

European Academic Network on Romani Studies Joint EU-CoE Programme

Final narrative report phase 1 (June 2011 - May 2013)

This report is structured in accordance with the three key objectives of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies (June 2011 – May 2013) project.

1. Setting up the initial structure of the Network and consolidating the general rules and criteria for membership
2. Defining, preparing and implementing the activities of the Network; Developing the appropriate communication strategy
3. Mapping relevant research in the field of Romani studies and creating/maintaining a comprehensive database for academicians and policy makers

Executive summary

- 1) The total number of Network members exceeded **320** by the end of the contract period and the Secretary continuously receives new applications (approximately 6-8 each month). The Scientific Committee is fully functional planning and supervising the activities of the Network and working hand in hand with the Secretary. The recruitment procedure of new members, the elections, and the operating of the Scientific Committee (including online consultations and regular meetings) are working well.
- 2) The activities of the Network are focused on the following main domains: a) education, training and facilitating the participation of young researchers in academic and policy relevant meetings (grants for early career scholars, summer school), b) consultancy for research methodology and policy monitoring (participating in methodology meetings at the Fundamental Rights Agency) c) policy advise and reviewing policy documents (providing input for the progress report prepared by the DG Justice) d) anti-discrimination measures and positive actions (Supporting Roma in Academia actions). An open and transparent consultation procedure with the Network membership was adopted and implemented (<http://romanistudies.eu/news/procedure-for-soliciting-network-expertise/>) and intensive exchange is ongoing through the online channels of the Network.
- 3) During the contract period the Network achieved to recruit, connect, and mobilise a large pool of academic expertise. In terms of number of members and their academic qualification the European Academic Network on Romani Studies is the most prominent organisation of its sort. The Network database is online (<http://romanistudies.eu/profile/>) and contains details on the members and their domains of expertise in structured and searchable manner.

4) The activities of the project followed the original plans. There has been no major deviation from the project description. Two changes should be mentioned: a) There has been disputes within the Scientific Committee regarding how to improve the presence of scientist with Romani background in the governance of the Network, namely in the Scientific Committee (one member of the network resigned due to these disputes). A solution has been adopted by granting representation to the young scholars among whom Roma are well represented. As a consequence two additional members, both of them with Romani background, have been elected by the associated members. b) The idea of having a volume or some similar publication about the network has been not realised. The reason for not being able to edit and publish this has been mainly the lengthy and disputed process of selecting and editing an academic publication. Having publications of the network has not been abandoned but it will be better prepared starting from the beginning of Phase II.

1. Setting up the initial structure of the network and consolidating the general rules and criteria for membership

a. The Membership

The most important activities with regards to this objective have been the recruitment of members, the expansion of the Network, and the establishment of internal procedures. After an initial period of invitations and promotion the Network has attracted a considerable number of applications. Most of the applications received were eligible according to the criteria established by the Scientific Committee. The established criteria proved to be functional, the two level memberships (full/associated) satisfied the needs of the recruitment. The rules for incorporation and advancement were established (the recruitment procedure and the membership form are available on <http://romanistudies.eu/news/call-for-membership/>).

At present the membership is geographically widely distributed, gender balanced, and composed of an increasing number of young and dynamic, highly qualified academics, who are rather dispersed in terms of institutional affiliation (there are few institutional centres in Europe hosting 2 or more members of the Network). The regional interest of the candidates is largely directed to those countries of Central and Eastern Europe where the highest proportion of Roma live (Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria), but also to countries in Southern and Western Europe (Italy, France, Spain, UK), or more broadly to the European Union / EU and the majority of the member states of the Council of Europe. There is a high number of languages spoken by the members of the Network, most of the members speak three or more languages.

There are more than 50 disciplines and sub-disciplines represented in the Network. The biggest percentage of members comes from these disciplines: Anthropology, Sociology, History, Ethnology, Political Science, Linguistics, and Legal Studies / Human Rights, but the range of disciplines encompasses most of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The keywords describing the academic interest of the participants are varied and cover a wide area of expertise. This diversity might be challenging for establishing focus points, but as the internal communication of the Network intensifies we can expect that certain issues will gather a number of members and these thematic focus groups will contribute to crystallise the concepts which for the moment can be represented as a conceptual cloud. The most frequent keywords are the following: Balkans, culture, discrimination, education, ethnic, ethnography, exclusion, gender, history, housing, identity, inclusion, language, migration, minority, mobility , music, narrative, nationalism, participation, policies, post-socialism, poverty, rights, segregation, traditional, travelers, urban, and welfare.

For exact details regarding the membership see Annex 1 (the full list of members) and Annex 2 (mapping of the Network).

b. The Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee (SC) is the main steering body of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies. The members of the SC are elected by the full members of the Network, additionally there are two representatives elected by and among the associated members. The members of the SC participate in two annual meetings of the Committee. They supervise the work of the Secretary and they are regularly consulted by the Secretary and the project staff for advice. They plan the activities of the Network, support the recruitment, and validate new members joining the Network.

The Network has been founded with the support of a group of internationally recognised academics in the field of Romani Studies. The initial Scientific Committee has been formed by 12 academics elected among and by a broader group of about 40 scholars. This founding committee acted as a temporary SC until the establishment of the Network and they supervised the first election among the full members of the Network in February-March 2012.

The first election for the Scientific Committee took place in the period of February-March 2012. The full members of the Network participated in the process of electing a committee with 11 members. In February 2012 the Network counted 155 full members. The mandate of the present SC is for three years (March 2012 – March 2015) in order to ensure the continuity of the Network activities after the first cycle of the project is finalised by the end of May 2013.

There have been some changes in the composition of the SC since March 2012:

- 1) As a consequence of the resignation of Thomas Acton from the SC in July 2012 the second person on the list to have received the highest number of votes has been invited to join the Committee. As a result Colin Clark joined the Scientific Committee in September 2012.

- 2) Based on a decision taken during the 3rd Meeting of the SC on 26 June 2012 the committee has been expanded with two additional positions. Associate members elected two representatives for the Scientific Committee in November 2012. As a consequence two junior members joined the SC for the meeting in December 2012.
- 3) Enikő Vincze resigned from the SC in May 2013. Her place will remain vacant until the SC takes a decision on the procedure filling it during the forthcoming meeting of the SC.

Thomas Acton has resigned from the Scientific Committee after his motion to introduce a total reform the voting procedures to elect the SC members has been voted against by the majority of the committee members. He advocated the presence of Roma members of the Network in the SC. The committee recognised the problem but decided to adopt alternative solution (granting representation to the young scholars among whom Roma are well represented) which has been found unsatisfactory by Acton. His letter of resignation has been published: http://romanistudies.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Acton_Resignation-statement-012-06-10.pdf

Enikő Vincze has resigned as a consequence of her disagreement of the role and power of the Chair of the Scientific Committee exercised. The position of the Chair has been created in order improve and speed up decision making regarding the actions of the Network. Following an event initiated by the chair Enikő Vincze explained in an email to the Secretary her disagreement with the procedure, which has been perceived as a limitation of the internal democracy of the SC. The SC has decided that the position of the Chair is necessary and the procedures of decision making should be transparent to all members.

During the elections voting has been organised by using an electronic elections engine: <http://electionbuddy.com/>. All supporting documents have been archived and are accessible for further reference. The final results of the elections are accessible on the Council of Europe hub and on the website the Network:

http://romanistudies.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/voting_results.pdf
http://romanistudies.eu/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/voting_results_Nov2012.pdf

At present the SC is composed of 12 members (including the two representatives of the associate members), one position being vacant.

c. Meetings of the Scientific Committee

The SC holds two regular meetings in a calendar year. In the period June 2011 – May 2013 five meetings of the Scientific Committee were organised as follows:

Nr	Meeting	Location	Date
1	1st Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Paris	23 June 2011
2	2nd Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Brussels	14 December 2011

3	3rd Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Paris	26 June 2012
4	4th Meeting of the Scientific Committee	Brussels	13-14 December 2012
5	Restricted meeting of the Scientific Committee for consultation on Council of Europe Roma-related actions	Strasbourg	22 May 2013

These meetings have been usually restricted to the members of the SC, the project staff and special guest from the Council of Europe, European Commission, and some other organisations (for example representative Roma NGOs like the European Roma Information Office or the European Roma and Traveller Forum). A full list of participants, details on the topics discussed, decision taken and action plans adopted are publicly available in the reports posted on the Council of Europe hub (http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/romastudies/meetings_en.asp) and the Network website (<http://romanistudies.eu/>) (See details regarding the SC elections in Annex 3/a tab).

We can conclude that the Scientific Committee is working well and it is serving the purpose of the Network. Most of the rules of internal decision making has been discussed and adopted based consensually and the remaining disagreements has not prevented the SC fulfilling it tasks

2. Defining, preparing and implementing the activities of the Network; developing an appropriate communication strategy

This main objective can be divided into two specific objectives, each with respective sets of actions . The first specific objective is to define and implement activities which could further develop the position of the Network within the academic domain and raise the visibility of the Romani Studies community. The second specific objective is to enter into dialogue with the policy-makers and stakeholders in order assess needs for policy relevant knowledge and promote the use of existing scientific knowledge in the policy making process and the assessment of policies. With the help of the Scientific Committee the following actions have been conceived and implemented.

a) Grants for Early Career Researchers

Travel grants offered to early-career researchers was proposed already at the 1st meeting of the Scientific Committee. The idea was to encourage younger scholars who are members of the Network to attend academic events (conferences and workshops) which might offer the opportunity to present and mainstream findings produced on Roma-related topics. It was agreed that priority will be given to academic events where early-career scholars could make an impact, increase awareness of Roma-related issues, and raise the Network's profile within the general academic community. A call for grant applications and an application form have been published on the Network website

(<http://romanistudies.eu/news/grants-for-early-career-researchers/>) and applications are processed on a rolling basis.

During the contract period (June 2011 – May 2013) a total number of 22 grants have been awarded under the scheme of Grants for Early Career Researchers. Each applicant has been eligible for a grant once in a calendar year and the maximum amount of the grant offered is €400. The grant applications have been processed by the Secretary; the SC has evaluated and selected the applications. The majority of the beneficiaries have been associated members of the Network who attended scientific events and presented their findings and made contributions in order to increase awareness of Roma-related issues. For the full list and the details of the events attended by the Early Career Researchers see details in Annex 3/c tab).

It is safe to say that the grants offered for Early Career Researchers have in fact served their purpose of raising the visibility of the Network within the general academic community, as the beneficiaries attended events such as the Annual Meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society and the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Anthropologists, where their research was presented and discussed by recognised specialists of these fields/disciplines. Their experiences encouraged these young researchers to engage with their academic research and to share the results with a broader audience.

b) Summer School

A Summer School was organised by the European Academic Network on Romani Studies in collaboration with the SUN program at the Central European University in Budapest, from 25 June to 20 July 2012 (See: <http://www.summer.ceu.hu/roma-2012>). The objective of the Summer School was twofold: raise the visibility of the Network and Roma-related research within the broader academic community and involve policy makers (as invited lecturers) and young policy experts (as students) in interactions with the academic researchers and PhD students engaged in academic study of Roma-related issues.

The Summer School consisted of two main modules of instruction; The Roma in Europe - Policy Strategy: a series of lectures and discussions for policy experts (organised in the period 2–14 July 2012) and The Roma in Europe - Comparative Analysis: a training program for PhD students (organised in the period 9–20 July 2012). A number of students of both modules were offered an additional training in film documentation (organised in the period 25–29 June 2012). The total number of students attending the Summer School was 53 (among them 3 self funded). 22 students were enrolled for the Policy Strategy workshop for policy experts 31 students were enrolled for the Comparative Analysis workshop for PhD students and 12 students attended the training in film documentation (7 students from the Policy Strategy module, and 5 students Comparative Analysis module).

The summer school succeeded in creating a common discussion platform for young policy professionals and their peers engaged in pursuing academic careers. The exchanges were animated and moderated by the widely recognised specialists of the field. Graduates of the summer school were given the necessary knowledge and tools to continue their exchanges and improve the communication between the spheres of academia and policy making. The summer school set the groundwork for them to become future leaders in their field by relying on the skills and connections they acquired.

For a full list of the lecturers, the topics of the lectures and the list of students attending the Summer School see Annex 3/d tab. The detailed narrative report on the Summer School is attached as Annex 4.

c) Supporting Roma in Academia

The Scientific Committee of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies decided at its 3rd meeting in June 2012 to allocate some of the Network’s resources to a programme to support the participation of early career researchers of Romani background in academia. This decision was taken based on the shared conviction that the Network has a special responsibility when it comes to promoting Romani participation in academic research in general and in Romani studies in particular. The Call for Supporting Roma in Academia actions was published (<http://romanistudies.eu/news/supporting-roma-in-academia>) and applications were received, registered and prepared for review by the Secretary. As the result of this open call the following actions have been offered support: 4 research seminars and 3 research internships.

The research seminars organised were:

Nr	Research Seminar	Location	Date
1	Roma in the Post-Soviet Countries: History, Ethnography, Policy	Chişinău, Republic of Moldova	2–4 April 2013
2	Gender, Ethnicity and Class in Roma Studies: Whither Intersectionality?	Cluj-Napoca, Romania	11-14 April 2013
3	The Uses of History in Romani Studies: Theory and Practice	Liverpool, United Kingdom,	28-31 May 2013
4	Roma Empowerment: Lessons and Potentials	Budapest, Hungary	29-30 May 2013

These four seminars involved more than 16 professors and approx. 40 young scholars of Romani background from all over Europe and the post-soviet countries in European research centres in Chişinău (MD), Cluj-Napoca (RO), Budapest (HU), and Liverpool (UK). These seminars had each special impact within the disciplines they encompassed, increasing the awareness of Roma-related research in the region where the seminars were organised, while at the same time connecting these research centres through the Network. The reports submitted by the organisers of these seminars are annexed (as Annexes 5, 6, and 7).

The seminar organised in the Republic of Moldova gathered a large number of young Roma researchers (19) from the former soviet countries. The organisers succeeded in connecting these early career researchers and also introducing them to the main issues of Romani studies in Europe. These young researches represent an emerging generation of scholars in the post-soviet sphere at the eastern borders of the European Union.

The seminar in Cluj-Napoca, Romania focused thematically on the intersections between ethnicity, gender and class. Similarly, the workshop in Budapest, Hungary, focused on the potentials for empowerment of Roma within the academic and educational fields. Both of these seminars explicitly aimed at offering skills and practical knowledge which will help young scholars with Romani origins to pursue their interest in academia. These seminars achieved to use the opportunity of scientific discussions to encourage perspective researchers to questions the dominant discourses and power relations.

The archive research seminar in Liverpool (UK) addressed a more specialised audience of young Roma and non-Roma historians who do Roma-related archival research in different parts of Europe. The Archive of the Gypsy Lore Society hosted by the University of Liverpool served as a laboratory to practice all phases of the research process. In addition to issues related to the historians craft the participants focused their discussions on problems connected to the uses of the past in the politics of ethnicity (commemoration) and on enduring issues related to marginalisation and persecution of different Romani groups. The seminar offered connections and skills for young participants enabling them to become engaged researchers in the field of Roma history.

In the frame of the Supporting Roma in Academia actions the following internships have been offered:

Nr	Intern	From	Host institution	Period
1	Elena Gaudi	Romania	European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg (Germany)	15 Feb. - 15 April 2013
2	Aleksandar Marinov	Bulgaria	European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg (Germany)	1 March - 1 May 2013
3	Diana Pirjol	Romania	European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg (Germany)	1 March - 1 May 2013

The interns undertook two months of resident research each in the European Centre for Minority Issues under the supervision of assigned academic researchers from that institute. They carried out their research projects and by the end of the internships they presented the research results on an open seminar to all ECMI staff. Their work is under consideration to be published in the ECMI series of working papers.

The impact of these internships is twofold: on the one hand these young Roma researchers had the opportunity to take part in the work of a major European research centre while they continued to do their research on the topics of their choice and were supervised by the best specialists of the field. On

the other hand their everyday presence, the insights they offered during the contributions to the scientific exchanges in the ECMI opened the doors of this institute for future early career researchers with Romani background who wish to pursue their academic interest within a research institute or university.

The topic of the research and other details are included in the Annex 3/e tab and the final report prepared by the hosts of these internships is annexed (as Annex 9).

d. Other events attended by the members of the Network

Members of the Network attended a number of policy relevant events in order to raise the visibility of the Network and make an input into the policy making process. The Network has been represented and members have made contributions to the following events:

Nr	Meeting	Location	Organiser	Date
1	Summit of Mayors on Roma	Strasbourg	Council of Europe	22 September 2011
2	Roma Youth Conference	Strasbourg	Council of Europe	26-30 September 2011
3	Regional Expert Meeting "Promoting the Right to Quality Education for Roma People"	Belgrade	UNESCO	17-18 October 2011
4	The Seminar URBA-ROM 'Dynamiques d'insertion des publics en grande précarité'	Paris	URBA-Rom Network	5 November 2011
5	UN Forum on Minority Issues, 4th Session: Guaranteeing the rights of minority women	Geneva	United Nations	29-30 November 2011
6	Extraordinary European Platform on Roma Inclusion	Brussels	European Commission	22 March 2012
7	"From segregation to integration - the role of culture in Roma inclusion"	Brussels	European Commission	18 April 2012
8	Workshop on pro-action research methodologies 1.	Vienna	Fundamental Rights Agency	24 April 2012
9	Workshop on pro-action research methodologies 2.	Vienna	Fundamental Rights Agency	5 May 2012

The main objective was to initiate contacts, present the main purpose of the Network and share information. A request was expressed in each case to get information about planned future events by the organisers and the possibility for the members of the Network to attend and make a contribution to the future events. A structured questionnaire for experts in mission was developed and the delegated members completed these questionnaires reporting and giving feed-back on the events.

Attending these meetings proved to be useful and provided opportunity for face-to-face dialogue with policy makers and other stakeholders, and the SC decided to adapt a more systematic approach for providing policy advice and reviewing policy relevant documents.

e. The Communication Strategy of the Network

The SC adopted general guidelines for a Procedure established for soliciting Network expertise in February 2013 (<http://romanistudies.eu/news/procedure-for-soliciting-network-expertise/>) with a clear goal: to have an open and transparent consultation procedure.

Following these guidelines requests for expertise will either be distributed to the Network's membership, or, in the case of specialised expertise, the SC will use available data on the areas of expertise of its members to distribute the request specifically among relevant members and invite them to respond. All requests for expert comments will be published on the Network's website, indicating the source of the request and the contact for replies, the date of the request, and the deadline by which expertise statements should be submitted. Expertise statements submitted by members are uploaded and made accessible on the website. Since its adoption the Secretary of the Network is acting along the lines of this Procedure.

Using this procedure the Network has been able to provide input during the preparations of the progress report on the implementation National Roma Integration Strategies issued by the DG Justice of the European Commission and the contribution of the Network is acknowledged in this progress report (notes 11 and 20) http://ec.europa.eu/justice/discrimination/files/com_2013_460_en.pdf. The full details and the results of the consultation process have been also published on the Network website: http://romanistudies.eu/news/contributions_from_members/.

The Network has provided repeatedly feed-back on research tools, policy documents and offers advice on policy relevant issues to other policy making or representative NGOs bodies such as: The World Bank, The European Agency for Fundamental Rights, European Roma and Traveller Forum.

Both the internal and the external communication of the Network are based on on-line channels of information exchange. The main platforms for communication are: 1) the CoE webpage, 2) the Network website, 3) the Facebook page of the Network, and 4) the Yahoo email-group of the Network. Detailed description of these channels and data about the traffic are available in Annex 10.

3. Mapping relevant research in the field of Romani studies and creating/maintaining a comprehensive database

The academic field of Romani Studies is highly structured.¹ The real challenge is not to map these existing structures but to identify the research which is policy-relevant and make this research visible through the Network. During the contract period (June 2011-May 2013) the Network achieved to recruit, connect and mobilise through online exchanges a large pool of academic expertise. In terms of numbers of members and their academic qualification the European Academic Network on Romani Studies has become the most prominent organisation of its sort.

The Network database contains details on expertise of the members in a structured and searchable manner. It is available on the Network website: <http://romanistudies.eu/profile/>.

4. Outlook on Phase Two of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies (June 2013-May 2015)

The First Phase of the Network project achieved its main goals: the structure of the Network has been established and operational procedures are in place. The most relevant experts and knowledge sources have been identified and structured and a searchable database is online. Members of the Network are actively involved in exchanges, and successful actions have been implemented under the supervision of the Scientific Committee. For Phase Two of the project a series of new objectives and challenges need to be addressed. The most important objective of Phase Two will be to enhance the Network's

¹ The most important pre-existing academic structures in the field of Romani studies are:

- an association with a long tradition; the Gypsy Lore Society: <http://www.gypsyloresociety.org/>
- two major academic journals focused exclusively on this domain:
 - Romani Studies: www.romanistudies.org
 - Études tsiganes: <http://www.etudestsiganes.asso.fr/>
- regular conferences:
 - the annual meetings of the GLS: <http://www.gypsyloresociety.org/annual-meeting>
 - International Conference on Romani Linguistics the most recent in 2012 (10th): <http://www.ub.edu/ipoa/main.htm>
- summer schools at the Central European University, directed by Michael Stewart;
- major research centres and specialised collections developed by the most active scholars in the domain:
 - Yaron Matras in Manchester: <http://romani.humanities.manchester.ac.uk>
 - Dieter W. Halwachs in Graz: <http://romani.uni-graz.at/romani/index.en.shtml>
 - Elena Marushiakova and Veselin Popov in Sofia: <http://212.72.210.78/sr-www/studiiromanien.html>
- a book series published by the University of Hertfordshire Press:
<http://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/our-structure/subsidiary-companies/uh-press/romani-studies/home.cfm>
- several books and a bibliography of the modern Romani linguistics from the John Benjamins Publishing Company:
http://benjamins.com/cgi-bin/t_bookview.cgi?bookid=LISL%2028

Regionally focused reference tools (for example the bibliographies of the The Minority Studies Society "Studii Romani" <http://212.72.210.78/sr-www/bibliographyen.html> on Roma in Bulgaria, Romania and Russia, or the bibliography of recent research on the Romanian Roma by the Research Institute on National Minorities: https://www.ispmn.gov.ro/uploads/Foszto_Laszlo.pdf).

policy advisory function and encourage members of the Network to be more closely involved in policy making mechanisms at different levels.

- The database of the Network should be made more user friendly in order to be used both by the Network members and policy makers looking for specific expertise. There is a plan for the improvement of the advanced search functionalities, for the visual renewal, and a general upgrade of the website.
- Local and regional level input into the policy making process should be ensured by close collaboration and synergies with projects like the Alliance of Cities and Regions for Roma Integration and other initiatives which focus on Roma related issues encountered by municipalities and regions.
- At national level further consolidation of the Network structures would be beneficial by organising national level meetings as part of the future actions. These meetings would also be good opportunities to become involved in national level policy making (in particular with the National Integration Strategies) by ensuring the presence of representatives from the National Contact Points for Roma Integration.
- In order to secure the longer-term future of the Network the creation of a status of an international NGO could be considered, enabling the Network to apply for observer and consultative status with the most important intergovernmental Committees, European and international bodies. Creating the status of an international NGO would contribute to the long term sustainability of the Network, as the structure and the main activities could be planned and organised beyond 2015.

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3. List of actions organised by Network and attended by the members (Excel file)
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5. Report on the seminar: Roma in the Post-Soviet Countries: History, Ethnography, Policy (pdf-file)
6. Report on the seminar: Gender, Ethnicity and Class in Roma Studies: Whither Intersectionality? (pdf-file)
7. Report on the seminar: The Uses of History in Romani Studies: Theory and Practice (pdf-file)
8. Report on the seminar: Roma Empowerment: Lessons and Potentials (pdf-file)
9. Report on the Internships at the ECMI (pdf-file)
10. The Communication Channels of the European Academic Network on Romani Studies (pdf-file)