2012 aims to establish an open and inclusive dialogue with Roma as well as to give a start to strategic initiatives for the promotion of Romani arts and culture. This platform brings representatives of Roma civil society and the authorities of the Federal Government, the Länder, cities and municipalities as well as experts from academia and research together on a regular basis.

3.2.2. Holocaust Remembrance

The year 2018 was [the centenary Commemorative Year of the founding of the Republic of Austria in 1918](#)²⁴ and an Advisory Council of the Commemorative year was established. The topic of the Roma Holocaust was part of the Commemorative programme and eminent Austrian scholars and experts presented new research findings on Austrian history during the period 1938 - 1945 and the post-war era. Topics such as expropriation in Austria during the Nazi regime, Austrian resistance groups and post-war justice for crimes were discussed.

[The 19th Roma Dialogue Platform for Roma Holocaust Remembrance policy took place in 2017.](#)²⁵ One important outcome of this meeting was to establish initiatives that commemorate the Roma victims who lived in the municipalities before 1938 by their names. As a result, the Federal Minister within the Federal Chancellery for the EU, Arts, Culture and Media encouraged mayors to start a process of awareness raising concerning the persecution of Roma during the Holocaust. Some municipalities that should be addressed at the first possible instance were identified already during the dialogue meeting or directly after it by the members of the Roma community and civil society representatives.

Here is a list of the Holocaust commemorative days celebrated in Austria and other relevant Holocaust related measures:

- 27 January , the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust;
- 5 May, the National Day against Violence and Racism in Memoriam of the Victims of National Socialism;²⁶
- 26 April, the annual commemoration ceremony for the Roma and Sinti of Salzburg, murdered by the National Socialists at the memorial Ignaz Rieder Kai 21;
- The "Roma Thanae" project - commissioned by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. The project revolves around a specific school curriculum looking at the persecution of Roma during the Holocaust. Most of the offered materials and topics are suitable for students in secondary education. The materials can be used in subjects such as History and Social Studies/Political Education,

²³ <https://volksanwaltschaft.gv.at/artikel/roma-dialogue-platform-of-the-federal-chancellery-at-the-austrian-ombudsman-board>

²⁴ <https://www.oesterreich100.at/information-in-english.html>

²⁵ <https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/de/node/429>

²⁶ <https://www.nationalfonds.org/auschwitz-en.html>

German, Geography and Economics. The content-based page²⁷ was supported by Austria to create a pan-European curriculum on Roma genocide.

- The Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance – The Documentation Centre is an important stakeholder when it comes to holocaust remembrance and research. Momentarily the archive is engaged with drafting a detailed record of all Roma that lived before 1938 in Austria and did not survive the Holocaust.
- Polis – The Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools – Polis is the central education service institution for citizenship education in schools. It serves as an information platform and advisory centre, develops new materials for the classroom on a regular basis, plays a part in the European and Austrian discussions on citizenship education and intercultural learning, has an influential role in teacher training and organises events for students.
- Polis aktuell²⁸ - The magazine for teachers, published at least five times a year. In 2019 issue number 4 was dedicated to Roma issues under the title “Emancipation of a minority – Roma”. The issue contained numerous ways to teach about the Roma holocaust, Roma identities and anti-Gypsyism. This reflects that in Austria Holocaust remembrance is closely knitted with education.
- The Institute for Holocaust Education of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. It promotes the transfer of historical and didactic knowledge when it comes to Holocaust education. The Institute offers teacher training on the topics of the Holocaust, National Socialism and Anti-Semitism as well as racism. Teaching materials and learning websites on the fate of European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust²⁹ which are made available, among other languages, in German

3.3 Belgium (partner country)

The Act of 23 March, 1995 prohibits Holocaust denial. It penalises any “minimisation, approving, or justifying of the genocide committed by Nazi Germany”. In 2007, the Centre for Historical Research and Documentation in Belgium published a report under the title “Docile Belgium” - a more than 1000-page study detailing how the Belgian state collaborated with the Nazi occupation in hunting down its Jews and Roma. The research was commissioned by the Belgian government.

The Decree of 13 March, 2009 (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles)³⁰ on the memory transmission of genocide crimes, crimes against humanity, war crimes and acts of resistance or movements that resisted regimes that generated these crimes recognises war crimes and persecutions and among them Roma persecutions, although not explicitly mentioned. The decree marks the recognition of reference centres which propose educational resources to the society and annual projects (collection of testimonies, visits of places, seminars, etc.).

Holocaust Remembrance

Belgium has several resource centres for Holocaust Remembrance, but none of them specifically dedicated to the Genocide of the Roma:

- Council for Memory Transmission to The Federation Wallonia-Brussels³¹ created by the 2009 decree has the function to advise the government on the recognition (or recognition withdrawal) of resources centres, and to formulate opinions to the government on projects elaborated under

²⁷ <http://www.romasintigenocide.eu/de/home>

²⁸ <https://www.politik-lernen.at/site/ueberuns/english/article/105558.html>

²⁹ <http://www.romasintigenocide.eu/de/home>

³⁰ <http://www.enseignement.be/index.php?page=27095>

³¹ http://www.pfwb.be/en/the_federation_wallonia_brussels

the annual calls for proposals planned by the decree. The members of the Council are experts from different fields and representatives from civil society.

- [Roma and Travellers Mediation Center \(Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms\)](#)³² founded by the Belgian and French speaking service develops research and collects memory on the persecutions and war crimes against Belgian Roma and Travellers during 20th and 21st century.
- [Kazerne Dossin \(the former Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance\)](#)³³ is a memorial as well as a museum and a documentation centre on Holocaust and human rights. It collects, stores and digitises original documents and records on the Holocaust in Belgium and northern France.
- [The Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society \(CEGESOMA\)](#)³⁴ is founded in 1969, originally as Centre for Research and Studies on the History of the Second World War.

Other famous bodies working on Holocaust Remembrance in Belgium: The Auschwitz Foundation³⁵, Les Territoires de la Mémoire³⁶ and Centre Communautaire Laïc Juif³⁷.

Commemorative Places

- [The National Memorial of the Fortress of Breendonk](#)³⁸ is one of the best-preserved camps in Europe and tells the story of the political victims of the Nazis. The Memorial also has an archive for further historical research.
- [The Dossin Barracks deportation camp \(known as the Mechelen Transit Camp\)](#)³⁹. Between July 1942 and September 1944, 352 Roma were imprisoned in Mechelen before being deported. A remembrance place was inaugurated at the Dossin barracks on 30 May, 1948. Since 1956, a ceremony has taken place there every year for the victims of the Holocaust. The museum of Kazerne Dossin evokes the Roma and Travellers who were deported there in their permanent exhibition and shows pictures and other elements of them in the Memorial.

Chronology of the most recent and nationally important events related to Holocaust Remembrance

- 2004: The Belgian government designates 27 January as Remembrance Day of the Genocide committed by Nazi Germany (Journée Internationale de la commémoration en mémoire des victimes de la Shoah);
- 2007: Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt publicly apologises for Belgium's complicity at the site of the Dossin Barracks;
- March 2009: Decree of 13 March 2009 by the French Community supports Holocaust research.
- 2012: Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo publicly apologises for role of Belgian authorities in the Holocaust;
- 27 January, 2015: The Minister of Education and representatives of educational networks sign a declaration of commitment for teaching on the crimes against humanity during WWII. The genocide of the Roma and Sinti is explicitly mentioned in the explanatory memorandum to the declaration;
- 2017: Federal government institutes an annual special session at the Senate and Chamber of Representatives to commemorate the Holocaust;

³² <https://www.cmgv.be/>

³³ <https://www.kazernedossin.eu/EN/>

³⁴ http://www.cegesoma.be/cms/index_en.php

³⁵ www.auschwitz.be

³⁶ <https://www.territoires-memoire.be/>

³⁷ www.cclj.be

³⁸ <http://www.breendonk.be/>

³⁹ <https://www.kazernedossin.eu/EN/Museumsite/Memoriaal/Sporen>

Education and Holocaust Remembrance

Education in Belgium is a local concern of its two main regions: Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia. The Holocaust is addressed in educational manuals, but unfortunately, there is no particular information on the Genocide of the Roma. However, Holocaust education is widespread in Flanders, though it is not explicitly required from the teachers by the curriculum. The topic is mandated in the French-speaking Walloon region.

In Flanders 'remembrance education' is addressed through the compulsory core curriculum. This curriculum contains a number of objectives. The latter are determined by a decree of the Flemish Parliament. The general framework for remembrance education can mainly be found in developmental objectives for world orientation in primary education and in the final objectives concerning history and the cross-curricular final objectives in secondary education. The Genocide of the Roma is not specifically addressed, but it is included in the general history of the Holocaust. Efforts of Holocaust Revisionism are managed by the [Special Committee for Remembrance Education](#),⁴⁰ which is based out of the Kazerne Dossin.

In the federation Wallonie-Brussels, the Holocaust is a compulsory topic at upper secondary level. The topic of concentration camps in general and of the Shoah more specifically is part of history teaching. Yet the Genocide of the Roma is not specifically addressed, but it is included in the general history of the Holocaust. The subject is included as "the universe of concentration camps and genocide." The French Ministry of Culture created the DOB cell [Démocratie ou Barbarie](#)⁴¹ ("Democracy or Barbary") an organization founded in 1994 to coordinate and encourage citizenship education in French-speaking Belgium. It plays an important role in the advancement of Holocaust education. The institution organises school visits to museums and memorials such as the Kazerne Dossin and Auschwitz. Such visits are not required, but they are common.

Training of teachers and educational professionals

Remembrance education is an integral part of initial teacher training, which is frequented by different Holocaust organisations such as Kazern Dossin Museum and Territoires de la Mémoire. Several organisations and non-governmental organizations also offer in service training in the field of remembrance education. Schools receive a yearly budget with which in-service training for teachers can be financed, but they decide completely autonomously how they want to spend this budget in accordance to the specific needs of the school.

Current Belgian Initiatives on Remembrance

- The Belgian NGO [Dignité Roms](#)⁴², in partnership with the French NGO [Yahad In Unum](#)⁴³, has developed a project called "Research on Roma deportations and Mass Killing Sites during World War II in Eastern Europe", including Romania, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.
- [The European project MemoROM](#)⁴⁴, implemented in Belgium by the NGO ERIO in Brussels in February 2014. It raised awareness about the genocide on Roma and Sinti. As a part of the project. A national workshop "Commémorer l'Holocauste Rom et Sinti: défis et opportunités au niveau national" was held by ERIO.

⁴⁰ <https://herinneringseducatie.be/>

⁴¹ <http://www.democratieoubarbarie.cfwb.be/>

⁴² http://romadignity.org/?page_id=427&lang=fr

⁴³ <https://www.yahadinunum.org/>

⁴⁴ <http://www.erionet.eu/memorom>

- The first conference “Convoi Z. Samudaripen” on the deportation of Sinti and Roma in Belgium organised by The Roma and Travellers Mediation Centre (CMGV), in partnership with a regional service (Picardie Laïque) in 2008. It was symbolically held in the historical town hall of Mons. Frank Seberecht. The conference was attended for the first time by Belgian Travellers families.
- The conference “[Les Gens du Voyage entre la nuit et le brouillard](#)” held on 4 May, 2019 in Mons War Memorial give the floor and the point of view of survivors families. Their testimonies will be published on www.memoirestsiganes.be

3.4 Italy (partner country)

Nowadays, the size of Italian Roma, Sinti and Caminanti (RSC) population is approximated to be around 150 000-180 000, more than half of whom are Italian citizens and belong to groups that have lived in Italy for centuries. There are also several groups of newly arrived immigrant and mobile Roma from other EU and Non-EU (former Yugoslavia) countries. It has been estimated that during the WWII at least 1000 Roma have been victims of extermination as a consequence of the persecution policies of the fascist regime in Italy.

The most significant regional laws on the protection of Roma/Sinti people date back to the 1980’s and include references to the “protection” and promotion of Roma culture. The Italian National Strategy for Roma Inclusion 2012-2020 is engaged in the social promotion of Roma and Sinti people through information campaigns focused on eradication of prejudices while valorising culture, traditions and professional development. The theme of Arts and Culture support falls under the strategy’s Axis 2 – Employment. The National Strategy foresees the mission of increasing the self-esteem of Roma and decreasing the negative prejudice of the majority towards the Roma by means of arts, culture, history and media.

Specific measures for the implementation of action for a global approach to Roma culture are included under framework of ESF Operational Programme (OP) 2014-2020 for Social Inclusion Priority 9.ii: “Socio-economic integration of Roma communities”.

Also the thematic priority “Education of the National Roma Inclusion 2012-2020” has a specific objective devoted to Porrajmos knowledge and commemoration, which stipulates: *“Promoting and disseminating - also toolkits for teachers - forms of self-representation into any language, visual language, script language, public witness, narrative language, and introducing “Porrajmos” into all public events dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust and the extermination of the Roma Sinti and Caminanti perpetrated by the Nazi-Fascist policies”*.

Institutions (NRCP and National Roma Platform)

[The National Office against Racial Discrimination \(UNAR\)](#)⁴⁵ has operated since 2004 with the purpose of promoting equal treatment and removing all forms of racial and ethnic discrimination. Since 2011 UNAR has been the National Contact Point for social inclusion of Roma people. UNAR supports, through national funds, the Roma National Platform with providing reimbursement for its members participating the platform meetings and training activities such as Roma Youth trainings. UNAR provides also support for communication and dissemination of activities as well. In the last three years, UNAR has approved and supported a call for tender for Municipalities, with a range of population between 5.000 and 50.000, in order to enhance awareness raising events during the mainstreamed Action Week Against Racism. The proposals were related to cultural, artistic and sporting activities aiming at promoting the contrast to ethnic-racial discrimination.

⁴⁵ <http://www.unar.it/cosa-facciamo/?lang=en>

[National Roma Platform and Forum](#)⁴⁶ (*Piattaforma Nazionale Rom, Sinti e Caminanti*) was formally established in 2017. RNP is an operational tool of dialogue between UNAR as a National Roma Contact Point for the National Strategy for the Inclusion of the RSC people, the Roma and Pro-Roma NGOs. In September 2017, 53 associations attended the official plenary meeting and there was the first restricted meeting of the **RSC Community Forum**, establishing as a priority the Roma Holocaust Remembrance and recognition. In RSC Forum there are at least 7 NGOs that have as one of their fundamental principles the development of Romani culture and arts. The RSC interacts within the National Platform and the National Contact Point, to define specific issues related to arts and culture, identity, anti-Gypsyism, discrimination and Holocaust Remembrance.

3.4.1 Romani Arts and Culture

Italian Roma and Sinti affirm the importance of their cultural and artistic tradition in the field of music, sculpture and poetry. The most important tool for them in the promotion of Roma Integration is the Action 9.5.4 of the National Operational Program "Inclusion" (PON Inclusion) Fund, managed by the [National Office against Racial Discrimination \(UNAR\)](#)⁴⁷. In 2018 UNAR launched a strategy for the promotion of Roma culture, to be implemented through a memorandum of understanding with public housing companies. In particular, UNAR launched a project proposal aimed to overcome prejudice and stereotypes towards Roma and Sinti people, through communication and sensitization activities, knowledge of Roma history, art and language, as well as a better knowledge of history and European identity of Roma people. With reference to the theme of cultural promotion, note the organizational and financial support provided by UNAR for the creation of "Futuroma", the first pavilion dedicated to culture and Romani Art at the 58th Venice Biennale, inaugurated on 10 May.

In the framework of UNAR-FORMEZ Project "*Promozione e diffusione della cultura Rom, Sinti e Caminanti*" - project, initiated in 2019, http://www.unar.it/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Cultura_rom_sinti_caminanti-2019.pdf) there are three pillars which form the basis of all the project work. They are 1) awareness raising campaigns 2) trainings and 3) social interventions. Target groups involved in trainings will be school students, teachers and traditional and new media companies, producers, journalists and students of journalism. Training courses will focus on anti-Gypsyism and Romaphobia. Social entertainment will cover the cultural promotion of Roma and Sinti communities, through sensitization events and dissemination of tools and information at the local level. Local happenings and workshops on Romani language, art, music, cuisine, anti-Gypsyism and "Porrajmos" will aim to foster Roma, Sinti and Travellers' culture, to educate Roma and non-Roma on anti-Gypsyism and Porrajmos or to solve disputes through different conflict mediation solutions.

The NRCP, most of the Roma NGOs and many Italian municipalities commemorate 8 April as the International Roma Day, with visible events and public ceremonies related to Romani culture and identity. Other Roma related awareness-raising events and initiatives were included in "*The National Week Against Racism* ", which has taken place every year in March, since 2004, in close cooperation with local NGOs and Municipalities. During these weeks, different activities, for example events, exhibitions, laboratories, theatres and slogan contests have been utilised for promoting anti-Racism, diversity, Roma Rights and socio-cultural well-being. So far UNAR has selected 25 projects for implementation and supported them with the budget allocation of approximately €200,000.

3.4.2 Holocaust Remembrance

Italy has been a member of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) since 1999 and Italy commemorates 27 January as Holocaust Memorial Day (Il Giorno della Memoria). The date was established following the adoption of Act No. 211/2000. It is a memorial day to remember the racial laws, the Italian

⁴⁶ http://www.unar.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Decreto_Piattaforma-Forum_RSC.pdf

⁴⁷ <http://www.unar.it/cosa-facciamo/?lang=en>

persecution of Jewish citizens and victims who suffered deportation, imprisonment and death during the Holocaust. It also serves to commemorate those who opposed the Nazi regime and risked their lives to save and protect others.

On the occasion of the National Remembrance Day, specific events are often organised at the Italian Senate and UNAR. Every 2 August (in line with 2015 Parliament resolution and Roma Platform proposal) there are different commemorative initiatives encouraging students to visit memorial sites, participate commemoration activities, declarations by different institutions.

In May 2009, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers established a Coordinating Committee for the Commemorations in Remembrance of the Holocaust. It is tasked with planning events and ceremonies, as well as with promoting joint proposals on ways to raise awareness and strengthen the memory of the Holocaust, particularly among young people. In Italy the President of the Republic usually commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day in a solemn ceremony during which the winners of a national Holocaust themed school competition are awarded and medals are been given to the Holocaust survivors or their family members.

The most recent and significant legislative development concerning the Holocaust denial and Italian penalties for it took place in 2016. A considerable legislative strickening took place with Law n. 115/2016, when the Italian Parliament modified Article 3 of Law n.654 of 13 October, 1975, in order to increase the penalty for Holocaust denial foreseen on the subject of combatting and suppressing crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The amendment introduced, according to International Criminal Court Statute (articles 6, 7 and 8), an imprisonment penalty from 2 up to 6 years, in cases where propaganda, instigation and incitement are based *"in whole or in part on denial of the Shoah or crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes"*.

List of the existing Holocaust commemorative places and events in Italy

- In 2015, the Municipality of Laterza (Apulia) gave an honorary citizenship to Mr. Santino Spinelli, a Roma Professor and artist. This was also the occasion for the revelation of commemorative plate with words from his poem devoted to Auschwitz and reported at the Roma Memorial in Berlin.⁴⁸
- 27 January, 2016, the Municipality of Monserrato (Cagliari) erected a commemorative statue for Porrajmos.⁴⁹
- In 2018 a twinning between Municipalities of Laterza and Lanciano was ratified to improve a cooperation in fighting anti-Gypsyism and for initiatives on Porrajmos Remembrance⁵⁰
- 5 October, 2018: Inauguration of the Monument dedicated to Samudaripen in the City of Lanciano (http://www.ansa.it/abruzzo/notizie/2018/10/05/monumento-al-samudaripen-per-rom-e-sinti_2bf0c046-8bdf-4c86-acc5-a8c4b2b955f9.html)

In Rome, there are three commemorative places for the Porrajmos. They are: a) In Piazza degli Zingari, since 2001 there is a plaque that commemorate the Roma Genocide⁵¹ b) In the Shrine of "Divino Amore" there is a monument made by Roma artist Bruno Morelli and c) permanent installation that has commemorated the Porrajmos since 2017.

⁴⁸ <http://www.comune.laterza.ta.it/index.php?action=pages&m=view&p=44&art=552/>

⁴⁹ <https://mielearocagliari.wordpress.com/2015/01/24/porrajmos-e-memoria-da-lunedì-26-gennaio-con-alex-spinelli-arriva-il-febbraio-di-bc-faber-3-e-altre-news/>

⁵⁰ <https://www.icdiazlaterza.edu.it/eventi/manifestazioni/460-cerimonia-gemellaggio-laterza-lanciano.html>

⁵¹ <https://www.rerumromanarum.com/2015/07/targa-in-memoria-dei-rom-sinti-e.html>

- 8 April, 2018: Institutional Recognition and conferment by the Senate of the Republic of a plaque to Mirko Bezzecchi, a Roma survivor, deported to Italian internment camps during the fascist regime. <http://culturaromsinti.blogspot.com/2018/06/targa-mirko-bezzecchi.html>
- 16 May, 2018: commemoration in Agnone with the participation of Roma National Platform representatives and local and central Institutions – focus on Roma persecution in Italy https://www.repubblica.it/solidarieta/diritti-umani/2018/05/16/news/rom_e_sinti_agnone_il_campo_di_concentramento_a_loro_destinato_e_la_memoria_rimossa-196585927/

Other Holocaust Remembrance related initiatives by the National Office Against Racial Discrimination (UNAR) include:

- History text including elements on Porrajmos, called “*Scopri i Rom*” under the book series, entitled “*Diritti, Uguaglianza, Integrazione*” and a book “*La minoranza romani*” (2011, A. Pistecchia) dealing with the deportation of Romanian Roma in Transnistria during WW2
- 27-30 November – Training seminar on anti-Gypsyism and hate speech (with 25 Roma, Sinti and Gage Youth) with a focus on denialism and glorification of anti-Gypsyism and Porrajmos (carried out in collaboration with UNAR hate speech observatory).
- Toolkit for teachers “*Oltre i pregiudizi e gli stereotipi verso Rom e Sinti*”, within the framework of the Dosta! Campaign.
- The CoE Factsheets on Roma History translated in Italian, including specific sections devoted to the situation of Roma in Italy during WWII.

The Path of Memory

In 2017, in the framework of the RNP, it was decided to carry out a shared memory project which runs through the most significant dates of the Roma genocide and persecution. In this framework, a series of initiatives such as trainings, visits, local events were carried out in the Italian municipalities with a heightened risk of anti-Gypsyism on the commemorative days of 27 January, 16 May and 2 August. The first step on this “*Journey through memory*” was a visit to Auschwitz in January 2018 by Roma and Sinti Youth representatives, Roma delegations and representatives from the highest offices of the State. A ceremony was held by the President of the Republic and as part of that ceremony the first public and national discussion on the Porrajmos was arranged where for the first time an extensive discussion on the Porrajmos was held.

Significant Civil society initiatives

- A commemorative parade for remembering the genocide of Rom, Sinti, Caminanti is organised annually on 27 January, in the centre of Rome. [Link to the last event in 2019](#)⁵²
- The Day of Remembrance and 2 August promotion and commemorations of the memory of the Genocide of the Roma [Link to the list of events 2019](#).⁵³
- The project “*MEMORS*”⁵⁴ is the first virtual museum of Porrajmos in Italy.
- Project “*Roma e Sinti in Italia e nel Mondo: Giving Memory a future*”.⁵⁵ The project is led under the command of the USC Shoah Foundation. The Italian Ministry of Education has adopted in 2014 a ministerial decree to make the [Progetto RECALL \(2014-2015\) website’s](#) materials and document

⁵² <http://www.cittadinanzaeminoranze.it/porrajmos-ancora-appuntamenti/>

⁵³ <http://www.unar.it/calendario-eventi-giornata-della-memoria-2019-porrajmos/>

⁵⁴ http://porrajmos.it/?page_id=457&lang=it

⁵⁵ <http://www.romsintimemory.it/>

available to school teachers and principals and in order to create an annual contest for students concerning the Roma Genocide.

Awareness and Training Activities

- Central and local administrative authorities, including schools, organise Holocaust remembrance initiatives directly or indirectly targeting students, Youth and teachers. Initiatives are funded by national funds (Ministry of Education, UNAR and/or Ministry of Culture).
- Within National Working Group on Education (Tavolo Istruzione) a subsidiary working group was set up and worked to launch a specific pilot-project for both students and teachers on Roma History/Porraimos and Human Rights. (Decree MIUR's DG for the school staff has issued Decree No. 603, dated 18/07/2014). A Forum with historians and anthropologists has been envisaged for school professionals. Trainings were addresses to teachers, educators and school managers in order to provide them with knowledge on Roma and/or Traveller history. This project was established in order to involve not only teachers but also other school management staff and administrative employees
- During the Italian Presidency of the EU in December 2014, the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Education jointly held with UNAR, an International Seminar on *"Introducing Roma history teaching into national school curricula: a policy response towards inclusive education"*. The objective of this seminar was to provide an institutional forum for supporting policy development processes towards incorporating Roma history teaching into national school curricula.

Teaching About the Genocide of the Roma and Sinti

Following recent curricular reforms, all Italian national curricula concerning all educational levels include teaching themes concerning the Jewish Holocaust, but unfortunately teaching concerning the Genocide of the Roma is not been mentioned. Also, the various higher education departments of teaching and researching contemporary history and academic seminars include the studies of Porrajmos as well as laboratories and courses related to the Genocide of the Roma.

3.5 Latvia (partner country)

General framework

The Roma in Latvia are officially recognised as a national minority and Latvian Roma culture as a part of the Latvian Culture heritage. According to the data provided by the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, there are 7 060 officially registered Roma in 2019 (0,3% of total population) but as the results of the survey "Roma in Latvia" shows, there is a high ratio of Roma who identify themselves as Roma without declaring it officially (for example, in the passport) thus probably making the Roma population in Latvia higher than the the official statistical data.

The victims of Roma genocide of the Second World War are commemorated officially in Latvia on 27 January during the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. In addition, the Latvian Roma community commemorate the genocide on 8th April, during the International Romani Day.

Latvia mostly used mainstreaming approach, but also partly targeted approach in the field of education and development of civic society.

Taking into consideration the socioeconomic situation of the Roma in Latvia, especially as concerns education, employment, health care and housing, and the small number of the Roma population in the country, the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the co-responsible ministries (the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Welfare, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economic) in 2012 developed a set of policy measures on Roma integration in accordance with the EU strategy for the integration of Roma until 2020. These measures are included in the policy planning document - National Identity, Civil Society and Integration Policy Plan.

The National Roma Contact point for the EU and the CoE is at the Ministry of Culture and is the responsible governmental institution for the coordination of the implementation, development and evaluation of the set of policy measures on Roma integration.

In order to coordinate the implementation and development of the Roma integration policy measures at the national and regional level, the Council supervising the implementation of Roma integration policy measures and the Network of regional experts on Roma integration issues (experts from 19 municipalities) have been established by the Ministry of Culture. The main aim of the Council is to assess and foster the policy for Roma integration, as well as to promote civil participation of the Roma community and to strengthen cooperation between the Roma community and national authorities, in accordance with the general National Integration Policy.

There is a regular monitoring of the Roma situation in main areas coordinated by the Ministry of Culture (NRCP) and based on statistical data provided by different governmental and local governmental institutions. The monitoring data is published in the annual report produced by the Ministry of Culture. This annual report on the implementation of Roma policy at the national and local level is available to the general public on the Ministry of Culture website. According to the survey “Roma in Latvia” conducted in 2015,⁵⁶ despite many improvements in the situation of the Roma in Latvia, they still face many challenges in social economic areas such education, employment and social housing. The Roma remain the most socially disadvantaged national minority in Latvia, and the majority population’s attitude toward them is usually based on stereotypes and prejudices, and can result in intolerance and discrimination.

The Ministry of Culture provides financial support for Roma NGOs in order to promote their initiatives, including cultural activities, and fosters their involvement in the implementation of NRI policy and tries to ensure their cooperation with local authorities so that the needs of Latvian Roma population are taken into account.

Many local governments provide targeted support to Roma NGOs. From the beginning of 2013, the government has been allocating funds for promoting cultural and policy initiatives of Roma NGOs as part of the Council of Europe “DOSTA” awareness raising campaign initiatives. In the framework of “DOSTA!” campaign the Ministry of Culture supports targeted awareness rising activities related to Roma culture, history and social issues, focusing on impact of widespread prejudices and negative stereotypes on Roma social inclusion.⁵⁷ For example, event “Latvian Roma – between past and future” and workshop discussion „Representation of Roma

⁵⁶ https://www.km.gov.lv/uploads/ckeditor/files/Sabiedribas_integracija/Romi/Papildu/romi_latvija_petijums_ENG.pdf

⁵⁷ <https://www.km.gov.lv/lv/integracija-un-sabiedriba/romi/projekti-un-pasakumi/ep-kampana-dosta>

in Latvian media” was organized in 2015 by the Latvian Centre for Human Rights, cultural event *“Blueberries and Romances”* (2017), Roma culture event *“Meet Latvian Roma culture!”* (2018) was organized by the Women NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia.

Since 2015, the Latvian government has provided growing financial support to the Roma Art and History Museum and the Roma Culture Centre.

Furthermore, the Jelgava municipality organises annual cultural events on the occasion of International Roma day. The cities of Daugavpils and Jelgava are home to about 35% of the total Roma population of Latvia. Both of these cities are members of The European Alliance of cities and regions for Roma Inclusion, set up by the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. Other cities such as Vīlaka, Valmiera Kandava, Sabile and Jurmala are hubs for innovative cultural and artistic initiatives by Roma NGOs.

The Roma Culture Centre/ Museum of Roma Art and History⁵⁸ regularly provide guided museum tours for all the interested people (free of charge), organise exhibitions on Roma Genocide and educational lectures on Roma culture, history and arts, as well as provide consultation to the Roma representatives on social and humanitarian issues. The activities carried out by the Roma Culture Centre aim at popularising Roma culture and history, developing intercultural dialogue and minimizing negative stereotypes and prejudice and reducing anti-Gypsyism.

The traditional Roma ensemble “Ame Roma”⁵⁹, which has existed for more than 50 years, gives performances of Roma traditional songs, dances and novels.

3.5.1 Romani Arts and Culture

- The governmental support is provided for organization of the International Romani Culture Festival “Roma World” initiated by the Roma NGO "Roma Cultural Centre".
- Since 2014, a special Grant is provided in order to support Roma NGO "Roma Culture Centre" activities and the Museum of Roma Art and History, located in Riga city centre.
- The 2016 project *“To be involve in...”*, supported by the municipality of Jelgava and implemented by the Jelgava’s Romani Culture Society *“Romani čačipen”*.
- There are many activities organised in the framework of “DOSTA!” campaign in order to raise awareness of mainstream public and disseminate information related to Roma culture, history and social issues, focusing on impact of widespread prejudices and negative stereotypes on Roma social inclusion. For example, event *“Latvian Roma – between past and future”* and workshop discussion „Representation of Roma in Latvian media” was organized in 2015 by the Latvian Centre for Human Rights, cultural event *“Blueberries and Romances”* (2017), Roma culture event *“Meet Latvian Roma culture!”* (2018) was organized by the Women NGOs Cooperation Network of Latvia.
- During the project *“Learn more about Latvian Roma — Break the Stereotypes and Open for Joint Dialogue”* (2014) implemented by the Roma Cultural Centre there are materials on Roma genocide in Latvia will be published and distributed as well as public forum on the Roma genocide is organised to raise awareness of young people.

⁵⁸ <http://romucentrsen.weebly.com/>

⁵⁹ <http://www.romucentrs.lv/ame---roma.html>

- The seminar “Many faces of Latvian Roma culture” was organised and informative booklet “A Short Introduction to Latvian Romani Culture”⁶⁰ was elaborated and published in Latvian and English in order to provide basic information on the history of the Latvian Romani culture and outstanding culture activists and their contribution to preservation of the Latvian Romani cultural heritage.
- Roma NGOs in Latvia has been implementing a wide variety of projects related to the preservation and promotion of Roma arts and culture. Some of the well-known NGOs in Latvia are: Association for Society Integration 'Alternative', Jelgava’s Romani Culture Society „Romani čačipen”.

3.5.2 Holocaust Remembrance

- Annual commemoration activities of the Roma victims of the Holocaust during World War II are provided by the Roma NGO "Roma Culture Centre";
- The first Roma Holocaust exhibition in Latvia "*Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941 -1945)*" in Academic Library of the University of Latvia, organised by The Roma Culture Centre in 2015.
- The Ministry of Culture also in the framework of the Latvian Roma Platform project⁶¹ organised educational lectures on Romani culture and history, and held an exhibition called “Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941-1945)” in the municipalities of Jelgava, Tukums, and Ventspils. The aim of this exhibition was to raise awareness among the representatives of municipalities, teachers, social workers, as well as representatives of local NGOs and Roma.
- Projects “Roma History remembrance project: Living Memory” (2017) and "*Roma History remembrance-project: for the benefit of the victims of Nazism*" (2016) implemented by the NGO “Roma Culture Centre” in co-operation with two other NGOs; “*Europa Romade Foorum Eestis*” (Estonian Roma NGO) and “*Saare Roma*” (Lithuanian Roma NGO) funded by the European Union Programme "Europe for Citizens". In the framework of these projects many activities have been organised. For instance, conference on the victims of the Roma Genocide during the Second World War (in Latvia), exhibitions and workshops on the Roma Holocaust for school teachers in Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland as well as updating, digitalizing and archiving Roma victims’ living stories’ and providing compensations for the victims of the Roma genocide.
- In the framework of the Project Latvian Roma Platform I the booklet “The Roma genocide in Latvia (1941 – 1945)” (2017) was published in English and Latvian.
- There was a training is available to teachers about the Roma and Sinti genocide organised by the Ministry of Education and Science.
- Seminar “*Antigypsyism and its manifestations in the public space*” for journalism students organised by the Latvian Centre for Human Rights, in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture and the University of Latvia.

3.6 Republic of Moldova (partner country)

General Framework

The last census refers to about 9000 Roma living in Moldova, but unofficially there are over 100 000 Roma. This discrepancy in numbers is due to historical reasons and slavery. Roma issues have been considered by the state officially from 2001 onwards when the first Governmental Decree approved a special Plan of Action on improving the situation of Roma. Today the Government has approved the Institute of Roma Community-Based

⁶⁰ https://www.km.gov.lv/uploads/ckeditor/files/Romi_ENG_Final.pdf

⁶¹ <https://www.km.gov.lv/en/integration-and-society/roma/projects/latvian-roma-platform>

Mediators and there are over 31 employed Roma community mediators active in around 30 communities. Along with other national minorities from the Republic of Moldova, Roma take part in the Ethno-Minority Council and participate in its activities. The main state institution which addresses Roma issues at the State level is the State Agency for Interethnic Relations (AIR).

Main Policy Framework for Support to National Minorities

The Strategy for the Consolidation of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Moldova for 2017-2027 affirms the Government's determination to take adequate measures for ensuring national minority rights protection in integrated and multilingual society, is based on respect for diversity. The Strategy aims at facilitating interethnic harmony, encouraging inclusive diversity of the Moldovan society by integrating national minorities into various spheres of state life, ensuring equality of citizens regardless of ethnic, cultural, linguistic identity respecting national legislation and international standards etc.

The Roma Action Plan for 2016-2020, adopted by the Decision of the Government nr.734 from 9 April, 2016, complements existing regulatory framework for improving the situation of the Roma. The Action Plan is to be financed from the State budget with possible financial support from the European funds, technical assistance projects and programmes, public-private partnerships and other acceptable sources under the national legislation.

Institutions

[The State Agency for Interethnic Relations \(AIR\)](#)⁶² is responsible for the elaboration, promotion and implementation of public policies in the field of interethnic relations and functioning of languages spoken on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. The institution is responsible for the development of regulatory framework for the implementation of legislative and normative acts in the field:

1. consolidation of interethnic relations
2. development of intercultural dialogue and strengthening of civic identity
3. functioning of languages and promotion of linguistic diversity.

Memberships

Moldova is guided by the commitments made by the Republic of Moldova in its capacity as observer to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance since 2014.

3.6.1 Romani Arts and Culture

- The Roma Action Plan foreseen for 2016-2019 supporting the International Roma Day/week – which usually is celebrated on 8 April.
- Every 3rd Sunday of September AIR in cooperation with local authorities are celebrating the [“Ethno Diversity Festival”](#)⁶³ where national minorities present their music, cuisine, etc.
- [A Roma band “Enigma Romilor”](#)⁶⁴, composed of both musicians and dancers, is registered officially with the Ministry of Culture, performing next to the Gintas Latina theatre.
- Special events dedicated to culture, music, concerts are supported occasionally in the House of Nationalities.

⁶² <http://www.bri.gov.md/index.php?l=ro>

⁶³ <http://www.bri.gov.md/index.php?pag=comunicate&opa=view&id=1489&start=&l=ru>

⁶⁴ <http://gintalatina.md/site/enigmaromilor.html>

3.6.2 Holocaust Remembrance

- In January 2014, the [National Museum of History of Moldova](https://www.nationalmuseum.md/en/)⁶⁵ hosted the exhibition *“The Holocaust in photos”*⁶⁶ which displayed 32 historical pictures to the memory of the Jews exterminated during the World War II. It was organised by the US Embassy in the Republic of Moldova.
- The [Northern Transylvania Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.mmhtn.org/)⁶⁷ is located in Șimleu Silvaniei, Romania and was opened on 11 September, 2005.

On 26 November, 2015, the Parliament adopted a Decision No. 210 on the enactment of **27 January as the National Commemoration Day of the Holocaust Victims**. This served as a turning point for the Republic of Moldova and demonstrated determination and strong political will to unite efforts of the State bodies and civil society in the fight against anti-Semitism, as well as any manifestations of racism, xenophobia, racial discrimination and intolerance.

- In July 2016 the Parliament accepted by a Declaration⁶⁸ the Final Report of the International Commission for the Study of the Holocaust, chaired by Ellie Wiesel. The Declaration condemns systematic persecution and extermination of Jews by the Nazis and their collaborators in 1937-1944 on the present territory of the Republic of Moldova. **The political declaration also condemns any attempts to ignore and deny the Holocaust** and pays tribute to the victims and survivors of this tragedy. The document aims at strengthening national policies aimed at cultivating tolerance and combating all forms of discrimination, anti-Semitism and intolerance, as well as contributing to the assumption of historical facts in order to consolidate social cohesion and human values.
- **In May 2017, the Moldovan Government has adopted the Action Plan for Holocaust Commemoration for the period of 2017-2020.**
- **The annual Holocaust Remembrance Week dedicated to the National Holocaust.** As part of the Week, school lessons and student conferences on the Holocaust and tolerance are usually conducted; commemorative demonstrations, youth forums, various theatre shows, press conferences, photo exhibitions, and other commemorative and educational events are held.
- **On 27 January 2018 the first Centre-Museum in Chisinau was been dedicated to the history of the Holocaust in the Republic of Moldova and the “Memory of the Holocaust and Interethnic Tolerance” was inaugurated** within the House of Nationalities. A separate exhibition devoted to the memory of the Roma victims of the Holocaust became a distinguishing feature of the Centre-Museum. It was produced as part of the efforts to pay tribute to all Roma people who suffered from the National Socialist regime during the World War II. The Museum was established by the AIR with the financial and other forms of support provided by the Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Inclusion of the Topic in the School Curriculum

According to the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe), the Holocaust “is studied mainly within the framework of history courses. Additional references to the topic may be made in classes on Humanitarian Law and Civic Education, as well as in a class called *“The Law and Us”*. All Moldovan pupils learn about the Holocaust from the grade 9 to the grade 12, and something between one and three hours is normally allocated to this end. It is unknown whether the issue of Roma Holocaust

⁶⁵ <https://www.nationalmuseum.md/en/>

⁶⁶ https://www.nationalmuseum.md/en/exhibitions/the_holocaust_in_photos/

⁶⁷ <http://www.mmhtn.org/>

⁶⁸ HP nr. 190 22 July, 2016. Decision of the Parliament No. 190 of 22 July, 2016.

is been covered in the local school curricula and teaching ([See OSCE: Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism, page 87](#))⁶⁹.

In 2005, a textbook titled *“Holocaust: Pages of History”* by the Moldovan historian Sergeii Nazaria focused “on Antonescu’s role in the killing of Jews during the Holocaust.” It was the first initiative of the Government to make available a textbook on this subject and nearly “every school of the Republic received this fundamental monograph.”

Initiatives of the Civil Society

According to OSCE⁷⁰ in 2001 and 2002, the Youth Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the Antifascist Democratic Alliance of Moldova organised a special nationwide essay contests, on the topic, *“What do I know about Holocaust?”*. The best essays were published in a youth magazine, Collage, in three languages: English, Moldavian and Russian. This was the first activity organised in the post-Soviet Moldova, on the Holocaust issue. However, it is not known whether any Roma were included in this initiative.

The [IOM’s Humanitarian and Social Programme \(HSP\)](#) was established in 2002 in order to provide assistance to Roma, Jehovah’s Witness, homosexuals and disabled victims of Nazi persecution. IOM provided basic assistance, including food, firewood, coal, hygienic supplies, but also medical aid to the victims in Moldova and in other 16 European countries. Nearly 74,000 people were assisted through this programme. The humanitarian assistance IOM and its partners were able to provide to those that they could reach was not just a lifeline, but also the first formal recognition of their suffering after more than 60 years.

3.7 Slovak Republic (partner country)

The Slovak Republic recognised Roma as a national minority in 1991. The Slovak State expressed its support for national minorities in its Program Statement of the Government of the Slovak Republic for the years 2016 – 2020. The promotion of Roma identity and culture is envisaged in the [Strategy of the Slovak Republic for Integration of Roma up to 2020](#). The Slovak government works for the promotion and stimulation of the culture, language, identity and traditions of Roma. High priority support activities are selected by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, the Board of Directors and the Council of the Fund for promoting the culture of national minorities.

[The Fund for supporting the culture of national minorities](#) (Fond na podporu kultury národnostných menšín) was established by Act No. 138/2017 as an independent public institution that contributes to the realisation of the cultural policy of the Slovak Republic and the European Union⁷¹ in the area of support for the development of national minorities. It concentrates on cultural and educational activities, including publishing and training activities.

⁶⁹ <http://www.osce.org/odihr/15228?download=true#page=90>

⁷⁰ “Education on the Holocaust and on Anti-Semitism”, page 87

⁷¹ See the [Commission communication COM\(2018\) 267 final from 22.5.2018 : New European Agenda for Culture – Staff Working Document](#)

3.7.1. Romani Arts and Culture

The Slovak Republic is a hub for numerous Roma festivals and symposiums related to Roma culture, arts and crafts, many of which attract also international Roma performers.

The promotion of Roma arts and culture is an important part of the strategies of several national cultural, historical and ethnographical institutes. [The Romathan Theatre in Košice](#) was established by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic in May 1992. A branch of the Slovak National Museum, [the Museum of Roma Culture in Martin](#) is a documentation and research centre that presents the Roma culture and its specific features. The Museum runs also acquisition and many methodological, professional, cultural and educational activities. Their recent project “*The National Documentation and Information Centre for Romany Culture (2011-2014)*” was implemented by the National Science Library in Prešov as a new professional and organizational component of the library. The documentation and information centre developed new kinds of digital contents on Roma Culture as one of the outcomes of its project activities.

3.7.2. Holocaust Remembrance

The yearly Commemorative day of the Roma Holocaust is on the 2 August. On that day there are numerous commemoration events around the country and many of them take place at historical places, museums and cultural centres. Official State Commemorations are usually organised by [the Civic Association In Minorita](#) with the participation of MPs. Initiatives such as “[Ma Bisteren!-project \(“Don’t forget”\)](#)”, implemented between the Slovak National Museum and civilian association In Minorita, lead the collaboration between governmental authorities and the Roma population. Holocaust remembrance is marked via diverse set of activities, including artistic performances like “Romaholocaust”, developed by Romathan Theatre.

3.8 Sweden (partner country

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Institutions

The formal instructions of the Swedish Arts Council state that the Council is to make special efforts on behalf of artistic and cultural policy development in activities concerning the culture of the Sami people and the other national minorities, including the Roma minority. The Council also provides activity grants and project grants for promoting the languages and cultures of the national minorities. In addition, the Council also allocates funding for publishing literature and cultural periodicals in the national minority languages.

The introduction of so-called cultural cooperation model in Sweden has enabled the Swedish Arts Council to highlight the objectives of minority policy in dialogue with the regional authorities. As of 2014, the appropriation directions of the Swedish Arts Council state that in its assessment, monitoring and follow-up of the regional cultural plans, the Council shall pay special attention to the work of the county councils to promote the culture and cultural heritage of the national minorities, and in particular of the Roma.

The Living History Forum has the task of acting as a national forum for promoting work regarding the strengthening of democracy, tolerance and Human Rights grounded in the Holocaust. The Forum should also try to strengthen people's will to actively work for the concept of the equal dignity of all human beings. The

Living History Forum is to conduct outreach activities focusing on knowledge, culture and education. Its activities are to be conducted in close contact with ongoing research, other cultural and educational institutions, government agencies, organisations and associations whose activities concern similar issues. The Forum shall endeavour to achieve the greatest possible geographical spread and response to its activities. The agency works actively on the dissemination of information and exhibitions relating to the Roma minority and anti-Gypsyism.

3.8.1 Romani Arts and Culture

Under the Act on National Minorities and Minority Languages the Swedish public institutions have an obligation to promote the possibilities for the national minorities to retain and develop their language and culture, and especially to promote children's development of a cultural identity. The Swedish Government also views the culture of the national minorities as part of the common cultural heritage.

In Sweden's national strategy for Roma inclusion it is affirmed that culture and language make up a major part of a person's identity and are an important factor in the development and cohesion of society. It is therefore important that Roma culture and language should be made more visible, preserved and developed in line with the goal for the national minority policy laid down by the Riksdag.

The Swedish Arts Council has been tasked with implementing initiatives to strengthen Roma cultural actors and their cooperation with various cultural institutions. The task includes conducting dialogue meetings at regional level and distributing special funds for Roma cultural activities. Recently the Agency received 19 applications from Roma cultural actors but could grant funds to only four applicants. The Agency prioritises in its open call for funds, among other things, applications from underrepresented target groups such as young Roma women.

The Institute for Language and Folklore has a special task to carry out initiatives to preserve aspects of the Roma language and highlight the intangible cultural heritage of the Roma as part of the Swedish cultural heritage. The agency has engaged Roma experts who will be involved in the work of documenting and preserving Swedish Romani and highlighting the cultural heritage of Roma.

3.8.2 Holocaust Remembrance

In 2013 the Living History Forum decided to carry out an in-depth research to increase knowledge about how Roma were affected during the Holocaust and about how Roma have been persecuted and discriminated against in Sweden after the second world war and up to the present. The aim of this initiative has been to contribute to work against anti-Gypsyism and to improve the conditions for Roma inclusion. In February 2014 the Government approved financial support for the Living History Forum to carry out this drive. The funds have been used by the Forum to employ instructors with competence in Roma history, culture, traditions and language.

In Sweden there has been a clear positive trend of growing awareness and general interest to commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day (27 January). The Living History Forum has been explicitly tasked by the Swedish government to spread awareness about the meaning and commemoration of this day and the Forum has since

2003 consistently and purposefully worked to inform the general public and support the commemoration of this Day of Remembrance. Different kinds of commemoration ceremonies and programs are taking place all over Sweden, in communities, schools, organizations and churches. The Living History Forum compiles a digital calendar where people can find out where and how they can participate the events of commemoration. Every year the Forum produces a printable mini-exhibition on a specific theme connected to the memory of the Holocaust. Ceremonies on the 2 August (the Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day) also take place in various locations around Sweden, often as joint arrangements of Roma civil society organisations with support from the Living History Forum and municipalities.

In 2015 the Living History Forum was commissioned to deliver a major educational programme about various forms of racism and intolerance in history and today. The purpose of this initiative was to contribute to an equal society characterised by respect for the equal dignity and rights of all people and to foster democracy. The aim was to reach out to all the pupils in compulsory and upper secondary school in Sweden. Since giving the initial commission, the Government has decided to broaden the target group of the initiative and extend the geographical spread of the project activities. The commission includes also work for countering anti-Gypsyism.

In 2014 the Government decided to appoint a Commission against anti-Gypsyism. The Commission spent two years working against anti-Gypsyism in society through various efforts. The Commission has contributed to highlighting the widespread prejudice against Roma and the increased discrimination experienced by the group. In November 2015 the Commission published material for schools based on the White Paper on abuses and violations of Roma during the 1900s, which was presented in 2014. It has been distributed to all Swedish pupils in grades 7–9 (the whole age group of approximately 14–16-year-old children) and to other relevant actors in society. The Commission reported its work to the Government in June 2016. Its report includes proposals and recommendations on how to continue the work against anti-Gypsyism. These recommendations were circulated for comments to all relevant authorities and civil society organisations. In line with the proposals of the Commission an inquiry has investigated the possibilities to establish a national centre for Roma issues. The inquiry's proposal on how an authority for Roma issues can be established is currently being circulated for comments among relevant stakeholders.

3.9 Switzerland (partner country)

Context

In ratifying the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Switzerland recognised the Swiss *Yenish* and *Sinti/Manouche* as national minorities, making a commitment to promote their conditions and to enable the them to preserve and develop their culture, including their itinerant way of life (a measure that is of particular importance for those who are still travelling). Switzerland recognised the Yenish language as a minority language in ratifying the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. Since 2012, when the Federal Act on Culture Promotion came into force, the Swiss Confederation has had a legislative basis (Art. 17) for promoting more actively the culture of the Yenish and Sinti/Manouche.

The Swiss Roma are not recognised as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, but the Swiss government recognises that they are an integral part of Switzerland's cultural diversity and included them in its 'Yenish, Sinti and Roma' Action plan, which seeks to create the conditions for these communities to lead a way of life that is in harmony with their cultures. Roma can therefore also request funding for cultural projects

The Swiss Confederation has adopted the terminology used by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) and prefers to speak of 'the Genocide of the Roma' instead of the terminology 'Roma Holocaust'. In the Swiss context, the expression 'Genocide of the Roma' includes the persecution of the Yenish and Sinti/Manouche communities, in particular *the Pro Juventute action "Kinder der Landstrasse" (1926-1978)* whose aim was the forced sedentarisation of Travellers by separating the Yenish children from their parents and placing them in institutions and foster families.

The Swiss Yenish, Sinti/Manouche and Roma are represented in the Advisory Board of the Swiss delegation to the IHRA, whose remit includes the remembrance of the persecution of these communities.

Institutions

The Foundation ['Zukunft für Schweizer Fahrende'](https://www.stiftung-fahrende.ch/)⁷² (Ensuring a Future for Swiss Travellers) established in 1997 by the Swiss Confederation, brings together an equal number of representatives from the Swiss authorities and from the Yenish and Sinti minorities, seeks to preserve the cultural identity of the Yenish and Sinti/Manouche. [The Federal Office of Culture](https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/en/home.html)⁷³ itself helps to fund projects aimed at raising awareness of Yenish, Sinti/Manouche and Roma cultures.

[The Swiss federal government's Service for Combating Racism](https://www.edi.admin.ch/edi/en/home/fachstellen/frb.html)⁷⁴ funds many cultural projects seeking to dispel prejudice and negative stereotyping of Yenish, Sinti/Manouche and Roma.

3.9.1 Romani Arts and Culture

Since 2016, the Swiss Confederation has provided *the Foundation 'Zukunft für Schweizer Fahrende'* with an annual cultural fund of CHF 50 000 to subsidise artistic and cultural projects. The Foundation supports projects which give the minorities visibility and raise awareness among the rest of society. Seven cultural Roma and Sinti/Yenish projects have received support since the fund was established in 2016. For example, events such as *"Ferckerchilbi"*, the big traditional cultural festival of the Yenish/Sinti, *the Gypsy Festival in Zurich* and *a touring exhibition on the Swiss Sinti/Manouche*. The foundation has also supported the screening of the 2017 film *"Yéniche Sounds"*⁷⁵. Other supported projects include a photography exhibition on the Roma and a Roma dance event. The Foundation is currently promoting the creation and printing of a Yenish fairytale book *"Josua and the Magic Violin"*.

The Federal Office of Culture has supported publications by Yenish authors and dance events organised by a Roma artist collective. An important step by the Federal Office of Culture was to promote and raise the profile of the culture of the Yenish and Sinti/Manouche in 2018. As an outcome, the nomadic traditions of the Yenish

⁷² <https://www.stiftung-fahrende.ch/>

⁷³ <https://www.bak.admin.ch/bak/en/home.html>

⁷⁴ <https://www.edi.admin.ch/edi/en/home/fachstellen/frb.html>

⁷⁵ <http://www.frenetic.ch/fr/catalogue/detail//++/id/1080>

and Sinti/Manouche were added to the 'List of Living Traditions in Switzerland', which is part of the national inventory of Switzerland's intangible cultural heritage with the UNESCO.

The Federal Office of Culture also provided CHF 30 000 in funding the project launched by the umbrella association of the Swiss Yenish and Sinti (*'Radgenossenschaft der Landstrasse'*⁷⁶), in collaboration with the educational publishers of the canton of Zurich, aimed at producing a German-language teaching tool on the history and culture of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma.

In April 2019, a festival of Yenish literature took place for the first time in Zurich with the support of the Federal Office of Culture. The purpose of the event was to launch a mainstream literary magazine special edition dedicated to Yenish poems. The event was a huge success with many participants outside the Yenish community.

Between 2008 and 2017, the Swiss federal government's Service for Combating Racism spent altogether some CHF 250,000 on Yenish, Sinti and Roma awareness projects, such as theatre plays, festivals, "Gipsy" meetings with film screenings, dance performances and a 'Rom' photo exhibition.

3.9.2 Holocaust Remembrance

Remembrance activities supported by the Swiss government generally focus on Youth and Education. The Federal Council is very mindful of how important it is to raise young people's awareness on the persecution of all victims of the National Socialism. Therefore, the Swiss government's Yenish, Sinti and Roma Action Plan includes projects that raise awareness especially in schools and develop educational materials.

The Federal Department of Home Affairs (FDHA)⁷⁷ and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)⁷⁸ **support events held each year in schools across Switzerland to mark 27 January, the International Day in memory of all the victims of the Holocaust.** Events focusing specifically on the persecution of the Roma, Sinti/Manouche and Yenish communities have also been organised for teachers in recent years. For instance, one such event was held in Geneva in 2010 and another, on the topic of the 'Roma, Sinti and Yenish in school and in society', in Aarau in 2014.

Switzerland commemorates the memory of all victims of National Socialism on 27 January each year. In the last years Roma victims have been expressly mentioned in the 27 January official speech by the President of the Swiss Confederation. Switzerland does however not separately mark Roma Genocide Remembrance Day on 2 August. This had been proposed in 2017 in a parliamentary motion (Munz) but has been withdrawn.

Most of the small number of memorials to the victims of National Socialism which exist in Switzerland have been established as a result of local initiatives. There is currently no memorial in Switzerland dedicated to the Yenish, Sinti/Manouche and Roma.

⁷⁶ <https://www.radgenossenschaft.ch/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.admin.ch/gov/en/start/departments/departement-home-affairs-fdha.html>

⁷⁸ <https://www.fdfa.admin.ch/eda/en/home.html>

[The Independent Commission of Experts Switzerland – Second World War \(ICE\)](#) (Bergier Commission) has published in 2001 a book entitled “Roma, Sinti, and Yenish. Swiss Policy Regarding Gypsies in the Nazi Period”.

Support for educational projects to promote the remembrance of the genocide of the Roma

Teaching and learning about the Holocaust has been widely integrated into the various Swiss school plans. It is now also part of the general curriculum in Swiss Institutes of teacher education. Some of them, notably in Lausanne and Lucerne, have specialist staff who teach courses on this subject. In schools some teachers do cover the genocide of the Roma, Sinti/Manouche and Yenish in their classes. Although educational initiatives on this subject are not as widespread as initiatives about the Jewish Holocaust the following projects are worth mentioning:

To fill a gap in teaching materials on the genocide of the Roma, Sinti/Manouches and Yenish, Switzerland contributed to the development of [the European educational website 'The Fate of European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust'](#)⁷⁹ 2012–13, thanks to funding from the Swiss Government. [The website has a Swiss section](#)⁸⁰ on Switzerland's 'Gypsy' policy and in particular the persecution of the Yenish people in Switzerland (systematic removal of children from their families, marriage restrictions and forced sterilisations).

The Confederation's Service for Combating Racism also provided CHF 24 000 to a project launched by the University of Applied Sciences of North western Switzerland focused on discrimination against Roma minorities in Europe. Several workshops for teachers have been organised to give incentives for the teaching of Roma history, including the genocide of the Roma, and to develop teaching materials on this subject.

3.10 Ukraine (partner country)

The National Strategy for Protection and Integration of the Roma National Minority into the Ukrainian Society until 2020, which was adopted in 2013, defines one of its objectives as satisfying the cultural and informational needs of Roma, namely by facilitating preservation and development of Roma culture and arts. Furthermore, the National Action Plan, which was adopted in the same year toward implementation of the Strategy, details the objective as follows:

- Facilitate work and support activities of Roma cultural centres in the localities with significant Roma populace;
- Provide support to Roma artistic groups;
- Involve Roma artistic groups in all-Ukrainian and regional minority culture events;
- Facilitate discounted lease of buildings and premises that are state or community owned to Roma organizations and artistic groups for organization of cultural and awareness raising events [...];
- Facilitate the organization of cultural and artistic events aimed at preservation of Roma culture;
- Support the participation of Roma artistic groups in international cultural events.

Neither the Strategy, nor the National Action Plan contain provisions pertaining to researching, teaching and/or commemorating the Roma genocide of the Second World War.

⁷⁹ <http://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/home>

⁸⁰ <http://www.romasintigenocide.eu/de/hintergrundinformationen/backgroundinformation/schweiz>

Institutions

Support for Roma arts and culture as well as the issue of commemoration of the Roma genocide of the Second World War had been among the responsibilities of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine until September 2019, when with the appointment of the new government the Ministry of Culture was merged with the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Ministry of Information Policy. While priorities and responsibilities of the new state authority – the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports – are still to be determined, the responsibility for the implementation of minority policies, including that concerning Roma, will be shifted to another newly created state authority – the State Agency (Service) for Ethnopolitics and Freedom of Conscience. Created by the [Decree No. 812](#) of the former Cabinet of Minister in August 2019, the Agency is indeed responsible, inter alia, for:

- protecting and developing the cultures of ethnic minorities in Ukraine, satisfying their cultural, linguistic and informational needs;
- supporting civil society organizations of minorities in organization of cultural, artistic, and awareness raising events.

In 2015 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted a Decree No. 993 whereby creating an Interministerial Working Group with powers to observe and guide the implementation of the Strategy of Protection and Integration of the Roma minority into the Ukrainian Society until 2020 by issuing recommendations and promoting good practices. Since the Strategy covers issues of Roma arts and culture, a corresponding thematic subgroup was created within the Working Group.

3.10.1 Romani Arts and Culture

[The Romani Music and Drama Theater “Romance”](#) functions with state and Kyiv city administration’s financial support since 1994. In 2003 it received the honorary status of an academic state theater.

Dozens of Roma cultural events (i.e. concerts, performances, etc.) take place annually across the country, also with financial support from local budgets. The bigger Roma culture festivals are “Amala” (Kyiv), “Bakhtale Gathers Friends” (Mykolayiv) and “Pap Jazz Fest” (Uzhgorod).

In April 2019 the first Roma Writers Residency was held with financial support of the International Renaissance Foundation. An anthology of short text by Roma authors will be presented at the end of September at the Lviv Book Forum.

3.10.3 Holocaust Remembrance

On October 8, 2004 the Ukrainian Parliament adopted an [Order No. 2085 “On Commemorating the International Day of Roma Genocide”](#) whereby recognizing the genocide of the Second World War, designating the day of August 2 for official commemoration, and also prescribing that the central state authority responsible for the development and implementation of ethnic minority policies should:

- Provide support to civil society organizations to organize events, including international ones, to commemorate the International Day of Roma Genocide;
- Support research on the genocide of Roma during the Second World War;
- Work to improve the social and economic situation of Roma communities in Ukraine, and
- Consider providing families of the survivors of Roma genocide with compensations.

In 2015 the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued a decree “On the Plan of Actions with regard to 75th Anniversary of the Tragedy of Babyn Yar”. Inter alia, the decree raised the issue of erecting a monument to Roma victims of the Second World War genocide in Babyn Yar, as well as organizing a historic conference on Roma genocide. Both events took place in 2016.

The memorial “Roma Wagon”, which since 1998 was hosted in Kamyianets Podilskyi, was moved and installed in Babyn Yar. The official opening of the memorial took place on September 23, 2016 as part of a series of other commemorative events.

Currently there are over 20 memorials at places of mass murder of Roma during the Second World War, whose total number is [estimated to be 113](#). The work on marking with place with memorial signs continues. For instance a three new memorials were opened in June 2019 in Zhytomyr region.

Commemorative events organized by Roma and pro-Roma civil society organizations on August 2, but also on January 27 (International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust) and September 29 (Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of Babyn Yar) take place each year in different localities, also with financial support from local authorities. The commemorative events include concerts, round tables, conferences, exhibitions, educational events. Since 2014 a group of Roma youth receives support from the International Renaissance Foundation to participate and represent Ukraine in the Dikh na bister programme in Krakow.

[In October 2016 an international conference “Roma Genocide in Ukraine during the Second World War: studying, teaching and commemorating” was held](#) by the Ukrainian Center for the Study of Holocaust in partnership with the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Institute of National Memory, the National Museum of Ukrainian History in the Second World War and several other state partners.

Research into the issue of Roma genocide is first and foremost led by the Ukrainian Center for the Study of Holocaust as part of the [project “Neglected Genocide” \(2013 - now\)](#). In 2013 the Center printed [a collection of archive materials, documents and memories](#), which remains one of the most complete historic accounts on the Ukrainian history of Roma genocide today. Another publication that covers the issue of Roma genocide was published in 2018 – [“Roma: myths and facts. A manual on Antigypsyism for Teachers”](#). Roma genocide is also researched as part of ‘Roma studies’ programs in several universities across the country (i.e. in Uzhgorod, Odessa, Chernivtsy), first of which was introduced in 2013 at the National University “Kyiv Mohyla Academy”.

4. CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS LEARNED, GOOD PRACTICES IDENTIFIED AND ENVISAGED FOLLOW-UP

4.1 Conclusions regarding the organisation of the CAHROM thematic visit

The programme of the thematic visit was complete and widely covered both topics of national practices on Roma Holocaust remembrance and the promotion of Romani arts and culture. The format of the meeting allowed the participants to actively engage in discussions about challenges met, ideas to explore and recommendations for the promotion of Romani arts and culture and Holocaust remembrance.

However, as the themes of promotion of Romani arts and culture and the promotion of the Roma Holocaust remembrance are both vast topics, having two separate thematic visits would have allowed for more in-depth exchanges.

4.2 General and country-specific conclusions and lessons learnt in relation to:

Generally speaking, there is a lack of governmental and private support in the promotion of Romani arts and culture in most of the European countries. Indeed, there exist many initiatives about the Roma Holocaust or genocide remembrance but less on Romani arts and culture. Few private cultural foundations dedicate their entire yearly scholarship programme or even parts of it to the thematic call for Roma or other national minorities, however there are a few exceptions, such as the Finnish Majaoja Foundation. The states must strengthen their role as forerunners of supporting Roma arts and culture.

Legislation is lacking to enforce local authorities to promote Roma arts and culture. As project funding may not be sufficient for securing the teaching of Roma arts and culture and Roma holocaust and the cultural services for which both the Roma and non-Roma citizens yearn, other possibilities need to be assessed, such as a federal law to support these aims. However, this requires an active role from different leading cultural and art institutions that need to acknowledge the systemic, structuralised discrimination that is inherent in them and now needs to be challenged as a part of the development towards more inclusive and participative organisations.

In this context, the draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on the inclusion of Roma and/or Travellers' history in school curricula and teaching materials was adopted by the CAHROM at its 18th Plenary Session.

The idea and concept of remembrance also needs to include contemporary witnesses as remaining Roma Holocaust survivors are very few today. In this framework RomArchives and ERIAC can play a major role in digitalising the story-telling of survivors and transmit the memory not only to younger generations of Roma but also to mainstream society. Furthermore, this digital platform could be an excellent tool to provide virtual documentation centres for countries that do not have one and include comprehensive information and archives by country.

Some the recommendations included:

- **Exploring alternate methods of governmental support** such as a grant system for creating sustainable culture and arts projects at the local level. The impact of these projects and grants should be measured and monitored with the possibility of yearly grant renewals when the project meets a set of criteria, such as meetings its measurable short, medium and long-term impact goals, transferability of the project, ownership of the project by the municipality, sustainability of the project and adequate human resources and competences. A preference should be given to projects with sustained tangible outcomes but not to exclude one-off festivals or projects either. The grants system should be designed for encouraging municipalities and local NGOs to work together and present quality project proposals while keeping realistic expectations. It is important to remember that awareness-raising and capacity building at the local level both among Roma and local authorities is important so that also the local authorities become interested enough to apply for the available funding and become committed from the start. The grant system should be two-pronged as initiatives can stem from both national or regional levels or from the grassroots Roma activism. Possibility to earmark at least some funds especially for the promotion of Roma culture and arts need to be identified and funds need to be secured at the national and regional government level bearing in mind that culture is not always a priority issue in the communities suffering from outmost poverty.

- Taking active steps towards **encouraging academic research institutions to perform more Roma history, arts and culture related research** either as a part of their mainstreamed researched programmes or as separate research projects concerning Roma and Traveller history, art and culture but in particular their persecution during the Holocaust.
- Carrying out research and reflecting nationally on the multiple perspectives of the history: truth, recognition, reconciliation, and work on the social memory of identity and remembrance.
- **Increasing visibility** by mainstreaming sections on Roma history, arts and culture in **publicly funded national, regional and local museums in cooperation with the national Ministry of Antiquities and Museum Agencies** and seeking partnerships with organisers of large mainstream cultural events to include Roma cultural events as part of their programming both in the public and private culture and art services sectors.
- Using existing support through different **European cultural agencies** such as the European Commission Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency's (EACEA) Creative Europe programme or the Council of Europe EURIMAGES partial agreements should be sought to produce films on Human Rights of the Roma, Roma Integration projects, Roma culture and arts, Roma history and Holocaust and other relevant topics;
- Designing **new educational approaches** and reflecting on the advantages of separate vs. inclusive historical narratives in teaching Roma history, Holocaust, arts and culture. The reflection should include discussions on the issue of the existing stereotypes such as bohemian life, romanticism and exoticism, the diversity within Roma communities and developing critical thinking and training the teachers. The direct impact would be increased pride in being Roma or of Roma origin;
- Conceptualising different forms of national Roma Holocaust remembrance commemoration, including **new forms of commemoration** by identifying the gaps in the level or the total lack of recognition by the responsible institutions, authorities and society in general.
- Establishing new **visible memorial sites that become centres of attention and commemoration events** and securing the existing sites.
- Create an active **digital platform** to connect Roma intellectuals worldwide in order to have a forum for reflection and discussion on topical issues and whose results can feed into policy making. This platform could include links to useful resources such as national mapping tools, archives etc.
- Create **digitalised documentation centres**
- Official **recognition of 2 August** as Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day.
- Drafting a Council of Europe **recommendation to member states to establish memorial sites**

4.2.1 National practices for promoting Romani arts and culture and Roma Holocaust remembrance

Germany – The existing governmental framework for the support of the promotion of Roma arts and culture will be continued and strengthened. The Central Council of German Sinti and Roma ensures that issues relating to them are dealt at the highest political level and remain a priority of the government's agenda. The government is keen to continue the established cooperation and acknowledges the institution as a valuable contributor to the diversity and cultural knowledge among the German population.

The visit to the Memorial of Sinti and Roma of Europe murdered under the National Socialist Regime as well as the presentation on and visit to ERIAC allowed for a collective reflection on how Germany and other partner countries can better conceptualise Roma Holocaust Remembrance and adapt it to their specific context of their country. One of the most important challenges addressed by Germany and other countries was the necessity to engage Youth in remembrance initiatives and to strengthen this aspect in future cooperation between partner countries.

Austria – The government has well established a well-developed system of Roma advisory councils and is working with them and helping them to develop relevant policies. Further work is needed to include the teaching of Roma history, Holocaust, arts and culture in the mainstream school curricula. Furthermore, funds granted to projects for national minorities are a good practice, but the outcome must be monitored to measure the impact of these projects and identify any shortcomings and new challenges.

Over the last decade, important new research has been undertaken on Austrian history during the period 1938 - 1945 and the post-war era. This has included topics such as expropriation in Austria during the Nazi regime, restitution and compensation efforts after 1945, Austrian resistance groups and post-war justice for crimes committed during the regime. However, more research is still needed, namely on the persecution of Austrian Roma during the Holocaust.

Belgium – The government has a well-working institutional network and collaboration with Roma and Travellers civil society organisations. Although Belgium has several resource centres, to date there is no specifically dedicated one to the Genocide of the Roma. A positive direction is required for the designation of a Memorial Day for commemorating the Roma and Sinti genocide and its specific presence in the school curricula. Solid research and documentation on the Holocaust exist but much work is still needed in the development of memory collections on the persecutions and war crimes against Belgian Roma and Travellers during the 20th century.

Italy – Collaboration on comparing models, sharing innovative projects and materials between Italian Academic initiatives with other partner countries, universities or research centres is potentially a strong area for future work (i.e. the University of Verona established a Romani chib course in 2018).

Launching partnerships with mainstream arts and cultural organisations and establishing agreements between mainstream and Romani media are desired areas for development. Strong partnerships with non-Roma large cultural and musical events and public happenings could be productive. Collaboration with the Roma National Platform concerned stakeholders and institution in the organization of events would make them more relevant and increase their impact.

Latvia - Cooperation between ERIAC and the Roma Art and History Museum (Roma NGO “Roma Culture Centre” in Latvia) would help to raise awareness of the European mainstream public and the Roma from other European countries on the Latvian Roma culture, art and history. For examples, exhibits by Latvian Roma artists could be organised in partnership with ERIAC to enable a wider dissemination.

Republic of Moldova – Although the Moldovan Government has adopted an Action Plan for Holocaust Commemoration, it needs to conceptualise a Holocaust Remembrance site which corresponds to the Moldovan experience of the Holocaust and especially the impact it had on its Roma community. It would complete the exhibition of the Centre-Museum in Chisinau dedicated to the history of the Holocaust in the Republic of Moldova and the exhibition devoted to the memory of the Roma victims of the Holocaust.

Slovak Republic – There are numerous Roma festivals and cultural events which receive funding and support from the government and in this respect the Slovak Republic is a reference. Work should continue in mainstreaming the Roma component in the school curricula and in mainstream museums and cultural festivals

to change mentalities in a definite manner. Work with ERIAC should also be pursued in order to disseminate good practices throughout Europe.

Switzerland – To increase visibility the Swiss Federal Office of Culture funds many cultural projects but should aim to further mainstream Roma art and culture in national museums and popular festivals.

Teaching and learning about the Holocaust is now also part of the general curriculum in Swiss Institutes of teacher education. Some school teachers cover the genocide of the Roma, Sinti/Manouche and Yenish in their classes but educational initiatives on this subject are not widespread. The University of Applied Sciences of North-Western Switzerland offered workshops for teachers for the teaching of Roma history, including the genocide of the Roma, and to develop teaching materials on this subject. These workshops should be included in teacher training programmes of other pedagogical universities.

Ukraine – Although there are projects promoting research, introducing documentary sources and establishing oral histories on the destinies of Roma in the occupied territory of Ukraine during WWII, more research on the Roma and Sinti genocide should be done by historians. Furthermore, Roma history, Holocaust, arts and culture should be integrated into the school curricula.

4.2.2 International practices for promoting Romani arts and culture and Roma Holocaust remembrance

Many international practices for promoting Romani arts and culture and Roma Holocaust remembrance exist (see Appendix 3) however the recommendations to create an active digital platform to connect Roma intellectuals worldwide in order to have a forum for reflection and discussion on topical issues and the promotion of the official recognition of 2 August as Roma and Sinti Genocide Remembrance Day in the Council of Europe member states should be examined.

4.3 Good practices identified at national and international levels

4.3.1 In the Federal Republic of Germany, hosting country

- the hosting of ERIAC in Berlin and financial support provided to ERIAC
- RomArchive - digital arts and culture archive
- the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
- the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma

4.3.2 Good practices identified in partner countries (Austria, Belgium, Italy, Latvia, Republic of Moldova, Norway, Slovak Republic, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom)

Austria

- the dialogue with civil society established in the context of the National Roma dialogue platform resulting in a catalogue of demands from civil society in this context
- the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance⁸¹

⁸¹ <http://www.doew.at/english>

- The Institute for Holocaust Education of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research⁸²
- The annual commemoration ceremony for the Roma and Sinti of Salzburg, murdered by the National Socialists
- The annual commemoration ceremony at the Lackenbach "gypsy detention and labour camp"
- polis – The Austrian Centre for Citizenship Education in Schools and the polis aktuell magazine⁸³
- the “Roma Thanae” project;⁸⁴

Belgium

- The Decree of 13 March, 2009 (Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles)⁸⁵ on the memory transmission of genocide
- The European project MemoROM⁸⁶
- Roma and Travellers Mediation center (Centre de Médiation des Gens du Voyage et des Roms)⁸⁷
- The first conference “Convoi Z. Samudaripen” on the deportation of Sinti and Roma in Belgium
- Kazerne Dossin (the former Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance)⁸⁸
- the Special Committee for Remembrance Education⁸⁹

Italy

- Commemoration activities related to Roma Holocaust (Porrajmos);
- Thematic priorities for Arts and Culture and Roma Holocaust included in the National Roma Integration Strategy
- The establishment of RNP as a collaborative tool between NGOs and the government, with a presence and role of Roma Youth
- The annual National Week Against Racism campaign
- Commemorations of 8 April on central and local level
- The contribution of UNAR to research and educational activities (books, trainings, toolkits for teachers) on the topics of Romani Arts and Culture and Holocaust Remembrance

Latvia

- Annual International Romani Culture Festival “Roma World”
- Raise awareness activities in the framework of DOSTA! campaign;
- The projects entitled “Roma History remembrance project: Living Memory” and “Roma History remembrance project: for the benefit of the victims of Nazism” implemented by the Roma NGO “Roma Culture Centre”;
- Informative materials in Latvian and English on the Roma genocide in Latvia during the Second World War;
- Exhibitions “Roma Holocaust in Latvia (1941-1945) and the publication on the same topic.

⁸² <http://www.erinnern.at/bundeslaender/oesterreich>

⁸³ <https://www.politik-lernen.at/site/ueberuns/english>

⁸⁴ <http://www.romane-thana.at/index.php>.

⁸⁵ <http://www.enseignement.be/index.php?page=27095>

⁸⁶ <http://www.erionet.eu/memorom>

⁸⁷ <https://www.cmgv.be/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.kazernedossin.eu/EN/>

⁸⁹ <https://herinneringseducatie.be/>

Republic of Moldova

- The inclusion of "Roma Holocaust" in several Moldovan school curricula and textbooks
- The State Agency for Interethnic Relations (AIR)
- the "[Ethno Diversity Festival](#)"⁹⁰
- the Action Plan for Holocaust Commemoration for the period of 2017-2020.
- The annual Holocaust Remembrance Week dedicated to the National Holocaust
- The first Centre-Museum in Chisinau dedicated to the history of the Holocaust

Norway

- The government-funded report "*Å bli dem kvit*" ("Getting rid of them") from February 2015
- The Prime Minister's public apology to Norwegian Roma on 8 April, 2015
- Romano Kher – Roma Culture and Resource Center

Slovak Republic

- The Romathan Theatre;
- The Museum of Roma Culture in Martin;
- The National Science Library National Documentation and Information Centre for Romani Culture;
- The Ma Bisteren! Project (Don't forget), by the Slovak National Museum and civil association In Minorita
- Big Roma festivals;
- Official recognition of the genocide of Roma and Sinti and 2 August as Commemoration Day;

Sweden

- The publication "The Dark Unknown History" White Paper on abuses and rights violations against Roma in the 20th century⁹¹;
- The mission of the Swedish Commission against anti-Gypsyism⁹²;
- The work of the Living History Forum;

Switzerland

- Switzerland's Action Plan to promote the culture of Yenish, Sinti and Roma, which includes measures to teach Sinti and Roma history and culture, including the persecutions they suffered;
- the big traditional cultural festival of the Yenish/Sinti, the Gypsy Festival in Zurich and a touring exhibition on the Swiss Sinti/Manouche;
- The nomadic traditions of the Yenish and Sinti/Manouche' added to the 'List of Living Traditions in Switzerland'
- The support events held each year in schools across Switzerland to mark 27 January, the International Day in memory of all the victims of the Holocaust;
- The book entitled "Roma, Sinti, and Yenish. Swiss Policy Regarding Gypsies in the Nazi Period".
- The funding from the Swiss Government to the development of the European educational website 'The Fate of European Roma and Sinti during the Holocaust'⁹³

⁹⁰ <http://www.bri.gov.md/index.php?pag=comunicate&opa=view&id=1489&start=&l=ru>

⁹¹ <https://www.government.se/legal-documents/2015/03/ds-20148/>

⁹² <http://www.minoritet.se/user/motantiziganism/english/index.html>.

⁹³ <http://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/home>

Ukraine

- Official recognition of the genocide of Roma and Sinti and 2 August as Commemoration Day;
- Over 20 memorials erected in the memory of the victims of Roma genocide across the country;
- Work to integrate the Holocaust and Roma genocide into a comprehensive memory politics around Babyn Yar;
- Romani Music and Drama Theater “Romance”
- Big Roma festivals, i.e. “Amala”, “Bakhtale Gathers Friends”, “Pap Jazz Fest”

United Kingdom

- The Government of the UK Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper, signalling its strong commitment to building a society that works for everyone, and to integrating the most vulnerable.

4.4 Envisaged short-term and mid-term follow-up**4.4.1 At the level of CAHROM and the Council of Europe in general**

- To liaise with the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in order to ensure visibility of the Roma Holocaust into the Addendum to mark the 20th anniversary of the Stockholm Declaration
- Finalising Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to members states on the inclusion of Roma and Travellers’ history in school curricula and teaching materials and supporting its implementation in the members states
- Continue open calls for development of versatile Roma history and Holocaust related educational materials and training courses for raising awareness on the historical and present situations of Roma persecution and discrimination in different member states.

4.4.2 At the level of ERIAC

ERiac will continue to promote its work with the CAHROM members and seek co-operation and partnerships with them for the organisation and promotion of exhibits and cultural events both at its headquarters in Berlin and when possible in the partner countries.

4.4.3 At the level of the hosting and partnering countries

- Strengthening the existing governmental framework for the support of the promotion of Roma arts and culture **in Germany**.
- Continuing supporting the sustainable institutionalisation of ERIAC and strengthening cooperation between the Berlin based ERIAC, **state of Germany and other European member states**, international and national cultural and art institutions and the Roma stakeholders.
- The setting up of a national centre for Roma as a governmental body in **Sweden**.
- Arranging an international conference in **Sweden** for the commemoration of the 20 years anniversary of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust that was held in the year 2000.
- Building of a new Holocaust Memorial that will remember victims of Nazi persecution, including Roma and Sinti victims, in the **United Kingdom**
- The inauguration of the final premises of the Resource and Cultural Centre for Roma in **Norway**

- Following-up on the earlier call made by The Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for the establishment of a memorial dedicated to all Swiss victims of National Socialism. In its answer to a parliamentary interpellation of December 2018 (18.4270 Barrile) supporting this initiative **the Swiss government** said that it is examining the issue with an open mind; the form and content of its support should be specified when the project will be better defined.
- Following- up on the initiative from the “IG Mahnmal committee” concerning the establishment of a memorial to the refugees who were turned away from **Switzerland** during the Second World War.
- **The Swiss Government** is addressing the possibility to support an initiative to set up a memorial dedicated to the victims of the Pro Juventute action “Kinder der Landstrasse” (1926-1978) whose aim was the forced sedentarisation of Travellers by separating the Yenish children from their parents and placing them in institutions and foster families.
- Continuing the cooperation between the state of **Austria** and the Roma Advisory Council for the relevant history and Holocaust teaching as well as arts and cultural policy development, implementation and joint evaluation of the Roma integration policies and measures
- Including the teaching of the topics concerning Roma history, Holocaust, arts and culture into the national curricula **in Austria**.
- Designation of a Memorial Day for commemorating the Roma and Sinti genocide **in Belgium**.
- Including the teaching of the topics concerning Roma history, Holocaust, arts and culture into the national curricula **in Belgium**.
- The establishment of a Romani youth board specifically involved on Porrajmos remembrance and recognition **in Italy**
- Enhancing academic interest and boosting the scientific research on Roma persecution and internment **in Italy**
- Creating a lasting monument to commemorate the Roma victims of the Holocaust **in Moldova**
- Including the Roma history and genocide/Holocaust in the school curricula **in Moldova**
- Creating a centre for exchanging information on the Roma Holocaust and its victims **in Moldova**
- Researching the Roma holocaust in the territory of **Moldova** and publishing a research- based book on it.
- Continuing support for the Roma art and culture through the Fund for supporting the culture of national minorities (Fond na podporu kultury národnostních menšin) according to the Act No. 138/2017 for realisation of the cultural policy of **the Slovak Republic**.
- Securing the resources for the activities and sustainable development of The Romathan Theatre and The Museum of Roma Culture in Martin **in the Slovak Republic**.
- Secure state funding for the implementation of the Roma integration strategy in Ukraine, *inter alia*, with regard to support of cultural and artistic events
- Invest into supporting research on Roma genocide during the Second World War in Ukraine
- Support capacity building for Roma-led organizations and artistic groups to compete for the grants from the Ukrainian Cultural Fund

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: [Programme of the CAHROM thematic visit in Berlin, Germany, on 20-22 February 2019](#)

Appendix 2: [List of participants](#)

Appendix 3: [European and international standards and reference texts](#)