

**Final Report**  
**Visegrad Scholarship at the Vera & Blinken Open Society Archives**

**Name:** Bc. Dominika Badžová DiS. art.

**Project Title:** The Diversity of Roma People in Radio Free Europe Collections: Analysing Human Rights Discourses and their Image in Textual Records and Audiovisual Materials

The approved project focused on examining the content of materials held in the OSA Archivum, specifically addressing the human rights of Roma people with a concentrated emphasis on state socialism and the post-socialist transition. The primary objectives were to investigate the period from 1968 to 1989 and the early 1990s, coinciding with the emergence of discussions about minority rights, and to explore and map Roma-related topics within textual records and audiovisual materials. The research also aimed to delve into the struggles of the Roma people for the recognition of their human rights, examining their treatment by authorities in the context of dissent movements and the activities of Roma intellectuals in the early 1990s.

**Research at the OSA Archivum:**

During the initial month, I commenced my research with Collection 318 Records of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights. Specifically, I engaged with HU OSA 318-0-3 (Boxes: 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10) Correspondence and Memoranda documents, which contain rich content regarding statements of purposes for human rights and minority rights. These materials include Roma-related reports, Simečka's Roma project, documents from the 1990s, records about the protection of human rights, and the activities of civil societies. Notably, I discovered reports from OSCE implementation meetings on human rights dimension issues, curriculum vitae of Roma intellectuals engaged in human rights discourses, and materials on minority rights.

Subsequently, within Country files HU OSA 318-0-5 (Boxes: 46, 50, and 54), I uncovered case studies concerning the needs of the Roma. HU OSA 318-0-4 (Boxes: 12, 20, 22) provided me with objectives, proposals, and recommendations from the International Romani Union, alongside background information on the Czech and Slovak Federal Government's principles in relation to Roma community policies, including material about Roma initiatives.

Furthermore, I dedicated time to the material from Hungarian Unit HU OSA 300-40 subject files 1 (Boxes: 171-4). Here, I discovered articles about Roma people, Hungarian Monitoring reports, and materials about the Second Romani Congress held in Geneva.

Additionally, during the first month, I conducted an interview with sociologist Gábor Havas, which shed light on a sociological survey from the 1970s about Roma people. This interview also highlighted the methodology used by the "School of István Kemény" during their work in Roma localities. This encounter motivated me to focus on Sociological Survey 369-1-1, which includes interviews related to the Roma in Hungary, offering insights from different parts of Hungary and case studies on methodology and the lives of Roma people. Notably, Otilia Solti's book "Méltóságot mindenkinek: Összegyűjtött írások I–II" provided valuable perspectives on Roma journalism in Hungary.

Exploring HU OSA 124-2-4 (Boxes: 12, 17, and 18), the Records of Forced Migration Projects, I unearthed materials on Serbian-Kosovo relations, the Democratic League of Kosovo, daily reports, media freedoms, and hatespeech reports from CSCE meetings of experts on national minorities, Roma, and Sinti. The participating states appointed an ODIHR and Contact Point for Roma and Sinti, and I found OSCE material on problems arising in connection with the international mobility of the Roma in the EU.

#### **Audiovisual Material:**

Delving into audiovisual material from the Library Special Collection Verzio Film Festival Submission, I explored documentaries such as "Romani Bakht" by director Bielka Mijoin-Nemirovski, which addresses the dignity of Roma people who became homeless without documents of their citizenship. "The Gypsy Baron [2014]" focused on Roma from Moldova, providing a traditional view of their lives. Additionally, a documentary about Vlado Sendrei from 2012 portrayed the two sides of his personality: traditional Roma and politician.

In the Library Special Collection Soros Documentary Fund, I discovered a movie about Roma from Spain, offering insights into their traditional life. Alaina Lemon's documentary on Roma in post-Soviet Russia provided information about Roma people from the perspective of the Russian majority. "Be Roma or Die Tryin' [2006]" is a Roma documentary made by young Roma people living in England, presenting a complex image of Roma people and their critical views on how they are perceived by the majority.

The movie "Dallas Pashamende" focused on the challenging living conditions of Roma people and a Roma teacher who returned to the locality after twelve years. The documentary "Black Train," dating back to 1970, provided an image of Roma and non-Roma workers in Hungary. HU OSA 350-1-1:640/2 offered information about the background of former Yugoslavia, including reports about Roma people and interviews.

Overall, the research during this period involved a comprehensive exploration of textual records and audiovisual materials, shedding light on various aspects of Roma life, activism, and challenges across different regions and time periods. HU OSA 307-0-2:55/1 Weekly Independent News an interview with Rajko Đurić-the President of the International Romani Union providing information about activities of Roma people. In addition, mentioned pieces of audiovisual material helped me to understand how the Roma people were presented. Either from different sides of their individuality, culture, and tradition or from perspective of low life conditions without explanation why does the situation occurred.

### **Book**

I have dealt with book by sociologist and journalist Otilia Solt:

Solt Otilia: *Méltóságot mindenkinek: Összegyűjtött írások I–II*. Vál. és szerk. Eörsi János, F. Havas Gábor, Kemény István. Budapest: Beszélő.

In my opinion, this book should be translated in English language, because it can help to journalists to conduct the interviews with Roma people and other people. This book helped me to conduct my interview from the field, and to understand the work of school of Istvan Kemény.

### **Interview:**

Thanks to Zsuzsa Zadori, I had an opportunity to record the interview with Gábor Havas who was a member of István Kemény's collective. However, this interview opens new research topic and it is related with beginnings of Roma journalism particularly onset of Roma Press Center.

### **Conclusion**

I came to the Open Society Archive with the idea that I would like to find material about Roma congresses which occurred in Society, because I wanted to develop my research about journalist Anna Koptova and her biography. I did find material regarding to this topic of course, but during my research in Open Society Archive I have been dealing with interviews conducted with Roma intellectuals from Serbia and Kosovo as well as from Czech republic and Slovakia. I have realised that I need to use the time in archive and to go deeply into the textual material which was mostly related with activities of Roma people and their dissent. I accumulated material which helped me to understand the position of Roma people, their recognition, and human rights related issues. Consequently, with number of material and memory of Roma people I have decided to develop my research and to work with memory of Roma intellectuals. In conclusion, material from Open Society Archive, discussions with my supervisor Zsuzsana Zadori, archivist Judit Hedeguš, and chief of archive Csaba Szilagyi helped me to move forward with my research topic.

