

SEPTEMBER 2024  
TO DECEMBER 2024

# NARDIV LETTER #2



Funded by the Horizon Europe Programme of the European Union under grant agreement no 101095171

## WHAT AND WHO IS NARDIV?



NARDIV is both a research project as well as cultural one. NARDIV is the acronym for **Narrative Diversity**. Our full name being: **NARDIV - United in Narrative Diversity? Cultural (Ex-)Change and Mutual Perceptions in Eastern and Western Europe at the threshold of the digital age**. The question mark in our name highlights the investigative nature of our project which aims to inquire upon on questions of gender, identity, culture, and politics through varying forms and narratives. Our project especially seeks to understand and bridge the growing alienation between Eastern and Western Europe by investigating perceptions shaped by traditions, values, and beliefs.

We are scholars, cultural practitioners, and creatives from six European countries, namely France, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, and Romania. We work together to develop strategies for revitalizing cultural encounters and promoting inclusive cultural diplomacy, countering populist and identity-based discourses, and fostering a more unified European narrative.

## NARDIV WORKSHOPS

**Workshop and Film Screening:  
With Alina Șerban for the Roma  
and Sinti Community**

*Can film and storytelling spark change for Roma and Sinti communities?*

On August 31st NARDIV hosted a transformative workshop in Timișoara, Romania, led by acclaimed Roma actress and director Alina Șerban. The event brought together members of the Roma and Sinti communities to share life stories and explore challenges of representation and discrimination.

Using her film *Gypsy Queen* as a starting point, Șerban facilitated open discussions and cultural exchanges through storytelling and screenings. Participants reflected on their experiences, voiced personal challenges and celebrated their identity.



**Workshop: Culture in Digital Spaces – Utilizing Social Media as a Stage and Tool for Visibility and Participation**

*How can social media bridge the gap between metropolitan centers and rural regions? how can cultural institutions and creators better connect with and engage their online audiences? These were the questions tackled during the 2-day workshop by NARDIV PhD student Miriam Meinekat between 11 to 12th of September at the Goethe-Institut in Bucharest. Designed for artists, curators, cultural consultants, creators, and social media strategists, the workshop explored social media strategies and AI tools in depth, working alongside experts to develop innovative solutions for the cultural field.*



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## FESTIVALS

From September to October, the Institut Français de Roumanie (IFRo) hosted two remarkable festivals, fostering cultural exchange between Western and Eastern Europe. The Orizont Sonor Festival of Radio and Sound Creation (19-21 September) in Constanța highlighted the power of podcasting and sound creation as mediums for cross-cultural narratives, engaging younger audiences through dynamic workshops.

Meanwhile, the ALT + CTRL + PLAY Alternative Video Game Festival (15-19 October) in Bucharest celebrated the artistic and cultural aspects of gaming, uncovering the alternative history of hacking, coding, and fan culture across Europe.



## ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

### Post-Colonialism and European Relations

NARDIV's academic events this quarter explored how post-colonial narratives influence European diplomacy and identity. On 23rd October, the panel Germany-Poland-Ukraine: The 'Colonial' as a Factor Influencing Foreign Policy examined the impact of decolonization and shared histories on current foreign policy, particularly in the context of the war in Ukraine. This theme continued on 15th of November with the panel Trans-European Post-Colonialism(s) Revisited, which analyzed pivotal years in European integration and their ongoing significance. Both discussions highlighted NARDIV's role in fostering critical dialogue on identity and historical narratives.

### Culture, Media, and Narratives

There was also focused on cultural and intellectual practices shaping Europe today. On 17th September, the roundtable Information in the Age of Social Networks explored collaborations between social media influencers and journalists. The Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy between 28th to 29th of November analyzed the role of culture in international relations through historical and contemporary lenses. Additionally, Dr. Marleen Rensen's lecture on 22 November titled Rethinking the Limits of 'Life Writing' highlighted new approaches to autobiographical narratives. These events underscored NARDIV's commitment to examining the intersections of culture, media, and intellectual discourse.

### (P)OSTKOLONIALISMUS

Postcolonial Perspectives on Poland, Ukraine and Eastern Europe

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
23-25/10/2024



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## NARDIV IN THE PRESS

77 Symposium: Cultural Diplomacy - Before and After featured in



77 The "Conversation of the Day" show by NiUS Radio featured Pierre-Frédéric Weber who discussed NARDIV's goals, findings, and future plans



## UPCOMING EVENTS

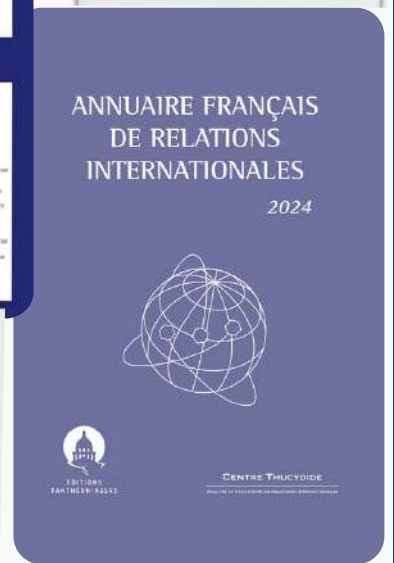
10-17.02.2025: Performative Installation: In the Loop of Cultural Times — Years of Goethe-Institute in Romania (Bucharest, Romania)

02-05.03.2025: Presentation: Central Europe as a Field of Study on the Impact of 'the (Post)Colonial' on Foreign Policy (Chicago, USA)

## PUBLICATIONS



Pierre-Frédéric Weber published a chapter titled *Poland or the Rise of an Uninhibited Central Europe*, which examines Poland's increasing influence in the EU and NATO in the context of the ongoing war in Ukraine and evolving European power dynamics.



Cristian Preda published *Who Can Replace the Romanian Dictator? Some Answers from French Diplomats in the 1980s*, analyzing French diplomatic documents from 1985–1989 on Nicolae Ceaușescu's succession and key political figures of Romania's late communist era

## UPCOMING EVENTS



31.01.2025: Roundtable: Reality and Fiction in Post-Totalitarian Space (Brest, France)

31.01.2025: Roundtable: Sensitive approach to the war in Ukraine (Brest, France)

31.01.2025 Listening Session: An Emotional Encyclopedia of War (Brest, France)

01.02.2025: Roundtable: Georgia-Romania, 30 years of resistance music radio (Brest, France)

01.02.2025: Roundtable: What place for sound creation in documentary writing? (Brest, France)

MORE EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE