



A EUROPE OF D I A S P O R A S

The Roma Access Program of the Central European University, on behalf of the partner organizations Armenian General Benevolent Union Europe (AGBU), European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS) and Phiren Amenca International Network, cordially invites you to a public conference on

A Europe of Diasporas – Looking back or looking forward?

Venue: Auditorium of the Central European University

Address: Nádor utca 9, 1051 Budapest

Time: 15.00 – 18.00 on 16 October 2015

15.00 -16.00 **Panel 1: What brings the Roma, Jewish and Armenian Diasporas together?**
Potentials and questions for building solidarity and common advocacy



Jirair Jolakian, Chief Editor of Nor Haratch weekly (France)



Simona Toroctoi - CEU - Public Policy Department PhD student & **Ismael Cortez** - UNESCO Fellow - Institute for Social Development and Peace



Ruth Barnett, Rene Cassin (UK)

16.00-16.15 Coffee break

16.15-17.45 **Panel 2: Looking back or looking forward?**
Preservation of Diaspora heritage in a challenging European context



Yervant Zoryan, Member of the Central board of AGBU, founder of the Armenian Virtual College



Zsuzsa Fritz, Bálint Ház, Budapest



Iulius Rostas, OSF fellow, an affiliated fellow with the Institute of Advanced Studies at CEU and Visiting Lecturer at Corvinus University

Moderator: **Nathan Peres**, EUJS

The organizers invite for a small reception after the conference

The project "A Europe of Diasporas" is a collaboration of AGBU Europe, EUJS and Phiren Amenca, and it is supported in 2015 and 2016 by the "Europe for Citizens" programme of the European Commission.



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About “A Europe of Diasporas”

A Europe of Diasporas is a European project and a new network to promote Diasporas in Europe. Europe has inherited a mosaic of identities, with more than 90 historical cultural groups on the continent, to which many more have been added over the last century. Some of these groups are European Diasporas: they span several countries, or indeed the entire continent.

We believe that Diasporas are a resource for our European societies. This project aims to find ways to develop and promote that resource as a contribution to Europe. The European network creates a space of meeting and cooperation between activists, educators and thinkers dedicated to the vision of building solidarity and common advocacy.

Diasporas often remain an object of an externally dominated discourse. The network aims for the Diasporas to position themselves as actors, initiators, and authors of discourses regarding themselves; a discourse that is based on their experience as their "normality", not one which assumes that they are forever on their way to becoming "normal" in someone else's eyes.

For now, the project involves mainly Jewish, Armenia and Roma organizations and individuals from the entire European continent. It is open to all those willing to participate.

DIASPORAS' HERITAGE AND REMEMBRANCE

Seminar and Conference in Budapest on 16-18 October 2015

The Budapest seminar on “Heritage and Remembrance” is the second in a series of events taking place under the umbrella of the new European project “A Europe of Diasporas”. Who would question the significance of heritage in the preservation of a group and the elevation of its culture? The word “heritage” designates the entire collective inheritance, a wide range of constructions and artifacts, but also intangible creations, such as traditions and know-how that are passed down the generations and transformed along the way. Heritage plays a fundamental role in providing new generations with an identity and toolkit for life; its preservation and recognition is also fundamental in shaping cohabitation with the surrounding society.

The conference addresses questions such as: Is heritage important because it generates visibility and social recognition? Is it important as a factor of unity within a community? Is it important to help new generations connect with their identity and cultural heritage? How much do we need remembrance and recognition of the genocides as a fundament for a process of reconciliation with European societies? How does heritage and remembrance relate to current threats and challenges in Europe, such as racism, anti-Semitism, antigypsyism, and nationalism?



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union