

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

| PROJECT | |
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| Participant: | [7] - [CHC] |
| PIC number: | [912954010] |
| Project name and acronym: | [Give voice to our memories. Den zor amare paramisienghe] — [GIVO] |

| EVENT DESCRIPTION | |
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| Event number: | WP5-Event-005-Croatia |
| Event name: | GIVE VOICE TO OUR MEMEORIES. PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN CROATIA |
| Type: | [Cycle of Communities Events - participatory activities] |
| In situ/online: | In-situ |
| Location: | Croatia: Zagreb, Šandrovec, Maglenča, Bjelovar, Split |
| Date(s): | 07/02, 14/03, 28/03, 28/04, 20/05 |
| Website(s) (if any): | https://www.chc-prostor.com/givo |
| Participants | |
| Female: | 27 |
| Male: | 13 |
| Non-binary: | |
| From country 1 [Croatia]: | 38 |
| From country 2 [France]: | 1 |
| From country 3 [Kurdistan]: | 1 |
| ... | |
| Total number of participants: | 40 |
| From total number of countries: | 3 |
| Description | |
| <i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i> | |
| <p>From February to May 2026, GIVO held participatory gatherings with descendants of Roma survivors affected by the Roma and Sinti genocide during World War II in Croatia in 3 cities and 2 villages: Zagreb (07/02), Šandrovac and Maglenča (14/03), Bjelovar (28/03), Split (28/04, 20/05). Total participation across all 5 locations and 6 events comprised 40 individuals (27 women, 13 men).</p> | |

Event 1 - Participatory research with ROMHR (07/02, Zagreb, 7 participants). This event was organized in cooperation with members of the Roma Youth Organization of Croatia, during which the GIVO project was presented to participants, with a particular focus on the role of individual and family memory in shaping contemporary Roma identity. The CHC GIVO project team held meetings with key witnesses who shared insights into processes of historical narration and memory reconstruction within Roma communities in Zagreb and the northern regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of the activity, individual interviews with Roma survivors were conducted and recorded in order to preserve personal testimonies and experiences related to war, displacement, discrimination, and community memory. The team also interviewed Siniša Senad Musić, Vice President of the organization, who has been actively involved in political and community work for many years and has made a significant contribution to advocating for the rights and visibility of the Roma community.

Event 2- Participatory research with Đurđević family (14/03, Maglenča, 4 participants). The CHC team together held a meeting with key witness who could recount the processes of historical narration and memory reconstruction affecting the Roma community in Bjelovar region. The interview was recorded at the so-called Roma house, which is a traditional ethnic house of tribe Roma Lovari. Witness was Goran Đurđević, president of Association Roma Lovari, as well as Councilor of the Roma National Minority of the City of Bjelovar, who is also descended from a Stevo Đurđević which survived Jasenovac concentration camp.

Event 3 - Participatory research with the Perek family (14/03, Šandrovac, 4 participants). The CHC team together with historian dr.sc. Danijel Vojak held a meeting with a witness who could recount the processes of historical narration and memory reconstruction affecting the Roma community in Šandrovac village. An individual interview was recorded with the Roma community member.

Event 4 - Participatory research with Đurđević family (28/03, Bjelovar, 3 participants). The CHC team together with historian dr. sc. Danijel Vojak held a meeting with witnesses who could recount the processes of historical narration and memory reconstruction affecting the Roma community in Bjelovar region. Individual interviews with descendants of Roma survivors were recorded.

Event 5 - Invisible Heroines: Roma Women and Women in the Anti-Fascist Struggle (28/04, Split, 6 participants). The CHC team organized a reading group at Creative Hub called Prostor, dedicated to women's experiences during World War II, with a particular focus on Romani women whose stories have often been excluded from mainstream historical narratives. Through selected excerpts from *The Unwomanly Face of War* by Svetlana Alexievich, participants reflected on the testimonies of Soviet women who took part in the war as soldiers, nurses, snipers, partisans, and witnesses to wartime violence. Alongside these readings, the group examined testimonies of Roma women from Croatia who participated in the anti-fascist struggle or experienced persecution, loss, and violence during the war. The session created space for discussing the often-overlooked contributions and experiences of women in wartime history, particularly those of Romani women, whose voices remain doubly marginalized — both as women and as members of the Roma community. The reading group concluded with an open discussion that served as a tribute to women who fought, survived, and bore witness to war, yet whose experiences are still insufficiently represented in educational materials and dominant historical narratives. Through the discussion, participants reflected on the importance of inclusive remembrance practices and the need to strengthen the visibility of Roma women in historical research and public memory.

Event 6: Stradanje Roma u Drugom svjetskom ratu/ The Suffering (or Persecution) of the Roma in the Second World War (20/05, Split, 16 participants). Dr. sc. Aleksandar Jakir delivered a comprehensive lecture entitled "The Persecution of Roma during the Second World War", while Željka Ivančić from the CHC project team presented the project activities at the Faculty of Philosophy in Split. Participants included students from the Departments of History and Sociology, history teachers, and cultural professionals.

The lecture addressed:

- i) the historical context and scale of the Romani genocide during World War II, including the systematic persecution and murder of Roma by Nazi Germany and its collaborators;
- ii) the specific situation in the Independent State of Croatia (NDH), a state established within the Axis order during the war on the territory of parts of present-day Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia, where the Ustaša regime implemented discriminatory and violent policies against Roma, largely under the political and military influence of Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy;
- iii) the suffering of Roma during this period, with particular emphasis on victims interned and killed in the Jasenovac concentration camp. Following the two-hour lecture, participants engaged in an open discussion lasting approximately one hour. The discussion focused on the intergenerational transmission of memory within Roma families, the role of educational institutions in teaching Roma history, commemorative practices and their importance in shaping collective identity, as well as practical strategies for combating anti-Roma racism and promoting social justice.

The purpose of the events was (i) to engage local Roma communities in the shared commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide; (ii) to establish and strengthen support for commemorative practices undertaken in the communities by contacting local politicians, activists, and Roma communities

themselves; (iii) to collect oral testimonies from descendants of Roma survivors, aiming to amplify their postmemories and reinforce Romnja commemorations.

The materials collected during the events will be used to enhance further commemorative practices regarding the Roma and Sinti genocide in Croatia by continuing discussions with local politicians, activists, and communities about the establishment of a transnational city network for the remembrance of the Roma and Sinti genocide; conducting ethnographic analysis of the collected records for (i) producing research outcomes; and (ii) creating mnemonic records on the commemorative website of GIVO.

The EDS is published at this link: <https://www.spgi.unipd.it/givo>

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| VERSION | PUBLICATION DATE | CHANGE |
| 1.0 | 01.04.2022 | Initial version (new MFF). |
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