

Excluded in Exile: Supporting Romani Refugees in Times of Crisis



Photo by Petr Zewlakk Vrabec

October 16, 2024
9.00 –16.30

Vila Lanna, V sadech 1/1,
160 00 Prague

Institute of Ethnology, CAS
Faculty of Arts, Charles University

This conference aims to shed light on the experiences of Roma from Ukraine who have refuge in various countries across Europe. Newspapers, NGOs and researchers have reported disparities in the treatment of Romani refugees compared to other Ukrainian refugees. They have faced discrimination, unequal access to services, racial segregation, and allegations of system misuse. With more than two years since Russia's full-scale invasion precipitated a massive refugee crisis, it is imperative to reflect on the lessons learned and challenges faced.

The conference will bring together individuals and organisations who assist, or assisted, Ukrainian Roma refugees, including social workers, NGO activists, volunteers and scholars. The conference is structured into two main sections. The first part will explore international experiences, while the second will focus on the specific experiences in Czechia. Presentations will analyse how each nation's policies and social dynamics have influenced the treatment of Romani refugees and identify common patterns of discrimination and support strategies.

Funding and support

The conference is made possible through generous funding support from Strategy AV21–Identities in the World of Wars and Crises and Czech Science Foundation (GA 24–14388L).

Programme

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome Remarks & Opening of the Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Fotta (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences), and Markéta Hajská (Faculty of Arts, Charles University).• Jiří Woitsch (Director of the Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences)
9.15 – 10.15	European Experiences (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yanush Panchenko (Institute of Ethnology, CAS & Zaporizhzhia National University): <i>Migration Patterns of Ukrainian Roma During the Russian Invasion of Ukraine in 2022</i>• Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz & Kamila Fiałkowska (Centre of Migration Research Warsaw University): <i>Providing Assistance and Support to Roma Refugees from Ukraine in Poland – Current Situation and Challenges</i>
10.15 – 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 – 12.00	European Experiences (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lilla Eredics (Center for Social Sciences, Institute for Sociology, Hungary, Budapest): <i>Responses to the Situation of Roma Refugees Fleeing from Ukraine to Hungary</i>• Marin Alla (Voice of the Roma Coalition): <i>The Situation of Roma Refugees from Ukraine on the Territory of the Republic of Moldova</i>• Yücel Meheroglu (Melde- und Informationsstelle Antiziganismus): <i>Antigypsyism in Germany: The Situation of Ukrainian Roma Refugees</i>
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	Czech Experiences (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veronika Dvorská (Iniciativa Hlavák): <i>Reflections on Aid to Romani Refugees from Ukraine at Prague Central Station</i>• Jan Husák (Romodrom): <i>Support of Ukrainian Roma: From Central Station in Prague to Mukachevo</i>• Ivana Faraha Čonková (volunteer & Romani activist): <i>‘Všichni jsou si rovni, jen někteří...’/‘All are born equal, only some...’</i>
15.00 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 15.45	Czech Experiences (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dana Ema Hrušková (Faculty of Arts, Charles University) & Kristina Kulchar (expert by experience): <i>Different Treatment of the Roma in the Process of Their Registration in Spring 2022 in Prague</i>
15.45 – 16.30	Final Discussion , moderated by Jan Ort (Institute of Ethnology, Czech Academy of Sciences)

Consecutive Czech-English and English-Czech translations will be provided throughout the event.

The conference is an in-person event only. Interested attendees should contact Valeriya Kostromskaya (kostromskaya@eu.cas.cz) to register.

For further information contact the conference organisers Martin Fotta (fotta@eu.cas.cz) or Markéta Hajská (marketa.hajska@ff.cuni.cz).