

## 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 organisations 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 the opportunity to learn about the Holocaust itself from a Roma perspective through oral history and testimonies of survivors. It strives to enable young Roma activists and scholars to learn the practical skills needed 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 from previous years, as well as on the expertise of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma, which presented the first exhibition on the Roma Holocaust in Heidelberg and in the Auschwitz-Museum., Educational tools relating to the Holocaust were also developed by these institutions. Roma resistance during the Holocaust is the theme of this two year project undertaken by the Tom Lantos Institute, in partnership with ternYpe and La Voix des Roms which aims to develop a common narrative and concepts 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 training course takes place in the wider context of the **Roma Genocide Remembrance Initiative** of ternYpe International Roma Youth Network in broad cooperation with civil society organisations. Initiated by ternYpe in 2010, it gathers thousands of young people, organisations and institutions from across Europe, to advocate for wider recognition and education about the Roma Genocide, including the mechanisms of anti-Gypsyism in the current challenging environments 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, in order to evaluate and respond to contemporary societal challenges

With August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014 marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the remembrance of the Roma Genocide, 2014 featured more educational and remembrance activities than ever, and demonstrated the wide participation of Roma and non-Roma (youth) organisations in 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 to the event. During the main remembrance and education event around on August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, ternYpe International Roma Youth Network and its partners gathered over 1,000 young Roma and non-Roma from 25 countries for 5 days in Krakow and Auschwitz-Birkenau.

**Roma and Resistance during the Holocaust and in its aftermath - Research, Education, Remembrance** is a two year project initiated by 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 a more nuanced, in-depth understanding of the Roma genocide and the Roma resistance during the Holocaust; raise awareness on this topic, making 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, in-depth research in different countries about forms and acts of Roma resistance, training for young Roma on collecting and analysing testimonies focusing on resistance, and the collection of testimonies. As part of this initiative an international conference will be held along with the publication of the final research.

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

April 15, 2015 marked a historical point. The European Parliament voted with an overwhelming majority to finally adopt a resolution which recognises “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.” It is of huge importance 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 advocating for this recognition for many years, mobilising hundreds of Roma and non-Roma youth in support of this cause, developing co-operation with experts, historians, educational institutions and political stakeholders. Nevertheless, the advocacy for recognition will continue targeting national parliaments and international organisations such as Council of Europe, UN, OSCE, IHRA.

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

### **Aims**

This international training course aims to build the capacity of Roma and non-Roma educators and youth leaders, as well as their youth organisations in their work on remembrance, Holocaust and human rights education and on the Roma resistance 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; Introduce 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. Train Roma youth on analysing existing testimonies – how to extract data about different forms of Roma resistance from already recorded interviews; Train Roma youth on conducting interviews with survivors, witnesses and their descendants; Engage 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”; provide training on educational uses of oral history and testimonies of survivors;
5. Develop educational initiatives for Roma youth groups to visit Auschwitz and other concentration camps and memorial sites;
6. Exchange best practices, strategies and educational methods and tools for learning about the Holocaust and remembrance of the Roma genocide;
7. Strengthen the partnership with and between organisations by developing educational activities in 2016-2017.

## **Program**

*Programmes/names to be confirmed*

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 analysing testimonies
Day 6:	The future of remembrance and human rights education – future commitments of participants, possible ways of cooperation
Day 7:	Departure

## **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 planning and engagement with relevant stakeholders a 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, mobilisation, self-organization and participation. Believing in a common effort by creating trust, and mutual respect between Roma and non-Roma youth.  
[Http://www.ternype.eu](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 Roms**

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