

# Visibility of Roma

## Putting Roma culture on the map

October 7, 2010, Strasbourg  
kindly hosted by the  
Council of Europe in the Agora Building



This free conference marks the official launch of the two year European Commission funded Roma Routes project, and is kindly hosted by the Council of Europe in its Strasbourg headquarters.

The heritage partners and Roma representatives from the cultural field based in the United Kingdom, Germany, Greece, Romania and Slovenia, will explain plans to explore, celebrate and develop best practice in making Roma culture visible across Europe.

### Speakers include

- Arthur Ivatts OBE, UK government consultant
- Romani Rose, Director of German Sinti and Roma Documentation and Cultural Centre
- Dr Dragoljub Ackovic, Director of the Museum of Roma Culture in Belgrade, Serbia

The conference will include a chance for questions and discussions and will be rounded off with a celebratory cultural event.

### Heritage Partners in the Roma Routes Project

Surrey Heritage, Surrey County Council – UK  
Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma – Germany  
Byzantine and Christian Museum – Greece  
Association for Rural Ecological and Cultural Tourism – Romania  
Slovene Ethnographic Museum – Slovenia.

Project Roma Representatives from: UK, Slovenia, Romania, Germany and Greece



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### **Programme**

- 9.30 Registration
- 10.00 Introduction and welcome
- 10.05 Welcome address  
Maud de Boer-Buquicchio,  
Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- 10.15 Keynote address  
'The distorted angle of reflection'  
Arthur Ivatts OBE, UK government consultant
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.20 'Demonstrating the cultural legacy of a minority – On the model  
of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and  
Roma'  
Romani Rose, Director of German Sinti and Roma  
Documentation and Cultural Centre
- 11.50 'Preserving Roma Cultural Heritage - Research, collection,  
presentation'  
Dr Dragoljub Ackovic, Director of the Museum of Roma Culture  
in Belgrade, Serbia
- 12.20 Panel discussion
- 12.50 Summary and close of the morning session
- 13.00 **European orchestra for Peace: "Romano Drom –A Concert  
Journey into romany music"**
- 13.30 Lunch  
Press briefing
- 14.30 Presentations from the Roma Routes Partners and Roma  
Representatives  
Surrey Heritage, Surrey County Council – UK  
Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma –  
Germany  
Byzantine and Christian Museum – Greece  
Association for Rural Ecological and Cultural Tourism – Romania  
Slovene Ethnographic Museum – Slovenia.



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- 15.45 Coffee
- 16.00 Roundtable discussion with project partners
- 16.30 Summary and closing remarks from the Conference.
- 17.00 Refreshment
- 17.30 Compania Leonor Moro flamenco
- 18.30 End

Exhibition throughout the day: Holy Books and Dictionaries in Romani

This programme maybe subject to change



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## **Speakers biographies**

### **Maud de Boer-Buquicchio**

#### **Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe**

Maud de Boer-Buquicchio joined the Council of Europe because, as a lawyer, she believed that human rights could only be enforced through judicial procedures, including international ones. She has since learned that respect for human rights is not just about the relationship between the state and the individual. She believes that our society has a collective responsibility to ensure respect for human rights in all its components, in particular the more vulnerable groups of society.

The Council of Europe, through all its work on standard-setting, monitoring and co-operation activities, helps to create the conditions to make that happen. Maud sees her role as Deputy Secretary General to be an Ambassador of these standards, which should be respected and promoted.

### **Arthur Ivatts OBE**

Arthur Ivatts worked initially as a teacher and youth leader. Following a higher degree in anthropology, which focused on the Roma in England, he became involved with the early efforts to secure education for Roma and Traveller children.

After some years working within the voluntary NGO sector concerned with Roma and Travellers, he joined Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools (HMI) in England in 1975 and soon became the HMI with national responsibility for the education of Roma and Traveller children. He held this post, together with responsibilities for the education of asylum seekers and refugees and inter-cultural education, until 2003 when he decided to do consultancy work for government departments and intergovernmental organisations.

Arthur Ivatts worked on the HMI team which inspected and reported on policy and provision for Traveller children (OFSTED "*Provision and support for Traveller pupils*" HMI 455 November 2003) and asylum seekers (OFSTED "*The Education of Asylum Seeker Pupils*" HMI 453 October 2003). He has recently been involved in Roma/Gypsy related projects in Bulgaria, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. Six years ago he worked with a small research team on a report for the European Commission in relation to Roma and EU enlargement ("*The Situation of Roma in an Enlarged European Union*" – EU November 2004). He has also recently been working on a number of priority issues for the UK Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) concerned with the education of Gypsy/Roma and Traveller children and the education of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. He has also previously been contracted to the Council of Europe Roma Education Project and completed work for UNESCO on Early Childhood Education re Roma and Traveller children. He is currently involved on a major Intercultural Education



With the support of the Culture Programme of the European Union Project for UNCIEF in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 2004 he was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his services to education.

### **Romani Rose**

Romani Rose was born in Heidelberg in 1946. He has been chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma since 1982 and is also chairman of the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma. Together with representatives of minorities from 8 other countries he is a cofounder of the International Movement against Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) and has been a member of its directorate since 1988. As chairman of the Central Council, Romani Rose is also a member of the German Minority Summit, i.e. the regular meeting of the chairs of the national minorities in Germany (Sorbs, Frisians, Danes and Sinti and Roma). In May 2006 Romani Rose was appointed to the International Auschwitz Council as well as the advisory board of the Anti-Discrimination Office of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **Dr Dragoljub Acković**

Dragoljub Acković's education focussed on the fields of ethnology and political science with a PhD in International Romology Studies at the University ECPD (European Center for Peace and Development). He is the author of numerous articles and books, writing about a variety of Roma issues. He is also editor of the Roma programme on Radio Belgrade as well as being the founder and director of the independent Radio Television Khrlo e Romengo, and founder of numerous media in the Romani language. Dragoljub has been a member of the Roma and Yugoslav PEN and the Writers' Association since 1997. He is also an active member of the Commission for the study of life and customs of the Roma in the Serbian Academy of Science and Art. In 2009 he became director of the Museum of Romani culture, first of this kind in the Balkans.



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## **Conference practicalities**

### **Getting to Strasbourg**

The conference is in Strasbourg, France. Strasbourg is very well connected to Europe by train. The nearest airports include Strasbourg, Karlsruhe-Baden and Basel

For more information please visit <http://www.strasbourg.info/travel/>

### **Getting to the Agora, Council of Europe building**

The CoE is situated north-east direction, very near the "Robertsau" area.

Tramway line E and bus No. 6 bring you from city center (stop "Droits de l'Homme" in front of Agora building).

Please see the attached maps for further details.

### **Travel and accommodation costs**

The conference is free to attend however we cannot afford to cover travel or accommodation costs. For further information on accommodation please visit <http://www.otstrasbourg.fr/?lang=en>

### **Refreshments and Lunch**

We will provide delegates with refreshments throughout the day. Lunch will unfortunately not be provided.

### **Booking**

To book a place on the conference please email return the below form to [romaroutes@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:romaroutes@surreycc.gov.uk)



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## **Booking form**

First Name:

Last Name:

Organisation (if any):

Job Title:

Address:

Country:

Email:

Access Requirements (please specify):

Please return to [romaroutes@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:romaroutes@surreycc.gov.uk) by the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at the latest.