

ERIAC MEDIA COVERAGE

As of 28 June 2017

Leading English language media coverage (see full articles at the bottom of the report)

Lifting Up the Arts and Culture of Europe's Roma in Berlin

The New York Times

By David Shimer

9 June 2017

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/09/arts/design/lifting-up-the-arts-and-culture-of-europes-roma-in-berlin.html?_r=0

'A place to call our own': Europe's first Roma cultural centre opens in Berlin

The Guardian

By Kate Connolly

8 June 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/08/roma-artists-launch-art-cultural-centre-institute-berlin>

Center showcasing European Roma culture set up in Berlin

Associated Press

8 June 2017

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/center-showcasing-european-roma-culture-set-berlin-47909218>

Roma cultural center launched in Berlin

Deutsche Welle

8 June 2017

<http://www.dw.com/en/roma-cultural-center-launched-in-berlin/a-39161296>

Other English language media coverage

Roma artists and writers launch cultural institute in Berlin

The Art Newspaper

By Anny Shaw

8 June 2017

<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/news/roma-artists-and-writers-launch-cultural-institute-in-berlin/>

European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is launched

Apollo Magazine

8 June 2017

<https://www.apollo-magazine.com/karole-p-b-vail-appointed-director-of-peggy-guggenheim-collection/>

Roma culture needs to be celebrated and protected

Visegrad Insight

By Anna Mirga-Kruszelnicka

8 June 2017

<http://visegradinsight.eu/roma-culture-needs-to-be-celebrated-and-protected/>

First-Ever Roma Cultural Institution Opens in Europe

Smithsonian

By Erin Blakemore

9 June 2017

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/first-ever-roma-cultural-institution-opens-europe-180963620/>

Harper's Bazaar Arabia – Sunday Art Roundup

In: The latest museum happenings across the globe

11 June 2017

<http://www.harpersbazaararabia.com/art/news/sunday-art-roundup>

German media coverage

Ein Ort, an dem die Roma ihre Geschichte selbst erzählen

Süddeutsche Zeitung

By Stefan Braun

9 June 2017

<http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/sinti-und-roma-ein-ort-an-dem-die-roma-ihre-geschichte-selbst-erzaehlen-1.3538636>

Künstler kämpfen gegen Vorurteile (video report)

Tagesschau

By Tina Handel

8 June 2017

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/roma-institut-berlin-101.html>

Roma-Kulturinstitut in Berlin eröffnet

Deutsche Welle

By Kay-Alexander Scholz

8 June 2017

<http://www.dw.com/de/roma-kulturinstitut-in-berlin-er%C3%B6ffnet/a-39163779>

Roma-Künstler bekommen einen Ort mitten in Berlin

RBB 24

By Markus Streim

8 June 2017

<https://www.rbb-online.de/kultur/beitrag/2017/06/neues-institut-fuer-roma-kultur-gegruendet.html>

Europäisches Roma-Institut für Kunst und Kultur eröffnet

3 Sat

8 June 2017

<http://www.3sat.de/page/?source=/kulturzeit/news/193044/index.html>

Roma Institut für Kunst und Kultur eröffnet

DLF 24

9 June 2017

http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/berlin-roma-institut-fuer-kunst-und-kultur-eroeffnet.2849.de.html?drn:news_id=754692

French media coverage

Institut rom pour la culture et les arts

RFI

By Pascal Thibaut

10 June 2017

<http://www.rfi.fr/emission/20170610-institut-rom-berlin-allemande> (radio)

http://www.rfi.fr/europe/20170612-allemande-institut-valoriser-culture-rom?ref=tw_i (text)

Bientôt à Berlin un Institut Rom Européen pour les Arts et la Culture

Le Journal des Arts

By Marine Vazzoler

1 June 2017

http://www.lejournaldesarts.fr/site/archives/docs_article/145709/bientot-a-berlin-un-institut-rom-europeen-pour-les-arts-et-la-culture.php

Les artistes roms inaugurent leur premier Institut culturel à Berlin

RTS

9 June 2017

<https://www.rts.ch/info/culture/arts-visuels/8690066-les-artistes-roms-inaugurent-leur-premier-institut-culturel-a-berlin.html>

A Berlin, des murs pour accueillir et promouvoir la culture rom

Le Monde Magazine

By Maryline Baumard

9 June 2017

http://www.lemonde.fr/m-moyen-format/article/2017/06/14/a-berlin-des-murs-pour-promouvoir-la-culture-rom_5144133_4497271.html

À Berlin, un pied-à-terre pour la culture rom

Beaux-Arts Magazine

By Magali Lesauvage

15 June 2017

<https://www.beauxarts.com/decryptages/a-berlin-un-pied-a-terre-pour-la-culture-rom/>

Artistes et culture rom exposés librement à Berlin

Naja 21

By Véronique Giraud

15 June 2017

<http://www.naja21.com/fr/espace-journal/les-artistes-roms-ont-enfin-une-adresse-en-europe/>

À Berlin, un Institut rom européen pour les arts et la culture

La Croix

By Delphine Nerbollier

12 June 2017

<http://www.la-croix.com/Culture/A-Berlin-Institut-rom-europeen-arts-culture-2017-06-12-1200854391>

Central Europe and Western Balkans media coverage

Művészettel az előítéletek ellen

Nepszava

By Juhász Dániel

9 June 2017

<http://nepszava.hu/cikk/1131709-muveszettel-az-eloteletek-ellen>

Institut european inaugurat la Berlin pentru cultura romă (video report)

Deutsche Welle Romania

By Lavinia Pitu

9 June 2017

<http://www.dw.com/ro/institut-european-inaugurat-la-berlin-pentru-cultura-rom%C4%83/av-39184968>

La Berlin a fost inaugurat Institutului European de Artă și Cultură a Romilor

Radio Free Europe

By William Totok

9 June 2017

<https://www.europalibera.org/a/la-berlin-a-fost-inaugurat-institutul-european-de-arta-si-cultura-a-romilor-william-totok/28538350.html>

Berlin: Europski institut za romsku umjetnost i kulturu

Vijesti

10 June 2017

<http://vijesti.hrt.hr/391851/berlin-europski-institut-za-romsku-umjetnost-i-kulturu>

Megalakult Berlinben az Európai Roma Művészeti és Kulturális Intézet

Web Radio

11 June 2017

http://webradio.hu/hirek/kulfold/megalakult_berlinben_az_europai_roma_muveszeti_es_kulturalis_intezet

Euroimpuls: special report of the opening of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (video report)

BHRT

15 June 2017

<http://www.bhrt.ba/bht1-emisije/euroimpuls/euroimpuls-15-06-2017/>

Космополитен пристан за ромските творци

Capital Weekly

By Radmila Mladenova

16 June 2017

http://www.capital.bg/politika_i_ikonomika/obshtestvo/2017/06/16/2989610_kosmopoliten_pristan_za_romskite_tvorci/

Timea Junghaus pro Romea.cz: Romští umělci mají potenciál vytvářet novou průkopnickou romskou identitu (video)

Romea

By Adéla Gálová

22 June 2017

<http://www.romea.cz/cz/zpravodajstvi/timea-junghaus-pro-romea-cz-romsti-umelci-maji-potencial-vytvaret-novou-prukopnickou-romskou-identitu>

Józsefvárosból Berlinbe: magyar vezetője lesz a cigány kultúra európai központjának

Index

By Ádám Kolozsi

23 June 2017

http://index.hu/kulfold/2017/06/23/magyar_vezetoje_lesz_a_cigany_kultura_europai_kozpontjanak/?token=a6bb8140a11e6b306247744cee78d955

Spanish media coverage

Nace el instituto europeo de cultura gitana para luchar contra la discriminación

EuroEFE Euractiv

8 June 2017

http://euroefe.euractiv.es/3789_cultura-y-educacion/4595635_nace-el-instituto-europeo-de-cultura-gitana-para-luchar-contradiscriminacion.html# (text)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8zS3HhQGzk&feature=youtu.be> (video)

Nace el instituto europeo de cultura gitana para luchar contra discriminación

EFE/La Vanguardia

8 June 2017

<http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20170608/423265926387/nace-el-instituto-europeo-de-cultura-gitana-para-luchar-contradiscriminacion.html>

El primer centro europeo de cultura gitana quiere impulsar el orgullo romaní

El Confidencial

By Marcelo Nagy

8 June 2017

http://www.elconfidencial.com/ultima-hora-en-vivo/2017-06-08/el-primer-centro-europeo-de-cultura-gitana-quiere-impulsar-el-orgullo-romani_1238687/

Scandinavian and Dutch media coverage

Roma in Europa krijgen eigen cultuurinstituut: "Eindelijk kunnen we zelf tonen wie we zijn"

De Redactie

By Sara Van Poucke

10 June 2017

<http://deredactie.be/cm/vrtnieuws/buitenland/1.3000087>

Romaer drømmer om at blive opfattet som ligeværdige

Dagbladet Information

20 June 2017

<https://www.information.dk/kultur/2017/06/romaer-droemmer-opfattet-ligevaerdige>

Italian media coverage

Nasce l'Istituto per la Cultura Rom. A Berlino rappresenterà la minoranza più grande d'Europa

Art Tribune

By Claudia Giraud

11 June 2017

<http://www.arttribune.com/dal-mondo/2017/06/nasce-listituto-per-la-cultura-rom-a-berlino/>

Texts for the international leading coverage

'A place to call our own': Europe's first Roma cultural centre opens in Berlin

The Guardian

By Kate Connolly

8 June 2017

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jun/08/roma-artists-launch-art-cultural-centre-institute-berlin>

Groundbreaking institute to showcase and promote artistic and cultural contribution of Europe's 12 million Roma people

As a boy facing bullying and discrimination for his Roma identity in his native [Albania](#), Sead Kazanxhiu said he had harboured a simple dream: “To be considered equal to those around me. It was the same dream as our forefathers,” he said. “To not have to hide our identity in order to survive.”

The 30-year-old visual artist, who trained as a painter at the University of Arts in Tirana, is at the forefront of a groundbreaking institute launched in Berlin on Thursday to showcase and promote the largely invisible artistic and cultural existence of Europe's estimated 12 million Roma people.

“We've been living in [Europe](#) for 600 years,” Kazanxhiu said, speaking in Romanes. “Now for the first time we have a place we can call our own and the chance to present the image of who we are, rather than others doing it for us.”

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture (Eriac) will be led by Roma artists, activists and scholars. Supported by the German government, the Council of Europe and the

philanthropist George Soros's Open Society Foundation, it will promote Roma culture as well as contribute towards overcoming the deep-rooted hostility and discrimination directed against Roma communities across the continent.

"For hundreds of years, it's been non-Roma who have monopolised the popular representation of the Roma," said Timea Junghaus, a Hungarian Roma curator and activist who is the Eriac's executive director.

"The stereotypical view of us is as a romanticised, sexualised, criminal people. The effect is false and destructive. Now we're claiming our own right to represent ourselves," she said. "Self-expression will hopefully challenge these long-held assumptions and prejudices."

Roma people's cultural contribution to Europe had been almost completely ignored, she added. Only one of the estimated 10,000 works by Roma artists held in state collections in Europe was on show in a permanent exhibition, she said.

That work, by the contemporary Hungarian painter [István Szentandrásy](#), hangs in the Roma parliament in Budapest. "This gives you an idea of the change that needs to happen," Junghaus said.

Delaine Le Bas, a cross-disciplinary artist from Worthing, who trained at [St Martins School of Art](#) in London and refers to herself as Gypsy, said the main problem many Roma artists faced was exclusion.

"Most Roma art is held in storage, gathering dust in basements of museums," she said. "Most artists are either ignored altogether or, as Gypsies, we're visible only in a highly negative way." Le Bas, together with her husband artist Damian Le Bas, both of whom are associated with the UK's [Outsider art movement](#), appeared at the first Roma art pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2007, called Lost in Paradise. Curated by Junghaus, it is regarded as having been a vital step towards the establishment of Eriac.

Damian Le Bas, who draws inspiration in his art – including globes covered in graffiti-like codes – from his own Irish Traveller heritage, said: "We're treading new ground here in Berlin. It's a very creative community but we've rarely been recognised as proper artists. It's been more like people loving having Gypsy music at their barbecue parties, just not the Gypsies themselves."

Malgorzata Mirga-Tas, a Polish painter and sculptor from Czarna Góra in southern Poland, said being part of the institute gave her the support that was lacking in her native Poland, particularly under its nationalist government.

“Poland is a very homogenous country and Roma are seen as something of a threat by many people, because we look different,” she said.

She felt the force of the animosity when a huge wooden sculpture she had made to commemorate 29 Roma – including 22 children from Szczurowa, near her community, who were killed in the [Holocaust](#) – was destroyed by vandals. With the help of donations, she is building a new sculpture.

“After something like that, joining together with other Roma from across Europe in a more official way than we’ve ever done strengthens our presence at a difficult time,” she said.

Berlin is seen as an ideal location for the institute, not just because of its geography, but because of its vibrant art scene and its status as a magnet for young Europeans.

The government’s support for the centre and its pledge on Thursday that it will support the institute indefinitely, has been vital for the project to work. Inevitably, the commitment also has much to do with the government’s sense of responsibility towards rebuilding the Roma cultural legacy in Europe. During the Holocaust, an estimated 500,000 European Roma were murdered by the Nazis.

While Germany has long addressed the Jewish Holocaust, recognition of Roma victims has taken far longer. A memorial to murdered Sinti and Roma was finally erected in Berlin in 2012 after years of debate. The city is home to a growing number of Roma from across Europe’s diverse communities.

The Eriac will seek to act as a hub, a meeting point for Roma artists and intellectuals, and as a point of contact for festivals, galleries, museums and other institutions seeking partnerships or materials for exhibitions.

Romani Rose, head of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, has fought for decades their civil rights, including a long struggle to secure compensation for Holocaust victims from the government. Rose said the Eriac sent a signal to other countries to “treat your Roma as equals”.

He cited what he called the “horrific, inhumane” conditions, in particular in parts of central and eastern Europe but also in Italy and Spain, in which Roma live in ghettos often without amenities including basic plumbing.

According to the [European Roma Rights Centre](#), an international public interest organisation that fights anti-Romani racism, estimates that about 60% of Roma dwellings in Europe do not have

running water. About 12% live in temporary shelters such as tents or shacks, and more than half live in areas with mud tracks instead of paved roads.

Segregation in the education system, frequent forced evictions, discrimination, including racial profiling and ill-treatment by the police, are ubiquitous features in the lives of many European Roma.

Addressing an audience of dignitaries, Kazanxhiu, the Albanian artist, said Roma had finally recognised they had a valuable contribution to make to the political discourse, “to show people you can reach out and embrace other cultures like we’ve done without losing your own culture or identity”.

Center showcasing European Roma culture set up in Berlin

Associated Press

8 June 2017

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/center-showcasing-european-roma-culture-set-berlin-47909218>

A center to showcase the art and culture of Europe's Roma is being set up in Berlin, a project that backers hope will help tackle prejudice against the minority.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is to open premises in the German capital this fall. The center was launched Thursday at Germany's Foreign Ministry, with supporters including the Council of Europe and [George Soros'](#) Open Society Foundations.

Europe is home to some 12 million Roma, a minority that has suffered centuries of discrimination.

Council of Europe chief Thorbjorn Jagland said the idea is "focusing on what Roma culture can contribute to open the eyes of people across Europe." Another aim is "empowering the Roma people itself to make (it) proud of its own history and culture."

Roma cultural center launched in Berlin

Deutsche Welle

8 June 2017

<http://www.dw.com/en/roma-cultural-center-launched-in-berlin/a-39161296>

The European Roma Institute for Art and Culture will showcase the art and culture of the continent's largest minority, aiming to tackle prejudice against the group.

The European Roma Institute for Art and Culture (ERIAC) was launched on Thursday at Germany's Foreign Ministry. It plans to open its doors in Berlin this fall. Supporters include the Council of Europe and Hungarian-American billionaire George Soros through his Open Society Foundation.

One of the aims of the center is "focusing on what Roma culture can contribute to open the eyes of people across Europe," Council of Europe chief Thorbjørn Jagland told AP news agency. A further goal is "empowering the Roma people itself to make (it) proud of its own history and culture."

Europe's Roma minority is estimated to constitute some 12 million people, making it the continent's largest minority group. It has, however, suffered centuries of discrimination.

Berlin appears to be a suitable spot for the center. "The location of Berlin for the seat of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture sends a clear message," said Romani Rose, head of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, as reported by the Romea Website. "In the center of Europe, in the most culturally vibrant European capital, there is a place to celebrate the resilience and creative power of Roma communities and to challenge the pervasive prejudice and stereotypes against Roma."

Billionaire investor George Soros, an 86-year-old Holocaust survivor, has grabbed global attention as a promoter of liberal causes. He has also reaped the wrath of the right-wing Hungarian government and authoritarian politicians in other European countries.

"I am ideologically opposed to the people who are waging that war and I stick to my principles, stand up for it, and I think we shall prevail," he said at the launch of the center on Thursday.

Lifting Up the Arts and Culture of Europe's Roma in Berlin

The New York Times

By David Shimer

9 June 2017

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/09/arts/design/lifting-up-the-arts-and-culture-of-europes-roma-in-berlin.html?_r=0

BERLIN — Numbering roughly 12 million across Europe, the Roma people make up the continent's largest ethnic minority. A new institute in Berlin aims to empower Roma people by showcasing their arts and culture.

The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, the first organization of its kind dedicated exclusively to the Roma, will feature the works of performers, artists and thinkers. After four years of planning, it is to open in September. The [Council of Europe](#) and the philanthropist George Soros's Open Society Foundations, among others, have supported the project.

Those supporters and other stakeholders gathered on Thursday at the German Federal Foreign Office for a celebratory event featuring various speakers, performances, and the arts exhibition, "[Transcending the Past, Shaping the Future](#)," which includes the works of contemporary artists from eight different countries.

"There were times when many of us felt discouraged," said Zeljko Jovanovic, chairman of the board of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, regarding efforts to establish the [institute](#). "What made us carry on is the basic proposition that a story of who we are should be told by us — that the power of defining who we are lies in our own hands. Today this proposition is the founding principle of the ERIAC."

Ferenc Snétberger, a guitarist and composer, said he agreed to perform at the event to help demonstrate the rich culture of the Roma people. Emphasizing the importance of empowering Roma children, he said he hoped the new institute would inspire their next generation of artists. Speakers on Thursday, including Mr. Soros; the German Minister of State for Europe Michael Roth; and the secretary general of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland, lamented that Europe's Roma still experience discrimination regularly. Members of the Roma community spoke of pressure to abandon their ethnic identities, with Mr. Jovanovic describing the heritage as a "source of shame" for many.

Zeljko Jovanovic, chairman of the board of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture, left, with George Soros. CreditClemens Bilan/European Pressphoto Agency

Supporters of the institute hope that the project will serve as a newfound source of pride for Europe's Roma and promote more positive views of them.

"Today we are focusing on what the Roma culture can contribute to open the eyes of people across Europe to the richness of its culture, and therefore to help with doing away with prejudices and stereotypes about Roma people," Mr. Jagland said. "This institute will of course be a very important place for empowering the Roma people itself to make it proud of its history and culture, but also of course to spread the Roma culture across Europe."

Mr. Soros, whose charitable foundation will provide the institute with 200,000 euros per year (about \$220,000) through its five-year start-up phase, said the best way to support the people is to position them to advocate for themselves.

“It is not a project given to the Roma community, but a project by the Roma community,” Mr. Roth said. “This is what our liberal and democratic societies should be based on.”

He also noted the importance of acknowledging Germany’s past, including the genocide that took place during the Nazi era. Hundreds of thousands of Europe’s Roma were killed during the Holocaust.

Timea Junghaus, director of the institute, said her team was searching for office space in central Berlin. She added that the organization will focus not only on arts and culture, but also on Holocaust research and how best to build on the works of related organizations across Europe.

“The European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture is a result of the activism and hard labor of three Roma generations,” Ms. Junghaus said.