

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.)

 Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	1 - NAKERAMOS 2 - ISOLA CHE C'E 3 - ROMA ONLUS 4 – SRRH “KALI SARA“ CROATIAN ROMANI UNION “KALI SARA”
PIC number:	1 -943944346 2 - 893966454 3 -943954531 4 - 916357934
Project name and acronym:	European Historical Memory of Roma – MHE-ROMA

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	D8.2 - EDS WP 8
Event name:	Theater performance at national level
Type:	Theatrical performance
In situ/online:	<i>In situ</i>
Location:	Spain: Barcelona Italy: Rome, Croatia: Zagreb and Delnice
Date(s):	5th April 2025, 17th May 2025, 30th June 2025 (Barcelona) 8th May 2025, 31st May 2025, 1st June 2025 (Rome) 28th May 2025 (Zagreb), 5th June 2025 (Zagreb), 25th June 2025 (Delnice)
Website(s) (if any):	SPAIN: https://asocnakeramos.wixsite.com/nakeramos/s-projects-side-by-side ITALY: http://www.isolache.it/pages/MHE-ROMA.html CROATIA: https://www.facebook.com/SRRHKS/?locale=hr_HR https://phralipen.hr
Participants	
Female:	248
Male:	224

Non-binary:	2		
From country 1 [SPAIN]:	161 (Female: 81, Male: 78, non-binary: 2)		
From country 2 [ITALY]:	161 (Female: 93, Male: 68)		
From country 3 [CROATIA]:	152 (Female: 74, Male: 78)		
Total number of participants:	474	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

The theatrical play "Najsen bistrade" ("You Are Not Forgotten") is a powerful theatrical tribute to the lives of great Roma who left an indelible mark on history with their works. Their life stories are marked by the fate that befell them during World War II. Through a poignant and poetic stage interpretation, the play speaks of courage, injustice and memory, inviting the audience to confront a part of history that is often ignored or forgotten. The play brings to mind the poignant destinies of four exceptional individuals of Roma origin: Johann Wilhelm Trollmann, Papsza, Ceija Stojka and Hajrija Imeri Mihaljić.

The German light heavyweight boxing champion of 1933, Johann Wilhelm Trollmann, had been known since the 1920s by the nickname "Rukeli", which means tree in Romani. His fighting skills in the ring promised him an exceptional career, but the Nazis would not allow a Romani of Sinti origin to win victories even under the German flag. From 1939, when he was drafted as a soldier, he fought in Poland, Belgium and France, and after the attack on the Soviet Union he was wounded on the Eastern Front. In 1942, when the first mass exterminations of Sinti and Roma began, he was taken first to the Neuengamme concentration camp and then to Wittenberg, where he was killed.

Bronisława Wajs, known as Papsza, was a Polish Roma poet who became the first Roma woman to have her poetry published. Her verses gave voice to the suffering and beauty of Roma life, but her openness about Roma traditions led to her rejection by her own community. Today she is remembered as a symbol of both cultural resistance and the painful struggles faced by Roma artists. The theatrical group from Spain worked on this character and presented the play on the stages of their country.

Hajrija Imeri Mihaljić from Kosovo rescued a Jewish girl, Esther, from a concentration camp and raised her as her own child. She is the only Roma woman to receive Israel's highest honor, "Righteous Among the Nations," which is awarded to non-Jews who have saved the lives of one or more Jews at the cost of their own lives. The theatrical group from Croatia worked on these two characters and presented the play on the stages of their country.

Writer, painter and musician Ceija Stojka, born in Styria in 1933, ended up in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp at the age of eight and remained there until 1945. She expressed her pain and trauma through her art. She dedicated her life to making sure people heard what happened to the Roma during Samudaripen and what mark the experience left on her personally, but also on the entire Roma people. The theatrical group from Italy worked on this character and presented the play on the stages of their country.

In each country, the project's national theatre company presented 3 theatrical performances as summarised below:

SPAIN

The performances in Barcelona were staged across **three different venues** to engage diverse audiences and deepen civic participation:

April 5, 2025 – Plaça Traginers (Gothic Quarter): This open-air, central location enabled spontaneous interaction with local passersby and residents. The event drew 55 attendees (23 men, 32 women), showcasing the power of theater to weave Roma memory into the fabric of everyday urban life.

May 17, 2025 – Convent of Sant Agustí: Held in conjunction with **Roma Resistance Day (May 16)** and the international partner exchange, the event carried cultural and symbolic significance. It

attracted 54 attendees (26 men, 28 women), including representatives from partner organizations and local institutions, boosting the project's visibility and fostering a sense of collective ownership.

[More about this event and the project's aim of transforming pain into living memory can be found [HERE](#)]

June 30, 2025 – Museum of History of Catalonia: This prestigious venue emphasized the connection between Roma history and collective memory in Catalonia. The performance drew 52 attendees (29 men, 21 women, 2 non-binary), reflecting the project's inclusive ethos and its capacity to amplify marginalized voices in distinguished cultural spaces.

[Read more in this article → [LINK](#) and watch more in this video → [LINK](#)]

ITALY

The performances took place in 3 different locations in Rome to allow the participation of a larger and more diverse group of citizens. **The first performance** took place on **May 8th 2025**, at the Roma camp in Via della Vasca Navale in Rome. The decision to hold the first performance in the camp stemmed from the need to involve the Roma community as much as possible, along with the relatives of the young people who participated in the project. The response was adequate for the number of residents. (40 people - 20M and 20F), and the performance served as an icebreaker for the youth. Since the Roma community is the youngest in Europe among young people aged 0 to 24, it is clear that many children were also present at the performance. As they are minors, we did not collect their signatures. It was heartwarming to hear the adult's urging attention to the little ones, as a reminder, saying that these were matters that closely concerned them.

The second performance took place on **May 31st 2025**, and was held in an outdoor public space, in via degli Armatori in Rome. Local youth, citizens, and the President of Rome's 8th Municipality, Amedeo Ciaccheri, attended. The presence of the local administration helped provide a certain level of visibility. The attendant was 36 (15 M and 21 F). The President expressed interest in supporting the project's goals and showed openness to a project follow-up.

The third performance took place **June 1st 2025** in the theatre of the Pisacane School in Rome, on Via dell'Acqua Bullicante, in the presence of numerous children and their families. The performance was presented as part of the intercultural event TASTE DE WORLD, which each year brings together over 1,200 people around the sharing of food, games, and meaningful aspects of the students' cultural communities.

At Pisacane School, there is a significant number of Roma children attending classes, and for this reason, it seemed the right place to highlight the Roma language, culture, and the remembrance of the genocide of their people. The celebration, which was open to the public, saw substantial participation. The number of attendees was 85 (33M + 52 F), in addition to which we note the presence of numerous children for whom, as minors, we did not collect signatures.

CROATIA

Twelve young Roma and non-Roma who prepared theatrical performances based on the script "Najsen bistrade" from October 26th, 2024 to February 22nd, 2025, and thereafter, now have the opportunity to perform the play in front of an audience in Croatia.

The first performance was held on **May 28th, 2025** at the KNAP Theater in Zagreb, and the play was watched by, among other citizens, representatives of state bodies and institutions, local government bodies, Roma and other minority organizations and communities. (In total: 87 persons/ 32 F and 56 M)

On June 5th, 2025, the play "Najsen bistrade"/ "You Are Not Forgotten" was performed in the hall of the Croatian Romani Union "KALI SARA" for students and teachers of high schools from the City of Zagreb, Zagreb County and Sisak-Moslavina County. (In total: 37 persons/ 28 F and 8 M)

The second national theatrical performance of the play "*Najsen bistrade / You Are Not Forgotten*" was held in the main hall of the Croatian Romani Union "KALI SARA", for an audience consisting of elementary and high school students and their teachers. The performance was part of the program of the "*Summer School of Dealing with the Past*", which addresses historical topics related to minority communities, particularly the Roma community in the Republic of Croatia. Special emphasis is placed on the period of the Second World War, during which Roma were considered undesirable citizens by the Independent State of Croatia and were deported to the Jasenovac concentration camp and the Uštica camp near Jasenovac. As an additional topic, the school also explores the media's portrayal of Roma in Croatia from the pre-war period to the present day. With its subject matter, the play "*Najsen*

bistarde / You Are Not Forgotten” provides an excellent supplement to the depiction of the fate of the Roma people during the genocide, which for many marked the end of their life journey.

On June 25th, 2025, we performed a play in Delnice in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, where it was performed for parents of secondary and primary school students, teachers, and representatives of the local government of the City of Delnice and Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. (In total: 28 persons/ 14 F and 14 M)

The third national theatrical performance of the play “*Najsen bistarde / You Are Not Forgotten*” was held at Ivan Goran Kovačić Elementary School in Delnice, for the citizens of the town of Delnice, the Gorski Kotar region, and the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. The performance was part of the program marking the Day of the Town of Delnice, as the town and the County are home to a significant Roma population of nearly 1,000 people of Roma nationality. This performance served as an opportunity for all citizens, including Roma themselves, to become acquainted with the history, culture, and traditions of their people, and for non-Roma to learn more about their fellow citizens. The audience included teachers, professors, parents of schoolchildren, other citizens and representatives of local government institutions. The national performances of the theatrical play were attended by a total of 152 people.

To conclude, *Najsen bistarde* (“You Are Not Forgotten”) stands as a powerful celebration of Roma heritage and resilience, honoring the great figures who left an indelible mark on history through their lives. Performed across Spain, Italy, and Croatia, the play resonated deeply with audiences, who responded with emotion and admiration. Thanks to the work carried out during the project, the participants were able to deliver a moving and authentic interpretation on stage. In total, 474 people attended these performances, a testament to the impact and relevance of this theatrical tribute—ensuring that the legacy of these remarkable lives is truly not forgotten.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	18.08.2025	Nakeramos WP8 version