

HORIZON-CL2-2022-HERITAGE-01-01:
Safeguarding endangered languages in Europe

Contribution:

Today the worldwide Romani population is estimated at between five to twelve million people. Majority of linguists have no doubt that all varieties of Romani language in all communities descend from one language originally spoken in one-speech community, with some dialect variation. There have been several attempts to create and spread a standard form of Romani, but none of them gained general acceptance. Romani, however, is influenced by a variety of local languages, as it is spoken in so many different countries and regions. There is not a single community of speakers of Romani, but a great number, and the speakers are not all in contact with each other. Whereas dialects of other languages continually adjust to each other, Romani dialects are much less influenced by this homogenizing process. Compared to other European minority languages, the proportion of speakers among these groups is surprisingly high. The exceptions (i.e. figures lower than 50 %) are the Czech Republic, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Finland and the United Kingdom.

Given that language is considered one of the main ethnic markers and the strongest tie to a community's culture, the primary tool we intend to use in the future project will be the development and implementation of Roma identity strengthening/ building school programs focusing on the use of the mother tongue of the target group. Furthermore, the project activities will contribute to the conscious use of Romani language with the support of digital technology – a mobile application which mediates between the different dialects.

One of the most important tools of Roma identity building is the strengthening of the use of Romani, the teaching of Romani language and in Romani language, to be carried out by Roma teachers and trainers. An additional tool of identity enhancement is the promotion of European Roma history, culture and art of various Roma communities and their promotion towards the majority society. A tertiary tool is to raise awareness within and without Roma communities about recognized Roma personalities active in the scientific, public and artistic field, through the involvement of role models who will play an essential role in the activities linked to the Roma identity strengthening.

The general objective of the project is to implement an innovative education methodology commonly developed and tested on grassroots level and its aim is to enhance the acquisition of social and civic competences, fostering knowledge, understanding of values and fundamental rights. The expected outcome of the envisioned activities, that include the design, testing and adjustment of an innovative teaching methodology, will be the development of the Roma identity, the strengthening the sense of belonging to the Roma community, and facilitating the international cooperation among various Roma communities, which will lead to more successful social integration of the Roma communities throughout Central-Eastern Europe. The mid- and long-term objective of the project is to further disseminate and apply the educational methods developed and tested during the project implementation to other European regions and social environments.

Partner RCISD:

Embedded in the regional R&I landscape, with 15 participations RCISD is one of the most successful companies in H2020 in Hungary. International cooperation experience of the staff goes back to FP3 (1994). RCISD is an SME, has special skills in capacity assessment, investigation on local needs; analysis & mapping; barometer & survey development;

exploration of best practises & possible pitfalls; advocacy, advice & support; quality assurance; awareness raising & dissemination; creating partnership for cooperation/pool of experience & excellence; networking services, organisation of events & international workshops. As the coordinator of the Researchers' Night in Hungary, RCISD mobilises 100000 participants & reach 3M citizens.