UDRUGA ROMA ZAGREBA I ZAGREBAČKE ŽUPANIJE

1000 ZAGREB, Čemernička 17,Tel./lax:245-2554-Z.r:30101-678-110167Matični broj: 1392280 E-mail adresa; udruga-mladezi-roma-hrvatske @ zq.tel.hrl W W W. PCPROJEKT. HR/OCIROMA

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BY:----

The United States Districz Court Of the Eastern District of Nex York

In regard: Holocaust Victim Assets Litigation

Notice Administrator JAF PO Box 1601 New York, NY 10116-1601

United States of America - USA

Dear notice administrator,

Please find attached the Development distribution plan of the Roma national monority living in Croatia. We have followed the instructions posted on the www.swissbankclaims.com as well the information made available to the Roma people from various conferences held in Europe in the last 6 months, including OSCE organized conferences.

While the individual Roma people, who are members of our Roma association in Croatia have worked for German companies as forced labour/slaves during the WW2 time-frame we have opted for a full development plan, one that should allow the present and future development of the Roma national minority group in the Republic of Croatia.

We sincerely hope that the addresse will find our development plan reasonable and will consider it Among the many different projects that claim to provide adequate compensation for the events half a century ago.

Looking forward to your kind reply,

Respectfully,

Alija Mesic, President Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county



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Roma association Zagreb and Zagreb county

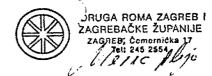
Revitalization of the Roma national minority situation in the Republic of Croatia

(Distribution Plan)

UDRUGA ROMA ZAGREB I ZAGREBAČKE ŽUPANIJE ZAGREB, Čemernička 17 Tel; 245 2554

> Zagreb, Republic of Croatia October 1999.





6. Activities of the Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county

Our association got formed in 1990.

The registration documentation, statute and programs of work are attached to this report/project.

Our primary concern is providing:

- Humanitarian help to the endangered Roma families
- Cultural manifestations on the local and regional level
- Pre-school and school workshops
- Music workshops
- Educational workshops
- Legal support to the Roma people in our country
- Organizational support to other associations of Roma people in Croatia
- Participation in international events that address/deal with the issues of the Roma people
- publishing activities
- participation in all the relevant bodies of this legislature that deal with the issues of national minorities
- assistance in providing job opportunities to Roma people

Our primary objective is:

- providing support in the education process of our young people
- providing and assuring a constant flow of cultural events
- re-establishing a long-term qualitative presence of our people in the fields of education and business
- establishing regional Roma clubs that provide the infrastructure for any
 project that deals with the Roma people with the primary goal of
 providing different workshops that enhance the ability of Roma people to
 find a job, keep a job, and otherwise participate in life
- establishing the first Cultural center of Roma people in Croatia

Our association participates in the events organized by the OSCE, the Romani Union International, the European Union and the various Holocaust remembrance organizations.

Our association is also the co-founder of the Roma Union of Croatia and the Roma Youth organisation of Croatia.



7. Brief description of open projects that have a long-term impact on the quality of life of the Roma people in this region

Present situation/projects

The Roma community in Croatia <u>cannot</u> develop without various forms of aid, thus we recognize our shortcomings as followed:

- absence of organizational skills required to successfully develop and maintain projects of long term impact that require raising of funds
- absence of trained/educated administrators who are required to administer the eventual distribution of "strategic assets" should these become viable
- absence of funds in general

Based on the voluntary involvement of individuals and by organizing ourselves in accord with the legal framework of our country we have managed to set up a <u>solid foundation</u> for long term revitalization of our situation. Thus, beside participating in various Croatian legal bodies that are supposed to deal with the minority issues, participating in EU/OSCE and Holocaust remembrance bodies, we have gathered adequate knowledge to understand the complexity of our future.

The Roma community in the Republic of Croatia has <u>no partner</u> truly interested in pursuing a joint objective of Roma revitalization.

Discussions, seminars, congresses are profound ways of meeting people and learning more about the tools/vehicles required/used by other minority groups in their claims of becoming an equal member of their respectful community.

However, without funding, implementation and indeed in cases, organizational aid, no projects that make sense will ever mature.

Therefore, we have structured our vision of revitalizing our situation and place in this society through answering to the most important threats to our future:

- absence of Roma intellectuals participating in the government, government posts, education system and health system
- always present prejudice towards the Roma people

 absence of will/reasoning with the Roma youth with regard to the required educational future (since Roma's are out of job regardless whether they qualify for the post or not



- absence of Roma consciousness with regard to Civil rights and the role as well duties of the citizens of the world
- surplus of threats to our children (crime, drugs, etc.)
- complete lack of interest by our country's legislature in truly dealing with different Roma issues

In the order to change this situation, we have identified the following requirements to be met in the foreseeable future:

- Establishment of a Roma Cultural center as the centralized place of gathering, administration, education for the whole of the Roma population in the Republic of Croatia
- 2. Establishment of local Roma Youth Clubs in the regional cities where Roma population is found (Slavonski Brod, Rijeka, Osijek, Sisak, Pula). Please note that the first two Roma Youth clubs have recently been introduced in the capitol Zagreb as well the regional town of Bjelovar (both clubs require additional equipment as well).
- 3. Establishment of local <u>support centers</u> in each of the 21 major housing areas of the Roma people in Croatia. These 21 housing areas accommodate and average of 50 families with lots of children and lack:
- drinking water (10 out 21 have no drinking water)
- electricity (5 out of 21 have no electricity)
- sewer (6 out of 21 have no sewage)
- gas (none of the 21 have gas)
- public phone (none of the 21 have a public phone)
- Kindergarten (none of the 21 have a Kindergarten nor are there facilities for children in a feasible vicinity of the Roma housing areas)

Intentions/funds for these housing areas are not available from the Croatian state. These 21 housing areas are in desperate need of at least a support center that could provide several functions:

- medical support to the inhabitants (doctor's visit twice a week)
- children care (form of kindergarten)
- senior care (support of the elders)
- public phone connection
- minimum educational facilities (teaching hygiene, child care, contraception...)

In the order to provide such services, each of the 21 housing areas would require one support center, which can be of minimum size.



Here the scheme of our revitalization plan:

Roma cultural center in Zagreb, Croatia

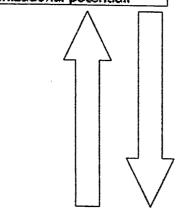
- providing administration
- providing education
- providing cultural programs
- providing shelter for the needed
 - providing sport programs
 - providing legal support

Note:

The cultural center acts as a centralized entity that organizes all events and detaches working projects to the support centers and Roma youth clubs. For the regional events, the cultural center provides the infrastructure and organizational potential.

21 Roma housing areas SUPPORT CENTERS

- providing local support
 - basic kindergarten
 - basic senior care
 - basic medical care
- basic communications



Romengo Cacipe magazine

- covers all events

Roma Youth Clubs in 7 Croatian cities

- providing a place to meet
- providing internet/PC education
 - providing English language education
 - providing cultural events
 - providing sport events
- providing leisure possibilities
 interaction between older and young
 generations
 - job assistance/legal support





In the past 7 years we have focused on all these problems and found that there will be no financial support from the local government, except lots of promises of course. Further, neither the EU sponsored programs nor the Open Society sponsored programs showed interest in such long term projects.

Therefore, we truly hope that the Holocaust fund might find our intentions to be humane, long-term and transparent.

At this point, we cannot produce 100% accurate cost projections, only estimates based on our experience with the Youth clubs, the publishing of the Romengo Cacipe magazine and the local pricing of construction, land prices, computer/SW prices, educational courses prices, etc.

These estimates are here listed and <u>we welcome</u> at any time your possible interest, and indeed, your technical/organizational help in the order to update these cost estimates.

Roma Youth Clubs

The Roma Youth Clubs can be established on a relatively cost-effective basis since each of the listed cities has at least Roma land on which a club can be build, or, there is a Roma house that can be partially/fully used for these purposes. The average cost for a Roma youth club based on the experienced costs in Zagreb and Bjelovar (the two established but not yet fully equipped Roma Youth clubs):

No.	Description	Price in USD
1.	150 - 200 m2 of usable space	
2.	Construction material	Roma contribution
3.	Construction works	20.000 USD
4.		10.000 USD
5.	Electric, water, sewage installations	5.000 USD
	Furniture (tables, chairs, etc.)	6.000 USD
6.	Leisure package (in-door leisure equipment)	5.500 USD
7.	Internet/PC workshop (5 PC's in LAN)	6.500 USD
8.	Musical instruments/workshop	4.000 USD
L	Total for one club:	57.000 USD

Total for 5 new Roma yoth clubs (Slavonski Brod, Rijeka, Osijek, Sisak, Pula) equals **285.000.- USD**Total for Internet/PC workshop for the 2 existing clubs equals **13.000.- USD**

Total for the 7 youth clubs:

298,000.- USD



Roma Cultural center in the capitol Zagreb

No.	Description	Price in USD
1.	2500 m2 land	150.000 USD
2.	1000 m2 constructed cultural center	
3.	- construction material	600.000 USD
4.	- construction work	180.000 USD
5.	- electricity, gas, heating, sewage, phone. etc	55.000 USD
6.	- Kindergarten equipment/furniture	15.000 USD
7.	- Senior asylum equipment/furniture	10.000 USD
8.	- 1 congress hall equipment/furniture	45.000 USD
9.	- 1 sports hall equipment/requisites	35.000 USD
10.	- 1 combined hall equipment/furniture	30.000 USD
11.	- 2 classrooms equipment/furniture	30.000 USD
12.	- rooms for children without parents	10.000 USD
13.	- temporary asylum room for people in need	5.000 USD
14.	- dressing rooms	5.000 USD
15.	- PC/Internet workshop with 10 PC's/LAN	20.000 USD
16.	- various sports/educational equipment	15.000 USD
17.	Soccer field outside of the center	25.000 USD
18.	Various learning material/books/library	20.000 USD
19.	Off-pocket expenses, licenses, etc.	40.000 USD
	Estimated total:	1.290.000 USD

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Estimated total for the Roma	1 200 000 1100
Cultural Center in Croatia	1.290.000 USD
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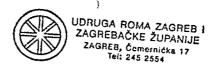
Roma housing areas SUPPORT CENTERS

No.	Description	Price in USD
1.	Fundaments for a 10x10m support center	8.000 USD
2.	Mobile home or similar for use as support center	25.000 USD
3.	Electricity, Water, sewage and phone connection	6.000 USD
4.	Furniture for the support center	5.000 USD
5.	PC/Internet workstation	1.500 USD
6.	other equipment for the support center	2.000 USD
	Estimated total for one support center:	47.500 USD

Estimated total for 21 support centers in the 21 Roma housing areas

997.500.- USD

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The estimated total for the:

- Roma Cultural center in Zagreb, Croatia
- 5 + 2 Roma Youth clubs
- 21 Roma Support centers

equals:

2.585.500.- USD

We have not listed the possibilities of establishing "Roma profit and jobgeneration centers" which would well increase the chances and quality of our daily lives.

Nor have we listed various projects which we try to maintain with our own but very limited funds and the occasional financial input by donors. This includes the attached Romengo Cacipe magazine.

Neither have we listed the costs for various educational courses – thou we are able to attract some humanitarian/voluntary work of teachers and doctors.

Future of the Roma people in the Republic of Croatia

As it is easily understood from the above listed facts, the Roma population has a lot to catch-up since the 1941-45 holocaust times. Unfortunately, the post world-war 2 times haven't been profound/productive for our national minority as well.

Even with all of our combined initiatives we fully recognize the absence of partners interested in our destiny.

Thus, it is our sincere hope and utmost aim, to continue with work on the well-being of our minority and it's interaction with the regional population.

We will welcome your feedback and once again thank you for your devoted time and kind attention. Hopefully, you will show interest and the ability to aid our development/revitalization projects.

Respectfully,

Alija Mesic, President Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county



ROMA CULTURAL CENTER IN THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Name of the project is "Roma Cultural Center in the Republic of Croatia (Zagreb)"

Location of the project – the envisaged Roma cultural center would be best positioned in the vicinity of the Zagreb Mosque (Folnegovicevo naselje) due to several practical reasons:

- vicinity of accessible public roads and highways
- access to public transportation opportunities (bus, tram, train)
- vicinity of the Mosque the Roma population in Croatia is predominantly Muslim
- possibility to purchase/acquire sufficient land/space for the construction of a Roma cultural center on this location, in the capitol city Zagreb

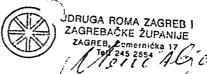
Primary objectives of this project:

The Roma community in the Republic Croatia lacks both space and means to actually get a grip on their own destiny. In the order to provide (or to continue providing activities already started) the Roma community requires infrastructure.

We see a centralized place where all Roma and other interested people can meet as the prerogative of successful implementation of all envisaged and already present activities of our various associations:

- Humanitarian help to the endangered Roma families
- Cultural manifestations on the local and regional level
- Pre-school and school workshops
- Music workshops
- Educational workshops
- Legal support to the Roma people in our country
- Organizational support to other associations of Roma people in Croatia
- Participation in international events that address/deal with the issues of the Roma people
- publishing activities
- participation in all the relevant bodies of this legislature that deal with the issues of national minorities
- assistance in providing job opportunities to Roma people

The Roma cultural center would hence act as a centralized administrative, logistic and event base for all the Roma people in the Republic of Croatia,



The content of the cultural center would incorporate the following:

- Administrative premises from where the organization, administration and logistics of all the Roma activities in the Republic of Croatia could be taken care of. One of the major shortcomings that we Roma face is the relative absence of understanding for the modern communication means. Thus, in most cases, we experience severe communication problems not only among the regional but as well European Roma associations, as well the lack of effective communication with other organizations as well. Thus, a centralized administrative office, with sufficient communication equipment should help us in once and for all solving this problem.
- Logistic/warehouse premises from where the supply of regional youth clubs and Roma support centers could be organized, including the distribution of humanitarian aid, free books and similar.
- Various workshops and training rooms/facilities where different education programs can be implemented. Such as English language, PC/Internet courses and similar for the youth, but as well basic literacy courses for the many illiterate Roma of the older generations. Such workshops would also include training in skills required in the order to get a job, and other courses required/recommended, such as hygiene courses, medical care courses, care of the elder, contraception and similar.
- Cultural/sports indoor facilities it is a known fact that the bulk of Roma heritage is found in the folklore songs, dancing, acting. We have always been people that compensate for the bad times in life by devoting and expressing ourselves through music and dance. So far, many of our cultural activities (co-organized with UNESCO at times) are limited to the sunny months of the year, due to the absence of indoor space. The Cultural center should remedy this fact. We envisage the possibility to have several groups train simultaneously, also being able to accommodate not only regional, not only Roma cultural events, but as well, integrate and accommodate cultural events on European level, with different cultural groups performing in the Roma Cultural center. The same facilities can be used to accommodate indoor sport activities as well.
- Sports <u>outdoor</u> facilities a soccer field, combined with outdoor sporting activities, which could accommodate the Roma soccer club that participates in the 3rd Croatian soccer league.

 Library / museum – the content of the library would be comprised of books of various origin, but also importantly, books in the Roma language. This would be well combined with an integrated museum where the 7 centuries of Roma presence in this country can be portrayed.

- Legal support counsel being in many cases illiterate, many Roma people have little knowledge and awareness of their rights and duties as citizens, and their rights as members of a national minority. Therefore, the provision of free of charge legal support would finally be brought to life as a part of the Roma Cultural center.
- Publishing/editorial facility within the Roma Cultural center would provide
 the infrastructure for the publishing of the known, Romengo Cacipe (the
 Roma truth) magazine, as well the editorial and publishing of the Roma
 dictionaries and various pre-school/school books of bilingual content.
- Kindergarten facility capable of providing service to the most endangered children.
- Shelter premises which would provide limited shelter possibilities to people in need.
- Senior care facility which would provide basic help to our seniors who have temporarily no place to go/no one to take care of them.

Employees of the Cultural center would be on a voluntary basis. The Roma community in Croatia has so far had and has non-Roma people of different nationalities interested in providing assistance on a voluntary basis.

Once the question of basic infrastructure is solved, we envisage to have it much easier in providing reasonable working conditions for the volunteers.

The following are the primary volunteer positions for this Cultural center:

- Administrative coordinator/trainer
- Communication coordinator/trainer
- Cultural program leaders (3 of them)
- Sports/soccer trainer
- Social problematic / legal support coordinator
- internet/PC trainer
- English language teacher
- others

Further, we expect that once the infrastructure is complete, the Roma associations will find it easier to attract governmental bodies, such as the various ministries for health and education in providing training courses and workshops.

We have found that people of good will interested in providing training to our national minority exist, but are limited with the space where such activities can take place.



Professional employees of the Cultural center would be comprised of:

- Lawyer/administrator in the administrative center/legal support center
- Administrative clerk/secretary responsible for the daily communication with the associations, governmental bodies and individuals.
- Journalist responsible for the collection/comprising of collected data and it's preparation for print/editing

Users of the Roma Cultural center would be all members of the Roma national minority and all other citizens of the Republic of Croatia.

Important short-term and medium-term objectives that are to be reached through the implementation and work of the Cultural center:

- keep the Roma children away from the streets and the urban vices by providing them a solid alternative. Unfortunately, our children are due to prejudice and actual social practices more exposed to the modern urban diseases such as drugs and crime. Further, by providing an interesting place for all of the Roma people, it would be much easier to influence both the children and their parents that many of the nomadic habits as well practices simply have no place in the modern society. We hope to bring an end to the every day present picture of young Roma begging at the city crossroads.
- provide the Roma people with the knowledge and understanding of the shortcomings of the nomadic way of life, the possibilities how to bring both the nomadic nature and the static domestic economy in accord and have fun as well some profit while doing this.
- provide the Roma people and all other citizens of our country with the sense and awareness that thou in many aspects different, there are so many common issues that bring us together. With smartly aimed and organized seminars for the broader public, we believe that the social aspects of our problems can be finally addressed in a direct manner and afterwards finding solutions to the problems.

 provide the content for the lives of the in many cases, forgotten and isolated Roma individuals. Sports, culture and education have always been excellent tools and interfaces in achieving a better tomorrow.



The initiator of the project is Mr. Alija Mesic, president of the Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county, member of the presidency of the Roma Association Croatia and vice-president of the Roma Union International, Prague, Czech Republic.

Having formed the Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county in 1992. he was among the first organized Roma movements that set up a joint vision of <u>revitalizing</u> the life quality of the Roma national minority in Croatia.

The Roma people again being known for the desire to be in compliance with democratic laws have indeed followed the guidelines of the 1990. established Republic of Croatia where all people of a common interest are encouraged to form registered associations, through which they should promote and work for their objectives.

Possibly the Roma national minority in Croatia took this somewhat drastically, thus by 1999. we count some 14 Roma associations in this country. However, most of them are organized on a local level, suiting the local circumstances, and above all, living with the infrastructure they have — which is almost none.

In February 1999. Mr. Mesic invited all Roma associations in Croatia to discuss the possibility of accepting one centralized Roma Association as the "head" association. This they did, and the Roma Association Croatia serves as the prime Roma body in this country.

At the same meeting the question of the most urgent and most important projects has been discussed. And all have agreed that the question of a **Roma Cultural Center in Croatia** is the predominant issue. One from which all Roma will have the most of benefits.

This meeting and voting was attended by the following associations and their respectful presidents:

- Roma Association Croatia, President Mr. Stevo Djurdjevic
- Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county, Mr. Alija Mesic
- Roma Association Rijeka, Mr. Djemail Mutisi
- Association "Bajasi Hrvatske", Mr. Zeljko Balog
- Association "Bajasi Medjimurja", Mr. Vlado Horvat
- Cultural Association "Romsko Srce", Mr. Fadiga Behader
- Roma Youth Association, Mr. Naser Mesic
- Roma Veterans Club (1991-1995 war), Mr. Hasan Delic
- Roma Woman Association, Ms. Ramiza Mehmedi
- Association Roma for Roma, Mr. Bajro Bajric
- Soccer Club "Roma Association Zagreb", Mr. Branko Kovacevic





Subject: Roma Youth Clubs

The Roma Youth Association of Croatia, sponsored and initiated by the Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county has established the first Roma Youth Club in Zagreb and in Croatia in general.

This initiative was followed by the Roma Association Croatia, President Mr. Stevo Djurdjevic which co-sponsored a similar project in the city of Bjelovar.

Other regional Roma associations in the cities of Slavonski Brod, Osijek, Rijeka and Pula would join this initiative as well.

While we were able to sponsor the roll-out of such facilities that enable the Roma youth out of the streets in the capitol Zagreb and the town of Bjelovar, we were so far unable to gather sufficient resources to expand these clubs to the other, above mentioned cities.

Further, the purpose of providing PC literacy and Internet training is not possible without a donation of PC equipment and sponsorship of education.

The details, cost estimates of the Roma Youth Clubs project underway is presented in the Distribution plan.

I sincerely hope that our initiative will attract support, since we need to provide valid alternatives to the youth, a national minority youth living in a post-war transition state.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Zagreb, Croatia, 24.11.1999.

Alija Mesic, President Roma Association Zagreb and Zagreb county

