

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Trasformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance — TRACER
Participant:	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).
PIC number:	999993953; 999895789; 919475320; 905981626; 910603118; 939023342; 888258489; 910767533; 999995505

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	19.1
Event name:	International conference in Portugal
Type:	conference
In situ/online:	In situ and online
Location:	Portugal (Braga) - Campus de Gualtar – Auditório Multimédia, University of Minho (UMinho)
Date(s):	20 September 2024
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.tracerproject.eu/
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**



— Alexandre Pinheiro

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

Organização: Maria José Costa-Nesca (CoCo) | CIE8





THE TRACER PROJECT: FOUNDATIONS AND OVERVIEW

Maria Teresa Tagliaventi
University of Bologna

TRACER Project
Funded by the European Union

Alexandra Patrino

Trasformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance (TRACER)

CERV Programme (Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values)
May 2022-September 2024



Which History? Holocaust/Porraimos

Several reasons for this choice:

- The Holocaust is still an event that is difficult to understand.
- It was not the result of a momentary madness, but was conceived within a rational modern society. That is why it is a problem of this society and this culture (Bowman 1992)
- Dealing with the subject of the Holocaust means reasoning about the way institutions and members of contemporary society act, in which 'evil', according to Arendt (1991), takes the ordinary form of everyday life.
- The Holocaust was a way to rationalise racism and define those who are 'different' as pathological, dangerous and worthy of elimination. 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 stigmatisation. The Roma and Sinti people suffered discrimination long before the Nazi persecutions 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 immersed in the present. Direct witnesses of what happened in the concentration camps are inevitably few and part of public opinion regards the Holocaust as a distant event, with few references to current events and casting no shadows on the future.

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 target 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 "specialists" 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 (trans)formation.

THE PROJECT AIMS TO:

- mobilize groups of Roma and not 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 search 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.
- Making young people (Roma and not Roma), aware of a history that links the Roma communities to Europe and re-evaluating Roma membership in the EU.
- Activating teenagers (Roma and not Roma) to be trainers/informers through the construction of an artistic event on genocide aimed at a wide audience (graffiti, 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 preadolescents, 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

Presentation of the project's outcomes:



Opengroup (extract from the ppt presentation)

Life experience

"IT NEVER HAPPENS THAT SOMEONE TALKS ABOUT US."

ACER
Associazione Culturale Rom e Sinti
03335 40 JARD/PM77

The trip to Auschwitz was a central event of the project, significant from many perspectives. It was their **first flight** for someone, they met a **group of peers**, both Sinti and non-Sinti, with whom to **share the experience** and they were able to give historical importance to their family and community history, realizing that **Sinti history** and culture are recognized internationally.

In Bologna

OUTREACH IN SCHOOLS

The phase of the project was developed in Bologna, where for years we have been collaborating with schools on projects aimed at Rom and Sinti students.

The training provided for teachers allowed them to discuss the **historical topic** and **how to present it to the class**. The teachers had some concerns because the students in the third grade had not yet studied World War II. However, we observed that these historical gaps were addressed through **cooperative methodologies**, the use of **varied inputs**, and the emotional and organizational **engagement** of the students.

Meanwhile

It was a **multidisciplinary project** that included artistic work: the translation from German of the comic "The food lies" by Otto Rosenberg, and a small concert with the music class.

What motivated the students was precisely **taking care of the success of the event**, considering the type of impression they wanted to convey to their peers, and **having the space for their creativity**.

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CAT (extract from the ppt presentation)



TRACER Project

Transformative Roma Art and Culture for European Remembrance

TRACER project activities in the cities of Florence and Prato

International seminar, Braga, Portugal, September 20th, 2024

Leaving a trace: Roma and non-Roma young people between memory and present
Campus de Gualtar – Auditório Multimédia, University of Minho (UMinho)

Project objective

The project aims to mobilise groups of Roma and not 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.

Reconstructing and documenting the history of the crimes through historical research.
Increase awareness of the history that links the Roma community to Europe and re-evaluating their membership in the EU.

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.

Promoting training and educational workshops on genocide in schools with Roma students and multi-ethnic classes.

Team building

The Team composed of young roma, sinti and gajé had the objective of promoting artistic and educational events, within schools or public places, to encourage the re-elaboration of the memory of the genocide of the Roma and Sinti with the support of groups of students from the schools involved.




Art as a vehicle for historical narration

Following the team building process it was gradually decided to:

- Collect significant historical materials
- Select some objects from the collected materials
- 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

Objects and images as work themes

...Then we moved on to the analysis of the images collected. In particular, reference is made to: Dinah Babitt and the portraits of the Roma in Auschwitz; Maria Malikowska and the coat of liberty; Amos Steinberg and the hidden evidence of the crime. Following a brainstorming session, the group decided to use what had been collected so far and to rework it in artistic terms through the proposal of thematic workshops. - from the Descriptive sheet




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
- <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://www.instagram.com/p/DAJTyfQooR8/?img_index=1
- 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>