

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

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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:	D6.2 WP6
Event name:	NATIONAL VISIT AT THE ST. AUGUSTIN CONVENT – BARCELONA (SPAIN)
Type:	Awareness Raising Activities
In situ/online:	<i>in situ</i>
Location:	Barcelona (Spain)
Date(s):	2025 May, 16th-18th
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:	22
Male:	23
Non-binary:	/
From country 1 Croatia::	15 (12 participants, 3 staff)

From country 2 [Italy]:	15 (12 participants, 3 staff)		
From country 3 [Spain]:	15 (12 participants, 3 staff)		
...			
Total number of participants:	45	From total number of countries:	3

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

From May 16 to 18, 2025, the **National Visit to the Sant Agustí Vell Convent took place in the city of Barcelona**, an activity framed within the Mhe-Roma project, which brought together participants from Romani communities in Spain, Italy, and Croatia. The main objective of this initiative was **to recover the historical memory of the Romani people in Europe** through a collective experience of training, reflection, and artistic expression.

Historical Context and Significance of the Visit

The symbolic heart of the event was the visit to the Sant Agustí Vell Convent, a site that once held more than 200 Romani women imprisoned during the “Great Raid” of 1749. This episode, driven by the Royal Pragmatic signed by Ferdinand VI, represents one of the first systematic attempts to exterminate the Romani people in modern Europe. Revisiting this place, filled with memory, allowed participants to **connect with the roots of their collective history** and to highlight a narrative often excluded from official accounts.

Participation and Attendee Profile

The gathering brought together a total of **45 participants, with 15 representatives from each country** (Spain, Italy, and Croatia). Attendees included both Romani and non-Romani individuals—women and men—with diverse profiles: artists, activists, and individuals without prior experience in the cultural field. At the conclusion of the MHE-ROMA project, **they will become ambassadors of Romani history and culture**, carrying forward the legacy of memory, resistance, and creativity built collectively.

Activity Development

The day of **May 16** began with the reception of participants at the Hostel Xanascacat. In the early afternoon, connection rehearsals took place for the theatrical pieces from the three countries.

Later, at 7:00 PM, an **institutional welcome** was held at Romanó Kher, House of Romani Memory and Culture, where the Mhe-Roma project partners presented the project's evolution. The session included a **poetry recital (slam poet) dedicated to Papusza by the Spanish theater group of the project**, followed by an enriching **intercultural debate** titled “*Different Forms of Resistance Today*” featuring key figures in the struggle for equality and diversity, including Maria Rubia (Romanó Institute) and Sara Belbeida, Commissioner for Interculturality and Religious Affairs and Vice President of the Municipal Council of the Romani People (Barcelona City Council).

May 17 focused on **artistic expression, political reflection, and institutional commemoration**. In the morning, participants rehearsed the play *Naj Sen Bistarde*, a collective creation inspired by Romani historical memory. In the afternoon, a public event was held at the Sant Agustí Vell Convent, with a program that combined art, memory, and institutional politics.

The event opened with Seo Ćizmić, a renowned international activist for Romani rights, who presented the Mhe-Roma project. This was followed by an institutional address by **Jaume Romero Periz**, Director General of Civic and Community Action at the Department of Social Rights and Inclusion, and **Georgina Pol Borràs**, Secretary General of the Department of Equality and Feminisms of the Government of Catalonia.

A **special recognition was then awarded to Veljko Kajtazi**, founding member of the Croatian Romani Union "Kali Sara" and parliamentary representative for national minorities in Croatia, for his long political career in support of Romani self-governance and visibility.

The event was organized by **Romanó Kher**, in collaboration with the Advisory Council of the Comprehensive Romani People Plan and the Municipal Council of the Romani People of Barcelona. Contributions were also made by **Manuel Fernández**, Vice President of the PIPG, and **Enerida Isuf**, Vice President of the CMPG.

Following this, a roundtable titled **"Educating, Creating, Working, Organizing... Forms of Resistance Sustaining Against Social and Cultural Antigypsyism"** was held, moderated by Maria Rubia, President of the Romanó Institute. Participants included:

- **Fernando Macías**, Director General of the Office for Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination, Government of Catalonia
- **Sonia Rodríguez**, Trade Unionist, National Secretary of UGT Catalunya and Founder of the Working Group on Romani Employment Inclusion
- **Miguel Ángel Falconetti**, Expert in Educational Intervention at the Pere Closa Foundation

The day concluded with the second **local performance of the play *Naj Sen Bistarde – Papusza***, staged by the Spanish group of the project, in front of **over 55 attendees**, including association representatives, members of the local community, and key institutional figures. The play, inspired by the Romani poet Papusza, was a moment of deep emotional connection and symbolic transmission of Romani cultural heritage.

May 18 was dedicated to **collective reflection and farewell**. Participants shared their learnings, emotions, and proposals to continue the work initiated in their respective territories, thus closing a transformative experience on both a personal and collective level.

Results and Evaluation

Among the main achievements of the gathering are:

- **The strengthening of historical awareness and Romani cultural identity** at a European level
- **The creation of transnational ties among Romani and non-Romani communities** committed to memory, art, and resistance
- **The promotion of community theater** as a tool for political and educational expression
- **The visibility of the Romani genocide**, contributing to an inclusive and reparative memory

In short, this gathering not only fostered remembrance of a painful past, but also sewed **new forms of cultural, artistic, and community resistance in the present**.

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).
2.0	31.05.2025	Nakeramos version updated WP6.