eBook

MHE ROMA

MEMORIA HISTÓRICA EUROPEA ROMANÍ / ROMA EUROPEAN HISTORICAL MEMORY
EUROPSKO POVIJESNO SJEĆANJE ROMA / GODIPE HISTORIAQI EVROPAQE RROMA
MEMORIA STORICA EUROPEA ROMANÍ

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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Nakeramos Associació Intercultural

Isola che c'è

Romà Onlus

SAVEZ ROMA U REPUBLICI HRVATSKOJ "KALI SARA"
www.kalisara.hr

Edition: september 2025 - Barcelona
Nakeramos for MHE-ROMA project

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MHE-ROMA

Introduction

The **Final Conferences of the MHE-ROMA project** took place between September 2025 in Croatia, Italy, and Spain, bringing together Roma representatives, youth, cultural organizations, institutions, and international partners to address the historical memory of the Roma people, with a special focus on the ***Samudaripen*** (Roma genocide during World War II), and **to promote Roma language, culture, and identity**.

In **Croatia** (Varaždin and Zagreb), the events emphasized the preservation of Roma historical memory, the empowerment of Roma youth, and the central role of art as a tool for remembrance and empathy.
In **Italy** (Rome), the conference focused on the results of the project, highlighting the importance of collective memory, the recognition of the Romani language, and the use of non-formal education methods, with strong participation from experts, young Roma, and artists.
In **Spain** (Barcelona), two complementary events were held: a community meeting in Roquetes and a pedagogical innovation day at the University of Barcelona, both linking memory, justice, and education, while consolidating a community alliance for the revitalization of the Romani/Caló language.

Together, the three conferences reinforced the project's goals: **preserving Roma historical memory, fostering remembrance and identity, promoting the recognition of the Romani language**, and **building stable alliances among communities, institutions, and future professionals to combat antigypsyism and ensure structural change.**

This e-book gathers the proceedings of the conferences, conceived as a **dissemination and pedagogical tool** to further share the knowledge, experiences, and commitments generated through the MHE-ROMA project. For **further information**, readers can contact the four organizations involved in the project or visit their webpages:

👉 Nakeramos (Spain) - L'Isola che c'è APS (Italy) - Romà onlus (Italy) - Croatian Romani Union Kali Sara (Croatia)

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CROATIA

General context and objectives

The Croatian Romani Union “KALI SARA” organized the Final Conference of the MHE-ROMA, Historical Memory of European Roma project in Varaždin and Zagreb in September 2025. The project brought together Roma representatives, youth, cultural organizations, and international partners to address the historical memory of the Roma people, with a special focus on the genocide of Roma during World War II (Samudaripen), and to promote Roma language, culture, and identity.

ATTENDEES

✓ Number of participants

A total of 72 people participated in the Final Conference (25 female and 47 male), and the National Petition for the recognition of the Romani language was signed by 60 people (26 in Zagreb and 34 in Varaždin).

✓ Institutions or stakeholders involved

The Member of the Croatian Parliament representing the Roma national minority, Office for Associations of the Republic of Croatia and the Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Government of the Republic of Croatia, as well as the presidents of local self-government bodies – presidents of the Councils of the Roma national minority at the county, city, and municipal level – from Osijek-Baranja, Brod-Posavina, Varaždin, Međimurje, Sisak-Moslavina, and Istria counties, and the City of Zagreb.

Speakers and Contributions

SUZANA KRČMAR

- **Role / Position:** president of the Croatian Romani Union „KALI SARA“
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Our role in fostering a culture of remembrance***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The project was first presented by the President of the Croatian Romani Union “KALI SARA” Suzana Krčmar, who, during her address, highlighted the role of Roma organizations and individuals, with special emphasis on „KALI SARA“, in fostering a culture of remembrance. She also emphasized the project goals and explained why the organization wished to participate as a partner.

The suffering of Roma during the Second World War, known as Samudaripen, is one of the most tragic chapters of Roma history. Despite its historical significance, this part of the past often remains insufficiently recognized and nearly invisible in public discourse. Particularly concerning is that Samudaripen is rarely taught to younger generations of Roma, nor to the majority society. In school textbooks, Roma suffering is usually categorized under “other victims,” while Jews and Serbs are mentioned by name as recognized targeted victims of the Nazi and Ustasha regimes. Krčmar underlined that this is precisely why it is necessary to highlight historical facts and create space for dialogue about Samudaripen. Nurturing a culture of remembrance not only contributes to preserving the truth and dignity of the victims but also represents an important part of building the national identity of the Roma people.

Systematically remembering this history is key to understanding the present and shaping a more just society in which tragedies of such scale will never happen again.

MAJA GRUBIŠIĆ

- **Role / Position:** workshop facilitator
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Reflection on program activities from the perspective of a participant***
- **Summary of intervention:**

In her presentation, she reflected on the MHE-ROMA project as a whole, the memorial sites visited in Rome and Barcelona and their historical context, with particular emphasis on the participants' final visit to Croatia and their participation in the commemoration marking the International Day of Remembrance for Roma Victims of the Genocide in the Second World War / Samudaripen on August 2nd. The Jasenovac Memorial Site, with Uštica as part of the camp complex established exclusively for Roma, was the only authentic site of the former concentration camp that the project participants had the opportunity to see and experience. In the park behind the Roma Memorial Center stands the world's only monument dedicated to the 'Righteous Among the Nations' Hajrija Imeri Mihaljić. Gubišić also emphasized how the printing of materials during the project, publication on social media, and the use of the Romani language in parts of the play 'Najsen bistarde' / 'You Are Not Forgotten' contributed to its affirmation both in the public space and within the Roma community itself. At the end of her presentation, she spoke about the methods and goals, announcing that the organization plans to continue presenting the national theatre performance 'Najsen bistarde' in community centers in Roma settlements across Croatia, where Roma council members themselves would act as hosts and co-organizers.

ANESA ŠABANI

- **Role / Position:** participant in the project
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Reflection on program activities from the perspective of a participant***
- **Summary of intervention:**

Anesa Šabani, a project participant, spoke about the workshops with young people during the project, as well as lectures on the Romani language (Romani ćhib), history, and culture, which the participants themselves had prepared and delivered. A lecture on the language, its linguistic, historical, and identity-related features preceded the signing of the national petition for the recognition of the Romani language. Šabani also shared insights from the EDULARP game, theatre workshops, and the experiences gained during visits to Rome and Barcelona. She prepared her own short video material and a PowerPoint presentation about the project.

ARDIJAN GAŠI

- **Role / Position:** participant in the project
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:**
  The role and status of the Romani language
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The lecture prepared by Ardijan Gaši focused on the linguistic and historical context of the Romani language, the language changes that occurred due to migrations from India to Asia, Europe, and other continents, the role and status of the language within Roma families, in culture and the arts, and in institutions, as well as its presence in the school curriculum in Croatia. Ardijan Gaši, also, emphasized the recognition process of November 5th as World Day of the Romani Language, an initiative launched by Croatian Romani Union „KALI SARA“ in cooperation with Veljko Kajtazi, the Member of Croatian Parliament representing the Roma national minority. This milestone, achieved in 2012, made the Croatian Parliament the first in the world to proclaim this date as the national day of the Roma community in Croatia. In cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Media – UNESCO Commission, „KALI SARA“ continued work on the UNESCO project, which resulted in the UNESCO General Assembly recognizing the Romani language as intangible world heritage in 2015. In his presentation, Ardijan particularly emphasized the role of young Roma men and women in preserving the Romani language and proudly highlighted that the MHE-ROMA project, in which he participated, dedicated special attention to the preservation and development of the language, also incorporating a national petition as part of the project's program.

TALITA JAŠAREVSKI

- **Role / Position:** participant in the project
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Challenges, insights, and innovations from the perspective of a project participant***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  Talita Jašarevski, speaking from the perspective of a project participant, reflected on the challenges, innovations, information, and new knowledge the project brought to young people. She also prepared a short video about the stay of the group of young participants in Rome and Barcelona, their joint rehearsals for the performance, their experience of the national performances, and the joint international premiere in Zagreb on August 2nd.

ZVONKO NOVOSEL

- **Role / Position:** leader of the theater workshops
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Exploring the history of Roma suffering in World War II through creative theatre workshops***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  Zvonko Novosel in his speech reflected on the course of the creative process of preparing the theatrical performance '*Najsen bistarde*', then on the research of the lives and fates of Rukeli, Stojka, and Hajrija carried out together with the participants as well as on the audience's reactions and the role of art in bringing historical truths closer to the public.

Conference summary

Key Topics Discussed

- ✓ **Historical remembrance and the Roma genocide (Samudaripen)** – importance of recognition, education, and dialogue.
- ✓ **The role of Roma youth** – empowerment through workshops, lectures, cultural exchanges, and activism.
- ✓ **The role of Roma youth** – empowerment through workshops, lectures, cultural exchanges, and activism.
- ✓ **The Romani language** – its historical context, recognition, preservation, and role in identity building.
- ✓ **Art and theatre as tools of remembrance** – particularly the performance “Najsen bistarde” as a medium for dialogue and empathy.
- ✓ **Community involvement and sustainability** – Roma councils and local communities as co-organizers and promoters of cultural and educational activities.

Key messages & outocomes

- **72 participants** took part in the Final Conference (25 women and 47 men).
- **60 individuals signed the National Petition** for the recognition of the Romani language (26 in Zagreb and 34 in Varaždin).
- **E**ducational, cultural, and artistic activities, including workshops, lectures, international exchanges, and theatre performances, **strengthened Roma identity and visibility.**
- The project contributed to **the affirmation of the Romani language in public space** and within the Roma community itself (through publications, social media, and artistic expression).
- Plans were set to continue presenting the **theatre performance** in Roma settlements across Croatia, with local councils serving as partners and co-organizers.

Outcomes

The project emphasized the importance of remembering the Roma genocide (Samudaripen) as a neglected part of European history and the need to include it more systematically in education and public discourse. Roma youth empowerment was at the heart of the project, encouraging young participants to take active roles as educators, performers, and advocates within their communities. The Romani language (Romani ćhib) was highlighted as a cornerstone of Roma identity, with focus on its preservation, recognition, and promotion at national and international levels. Art and theatre, particularly the performance “Najsen bistarde / You Are Not Forgotten”, proved to be powerful tools for transmitting historical truths, nurturing remembrance, and fostering empathy and dialogue with wider society. Community involvement and ownership were underlined, with Roma councils and local communities encouraged to act as hosts and co-organizers of future cultural and educational events, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Highlights of Debates and Q&A Sessions

Recognition of Roma genocide (Samudaripen): Participants raised questions about how to ensure that the Roma genocide is more systematically included in school curricula and commemorative practices. The discussion emphasized the need for stronger cooperation with educational institutions and policymakers.

Preservation of the Romani language: A lively exchange took place on the role of youth in language preservation. Participants stressed that recognition at the institutional level must be accompanied by daily use within families and communities to keep the language alive.

Youth engagement and activism: Young participants reflected on how the project motivated them to take on leadership roles and questioned how they can sustain such initiatives beyond the project's timeframe. The debate highlighted the importance of mentorship, capacity-building, and support from Roma councils.

Art as a tool for remembrance: The Q&A session following the theatre performance "*Najsen bistarde*" prompted reflections on how art can touch emotions in ways that historical facts alone cannot. Audience members emphasized the value of theatre and creative expression in fostering empathy and raising awareness in broader society.

Community involvement and sustainability: Participants asked how Roma councils and local communities could be further engaged as active co-organizers of cultural and educational activities. The debate underlined that ownership at the local level is key to the long-term sustainability of project results.

ITALY

General context and objectives

Roma Onlus and L'isola che c'è APS organized the Final Conference of the MHE-ROMA, Historical Memory of European Roma project in Rome in September 2025. The event gathered Roma representatives, youth, cultural organizations, and stakeholders to reflect on the Porrajmos and the lack of recognition of the Romani language in Italy, while promoting remembrance, Roma culture, and identity. The conference closed with the screening of the project video and a tasting of traditional Romani food.

ATTENDEES

✓ Number of participants

A total of 79 attendees participated in the Final Conference (42 women and 37 men.)

✓ Institutions or stakeholders involved

– Citizens interested in the project's results.
– Partner associations and collaborating organizations.
– Political representatives engaged with Roma-related issues in Italy.
– Amedeo Ciaccheri, President of Municipio 8 of Rome.

Speakers and Contributions

TIZIANA CRISTIANO

- **Role / Position:** Project designer L'isola che c'è APS
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***MHE-Roma Project: a pilot experience.***
- **Summary of intervention:** the intervention presented the objectives, activities, and outcomes of the MHE-Roma project, highlighting its role as a pilot experience in promoting awareness of Roma history and culture related to the Remembrance of Samudarjpen. It showcased the project's use of non-formal education methods and community involvement, stressing the positive results achieved in terms of participation, knowledge-sharing, and intercultural dialogue.

GRAZIANO HALILOVIC

- **Role / Position:** President of Roma Onlus
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***The importance of memory of Samudaripen.***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention underlined the need to preserve the collective memory of the Samudaripen, the genocide of the Roma people during the Second World War. Remembering this tragedy was presented as a civic responsibility and a vital tool to counter antigypsyism, discrimination, and historical denial. The speaker stressed that memory is not only about the past, but also about building awareness and fostering inclusion in the present and future.

AMEDEO CIACCHERI

- **Role / Position:** President of Rome 8 Municipality
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***The territory as a place of welcome***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention emphasized the role of the local territory as a space for inclusion and integration of Roma communities. It highlighted how local institutions and civil society can foster dialogue, coexistence, and active citizenship, making the territory a place where cultural diversity is valued and welcomed.

MARCO BRAZZODURO

- **Role / Position:** Former professor at the "La Sapienza" University of Rome. President of the social promotion association 'Citizenship and minorities
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***The importance of the recognition of Act 1999 482 (Minority Act)***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention examined the relevance of Act 482/1999 on the protection of historical linguistic minorities in Italy, stressing how its recognition and application could contribute to safeguarding Romanì Chib. The speaker underlined that official recognition would not only ensure the survival of the language but also strengthen the cultural rights and visibility of Roma communities within Italian society.

ALESSANDRO LUCIANI

- **Role / Position:** Professor Expert on the language, history and origin of the Romani community
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***An ancient and always new language - Chib Romani***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention explored the historical origins and evolution of Chib Romanì, presenting it as both an ancient and dynamic language that has adapted across centuries. The speaker highlighted its role as a key element of Roma identity and cultural continuity, stressing the urgency of its preservation and transmission to future generations.

CARLOS HADZOVIC

- **Role / Position:** President "Romanó Amal" organization
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Oral culture and its transmission***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention highlighted the importance of oral traditions in preserving and transmitting Roma cultural heritage. Through the poetry of Rasim Sejdic (“I am the Strongest”), the session illustrated how storytelling and artistic expression serve as powerful tools for memory, identity, and intergenerational cultural continuity.

SEVLA SEJDIC

- **Role / Position:** vice President "Romanó Amal" organization
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Oral and immaterial culture. The importance of dance in Roman culture.***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention focused on the role of dance as an essential component of Romani intangible culture. It emphasized how dance functions as a medium of expression, identity, and cultural transmission, connecting generations and strengthening community cohesion.

LORENZO BENEDETTO

- **Role / Position:** Former young participant in the project
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***My experience and the legacy of the MHE-Roma project for the participating non-Roma people***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention presented the personal experiences of non-Roma participants, highlighting how involvement in the MHE-Roma project enhanced their understanding of Roma history, culture, and the *Samudaripen*. It emphasized the project's impact in fostering empathy, intercultural dialogue, and active engagement with minority issues, leaving a lasting educational and social legacy.

PATRIZIA BOI

- **Role / Position:** Writer of novels, short stories, poetess.
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Reading poems written for the Samudaripen.***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  The intervention featured the reading of poems dedicated to the victims of the Samudaripen, the genocide of the Roma people during World War II. It emphasized the emotional and commemorative power of poetry in preserving memory, fostering empathy, and reinforcing the importance of historical awareness to prevent repetition of such atrocities.

Conference summary

Key Topics Discussed

- **Romanì Chib as a minority language:** the urgent need for institutional recognition to safeguard linguistic heritage.
- **Linguistic genocide and cultural loss:** the risks of erasure and the relevance of protective legal frameworks.
- **Collective memory:** the role of remembrance in combating antigypsyism and hate speech.
- **The *Samudaripen*:** testimonies, poetry, and cultural narratives as instruments of resilience and transgenerational transmission.
- **Cultural practices:** oral traditions, dance, and artistic expression as essential components of Roma identity and intangible heritage.
- **MHE-Roma Project:** Experience, evidences, and legacy.

Key messages & outocomes

- The event recorded **79 participants**, including 42 women and 37 men.
- Participation was particularly significant from the **local Roma community**, which contributed actively to both the debates and the artistic sessions.
- The conference combined **academic interventions, community testimonies, and artistic performances**. Poetry readings in Romanì, youth testimonies, and the projection of a documentary produced within the project reinforced the thematic discussions and contributed to a multi-perspective approach.
- The overall duration of the conference was **three hours** and included formal presentations, personal testimonies, artistic contributions, and a documentary screening.
- Main aims:
  - Promoting awareness on the recognition of **Romanì Chib** as a minority language,
  - Reflecting on the historical and cultural memory of the ***Samudaripen*** (the Roma genocide),
  - Fostering **intergenerational dialogue** through testimonies, artistic expression, and community participation.

Outcomes

The conference concluded with a Q&A session, followed by a tasting of traditional Romani food, conceived as an informal moment of intercultural exchange. The initiative proved highly successful both in quantitative terms (number of participants) and in qualitative impact. A considerable number of attendees expressed the intention to deepen their knowledge, request further information, and remain engaged in follow-up initiatives. The event thus achieved its objectives of raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and strengthening the visibility of Roma cultural and linguistic heritage within Italian society.

During the conference, the petition promoted by the partnership was presented, requesting the promotion of the Romani language as a minority language in Italy. Most of those present signed it and asked for further clarification regarding the timing and procedures for approval. Many left their email addresses in order to be informed about the outcome of the petition.

SPAIN

General context and objectives

The final MHE-ROMA conference was structured into two complementary events: a community gathering in the Roquetes neighborhood (September 25) and a day of pedagogical innovation at the University of Barcelona (September 29). Both spaces connected memory, justice, and education and consolidated alliances between the Roma community, neighborhood and educational networks, and local government.

ATTENDEES

✓ Number of participants

A total of 92 attendees participated in the two Final Conferences (71 women and 21 men.)

✓ Institutions or stakeholders involved

– Citizens interested in the project's results.
– Political representatives and social actors engaged with Roma-related issues in the territory.
– Roma community leaders and citizens
– University students

Speakers and Contributions

Municipal library of Roquetes (Nou Barris, Barcelona) - 2025, September 25

FRANCESC X. MARCÉ CAROL

- **Role / Position:** Councilor of Culture of Nou Barris and Vice President of the Institute of Culture of Barcelona ICUB
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Opening intervention***

ÁBEL BEREMÉNYI

- **Role / Position:** Doctor in Social Anthropology for the UAB, Lecturer at the Faculty of Education of the UB and publisher of the podcast "Retazos Anthropologicos" of the anthropology journal AIBR.
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Moderator***

MARÍA RUBIA

- **Role / Position:** President of Nakeramos Intercultural Association
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Why MHE-ROMA and why social theatre***

RAFAEL SILVA

- **Role / Position:** MHE-ROMA participant
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** **Pedagogical bridge between community and university**

JUAN JOSÉ AMAYA

- **Role / Position:** community development technician for the neighborhood
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** **Key factor and operational proposal**

LEONOR FERNÁNDEZ

- **Role / Position:** Municipal Councilor and Roma representative
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** **Institutional commitment of the district**.

CONTENT OF THE INTERVENTION:

Intervention of the Councillor for Culture of Nou Barris and Vice-President of the Barcelona Institute of Culture (ICUB)

Good afternoon everyone, lacho dives!

It is an honor to welcome you today to the final conference of the MHE-ROMA project, “600 Years of Resistance: Romani Memory and Language as Collective Heritage” here, in the Roquetes neighborhood of Nou Barris, where we come together to recognize, celebrate, and learn from collective work that places memory at the center of community life.

I would like to begin by especially thanking the work of the Intercultural Association Nakeramos, an organization rooted in our district and a benchmark of civic commitment. Since 2012, Nakeramos has promoted social, educational, and community interventions—mainly with Roma populations, but always from an intercultural, open, and dialoguing perspective. This is the spirit that brings us together today.

With MHE-ROMA (European Romani Historical Memory), we have become allies of an essential cause: the recognition and promotion of silenced memories. Speaking of Romani historical memory is not only about recovering facts from the past; it is about doing justice, dignifying trajectories, and ensuring that no neighbor of our territory feels excluded from the collective narrative. I am especially proud that a significant number of people from Nou Barris have taken part in this European project: memory, when worked from the local territory, takes root and transforms.

Today we reaffirm our commitment to cultural diversity and to the fight against racism. From the City Council, and specifically from the Department of Culture, we want to foster and support spaces of intercultural dialogue, mutual recognition, and coexistence in equality.

We know that culture is a common language that breaks down walls and opens doors.
This final conference aims to be much more than a closing event; it seeks to be a space for community and participatory work. Through creative methodologies, such as social theatre, we will connect memory, justice, and education to question ourselves as a neighborhood and as a city. Here, in Roquetes, we will put into practice what we defend: that culture is action, dialogue, and transformation.
Thank you, Nakeramos, for your perseverance; thank you to all the people and groups who have contributed; thank you to those who, from academia, the arts, or activism, have built bridges. And thank you to the residents of Nou Barris for turning diversity into a civic force.
I end with an invitation: let us use this meeting to look each other in the eyes, to recognize one another, and to build new commitments. May what we share here today flow into schools, organizations, squares, and cultural facilities. May Romani memory —and all the memories that shape our city—remain alive, visible, and a driving force for the future.
Thank you very much, and have a good day.

Moderation by Ábel Bereményi

To Maria: **“Maria, why was MHEROMA created and what drives you to work on the memory of the Roma people through social theatre? What does this tool offer compared to others, and what concrete change do you seek to provoke at the educational, social, and community level?”**

MHEROMA was born because for years we have seen that the history and memory of the Roma people hardly appear in official narratives: they are absent from schools, media, and often from public policies. This has consequences: it normalizes antigypsyism, perpetuates stigmas, and breaks ties between communities. I am driven by the urgency to repair that absence and to transform pain into a collective force that can educate, recognize, and build real alliances in the neighborhoods.

We chose social theatre because it turns memory into a living experience. It is not just about telling, but embodying: listening to testimonies, putting our bodies on stage, opening questions, and building scenes with local people. The forum-theatre format allows the audience to intervene, propose alternatives, and rehearse other possible responses. Unlike other tools, theatre creates a safe space to talk about racism and exclusion without pointing fingers or blaming, while mobilizing emotion, thought, and community action.

The concrete change we seek? Three clear things:

- Recognition: that schools, organizations, and institutions incorporate Roma memory (including the Romani language) into their practices, programs, and curricula.
- Connections: to create stable alliances between families, teachers, cultural centers, and local administrations so that processes are sustained and not just one-off acts.
- Transformation of practices: moving from stereotypes to daily cooperation—protocols against antigypsyism in schools, workshops and reading clubs, community mediation, and participation spaces where Roma people make decisions.

If at the end of each process there are more Roma voices leading, recognizing themselves in what they learn, and more institutions changing how they operate, then MHEROMA will have fulfilled its role: turning memory into real change.

To Rafael: "From your work on heritage recognition and your experience in MHEROMA, what pedagogical lessons have you learned and what concrete changes would you recommend to universities (courses, assessment, internships) to combat antigypsyism?"

From heritage recognition and in MHEROMA, I learned three things:

1. Heritage is relationship—when working with Roma communities, learning is meaningful.
2. Epistemology matters—if we don't review who produces knowledge, the university reproduces antigypsyism.
3. Co-teaching with Roma voices transforms classrooms and outcomes.

What would I change in universities?

- Curriculum: a core module on Roma history, culture, and rights; annual bias audits; at least 30% Roma-authored bibliography in related subjects.
- Teaching and assessment: stable co-teaching with Roma agents; authentic assessment (portfolios, field diaries, community-return projects) with anti-bias rubrics published from the start.
- Internships: stable agreements with Roma organizations; dual supervision (academic + community); specific grants to remove economic barriers.
- Governance and climate: mandatory training of professors in structural antigypsyism; prevention and redress protocols; public progress indicators (teaching, internships, community satisfaction).

In conclusion: combating antigypsyism requires moving from "giving voice" to sharing responsibility with the community in defining knowledge, assessment, and practice. This improves academic quality and social justice at the same time.

To Juan José (Colate): **"What key factor is missing today for Roma memory to become a true driver of stable alliances in Roquetes, involving neighbors and organizations?"**

As a community development worker and as a Roma, the missing factor is moving from goodwill to a structure of shared responsibility with resources.

As Roma professionals, we take on cultural mediation, cross-training (for municipal teams and organizations), and the facilitation of participatory processes; in exchange, the district provides spaces, logistics, and a small budget for continuity (micro-financing and in-kind co-financing).

Everything is structured with simple indicators—effective Roma participation, number of actions, neighborhood satisfaction, continuity of alliances—and a communication plan that makes results visible. With this architecture—governance, minimal resources, and Roma professional mediation—memory ceases to be an event and becomes a stable, transformative alliance for the neighborhood.

The process is slow but effective; we do not start from scratch, since initiatives have already been carried out in the territory, leaving their mark. Nakeramos was one of the organizations that did the most community intervention work, and now we take up their legacy to continue building.

To Leonor: "Leonor, as a councillor and as a Roma, what concrete institutional commitment can the district make to sustain a stable alliance for Roma memory in Nou Barris?"

As a councillor and as a Roma, my commitment is to institutionalize the alliance for Roma memory in Nou Barris with a unique and verifiable package from an intercultural perspective. This requires the creation of a Co-Governance Board (Roma entities, educational and neighborhood networks, and the district)

with rotating presidency, annual calendar, and public records; equipped with a specific and multi-annual budget line for stable programming (memory day, heritage routes, living archives, and school actions).

We would sign biannual framework agreements with key entities, setting objectives, indicators, and continuity rules. The district would provide dedicated staff (Roma cultural mediation officers), municipal spaces, and regular logistics, while activating an anti-antigypsyism protocol in cultural facilities. With educational agreements with high schools and a youth mentoring plan, we will guarantee both roots and future.

All this would be audited through a public annual report (effective Roma participation, number of co-managed actions, educational impact, and community satisfaction) and a co-financing window to pool resources.

This is the commitment: moving from symbolic recognition to shared responsibility with budget, staff, spaces, and accountability.

Speakers and Contributions

University of Barcelona - Pedagogical innovation: co-teaching with Roma workers, service-learning, and authentic assessment.

RAFAEL SILVA

- **Role / Position:** MHE-ROMA participant

Contribution / Title of presentation:

- ***Pedagogical learning and university changes.***

Summary of intervention:

- Lessons learned: heritage as a relationship; epistemological review of biases; co-teaching with Roma voices as a lever for change.
  Changes: core module on Roma history/culture/rights; annual bias audit and ≥30% of bibliography by Roma authors; authentic assessment (portfolios, diaries, projects with community feedback) with public rubrics; internships with stable agreements and dual mentoring.

MARÍA RUBIA

- **Role / Position:** President of Nakeramos Intercultural Association
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Community-university articulation.***
- **Summary of intervention:**

Forum scenes and materials from the living archive were presented as teaching resources; it was demonstrated how the community methodology informed the curriculum and assessment with community feedback.

SEO CIZMIC

- **Role / Position:** Romani language rights activist
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:**
  Linguistic rights and the revitalization of Romani.
- **Summary of intervention:**
  Approach: Romani/Caló was asserted as a cultural right and a measure of reparation for historical debt.
  Proposals: intergenerational language nests; specific teacher training; production of teaching materials in collaboration with libraries and the living archive; inclusion of Romani/Caló in public programming.
  Expected results: Measure social use of the language (activities, materials, and presence in facilities), mentor participation, and family and youth satisfaction.

CONSTANTINO FERNÁNDEZ

- **Role / Position:** Romani flamenco dancer and artist
- **Contribution / Title of presentation:** ***Flamenco's Roma Legacy: From Cultural Extractivism to Ethical Collaboration***
- **Summary of intervention:**
  Flamenco dancer Costi El Chato critically emphasized the cultural appropriation and extractivism that have historically affected flamenco, especially among Roma people, a key player in its development and transmission. It is essential to recognize the community origins of this art and analyze practices such as exoticization, whitewashing, the invisibility of authorship, and the obtaining of profits without return to the communities that sustain it. During the conference, ethical work criteria were also presented: such as naming genealogies and sources, remunerating Roma artists and knowledge, respecting codes and contexts of transmission, avoiding stereotypes, and promoting the return of learning and dissemination to those who have cared for this legacy.

Conference summary

Key Topics Discussed

- What was shared and agreed upon in Roquetes informed the academic work of the UB, **translating community practices into criteria, agreements, and authentic evaluation.**
- **Project resources** (forum scenes, teaching guides, and live archive capsules) **were integrated into university activities.**
- **Anti-bias criteria were defined** for teaching and assessment.
- **Collaborative commitments** between universities, organizations, and the region were consolidated (internships with dual mentoring, agreements, and specific scholarships).
- **Cross-cutting initiative** — Community Alliance for the Roma language

Key messages & outocomes

- The events recorded **92 participants**, including 71 women and 21 men.
- The conferences combined **academic interventions, community testimonies, and artistic performances,** creating a shared space for dialogue between memory, justice, and education.
- **Roma memory** became a **driver of change** when turned into stable community policies.
- A **community alliance** was built between Roma, institutions, and the district with Roma-led mediation.
- Universities adopted **co-teaching and service-learning** linked to community needs.
- **Romani/Caló was embraced as a cultural right**, with plans for revitalization.
- **Art and theatre** connected **memory, justice, and education** through dialogue.
- Concrete commitments were made: **annual remembrance, heritage routes, and language nests.**

Outcomes

Experience showed that Romani memory became a real driving force when it transitioned from a project to a neighborhood policy with effective co-responsibility. The alliance—Roma community, neighborhood-educational network, and administration—operated with a stable committee, budget, and calendar; professional Romani mediation guaranteed non-tokenistic participation; and school, university, and territory remained connected through practices with community feedback.

The revitalization of Romani/Caló was assumed as a reparative measure and cultural right, with concrete structures for its maintenance. With simple indicators and an annual report, the alliance learned and improved. In short, clear governance, committed resources, and Romani mediation transformed symbolic recognition into structural transformation and tangible historical reparation.

As a cross-cutting initiative, it was agreed to promote a community alliance (Roma associations, educational centers, libraries, civic facilities, social services, and the district) to structure stable services and support that would allow for the recovery, transmission, and public use of the Romani/Caló language as a reparative measure against historical debt and linguistic minority status. Pillars: language nests; conversation circles; intergenerational mentoring; teaching materials; linguistic heritage trail; cultural programming and social campaign; cultural-linguistic mediation; scholarships and grants; time slots to facilitate family participation.

Conclusions

The Final Conferences in Croatia, Italy, and Spain showed how **memory, language, and community alliances** can become engines of change. They raised awareness of the *Samudaripen*, promoted the recognition of the Romani language, and empowered Roma and non-Roma people through education, art, and active participation.

In **Croatia**, Roma youth took the stage as leaders and the theatre performance “Najsen bistarde / You Are Not Forgotten” left a lasting mark as a medium for remembrance and dialogue. In **Italy**, the petition for the recognition of the Romani language was welcomed with great interest, with many participants signing it and committing to follow-up. In **Spain**, the conferences strengthened alliances between Roma communities, institutions, and universities, consolidating the revitalization of Romani/Caló as a cultural right and measure of reparation.

Overall, the conferences confirmed that with **clear governance, resources, and Roma-led mediation, symbolic recognition can be turned into structural transformation and tangible historical justice**. The MHE-ROMA project leaves a legacy that may continue through its theatre piece performed in new contexts, proving that **art will keep serving the cause of Roma memory and identity.**

We invite everyone to follow up on the **petition for the recognition of the Romani language** and to join the **MHE-ROMA Ambassadors’ cause**, ensuring that the voices of Roma people and communities continue to inspire change across Europe.

Ikande amaro rat, amao
iglo, ljie o sumakaj katar
amare vasta, chinde amaro
drom, mudarde amaro
suno katar e tahara, akana
sam akate, amaro
romaniphe sij zóralo, akaná
amaro anav sij romani.

- Seo Cizmic -

They took our blood, our heart, they took the gold from our hands, they cut our road, they killed our dream of tomorrow, now we are here, our *Romaniphen* is strong, now our surname is Romani.