

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:	4 - Stowarzyszenie Romów w Polsce] (SRP)
PIC number:	888258489
Project name and acronym:	Give voice to our memories / Den zor amare paramisienghe GIVO

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	3
Event name:	MEMORY AND IDENTITY - "PRESERVING ROMA STORIES" / WARSZTATY PAMIECI I TOZSAMOSCI
Type:	Cycle of Public Engagement Events - participatory activities, lecture, discussion forum
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Poland: Kraków (UKEN), Oświęcim (CHiKR)
Date(s):	5-21-22/10/2025
Website(s) (if any):	
Participants	
Female:	90
Male:	59
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Poland]:	143
From country 2 [Georgia]:	2
From country 3 [France]:	3
From country 4 [Czech Republic]:	1
Total number of participants:	149
From total number of countries:	4
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
From 15 to 22 October 2025, the GIVO project held participatory gatherings and academic events with descendants of Roma survivors and Roma and non-Roma	

communities affected by the Roma and Sinti genocide during World War II in three locations in Poland: Oświęcim (15 October), Kraków (21 October), and Kraków (22 October). Total participation across all three events comprised 148 individuals (89 women, 59 men) from Poland and Georgia.

Event 1 - Memory and Identity Workshop (15 October, Oświęcim, 21 participants: 9 women, 12 men): An informational and capacity-building workshop at the Centre of Roma History and Culture (CHiKR, ul. Berka Joselewicza 15) introducing the GIVO project and focusing on the role of individual and family memory in shaping contemporary Roma identity. The workshop addressed how personal recollections, family narratives, and oral traditions shape Roma identity. Participants included Roma community members, cultural workers, students, and individuals with family connections to Roma genocide survivors. Practical training included: (i) storytelling methodologies for narrating and transmitting the history of the Roma genocide; (ii) techniques for collecting and documenting oral histories from survivors and descendants; (iii) tools for preserving family memory despite geographic dispersion and assimilation pressures; (iv) practical instruments for intergenerational transmission of historical narratives. The workshop addressed the importance of maintaining family connections to history and the role of commemorative practices and rituals in preserving memory. Participants learned documentation skills including oral history recording and transcription, written documentation (diaries, letters, family trees, chronologies), photography and visual documentation, and digital tools for organizing and preserving materials. Conducted in Oświęcim, near Auschwitz-Birkenau where thousands of Roma were murdered, the workshop created direct connection between historical knowledge and the specific geographic and emotional landscape of genocide. Participants engaged in structured dialogue sharing family histories, exchanging strategies for memory preservation, discussing challenges in memory work within families and communities, and building relationships and networks for ongoing memory work.

Event 2 - Policy of Memory Lecture and Discussion (21 October, Kraków - UKEN, 61 participants: 44 women, 17 men): Dr. hab. Sławomir Kapralski, Professor at the National Education Commission University (UKEN), delivered a comprehensive lecture examining the policy of memory and the Romani genocide (Porrajmos). Participants included university students from UKEN and other academic institutions, Roma community members and activists, researchers and academics, non-Roma educators and cultural professionals, and 2 visitors from Georgia. 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, with estimates of Roma deaths ranging from 100,000 to 3-4 million, with most scholars citing approximately 200,000; (ii) the historical erasure of Roma experiences from European narratives and official memory due to Roma communities' exclusion from formal education systems and institutional memory-making structures; (iii) the concept of autobiographical, communicative, and cultural memory, and Roma communities' exclusion from institutionalized memory practices; (iv) the psychological and cultural consequences of genocide including trauma, silence, shame, and intergenerational transmission of trauma; (v) the rise of Roma consciousness and activism regarding memory and historical justice, including first international commemoration of Roma victims in 1979 and German Sinti activism beginning in 1980; (vi) the Porrajmos as a unifying historical narrative for diverse Roma communities. Following the two-hour lecture, an open discussion forum lasting approximately two hours engaged all participants in dialogue about intergenerational transmission of memory within Roma families, the role of educational institutions in teaching Roma history, contemporary manifestations of anti-Romanism and discrimination, the importance of centering women's voices and experiences in historical narratives about the Porrajmos, commemorative practices and their role in

collective identity formation, and practical strategies for combating anti-Roma racism and promoting social justice.

Event 3 - Romani Language and Identity Lecture and Discussion (22 October, Kraków - UKEN, 65 participants: 36 women, 30 men): Professor Sławomir Kaprański delivered a lecture examining the Romani language as a key aspect of Roma identity in the context of memory politics and Roma genocide history. Participants included university students from UKEN and other academic institutions studying history, languages, education, and social sciences; Roma community members, activists, cultural workers, and educators; researchers and academics specializing in Roma studies, linguistics, history, and cultural memory; and non-Roma allies committed to historical justice and cultural preservation. The lecture addressed: (i) the Romani language as a fundamental marker of Roma ethnicity and a marker of Roma identity and cultural continuity; (ii) linguistic diversity within Romani-speaking communities reflecting centuries of geographic dispersion, migration, and interaction; (iii) the relationship between language preservation and cultural survival in contexts of historical persecution, assimilation pressures, and institutional discrimination; (iv) historical patterns of language loss among Roma communities due to forced assimilation policies and exclusion from formal education; (v) the role of Romani language in oral traditions and storytelling, including family narratives and songs transmitting Roma history; (vi) language loss as a consequence of genocide, including destruction of entire Romani-speaking communities during WWII leading to elimination of regional dialects and linguistic variations; (vii) the silencing of Romani language in official spaces as a strategy of assimilation and erasure following WWII; (viii) contemporary language revival movements by Roma communities and cultural institutions; (ix) Romani language as a vehicle for historical truth and the importance of preserving Roma voices in their own language when narrating histories of persecution, survival, and resilience; (x) approaches to documenting and preserving Romani language and oral traditions through linguistic documentation, archived materials organization, educational curricula development, and digital humanities approaches; (xi) Romani language use as a form of cultural resistance and decolonial practice, asserting Roma agency and self-determination; (xii) struggles for recognition of Romani linguistic rights in educational and governmental institutions. The participatory discussion engaged students, Roma language-speakers, researchers, and educators in dialogue about personal experiences with Romani language use and preservation within families and communities, the relationship between language and identity, the role of schools, universities, and cultural institutions in language preservation and promotion, challenges to language preservation due to socioeconomic factors, institutional discrimination, assimilation pressures, and limited resources, successful practices and initiatives in language revival and preservation from European Roma communities, the importance of centering Roma voices and knowledge in linguistic scholarship and memory work, and strategies for strengthening Romani language use and transmission in the context of the GIVO project and broader European memory initiatives.

The cycle of events served multiple interconnected objectives: (i) to engage Roma and non-Roma communities in the shared commemoration of the Roma and Sinti genocide; (ii) to strengthen community understanding of memory politics, Roma identity, and the centrality of language and oral traditions in historical preservation; (iii) to collect participatory research data, oral testimonies, and community perspectives regarding memory work, Roma identity, and historical consciousness; (iv) to strengthen networks among academic institutions, Roma civil society organizations, and community members for collaborative memory activism.

Across all three events, the cycle achieved: comprehensive educational impact on 148 participants regarding Roma history, memory politics, identity formation, language preservation, and historical justice; fostering of genuine dialogue between

Roma and non-Roma participants; strengthening of community connections and networks for collaborative memory work; collection of qualitative data and participatory research contributions; centering of women's experiences (60% female participation); facilitation of intergenerational knowledge exchange; and strengthening of international engagement with participants from Georgia.

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

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