

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	[5] - [UNIFI]
PIC number:	[999895789]
Project name and acronym:	[Give voice to our memories. Den zor amare paramisienghe] — [GIVO]

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	WP11-Event-011-Italy (D11.1-D16)
Event name:	ROMNJA CONFERENCE - "ROMANI WOMEN: VOICES, MEMORY AND REMEMBRANCE"
Type:	[Romnja conference]
In situ/online:	In-situ
Location:	Florence (Italy)
Date(s):	29/05/2026 - 30/05/2026
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.spgi.unipd.it/international-conference-romani-women-voices-memory-and-remembrance-1
Participants	
Female:	45
Male:	16
Non-binary:	0
From country 1 [Italy]:	48
From country 2 [Poland]:	3
From country 3 [Croatia]:	4
From country 4 [Germany]:	3
From country 5 [Czech Republic]:	1
From country 6 [Portugal]:	1
From country 7 [Serbia]:	1
Total number of participants:	61
From total number of countries:	7
Description	

Provide a short description of the event and its activities.

General information

From 29 to 30 May 2026, the conference “Romani Women: Voices, Memory and Remembrance,” was held in Florence (Italy) as a dialogue among scholars, activists, and practitioners dedicated to amplifying the narratives, experiences, and agency of Romani women (Romnja) across Europe. By placing Romani women at the centre of historical, political, and social analysis, this conference seeks to explore how they actively contribute to memory-making, public discourse, activism, memorialization processes, and inclusive democratic participation. Particular attention will be given to their role within the remembrance of the Roma genocide and contemporary struggles for recognition, equality, and political visibility.

It was scientifically coordinated by Luca Bravi (University of Florence) and Matteo Bassoli (University of Padova), with a Scientific Committee also comprising Gianfranco Bandini, Chiara Martinelli, and Stefano Oliviero. The Organizing Committee consisted of Alberto Baldi, Silvia Bencini, and Polina Zavershinskaia.

Day 1 — 29 May 2026

The conference opened at 15:00 with institutional greetings, followed by an introductory address by the two scientific coordinators, Matteo Bassoli and Luca Bravi.

The first panel (15:30–16:45), chaired by Silvia Bencini (University of Florence), brought together three contributions centred on memory, persecution, and testimony:

- Sidonia Bauer (University of Cologne) examined the expressive forms used by Philomena Franz as a vehicle of memory and identity;
- Lada Viková (University of Pardubice) presented case studies of Roma Holocaust survivors from Southern Moravia, focusing on the Ištvan families as witnesses to the broader suffering of Roma communities.

After a coffee break, the second panel (17:30–19:30), chaired by Polina Zavershinskaia (University of Padova), addressed themes of resistance, voice, and identity across historical and contemporary contexts:

- Danijel Vojak (Institute of Social Science "Ivo Pilar") recovered the largely overlooked role of Roma women in the anti-fascist partisan movement during the Second World War;
- Verena Meier (University of Heidelberg) analysed petitions written by Sinti and Roma women seeking the release of family members from concentration camps, reading them as acts of resistance and political agency;
- Marek Isztok and Sabina Kwiatkowska (Centrum Historii i Kultury Romów) explored the interplay between tradition and modernity in shaping the identities of Romani women in Poland, with a focus on gendered discrimination;
- Luna De Rosa (Independent artist) offered an artistic and theoretical reflection on Rom*inja memory, embodiment, and spatial practices of resistance.

The day concluded with a final discussion and a social dinner at 19:45.

Day 2 — 30 May 2026

The second day opened at 9:00 with introductory remarks by Matteo Bassoli.

The third panel (9:15–10:50), chaired by Silvia Bencini, focused on activism, intersectionality, and artistic self-representation:

- Władysław Kwiatkowski (Centrum Historii i Kultury Romów) presented the experiences of Roma women activists in the Małopolska region of Poland;
- Stefania Bevilacqua (Istituto degli Innocenti) offered an intersectional analysis of resistance and self-representation among Roma women in contemporary Europe, challenging dominant gazes and narratives;
- Demila Durmis (Yacka Collective) proposed a situated feminist perspective connecting Romani feminism, intersectionality, and antispeciesist thought;
- Noell Maggini (Fashion designer) explored the use of dress and fashion as a form of artistic resistance against prejudice.

After a coffee break, the fourth and final panel (11:35–13:30), chaired by Polina Zavershinskaia, turned to questions of institutional memory, political participation, and leadership:

- Donata Bianchi (Istituto degli Innocenti) presented the Italian National Project for the Inclusion and Integration of Roma, Sinti and Caminanti children and adolescents;
- Tina Magazzini (Czech Academy of Sciences) interrogated the politics of memorialisation through the lens of the Romani Memory Map project;

- Ginevra Stefanelli (Sciences Po) analysed the political participation of Roma communities in Italy within the framework of the National Roma and Sinti Equality, Inclusion and Participation Strategy (2021–2030);
- Federica Scrimieri (University of Verona) examined the experiences of Romnja leaders in Italy, exploring the tension between internal community dynamics and external public roles.

The conference closed with a final discussion and a social lunch at 13:45.

The EDS is published at this link: <https://www.spgi.unipd.it/givo>

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