

International Forum on Historic Centres
MASTERCLASS ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN HERITAGE
Timișoara - 22 April 2023

Speakers' biographies



Sara Crofts | UK | Moderator

Chair of the Selection Committee 'Education, Training & Skills'

Sara Crofts trained as an architect at Edinburgh College of Art where she specialised in historic building conservation. She then worked for a number of architectural practices dealing with the repair and conservation of historic buildings in both Edinburgh and Cumbria.

Having undertaken the Lethaby Scholarship awarded by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 2003, she worked as the SPAB's Churches Caseworker for a spell before being appointed as the Project Director of the SPAB Faith in Maintenance project in 2006. The Faith in Maintenance training project ran for five years. She delivered 150 courses for Anglican, Methodist, United Reformed Church, Roman Catholic and Jewish groups and trained more than 5,000 volunteers throughout England and Wales.

Her next role was Deputy Director of the SPAB and then, in 2015, she joined the Heritage Lottery Fund as Head of Historic Environment where her role focussed on policy and strategy development including training and skills.

She returned to the voluntary sector to take up the role of Chief Executive at Icon in January 2019. Her role includes oversight of training and professional development activities as well as our accreditation framework.



Volodymyr Kebalo | UA

Volodymyr Kebalo is a senior project officer with the Council of Europe. He leads the implementation of the Council's project on civic participation in Ukraine. In his previous roles, he worked on projects supporting the initiatives and reforms in cyber security in elections, decentralisation and local self-government, media freedom, public broadcasting and the penitentiary system. Before joining the Council of Europe in 2014, Kebalo worked as a legal advisor to the Lviv Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in the area of international logistics in the USA.

As a volunteer, Kebalo also created a laboratory of civil society: his "Save Our Zarinok" public-space initiative in a Carpathian mountain town has trained locals, especially the youth, in caring for their environment and participating in a community. He has continued these efforts in wartime, with events for refugees and volunteers. Whether with the Council of Europe or as a volunteer, Kebalo assembles solutions-driven people to strengthen Ukrainian civic life as a model for the world.

Kebalo holds a master's in global development and peace from the University of Bridgeport (Connecticut, USA). He also graduated in 2009, majoring in international law and legal studies, and in 2010, with a master's in international private law from the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv.



Hakan Shearer Demir | TR

Mr. Hakan Shearer Demir is an expert in the fields of human rights and democratization, with a focus on sustainable development, displacement (refugees and migrants), cultural heritage, and governance. Mr. Shearer Demir has worked with non-governmental organizations, as well as inter-governmental organizations, including the CoE, EU, UNHCR, and the ILO. He holds a PhD degree in Political Science and an MA degree in Intercultural and International Management. He is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Strasbourg and his recent work has focused on local development initiatives and governance, with particular attention to the role of heritage in the co-construction of communities following displacement.



Tímea Junghaus | HU

Tímea Junghaus is an art historian and contemporary art curator. She started in the position of Executive Director of the European Roma Institute for Arts and Culture in September 2017. Previously, Junghaus was a Research Fellow of the Working Group for Critical Theories at the Institute for Art History at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (2010-2017). She has researched and published extensively on the conjunctions of modern and contemporary art with critical theory, with particular reference to issues of cultural difference, colonialism, and minority representation. She is completing her PhD studies in Cultural Theory at the Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest. In recognition of her curatorial activities, Junghaus received the Kairos – European Cultural Prize from the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V.S., in 2008. Her curatorial works include the Roma component of the Hidden Holocaust- exhibition in the Budapest Kunsthalle (2004), Paradise Lost – the First Roma Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Contemporary Art Biennale (2007), the Archive and Scholarly Conference on Roma Hiphop (2010), The Romani Elders and the Public Intervention for the Unfinished Memorial to the Sinti and Roma Murdered Under the National Socialist Regime in the frame of the 7th Berlin Biennale (2012), the (Re-)Conceptualizing Roma Resistance – exhibition and education program in Hellerau, Dresden (2015) and the Goethe Institute, Prague (2016). She is the curator of the Visual Arts Section for RomArchive – Digital Archive of the Roma, funded by Kulturstiftung des Bundes (2015-2018).

Junghaus was the founding director of Gallery8 – Roma Contemporary Art Space (www.gallery8.org) in Budapest (2013-2017), the winner of the 2014 Catalyst Contemporary Art Award (of Tranzit Hungary) and the 2014 Otto Pankok Prize awarded by the For Roma Foundation of the German writer and Literary Nobel Laureate, Günter Grass.



Eduardo Gargiulo | IT

Born and raised in Naples, he holds a Master's Degree in Medieval History. Not native to La Sanità neighbourhood, he moved there fascinated by the attractive forces of the Rione and by the changes it is passing through. Since his field of study is not related to heritage management or social economy, he came in contact with La Paranza by chance. He started working for La Paranza as an intern during his studies and after having spent a year abroad in Spain he came back to be full-time involved in the activities of the Cooperative.



Eugen Vaida | RO

Eugen Vaida is an architect with a rich activity in safeguarding and promoting the rural heritage in Romania, developing a series of applied programmes of conservation and education in relation to the local communities in the rural areas, the best known being The Ambulance for Monuments. He is the owner of a vast collection of rural ethnography and is the founder and president of the Network of Private Ethnographic Collections and Museums in Romania (RECOMESPAR). His interests are aimed at increasing the quality of the architectural object in rural areas by training architects and student architects in hands-on platforms through the exploration of traditional techniques and local materials and the identification of solutions that correspond to current living comfort. As a member of the Rural Group of the Romanian Order of Architects, he coordinated the development of contextual design guidelines for the majority of Romanian villages and contributed significantly to the growth of the phenomenon of summer schools of architecture. Eugen Vaida's activity has been recognised through numerous national and international prizes. In 2021, Eugen became a fellow of Ashoka, the main international organization that supports social entrepreneurship.



Coline Pélissier | FR

Coline Pélissier works as European Development manager at ACTA VISTA, an organisation that aims at the training and labour market inclusion of vulnerable people through heritage restoration. After a Master's degree in "Social policy and social innovation" at SciencesPo Paris and a Master's degree in gender studies at Université Paris 8, she specialised in social and cultural policies, working for various public actors in those fields. She is also a PhD fellow in sociology at the Centre for Sociological and Political Research in Paris of the University of Paris 8 Vincennes - Saint-Denis.



Alexandru Zamfir | RO

Alexandru Zamfir works as an Educational Expert within the Roma Education Fund. He has worked and coordinated numerous activities in the projects implemented by the foundation, involving mentoring activities with students and teachers from partner schools, as well as mediating and developing relationships between public authorities, school, family and community.

In addition to this activity, Alexandru Zamfir monitored the implementation of a set of Methodologies developed by REF Romania on Roma inclusion in the education system, he coordinated the development of a Guide to good practice in education and wrote the Sustainability report for the project "Formal and non-formal education for sustainable development in the Center region" SMIS code: 106443, implemented by REF Romania, which aims at involving various public institutions in the continuation of project activities after its completion. He is currently coordinating the work of an expert working group to write a Methodology aimed at including specific elements of Roma culture in the Romanian National Curriculum in order to prevent school segregation based on ethnicity. Alexandru is also involved in several ERASMUS projects run by the foundation.

In addition to his work at the REF Romania Foundation, Alexandru Zamfir is a professor at the Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, where he teaches the Romani language and other courses on Roma culture, history and literature.



Salvatore Illiano | IT

Salvatore Illiano has been a cooperator of the Paranza Cooperative since 2021. For more than a decade, he worked as a Local Development Expert supporting local players in development processes (companies, the third sector, the world of research, and public bodies) in implementing interventions, projects and programs for the growth of the territory. He has also planned and coordinated various local development projects/ interventions on promoting employment and active labour policies; supporting business creation and promotion of entrepreneurship; valorizing environmental, cultural and architectural assets for the development of the territory; decentralizing and international cooperation; and social policies.

He is passionate about change, anthropology, culture, care, diversity, education, social innovation, freedom, project management, history, the third sector, and generative welfare. In addition, he is devoted to his community and the civil economy.