

## EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
<b>Project name and acronym:</b>	Trasformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance — TRACER
<b>Participant:</b>	ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITY OF BOLOGNA (UNIBO), UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE (UNIFI), CENTRO DI ANIMAZIONE TRICCHEBALLACCHE (CAT), ASSOCIAZIONE CHI ROM E CHI NO (chi rom chi no), ALTO COMISSARIADO PARA AS MIGRAÇÕES I.P (ACM IP), OPEN GROUP Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS (OPEN GROUP), STOWARZYSZENIE ROMOW W POLSCE (StowRomPL), RIBALTAMBICAO - ASSOCIACAO PARA A IGUALDADE DE GENERO NAS COMUNIDADES CIGANAS (RIBALTAMBICAO) and UNIVERSITY OF MINHO (CIEd UNIMINHO).
<b>PIC number:</b>	999993953; 999895789; 919475320; 905981626; 910603118; 939023342; 888258489; 910767533; 999995505

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
<b>Event number:</b>	19.1
Event name:	International conference in Portugal
<b>Type:</b>	conference
<b>In situ/online:</b>	In situ and online
<b>Location:</b>	Portugal (Braga) - Campus de Gualtar – Auditório Multimédia, University of Minho (UMinho)
<b>Date(s):</b>	20 September 2024
<b>Website(s) (if any):</b>	<a href="https://www.tracerproject.eu/">https://www.tracerproject.eu/</a>
Participants (see also the notes)	
Female:	71
Male:	16
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Italy]:	8
From country 2 [Poland]:	2
From country 3 [Portugal]:	71
From country 4 [Croatia]:	1
From country 5 [France]:	1

From country 6 [Spain]:	1		
From country 7 [Germany]:	1		
From other countries (not in EU) Brazil, Angola	2		
Total number of participants:	87	From total number of countries:	7 (EU) 2 (not EU)

### Description

*Provide a short description of the event and its activities.*

The TRACER International Seminar “Leaving a trace: Roma and non-Roma young people between memory and present” aimed to disseminate the project's results both in terms of visible or material results (bibliographical research, murals, paintings, videos, graffiti, interviews, book), and in terms of invisible (or immaterial) results, such as the training that resulted from the entire process of participatory action-research.

Throughout the day, in its various moments and panels, young Roma and non-Roma were able to highlight their work and the effects of the project on them as people and future professionals. Considering that for these young people this was their first opportunity to speak in public, expressing their interests and their journey in the project, the seminar also helped to contribute to their participation and empowerment, two fundamental objectives of the TRACER project.

Shared knowledge between Roma and non-Roma and joint learning were recognized as fundamental in this process of participatory action research.

The seminar also contributed to the deconstruction of stereotypes in a wider audience by bringing young Roma graduates and book authors to the "stage". An important aspect was having Roma young people narrating their first hand experiences with discrimination and poverty, and how learning about their past and their history, and sharing them with others, was critical to an enhanced feeling of empowerment and cultural identity.

The network of relationships created between young Roma from the different countries involved and the knowledge of different realities were highlighted during the seminar and recognized as a fundamental asset of the TRACER project.

The Seminar had a large and diverse audience and the participation of Portuguese government figures such as the Director of the Department for Equality and Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination at AIMA, Portugal and specialists and students of different nationalities.

### Program

09h00-09h30	Registration
09h30-10h00	Opening Session: Maria José Casa-Nova (Coord. of the organising committee), José Reis (AIMA), Leonor Torres (CIEd), Beatriz Pereira (IE-UMinho)
10h00-10h30	The TRACER Project: foundations and overview (Maria Teresa Tagliaventi, University of Bologna - UNIBO) Moderator: Liliana Moreira (AIMA, RESPECT Department)

10h30-11h00	Coffee Break
11h00-12h00	Keynote: Traces of history, traces of life. Roma and Sinti between past and present in Europe (Luca Bravi, University of Florence - UNIFI) Moderator: Maria Alfredo Moreira (CIEd-UM)
12h00-12h30	Book presentations: “Leaving a Trace” (Autor: TRACER Team), “Conhece-me antes de me odiarem” (Autor: Bruno Gonçalves) Moderator: Daniela Silva (CIEd-UM)
12h30-14h00	Lunch Break
14h00-15h30	Presentation of the project's outcomes (TRACER Young Leader groups): Posters, Photo/ Video Displays, Narratives & Testimonials Barbara Pierro (Chi rom chi no), Silvia Bencini and Noel Maggini (CAT), Eduard Quirini and Emma Giusti (Opengroup), João Gonçalves (Ribaltambição), Sabina Kwiatkowska (Stowarzyszenie Romow w Polsce) Moderator: Bruno Cardoso (Young leader, Portugal)
15h30-17h00	Panel: Looking back and forward Barbara Pierro (Chi rom chi no), Gilberto Scali (CAT), Nina Cerneka and Maria Teresa Tagliaventi (UNIBO), Luca Bravi (UNIFI), Federica Ferrarini and Gemma Giusti (Opengroup), Maria José Casa-Nova (UMinho), Bruno Gonçalves (Ribaltambição), Wladislaw Kwiatkowski and Sabina Kwiatkowska (Stowarzyszenie Romow w Polsce) Moderator: Inês Aydin (AIMA, ACADEMIA)
17h00-17h30	Closing session: Leaving a trace - ‘Memorijako drom/ Memory Tracks’ Maria Teresa Tagliaventi (UNIBO) and Bruno Gonçalves (Ribaltambição)
17h30	Farewell drinks and snacks

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**

**Leaving a trace:  
Roma and non-Roma young  
people between memory and present**



September 20, 2024 | 9:30h - 17:30h  
Auditório Multimédia - Instituto de Educação  
Campus de Gualtar - Universidade do Minho  
Entrada Livre

Organização: Maria José Faria (coord.) e Ana Cristina 2024





### THE TRACER PROJECT: FOUNDATIONS AND OVERVIEW

Maria Teresa Tagliarini  
University of Bologna

### Transformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance (TRACER)

CERV Programme (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values) for 2014-2020

	Poland	Portugal	Italy
Uniba-Graf			
Opengroup			
E.A.F.			
Chi non è chi no			
	Polonia - Cracovia	Portugal - Évora	Italia - Roma

### Which History? Holocaust/Porrajmos

Several reasons for this choice:

- The Holocaust is still an event that is difficult to understand.
- It was not the result of a necessary violence, but was conceived within a rational modern society that is why it is a problem of this century and the culture (Fassin 1992).
- Dealing with the subject of the Holocaust means questioning about the way institutions and members of contemporary societies act, in which "act", according to Assaël (1991), takes the ordinary form of everyday life.
- The Holocaust was a way to rationalize racism and define those who are "different" as pathological, dangerous and worthy of extermination. In this idea of the "different" as being "pathological", is the history of the Roma and Sinti people, who have always embodied the symbol of diversity and for this reason have been subject to a process of dehumanization. The Roma and Sinti people suffered discrimination long before the final persecution of the last century.
- The history of the Second World War, with the Holocaust, can provide an explanation of the current discrimination against the Roma and Sinti people.
- Remember the genocide is an imperative commitment in a society interested in the present. Direct witnesses of what happened in the concentration camps are hardly few and part of public opinion regards the Holocaust as a distant event, with few references in current events and using its symbols as the Roma.

### TRACER : AN ACTION-RESEARCH, A PROCESS

Promote → bring out knowledge

Activate → project, plan and change

### ACTION RESEARCH

One fundamental principle of action research is the promotion of autonomy and empowerment among social actors and the collaborative construction of knowledge.

In Tracer the main actors are Roma and non-Roma youth and adolescents from Italy, Portugal and Poland, in a process of co-construction of knowledge and change.

The trigger of the project is also subject of the research. Knowledge is produced collectively by youth and adolescents (Roma and not Roma), deconstructing the role of "specialist" normally assigned to scientist, and from this group it is shared with others. In this case this is achieved through a structured process involving investigation, action, reflexivity, and **transformation**.

















### THE PROJECT AIMS TO:

- mobilize groups of Roma and non-Roma adolescents/young adults (male and female) to collect narratives in Italy, Portugal and Poland about the Holocaust and Roma genocide.
- Reconstructing and documenting the history of the Holocaust through research in online national and international libraries and with interviews with significant witnesses from the Roma and non-Roma community and visiting significant Holocaust memorial sites.
- Helping young people (Roma and not Roma), aware of a history that links the Roma communities in Europe and re-introducing Roma membership in the EU.
- Activating teenagers (Roma and not Roma) to be teachers/informers through the construction of an artistic event on genocide aimed at a wide audience (graphic, music, theatre, film/documentary, etc) and increasing young people's awareness of peace and universal human rights.
- Producing knowledge through training and educational workshops on genocide in schools with Roma preschoolers, students and multi ethnic classes.
- Promoting reflection on the construction of prejudice and discrimination

*The construction of knowledge is not neutral but political, based on its values*



CAT (extract from the ppt presentation)

   <p><b>TRACER Project</b></p> <p>Transformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance</p> <p>TRACER project activities in the cities of Florence and Praha</p> <p>International seminar, Braga, Portugal, September 20th, 2024</p> <p>Leaving a trace: Roma and non-Roma young people between memory and present Campus de Guelfar – Auditório Multimédia, University of Minho (Utlândia)</p>	<h3>Project objective</h3> <p>The project aims to mobilise groups of Roma and non-Roma adolescents/young adults, male and female, to collect narratives about the Holocaust and the Roma genocide making young people an active part of historical knowledge.</p> <p>Reconstructing and documenting the history of the crimes through historical research.</p> <p>Increase awareness of the history that links the Roma community to Europe and re-evaluating their membership in the EU.</p> <p>Activating teenagers to be trainers/informers through an artistic event on genocide aimed at a wide audience (graffiti, murals, music, theatre, film/documentary, etc.) helping to preserve remembrance.</p> <p>Promoting training and educational workshops on genocide in schools with Roma students and multi-ethnic classes.</p>
<h3>Team building</h3> <p>The team composed of young roma, non-roma and gypsies had the objective of promoting artistic and educational events, writing schools or public spaces, to encourage the incorporation of the history of the genocide of the Roma and fight with the support of groups of students from the schools involved.</p>     	<h3>Art as a vehicle for historical narration</h3> <p>Following the team building process it was gradually decided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collect significant historical materials</li> <li>- Select some objects from the collected materials</li> <li>- Plan: 1) laboratory activities to be proposed in schools and other social contexts with the support of adolescents 2) a final event, in the form of a theatrical performance, based on narratives linked to the collected objects</li> </ul>
<h3>Objects and images as work themes</h3> <p>When we moved on to the analysis of the images collected in particular reference is made to Gershon Babitski and the portraits of the Roma in Auschwitz, Maria Morikawa and the coat of liberty Anna Sternberg and the hidden evidence of the crime. Following a brainstorming session, the group decided to use what had been collected so far and to research it in artistic terms through the proposal of thematic workshops, such as:</p>       	<h3>Our work structure</h3>  <pre> graph LR     A[Work structure] --&gt; B[Workshop]     B --&gt; C[Workshop 1: Historical research]     B --&gt; D[Workshop 2: Artistic creation]     B --&gt; E[Workshop 3: Theatrical performance]     </pre>

Chi rom e chi no (extract of the speech)

***Knowing the history. What was the genocide of Roma and Sinti?***

For the group from Naples, the Tracer project was a long dive into uncharted waters.

The girls and boys who formed the leading group followed us with confidence and curiosity into a historical adventure that, until then, they knew nothing about and that had affected them only indirectly. We had to devise a long and comprehensible artistic, cultural, and pedagogical path to approach and explore it.

Second generation Roma migrants from the countries of former Yugoslavia, in particular Serbia, Macedonia, Bosnia, and Croatia, some of them already the parents of a third generation of very young children, candidly brought their experience of living in the informal camps of the metropolitan area, from Scampia to Giugliano in Campania, with all that this experience entails.

They – the grandchildren of people who had to flee the war in the Balkans – preserve in their memories and in their family stories the experience of ethnic cleansing and the trauma of the erasure of entire villages, archives, and registry offices. This is still reflected today in the complicated process of obtaining identity papers, despite the fact that they and their children were born in Italy.

The story of the Holocaust and the Porrajmos/Samudaripen began as a macabre tale unfolding in a hazy past. The contours were gradually defined through the use of audiovisual materials, the collection of direct testimonies from members of Roma and Sinti communities in other regions of Italy, and finally the trip to Auschwitz, which materialised the painful words, the unspeakable suffering, the stories of broken communities and of lives bludgeoned to death by an atrocious institutional design. Today they are finally and painstakingly being brought to light.



Websites with information on the Conference:

- [ie.uminho.pt/pt/\\_layouts/15/UMinho.PortaisUOEI.UI/Pages/EventsDetail.aspx?id=64457](http://ie.uminho.pt/pt/_layouts/15/UMinho.PortaisUOEI.UI/Pages/EventsDetail.aspx?id=64457)
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=818951347117481&set=a.371862658493021>



- [#instituto\\_de\\_educacao\\_uminho | International Seminar Leaving a Trace: Roma and non-Roma young people between memory and present 20 de setembro de 2024, 9h30-17h30... | Instagram](#)
- <https://cied.uminho.pt/evento-cientifico/seminario-internacional-leaving-a-trace-roma-and-non-roma-young-people-between-memory-and-present/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=940197887914819&set=pcb.940197961248145>
- [CIEd | 📍 Realizou-se, no dia 20 de setembro, no Instituto de Educação, o Seminário Internacional “Leaving a trace: Roma and non-Roma young people... | Instagram](#)
- [CIEd | 📍 Realiza-se, no dia 20 de setembro, no Auditório Multimédia do Instituto de Educação, o Seminário Internacional “Leaving a trace: Roma and... | Instagram](#)
- <https://www.facebook.com/AgenciaAIMA/posts/pfbid02jatPUYLiZRFuBinfEGwuhQfiiTT4vtWSg1wnmDstdjTMV52r7XtZ5HEWZ6qYU3Dzl>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7242465049582202881/>
- [https://x.com/AIMA\\_Agencia/status/1836699412480848060/photo/1](https://x.com/AIMA_Agencia/status/1836699412480848060/photo/1)
- [https://www.instagram.com/p/DAJTyfQooR8/?img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DAJTyfQooR8/?img_index=1)
- [https://www.facebook.com/chromechino/posts/pfbid05bFdq6S4nRTtpvg82JmnRLZAY1RyogZLT9b5oS6iLcuEwAMuWyK6dtmG94RRvgxhl?locale=it\\_IT](https://www.facebook.com/chromechino/posts/pfbid05bFdq6S4nRTtpvg82JmnRLZAY1RyogZLT9b5oS6iLcuEwAMuWyK6dtmG94RRvgxhl?locale=it_IT)
- <https://www.tracerproject.eu/news/international-conference-braga>
- <https://www.tracerproject.eu/it/news/conferenza-internazionale-braga>
- <https://www.tracerproject.eu/pt-pt/news/conferencia-internacional-em-braga>
- <https://www.tracerproject.eu/pl/news/miedzynarodowa-konferencja-w-bradze>



Notes:

A form was used to collect participants' signatures. Sensitive data are held by the Department of Education of University of Bologna and by each local partner.

Other materials (included the event description sheet) are posted on TRACER website

<https://www.tracerproject.eu/news/international-conference-braga>