

CHACHIPE: DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

1. What is *Chachipe*?

Chachipe, originating from the Lovari language, means “truth” or “reality” in Romanes. In recent years, however, *chachipe* has also taken on the meaning “right”—in the legal sense—in international Romani discourse.

Nine countries of Central and Southeastern Europe are participating in the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005–2015, an unprecedented commitment to fundamentally improve the socio-economic status and social inclusion of Roma. The Decade focuses on the priority areas of education, employment, health and housing, and calls special attention to the issues of poverty, discrimination and gender mainstreaming.

Under the Decade of Roma Inclusion, the Open Society Institute (OSI) and OSA Archivum announce an international photography contest entitled “Chachipe.” The aims of the contest are to help combat visual stereotypes associated with Roma and to present Roma people and Roma culture sensitively and artistically. The intention is to authentically portray Roma as an integral part of their broader national communities.

Photos submitted for the contest should deal with one of the themes of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and must have been taken since the beginning of 2005 in one or more of the participating countries in the Decade: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovakia.

The organizers hope that photographers who enter the contest will break from the traditional prejudiced portrayal of Roma and call attention to Roma as equal and active players in their social environments. The presentation of success stories should be just as much a part of the exploration of reality as the difficulties of integration.

The contest is open to all, regardless of citizenship, residence or ethnic affiliation. Submissions by photographers of Roma origin are especially encouraged. The contest is open to both professional and amateur photographers.

2. Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

1. Best News Photo
2. Best Portrait Photo
3. Best Photo Essay (a series consisting of maximum 5 photos)
4. Best Family Photo
5. Public’s Favorite Photo

The winner in each of the first four categories will receive a prize of 1000 dollars, and the prize for the Public’s Favorite Photo category will be provided by a contest sponsor. In the fall of 2007, all winners will have the opportunity to visit, at the contest organizers’ expense, the first ever Roma Pavilion at the Venice Contemporary Art Biennale.

The best of the submitted photos will be displayed in an exhibition that will open at Galeria Centralis in Budapest on October 25, 2007, and it is hoped that the photographs will later be exhibited in other Decade countries. In 2008, a selection of the photos will also appear in a printed publication.

An international jury of professionals will judge the photo contest, and the winner of the Public's Favorite Photo category will be determined by public voting at <http://photo.romadecade.org>.

3. Contest Conditions

The contest is open to everyone, and there is no entry fee. In order to take part in the competition, contestants must fill out the entry form, which is only available online and in English at <http://photo.romadecade.org>. Following online registration, the photographs will be judged anonymously.

For the purposes of administering the contest, awarding prizes and protecting copyrights, we must request certain personal information. By completing the online entry form, all contestants certify that the photographs they are submitting are their own work, that they are the sole copyright holders for the photos, and that they have the right to submit the photos according to the conditions of the contest. By completing this declaration, contestants agree that: OSI and OSA Archivum may exhibit the photos and display them on their websites; OSA Archivum may make the photographs publicly available for educational and research purposes. Contestants remain the sole copyright holders of their own photos.

Contestants may submit a maximum of 10 photos, including photos submitted in the Photo Essay category.

4. Technical Conditions

For inclusion in the contest: photos will only be accepted electronically (scanned or digital); photos must be minimum 2048 x 1536 pixel (3 Mpixel) resolution compressed JPEG format. Photos can be uploaded at <http://photo.romadecade.org>.

Contestants who don't wish to upload their photos may, following online registration, mail photos on a DVD or CD. Project coordinator Ilona Nagy can provide information about the technical details: photo@romadecade.org; tel. +361-327-3250.

Manipulated photos will not be accepted. Manipulation includes removing or adding photo elements, adjusting the color of individual details, using digital effects, and using filters during processing.

Submission deadline: July 31, 2007

Contest winners and the photographers whose work is selected for the exhibition will be notified individually, and the list of winners will be posted on the website of the Decade of Roma Inclusion at <http://www.romadecade.org>. The announcement of the contest results is expected in early September 2007.

5. Contest Calendar

- Start of the contest: June 1, 2007
- Submission deadline: July 31, 2007 (entries must be postmarked or uploaded by midnight on this date)
- Public online voting: June-August 2007
- Judging by the jury: August 2007
- Notification of winners and announcement of results: by September 14, 2007
- Exhibition opening at Galeria Centralis, Budapest, Hungary: October 25, 2007
- Publication of a catalogue with selected photos from the exhibition: February 2008