

Ara Art, z.s. – Annual Report 2020





The strenuous year 2020 brought more than one challenge for every cultural organisation, not only Ara Art. When the first lockdown hit in mid-March, we were finishing up preparations for the celebration of International Romani Day, our “flagship” event which usually kicks off the season of cultural activities. For a few days, we kept hoping that everything would be resolved in a matter of weeks and that the celebrations would take place, perhaps with a limited number of spectators. However, very soon, we began to wonder how to connect the spectators with the artists remotely. The ideal tool seemed to be an online live stream. Every cloud has a silver lining, and we were, therefore, able to expand the programme and include artists living abroad whom we would otherwise not have been able to afford to invite to Prague.

By the end of spring, it seemed we were out of the woods and that our upcoming activities would take place without restrictions. We resumed our cooperation with the Husa na provázku Theatre, where our colleague Pavlína Matiová began rehearsing a new original production of *Gádžové jdou do nebe*, which we managed to premiere successfully together with the team from this Brno theatre on 29 May. In summer, with the restrictions weakening, we were able to organise the Ara Fest, a festival of Romani culture in Plzeň, more or less without adjustments. The same went for activities under the Artivism and Leadership Academies or the commemoration of the Romani Holocaust Day, which is part of the Leperiben: We Do Not Forget event.

With the coming of autumn, it was once again clear that we would have to think of alternative ways to bring culture to our audience. In November, we cooperated with Slovo 21 and the Kher publishing house to organise online celebrations of the World Day of the Romani Language and several online meetings of the Artivism Academy. We ended the season just before Christmas with the Romani Days. In the end, this event was able to take place in the theatre but without the audience present. So we invited one renowned musical entity (band or group) to each of the three nights and convinced them that the format of a concert talk show in which the band alternates musical sets with interviews would be ideal for an event restricted to the online environment, both for the audience and for production.

As difficult as 2020 was, it nevertheless taught us something. We managed to keep the organisation running and carry out all of our planned activities, and that opened the door for us to many new opportunities and platforms for communicating with our audiences, artists and participants in our education and leadership programmes. We learned not to rely on the usual possibilities but always to have a plan B. We picked up ways to attract new audiences in the online space who might not have come to a live public event. On top of that, we managed to launch and consolidate the programmes of both of our Academies and, last but not least, we also received a grant from the European Commission to support the Roma LGBT minority, which means we will be able to develop our activities in this area in the future.

We can only wish that the next year will be at least as successful as 2020 but preferably with fewer obstacles. Above all, we hope it will be full of health and joy of meeting together, inspiring one another and sharing positive prospects for the future.

David Tišer, Director of Ara Art, z.s.



Important Days of the Roma Nation

We already began implementing the four important days for the Romani nation full of cultural, educational and awareness-raising events in 2019. From the very beginning, this year-round continuous activity commemorating events that serve as a bridge between the majority and the Roma minority communities has proved very successful. In March, however, it became clear that the pandemic and the related measures would affect all of the originally planned events in a major way. We reacted immediately, either by moving the events to an online space or adjusting the conditions for outdoor events to comply with the anti-pandemic measures.

1. International Romani Day: 8 – 10 April 2020 (From one living room to another)

The sixth annual celebration of International Romani Day was organised by the Ara Art association with the theme of “We are all Romani”. Although it was impossible to have the entire event as originally planned, we did not give up and moved the event and its entire organisation to the online environment. Almost everything had to be changed, but we kept the original theme. After all, what is better to illustrate the idea of mutual equality than to point out the fact that in the current, i.e. pandemic, state of society, we are all truly equal? The virus doesn't pick and choose. The original plan was amended, first in terms of content, then form and even date.

On 8 April, the audience was able to witness the first experimental celebration of International Romani Day. David Tišer, the director of Ara Art, hosted the event from his living room and connected with the gala evening guests (artists, musicians and other Romani personalities) in their living rooms, kitchens and other parts of their homes via a live stream.



And he did not limit himself to guests living in the Czech Republic. Therefore, the gala evening played host to names such as Petra Gelbart – a Romani musician, accordionist and musicologist, and a graduate of Harvard University – who performed virtually directly from her apartment in New York. We welcomed the only female first violinist from Slovakia, Barbora Botošová, and we were also graced by the presence of the Romani pop diva Gitana. The audience was also able to enjoy the performances of rising young stars, such as the Ondič siblings, but also perennial stars of the Romani music scene

and beyond, including Gejza Horváth, Zdeněk Lázok, Milan Kroka and contemporary Romani musicians who combine their ethnic roots with other musical influences. These were Pavlína Matiová, Roman Zorba Horváth, Tibor Žida and Ondřej Gizman. Nothing compares to a face-to-face meeting, but under the given conditions, we managed to celebrate International Romani Day 2020 respectfully and successfully. The advantage of the online event was that it provided more space for the spoken word and allowed for a better introduction of the personalities who were performing.

The number of viewers of the online stream watching the International Romani Day gala: 17,000

9 – 10 April 2020: Off-Programme of the Online Celebration of International Romani Day 2020

The two days following the gala evening were full of off-programme events accompanying the online celebrations of International Romani Day. On Thursday, 9 April, the audience had the opportunity to watch a recording of the Ara Art theatre production of *...a zase jsme spali pindral*. The streamed recording was well received, mainly because many viewers had not yet had the opportunity to see the performance live in the theatre. On Friday, 10 April, two off-programme events of International Romani Day 2020 took place. The dance workshop by the rising Romani dancer Brian Mihaliček, who mainly focuses on funk and other modern dance elements, earned much praise. The evening ended with a streamed concert of the Lače Manuša band.

The number of viewers of the off-programme celebrations of International Romani Day: 10,000

2. Roma Holocaust Memorial Day – 2 August 2020, Prague 2, Náměstí Míru

An evening composed of stage stories of surviving witnesses, traditional Romani music and the names of Romani Holocaust victims being read out by public figures that took place on the Náměstí Míru square in Prague was the second annual commemoration of the Roma Holocaust Memorial Day.

It is remembered worldwide on 2 August in memory of the annihilation of almost 3000 remaining prisoners in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1944. The participants were reminded of the survivor's story of Irena Tomášová, dramatised and narrated by Pavlína Matiová and accompanied by musical performances by Milan Kroka, Roman Zorba Horváth and Simona Šenkiová.

The event ended with several public figures reading out the names of the Romani Holocaust victims from the ledger.

A commemorative event on such a scale is unique in the Czech Republic, and it was once

again in the spotlight of the audience and the media.



3. World Day of the Romani Language – 5 November 2020 (online)

Romani is an ancient language belonging to the Indo-European language group. The number of speakers in Europe can only be estimated on the basis of the complex consolidation of statistical data from various countries. That is why the number fluctuates between 4.6 and 12 million, while it is safe to say that there are around 6.6 million speakers. This number does not match the number of people of Roma nationality.

This is the result of long-term marginalisation, which is deeply rooted in our history. The assimilation policies of many states and repressive measures against the use of the Romani language, for example, in the Czech Republic, have, in the majority of cases, stopped the transfer of the mother tongue from generation to generation within families. The risk of potential problems arising from speaking the Romani language, especially in schools and other public institutions, has been instrumental in pushing the language to the margins of social interest.

This trend was disrupted by the efforts of the Czech linguist Milena Hübschmannová, who devoted most of her professional life to research, codification and general promotion of the Romani language. Thanks to her work, there has been an accredited Romani Studies programme at the Department of Central European Studies of the Faculty of Arts at Charles University for almost three decades now.

The World Day of the Romani Language in November could not be celebrated offline, so we had to transfer the entire event online once again. In an improvised studio, the host, Veronika Hlaváčová, invited guests, native speakers of Romani, who took part in short interviews and then read in Romani and Czech either from their own literary works or from the works of prominent Romani authors. We heard a short story by the prose writer and poet Tera Fabiánová read by Michal Mika and a short story by Jan Horváth Döme read by Jan Dužda, accompanied by original short stories and poems performed by Věra Duždová Horváthová, Dana Ema Hrušková and Martin Oláh.

The total number of online stream views: 2,500

4. Romane Dživesa – Romani Days – 10 to 12 December 2020 – Prague, D21 (online stream)

Since some of the planned events were impossible to organise and since the promise we made in good faith in the spring that everything that had to be done online we would “make



up for” in the autumn could not be kept, we finally decided to at least perform in cultural spaces, although without an audience. We organised three intimate Christmas evenings of a streamed concert and talk show combo. Each of them was dedicated to one musical personality or group. The events were hosted by the Bikár sisters, who interviewed each musical entity in between their performances, talking about their backgrounds, current artistic production, and future plans. For each of the three performers, we prepared a Christmas surprise in the form of a guest invited secretly

without prior arrangement and chosen especially for them. The members of the Le Čhavendar band from Rokycany were surprised to talk to their own fathers, who form a significant part of the legendary band Kale. Tereza Ondíčová and her new music project, Omerta Team, which combines traditional Romani musical influences with hip-hop and other modern genres, was unexpectedly delighted by a visit from her former teacher from the conservatory, Erika Fečová. Barbora Botošová, who came to the Czech Republic with her band Friends and who enchanted the audience with her wild csardas melodies combined with swing and jazz rhythms of breathtaking quality, was delighted by the Slovak violin virtuoso Viliam Didiáš.

Each of the evenings ended with an impromptu musical performance by both hosts of the show, who are also singers. The results were three completely new and lively Christmas carols transformed into csardas, hip-hop and swing.

Although these did not make up for meeting live, the Romani Days were met with a great audience and media response.

The total number of viewers of the Romani Days: 11,000

Recordings of most of our events are available on our Facebook page in the Videos section.





The fourth year of **ARA FEST** in Plzeň, a festival of Romani culture, brought about a number of interesting cultural events spread over three days. We want the project to approach the broadest possible group of people, which is reflected in the programme's composition, with its emphasis on accessibility. This allows us to attract not only the majority population but also people who are usually not keen on cultural events for various (often social) reasons. At the same time, this strategy brings together groups of people who would not usually come into contact and does so in a friendly and positive environment.

The festival opened on Thursday, 9 July, with the opening of an open-air exhibition *Details Also Make the Man*, showing the work of Jan Mihaliček, a respected photographer and a member of the prestigious group of photographers 400 ASA, who was the main author and also the mentor of Jitka Matiová, a co-author of the exhibition. The exhibition's basic concept is asking how far one can go in detail when individuality and the concrete begin to blur, and anonymity begins. Is it possible to assess an individual on the bases of detail and fragmented or incomplete information? The face or the whole figure may suggest to an experienced expert on people who the person in question might be. But can the expert do the same on the basis of a detailed view of an eye, lips or a hand? One may contemplate the identity of the original model and thus become an active participant in the exhibition, at least for a while. The exhibition *Details Also Make the Man* was created and first presented on the occasion of the celebration of International Romani Day 2020, and the Ara Fest in Plzeň was its first stop outside Prague. The exhibition panels were installed in Smetanovy sady, i.e. in the very centre of the city.

On Friday, 10 July, the programme included a festival island, Ara Island, which provided the audience with an extraordinary artistic experience and, at the same time, drew their attention to other festival events. For a couple of hours, the picturesque part of the Plzeň city centre on the Mill Race, where an artificial lake creates a tranquil area surrounded by restaurants and cafés, resounded with music pieces, "mini concerts", performed by young

and promising representatives of the Romani music scene, the siblings Natálie and David Kuchár.

Friday evening was dedicated to a concert taking place in the famous courtyard at Zach's Pub in Plzeň, which created a naturally intimate concert space. The main star of the evening was the band Feri and the Gypsies, which combines traditional and contemporary influences in Romani music and performed for the completely booked-up auditorium.

Saturday, 11 July, the last day of the Ara Fest, was, as is traditional, reserved for a big open concert in the "U Branky" area near the Náměstí Republiky square. Several hundred spectators had the opportunity to spend the late afternoon in the company of leading stars of the Romani music scene. It included a performance by the famous Vojta Lavička and his band, the more contemporary scene was represented by the band Romano Zorba Fusion, Lucie Bikárová represented the young generation, and the main star of the festival was undoubtedly Milan Kroka's Live Band.

As the Ara Fest organisers, we assess the fourth year of the festival very positively. For a long time, it was unclear whether the festival would take place because of the anti-pandemic measures. After uncertain preparations, however, came the successful organisation and once again the Ara Fest proved itself to be gaining greater audience momentum and is succeeding in fulfilling its goals:

to bring authentic, contemporary and quality Romani culture to the city of Plzeň, from which – despite the large number of Romani residents living in Plzeň and the surrounding areas – it is virtually absent, and to offer a space for natural and friendly gatherings of all local groups, especially those with Romani and other backgrounds, which would not otherwise meet.

The three days of festival events were attended by an estimated total of 1,000 spectators.



NÁKAZA V OBCÍCH

PLÁN ROZVOJENÍ

POČTY OČKOVANÝCH

VZPOMÍNKY – NEJSME JEN
ČÍSLOKAPACITA LŮŽEK A
HOSPITALIZOVANÍ

Romové letos oslaví svůj den on-line Galavečerem Z obývacího do obývacího

7. 4. 2020, 16:06 – Lucie Nemešová



V časech pandemie se přiblížil i 8. duben, tedy datum, na které připadá Mezinárodní den Romů. Po pěti letech se ale pražské slavnosti budou muset obejít bez několikadenního festivalu i bez slavnostního Galavečera, který se měl i letos konat v divadle Archa.



Už po šesté se letos měly pražské oslavy Mezinárodního dne Romů odehrát v režii spolku Ara Art. Z pochopitelných důvodů však tentokrát nebudou moci proběhnout v termínu.

Ani tak se ale organizátoři nevzdávají a vedle toho, že ve spolupráci s divadlem Archa operativně přesunuli „live“ verzi oslav na počátek listopadu, připravili na středu 8. dubna také celovečerní online program s přiléhavým názvem „Gala z obývacího do obývacího“, které bude k vidění na facebookové stránce spolku Ara Art.

Diváci tak budou svědky první experimentální oslavy Mezinárodního dne Romů. Ředitel Ara Art David Tišer se z hlavního moderátorského stanoviště stanoviště ve svém bytě bude živě přepojovat do obývacího, kuchyní, či jiných částí domácností hostů slavnostního večera – umělců, muzikantů a dalších romských osobností. A ne jenom těch, které žijí v Čechách.

„Dávno před tím, než jsme věděli, co naši společnost a celý svět čeká, jsme za téma letošních Oslav zvolili prohlášení „Všichni jsme Romové“. Chtěli jsme tak poukázat na nutnost solidarity, vzájemnosti, pochopení a potřebu hledání cest ke sjednocení i ve chvílích, kdy to není jednoduché. Právě teď, více než kdy jindy, pocítíme, že jsme všichni na jedné lodi, že jsme v tom všichni spolu, a že společně čelíme ohrožení, které nezná barvy pleti, původ, ani míru bohatství. A jediné společné to také můžeme zvládnout. Berme to jako příležitost naučit se vše, co nám tento výjimečný stav věci nabízí,“ říká David Tišer, který se při online oslavách ujme role moderátora.

Účast v živém vysílání potvrdila opravdu velká jména romské kulturní scény – ze Slovenska se připojí populární zpěvák Igor Kmeťo, zpěvačka Gitana, nebo proslulá primáška Barbora Botošová, v Čechách to budou velké hudební osobnosti, jako například Gejza Horváth, Zdeněk Lázok, nebo Milan Kroka, a až z New Yorku slíbila svou online účast multitalentovaná hudebnice Petra Gelbart.

„Galavečerem ale online oslavy Mezinárodního dne Romů nekončí. Ve čtvrtek 9. dubna je pro zájemce připraveno vysílání záznamu autorské divadelní hry ...a zase jsme spali pindral, v pátek 10. dubna pak vycházející romská hvězda českého tanečního nebe Brian Mihaliček povede odpolední online taneční workshop a téhož dne ve večerních hodinách zahraje mezi Romy aktuálně nejpobornější zábavová kapela Diny Košice,“ informovala umělecká ředitelka Ara Art, zpěvačka a herečka Pavlína Matiová, jejíž zpěv v doprovodu gypsyjazzového kytaristy Tibora Židy také obohatí online oslavy MDR.

Tip Deníku: Začíná čtvrtý romský Ara Fest



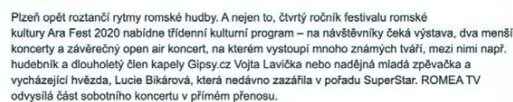
Ara Fest, ilustrační foto | Foto: Deník / Zdeněk VAIZ

Už počtvrté roztančí návštěvníky v ulicích Plzně festival romské hudby Ara Fest. Začne ho už ve čtvrtek 9. července v 17 hodin vernisáž fotografické výstavy ve Smetanových sadech. O den později naváže od 15 hodin v Mlýnské strouze vystoupení Natálie a Davida Kuchárových a od 20 hodin zahrají u Zacha Feri and the Gypsies. V sobotu od 16 do 21 hodin festival uzavře U Branky velký open air koncert s Khamoro plžňatari či Vojtou Lavičkou.

Svět Ekonomika Komentáře Studio N

8. dubna 2020 13:58

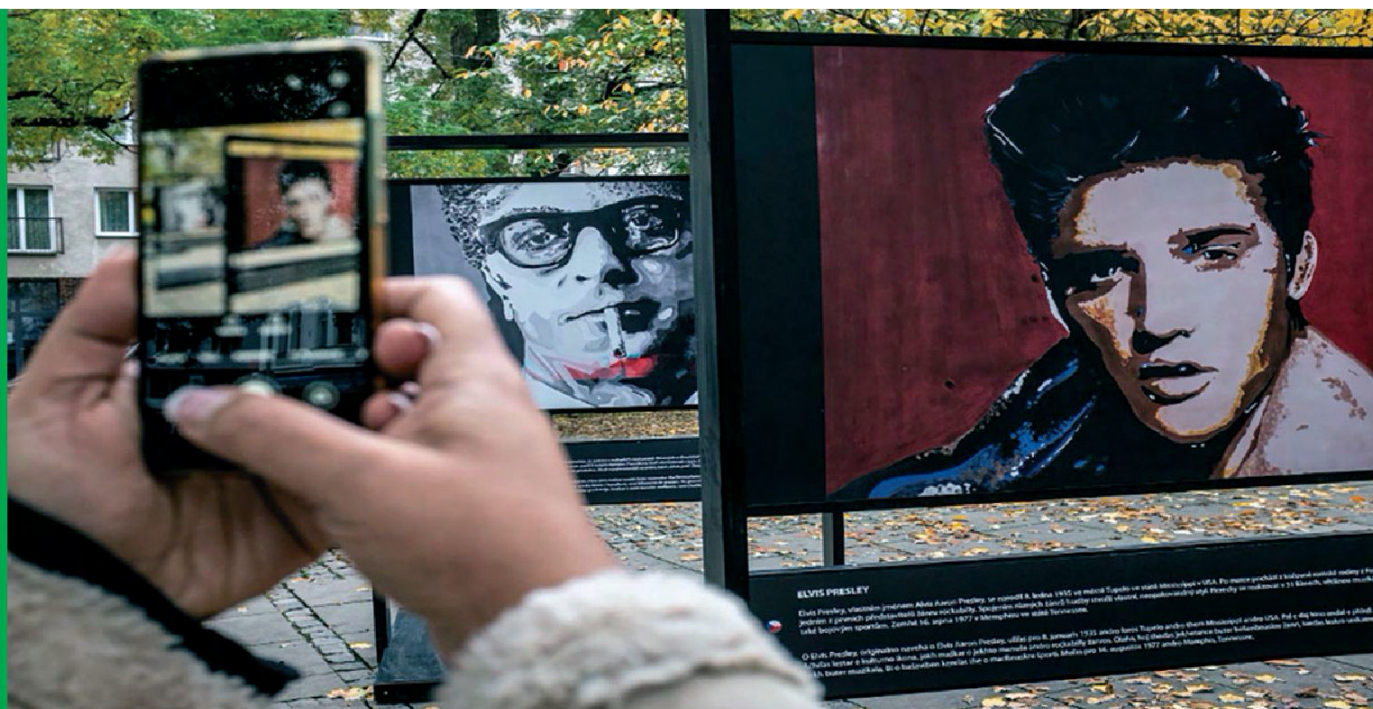
Účast v živém vysílání potvrdila velká jména romské kulturní scény – ze Slovenska se připojí populární zpěvák Igor Kmeťo, zpěvačka Gitana nebo proslulá primáška Barbora Botošová. V Česku to budou velké hudební osobnosti jako například Gejza Horváth, Zdeněk Lázek nebo Milan Kroka a až z New Yorku slíbila svou online účast multitalentovaná hudebnice Petra Gelbart.



PHUNDRADO VUDAR Gallery/OPEN DOOR GALLERY

In 2016, ARA ART decided to focus on fine arts and photography. This gave rise to the Phundrado Vudar Gallery (Open Door Gallery) project. This project was composed of a total of 12 interior exhibitions and focused on a variety of topics. These exhibitions were very popular with the visitors, so we decided to continue with the gallery to make sure the works of Romani artists would be seen by as many people as possible in busy places in the Czech capital. Since its founding in 2018, the gallery has held two exhibitions each year and presented them in public spaces in Prague and beyond.

The photographs that are exhibited are of large format and placed on outdoor exhibition panels. One of the main objectives content-wise is to identify talented Romani artists and offer them the help of a mentoring programme to develop their talents and make their work more professional. Therefore, the works that are exhibited are collaborations between a mentor (a renowned artist) and a student (an emerging artist). The mentoring process lasts approximately two months and ideally results in a set of nine large-format works suitable for an outdoor exhibition.



JOZEF FEČO: UNKNOWN COLOURS OF PERSONALITIES (31 October – 21 November 2020, PRAGUE, TUSAROVA PARK)

The author is an artist and graduate of the Secondary School of Art in Prešov, Jozef Fečo. In his work, he presents eight world personalities who have Romani roots in the form of portraits made using the techniques of pop art, street art and stencil art. The portraits depict the Belgian jazz guitarist, composer and founder of Romani jazz Django Reinhardt, American actor and singer Elvis Presley, actor, comedian, director and producer Charles Chaplin, Juscélino Kubitschek, the Brazilian president between 1956 and 1961, British actor Michael

Caine, French film director, screenwriter, composer, actor and producer Tony Gatlif and Russian-American stage and film actor Yul Brynner, best known for his role in *The Magnificent Seven*.



LUKÁŠ TESAŘ & KATEŘINA NEUŽILOVÁ: RETROSPECTIVE: INTERNATIONAL ROMANI DAY (5 – 22 December 2020, PRAGUE, TUSAROVA PARK)

The exhibition entitled Celebrating International Romani Day is a collaboration between the photographer Lukáš Petr Tesař and his student Kateřina Neužilová. ARA ART has been organising the gala evening to commemorate the International Romani Day since 2015. The photographer Lukáš Petr Tesař has been documenting this event since its first year. He has been taking photographs since 2003, mainly street art with an overlap into social and minority topics, such as homelessness, Roma issues or the LGBT+ community. For the fifth anniversary of the celebrations, which took place on 8 April 2019 at the Archa Theatre, he invited students from the Michael Secondary School of Advertising and Art Design and photographed the entire event as part of the mentoring programme. The collective work resulted in a selection shown in the exhibition which includes photographs by both the mentor, Lukáš Petr Tesař, and the student, Kateřina Neužilová.

SUPPORT FOR THE ROMA LGBT+ COMMUNITY

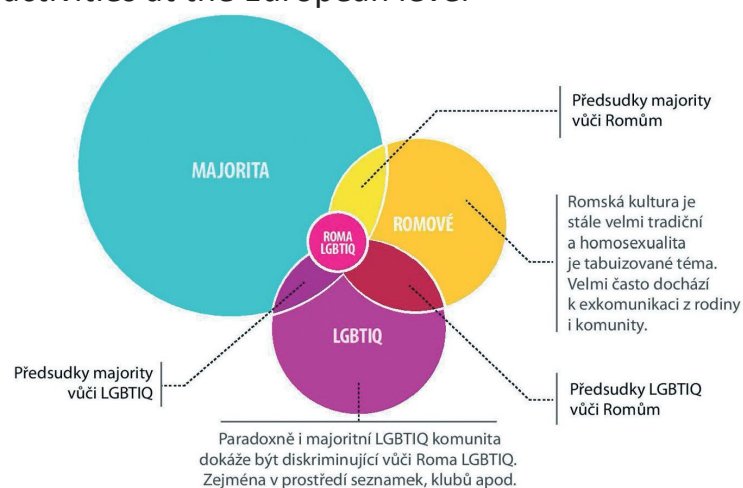
Roma LGBT in Europe

“Help to make the Roma LGBT minority visible.”

The project by ARA ART began on 1 October 2020 and will continue until April 2022. It responds to the critical situation of the Roma LGBTI minority, which is subjected to many forms of exclusion and multiple discrimination and forced out of inclusive and integrative policies and measures. Their peripheral status exacerbates their vulnerability and reinforces the risk of hate speech, stigma, homophobia and general social non-acceptance. Hiding one's sexual orientation and gender identity is the only way of saving oneself from social isolation or excommunication. Therefore, it is necessary to increase efforts to remove the publicly known barriers and strengthen intervention in advocacy and application of their rights at the national and European level.

What are the objectives of our project?

- to improve the information available to crucial stakeholders about the position of LGBTI people of Romani origin in selected countries
- to raise awareness and increase the amount of information available to the public about LGBTI people of Romani origin
- to reinforce the European call for national Roma integration policies to reflect the needs of the diverse composition of groups represented in the Roma population
- to increase advocacy of applying an intersectional approach to combating discrimination against LGBTI people of Romani origin
- to consolidate and expand the functionality of the international Roma LGBTIQ platform to carry out advocacy activities at the European level



MAJORITA	MAJORITY
Předsudky majority vůči LGBTIQ	The majority's prejudice against LGBTIQ
ROMA LGBTIQ	ROMA LGBTIQ
LGBTIQ	LGBTIQ
Paradoxně i majoritní LGBTIQ komunita dokáže být diskriminující vůči Roma LGBTIQ. Zejména v prostředí seznamek, klubů apod.	As a paradox, even the majority LGBTIQ community may discriminate against the Roma LGBTIQ community. Especially on dating sites, in clubs, etc.
ROMOVÉ	ROMA
Předsudky majority vůči Romům	The majority's prejudice against Roma
Romská kultura je stále velmi tradiční a homosexualita je tabuizované téma. Velmi často dochází k exkomunikaci z rodiny i komunity.	Romani culture is still very traditional, and homosexuality is taboo. Excommunication from the family or community is very common.
Předsudky LGBTIQ vůči Romům	LGBTIQ prejudice against Roma

How do we want to achieve the objectives, and what are the expected results?

1. We will prepare an analysis/study on the situation of the Roma LGBTI community in selected EU countries to fill the information gap and provide all key institutions and authorities with a comprehensive picture and information on the minority's situation. The study will also support the existing argumentative tools for defending the rights of the Roma LGBTI community. This activity will include organising a structured dialogue on a national level with the main stakeholders – three round tables in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, with a total of 200 participants.
2. We will organise three thematic events within LGBTI Pride which will help raise the awareness and consciousness of participants, promote cooperation between organisations and deepen their collective efforts to fight against discrimination, with a total of 2,000 participants.
3. We will implement an awareness-raising campaign to substantially support a change in social attitudes and behaviour towards the Roma LGBTI minority, with an emphasis on mitigating the impact of homophobia and eliminating taboos, prejudice, and stereotypes. The campaign is expected to impact 500,000 individuals.
4. We will engage in advocacy activities at the national level focused on taking into account the needs of the Roma LGBTI minority in the Roma integration policy. These activities will include organising a structured dialogue at the national level with key stakeholders – three round tables in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, with a total of 200 participants.
5. The systematic activity of the international Roma LGBTIQ platform will lead to a strengthening of its position as a respected network serving as a contact and communication channel in matters concerning the primary target group. The new website will use various tools to help raise awareness, improve knowledge and strengthen cooperation (interactive map with 20 contacts to reach organisations working with LGBT Roma, 40 examples of good practice).
6. The project will end with organising an international LGBT conference at which the project results, recommendations and necessary follow-up measures will be presented to representatives of institutions, organisations and stakeholders who influence policies related to the Roma LGBT minority; with 100 participants.

What impacts can we expect?

1. We will increase awareness and deepen knowledge of the problems and specific needs of the Roma LGBTI community among the professional public and key stakeholders.
2. We will increase the level of participation and activation of the Roma LGBTIQ movement.
3. We will shine a light on the Roma LGBTIQ minority.
4. We will increase social sensitivity, acceptance and a better understanding of the importance of diversity.
5. We will improve mutual awareness and networking among organisations that focus on human rights issues and promote and defend the rights of the Roma sexual minority.
6. We will boost the efficiency of sharing examples of good practice by web users. We will create a clear list of organisations which may be approached by the members of the Roma LGBT minority.
7. We will reinforce the self-confidence and self-identity of the Roma LGBTI minority.

Whom do we work with?

The project is one in collaboration between three EU member states: the European Union, Slovakia and Hungary. ARA ART, as the Czech representative, is the initiator and main implementer of the project.

The selection of other project partners reflects the knowledge base of Romani organisations which are members of the international Roma LGBTIQ platform. However, the activities and expected results are targeted so as to have the potential to achieve a positive change in the status of the Roma LGBTI minority in other European countries.

This ambition relies in particular on the support of the Commission, as the initiator of the member states' call to increase efforts to combat discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity while at the same time monitoring and evaluating progress in national Romani integration policies.

Deník Referendum

DR

Bez oligarchů. Bez paywallů. Jen vaše dary a naše práce

289 505/350 000 Kč

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Je jim třináct a už přemýšlejí o sebevraždě. Jaké je být gay a Rom současně

Petra Dvořáková


O sexuálních menšinách se mezi Romy mluví teprve posledních deset let. Dlouholetá tabuizace sexuality má pro romskou LGBT menšinu mnoho důsledků: někteří svou orientaci potlačili a založili rodinu, jiní byli z rodiny vyloučeni.

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Romská LGBT komunita se potýká s následky vícečetné diskriminace. Ze strany majority kvůli sexuální orientaci a etnicitě. Ze strany LGBT menšiny kvůli etnicitě. Ze strany romské menšiny kvůli orientaci. Foto FB Prague Pride


„Myslela jsem si, že neumím milovat. Moje vztahy byly jako brambory, které při vaření zapomeněš osolit. A pak mi dala spolužačka z vejšky pusu...“ popisuje temnovlasá žena s velkýma očima svůj příběh.



Advokacie

Sejdeme se u kulatého stolu a všichni mají moc věci zmínit


[→ Větouřit](#)



Analytická studie o stavu LGBT+ romské menšiny

Zpracováváme první zprávu o situaci LGBT+ romské menšiny v Evropě


[→ Větouřit](#)



Mezinárodní romská LGBT+ platforma

V jednotě je síla


[→ Větouřit](#)



Příběhy LGBT+ lidí romského původu

Příběhy LGBT+ lidí romského původu


[→ Větouřit](#)



Příklady dobré praxe

Pojďme se vzájemně poučit a přiučit z toho, co dobře funguje!


[→ Větouřit](#)



Poradna online

Online poradna pro romské gaye, lesby a jejich rodiny.


[→ Větouřit](#)



Co máme za sebou

Národní i mezinárodní konference, workshopy a setkání.

[→ Větouřit](#)



Eventy & Kampaně

Plánované akce pro rok 2021

[→ Větouřit](#)

The project supports the representatives of smaller Romani non-profit organisations in their personal and professional development. Through education, inspiration, experience sharing and mentoring, it contributes to further development and capacity building in order to develop organisations and new initiatives. In particular, it supports smaller or starting initiatives that are organised by civically active Roma from various parts of the Czech Republic.

Smaller Romani organisations generally face financing issues in their activities, often because the condition for receiving a grant or subsidy is that the organisation must have been established for at least two years. The classic fundraising models (state subsidies, foundation grant programmes) for smaller or new initiatives face strict conditions for receiving a grant that are impossible for them to meet. Many interesting initiatives and projects do not get implemented because more and more emphasis is placed on the ability to present the plan for the project in such a way that it meets the conditions of the grant call. However, what is important for the participants in the ARA ART Leadership Academy is their genuine interest and desire to help, in particular, at the local level and within Romani communities, so that they can help improve the circumstances of Roma in places where they do not get equal treatment and support from the state or municipalities.

Roma in the Czech Republic still belong to a minority, are marginalised and do not have equal starting conditions in education and access to work or housing. Generally, there is a lack of confidence in the abilities of Roma themselves, even on the part of foundations or donors who want to support them. That is why we need to prepare, educate ourselves and persist. We started the project in 2020 as a several-month-long pilot project at a time when the entire country was dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated state of emergency and restrictions on many activities. At this moment, there are over 30 participants from all over the Czech Republic. Among the aspects that the participants perceive as important are mutual support and cooperation, the opportunity to attend training courses that target both their personal and professional needs precisely and are held with respect to the development of their organisation, expert mentoring managed by experienced individuals and the feeling that they do not need to deal with their issues alone.

Target Group and Project Objectives

In the first year of the implementation of the Leadership Academy, 25 representatives from smaller Romani non-profit organisations or starting initiatives from all over the Czech Republic were involved.

Objectives:

1. To strengthen and develop the leadership of representatives of Romani organisations.
2. To promote the participation of Roma in public life and changes to it, in particular, with respect to the marginalised needs of the Roma.
3. To support the need for self-realisation of the programme participants on both the personal and professional levels.
4. To provide expert guidance, mentoring and other educational activities with regard to strengthening the capacities and development of organisations or initiatives.
5. To foster the team spirit among the participants in the ARA ART Leadership programme.
6. To improve the self-esteem of the participants and increase their confidence in their own abilities despite the numerous barriers and prejudices they often have to overcome because of their ethnicity.
7. To strengthen the integrity of the participants through education in the field of Romani history and socio-cultural specifics so that they understand the historical and social context of the position of the Romani in society and understand themselves better, and so that they are better equipped to provide arguments and present the needs of Roma as leaders of their communities not only with respect to donors but also to institutions and state authorities at the local, regional and national levels.
8. To create a tight-knit group of Romani people working together across the entire Czech Republic to support, inspire and contribute to improving the position of Roma in society.
9. To work on the strategic development of the participant organisations and initiatives.
10. To provide education on fundraising in its full range of possibilities, i.e. not only grants and state grant support, but also work with individual donors and other forms of fundraising necessary for the implementation of projects and long-term sustainability of the activities of non-profit organisations.

Aside from the regular online educational meetings and ongoing mentoring support of the participants, in the summer of 2020, we had the opportunity to organise a several-day-long gathering of Leadership Academy participants that took place in Prague. Representatives of the organisations presented their activities, needs and plans for further development. The programme included a wide range of educational activities led by experienced lecturers and



experts of both Romani (Michal Mižigár – The history of the Roma and their emancipation at the European level, David Tišer – The socio-cultural specifics of Roma, Monika Mihaličková – How to run an online fundraising campaign successfully) and non-Romani descent. For example, Kateřina Smolová from ING prepared a seminar on How to increase the reach of social media posts.

Naturally, we did not forget activities to bolster the hands-on experience of the participants with respect to their leadership skills. Such activities providing hands-on experience were performed in the spirit of the Theatre of the Oppressed, led by the script editor and certified lecturer Líza Urbanová. The participants had the opportunity to get to know their own abilities better, to lead and be led by others and to realise how fragile and unstable authority is if you do not have the support of others who not only follow you but are on the same page.

The Leadership Academy reflects the needs of the participants; therefore, feedback is important to us:

“This programme is the best I have ever attended. All the training events, seminars and mentoring were tailored to us and reflected our needs and level of development. The best part of the programme was the opportunity to build up the organisation and grow while gaining new information.”

Miroslav Klempár, Awen Amenca organisation, Ostrava

When asked: How did the programme of the Leadership Academy help you?, Alica Zikmund Heráková from TUKE.TV answered as follows:

“We started with email marketing; we are preparing an online campaign for spring 2021. Because of the support, we are improving, and it was a great boost to our current work. Thanks to the streaming of Ústecko má talent (another participant in the programme), we experienced quite a boost on our FB channel. We will newly make use of the access to Google for Nonprofits and the Clipsan emailing tool in our work in promoting and marketing our non-profit organisation.”

The Leadership Academy continues its activities in 2021, expanding its membership to include new organisations and independent initiatives from all over the Czech Republic.

The motto of the Academy is: “Stronger Together.”

The programme is led by Mgr. Monika Mihaličková and David Tišer.

“Seize the Power”

experiential education activity for participants in the Leadership Academy.

Artivism Academy

“If the leaders are strong, they can pass on their power to others.”

The vision of this project is to support the leadership skills of a mixed group of young people in the area of artivism. The main goal is to connect different social and professional groups and to establish functional cooperation within the civil society in our country. The forms of artivism change depending on the historical context and use of technology and media. However, in general, artivism utilises critical imagination to design and organise events and strategies that raise new questions and meanings in an effort to promote respect for different ways of life.

The target group of the project – 20 participants from all over the Czech Republic

Groups: artists, members of the LGBT+ minorities, students and representatives of small Romani non-profit organisations

Objectives of Artivism Academy

1. To identify the needs and expectations of the project participants.
2. To include team-building activities and games providing hands-on experience that improve the relationships between the participants, role sharing, mutual learning, the ability to find solutions to problems within the team and the demonstration of the leadership skills of the individual participants.
3. To provide a safe environment for sharing ideas and needs. We will create an environment where each participant feels respected, and their needs are reflected in the content of the project.
4. To increase the expertise of the participants and their ability to provide information on the specifics of their minorities or their social issues.
5. To introduce the participants to various forms of activism that will focus on the detailed process of achieving change.
6. To create a strong group focusing on different types of civic issues that can support each other.

The project first started in April 2020. The first phase was mutual familiarisation and the presentation of the individual groups. Because of the pandemic, during which the entire country was faced with a state of emergency and restrictions on everyday life, the project meetings were moved to a completely online form.

The original presentation of the group was supposed to last for a full day and would have included interactive elements and activities, which had to be limited considerably as a result of the aforementioned situation. The representatives of each group presented their previous work in the form of two half-day online sessions: Věra Horváthová-Duždová, artist – Forms of activism (on behalf of the art group), Jan Dužda, anthropology student – The problems that Romani students face (on behalf of the students)

David Tišer – the Roma LGBT+ minority (on behalf of the LGBT+ minority)

Patrik Kotlár – Romani organisations in the Czech Republic (on behalf of the Romani organisations)



We also regularly educated ourselves online in the following areas:

1. Monika Mihaličková – Personal development – How to get out of your comfort zone. My personal and professional goals.
2. Jan Dužda and Monika Mihaličková – Find harmony within yourself and your team. The goal of the seminar is to support the internal harmony of the team by strengthening the self-confidence and courage of each participant to leave their comfort zone, deepen the mutual understanding of the people in the team and improve their cooperation and synergy.
3. David Tišer – History and socio-cultural specifics of Roma – The goal of the course is to provide comprehensive data on the cultural specifics and current socio-economic situation of some Romani families, examples of good practice and inclusive methods. The course also provides room for connecting this information with specific experiences and for an open and interactive discussion of related topics.
4. Líza Urbanová – Introduction to the Theatre of the Oppressed method and examples of techniques. A form of collaborative learning using the theatre as a tool for change. This method is now used worldwide for political and social activism, conflict resolution, community work, therapy and legislative issues.
5. Vojtěch Lavička – Non-profit organisations and their multi-source funding – Creating a strategy for the development of a non-profit organisation in the area of multi-source funding that will allow you to generate income by offering your own programmes and products. PR and marketing of regional non-profit organisations – Building the communication and media strategy of local non-profit organisations on the regional level. Establishing relationships with local media.

In addition to regular online educational meetings, in December 2020, we implemented the Romane dživesa/Romani Days project along with the participants, during which we created a series of three Christmas carols of different genres (funk, csardas and swing). You can watch them on our Facebook page in the Videos section.

