

JANUARY 2025
TO JULY 2025

NARDIV LETTER #3



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 **N**arrative **D**iversity. 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 project especially seeks to understand and bridge the growing alienation between Eastern and Western Europe by investigating perceptions shaped by traditions, values, and beliefs.

NARDIV works towards developing strategies for revitalizing cultural encounters and promoting inclusive cultural diplomacy, countering populist and identity-based discourses.



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Read Alina Șerban's interview with Ismael Cortés on challenging stereotypes and amplifying Roma voices on stage and screen.
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WORKSHOPS

Rethinking East-West Narratives in Theory and Art

Between March and April, NARDIV brought critical reflection and artistic expression into dialogue through two workshops:

- in Amsterdam, NARDIV researchers examined the often-overlooked position of East-Central Europe in postcolonial theory, debating the conceptual tensions between post-socialist and post-colonial frameworks.
- in Marseille, Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi with Joachim Umlauf - Director of Goethe-Institut led a workshop and debate on East-West asymmetries in contemporary art, encouraging participants to reflect through drawing and collective fanzine-making.

Amplifying Roma Voices Through Film and Storytelling

Roma actress and director Alina Șerban led two workshops (Budapest in March, Madrid in June) centering Roma women's voices. Through screenings and participatory sessions, participants reflected on visibility, discrimination, and storytelling as empowerment.

As Roma voices reclaimed space on screen and stage, the workshops posed a vital question to European cultural spaces: who gets to tell the story—and who still needs to be heard?



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FESTIVAL

Creation in the East

NARDIV participated in the 21st edition of the *Longueur d'ondes Festival*, one of Europe's premier gatherings for radio, podcasting, and audio storytelling.

Together with our partners—the French Institute of Romania and the Goethe-Institut Bucharest—we co-curated a special program titled "Creation in the East".

The program featured:

- Sound installation by Anna Kravets on war and emotion
- Roundtables on radio resistance, war representation, and fiction in post-totalitarian contexts



“ Missed the festival?
Listen to journalist Paul Breazu talk about the Roundtable: Georgia-Romania: 30 Years of Radio Resistance on Radio Romania International

CONFERENCES & PANELS

Debating Europe's Soft Power & Cultural Diplomacy

From 12-14 May in Amsterdam, NARDIV hosted the symposium Cultural Diplomacy as a Field of Tension, with opening panels at the Goethe-Institut on cultural diplomacy in polarised times. Speakers included NARDIV researchers and experts such as Corina Şuteu, Beata Ociepka, Olga Brzezińska, Julien Chiappone-Lucchesi, and Hanna Klimpe.

Over three days, participants explored cancel culture, self-censorship, post-communist legacies, feminist foreign policy, and other challenges shaping East-West cultural relations. The symposium asked: in a divided Europe, how can cultural diplomacy build trust without compromise?



“ Watch re:publica panel featuring Hanna Klimpe with a discussion into how TikTok and other digital platforms influence elections in Romania and Germany.

NARDIV researchers addressed foreign policy, digital influence, and postcolonial legacies in two key panels and a conference.

- At the International Studies Association Congress in Chicago, Beata Ociepka and Pierre-Frédéric Weber presented research framing Central Europe through (post-)colonial dynamics and their impact on foreign policy.
- At re:publica 25 in Berlin, Hanna Klimpe examined how TikTok shapes electoral discourse in Romania and Germany, exposing shared digital vulnerabilities.
- At ILERI in Paris, Cristian Preda discussed democratic transition and the role of bold cultural diplomacy in shaping Europe's global influence.



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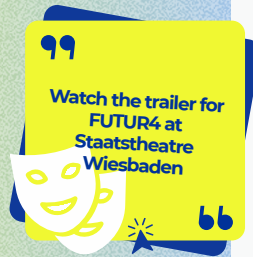
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ARTISTIC INTERVENTIONS

Theatre Production

FUTUR4 with Rimini Protokoll

Futur4 blends documentary theatre and AI sci-fi to tell the story of a Romanian-German woman bought out of Ceaușescu's Romania in the 1970s. 50 years later, she returns to the stage to confront her past and future through conversations with an AI expert and simulated versions of herself. The production premiered in May and June in Wiesbaden and at the Sibiu International Theatre Festival.



Performative Installation

Reflections on East-West Perspectives with Postnational Theater Interfonic

Reflections on East-West Perspectives explores how culture has crossed ideological and historical divides over the past 50 years. The installation examines communication, resistance, and identity, and was shown in June in Brașov and Sibiu.



Take a virtual tour of the performative installation Reflections on East-West Perspectives in Brașov



PUBLICATIONS

Cristian Preda published 'Why and how to present 'a modern France' in Bucharest in 1989?' and 'French Cultural Diplomacy and the Dawn of Political Science in Romania' in Revista POLIS



BLOG HIGHLIGHTS

NARDIV PhD Work

Exploring Cultural Diplomacy and German-Romanian Cultural Transfer Through the Lens of Academic Research and Artistic Practice

Read more



Roxana Lapadat

What is Life Writing and how do female authors write about their GDR experiences after the fall of the wall?

Read more



Jeremy Fischbach

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 25-29.09.2025** Vienna, Austria
Performative Installation: Reflections on East-West Perspectives
- 9-10.10.2025** Stuttgart, Germany
Theatre Production: Futur4 with Rimini Protokoll
- 27-29.11.2025** Bucharest, Romania
Conference: Reimagining European Cultural Diplomacy
- 5-6.03.2026** Warsaw, Poland
Joint Conference: Narratives of Europe in Uncertain Times with Horizon-EU Project B-Shapes

Underlined items throughout this newsletter link to full articles, videos, and resources