



## Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations

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ROMA NEWSLETTER

Roma: Connecting with Indians

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### The Highest Number of Roma Mayors Elected in Slovak Municipal Elections

As compared to 12 elected mayors of Romani origin in 2010 municipal elections of the Republic of Slovakia, 52 Roma mayors were elected in the recent municipal elections. That shows gradual involvement of Roma in local government affairs. The Atlas of Roma communities pointed out that there are around three hundred municipalities in Slovakia where Roma are either in the majority or comprise more than one third of the total population. However, the number of municipalities headed by Roma mayors is still only one sixth of them. The representative of the Slovak government for Roma communities, Jan Hero told that it was one of the imperative tasks to deepen the participation and improve the involvement of Roma in the management of local governments through implementing different activities.

#### Read More at

<https://spravy.rtv.slovakia.sk/2022/11/v-komunalnych-volbach-zvitezil-rekordny-pocet-romskych-starostov-a-starostiek/>

### Roma in Europe - Human Rights Reports Testify to Lack of Political Will

European Roma Grassroots Organization (ERGO) has recently published a report, highlighting the unequal treatment of the Roma in the health care system. One in four Roma does not have

health insurance, though 22 percent of them have chronic diseases. The report indicates that Roma and Sinti are the worst off and their situation has not improved even after the adoption of the new EU framework for Roma political participation in 2020.

**Read More at**

<https://www.dw.com/sq/rom%C3%ABt-n%C3%AB-evrop%C3%AB-raportet-p%C3%ABr-t%C3%AB-drejtat-e-njeriut-d%C3%ABshmojn%C3%AB-p%C3%ABr-munges%C3%AB-t%C3%AB-vullnetit-t%C3%AB-politik%C3%ABs/a-63905101>

**Publication of Roma Cookbook**

Romani origin, Peter Pollak, Member of European Parliament, wrote a Cookbook that comprises selected samples of 52 Romani recipes which are based on various natural and organic ingredients, showing strong connection with nature. These recipes contain raw materials mainly from herbs, roots and vegetables without any added chemical. The Book Christening Ceremony in Slovakia, organized by MEP Pollak, was attended by Slovak Prime Minister Eduard Heger and Minister of Finance Igor Matovic besides several elites like actor Brano Deak. The title of the book "The Magic of Roma Cuisine" was chosen. Mr. Pollak on this occasion said that many Slovaks have prejudices about Roma's eating habit, so he decided to showcase the simplicity and diversity of Romani gastronomy.

**Read More at**

<https://www.startitup.sk/video-poslanec-pollak-vydal-romsku-kucharsku-knihu-romana-tabak-davala-romskym-detom-hodiny-tenisu/>

**Romani Rose Appointed to the International Auschwitz Council**

The chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, Mr. Romani Rose, was appointed by the Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki to the International Auschwitz Council that is composed of Ronald Lauder (World Jewish Congress, New York), Dani Dayan (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem), and Sara Bloomfield (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington DC), among others. Mr. Rose appealed to international organizations and national governments in Europe to intensify education on the Holocaust and to support the educational mission of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial.

**Read More at**

<https://www.presseportal.de/pm/128332/5378557>

### **Policeman Shoots 16-year-old Roma in the Head**

A police officer in Thessaloniki, Greece, shot 16 year old Roma boy in the head on 5<sup>th</sup> December during a chase after he fled a petrol station, allegedly without paying the bill. The officer appeared in the court on charges of attempted manslaughter and other offences. The teenager is fighting for his life in a Greek hospital. The shooting has singled out the periodic issue of police violence in Greek cities. CCTV footage revealed that four policemen were inside the petrol station at the time when the teenager filled up his vehicle with €20 (£17) of petrol and then left. The 16-year-old was chased by police on motorbikes. Police said that the boy turned his vehicle towards them with the aim of ramming into them. The news of the shooting triggered protests by Roma community including his friends and relatives outside the hospital in Thessaloniki where stones were thrown at police, who responded with stun grenades.

#### **Read More at**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63871046>

### **The Roma Live where the Asphalt Ends**

Romani origin member of the European Parliament Romeo Franz accompanied by Antiziganism Commissioner in the Federal government of Germany Mehmet Daimaguler visited Ukraine in response to various incidents of Ukrainian Roma refugees' mistreatment in Germany. Over 400,000 members of the Romani-speaking minorities who live in Ukraine are disadvantaged by authorities on all levels: in education, in health care, in the job and housing. Many Roma not had documents since Soviet times, therefore faced terrible hurdles in order to obtain identity cards, thus their situation is horribly precarious. The recent report by a NGO regarding Ukraine indicates that 70 percent of Roma live in settlements in deplorable conditions or in abject poverty whereas 30 percent of them reside in cities, but most of them deny their identity for fear of discrimination. The German delegation visit was aimed to undertake on-site research of background of internal migration within Ukraine and to EU. Mr. Romeo Franz said that an urgent action for improving the pitiable situation of Ukrainian Roma was required.

#### **Read More at**

<https://www.migazin.de/2022/11/14/ukraine-reise-dort-wo-der-asphalt-endet-leben-die-roma/>

### **England and Wales Census 2021 Included Roma for First Time Ever**

Roma was identified as an ethnic category in 2021 census of England and Wales for the first time, the number of Roma is 100,981 who filled up the Census Form. Researchers suggest 200,000-300,000 Romani Gypsy and Traveller people are living in England and Wales by examining other statistics like the bi-annual Traveller caravan count and school roll figures. Other than that some campaigners point out that the number may be about a million.

#### **Read More at**

<https://www.travellerstimes.org.uk/news/2022/11/england-and-wales-census-2021-results-released-roma-included-first-ever-time>

### **Three Generations of Romani Band "Sare Roma"**

Sare Roma, well known Lithuanian Band, has rolled out many impressive and memorable concerts with the focus on traditional Romani music, mixing it with unique arrangement. The band has been managed and led by the third generation of the Kwik family and every member of the family is musically talented. Sare Roma has been successfully performing for more than 70 years and singing not only in Romani language, but also in Lithuanian, also performing Lithuanian folk songs but in the Romani style. Sare Roma Band is comprised of 14 members including guitarist, dancers, musicians, singers, costume designers, light artists and some responsible for arrangements. The multicultural team is led by Isztwan Kwik, the grandson of renowned singer and guitarist Piotr Kwik who was the founder of the band.

#### **Read More at**

<https://kurierwilenski.lt/2022/11/14/trzy-pokolenia-sare-roma-kwikowie-z-zespolem-ozywiaja-spolecznosc/>

### **Introduction to Romani Culture and History through Romani Language**

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations- ARSP hosted the Eighteenth Virtual Lecture of the monthly Lecture Series, delivered by Juice Vamosi, Romani Language Consultant, Film Producer & Activist (UK & Hungary) on 26 November, 2022. He eloquently presented the

striking similarities between Romani and Indian languages despite Roma acquired various loan words during their travel to different countries. He spoke about the use of Indo-Aryan words by Roma that comprises main vocabulary of Romani language. Vamasi explained about the Romani culture including how Romani people behave, sing, communicate, dance or perform any activity; which they do in compliance with their customary laws consisting of hundreds of rules and code of regulations.

**Watch Full Lecture at**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6A1X6\\_bfnyA&t=1578s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6A1X6_bfnyA&t=1578s)