

ROMEIA

ROMEIA was created on 31 Dec 2002 in the Czech Republic as a voluntary NGO bringing together non-Romani and Romani people whose main aim is to support the fight against racism, to develop the upholding of human rights, and to aid the development of democracy and tolerance in society and to strengthen trust among people. Through quality news reporting and support for education, it makes it possible for non-Roma and Roma to get to know each other and contributes to the recognition of Romani people as equal members of society. ROMEIA does its best to contribute to expanding the Romani middle class in the long term. The activities of the organization can be divided into two basic areas: Media and Education

Media

Since 2003 ROMEIA has administered the **news server Romea.cz** and published the monthly print magazine *Romano vodi*. News server Romea.cz does its best to offer a counterbalance, a place that reports on overall events in the lives of Romani people, not just problematic ones, and where that reporting is done with the knowledge that is so necessary to accurately conveying the context and this subject matter, in both Czech and English. Through the Internet we report about all events concerning Romani people and, unlike the classic news servers, we do our best to give as much room as possible to Romani people themselves. In the year 2020, the server was visited by almost 400 000 unique readers. Part of the news server is the first Romani online television station in the Czech Republic, **ROMEIA TV** - www.romea.tv. Created in 2007, this online channel regularly documents current events concerning Romani people in the Czech Republic.

The **magazine Romano vodi** ("Romani Soul" – www.romanovodi.cz) offers a more detailed perspective on the lives of Romani people, regularly publishing interviews and reportages, profiles of figures and stories, news and deeper dives into the areas of culture, politics and society, analyses and reviews of past events.

ROMEIA combines its educational and media activities into a project focused on increasing the number of Romani people working as journalists – **Education of Young Romani Journalists**. We seek and support Romani people interested in journalistic work because we believe it is important that Romani people themselves actively contribute to reporting on events that concern the society in which they live so that society can come to know their point of view.

Education

The lack of opportunity for direct support to talented Romani students in secondary school, secondary technical school and college led the organization to create a unique project, **The Romani Scholarship Program for Students of Secondary Schools, Secondary Technical Schools and Colleges**. The purpose of the program is to expand the ranks of educated Romani people and overcome the systemic barriers that encumber and ever more frequently make it impossible for Romani youth in particular to attain a quality education and a bigger chance to apply themselves in the future in society.

ROMEIA also focuses on elementary school pupils as well. Our aim is to increase the motivation of Romani children (and others) by offering them an authentic Romani role model, a **Romani instructor/mentor**, who dedicates time to them regularly every week. Since 2019 Romani college students and high school students from our scholarship program have been visiting Romani pupils and doing their best to motivate them to study.

We do our best to educate the broader public through the "Memory of the Roma" **Paměť Romů** (www.pametromu.cz), where we familiarize people with the lesser known side of the history of our society, the history of Romani people, by allowing those involved in historical events to tell their personal stories.

Another current project also focuses on history – together with the Czech Institute for Information Sciences, Robotics and Cybernetics at the Czech Technical University in Prague, on the basis of historical research and testimonies from the day, we are designing **virtual reality tour of the former Zigeunerlager concentration camp at Lety u Písku** that ran from 1942 - 1943. The virtual reality tour, which should be completed this year and will be intended for the broader public, will also involve a concept on how to didactically engage pupils/students from the age of 12 and up.