

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:	D7.3 - EDS WP7
Event name:	FINAL INTERNATIONAL VISIT TO JASENOVAČ AND USTIZA (CROATIA) AND COLLECTIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE
Type:	Awareness Raising Activities
In situ/online:	<i>in situ</i>
Location:	Sesvete Cultural Center/ Sesvete Public University, Trg Dragutina Domjanića 6, Sesvete – Zagreb, City of Zagreb ; Uštica – Jasenovac, Sisak-Moslavina County (site of the concentration camp of the Independent State of Croatia during the World War II).
Date(s):	August 1, 2025 August 2, 2025
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:	97 (August 1, 2025 and August 2, 2025)		
Male:	105 (August 1, 2025 and August 2, 2025)		
Non-binary:	/		
From country 1 [SPAIN]:	15 / 7 m 8 f (August 1, 2025); 15/ 7 m 8 f (August 2, 2025) (participants/actors)		
From country 2 [ITALY]:	15 / 9 m 6 f (August 1, 2025); 15/ 9 m 6 f (August 2, 2025) (participants/actors)		
From country 3 [CROATIA]:	16/ 9 m 7 f (August 1, 2025); 16/ 9 m 7 f (August 2, 2025) (participants/actors) 156 people (80 male and 76 female) (audience August, 1 2025)		
Total number of participants:	202	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

COLLECTIVE THEATRE PERFORMANCE

After the theatre workshops and national performances of the play “*Najsen bistarde*”, the group of performers from Italy, Spain, and Croatia gathered in Zagreb to present a joint performance to the audience on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance for the Roma Victims of Genocide in the Second World War / Samudaripen, commemorated on August 2. That day was declared the National Roma Day in 2014 by a unanimous decision of the Croatian Parliament.

The performance was held on August 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the theatre hall of the Sesvete People's Open University – Sesvete Cultural Centre, Trg Dragutina Domjanića 6, Sesvete – Zagreb. The audience included members of the Roma community from the City of Zagreb, Sisak-Moslavina County, and Zagreb County, as well as representatives of the Croatian Ministry of Culture and Media, the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, local government bodies of the City of Zagreb and Zagreb County, other state authorities, academic and other institutions, and the diplomatic corps. A total of **156 people (80 male and 76 female)** attended the performance that evening. The audience was visibly enthusiastic and deeply moved by this theatrical tribute to the lives of four Roma: Johann Wilhelm “Rukeli” Trollmann, German light-heavyweight boxing champion; Ceija Stojka, painter, writer, and musician; poet Bronisława Wajs Papusza; and “Righteous Among the Nations” Hajrija Imeri Mihaljić, all of whom left an indelible mark on history through their work. Their life stories were profoundly shaped by the fate that befell them during the Second World War. Through the moving and poetic stage interpretation of the performers, the play spoke of courage, injustice, and remembrance, inviting the audience to confront a chapter of history that is too often silenced or forgotten.

The original project plan was for the play to be performed on the very day of Samudaripen, August 2, in Uštica, in the garden of the Roma Memorial Centre. However, since the commemoration there—attended by the highest Croatian state officials (the Office of the President of the Republic of Croatia, the Prime Minister, the Speaker of the Croatian Parliament, the Mayor of Zagreb and other Croatian cities, as well as other state and professional institutions)—takes place in the morning, conditions for staging the performance were not adequate. Because audiovisual elements projected on a screen and quality sound are an integral part of the play, it needed to be staged in the dark, which was impossible to ensure in Uštica. Therefore, the performance was held the evening before, on August 1, in the aforementioned theatre venue, which provided all necessary technical conditions. Nevertheless, given the significance of the commemoration itself and the large number of visitors who come to Uštica (the number of people who attended the commemoration is cca 700, of that, the official attendance lists, which were signed but not obligatory for all attendance guests who were the audience in Uštica, contain **338 signatures**), as well as the live broadcast on Croatian (national) Radiotelevision's Channel 4, we decided to present an excerpt from the play during the official commemoration programme and introduce the MHE-ROMA project. The story of Hajrija Imeri Mihaljić was chosen (because the Park of the Righteous is located in this very area, with the statue of Hajrija and the little Jewish girl Ester Bahar, whom Hajrija rescued from the detention camp in Kosovska Mitrovica in 1942) and the final part of the performance in which all the protagonists join forces to deliver powerful closing messages to the audience in the Romani language.

FINAL INTERNATIONAL VISIT TO JASENOVAČ AND UŠTICA (CROATIA)

In addition to participating in the official commemoration on August 2 – the International Day of Remembrance for the Roma Victims of Genocide in the Second World War / Samudaripen – and performing an excerpt from the play *“Najsen bistarde”* during the program, the project participants also visited the Roma Memorial Centre in Uštica and the Jasenovac Memorial Site – locations of the largest Ustaša-run concentration camp during the Independent State of Croatia. Within the territory of the Independent State of Croatia in 1941 and 1942, around thirty German, Italian, and Ustaša camps were established. According to the official list, the number of identified victims from the Jasenovac camp complex stands at 83,145 persons, including 47,672 Serbs, 16,173 Roma, 13,116 Jews, 4,255 Croats, 1,128 Bosniaks/Muslims, and others.

The small village of Uštica, where a concentration camp for Roma was located, was founded at the end of the 18th century and inhabited by both Croatian and Serbian populations. In May 1942, the entire Serbian population of Uštica, together with Serbs from the surrounding areas, was taken to the Jasenovac camp, and their confiscated property was used to house the first groups of deported Roma. Thus was established the so-called “Gypsy Camp,” which remained active for a full three years, and was only closed in May 1945 following the arrival of the Partisan Army. According to the official records of the Jasenovac Memorial Site (JUSP Jasenovac), during this period in the Uštica camp, as well as in the Donja Gradina camp – part of the same concentration camp system, located across from Jasenovac near the confluence of the Una and Sava rivers – 16,173 Roma men and women were killed.

In the 1931 census, between 14,000 and 15,000 Roma were recorded in Croatia, while in the 1948 census only 405 remained. Unlike the German Nazi camps, the Ustaše did not keep precise records of every prisoner, especially not of the Roma. They were “counted” only by the number of overcrowded wagons in which they were transported to Uštica.

The Uštica site was opened in 1971, when a memorial plaque was also installed. In newspaper articles from that year, the discovered mass graves were described as “monster-graves,” with exact dimensions of each grave provided. Further development of this memorial site had been planned, but over the years it was neglected and left in disrepair until 2012, when Roma NGOs – led by the Roma Union in Croatia *“KALI SARA”* as the initiator, together with Member of Parliament Veljko Kajtazi – organized the first Samudaripen commemoration there. Since then, on the initiative of the Roma Union in Croatia *“KALI SARA”*, the restoration of this part of the Jasenovac Memorial Site has intensified, and in 2019, through the efforts of MP Veljko Kajtazi, the City of Zagreb, and the Government of the Republic of Croatia, a coordinated process for the construction of the Roma Memorial Centre was launched. It was officially opened in 2020.

“The world is full of force, but nothing is stronger than man” is inscribed on the memorial plaque at the Roma cemetery in Uštica, because true human strength stems from the ability to empathize with other living beings. No matter how powerful the fear of others and the different may be – the very fear that drove people to commit horrific crimes – stronger still are reason and a heart filled with love. With this premise in mind, the participants visited the site and paid tribute to the Roma victims, as well as to all other victims.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	30.09.2025	Kali Sara/Nakeramos version