

A Monthly Periodical of The Roma Inclusion Office



The Roma Decade in AP Vojvodina



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Photo of the month: Gordana Veličković - Odžaci

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EDITORIAL

DEAR READERS,

This is the last issue of our magazine for this year in which we bring you the story of the new National Council of the Roma National Minority as an introduction, as well as an interview with its President, Vitomir Mihajlović. The Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality signed contracts with non-profit Roma organizations, which aim to empower organizations engaged in improving the status of the Roma minority.

Education and employment always stand out as the primary objectives in that improvement, and so we introduced you to a new Roma entrepreneur and to an excellent high school student in the respective columns.

Under the column "NGOs" we talked to Dragana Dimitrov, who presented us the activities and plans of the organization GRUBB, and in the section related to culture we wrote about the RomArt festival, the Corresponding Theater and about the origin of the word Roma.

We hope you have enjoyed our texts this year, that you learned a thing, heard some positive examples, and we promise to continue to keep you informed of all the events related to the Roma minority in the next year.

Your editorial board

CONSTITUTIVE SESSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE ROMA NATIONAL MINORITY



Constitutive Session

On Tuesday, November 18 2014, the constitutive session of the third assembly of the National Council of the Roma national minority in Serbia was held at the

Serbia Palace. The session verified the mandates of 34 members, who are elected in direct elections for the National Council of the Roma national minority, held

on 26 October 2014. New session of the National Council of the Roma national minority shall be composed of candidates from the following list:

ROMA FOR A BETTER FUTURE - prof. Vitomir Mihajlović

1. Vitomir Mihajlović, 1958, professor, Prokuplje
2. Amet Arifi, 1957, social worker, Bujanovac
3. Ana Saćipović, 1957, journalist, Niš
4. Vasip Bakić, 1956, teacher, Leskovac
5. Dragan Ristić, 1972, producer, Belgrade
6. Živadinka Đorđević, 1969, entrepreneur, Paraćin
7. Živojin Mitrović, 1969, Manager, Belgrade
8. Slavko Jovanović, 1963, manager, Belgrade
9. Radmila Gačević, 1955, master-manager, Belgrade

JUSTICE AND TRUTH FOR EVERY ROMA - Tane Kurtić

10. Tane Kurtić, 1961, teacher, Leskovac
11. Dejan Živković, 1971, agricultural engineer, Prokuplje

12. Jasmina Živković, 1961, technologist, Leskovac

13. Vladimir Amzić, 1973, graphic technician, Leskovac

ALLIANCE FOR A CHANGE OF PEOPLE TAILORED TO MAN - Muhammed Osman

14. Muhamed Osman, 1975, manager, Belgrade
15. Tefik Ramadanović, 1969, private entrepreneur, Belgrade
16. Marija Vujučić, 1980, teaching assistant, Interventions

OUR ROMA LIST - Duško Jovanović

17. Duško Jovanović, 1972, BSc. Agricultural engineer, Novi Sad
18. Slavica Denić, 1977, Master of Science, Novi Sad
19. Ninoslav Jovanović, 1982, economist, Ljukovo

ROMA FOR SERBIA - SERBIA FOR THE ROMA - Nenad Tairović

20. Nenad Tairović, 1973, MA lawyer, Surdulica

21. Kašman Hajdari, 1970, laborer, Zemun

GROUP OF VOTERS ROMA FOR EUROPE

22. Ferhad Saiti, 1966, management engineer, Niš

ASSOCIATION OF ROMA FROM SERBIA - Vladan Stanojević

23. Vladan Stanojević, 1970, economist, Lazarevac

24. Marija Manić, 1980, lawyer, Niš

ROMA VOICE FOR EUROPE

25. Marija Aleksandrović, 1972, teacher of Serbian literature, Žabalj

26. Jelena Jovanović, 1980, BA. manager, Novi Sad

27. Branislav Jovanović, 1980, court interpreter for Romani, Stari Banovci

28. Vesna Novakov, 1967, sugar technologist, Kovin

29. Klaudija Kurina, 1976, president of the association, Subotica

ROMA - CITIZENS OF SERBIA - Srđan Šajn

30. Srđan Šajn, 1963, paralegal, Samoš

31. Miloš Nikolić, 1977, violin teacher, Subotica

32. Nevenka Vasić, 1962, freelance artist, Vlasotince

33. Zoran Kalanjoš, 1983, IT engineer, Bački Monoštor

ANGLUNIPE - PROGRESS - Dragoljub Acković

34. Dragoljub Acković, 1952, PhD in Romani studies, Beograd

35. Miroslav Milanović, 1960, welder, Mladenovac

On the same day, the First regular session of the third term of the National Council of the Roma national minority in Serbia took place, when all the bodies and organs of the National Council were elected. Prof. Vitomir Mihajlović was elected for the president of the National Council, after which the Statute of the National Council was adopted and the management elected. Nenad Tairović and Amet Arifi were both elected for Deputy Chairman of the National Council.

As for the Vice-President of the National Council, the following were elected: Živojin Mitrović, Duško Jovanović, Ferhat Saiti, Ana Saćipović, and Vladimir Amzić.

Dejan Živković was elected as the President of the Executive Committee of the National Council.

Slavko Jovanović was elected Deputy Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Marija Vujučić and Kašman Hajdari were elected Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the National Council.

The following were elected for members of the Executive Board: Tane Kurtić, Tefik Ramadanović, Živadinka Đorđević, Vasip Bakić and Vladimir Stanojević.

On this occasion, the president of the National Council, prof. Vitomir Mihajlović, appointed the following people as the advisers of the President of the National Council: Slavica Denić, Ninoslav Jovanović, Zoran Petrović, Ali Saćipović and Ibar Idić.

The session also elected chairmen of seven committees:

President of the Board for Education - Jasmina Živković.

President of the Board for Culture - Dragan Ristić and the vice-president - Hasan Dudić.

President of the Board for the official use of language and letter - Slavica Denić.

President of the Board for information - Ferhat Saiti.

President of the Board for Health - Radmila Gačević.

President of the Committee for Gender Equality - Živadinka Đorđević.

President of the Committee for Youth and Sports - Rajko Elezović.

Dejan Vlajković was elected the General Secretary of the National Council.

Working group was formed at the Session for drafting legal documents, composed of: Nenad Tairović, Marija Demić, Dejan Vlajković, Živojin Mitrović and Slavica Denić.

Aleksandra Mičić

Interview with the President of the National Council of the Roma minority, Professor Vitomir Mihajlović



NEW CONVOCAATION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Vitomir Mihajlović, President of the National Council

** Ten lists participated in the race for the election of the National Council of the Roma national minority. Is that a good or a bad thing?*

Elections for NCRNM are democratic and it is good that there are more groups interested in participating in the elections for members of the NCRNM and the Roma community will recognize the quality people to whom they will give their trust. It is not only the case with members of the Roma community to have larger number of lists; the Law on Elections and Jurisdiction of the National Council determines the conditions for participation in the elections.

** Over 60,000 Roma were enrolled in the special electoral roll in the Republic of Serbia, and about 16,000 voters came to the polls. Why was there such a low turnout?*

Three reasons for the low turnout at the elections are evident, unlike the previous elections (in 2010 more than 30,000 members of the Roma community came to the polls).

1. A very large number of members of the Roma community were returned to the polling stations because they were not registered in the electoral roll of the REC, although they were enrolled in a special electoral roll.
2. A large number of members of the Roma community left

the country seeking economic asylum.

3. A large number of members of the Roma community was not able to get to the polls. Polling stations were located 5-30 km from their place of residence is not provided transportation for them.

** Are you satisfied with the electoral process and whether the previous elections to the National Council were better organized?*

Despite the fact that the previous elections were led by the CEC (Central Electoral Commission), despite massive flaws (updating solutions for members of election commissions in extended

composition) it had a greater number of polling stations in local governments where Roma could vote, virtually in every Roma settlement there was an open polling place to vote, and available to the Roma community to come to the polling station, and the voters lists included all enrolled members of the Roma community. The organization itself was better.

** Were the Roma sufficiently familiar with holding the elections and were they are aware of the role and importance of the National Council?*

A very large number of the members of the Roma community was not aware of the elections being held and also to this day a large number of members of the Roma community is not familiar with the role and importance of the National Council although the National Council is a constitutional and by the law, has certain responsibilities in the areas of education, culture, information and official use of language. Most of them think that the National Council should address issues related to employment, housing, health status, and many other areas related to the Roma community in which the National Council has only an advisory role.

** Mr. Mihajlović, you were elected president of the National Council for the third time, which attests to the fact that your list won the largest number of seats. What does that say?*

That says that the National Council of the Roma National Minority worked in the previous period to create a national program through the development of a strategy for improving the position of Roma, the implementation of its action plans in cooperation with the competent ministries, solving important problems of the Roma community through institutions of the system, systematic solution to all problems of the Roma national community through the implementation of certain affirmative measures in the fields of education, employment, introduction of teaching assistants in primary schools, health mediators in health centers, Coordinators for Roma issues in local government, court interpreters, translators for the Romani language

Does the new convocation of the National Council have more capacity than the previous one to deal with the problems of Roma in Serbia?

Certainly that it has, since 20 out of 35 selected members of the NCRNM have college and university education. How will they be prepared to deal with the problems that await us in the next term really depends on them.

Knowing the four priority areas defined by the Law on National Council, the fact that most of the problems are in the field of education problems. What will you do about it?

Education is a top priority and always will be. For the next

mandate period we will continue with the implementation of affirmative measures and their basis in law or a bylaw. Providing homes and scholarships for students, introducing Romani language as an elective course in primary schools throughout the territory of the Republic of Serbia, opening of the Department for Romani language and the gathering staff who will teach the language in primary schools....

Is it possible to abolish the quota of 2% for Roma enrollment in higher education institutions?

We are in discussions with the Ministry of Education and we hope to have the final solution for the enrollment of students at universities by April 2015.

What are your plans for the next year?

We have great plans, primarily in order to improve the situation of the Roma community in Serbia. We are preparing a strategy for the first time, in all areas covered by the jurisdiction of the NCRNM and strategies for improving the Roma position, to make the use of the period until Serbia joins the EU and considering that Roma are specifically addressed in the negotiations in Clause 23 and 24, I see a chance there for IPA funded projects directed towards the Roma ethnic community so that we could see the improvement of the status of Roma and Roma communities in that period.

Aleksandra Mičić

CONTRACTS AWARDED TO NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS



Contracts signing

Provincial Secretariat for Economy, Employment and Gender Equality, i.e. the Department for the Improvement of Roma Position organized a contract signing and awarding to non-governmental organizations for projects related to improving the position of Roma on November 28, 2014. The amount of 2 million dinars was awarded to twenty non-governmental organizations at the Call for grants.

Slavica Denić, Assistant to the Provincial Secretary in charge of the Department for the Improvement of Roma Position pointed out to the great effort of the Department that has managed to successfully implement several Calls, although with very limited financial resources.

“Today, we are signing contracts with twenty non-governmental organizations that have

received funds at the Call for improving the position of Roma. This year we had five Calls that are targeting the Roma popula-



tion, in April we had a very similar Call to this one, with the difference that the prior was intended for female Roma associations, then the Call intended for cities and municipalities in

the province, then Call for five coordinators for Roma issues in Vojvodina. Fifteen municipalities have received funds to purchase textbooks and school supplies for Roma school-age children, which is very significant. We had a Call for the design of local action plans for Roma, which was also intended for municipalities, where eight municipalities received funds. We have achieved significant results with these Calls with a relatively small amount of money available. The Calls opened some significant issues and contributed to improving the position of Roma population in Vojvodina. If our financial situation permits so, we will continue with these Calls and try to

improve our performance, especially when it comes to education”, said Slavica Denić.

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SHE IS AMONG THE BEST



We were in a Srem village, Maradik, visiting family Bradić. Dragan, the father, Irina the mother and their daughter Ljiljana told us about the importance of education and the role of parents in the educational process of each child.

A good student

Ljiljana enrolled in the Gymnasium of Karlovci this academic year, with an excellent

elementary school GPA and excellently done Entrance Exam (took Serbian and Russian). She attends the language track, and takes English and Russian, which

she took in elementary school as well. She says that the high school is difficult, the professors are demanding and that they have knowledge checks daily.

However, Ljiljana has started well, attends school regularly and has no absences. Her parents are proud because all her grades from Serbian, Russian, English and Latin are very good, since those are the main subjects.

Although her both parents are employed, she is hoping to get a scholarship, and the results are expected in early December. This would be a great help in Ljiljana's educational process. A significant assistance to the family is the fact that Indjija funds monthly bus pass.

The role of parents in education

Ljiljana's parents say they are satisfied with her and that she studies a lot and works hard for school, and they pointed out that "only when you study, can you get a good grade". They say that their daughter was an excellent student since the first grade

Education is essential to every man.

of elementary school and hope that she will continue to proceed in that direction, and enter university after high school.

"A child goes to school with virtually no knowledge and therefore they need help at home with studying. If the child is interested and encouraged for learning since the first grade, they will grow to love school and studying, and after that everything would be easier", said Ljiljana's mother Irina. So she worked with her daughter as much as she could since

The message to parents - all children should go to school, but we should not stop at elementary education. It is necessary to complete at least high school, and if the child has the desire and knowledge, parents must provide them with the opportunity to study. It is clear that one cannot be without education. You must lean toward the higher purpose, one should not be put down just because belongs to the Roma population. Everyone has the right to be educated. Education needs to be worked on, so that children attend school. The main and the biggest problem is the problem of education, although poverty is also very pronounced with the Roma. Precisely because of the lack of education, the Roma population is difficult to find employment. If there is no education, there can be no mention of the employment. Parents should advise and support their children in the way of education, especially right from the first grade of primary school. The child should be encouraged to love notebooks and the book, and everything else will fall in order without any problems.

the first grade, but stopped with that practice after the third grade. That is how Ljiljana learned to love school and began to study by herself and her grades became important to her, and tried to always be better. "I think, if I hadn't worked with her as much since the first grade, she might not have had such a willingness to study and get good grades", says Irina, and father Dragan adds that it is "necessary to praise a child when they get a good grade in order to stimulate him to continue to work and study."

A step toward a better life

The story of Ljiljana Bradić and her parents can and should be a model for all families, particularly Roma ones, in terms of awareness of the importance of education and its role in a person's later life. Education is a great chance for a better life and one must do all it takes to enable this opportunity, nurture it, and even-

tually use. The role of parents on this way is immensely large and significant, because they are the ones who need to direct their child to education and not hinder them on the way, but rather to point out to the advantages and possibilities of an educated man. For this to happen in all Roma families, it is essential for the change of consciousness to happen. However, it takes time, but every step in this direction is important and entails new steps.

Ljiljana wishes to study Russian language at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, and would love to become a Russian teacher at the Gymnasium of Karlovci one day. Certainly, if she continues to work and study hard, she will have the opportunity to achieve many of her plans and wishes. When we add her parents' never-ending support on top of this, we can notice an excellent pattern for progress and success in life.

Tijana Čubrilo

SUCCESSFUL COOPERATION



At her workplace

Three women were awarded funding for self-employment from the Provincial Government, as well as funds from the projects funded by the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, and we will write about one of them in this issue. We will see how much did these funds mean to her and how she used it.

Years of experience

Gordana Veličković from Odžaci has a stall (»Saki 025«) at the marketplace, where she sells clothes. We asked her when and how did she start the business of selling clothes. Since she received money from the Provincial Government for self-employment of Roma women, we asked her how she used that money. We learned that she bought the merchandise in order to work together with her son. Gordana has

been in this business for more than fifteen years. Before this she had a boutique, and for the last ten years, she has been selling at the marketplace since that way she can also go to other villages when there are market days.

Family support

Gordana Veličković sells clothes at her stall that she procures in Pančevo and Subotica. Her younger son is included in the business, so they shared responsi-

bilities - she sells women's clothing, and he sells men's. We tried to find out what sells the best, and if people have money to buy the clothes. Gordana reveals that the sales are a little better when pensions and salaries arrive, but that otherwise, it is very bad. However, Gordana and her son Alexander point out that this funding meant a lot and that they are satisfied. They think that it is important to be persistent, to work and then the results have to come.



Gordana Veličković - Saki 025

Cooperation with Roma Coordinators

We asked Coordinators for Roma Issues, the two of them in the municipality of Odžaci, how do the Roma live in Odžaci and what projects are being implemented to improve the lives of the Roma. Jelena Mišković, coordinator for Roma issues answered our questions. “As for the Call of the Provincial Government published this year, three companies from the municipality of Odžaci passed the Call. From conversations with women who founded their company, I realized that each of them managed to further

develop and stabilize their jobs, in which they had prior experience. After registering the company, everything becomes much more serious, so they feel different because they have economic stability, and their families are no longer recipients of social benefits. Their success is my success”, says Jelena Mišković.

The coordinator also emphasized the fact that Odžaci one of the twenty municipalities where the project Technical support to local self-governments within the OSCE Mission to Serbia is being implemented. Their Mobile team got a car, and this will help them to quickly and easily get to all

Roma settlements in the municipality and see on the spot what are the specific problems of the Roma population and how to solve them.

When local and provincial governments join their power, knowledge and experience, and encounter a positive response among the Roma population, then success is a highly likely outcome. We could see that at this case. Gordana Veličković was able to stabilize her business, purchase necessary merchandise and ensure the existence of her family.

Tijana Čubrilo

OFFICE FOR ROMA INCLUSION OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA STRATEGIC PLAN 2014–2017.



STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE OFFICE FOR ROMA INCLUSION FOR THE PERIOD BETWEEN 2014-2017

1. Increasing the employment of Roma men and women in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
2. Increasing the number of Roma men and women included in the educational system in Vojvodina
3. Contributing to the improvement of housing conditions of Roma men and women in Vojvodina
4. Contributing to the improvement of the quality of healthcare for Roma men and women in Vojvodina
5. Reducing prejudice and stereotypes about the Roma among the public
6. Developing the capacities of the Office for Roma Inclusion for further activities and increasing its visibility at the national, provincial and international levels

STRATEGIC MEASURES

Strategic goal 1: Increasing the employment of Roma men and women in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina Indicator: Number of employed individuals in 2017 i.e. 2014, categorized according to gender	
Measures:	Indicators, on an annual level, until the end of 2017
1.1. Employing Roma men and women in public institutions	1.1.1. Number of employed Roma men and women until the end of each year encompassed by the Strategic Plan in public institutions in Vojvodina
	1.1.2. Number of young people ⁴ encompassed by the program
	1.1.3. Sectors in which they have been employed (public administration, healthcare, education, social care, etc.)
	1.1.4. Number of systematized and number of newly-employed Roma coordinators in municipalities in Vojvodina
	1.1.5. Number of employed Roma mediators
	1.1.6. Number of employed pedagogical assistants
1.2. Implementing self-employment programs	1.2.1. Number of candidates who have applied for the self-employment program (categorized according to gender and municipality)
	1.2.2. Number of established companies (categorized according to gender of owner and municipality of registration)
	1.2.3. Activities registered
	1.2.4. Number of companies which have survived after a year of business (categorized according to gender of owner and municipality of registration)
1.3. Organizing trainings for the increase of employment of Roma men and women	1.3.1. Number of candidates which have applied for training programs for new professions, according to gender and municipality
	1.3.2. Number of those encompassed by the training programs for new professions
	1.3.3. Number of candidates who have applied for programs for improving their general competencies, according to gender and municipality
	1.3.4. Number of those encompassed by training programs for improving general competencies, according to gender and municipality
	1.3.5. Number of young people encompassed by the program, according to gender and municipality
1.4. Active employment measures	1.4.1. Number of candidates who have applied for active measure according to gender and municipality
	1.4.2. Number of those encompassed by the employment measures according to gender and municipality

⁴ The National Youth Strategy describes the young as those aged between fifteen and thirty.+

Strategic goal 2:	
Increasing the number of Roma men and women included in the educational system in Vojvodina	
Indicator: Number of Roma men and women included in the formal and informal educational system in Vojvodina every academic year until 2017/18, ranging from preschool to university level.	
Measures:	Indicators, on an annual level, until the end of 2017
2.1. Realization of affirmative enrollment measures into high schools	2.1.1. Number of young people informed about affirmative measures, according to gender and municipality
	2.1.2. Number of applications for scholarships, according to gender and municipality
	2.1.3. Number of awarded scholarships, according to gender and municipality
	2.1.4. Number of those enrolled into high schools, according to gender and municipality
	2.1.5. Number of those who have abandoned their education according to gender and municipality
2.2. Realization of affirmative enrollment measures into universities	2.2.1. Number of young people informed about affirmative measures, according to gender and municipality
	2.2.2. Number of applications for scholarships, according to gender and municipality
	2.2.3. Number of awarded scholarships (according to gender)
	2.2.4. Number of those enrolled into universities, according to gender and municipality
	2.2.4. Number of those who have completed university education, according to gender and municipality
2.3. Encouraging the formal education of adults through the “Second chance” program	2.2.4. Number of those who have achieved higher academic titles (master, PhD, specialists), according to gender and municipality
	2.3.1. Number of those informed about the “Second chance” program, according to gender and municipality
2.4. Encouraging informal education of adults	2.3.2. Number of young people encompassed by the “Second chance” program, according to gender and municipality
	2.4.1. Number of those informed about the programs of the Educational centre
	2.4.2. Number of those interested who have applied for training programs at the Educational centre, according to municipality and gender and type of program
	2.4.3. Number of those enrolled into training programs at the Educational centre, according to the municipality they live in, according to gender and type of program
	2.4.4. Number of those who have successfully completed training programs at the Educational centre, according to the municipality they live in, according to gender and type of program
2.5. Support for elementary school education of children in Vojvodina	2.4.5. Number of young people who successfully completed, in contrast with those who applied and enrolled in the training programs of the Educational centre, according to the municipality they live in, according to gender and type of program
	2.5.1. Number of children enrolled into elementary schools according to gender and municipality for every academic year
	2.5.2. Number of children who abandoned their education according to gender, age (class) and municipality for every academic year
	2.5.3. Number of municipalities who have allocated funds from their local budgets for providing equal conditions for the free education of children, on the initiative of the Office (according to type of intervention)
2.6. Support for the early development of children and their inclusion in pre-school institutions	2.5.4. At least one event organized each year: an informative or educational event, for the support of pedagogical assistants
	2.6.1. An article about early development and the importance of including children in the educational system at an early age published in every issues of the “Decade of Roma in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina” magazine
	2.6.2. Number of good practice examples presented in the media
	2.6.3. Mapping the conditions in Vojvodina, regarding those who deal with support programs for early development and in what way, apart from preschools, accomplished in 2015/16
	2.6.4. Monitoring at an annual level the number of newly-enrolled children into preschools, before the mandatory preparatory preschool program, according to municipality and gender

DATA ANALYSIS OF CENTERS FOR SOCIAL WORK IN THE PROVINCE OF THE AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GENERAL PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION
OF CHILDREN FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 - AUGUST 8, 2014



• The types of measures taken for social and family protection of abused and neglected children registered at the Center for Social Work

Center for Social Work performs a dual function: the function of social protection and family law protection under the jurisdiction of the guardianship. In this sense, it is authorized to apply certain protective interventions regarding the child and the family (Žegarac, N., Mijanović, Lj., Obretković, M., Pejaković, Lj. Simovic, I., Stevanovic, I., 2001):

- alerting parents i.e. supervision as forms of restriction of parental rights
- social support and advisory work with the child and parents, in collaboration with hospitals, counseling centers, educational institutions and the wider social environment
- placing the child and parents to specialized treatment in medical facilities and counseling
- accommodation and care of the child in a foster family or social institution
- immediate separation of the child from the family
- regulating the ways of maintaining personal relationships with the child

Center as the guardianship authority has a role in the implementation of family-legal sanctions

from the court's jurisdiction, and in this sense has the responsibility and authority to initiate and participate in court proceedings in which restrictive measures of deprivation of parental rights are applied and enforced. At the same time, it is obliged to provide necessary treatment to prevent or mitigate the consequences of abuse. The roles of the guardianship of the procedure are diverse (Žegarac et al, 2001):

- Proposals for deprivation of rights to care and upbringing of the child, or
- Proposals for deprivation of parental rights (non-contentious procedure)
- Participation in marital disputes and disputes between parents and children
- Providing expert opinions to the court
- Preparing the child to participate in court proceedings
- Advocating interests and rights of the child in court proceedings - with powers of special participants
- Participation in the execution of court decisions, to protect the child's personality

As a professional service and the authority that shall ensure the protection of rights and interests of children, center for social work has a significant role in ensuring adequate criminal treatment of a child - victim of abuse (Žegarac et al, 2001):

- Cooperation with the police and other authorities and bodies in the detection of crimes of violence against children;
- Filing a criminal complaint to the police or the public prosecutor's office;
- Cooperation with the police and public prosecution in the process of collecting data about the action;
- The central role in the examination of the child as a victim;
- Providing expert opinions to the public prosecutor and the court: on the work conditions of execution and consequences for the child and on the ability of the child to give evidence or testimony expediency
- Preparing the child to testify in proceedings

According to the data from the Centers submitted to the Institute, the following measures of social and family care were applied in the reporting period:

- ✓ In 140 cases the center for social work has implemented corrective supervision, in order to redress the parents in the exercise of parental rights
- ✓ In 57 cases center for social work has reacted with the measure of taking the child from the parent by applying Art. 332, paragraph 2 of the Family Code.
- ✓ For 108 children placed in foster care, 21 children in

extended families and 16 children in a social care institution; it cannot be said with certainty that accommodation is realized by applying Art. 332 of the Family Law or it is about housing without the application of these measures⁷

- ✓ In 74 cases the procedure for deprivation of parental rights has been filed
- ✓ In 23 cases the procedure for the imposition of protective measures against domestic violence had been filed

of Children against Abuse, we could say with certainty that a significant improvement has been made in this area. However, although the normative framework has been improved, a significant number of training on the implementation of the Protocol have been held after its adoption and supporting documents / manuals that professionals should facilitate its implementation have been written, one may reasonably ask the question, how functional is the system at this moment, which should protect child victims of abuse and neglect.

Types of measures	No of measures
Correctional supervision (Art. 80 of the Family Law)	140
Taking children from their parents under Art. 332, paragraph 2 of the Family Law	57
- placement in foster families	108
- placement with relatives	21
- placement in welfare institutions	16
Proceedings for termination of parental rights	74
Proceedings for the imposition of protective measures against family violence	23
Filed criminal charges against the parents for the act of the committed child abuse and neglect or domestic violence to the child	68

- ✓ In 68 cases, criminal charges were filed against parents for the offense of abuse and neglect of a child or family violence against a child

Conclusions and recommendations

Based on the short review of the legal framework and the activities carried out on the Protection

Based on the analysis of data centers for social work in Vojvodina on the implementation of the General Protocol for the protection of children from abuse and neglect in the period from 01/01/2014 to 08/15/2014, we get the following image:

- In the analyzed period, the social welfare centers received a total of 757 reported cases of child abuse and neglect. In six

centers and municipalities in Vojvodina not a single case has been reported.

- Girls make up about 52.4% of boys and 47.6% of the total number of victims of abuse and neglect.
- Among the victims, the largest group comprise children aged 11 to 15 and a regularity was observed that with increasing age the proportion of girls victims in relation to the proportion of boys increases.
- Taking into account the problematic nature of the classifications used, it may be concluded that the physical and mental (emotional) violence and child neglect are among the most dominant forms of violence, which is consistent with data recorded during the year in social work centers on victims of domestic violence.
- The cases of abuse and neglect of children are most commonly reported by relatives of the victims, followed by the police, social welfare centers (these are situations when the center itself or another center for social work revealed the violence) and educational institutions (schools that children attend).
- The data on a small number of reports on the abuse and neglect of children from pre-school and health facilities is warning, especially bearing in mind that preschool children make up 40% of the total num-

⁷ While submitting the data, many centers did not specify whether they are working on the implementation of measures of taking the child from the parent, by applying Art. 332, paragraph 2 of the Family Law or about placing the child without prior response by a prompt intervention. The application of the Family Law, Art. 332 implies urgency of guardianship. If the circumstances of the case require that the child be separated from the family before the end of the procedure, the guardianship authority may issue a provisional conclusion on securing placement of the child. This deduction shall be made within 24 hours of receiving notification of the need for urgent foster care and involves reacting with a pressing intervention.

ber of victims of abuse and neglect, and that the age of the child in the literature is cited as one of the criteria of high risk in the event of suspected abuse and neglect.

- By taking the function of social protection and family law protection under the jurisdiction of the guardianship, in the observed period, Center for Social Work has usually reacted by applying corrective measures with the supervision of parental rights and initiating proceedings for termination of parental rights.

This analysis has indicated to the question of whether the social protection system has a unique and functional way of recording and reporting on the occurrence of violence against children, but indirectly imposed the issue of establishing a uniform system of recording and reporting on cross-sectorial level.

The issue of the functionality of cross-sectorial teams is related to the level of individual communities. But still, the data obtained in this analysis of the number of applications in the healthcare system and pre-school institutions, may indicate a lack of functionality among inter-sectorial teams in the detection of violence against children, and concerns with the detection of abuse and neglect when it comes to younger pre-school children.

Given that the largest number of training for the implementation of the General Protocol on Protection of Children from Abuse and Neglect was held relatively long time ago (after its adoption, in 2005), the question is how many

professionals are currently working in centers for social work and other systems, and that finished the training. This is important, because the lack of knowledge on the steps to protect from violence in one's own system and jurisdiction of other systems can make the process of protecting children inefficient.

Based on the data presented in this report, we could pin point the following recommendations to improve the implementation of the Protocol and protection of child victims of abuse and neglect:

- It is necessary to develop protocols for documenting abuse and neglect in centers for social work in accordance with the applicable definitions of abuse and neglect, which will form the basis of a single method of data collection and reporting on this phenomenon
- The system of data collection and reporting on the violence should be more functional
- In those communities where this is not done, it is necessary to operationalize the cross-sectorial cooperation of the participants in the protection of children from abuse and neglect, which will make it more functional and efficient
- It is needed to strengthen the inter-sectorial collaboration in the area of detection of cases of abuse and neglect of children, especially with younger (pre-school) age, which should result in a larger number of reports from other sectors (health, education, NGOs)
- Taking into account the age distribution of child victims, pre-

vention activities should include those groups in which they observed the largest share of children in the total number of victims. This analysis showed that these are the children of school age (11- 15 years), so in this sense it requires intense involvement of the education system

- It is necessary to allow a greater number of professionals in the centers for social work to be trained in the application of the General Protocol for the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

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HATE SPEECH AGAINST THE ROMA

The National Council of the Roma National Minority in Serbia has strongly condemned the organization “Srbska akcija” that urges Serbia and its citizens with their flyers to protect themselves against the Roma and calls them the main culprits for whatever negative happens in Serbia. This organization inserted the flyers in mailboxes in Belgrade, but also in other cities in Serbia.

Reactions

President of the National Council of the Roma National Minority, Vitomir Mihajlović emphasized that distributing these fliers is shameful and an affront to the Roma: “I condemn

action against the perpetrators and punish them.

In addition to the National Council, an immediate reaction followed on behalf of Nevena Petrušić, Commissioner for Equality, President of the Parliamentary Committee for Human and Minority Rights and Gender Equality, Meho Omerović and Osman Balić, President of the Presidency of the Standing Conference of Roma associations of citizens “League of Roma”.

Commissioner for Protection of Equality filed a criminal complaint and requires immediate and decisive response of the authorities. “The state is obliged to protect the freedom and secu-

Omerović announced that he would ask the Serbian Assembly in an emergency procedure, to make a declaration against violence and hate speech. “If you do not see that this is fascism at work, then we accept that this is allowed, then we are all accomplices in this open call for lynch”, said Omerović and asked the police to immediately find the instigators and organizers of the act of evil and for the society to show that way that we must not call for violence and lynching of others. Omerović said that distributing flyers is very dangerous, which is why we should not lightly pass over such phenomena, since closing your eyes before that extremism can only encourage the ghosts of the past.

Osman Balić also calls for an immediate response and for public condemnation of such organized incitement of hatred against the Roma and recalls that the unsanctioned spread of hatred and lack of adequate response directly affects the increase in violence.

Ministry of Interior said that the police, in cooperation with the competent prosecutor's

office, is working intensively on the detection of individuals who made leaflets that openly call for violence, lynching and hate speech against the Roma, and that the country will not tolerate any form of discrimination.

Tijana Čubrilo



Commissioner for Protection of Equality, Gordana Petrušić

this action, which without any backlash calls for the lynch of the Roma. These leaflets are a clear message that the Roma bother someone and they are threatened.” At the end of the statement, the National Council asks all state authorities to take appropriate

ity of every citizen and to prevent threats, violence and hatred toward national or any other minorities,” said the Commissioner. It is expected that the public will be sent a clear and unambiguous message that racism will not be tolerated in Serbia.

PROJECT “LOCAL POLICIES IN MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN KOSOVO, DRAGAŠ, LIPLJAN AND SOUTH MITROVICA”

Based on the model that the Center for Regionalism from Novi Sad made ten years ago and used during the project research on exercise and protection of minority rights on experience and examples from Sombor, Senta and Zrenjanin, the project “Local policies in multiethnic communities in Kosovo” was made. The aforementioned project has sustained for five years and has included experience in the implementation of minority rights in fifteen multi-ethnic municipalities in Kosovo. Its aim is to explore regulation on the protection of minority rights both at the central level (Government of Kosovo) and the level of multi-ethnic municipalities or-



ganized under the Ahtisaari plan. The research includes political and legal mechanisms that underlie the protection of minority rights and their functioning in practice. The project began in 2009 and has so far, representatives of municipalities of Obilić, Prizren, Gjilane, Peć, Kamenica, Orahovac, Vučitrn, Vitina, Istok, Štrpce, Gračanica, Mamuša Dragaš, Lipljan and southern Kosovska Mitrovica. These are municipalities with the multi-ethnic composition of the population, although there were such ca-

ses where population is mostly minority, such as Štrpce, Gračanica and Mamuša.

THE EXAMPLE OF VOJVODINA CAN BE LEARNED FROM

For the project “Local policies in multiethnic communities” to achieve its goals, a unique research model is used at every stage of the project in the territory three municipalities. Namely, the study examines the mechanisms of protection of minority rights at

the local level, roundtables as an additional form of evaluation in the field of minority rights are organized, which is followed by a conference that brings recommendations for the improvement of the position in the field of minority rights in local governments. That is, one of the important components of the project is to establish and develop civil dialogue both among local communities with multi-ethnic composition of the population as well as with similar communities in the region. That is why, for the fifth year of the duration of the project, delegations of multi-ethnic municipalities in Kosovo visit Vojvodina as a region that has highly establis-

hed legal and political standards in the field of application of minority rights. Hence, on November 6, delegation of multi-ethnic municipality from Dragaš, Lipljan and southern Kosovska Mitrovica were guests of the Provincial Department of Education, regulations and national minority communities, where Deputy of the Provincial Secretary for National Community, Janoš Oros, received them. He met the delegation with the legal framework of reaching minority rights in Vojvodina. Eva Vukašinić,

Deputy of the Provincial Ombudsman - spoke about the recently completed elections for national councils and about the measures this institution has taken during the attacks on the premises in Novi Sad, whose owners are members of the Albanian minority. Duško Jovanović, Director of the Roma Inclusion Office briefed the guests from Kosovo on affirmative action measures that are implemented in the field of education, stressing that a very good result has been recorded in this area. He also spoke about the network of offices for Roma issues, which were formed in some local self-government, which the European Commission rated as the most successful model in Europe.

...BUT KOSOVO ALSO HAS ITS ADVANTAGES

According to the program of the study visit to Vojvodina, the delegation stayed in three municipalities in Vojvodina. During the visit to Sombor, Csaba Sakač introduced the members of the delegation to the national structure of employees, who is in charge in the administration of the city of Sombor to monitor the work of national communities. He talked about the representation of ethnic communities in the local par-

liament and administrative bodies as well as the realization of minority rights before the state bodies. In Bački Petrovac, predominantly inhabited by Slovaks, the guests from Kosovo were introduced to the connection between cultural institutions of the Slovak community and the local self-government. The guests from Kosovo shared the experience of Kosovo's legislation, which

minorities in the total population is at least 10%.

However, a common problem in Vojvodina and Kosovo is difficult economic situation that limits the maximum participation of minority rights and so with the consistently reduced finance, the implementation of minority rights remains in limbo between real needs and real possibilities. As an example of good practice in

strengthening overall capacities of a municipality, guests from Kosovo were presented Indija, as an example of a local community that brought its administration as close as possible to its citizens. Dragan Janković, director of the Economic Development Agency of Indija told the guests about the SYSTEM of 48 hours and about the efforts of this municipality to attract more investors. Zef Šalja, Executive Director of the Association "Mother Teresa", thanked the hosts from Vojvodina on the hospitality they showed.

The project "Local policies in multi-ethnic communities in Kosovo" is jointly implemented by HDUK "Mother Teresa" from Priština and Center for Regionalism, Novi Sad with the support of the Norwegian Embassy in Priština.

Jelena Perković,
Associate of the Center
for Regionalism



Study visit to Vojvodina

le noting that the funding of minority communities is regulated at a local level. Additionally, it is mandatory to elect deputy chairman of local self-government from minority communities in areas where the percentage of

Interview with Dragana Dimitrov, coordinator of the Novi Sad training center of the GRUBB Foundation



Performance in front of SPENS

In January 2014, the Grubb Foundation became richer for a learning center in Novi Sad. That is when our editorial was at the party on the occasion of the opening of the center of Novi Sad and we had a great time.

Prior to the anniversary of this center, we talked to the coordinator, Dragana Dimitrov from whom we learnt that their classrooms are full of children and young people, that they have a lot of different activities that respond to the needs of their students, that the results they have achieved are extraordinary and that they are particularly proud of the large number of girls attending GRUBB and are involved in the educational system.

*** Kids love the GRUBB. Why is this so?**

- The GRUBB exists for them and because of them. They are the GRUBB. This is their second

home, their favorite space in which they often feel better than at home. The GRUBB hears their voices, sees their needs and fulfills them. The GRUBB supports them to recognize their dreams and achieve them. It is both the everyday life, and the significant and bright part of their childhood and youth, but also an important milestone in their lives.

*** You organize a number of workshops for children - educational, artistic, creative, as well even sports workshops. On what basis do you decide on the type and content of the workshop?**

- That's not up to us, but up to children. Our task is to listen to what they are trying to say, to look at their needs and desires, and find a way to enable them to be involved in what they are interested in their spare time.

I would use soccer practice as an example. The children have expressed desire to train and do sports, not only the boys but also the girls. Although soccer does not fit into our primary activities, we were aware of all the positive side of playing sports, and in cooperation with the Mechanical School in Novi Sad - from whom we get free time at the p.e. Gym - and with the coach / volunteer Slobodan Stojanović, we provided our children the opportunity to engage in the sports they want.

*** Your students have the opportunity to attend workshops, acquire new knowledge and skills, develop their talents and so on. However, the point is that they come out of your classrooms and publicly demonstrate everything they are proud of?**

- Exactly, and those are the events they are mostly looking

forward to. It is an opportunity to give their best, delight the audiences and be proud of themselves, and us of them. So far we have, though we have been open only 10 months, organized public appearances at several schools, at the Spens plateau, at the Cultural Center, at several locations in Belgrade and other.

** December will mark two of your performance. What is it about?*

- In early December, we performed in Belgrade at the promotion of the book "GRUBB Stories 2", together with the children from other GRUBB centers, and we are currently preparing for the performance at the Novi Sad Youth Theatre. We will be program participants and will provide visitors the wealth of music, movement, drama and Romani language.

The GRUBB (Gypsy Roma Urban Balkan Beats) is an exciting musical show that young Roma people (aged 14 to 20 years) as well international artists formed. Using traditional Roma music and dance, the young performers create a modern and unforgettable theatrical experience. The show, while mixing hip-hop and rap music with Gypsy music, deals with the themes of first love, friendship, and their daily struggle against poverty and prejudice. The show was conceived and directed by Canadian director - Serge Denonkur.

The show features 25 performers, including dancers, singers, rappers and trumpeters. Inspired by the exceptional talent of these young performers, the internationally acclaimed artists have joined them, on a voluntary basis, supporting and encouraging them. Using choreography, music production, set design, video and photograph, they brought the Roma story on stage, sharing the Roma heritage with the audience, encouraging energetic young performers to take pride in their heritage and roots.

** Let's touch upon their education. Do your children go to school?*

- Only individuals, who have recently joined us do not attend school, but it is only temporary. I

am convinced, based on past experience, that by June of the following year, when the enrollment in school takes place, that they will have a strong desire to get involved in the education system, that we



At GRUBB's global show

will be able to motivate them and awaken a strong and sincere desire for formal education in them.

In the meantime, they do not waste time at the GRUBB. They regularly attend all of our workshops, music, sports, and education, as well as the workshops of Serbian language, mathematics, chemistry, biology, German and others. I am particularly delighted that among the Grubb's most valuable students is a boy who is only 15 years old, but unfortunately, has not spent a single day in school. His desire for education grows, and when we re-



Dragana Dimitrov in her favorite company

Nadira Morina (17): "GRUBB is for me one big family that through music and dance combined crashes prejudices against the Roma. I learned for GRUBB from my friends who told me to take a look at the footage on YouTube of GRUBB Belgrade. I was delighted and have been regular at every workshop since then. I had a lot of shows, but I do not know the exact number. While I'm on stage I feel free, relaxed, happy. Of course, at the beginning it was not the case, because I had the jitters at the time. I like the rule that if you do not go to school, you cannot come to GRUBB. You can learn a lot in school and, of course, when you go to school, no one can humiliate you. The classes do not differ much in school and in GRUBB, except for the fact that here they pay more attention to us when something is not clear, they always explain well and in detail that we can understand. I like music lessons the most, where we learn to sing and rap, and primarily to be human people, because we have the best teacher that is always there for us to give us advice. He is always cheerful, he likes to joke, and we overcome the toughest problems with him.

Adem Haliti (20), comes to GRUBB primarily for acting workshops. "When I act like I'm in another world, it's like it was not me, I can set myself free in a way and to interpret the character that I play. I feel great, as if I am that character I'm playing and I don't think about anything except of the challenges I have.

Đulijeta Maroli (17) comes to GRUBB for ballet and journalism: "Where would I otherwise learn this? Here, our Dragana and our wonderful teachers care about us. Asmet and Dača come from Belgrade for us, to teach us to dance. All they know exactly what we like; we even don't have to say it. We trust them, and how could we not, when they solve our problems and fulfill our desires and strive in order for us to become good people. "

cognize that he is ready, hopefully soon, we will enroll him in school and we will be with him until he graduates. Many of our children attend secondary school. We are thrilled that all of our girls go to school, mostly as regular students, but we also have two part-time students that we help in various ways.

** When will you join the GRUBB world tour, where children from other centers participate?*

- When we become ready for it. Neither success nor the result could be achieved overnight. For a world tour, in addition to skills, you need the experience on stage, in front of an audience. Novi Sad children do not yet have it sufficiently, although they constantly enrich their experience. Travelling and performing around the world are certainly very great incentive to work and thrive for the children, but also to go to school, because only the most successful on the two fronts - in school and in GRUBB can have the opportunity to be part of the group that is going to perform outside of Serbia, what the children dream of.



RomArt International Festival was held for the ninth time in Subotica from 14th to 21st November, and brought together many musicians and artists from the region. It is a festival that promotes Roma culture as modern, but primarily as a rich culture.

The Festival was organized by the NGO “Polis Fest” for the ninth time. The aim of the event is to promote tolerance, human rights and intercultural relations, as well as modern, urban culture of the Roma. The organization of the festival was helped by the city of Subotica.

Program

In addition to concerts of Roma from Subotica, who were the inspiration behind this idea, an exhibition at the Troubadour cafe was opened on November 14, an exhibition of Mina Karadzic, an engineer of applied

photography from Novi Sad, opened by Mile Tasić, painter and art critic from Subotica.

The final day of a weeklong international event, a concert was held in the town hall by the ensemble “Amaro Del” from Belgrade, which delighted all present. “Amaro Del” finds inspirati-



Goran Nikolić, the organizer of the festival told us that the plan was to hold a discussion on the topic of the Position and potential of the Roma culture, but they have not received additional funding they asked for. “We will continue to prove that Roma culture deserves more attention, and that its potentials are huge. Our plan is to make future workshops for children (music, painting, photography)”, says Nikolić.

Roma art

Roma art, despite the difficult position it has been for centuries, is rich in unexplored colors that, obviously, have always communicated with the modern. Its emphasis in the title is in complete accordance with our aesthetic, artistic and moral sensibility, but the name of the festival is not determined by the limits of our ambition to, in the way, contribute to the general culture of our region and establish a better image of Serbia in the world, as a pro-European-defined setting with tolerance, respect

are present: classic, jazz, funk, rock, folk, as well as a new musical directions such as electronic and hip-hop music, but also Gyass, a special musical expression that originated in Subotica. One of the aims is to promote the style and approach the wider audience. The promotion of this unique style into a new ge-

RomArt has multiple positive consequences:

- Contributes that Roma culture becomes recognized as part of the national and world cultural heritage, which corresponds in a new and modern way to other cultures;
- Helps for as many people as possible to form a different view on the Roma and their contemporary art, which is in contrast to the previously-based stereotypes and prejudices;
- Promotes the inter-tolerance and impact on reducing tensions in the region;
- Promote European values.

The non-governmental organization “Polis Fest” was founded in 2006 in an effort for the concepts: culture, ethnic tolerance and human rights to be established in our community, as initiators of progress and essential factors of a democratic society. The organization seeks, through collaboration with partners in the region, to have an affect on the development and promotion of multiculturalism, interculturalism and respect for minorities. The NGO “Polis Fest” is a member of several networks such as SEKAS, FENS, Network of creative people.

“Polis Fest” has been organizing RomArt since 2006, an international festival of Roma culture.

on in Roma culture and plays Roma music from Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Russia, Poland, India, Azerbaijan, France and Moldova.

for human rights and cultural development.

At RomArt, in the music program, multiple music directions

nre of music gives this festival an innovative and educational dimension, and represents Roma in a different, non-stereotyped manner, as someone who can participate in the presentation and development of culture in Europe with their talent and skills and add to it a new dimension.

Tijana Čubrilo

MAJA FAMILIĆ'S BOOK PROMOTION



Photo: the author's private archive

With the Ambassador of India

A book of fairytales in Romani, Serbian and English, entitled “The homely guest” was presented at the 59th International Book Fair in Belgrade in 2014. The author is Maja Familić, the poet and a painter.

Zoran Đerić and Jovan Ljuštanović presented the book, whereas Boško Petrov, actor of the Theatre in Novi Sad, read excerpts from the book. Narinder Čauhan, the Ambassador of India in Belgrade was an honorary guest, and on that occasion received the gift of a book and a painting of Maja Familić.

Representatives of the National Council of Roma, as well as prominent representatives of cultural, political and social life of the Roma attended the promotion.

Aleksandra Mičić

NOMADS

Nomads -
Singing fireflies
In love with summer pour.

Barefooted we walk
On silver drops
That is where our fingers kiss
With howlers.

Instead hot potatoes
Pebbles smell nice to us on the road
Our friend are musicians and crickets
Which feast on flower nectar.

We crawl like ants
And live in the grass
In plain, mud and lilies.
So it was and will be
In every century.

CORRESPONDENCE THEATER

Mladen Dražetin is founder of the idea of a correspondence theater while Vlado Mićunović is author of the book “The First Roma theaters in Serbia and Vojvodina”, through which we can follow the idea of this type of theater since its inception, through the problems, success and expansion. This is an amateur theater that welcomes all the people interested in art, kind words and who wish to freely share their talents with the others and give them the gift of enjoying the scenic arts.

Vladimir Stojanov joined Dražetin in this idea, and so the two of them became holders of the theatrical movement in the making. Every beginning is difficult, and if we add the fact that this was about culture, it is clear that the obstacles were even more distinct. Therefore, the idea was exposed to rejection misunderstanding, rejection and disparagement from the very beginning.

Problems and victory

The biggest issue was to find a suitable space for rehearsals and performances for a group of people that was getting bigger. The group always managed to find adequate space but that would not last for long, which caused uncertainty and fear, but at the same time intensified the desire to persist in the idea, and not to permit to give up on what they truly believe in and what they wanted.

After yet another forced eviction in a row from the premises in which the group practices, something seemingly unexpected happened. Out of all the humiliation and abandonment, what followed was not quitting, but in spite of that, the group of enthusiasts does



something that will become their trademark and essence of their theater, which will then rapidly expand beyond the borders of the country. Namely, performances were played at the Freedom Square

in Novi Sad, under an open sky, for random passers-by. Then Mladen Dražetin uttered sentences that will continue to reflect the essence of this unusual theater: “We will work in spite of everything of today! We will be ourselves and free as a bird. We will create a system that does not depend on the place, time nor worldly tyrants. We’ll play wherever we find free space, wherever there are good people who are interested in our art. Nobody can stop us and throw us out the street.”

More and more passerby stopped and stayed to observe what happened in the square and that is how the audience was taken that wholeheartedly and enthusiastically applauded this performance. Subsequently, even journalists appeared who then spread the news about the “artistic enigma from the Svetozar Miletić Square”. Reactions were numerous, and many wanted to contact them. Although without their own place, they received letters

addressed to post office box 360, Correspondence Theatre, Novi Sad. The number of letters, with words of support, admiration, encouragement, and with a desire to join or create something similar in their communities was increasing. It was the final confirmation that theater was on track to do something great and lasting.

Constituent Assembly

The official date of the establishment of the Correspondence Theatre is March 3rd 1974 when the Constituent Assembly was held. The official name of the theater was the Scene of Dramatic Arts, but its foundation was Correspondence Theater, which was the first art society that gave its attention to theatrical amateurism.

Spreading ideas

The idea of the Correspondence Theaters spread, and its members used to help all those who wanted to realize this idea in their towns. The help reflected in the form of sending instructions to organize associations, scripts for performances as well as professional staff. Of course, like everything else related to this theater, it was free.

The first branch of the Correspondence Theater was Theater in Nature, founded by

“I have already been interested in the blend of various arts and in the possibility for them to, meet in one location, together, away from the sleazy parlor atmosphere which kills any real value, far from the social barriers imposed by the daily urban society, or the elite. Theater in nature wants to show that with a minimum of resources, at the most ordinary meadow, you can produce top performances. With this, our theater wants to provide a democratic atmosphere in which, of course, everyone has the right to participate. We know very well that the real art was created out of necessity for joy. This, then, what we do is not a desire for power, but the craving for - joy.”

Radovan Vlahović

poet Radovan Vlahović in Krušedol. It took time for Vlahović to convince the villagers of Krušedol and from surrounding villages that it is about the idea that solely aims to spread the art, and not profit, but he succeeded in that.

Subsequently, a branch in Novo Miloševo was founded, where Slavoljub Boban Stojkov played his most famous role, who was a student at that time who aspired to change and to the Roma revival in breaking stereotypes and constraints. This branch later grew into the first Roma Theatre in Vojvodina and Serbia. After that, Roma Theatre was founded in Mokrin.

A film about the Correspondence Theater

Journalist Vlado Mićunović and director Peter Ljubojev worked together to create a film about the Correspondence Theater, and mostly about the Theater in Nature, because they thought that a lot of people need to see and hear the the story of this theater. The idea was to film the premiere performances of the Theater in Nature, which was done on 20 February 1985. The film won first prize at the Festival in Monte Carlo in 1986.

In 106 countries worldwide

The text of the play “The Confession” has been translated into Esperanto and sent to all Esperanto clubs in the world, which were very interested. That is how the Correspondence Theater got its representative offices in 106 countries. The links were established with Argentina, Australia, Egypt, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Japan, Colombia, Canada, Cuba, Kuwait, New Zealand, Thailand, Uruguay, Zaire, and so on.

There is a lot of space for innovation and change at the Correspondence Theater, and it has brought a new way of observing and thematization of theater arts, and the time will show what is its contribution and significance. Nevertheless, we should already be aware of its originality and its capabilities, and to make use of it for promotion of culture and for learning new social virtues and values.

Tijana Čubrilo

MYSTERIOUS NAMES

The origin of the name Roma, which is how the European gypsies are called, is not yet fully clarified. The earliest researchers of the origin and language of the Gypsies, A.F. Pot and Franc Miklošič, believed that the name comes from *doma*, *domba* - the lowest caste in India, comprising of musicians and singers.

Later did the hypothesis come about the origin of the Rajput Gypsies. Jan Kochanowski, a linguist from Paris, and V.R. Rish from Chandigarh tried to link the name of Roma with Rama, the legendary hero of the Mahabharata and the Ramayana, which was rejected by Pot in his book.

The term Roma is unknown among Iranian Gypsies, while Armenian Gypsies call themselves Lomi. Two more terms are used: Kalo (pl. *Kale*) among the Spanish gypsies and Sinti (pl. *Sinte*) among the German and Italian gypsies.

Unlike the term Roma, which also means “man” or “a husband”, the origin of the other two terms is clear. Kalo, in Roma, as well as in Indian languages means “black”. (This word, or, rather, its Turkish equivalent *kara* was used by A.F. Pot to explain the name of *Karachi*, as Gypsies are called in Iran. In Kurdish language it received a modified meaning - “fortune-teller” or “musician”). *Sinte* also means “people” or “a nation” and originates from Sindh or Sindhi (now an area in Pakistan), where the ancestors of modern Italian or German Gypsies used to live. They are found in



smaller numbers in other countries in Europe.

The researchers also note 60 tribal names, of which we will mention only a few: Banjar, Gadulia Lohar and Nat in India; Luri, and tribes Gorbati (Gurbeti), Arli, Lovari, Tamari, Gopti and Kalderash.

Onomastic studies have revealed that the names Lovar, Tamar and Gopt are of Indian origin. Lovar comes from the name Lohar and the word *loha*, which means “metal” or “iron” in Sanskrit. Tamar probably comes from *tamra*, the Sanskrit word for “iron”, while Gopt is similar to *go-pa*, a herd of cows and cow-herd, and means people who belong to a stirred pariah caste.

The name Gurbet, used from Afghanistan to the Balkan Peninsula, from where it spread to the western-European countries, is considered to derive from the Arabic language (*garib* means “fo-

reign” and “alien”). As we talk about names, it should be noted that the *Banjari*, the largest gypsy tribe in India, call themselves Gor and the foreigners Cor. Gors are, in fact, the followers of Durga (Black virgin), who is also celebrated by the Gurbeti (people named Gorak is also mentioned in the *Mahabharata*).

The name of the second largest tribe, the Kalderash, is of Romanian origin and comes from the word *kaldarar*, tinker, or *Caldare*, boiler. This tribe, whose members can be found all over Europe, even in the US, Argentina and Brazil, has preserved the Romani language and traditions the best. The other tribes call them Niamcura, probably because they once lived in the province Trgu Niamcu in Romania.

The name Arli comes from the Turkish word *yerli*, which means “local resident”. As the Arlis lived mainly in countries under

Ottoman rule, they are mostly Muslims.

The names *das* (pl. *dasa*) and *gadzo* (pl. *gadze*) indicate non-Gypsies.

Names under which the Gypsies officially go for are no less mysterious. In the Arab world they are called el Nury (pl. El Nuar); in Turkey, the Balkans and the rest of Europe (excluding English and Spanish-speaking countries) are referred to as the Gypsies, or some variant of the word; in the British Isles are *Gypsies*, *Gitanos* in Spain. It should be noted, however, that all these names are of foreign origin and do not exist in Romani language.

The variety of names of gypsy tribes and groups, some of which are derived from trades and occupations, reflects on the small model the whole complexity of India, where in 1901, 2378 castes and tribes were registered, of which the Banjar, for example, occur under 27 different names. The tribal names include tribal divisions and social order based on blood ties, still fragmented and at the low level of development. Gypsies will be able to achieve more collective forms of identification only after the release of tribal connections. This process among the Gypsies in Europe began at the end of the 1960s. Thanks to the awakening of national consciousness, the Gypsies were able, after centuries of wandering, to get in touch with India, their ancestral home, when the first World Festival of Gypsy culture was held in Chandigarh in 1976.

(Rajko Đurić, *Gypsies of the world*)

PABLO PICASSO - LIFE AND WORK

One of the greatest painters, sculptors, writers and graphic artists of the 20th century and founder of Cubism, the Spaniard - Pablo Picasso was proud of his Roma origin.

Childhood

Pablo Ruiz Picasso was born on 10/25/1881 in the Spanish town of Malaga. Upon his birth, the midwife declared him dead, and his uncle saved him by him blowing cigarette smoke in his face. The first word he uttered was piz, Spanish for pencil, and his father, who was also an artist, Jose Ruiz Blasco, was the one who introduced him to painting. He taught him painting since he was seven and Pablo very often finishing his father's work because the father did not had time for his numerous used to finish his father work when he could not make it. Already the age of thirteen, his father tried to forbid painting to him, when he saw that his son's paintings are much better than his, but he failed. The family moved to La Coruna in 1891, a town on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. His father got a new job at a local college. Picasso also attended his father's classes in decorative drawing, but also enrolled in class of portrait drawing and landscape painting. At fourteen, he made portraits of family friends in oil on



canvas and everyone was delighted with his work. Picasso was more mature than his peers, and although he was brilliant, he had problems with discipline and very often got disciplined.

Four years later, his father took a job in Barcelona, which proved to be very important for the creation of Picasso. Teachers at the painting school considered him a miracle. In the fall of 1897 he started studying at the Madrid academy Real de San Fernando, but that school soon began to feel dull and he would increasingly cut the classes.

They would shut me down into a small room with white walls and a bench. It was great, I was able to paint the walls in peace - he said once.



Photo: Web

Instead of classes, he would go to Madrid to the famous museum Museo del Prado, where he admired the works of Spanish baroque painters. But it was far from living a comfortable life. When his father learned of his absence from lectures, he stopped sending him allowance and so Picasso had no money. He wanted to go to Madrid and de-

cided to follow his friend Pallares on his way to his native

I learned everything I know in Pallares' village - he would frequently use to say later.

village of Horta de Ebro where he stayed for the next eight months.

Women painted his life

He was very close to his mother, perhaps even more than conventional, which some psychologists and psychiatrists interpret as the main reason for his rather strange attitude towards women. He loved women with the same passion at 30 and 80 years old, and they marked his art

and life. There were countless of them, but only seven of them meant to the famous painter, and had the most influence on his work. Women had always been his biggest inspiration. Each of his mistresses was immortalized on canvas, or in reverse - his every model ended in his bed. One Picasso's friend joked and said that the famous painter changed women as painting techniques, because he would very often be in parallel relationships. He had two wives, four children (he got his last child when he was in his seventh decade), many mistresses, and short and long-term relationships. However, only seven

from extreme tenderness to a strong hatred. The only thing that was important to him was for a woman to be shorter than him,

"Birds in Cage", where the black dove, Dora, fights the white, Marie Therese, and the black one wins.

"It was wonderful to be with him, he was adorable, like fire-works. Incredibly creative, intelligent and seductive. When he in the mood to charm, even stones would play in the rhythm that he gave. But he was very cruel, sadistic, without mercy. Everything had to be the way he wanted. You were there just for him, he was never there for you. Pablo thought he was a god, but he was not a god, and it bothered him", Francoise described Picasso in her book.

which was difficult because it was only 163 centimeters tall.

Picasso literally destroyed women with whom he had affairs. They either suffered from

Cubism is the artistic direction of modern art, from the early 20th century that had a significant impact on the abstract painting. Art critics came up with the name Cubism, which marked by an image Georges Braque, ridiculed as little cubes. The name comes from the word cubes meaning cube. Cubism simplified forms in the interpretation of reality to form a cube, sphere and cylinder. It was founded in 1907 and in 1908 in the works of Georges Braque and Pablo Picasso and had its peak in 1914 in early 20th century, which had a significant impact on the start of abstract painting. Cubism was a critique of classical painting and the need for space in a painting and its method was of an abstract perspective. Cubism originated from the work and theories of Paul Cezanne, who stated his experience and practices in a letter on April 15, 1904 to Emile Bernard, in which he wrote that the whole real world consists of a cube, sphere and cylinder or geometric shapes that make all forms and can be separated in order to be painted. Cezanne died and after his death, this direction has emerged that he initiated in his works.

women were important in his life, he loved them most - model Fernanda Olivier, Eva Guel, ballerina Olga Khokhlova, Marie-Theresa Walter, painter and photographer Dora Mar (Teodora Markovic), a young art student and Francoise Gilot and Jacqueline Roque ... Picasso's feelings toward women fluctuated

mental illness, or took their own lives. When he met Dora Mar, or when he got bored with Marie-Theresa, Picasso arranged for the two of them to meet in his studio. He said that he remembered their cries and hail as one of the most beautiful moments in his life. He captured their conflict on canvas on painting

It is interesting that none of his women, except for Francoise, left him, yet he was the one who went away. He was 62 when he fell in love with Francoise Gilo, and she was nearly 40 years his junior, but she bore him two children. However, even this relationship was not definite. Angry and frustrated with the constant Picasso frauds, Francoise left him in 1953.

Biographers say that Picasso was obsessed with women, seduction and sex. Extremely potent, he would give every woman he liked a gold figurine of a man, which meant he wanted her in his bed. However, they were next to him, just as long as he was inspired. After that they were dismissed and he would find a new muse with ease. Francoise wrote that Picasso was loyal, generous, dedicated, but only when it suited him. Then he would incredibly quickly transform into a brutal and cruel man.

Two years before Picasso's death, an exhibition was held at the Louvre on the occasion of his 90th birthday. Prior to him not a single living artist had his exhibi-



Photo: Web

tion at the museum. According to some data, Picasso is the artist whose paintings were stolen the most - even 1147 times.

He died in April 1973, alone, without children and grandchildren, for what many of his friends blamed Jacqueline, who did not allow the famous painter to have anything to do with his family.

The most expensive paintings

“A woman sitting in a blue dress”, is the painting from 1939, represents Dora Mar, and was sold a few years ago at an auction for 29 million dollars, while the painting “Sleeping Girl”, a portrait of Marie-Therese Walter from 1935, rea-

ched the cost of 22 million dollars. Picasso often represented Dora Mar as sad, he claimed she suffered from being sterile. “A woman in tears”, is the most famous portrait of this Picasso's mistress.

Source: www.bastabalkana.com,
www.story.rs



Rumunija 1. Jul 2005 - 30. Jun 2006, Bugarska 1. Jul 2006 - 30. Jun 2007, Mađarska 1. Jul 2007 - 30. Jun 2008, Srbija 1. Jul 2008 - 30. Jun 2009, Slovačka 1. Jul 2009 - 30. Jun 2010, Češka 1. Jul 2010 - 30. jun 2011, Makedonija 1. Jul 2011 - 30. Jun 2012, Hrvatska 1. Jul 2012 - 30. Jun 2013, Crna Gora 1. Jul 2013 - 30. Jun 2014.

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