

## Training-Course about Education on the Roma Holocaust, Resistance and Remembrance

Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative 2016

Roma and Resistance during the Holocaust and in its aftermath - Research, Education, Remembrance

**Venue:** Heppenheim/Heidelberg (Germany)

**Dates:** 16 – 22 March 2016 (including travel days)

### The training-course on Remembrance and Education

The training-course aims to build the capacity of Roma and non-Roma educators and youth leaders, as well as their youth organizations in their work on remembrance, Holocaust and human rights education in order to challenge stereotypes, anti-Gypsyism and racism.

The project gives special attention to the theme of Romani Resistance during World War II, as well as on the educational work with oral history and testimonies of survivors. It strives to enable young Roma activist and scholars to collect and/or analyse testimonies in order to produce knowledge about acts of resistance performed by Roma during the Holocaust and in its aftermath.

The project builds on the experience of the Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative of the past years, as well as on the expertise of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, which built the first exhibition on the Roma Holocaust in Heidelberg and in the Auschwitz-Museum, as well as which developed various educational tools in this context. The resistance of Roma during the Holocaust is the theme of a two year project of the Tom Lantos Institute, ternYpe and La Voix des Roms which aims to develop a common narrative and concept of Roma resistance through research, training and discussions.



*The Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative is an initiative of ternYpe International Roma Youth Network; the conference in Heidelberg/Heppenheim is coordinated by ternYpe, Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, Tom Lantos Institute, Nevo Parudimos and Haus am Maiberg.*

*The project is supported by the Europe for Citizens program, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and the German Ministry of Youth and Family affairs (BMFSFJ) within its program "Live Democracy – Active against right-wing extremism, violence and group-focused enmity" and the Stiftung Erinnerung Verantwortung Zukunft (EVZ).*



### **The Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative 2014-2016**

The event takes place in the wider frame of the **Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative** of ternYpe International Roma Youth Network and its broad partnership with civil society organizations. This initiative started by ternYpe in 2010, gathers already thousands of young people, organizations and institutions across Europe, to advocate for wider recognition and education about the Roma Genocide, as well as about the mechanisms of anti-Gypsyism in a challenging context of rising racism, hate speech and extremism in Europe. The Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative aims at building mutual trust, co-operation and solidarity among Roma and non-Roma youth, through analysis and interpretation of history as a tool, to evaluate and act in contemporary societies.

With August 2nd 2014 marking the 70th anniversary of the remembrance day of the Roma Genocide, the year 2014 featured more educational and remembrance activities than ever, and demonstrated the wide engagement of Roma and non-Roma (youth) organizations for remembrance, recognition and reconciliation. The President of the European Parliament, Mr. Martin Schulz, and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, granted their patronage for the event. During the key remembrance and education event around August 2, 2014, ternYpe International Roma Youth Network and its partners gathered over 1.000 young Roma and non-Roma from 25 countries for five days in Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**Roma and Resistance during the Holocaust and in its aftermath - Research, Education, Remembrance** is a two year project of the Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) in partnership with ternYpe and La voix des Roms which seeks to generate knowledge in order to contribute to a deeper and more nuanced understanding of the Roma genocide and the Roma resistance during the Holocaust in the broader society; raise awareness about the topic and make it more visible in the public sphere; support Roma researchers and young Roma in collecting and analysing testimonies; and advocate for the effective participation of Roma in official Holocaust commemorations throughout the public policy cycle. The project consists of an exploratory desk research about the literature of the resistance of the Roma, an in-depth research in different countries about forms and acts of resistance performed by Roma, a training for young Roma for collecting and analysing testimonies focusing on resistance, and the collection of testimonies in different European countries. An international conference and the publication of the final results are also parts of the initiative.

### **Recognition of the “Roma Holocaust Memorial Day” by the European Parliament**

April 15, 2015 marked a historical moment. The European Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority to finally adopt a resolution which recognizes “the historical fact of the genocide of Roma that took place during World War II” and concludes “that a European day should be dedicated to commemorating the victims of the genocide of the Roma during World War II.” Of huge importance is the fact that this resolution also “underlines the need to combat anti-Gypsyism at every level and by every means, and stresses that this phenomenon is an especially persistent, violent, recurrent and commonplace form of racism.” ternYpe International Roma Youth Network has been committed to advocate for this recognition for many years, mobilizing hundreds of Roma and non-Roma youth for this cause, developing co-operation with experts, historians, educational institutions and political stakeholders. Nevertheless, the advocacy for recognition shall continue targeting national parliaments and international organizations such as Council of Europe, UN, OSCE, IHRA.

<http://2august.eu/ep-recognition/>

### **Aims**

This international training-course aims at the capacity-building of Roma and non-Roma educators and youth leaders, as well as their youth organizations in their work on remembrance, Holocaust and human rights education and on the resistance of the Roma in order to challenge stereotypes, anti-Gypsyism and racism.

## **Aims and objectives**

1. Raise the awareness of Roma and non-Roma educators regarding the remembrance of the Roma Holocaust; Introducing the importance of remembrance and the role it can play in building a positive identity;
2. Strengthen and develop the skills of the educators in remembrance, Holocaust and human rights education to apply non-formal educational tools and methods in their work with young people;
3. Raise awareness on the Romani resistance during World War II; familiarising young Roma with the concepts of resistance
4. Training Roma youth on analysing existing testimonies – how to extract data about different forms of resistance of Roma from already recorded interviews; Training Roma youth on conducting interviews with survivors, witnesses and their descendants; Engaging them in collecting testimonies and analysing existing ones in the next phase of the project “Roma and Resistance during the Holocaust and in its aftermath - Research, Education, Remembrance”; training in the educational work with oral history and testimonies of survivors;
5. Reflect and develop educational approaches to lead Roma youth groups to Auschwitz and other concentration camps and memorial sites;
6. Exchange practices, strategies and educational methods and tools of Holocaust and remembrance education regarding the Roma genocide;
7. Develop and plan educational activities for 2016-2017, strengthen the partnership of organizations.

## **Draft Program**

Day 1:	Arrival of participants
Day 2:	Introduction, personal motivations, values and aims of Holocaust education today, today's challenges
Day 3:	Educational approaches to memorial site visits – visit to Natzweiler, learning about the Roma Holocaust
Day 4:	Holocaust education in Museums - Guided tour in the Roma Holocaust museum and reflections
Day 5:	Romani Resistance and work with oral history – The history and the concept of the Resistance of the Roma, methodology of collecting and analyzing testimonies
Day 6:	The future of remembrance and human rights education – future commitments of participants, possible ways of cooperation
Day 7:	Departure

## **Logistics**

The main conference venue and the accommodation is organized in the “Haus am Maiberg” – a good standard centre for civic education in Heppenheim. <http://www.haus-am-maiberg.de/>

## **Costs**

There is no participation fee. The organizers cover the costs for accommodation, board and any program-related costs. Travel costs are reimbursed during the seminar or afterwards by bank transfer based on a fully presented travel reimbursement claim (flight bookings, boarding tickets, invoices, bus/train tickets), based on the cheapest means and up to a certain amount (Western Europe max. 150 Euro, Eastern Europe 200 €; for questions contact the organizers). Do not book any tickets until you received a confirmation email after the selection, and instructions on logistics.

## **The partner organizations**

### **Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma**

With the support of the city of Heidelberg, the Centre was founded in the historic quarter of Heidelberg at the beginning of the 1990s. Together with the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, it forms the central institution of the minority in Germany. After several years of conversion and extension work, the complex with the first permanent exhibition on the Holocaust of the Sinti and Roma in the world was ceremonially opened to the public on 16th March 1997.

<http://www.sintiundroma.de/en/centre/about-us.html>

### **Tom Lantos Institute**

The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish, Roma and Hungarian communities and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. It is a Budapest-based organisation with a multi-party board, an international Executive Committee and Advisory Board. As a research and education platform, TLI aims to bridge the gaps between research and policy, norms and practice.

<http://www.tomlantosinstitute.hu>

### **ternYpe International Roma Youth Network**

ternYpe - International Roma Youth Network was founded in January 2010 and unites different Roma youth organizations from Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Slovakia, Spain and Poland. The mission of the network is to create space for young people to become active citizens through empowerment, mobilization, self-organization and participation. We believe in the common efforts by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth.

<http://www.ternype.eu>, [www.2august.eu](http://www.2august.eu)

### **Nevo Parudimos, Romania**

<http://nevoparudimos.ro/en/>

### **Haus am Maiberg**

<http://www.haus-am-maiberg.de/>

### **LA Voix des Rroms**

<http://rroms.blogspot.hu/>