

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

 *Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)*

PROJECT	
Project name and acronym:	Sound of Diversity Network of Towns
Participant:	Slovo 21
PIC number:	948515665

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	2
Event name:	Roma Voices: Celebrating Europe's Diversity at Khamoro
Type:	Workshop, conference
In situ/online:	in situ
Location:	Czechia, Prague
Date(s):	28-30.05.2025
Website(s) (if any):	https://aleksandrow-lodzki.pl/sound-of-diversity/ (project leader) Postřehy (host of the event)
Participants	
Female:	76
Male:	49
Non-binary:	2
From country 1 [Poland]:	3
From country 2 [Slovenia]	2

From country 3 [Germany]:	2		
From country 4 [Italy]:	6		
From country 5 [Spain]:	4		
From country 6 [Romania]	4		
From country 7 [Portugal]	2		
From country 8 [Hungary]:	7		
From country 9 [France]	2		
From country 10 [Croatia]	2		
From country 11 [Czechia]	69		
From country 12 [Greece]	2		
From country 13 Serbia[]	3		
From country 14 Sweden]	5		
From country 15 Belgium]	5		
From country 16 Netherlands	4		
From country 17 Lithuania	1		
From country 18 Albania	1		
From country 19 Bosnia and Herzegovina	2		
From country 20 Ukraine	1		
Total number of participants:	127	From the total number of countries:	20
	<i>Participants from non-CERV eligible countries:</i>		
From country 21 Turkey]	2		
From country 22 Macedonia	4		

From country 23 Egypt	1		
From country 24 Norway	1		
From country 25 United Kingdom	2		
Total number of participants:	137	From the total number of countries:	25

Description

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

1. Target groups:

City practitioners, civil society organizations, cultural activists, local activists, youth, ethnic and national minorities, community members, local actors, LGBTQI, organizers of community events, policy makers.

2. Description of the event and its activities/ context.

The objective of this second Sound of Diversity international event called: “Roma Voices: Celebrating Europe’s Diversity at Khamoro” which took place in Prague between 28th and 30th May 2025, was to further mobilize local practitioners and activists from partner towns and cities to exchange models and share strategies that promote diversity, combat discrimination, and enhance minority participation through cultural, social, and inclusion initiatives at the local level. **This edition especially highlighted innovative cross-sectoral collaborations and showcased how flagship cultural events can be meaningfully embedded into long-term diversity strategies.** The event explored the role of minorities in shaping Europe’s cultural development, with reference to the new EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation.

The first official session, held on Thursday, May 29 at the Stonebell House in the Old Town starting at 10:00, was dedicated to presenting the Municipality of Prague's cultural strategy to Sound of Diversity (SoD) participants. Key speakers included MgA. Jiří Sulženko, Ph.D., The Director of Culture and Tourism of the City of Prague, who presented the department's mission and role with a focus on diversity and inclusion. The second speaker, Monika Ladmanová, Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic, presented the Commission’s mission in the Czech Republic in relation to diversity and inclusion—the main theme of the entire Sound of Diversity project.

The third speaker was MgA. Kristýna Kočová, a representative of Creative Prague, the city's official organization for the development and support of culture. This session served as an introduction to the city’s local approaches to inclusive cultural policy, **positioning Prague**

as a living laboratory for inclusive governance and aiming to showcase Prague's model as an inspiration for SoD partner municipalities, many of which are smaller and may be at the beginning stages of developing their cultural strategies focused on integration and diversity.

Participants included representatives from the SoD project, Prague City Hall and Municipality, the CERV contact point in the Czech Republic, and the UNHCR office in the Czech Republic. The event was moderated by Nikolas Ferenc from Slovo 21.

The second part of the day was held, starting at 14:30 at the Novotel Hotel, in collaboration with **ERGO Network**, marking a **pivotal integration of civil society expertise within the SoD framework**. This session focused on presenting ways in which culture can be used to combat antigypsyism both at the national level in the Czech Republic and on the European stage.

The event began with an introduction and welcome from ERGO representative Isabela Mihalache, who also served as moderator. The first block addressed the Czech context, where panelists showcased various cultural initiatives aimed at combating antigypsyism.

Jan Husák from the organization Awen Amencia, lead expert on the JEKHIPE project, introduced the "I Will Not Be Silent" campaign. This initiative not only draws attention to the injustices faced by Roma people in everyday life but also emphasizes the need for Czech society to engage, asserting that when the Roma community suffers, the negative consequences affect society as a whole.

David Tišer, founder and director of the organization AraArt, presented activism—a blend of art and activism—as a method for combating antigypsyism. Focusing on Roma and LGBTQ+ communities, AraArt organizes theater, music, visual art, and cultural events that challenge stereotypes and promote inclusion. The organization also offers educational programs, leadership training, and community workshops that use art as a tool for empowerment and dialogue.

Jana Hejkrliková from Slovo 21 presented the **Khamoro Festival**, a high-profile cultural event that plays a vital role in fighting antigypsyism. **Khamoro's integration into the SoD network exemplifies how artistic expression and local celebration can serve as transformative tools for policy advocacy and public engagement**. By showcasing the richness and diversity of Roma culture through world-class music, art, and public dialogue, the festival provides a platform for Roma voices in the cultural mainstream, thereby challenging stereotypes and fostering mutual understanding in Czech society and beyond.

The second block focused on the European context, with representatives from the following organizations presenting their work and initiatives: Saška Jovanović (Romni APS, Italy), Bianca Galusca (FAGiC, Spain), and Nina Trollvige (Trajosko Drom, Sweden).

The inclusion of the ERGO network added a valuable transnational dimension to the Prague event, reinforcing the network-of-networks approach that defines SoD's innovative structure.

Following the panel discussion, a networking session was held between SoD participants and members of the ERGO network.

The third official part, also on Thursday, May 29, began at 17:00 and featured the promotion of the book *I See Music in Color*, held at Kavárna pod Korunami Stromů—a beautiful open-air café beneath the trees. The book, written by Patrik Banga, focuses on the life of Mário Bihári, a renowned Czech Romani accordionist who lost his sight at a young age. In this extended interview, Banga, a Magnesia Litera award-winning journalist, captures Bihári's life story, filled with humor, emotion, and powerful reflections. The book explores questions such as: What is it like to lose your sight as a child? What challenges does a blind musician face? What happens when a guide dog misbehaves? And what did police harassment of Roma people look like in the 1990s Czech Republic? The book promotion was accompanied by a live music and dance performance, **emphasizing how storytelling and lived experience contribute to community-building and intercultural education—key pillars of the SoD methodology.**

The final event on Thursday was a **Traditional Roma Music Concert**, held at La Fabrika starting at 20:00. The concert featured performances by three international groups:

- Ivan Herák Band and Erika Nováková (Czech Republic)
- Kostas Pavlidis (Greece)
- Ballet Flamenco Sergio González (Spain)

This cultural evening functioned not merely as entertainment but as an active tool of inclusion, linking public engagement with the broader strategic goals of the SoD initiative.

The fifth part took place on Friday, May 30, starting at 10:00 at Clam-Gallas Palace. The aim of this event was to showcase best practices implemented in Prague regarding the integration of minorities. It focused on presenting the work of the House of National Minorities (HNM), with presentations from:

- Mgr. Jakub Štědroň, Ph.D., Director of the House of National Minorities, who described the origins and main activities of the HNM.

The sixth part of the event was the **Roma Parade**, which took place on Friday, May 30th, at 12:00 PM at Wenceslas Square. All musicians who performed at the festival from Thursday to Saturday, along with 300 Roma children from across the Czech Republic, gathered in the city center to begin the parade. It started at Můstek and ended at Lesser Town Square.


The parade, together with performances such as the 19:00 – Klajazzromflow Concert at Čapadlo Summer Terrace, represented innovative forms of civic activation through art and street-level engagement, extending the impact of the SoD Network beyond institutional stakeholders and into the everyday urban fabric.

[illegible]

3. Agenda of the event.

Please see:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q27b1u9JpKackxDvgZnFUft3jm_AGClb/view?usp=drive_link




28.-30.05.2025
Prague, Czechia

**Roma Voices:
Celebrating Europe's Diversity at Khamoro**

The objective of this international event is to mobilize local practitioners and activists from partner towns and cities to exchange models and share strategies that promote diversity, combat discrimination, and enhance minority participation through cultural, social, and inclusion initiatives at the local level. The event will also explore the role of minorities in shaping Europe's cultural development, with reference to the new EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation.

„Sound of Diversity” is a large-scale Network of Towns initiative aimed at strengthening the role of local authorities in advancing diversity, combating discrimination, and fostering the inclusion of minorities. The network brings together municipalities that host prominent community events, including the Gaming Village Festival in Óbidos (Portugal), the Khamoro Romani Festival in Prague (Czechia), the Multitude Festival in the County of Seine-Saint-Denis (France), the Festival of Various Arts in Aleksandrów Łódzki (Poland), the Festival of Tolerance in Croatia, the Cultural Days of Bârlad (Romania), the People's Feast in Molfetta (Italy), the Greek Dance Fest in Kileler (Greece),

and the Summer Dying Loud Festival in Poland. These events will go beyond traditional town network formats—such as conferences, training sessions, seminars, study visits, and capacity-building workshops—by introducing the „Sound of DiversityStage.” This open-air community space is designed to engage directly with local residents, youth, activists, minority representatives, and experts. It will serve as a dynamic platform to explore key issues related to diversity management, anti-discrimination, inclusion, and the broader EU policy context. The project aims to contribute meaningfully to EU-wide discussions and initiatives, particularly in the framework of EU Diversity Month 2026. It will also support locally hosted Sound of Diversity actions aligned with existing events such as the Cultural Municipal Days in Budapest and Novi Sad, and the „Play with Me” International Inclusive Festival in Ljubljana. Among the expected outcomes of the project are a practical Guidebook on diversity, inclusion, and belonging, as well as tangible improvements to local policies in the participating towns. We are pleased to welcome you to the second event of the Sound of Diversity Network, which will take place in Prague, Czechia, in cooperation with the Khamoro Festival.

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the European Union**

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SOUND OF DIVERSITY

28.-30.05.2025
Prague, Czechia

Roma Voices: Celebrating Europe's Diversity at Khamoro

Agenda

28.05.2025

16:00 – Arrival in Prague & Hotel Check-in

Address: Hotel Olympik Congress, U Sluncové 14, 186 76 Prague 8

17:30 – Welcome Dinner

Address: Restaurant Delije, Štupartská 646, 110 00 Staré Město

19:00 – Klajazzromflow Concert @ Čapadlo Summer Terrace

Address: Smetanovo nábř. 6, 110 00 Staré Město

29.05.2025

**10:00 – Sound of Diversity: Cultural strategy of the Municipality of Prague
@ Dum u Kamenného zvonu**

Address: Staroměstské nám. 605/13, 110 00 Prague 1

This opening session marks the official launch of the Sound of Diversity project in the Czech Republic. Participants will be introduced to Prague's cultural policy, with a focus on diversity and inclusion.

Key speakers:

MgA. Jiří Sulženko, Ph.D. – Director Department of Culture and Tourism of the City of Prague

Monika Ladmanová – Head of the European Commission Representation in the Czech Republic

MgA. Kristýna Kočová – Representative of Creative Prague, the city's official organization for the development and support of culture

The session will present local approaches to inclusive cultural policy and provide a foundation for further dialogue and exchange throughout the program.

Moderated by Nikolas Ferenc, Slovo 21.



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SOUND OF DIVERSITY

12:30 – Lunch @ Pivovarský dům

Address: Ječná 511/16, 120 44, Nové Město

14:30 – Using Culture to fight Antigypsyism (panel discussion + networking session- ERGO Network + Slovo 21 + Sound of Diversity)

Address: Hotel Novotel, Kateřinská 38, 120 00, Nové Město

This panel will explore how art, cultural projects, public campaigns, and commemorative initiatives can serve as tools in addressing and challenging antigypsyism. The discussion will highlight examples such as activism, the Khamoro Festival, and initiatives dedicated to the remembrance of the Roma Holocaust.

Moderated by Isabela Mihalache, ERGO.

17:00 – Book Promotion: I See Music in Colors

Address: Kavarna pod Korunami Stromu: Kostnické náměstí, 130 00, Prague 3

18:30 – Dinner @ COLORFACTORY SPA Hotel

Address: Přístavní, 170 00 Praha 7-Holešovice

20:00 – Traditional Roma Music Concert 1 @ La Fabrika (optional)

30.05.2025

10:00 – Sound of Diversity: Examples of Best Practices Implemented in Prague @ Clam-Gallas Palace

Address: Husova 158/20, 110 00, Staré Město

This session will focus on the current situation of national minorities and immigrants in Prague. It will include:

A meeting with representatives of the House of National Minorities, including:

Mgr. Jakub Štědroň, Ph.D. – Director of the House

Mgr. Jan Dužda – Roma Coordinator for the City of Prague

Mgr. Jan Janoušek – Specialist for the Integration of Foreigners

An overview of the city's strategies and initiatives aimed at inclusion of minority communities and support for integration of foreigners.

A Q&A segment to encourage dialogue, reflection, and exchange of experience

Moderated by Alice Horáková.



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12:00 – Roma Parade @ Prague city center

13:30 – Lunch @ TBD, Prague city center

15:00 – Children’s Day (optional)

20:00 – Traditional Roma Music Concert2 @ La Fabrika (optional)

Contact of the host:

Amra: +420725021171 (WhatsApp)



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4. Main take aways/ findings from the event

Local cultural policy can drive inclusion

The event confirmed that inclusive cultural strategies at the city and municipal level are

essential to promoting diversity and minority participation. The City of Prague presented a strong example of how local authorities can integrate diversity and inclusion into mainstream cultural planning. Smaller municipalities were encouraged to adapt these approaches based on their capacities.

Culture as a tool against discrimination

Throughout the sessions, it became clear that Roma cultural initiatives—festivals, performances, campaigns, and artistic projects - are powerful tools in addressing discrimination, particularly antigypsyism. They help change perceptions, create space for dialogue, and encourage public engagement.

Representation strengthens community voices

Providing platforms for minority communities to share their stories, such as through the Khamoro Festival, activism, and the book *I See Music in Color*, helps counter stereotypes, build self-confidence within communities, and foster greater understanding among the majority population.

Cross-border exchange builds capacity

The participation of representatives at the panel discussion from Italy, Spain, and Sweden highlighted the value of European cooperation. Sharing experiences and good practices across countries strengthens local efforts and builds a collective understanding of common challenges and solutions.

Integrated support structures make a difference

The presentations from the House of National Minorities, the Integration of Foreigners office, and the Roma Coordinator showed how structured support mechanisms at the city level can effectively contribute to long-term inclusion and integration efforts.

Human stories amplify impact

The personal story of Mário Bihári, shared during the book promotion, reinforced the importance of human-centered narratives. When combined with music and live performance, it created a strong emotional connection and brought visibility to the lived experiences of marginalized groups.

Local implementation of common EU frameworks is critical

While EU-level strategies (like the EU Roma Strategic Framework) set important objectives, their success depends on how well they are translated and implemented at the local level. Events like this help bridge that gap by connecting policy with practice.

Networking enables future collaboration

The event offered valuable networking opportunities among practitioners, institutions, and NGOs. These connections are important for future collaboration, mutual support, and scaling of good practices across the SOD network and beyond.

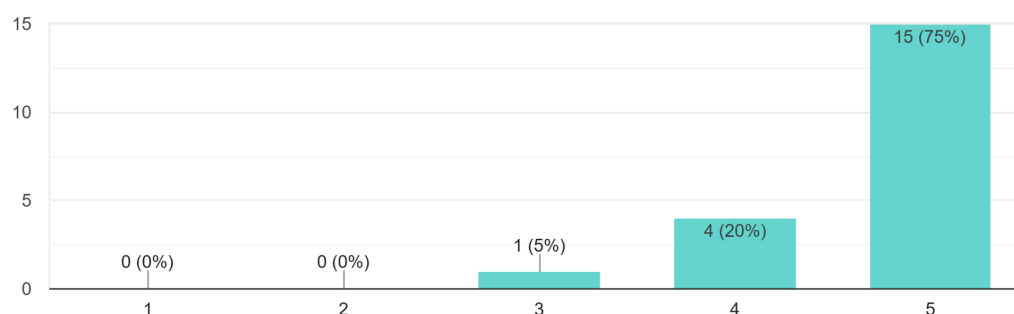
5. Graphical elements and photos of the event

SoD WP 2 Selected photos - Google Drive (active link)

6. Feedback from participants

2. How satisfied are you with the event:

20 responses



Participants' voices:

1. "The event was an opportunity to learn about cultural diversity and engaging audiences and participants from different backgrounds. The atmosphere was great, organization professionals with a first class musical program."

"The line up of the event was very good"

"Nice program professional organising"

"A lot of wonderful encounters. I learned a lot about the Roma culture."

"We had the opportunity to hear excellent examples and see a picture of the cultural situation in Prague. About the inclusion of the Roma community and their activities. We saw the achievements of the Roma and the innovativeness of their ideas in a completely new light. As well as their diversity as a group and community. On top of everything, we had the experience of the Khamoro festival, which was a truly phenomenological experience."

"I rated the event with 5 because it was excellently organized, with a perfect balance between professional content, cultural immersion, and networking opportunities. The

presentations were insightful, the logistics impeccable, and the atmosphere very welcoming and inclusive.”

“The host provided excellent content - panels and visits to the events within the Khamoro festival.”

“I didn't know much about Roma culture, cultural organisations, and policies in Europe, I have really learned a lot through this festival. I believe that I will use some contacts and practices in our community.”

“Very good organization before and during the project, hospitality, accuracy according to the program, a good selection of interesting presentations related to the project topic, also ensured inclusion in all accompanying events-concerts, real-time notification with all information regarding the location, and good food.”

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).