



CENTRAL COUNCIL of German Sinti & Roma



CHACHIPEN project launch event in a run-up for 50th International Roma Day

Truth and Reconciliation Process to address antigypsyism in Europe: Remembrance, Recognition, Justice and Trust-Building

9:00 – 15:15

29 of March 2021, via Zoom

The project 'CHACHIPEN', means 'truth' in the Romani language. It pursues the key objective to advance the recognition and response to historically-rooted and systemic antigypsyism to achieve justice, equality, non-discrimination and the full participation of Roma as equal citizens across Europe. The project employs an innovative approach, through the model of Truth and Reconciliation Processes to review the past rights violations and ongoing structural discrimination of Roma that hinders the implementation of the EU non-discrimination acquis.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 – 9:45 OPENING PANEL (Moderators: Dr Sergio Carrera, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS/EUI and Gabriela Hrabanova, Director, ERGO)

The opening panel will situate the discussion on recognising historically rooted antigypsyism within the wider EU and national policy context and will provide some individual testimonies. The panellists will elaborate how EU values, namely fundamental rights, the rule of law and democratic accountability, are or could be better utilised to advance remembrance of Romani history and contributions to society, recognition of 'antigypsyism' as a key term to capture and remedy past and ongoing antigypsyism. The personal testimony of Romani victim of institutionalised antigypsyism will illustrate the importance and urgency for regional, EU and national authorities to act now on delivery of equality, non-discrimination and justice and to rebuild the broken trust between Roma and non-Roma.



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- **Ms Vera Jourova**, Vice President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency
- **Ms Dunja Mijatovic**, Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe (video address)
- **Ms Michaela Kuchler**, The Special Representative of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Relations with Jewish Organisations, Issues Relating to Antisemitism, International Sinti and Roma Affairs, and Holocaust Remembrance
- **Mr Romani Rose**, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma (video address)
- **Ms Elena Gorolová**, Social worker, a survivor of forced sterilisation, Czech Republic

9:45 - 11:00 - Session 1: Taking stock – Transitional justice approach for addressing a long history of antigypsyism (Moderator: **Mr Jonathan Mack**, Central council for German Sinti and Roma)

CHACHIPEN projects partners have piloted the transitional justice-like approach to recognise antigypsyism and transform the shared historical narrative that also acknowledges the contribution of Roma to Europe. In cooperation with the Alliance against Antigypsyism (led by ERGO Network, Central Council for German Sinti and Roma and ENAR), CEPS has produced a landmark study entitled "[Scaling up Roma Inclusion strategies: Truth, reconciliation and justice for addressing antigypsyism](#)". It aimed at learning from South African, Canadian, Australian Truth and Reconciliation Processes as well as from the Swedish Commission on Antigypsyism. These lessons informed and innovated the envisioning of a post-2020 EU Roma policy. This session will discuss - what's next? How to increase recognition of antigypsyism? How can we rebuild trust between Roma and non-Roma, and what's the mainstream institutions' role?

- **Ms Soraya Post**, Former Member of the European Parliament/ CHACHIPEN Advisory Board Member
- **Ms Lina Vosyliūtė**, Research Fellow, CEPS
- **Ms Gabriela Hrabanova**, Executive Director, ERGO Network
- **Dr Iulius Rostas**, former chair of Romani studies at CEU/Part of CHACHIPEN Researchers Team
- **Dr Markus End**, chair of the society for the Research on Antigypsyism, Member of the Independent Commission on Antigypsyism established by the German government/ CHACHIPEN Advisory Board

The panel followed by a discussion with the participants

11:00 – 11:15 – Break

11:15 – 12:15 – Session 2: Learning from Expert Commissions on Antigypsyism in Sweden and Germany and paving the way for Truth and Reconciliation Processes in Romania and Spain (Moderator: **Ms Lina Vosyliūtė**, Research Fellow, CEPS)

The CHACHIPEN project aims to learn from **Truth and Reconciliation Processes (TRP)** started by **Expert Commissions on Antigypsyism in Sweden and Germany** and to pave the way for the **TRP in Romania and Spain**. This session will aim at understanding the underlying structures and concepts behind the German and Swedish commissions. What are the differences between the approaches of Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and the Expert Commissions on antigypsyism? What are the key issues and challenges? For instance, how about calling out the law-enforcement institutions?

- **Mr Thomas Hammarberg**, Former Commissioner for Human Rights, Council of Europe/Current Member of the Swedish Parliament (tbc)
- **Dr Elizabeta Jonuz**, Member of the Expert Commission on Antigypsyism, Germany (tbc)
- **Dr Ismael Cortes**, Member of Parliament in Spain/ CHACHIPEN Advisory Board Member

- **Florin Manole**, former Member of Parliament in Romania/ CHACHIPEN Advisory Board Member
- **Dr Mirjam Karoly**, expert to the Austrian IHRA Delegation Committee on the Roma genocide, former chief of the OSCE ODIHR Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues (2012 -2017)/ CHACHIPEN Advisory Board

The panel followed by a discussion with the participants



12:15 – 13:15 Lunch break with a short documentary

13:15 – 14:30 – Session 3: The Roma and Sinti civil rights struggle: Empowerment, Mobilisation and Responses to Antigypsyism (Moderator: Ms Isabela Mihalache, Senior Advocacy Officer, ERGO Network)

CHACHIPEN project aims to **empower Romani activists to advocate for Truth and Reconciliation processes**. The project ensures their co-ownership of such process by building up advocacy capacity in designing, implementing and monitoring such transitional justice-like processes and promoting EU fundamental rights and rule-of-law approaches that are needed to capture institutional manifestations at the EU, national, regional or local levels. Thus, this panel will also discuss the new EU Roma Strategic Framework for equality, inclusion and participation and the new EU anti-racism plan.

- **Mr Đorđe Jovanović**, President, European Roma Rights Centre
- **Ms Timea Junghaus**, Director, European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture
- **Ms Julie Pascoet**, Senior Advocacy Officer, European Network against Racism
- **Ms Marietta Herfort**, Director of Phiren Amenca International Network
- **Mr Ciprian Necula**, Director of ARESEL Network/ Chairperson of Roma Education Fund
- **Mr Pedro Aguilera**, Director of FAGIC (Federación de Asociaciones Gitanas de Cataluña)

The panel followed by a discussion with the participants

14.30 - 15.00 Closing Remarks and the way forward (Moderator: Gabriela Hrabanova, Executive Director, ERGO Network)

Institutional stakeholders and partners will provide their closing remarks on addressing antigypsyism from a historical and transitional justice approaches and how it relates to their mandates.

- **Mr Szabolcs Schmidt**, Head of Unit, Non-discrimination and Roma coordination (JUST.D.1), European Commission
- **Mr Dan Pavel Doghi**, Chief of the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti Issues, OSCE ODIHR
- **Dr Kathrin Meyer**, Secretary-General, The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) (tbc)
- **Mr Thorsten Afflerbach**, Head of Division, Council of Europe, Roma and Travellers Team
- **Ms Birgit Van Hout**, Regional Representative of Europe, UN Human Rights Office (tbc)

15:00 -15:15 – CHACHIPEN project: looking ahead to advocate transitional justice approaches

- **Ms Lina Vosyliūtė**, Research Fellow, CEPS
- **Ms Gabriela Hrabanova**, Executive Director, ERGO Network
- **Mr Guillermo Ruiz**, Political Advisor, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma