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## NAIRS NEWS



### European Commission

#### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks Proposal

On January 10, a consortium consisting of NAIRS members and partners submitted a proposal entitled "European Training in Romani Studies 2018-2021" to the European Commission H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN) action. The purpose of the proposal is to strengthen Romani Studies networks and produce an international, multidisciplinary four-year program for Early Stage Researchers (first four years of doctoral studies) in the field.

MSCA ITN projects aim to train a new generation of creative, entrepreneurial and innovative early-stage researchers, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit. For more information, please see <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/marie-skłodowska-curie-actions>.

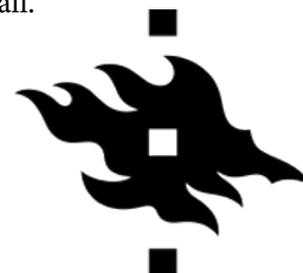
The evaluation outcomes of MSCA ITN proposals will be published in summer 2017.

#### Funding from the Future Development Fund, University of Helsinki

On December 20, 2016, the Dean of the Humanities Faculty of the University of Helsinki granted 23 500 € from the university's 375 Future Development Fund to cover the costs of the Network's international researcher cooperation.

The funding will facilitate involving a larger consortium of Romani Studies researchers from NAIRS member institutions in a funding proposal for the Swedish National Bank (Riksbanken) Programmes.

The Programmes (<http://www.rj.se/en/For-researchers/Programmes/>) are long-term (6-8 years) projects carried out by groups of qualified scholars. The funding is aimed at a consortium of a maximum of 25 researchers. Please see page 3 for the NAIRS open call.



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## NAIRS NEWS

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### **Northern Europe's only professorship in Romani Studies is at Södertörn University**

On 1 January 2017, **Kimmo Granqvist** was appointed Professor in Romani Studies at Södertörn University. Kimmo has twenty years' experience of Romani Studies and has worked at both the University of Helsinki and Södertörn University.

Kimmo Granqvist has worked as a research leader at CBEES, the Centre for Baltic and East European Studies, at Södertörn University for two years. He has also worked at what is now the Institute for the Languages of Finland and the University of Helsinki, where he built up two research environments focusing on Romani Studies. He is well-qualified in Romani linguistics and has worked with the education, employment and social integration of Roma. Kimmo's doctoral degree in Modern Greek was awarded by Stockholm University. He speaks Greek and a number of other European languages, including a couple of Romani dialects.

"I am convinced that this professorship is an opportunity for the university to highlight and work on issues relating to Romani Studies, both in Sweden and internationally," says Kimmo Granqvist. "Important areas in this position will be development and interdisciplinary cooperation within Södertörn University. I also want to build up a research environment here at the university, so we can create interest and involvement in these issues among the public."

Södertörn University has been tasked by the government with being able to offer teacher training in Romani čhib, one of Sweden's five minority languages. A first step towards this aim is starting language courses and the professorship is one element of this work.

"CBEES is proud to be able to participate in these investments in Romani Studies," says Joakim Ekman, professor of political science and director of CBEES. "The link to the Baltic region is also very clear in Kimmo's new post as professor, which corresponds well with CBEES and the focus of Södertörn University as a whole."

(Original text published by Clare Barnes at Södertörn University:

[http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/custom.nsf/news?openagent&key=northern europe s only professorship in romani studies is at sodertorn university 1484743398608](http://www.sh.se/p3/ext/custom.nsf/news?openagent&key=northern+europe+s+only+professorship+in+romani+studies+is+at+sodertorn+university+1484743398608))



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## NAIRS EVENTS

### SWEDISH NATIONAL BANK PROGRAMMES 2018: Kick-Off Workshop for Research Funding in Romani Studies / OPEN CALL

*February 27-28, 2017 in Helsinki, Finland*

As part of the activities of NAIRS, we are happy to open a call for applications for researchers in Romani Studies. The two-day workshop organized by the Board of NAIRS is aimed at building a consortium of up to 25 researchers, which would prepare a joint funding proposal for the Riksbankens (Swedish National Bank) Jubileumsfond Programmes. During the workshop, the researchers will not only receive detailed information about the application process, but they will also be aided by experienced members of the NAIRS Board in forming a strong research topic and funding proposal. The workshop will be followed by a second meeting and two-day conference in Stockholm (Södertörn University) during the last week of May, as well as a final meeting in autumn 2017. The proposal will be submitted to Riksbanken by January 2018.

All member institutions may suggest **1 researcher** to attend the workshop. The researcher should have obtained a PhD no later than by the proposal submission date (December 20, 2018). The researcher should have connections with Sweden or at the very least be willing to travel.

**Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Programmes** are joint, well-integrated research assignments in social sciences and humanities carried out over relatively long periods (six to eight years) by groups of advanced researchers who have connections with Sweden. The researchers are free to define their own research task.

Programmes require a highly developed research environment or researcher network, and advanced expertise on the part of the researchers and research leader. Research groups of this kind are characterised by being well established in the international research community, with active networks and high productivity in terms of publication, both national and international.

For more information about the Programmes, please see <http://www.rj.se/en/For-researchers/Programmes/>.

#### **Signing up for the workshop**

In order to attend the workshop, researchers must fill out the sign-up form at <https://goo.gl/forms/AuI9TpcAWNCjYq2V2>.

The workshop agenda will be distributed to the NAIRS mailing list as soon as possible.

If the researcher's institution is active in Romani Studies, but is not a member of NAIRS, please contact the Coordinator.



RIKSBANKENS  
JUBILEUMSFOND

STIFTELSEN FÖR HUMANISTISK OCH  
SAMHÄLLSVETENSKAPLIG FORSKNING



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## R E P O R T S 2 0 1 6

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### **Network of Academic Institutions in Romani Studies**

#### **Activity report 2016**

The Coordinator of NAIRS has compiled an activity report for the first year of activities within the Network. The report can be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.se.sh/nairs>.

The report includes all realized activities of NAIRS in 2016, namely a) member recruitment, b) board meetings, c) biannual general meeting, d) summer school, e) website and newsletter, as well as plans for further funding and activities in 2017.

Since the writing of the report, the Network's member count is 25, the MSCA ITN project proposal has been submitted, the summer school report has been published, and the NAIRS kick-off workshop call has been opened.

### **1st NAIRS Summer School for PhD Students (22-25 August, 2016)**

#### **Feedback report**

The Coordinator of NAIRS collected feedback about the first NAIRS summer school via a Google Forms questionnaire, the link to which was sent out to all participants on September 12, 2016. The feedback form collected ten (10) responses from PhD students. A report of the feedback was compiled by the Coordinator in December 2016. The report may be viewed in its entirety at <http://www.sh.se/nairs>.

As most positive features of the summer school were mentioned a) meeting new people researching the same field and "enriching" the students' network, b) the "small scale" of the summer school and its "free atmosphere", c) the diverse program and multidisciplinary, d) the successful organization, and e) the "enthusiasm of the organizers".

Time management or the structure of the program were highlighted as the biggest issue of the summer school. The students felt that working days were too long and too intensive, and should have been stretched out over a larger number of days.

NAIRS is committed to pursuing additional funding for its activities, especially the summer schools, as they are central to the goals of the Network. In the future, NAIRS wishes to ensure the quality of teaching, improve the interdisciplinarity of the summer schools, as well as facilitate the publication of summer school outputs, such as PhD thesis presentations, articles or project plans.

The next NAIRS summer school will be held in summer 2017.



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## **C O N T A C T U S**

**Network of Academic Institutions in Romani Studies**

<http://www.sh.se/nairs>

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