

ANNUAL REPORT
o. s. MIRET
2014



MIRET – An International Initiative for Development of Ethnic Creation



CONTENTS

PROLOGUE.....	3
1. BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT ASSOCIATION.....	4
2. ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASSOCIATION.....	4
3. MISSION OF ASSOCIATION.....	4
4. STAFF OF ASSOCIATION.....	5
5. ACTIVITIES OF ASSOCIATION.....	6
6. PROJECTS REALISED BY MIRET IN 2014	
6.1. Artistic projects.....	7
6.2. Education projects, charitable support and cooperation with other organisations.....	14
7. FINANCE IN 2014.....	29
8. THANK FOR 2014.....	30
9. CONTACT AND BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER.....	30



Prologue

The year 2014 was for me very intensive and successful. Tomáš Kačo, one of the participants in our creative workshops successfully graduated from Music Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague and became holder of a master's degree and at present continues his studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Jan Dužda, a member of the first Roma generation of MIRET, successfully earned a bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Arts at Charles University in Prague in the field Romani studies. There also opened for me cooperation with the Czech Philharmonic in Prague and I succeeded in getting Roma children from settlements, socially weak families, orphanages and city ghettos to the highest level in the Czech Republic for presentation of Roma culture, as in Rudolfinum in Prague. I immensely appreciate that doors have opened for us to prestigious places and I was also really pleased, and it impacted me, that the children from Čhavorenge choir, who attended our summer school Romano drom, had an opportunity to work hard on their talent. They managed to perform very professionally and to be a positive role for the young Roma generation. An absolute turning point was to meet in Prague with the literary manager of Rudolfinum, Mr. Petr Kadlec. I appreciate our cooperation that developed into a nice creative relationship.

We thank Mr. Petr Kadlec and the director of Czech philharmonic Mr. David Mareček for their trust in us and support for our work. The meeting of Czech Philharmonic musicians in eastern Slovakia, concerts and workshops in Roma settlements were really strong experiences for both sides. Thank you.

Thank also to Visegrad fund for the financial support which maintains project Romano drom. Our big obligations are a challenge for me and I feel a big responsibility to fulfill our goals that we have mapped out. This work is really difficult and sometimes in hard moments I have a feeling that I would like to finish with everything, to find rest and peace in my world. But I can't give up, because I feel there is no way back. For the mission that I have marked out is reasonable and our children do not allow me to give up, only to go on this path.

Ida Kelarova
Director of MIRET civic association



1. 1 BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

Civic association MIRET is a nonprofit organization that focuses on creation of conditions for human pedagogical, cultural and artistic activity.



2. ORIGINS AND DEVELOPMENT OF ASSOCIATION

Civic association MIRET was founded by Ida Kellarova on March 26th, 1999. In 2011 a first generation of young Roma people became the first members of the association and experienced an array of workshops and projects organized by Ida Kellarova and MIRET. The effort of the association is not just to preserve and develop Roma culture, but also to prepare and form new generations who can continue with this mission and, in a long-term view, contribute to change social, cultural and interpersonal relations in our country step by step.



3. MISSION OF ASSOCIATION

One of the main goals of civic association Miret is to help the Roma minority integrate into social life in the Czech Republic, and to help the majority group of the Czech Republic to understand Roma people and open themselves to them. This is why MIRET supports creative and cultural activities that represent Roma culture and traditions. It supports young Roma artists, children and youth, their general and language education and, first of all, their artistic growth and creativity. It helps them to discover their talents, strengthens self-confidence and consciousness of human dignity, gives the power to fight with the sometimes unmerciful reality of the present, and helps to develop pride in their identity. It tries to focus on active creation of young people and that is why it offers them opportunities in fields they are interested in and enjoy. That is all part of the goal, along with maintaining their cultural values and traditions.



4. STAFF OF ASSOCIATION

Ida Kellarova
Desiderius Dužda
Oto Bunda
Hana Kahwaji
Jan Dužda
Michal Mižigár
Mira Babiaková
Anna Petrželková
Corina Noetzli
Lucie Čechovská

artistic and executive director
music projects coordinator
dance projects coordinator
projects coordinator
language projects coordinator
educational projects coordinator
workshops coordinator
drama workshops coordinator
assistant of cultural management
supervisor of project documents

Guest lectors on summer creative workshops and schools

Martin Fogo Halász
Jody Winchester
Libuša Bachratá
Hana Koničková
Štěpánka Korytová

instuctor of movement activities
instructor of gospel singing, English language
instructor of traditonal Roma dance
instructor of yoga
instructor of English

5. ACTIVITIES OF ASSOCIATION

The mission of the association is to contribute to total renewal of society in the field of social, cultural and interpersonal relations. It is a long-term and complex process. Because of this goal, the activity of MIRET focuses on different fields.

The association tries primarily:

- . to support and raise cultural values in contemporary society and facilitate their potential development and transformation
- . to help education, self-realization and personal development of individuals
- . to clarify social roles and models, in addition to differences of members of the majority society and the Roma minority, and to help draw closer mutual understanding
- . to decrease the number of Roma emigrants to western Europe and Canada, whose main reason for emigration is fear of racial motivated attacks.
- . to create a space and suitable environment for talented Roma artists for practice and realisation of goals (in music and dance traditions)
- . to organise children camps under special guidance as the most natural way of therapy for Roma kids from socially weak families, and an orphanage for those with neurotological problems and trauma from early childhood
- . to present Roma culture to Czech public, to do away with mutual prejudices, to help Roma people emerge from isolation, find use in society, and to help them be open to surroundings and find lost faith in mutual coexistence
- . to help creation and growth of open multicultural society and prevent racial and national conflicts,
- . to mediate between groups and to pass on cultural and traditional aspects of diverse ethnic groups
- . to support mutual contacts and practical cooperation in projects among members of different ethnic groups, nations, minorities and majorities.
- . to support education, creativity and personal development of young talented artists, provide them with space (material and spiritual) for their creation, and to provide opportunities of dialog and interaction with artists from different countries and cultures, and offer them the opportunity to present their works.

The activity of association is divided into three main fields which are covered as follows:

- . artistic activity 45 %
- . educational activity 50 %
- . charitable activity 15 %

6. PROJECTS REALISED BY MIRET IN 2014

6. 1. ARTISTIC PROJECTS

Čhavorenge 2014

Čhavorenge 2014 was a project composed of weekend workshops in Jedlová and in Prague on the following dates:

31st January – 2nd February 2014

11th – 13th April 2014

12th – 16th July 2014

3rd – 5th October 2014

14th – 16th November 2014

Participants of workshops, mainly members of the Čhavorenge Choir from the Czech Republic, rehearsed choir singing and solo singing under the guidance of Ida Kellarova and her artistic team. The program not only concentrated on traditional Roma dance and modern dance, but also on Roma identity, history, sexual education and relationships, literary workshops and leisure time activities.

The culmination of this project was a performance of participants in concerts, in the framework of project Romano drom in Roma settlements, and on the occasion of the Day of Students in Dvořák Hall, Prague, with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.

This project was supported by the Ministry of Culture, Czech Republic.

Implementer of project:



Project was supported by:





Concert in Roma settlement in Lenartov

© Lam Duc Hien



Romano drom - concerts

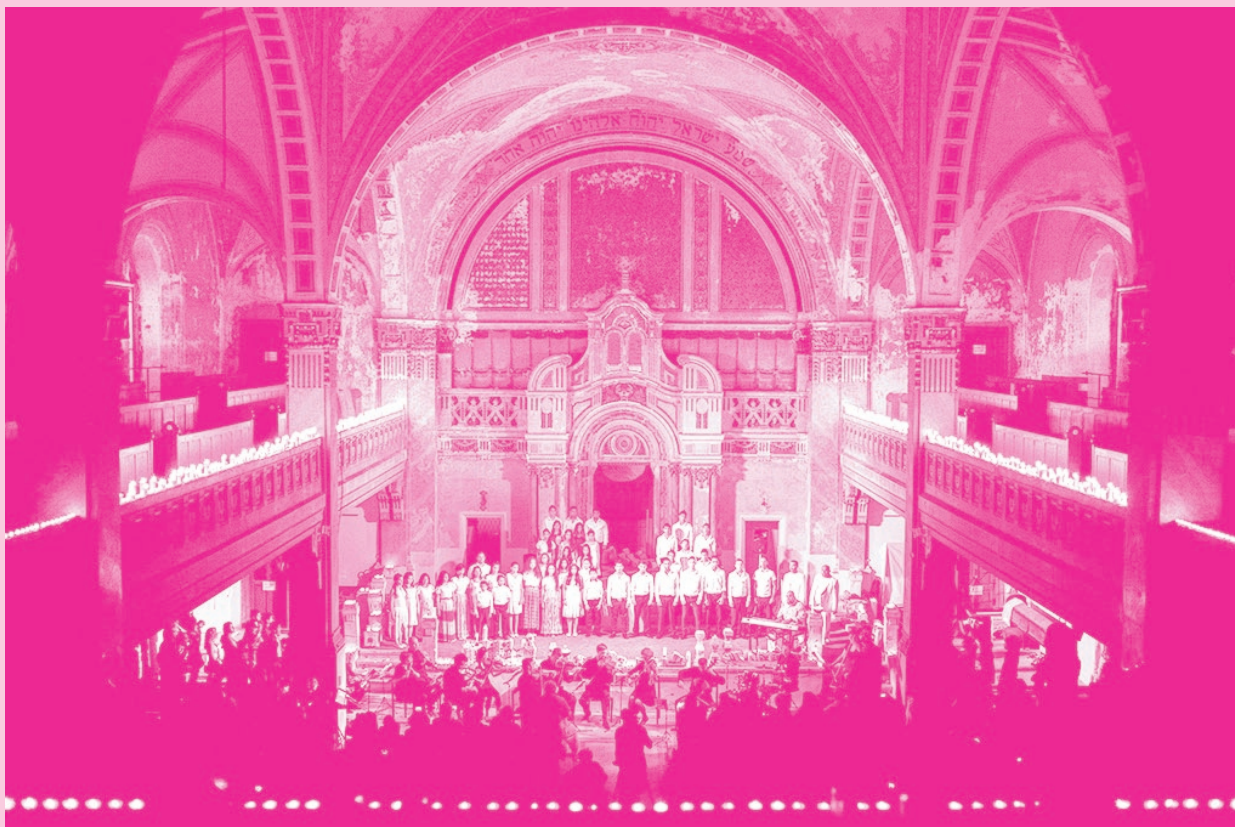
Summer school Romano drom was held in holiday resort Lúčka-Potoky near Lipany (eastern Slovakia) during days 26th July – 10th August 2014 and culminated in concerts of participants of the summer school – members of Choir Čhavoreng. On the stage also appeared Ida Kelarova, Desiderius Dužda, Oto Bunda, Jan Dužda, Josef Fečo, the Czech Philharmonic and other guest artists from Hungary, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland and Israel.

The concerts were held on the 6th of August in the Roma settlement in Lenartov, 7th August in the Roma settlement in Raslavice and on 8th August in the synagogue in Liptovský Mikuláš.



Concert in Roma settlement in Raslavice

© Lam Duc Hien



Concert in synagogue in Liptovský Mikuláš

© Lam Duc Hien

Implementer of project:



Project was supported by:



Partners of project:



Raslavice



Lenartov



Múzeum v Liptovském Mikuláši



Miret Schweiz



Český rozhlas



Slovenský rozhlas



Slovenský rozhlas

Ing. Jozef Patkaň – Obnova



Čhavorenge on concerts of Ida Kellarova and Jazz Familia

On 11th September 2014 in Cultural House Rušinov in Bratislava (Slovakia) a concert of Ida Kellarova and Jazz Familia took place. The guests of concert were Josef Fečo (piano) and members of Choir Čhavorenge.

Concert on occasion Day of Students

On 17th November 2014, on International Students Day, a concert paying tribute to commemoration of events from 1939 and 1989 was held in Dvořák Hall of Rudolfinum. Apart from the Čhavorenge choir, other choirs also performed. Each concert was played by excellent young musicians of Czech Philharmonic under guidance of conductor Marek Ivanovič, choirmaster Ida Kellarova and children's choir Čhavorenge. Pavel Ryjáček was master of ceremony for the evening.

On 15th and 16th November 2014, 180 young Roma and non-Roma singers, including choirs Čhavorenge and choirs from Usti nad Orlici, Zamberk and Hodonín, met in Rudolfinum in Prague, where they rehearsed under the guidance of Ida Kellarova and her artistic team.

This historical project opened the doors for future cooperation of the Roma choir Čhavorenge and civic association MIRET with the Czech Philharmonic in such prestigious places like Rudolfinum. Works of the magnificent composer of contemporary Roma music and song, **Mr. Desiderius Dužda, were performed in this memorable concert.** The symphonic arranger of the works is another excellent musician, **Mr. Josef Fečo.**

The concert was broadcast by the Czech Radio D dur live (A recording of the concert was broadcast on the Czech Radio Vltava on Sunday 23rd November at 2:00 PM).



Pavel Ryjáček and Ida Kellarova

© Petr Kadlec



Ida Kellarova, conductor Marko Ivanovič, Czech student philharmonic



Desiderius Dužda, Ida Kellarova, Čhavoreng and the other student choirs

© Petr Kadlec



Čhavoreng and the others student choirs accompanied by Czech student philharmonic

© Petr Kadlec



Program:

- . Ludwig van BEETHOVEN: Egmont, prelude
- . Leoš JANÁČEK: Taras Bulba, rhapsody for orchestra
- . Bedřich SMETANA: Z českých luhů a hájů, symphonic poem from cycle „Má vlast“
- . Desiderius DUŽDA: contemporary production (selection)
- . Roma traditional songs and contemporary production (selection)
- . Johannes BRAHMS: Ceremonial academic overture (Gaudeamus Igitur)

Performers:

- . Marko Ivanović - conductor
- . Czech student philharmonic
- . Ida Kellarova – choirmaster
- . Choir Čhavorengé

student choirs:

- . Choir Barbastella, Gymnasium Hodonín
- . Choir Corale, Gymnasium Žamberk
- . Mixed choir Vox coloris, Gymnasium Ústí nad Orlicí
- . Members of Kühn children choir Prague
- . Pavel RYJÁČEK - host



*Michal Mižigár has a discussion with Pepper de Callier on leadership during ceremonial dinner party
© Archive Aspen Institute Prague*

6. 2. EDUCATION PROJECTS, CHARITATIVE SUPPORT AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Aspen Young Leaders Program 2014

Michal Mižigár was chosen to participate in a weekend meeting in Tále (Slovakia) for young leaders from Czech, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Ukraine during the 20th – 23rd of January 2014.

The goal of this meeting was to bring together young leaders from different fields and countries and to make a space where they could draw information, experiences and inspiration from important public people, for example: Eurocomissionar Štefan Füle, the worldwide respected cardiologist professor Jan Pirk, the Secretary General of the Czech Bishop's Conference, Tomáš Holub, British ambassador and former consultant of former President Václav Havel, Michael Žantovský and several others.

The Aspen Young Leaders Program 2014 was organized by Aspen Institute, Prague.



©Archive o. s. Miret



Beneficial workshops in Montessori centre

From 17th – 20th March 2014 a singing and dancing workshop for Austrian children and for the youngest members of the Roma choir took place. The children met in the Montessori Zentrum Oberland in the Austrian town of Ludesch.

The artistic team under the guidance of Ida Kellarova, leader of the project, worked with Austrian children from age 4 – 10 years.

Roma children got opportunities to pass on their Roma culture, and by doing so also extended warm communication with the Austrian children. All of the children that participated managed in a short time to open up to each other. The Austrian children were quickly able to feel the Roma songs, and were strongly impacted by them. The Roma children were accepted not just by Austrian children but also by the management of the school and by the parents of the children with a huge warmth and appreciation which they aren't used to in their usual life conditions.

The common workshop of children culminated in a benefit concert on 20th March 2014. The profit from the concert was dedicated to MIRET for support for work with children threatened by social exclusion. The special guest of the concert was an excellent accordionist, Mr. Goran Kovačević. MIRET's workshop with the Montessori Centre was placed among the ten best projects from 45 Austrian kindergartens, schools, communities and clubs.

After the successful conclusion of the project, the management of the Montessori school asked Miret for future cooperation, which will happen in March 2015.

The Big Bang. 25 Years Since Annus Mirabilis

Michal Mižigár accepted an invitation by Radek Spicar, director of Aspen Institute, Prague, to a gala dinner on the occasion of the annual conference, **The Big Bang. 25 Years Since Annus Mirabilis**, which was held in the Senate of the Czech Republic. The goal of this conference was to evaluate political, economic and cultural impacts of events that happened in central and eastern Europe 25 years ago.

Among guests of the gala dinner and conference were Czech prime minister Bohusla Sobotka, former U. S. Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright, President of Estonia Toomas Hendik Ilves, American senator Joe Lieberman and a range of other public figures.



The conference took place in the Senate of the Czech Republic © Archive o. s. Miret



©Aspen Institute Prague

Střed Zájmu: Publikum

Institut umění (Institute of art) and Kancelář Kreativní Evropa (The Bureau of Creative Europe) organised on Tuesday 17th June in Studio Hrdinů (Stuido of Heroes) an event with name Střed zájmu: PUBLIKUM (Middle of interests: AUDIENCE), that presented a dozen exemplary projects the work with audience. The representatives of cultural organisations or artists themselves in seven minutes presented fully occupied auditorium in National Galery Veletržní palác in Prague inspirative and original approaches to viewer or readers. In the end of the evening audience was voting for the most interesting contribution. The winning prize, the real french champagne, got Petr Kadlec and Ida Kellarova, whose edacation activities were very interesting for auditorium.

Romano Drom

The Romano drom summer artistic school was the biggest project of civic association Miret in 2014. This project was undertaken in the following phases:

Making a collaboration with mayors

18th – 20th February 2014 A meeting and collaboration on a Romano drom project took place with mayors of the villages where there are adjoining Roma settlements: Lenartov, Raslavice and Liptovský Mikuláš in the Slovak Republic.



A meeting with mayors, Lenartov

© Archive o. s. Miret



Selection of children to Summer school

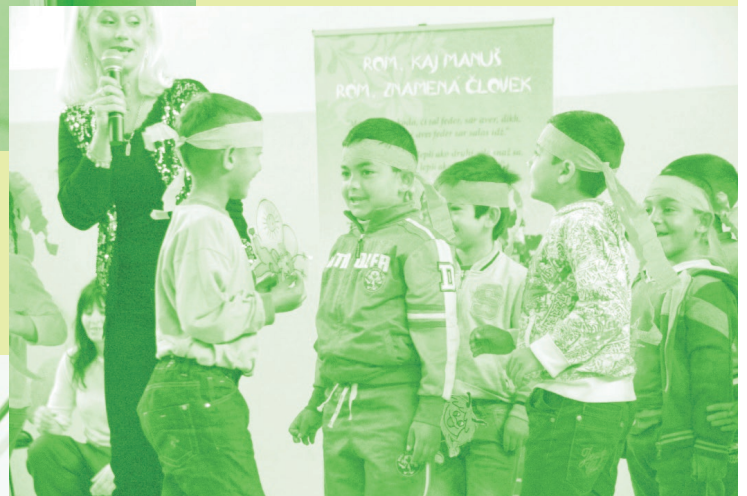
7th – 10th March 2014 An audition and selection of children took place at the elementary schools in Liptovský Mikuláš, Dlhá Luka, Lenartov, in the Private Gymnasium in Kežmarok and in the community center in Šaca, Slovak Republic.

The children were selected from Roma settlements, where workshops and concert also took place. After finishing the summer school they become positive role models for the other inhabitants, and mainly for children from the settlements. Both those who performed and those who were on the side of audience had an opportunity to feel a huge change after 14 days of work on personal and artistic growth. This was a big motivation and inspiration for their lives.



School Lenartov

© Archive o. s. Miret



*School Dr. A. Stodolu in Liptovský Mikuláš
© o. s. Miret*



Artistic schiik in Bardejov, Slovakia

© Archive o. s. Miret

Press Conference in Prague

9th April 2014 In Cafe Rudolfinum, Prague, a press conference took place in which the Czech Philharmonic presented their 119th concert season 2014/2015 – with participation of head-conductor Jiří Bělohlávek, head guest conductor Manfred Honeck and singer and director of Miret, Ida Kellarova. She introduced the project Romano drom.

A meeting with volunteers

19th May 2014 A meeting with chosen volunteers for Summer School Romano drom in American Center, Prague, took place. In this meeting Ida Kellarova introduced volunteers of civic association Miret and project Romano drom.

Meeting with Czech Philharmonic musicians

16th June 2014 A meeting with chosen philharmonic musicians took place in Rudolfinum. At this meeting Ida Kellarova and her team introduced philharmonic musicians to the contemporary situation of Roma people in Czech and Slovakia, and the history of Roma people. Ida Kellarova also presented her experiences of 20 years work with the Roma community and also presented the documentary movie about the origin and concert activities of choir Čhavorenge with which the philharmonic musicians met. In this framework, the project performed together in concerts in Roma settlements.



© Archive Miret

Press conference in Bratislava

18th June 2014 Press conference in Bratislava, in cooperation with Nadácia otvorenej spoločnosti – Open Society Foundation. The aim of the press conference was to make visible a Romano drom project in Slovakia. Miret and the director of Otvorena spoločnosť – Open society Foundation Mr. Marek Kapusta, agreed on collaboration and he also recommended the participation of some children from project Superar in the summer artistic school of Romano drom.



Summer school Romano drom

26th July – 10th August 2014 50 Roma children from Czech, Slovakia and Hungary had the opportunity to develop their talent at summer school Romano drom, under the artistic guidance of Ida Kellarova and her team at a holiday resort near Lipany (eastern Slovakia).



Visual workshop

© Matěj Klimo



Yoga

© Archive o. s. Miret



Breathing exercise

© Archive o. s. Miret



Joj – mammo expressional singing exercise
© Archive o. s. Miret



Hana Koničková was an instructor of a yoga
© Archive o. s. Miret



In nature

© Archive o. s. Miret



Workshops in Roma settlements

Summer school included concert performances of the singing choir of 50 Roma children, members of Czech Philharmonic and guests in Roma settlements.

Not just the artistic team of Miret but also the musicians of Czech Philharmonic prepared workshops for children in Roma settlements, that were very good and reasonable and were greatly acclaimed by the children, parents, teachers and schools.

Workshops were held on 6th August in the Roma settlement near Lenartov and on 7th August in the Roma settlement near Raslavice.



*Musical workshop dedicated to Roma children from Roma settlement in Lenartov
© Archive o. s. Miret*



Dancing workshop in Roma settlement in Lenartov with Oto Bunda, © Archive o. s. Miret



Dancing workshop in Roma settlement in Lenartov with Libuška Bachratá, © Archive o. s. Miret



© Archive o. s. Miret



Workshop for Czech Philharmonic players

On 23rd September in Rudolfinum in Prague a workshop took place with philharmonic players who accompanied choir Čhvorenge in concerts in settlements in eastern Slovakia. Philharmonic players evaluated concerts and also learned some songs from the Čhavorenge concert repertoire.

More information:

Web: www.romanodrom.cz

Facebook: Romano drom

Implementer of project:



The project was supported by:



Partners of project:



Raslavice



Lenartov



Múzeum v Liptovském Mikuláši



Miret Schweiz



Český rozhlas



Slovenský rozhlas



Ing. Jozef Patkaň – Obnova



Academy of Human Potential

During 2nd – 5th September, The City of Lecce invited Ida Kellarova, Desiderius Dužda and Oto Bunda to prepare a concert that was held on 6th September 2014 at Piazza S. Oronzo in Lecce, Italy, commemorating the fourth year of festival SoundMakers.

The project involved not just local artists, but also immigrants from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Mali, Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Gambia, Morocco and other countries.



© Archive o. s. Miret



© Archive o. s. Miret

„Let’s find together a new way!“

Civic association MIRET became a partner of a project „Let’s find together a new way!“ whose implementer is The Gender Information Centre Nora.

The goal of the project is to increase awareness in a concrete group of Roma women about gender topics, to motivate them toward positive personal development, and support their entry into the labor market. At the same time the project aims at sensitizing the Czech public (both the general public and experts) to specific features of gender relations in the Roma population.

The project also includes research on the topic of the role of Roma women, and the creation of a documentary film on the role of Roma women, directed by Oto Bunda and Michal Mižigár.

The project is supported by the Open Society Fund Prague, in the program Let’s Give (Wo)men a Chance, which is funded by the Norway Grants.

Implementer of project:



Partners of project:



The project was supported by:





© Archive o. s. Miret



Members of choir Čhavoreng tried interview each other in Czech Radio, © Archive o. s. Miret



Editor and presenter Tomáš černý is teaching one of the members choir Čhavoreng cut audio report, © Petr Kadlec

Cognitive excursion in Prague

During 14th – 16th November the members of Čhavoreng choir, Roma children from socially weak families and Roma settlements in eastern Slovakia, visited Prague Castle, the historical centre of Prague. Further excursions in the Czech Republic also followed on the program.

Czech radio editor and presenter Tomáš Černý spoke to members of Čhavoreng choir about the history of Czech Radio and showed them recording cabins. Children interviewed each other and later edited their recorded interviews. After that a superb boat trip was prepared for them on the steamer Labe, and in the evening they went to see an activistic theatrical performance of Gulí daj (directed by David Tišer).



Collection of clothes for Roma settlement in Lenartov

On Monday 24th November, the Montessori school in Austrian Ludesch sent 900 boxes of clothes to Roma settlements in Lenartov (eastern Slovakia) by lorry.

Many thanks to teacher Monika Rietzler who fantastically organised this collection, thanks to the management of the school, the parents of the children and last but not least Branka Kovačević.



Collection of clothes – children from Montessori Zentru in Ludesch, © Archive o. s. Miret



Parents of pupils of Montessori school in Ludesch, © Archive o. s. Miret



*Acceptance of shipment in Lenartov
© o Archive o. s. Miret*



© Archive o. s. Miret



The members of summer school Romano drom

© Matěj Klimo

8. THANK FOR 2014

We thank to all of you who support us. We realise that without you we could not manage our activities. You are very important parts of our association Miret.

We want to return your support to you by our deeds that are proofs of love and strong will in a such hard mission.

Yours
Ida Kelarova

9. CONTACT AND BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER

Contact

Residence of association: Nerudova 228, Bystré, 569 92

Identification number: 69342318

Tax identificaton number: 263-69342319

Web: www.miret.cz

www.youtube.com/MIRETmusic

E-Mail: info@miret.cz

Facebook: O. s. Miret

Bank account number

78-9945800227/0100IBAN: CZ2901000000789945800227

SWIFT (BIC): KOMBCZPPXXX