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MEMORIA

MEMORY • HISTORY • EDUCATION



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION ON THE HISTORY OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE HOLOCAUST

"WHO WERE THE
VICTIMS OF THE
NATIONAL
SOCIALISTS?"

POLIN EXHIBITION

"THEY FILL NO
SPACES". MOST
INTERESTING
MURALS ABOUT
POLISH JEWS
16TH EUROPEAN
SUMMER-
UNIVERSITY

RAVENSBRÜCK

"THE MEMORY
OF CAMP
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EXHIBITION

AWARDED
EUROPEAN PRIZE

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We invite all of you to work closely with us. We would be grateful to receive information about events, projects, publications, exhibitions, conferences or research that we should share with our readers. We also accept proposals for articles.

Paweł Sawicki, Editor-in-Chief

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN EDUCATION ON THE HISTORY OF AUSCHWITZ AND THE HOLOCAUST

New technologies in education about the history of Auschwitz and the Holocaust was the subject of an international conference held on June 27-29 at the Auschwitz Memorial. The meeting entitled "Tools from 'here and now' in teaching about 'then' - new technologies in education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust" is part of a biennial series of meetings devoted to reflection on teaching methodology organized by the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust. The conference was attended by almost 130 people from many European countries, as well as the United States, Israel, Canada and Australia. These are primarily people professionally involved in education at Memorial Sites and other similar museums and institutions.

"Auschwitz neither began in 1940 nor ended in 1945. We try to emphasize to all participants of our projects how many different factors from the pre-war period made Auschwitz possible at all, and that we can observe its terrible consequences until now. It resonates particularly strongly during our cyclical international conferences," said ICEAH Director Andrzej Kacorzyc during the opening of the conference.

Three discussion panels constituted the main part of the conference. In the first one, Orit Margaliot, educator from Ed-Tech, and Anna Osiadacz from the Koncept Kultura Foundation talked about the reception of new technologies from a psychological and sociological perspective. The discussion, moderated by Adelina Hetnar-Michaldo, head of ICEAH's Educational Projects, focused on the change that new technologies bring to the education process, especially of young people. We were wondering how the young generation today acquires knowledge and which tools to use to communicate the message more effectively.

The second panel, moderated by Professor Adam Szpaderski, was devoted to the presence of museums and memorial sites in social media. The discussion was attended by Dr. Yael Richler-Friedman from Yad Vashem, Alison Kitchens from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington and Paweł Sawicki from the Auschwitz Museum. Social media is an integral part of everyday life for many people today. The panellists talked about the strategy of running social media profiles by the institutions they represent and how they see the future of their institutions in this area.

The third panel discussed the opportunities and threats related to the use of new technologies in education about the crimes of World War II. Its participants were Dr. Maria Zalewska from the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial Foundation, Dr. Jennifer Rich from the Rowan University and Dr. Matthew Boswell from the University of Cardiff. It was moderated by the director of the Auschwitz Museum, Dr Piotr M. A. Cywiński. The panelists tried to find answers to questions

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Birkenau
STATE MUSEUM

M C E A H
International Centre for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust
I C E A H





The presentation of the application was also associated with a special ceremony. At the headquarters of the International Center for Education about Auschwitz and the Holocaust, a plaque honouring Appsflyer as a donor supporting the educational mission of the Memorial was unveiled.

"As time passes, the number of living survivors is rapidly decreasing, and we are losing the privilege of hearing their stories firsthand. We are a very lucky generation that happened to live among Holocaust survivors. Therefore, we all have a great responsibility for future generations to make sure that the Holocaust is remembered and never forgotten," emphasized Oren Kaniel, Appsflyer CEO.

At the conference, representatives of the Bergen-Belsen Memorial Site, the Anne Frank House, the USC Shoah Foundation, Beit Haedut, the Siberian Memorial Museum and the Falstad Centre presented their projects related to new technologies.

Summing up the conference, the director of the Auschwitz Museum, Dr. Piotr M. A. Cywiński, emphasized: "While four years ago we could still negate reality, today we know that we cannot. We tried to include in this program some elements of the analysis of the development of the situation in terms of new technologies, as well as to undertake some methodical reflection, or even more than methodical - reflection on the philosophy of the development of this memory, which we



“WHO WERE THE VICTIMS OF THE NATIONAL SOCIALISTS?”

This is a Toolkit on “Who Were the Victims of the National Socialists?” that invites you, students, to explore the history of different groups of people persecuted by the National Socialists. In this journey, you will create your own local history project together with your peers. In the process, you will discover what ignites your curiosity and what stories you wish to unearth and share within your own community.

Why do we need another educational resource on the history of National Socialism and World War II? Throughout Europe, the history of World War II is largely covered by history curricula across different levels and years of study.

However, educators and students do not always have the opportunity to explore aspects that are connected to their own neighbourhood, town, city or region. These include the diverse ways in which individuals and communities experienced events in their historical contexts, as well as the changing interpretations of these narratives over time. This Toolkit aims to provide teachers and students with tools, information and additional resources to expand their understanding of various groups of people who were persecuted by the National Socialists. Some of these histories have remained untold, understudied, or are simply lesser-known. With a broader Focus on Nazi persecution, we aim to illuminate the stories of the diverse groups of people that have been underrepresented in research, remembrance culture and history lessons. Therefore, the central inquiry question of this Toolkit and the local history projects is: Who Were the Victims of the National Socialists?

By looking at the past, the Toolkit and the local history projects aspire to develop an understanding of mechanisms and structures in present-day societies that give rise to injustice. We challenge students to increase their awareness and comprehension of racism, discrimination, and other forms of social exclusion in our societies today.

The topic at hand is a complex one. “Victim” is in itself a term that needs to be reflected upon critically. One needs to be aware of the complexity and importance of deconstructing discriminatory categories in an educational setting: in this case, when referring to the categories of victims that were created and used by the National Socialists. To avoid reproducing discrimination, we use the more nuanced terms we have today to refer to different victim groups, rather than those created and used by the perpetrators in their historical context.

Discussing a violent past and the suffering of people can also be very emotionally challenging for both teachers and students. We therefore invite you, teachers, to tackle this project and topic in a way that allows you and your students to find a balance between understanding its complexity on the one hand, and exploring concrete examples to connect with and make history more tangible on the other.

The Toolkit provides basic historical content and information about the ideology of National Socialism and its different victims. It also offers practical tools that you and your students may wish to use when creating a local history project.



**Who
Were the
Victims
of the
National
Socialists?**

UNKNOWN QUARTERS OF WAR GRAVES DISCOVERED IN ŁAMBINOWICE

During excavation works at the Old POW Cemetery in Łambinowice from 12-20 July this year, a team of archaeologists invited by the Museum and led by Dr Dawid Kobiątka discovered an unknown burial site of more than 60 Italian soldiers interned in the Lamsdorf POW camps during World War II.

In a probing excavation, archaeologists recorded fragments of 16 objects measuring approximately 2 m by 65 cm, forming - as they have so far established - at least four rows. Exploration of two of them proved that the recorded structures were burial pits. At their bottom are human remains preserved in anatomical order. The discovery of one-half of an identity marker (commonly known as a dog tag) next to the remains bearing the legible camp number 1064 facilitated the identification of one of the buried soldiers. He is Giovanni Paravidino, who died on 1 September 1944 at the age of 21. Giovanni Paravidino was one of the Italian soldiers interned in the Lamsdorf camps. The first internees were sent here in the second half of 1943. It was caused by the Italian coup of 25 July 1943, as a result of which Benito Mussolini was removed from power, and the new government of Marshal Pietro Bagdolio aligned with the Allies and declared war on the Third Reich. In response, the Wehrmacht captured and imprisoned 600,000 Italian

soldiers who refused to join its ranks. For propaganda purposes, the Germans referred to them as "Italian military internees" (IMI) but at the same time placed them in prisoner-of-war camps, which they converted into places of extermination for the Italians, just as for the Soviet POWs. The discovery has been reported to the relevant authorities. The graves have been secured to facilitate the continuation of archaeological work. The museum will strive to make this feasible in the upcoming year. The next phase will be to mark and commemorate the discovered burial site.

This year's archaeological work at Łambinowice is undertaken as part of the interdisciplinary project Science for Society, Society for Science at the Site of National Remembrance in Łambinowice, part-funded by the Ministry of Education and Science, which the Central Museum of Prisoners-of-War is implementing from June 2022 to mid-2024.



THE WIENER HOLOCAUST LIBRARY MARKS 90 YEARS

To mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Library's predecessor organisation in Amsterdam, the Library is staging two new exhibitions.

The Wiener Library at 90: Highlights From the Archives

This exhibition commemorates the anniversary of the founding of world's longest continually existing archive on the Nazi era and the Holocaust. It showcases the breadth and depth of the Library's collections, encompassing unique items recording pre-Nazi era life; the struggle against Nazism; efforts to document and record antisemitic and anti-Roma persecution and the Holocaust; Nazi documents giving evidence of their crimes; material relating to the lives of Jewish refugees, and efforts to document other genocides.

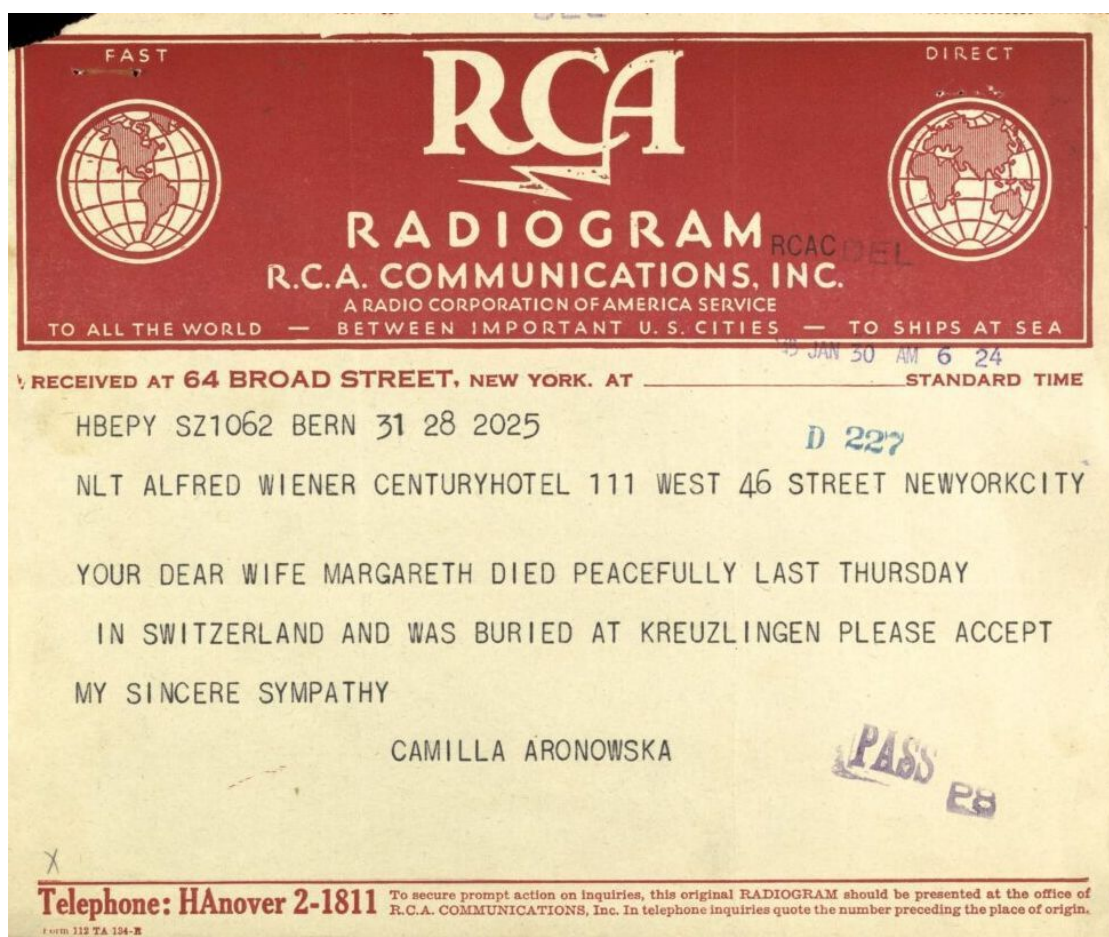
The exhibition demonstrates the range and the importance, and sometimes fragility, of the Library's collections.

The Wiener Library at 90: The Wiener Family

Story

This exhibition traces the history of the family of the founder of the Library's founder, Dr Alfred Wiener. Born in Potsdam in 1885, Wiener was a noted anti-Nazi campaigner by the time of the Nazi accession to power in 1933. In the same year he relocated to Amsterdam for his own safety and founded the Library's predecessor organisation, the Jewish Central Information Office. This exhibition will examine Wiener's life of anti-Nazi work and also explore the fates of Wiener's wife and daughters who became trapped in German-occupied Holland, and were eventually arrested and held in camps, including Bergen-Belsen. Towards the end of the war, they were released in a rare prisoner exchange. Wiener's daughter Mirjam later went on to move to London and marry Ludwik Finkelstein, who had his own story of incarceration and escape

Telegram sent by Camille Aronowska to Alfred Wiener, 30 January 1945. Margarete Wiener died while on a prisoner exchange transport from Germany to Switzerland, just a few days from freedom. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections





The Wiener girls in Amsterdam, c. 1938. Mirjam, Ruth and Eva Wiener lived in Amsterdam after fleeing Berlin. They lived in the Jewish district of the city and were friends with Anne and Margot Frank. Wiener Holocaust Library Collections.

EXHIBITION „THEY FILL NO SPACES”. MOST INTERESTING MURALS ABOUT POLISH JEWS

The travelling outdoor exhibition “They Fill No Space. Restoring the Memory of Polish Jews in the urban space” is again on tour. It is currently on display in Gliwice and will then visit Opole, Wrocław and Częstochowa. Using more than 30 murals from various locations in Poland, we recount the story of selected themes in the history of Polish Jews.

- Gliwice, 14 July-9 August, Upper Silesian Jewish Remembrance Centre, 14 Księcia Józefa Poniatowskiego St.
- Opole, 11 August-6 September, Provincial Public Library Garden, 18-19-20 Piastowska St.
- Wrocław, 8 September-4 October, Wrocław Market Square
- Częstochowa, 6 October-2 November, dr Władysław Biegański Square

The outdoor exhibition “They Fill No Space” is open to all. It innovatively utilises murals to present selected themes from the history of Polish Jews. It also sheds light on Polish-

Jewish relations and forms of restoring the memory of previous neighbours by urban activists and local associations.

In over a dozen thematic sections, viewers will learn, among other things, about the contribution of Polish Jews to their native culture and economy, Jewish life in Poland over the centuries, and the Polish Righteous among the Nations. The exhibition also addresses difficult chapters in Polish-Jewish history, including the Holocaust and the anti-Semitic campaign instigated by the communist authorities in March 1968. Exhibitions in the individual cities will be



PEŁNO ICH NIGDZIE

**PRZYWRACANIE
PAMIĘCI
O POLSKICH ŻYDACH
W PRZESTRZENI
MIEJSKIEJ**

.....
OPROWADZANIE





**ONIGDZE.
ANIE PAMIĘCI
CZ ŻYDACH
CZNI MIEJSKIEJ**

emaga się z pamięcią o milionach
łowanych podczas Holokaustu
w żydowskiej cywilizacji na kontynencie
„Pamięć ich niegdyś” to słowo
stworzone przez Jerzego Ficowskiego z wiersza
Krzysztofa Komarowa, który
wskazuje na konieczność pamięci i
świadomości o tym, co się stało.
To słowo ma być
pamięcią o tym, co się stało, gdzie
im do sytuacji w dzisiejszej Polsce, gdzie
toczą się burzliwe dyskusje o relacjach
polsko-żydowskich, chociaż prawie nie ma już Żydów.

**THEY FILL NO SPACE:
REVIVING THE MEMORY
OF POLISH JEWS
IN PUBLIC SPACES**

Europe still struggles with the memory of millions
of Jews murdered in the Holocaust and the destruction
of Jewish civilization on the European continent.
“They fill no space” is a quote from Jerzy Ficowski’s
poem “Świat ich niegdyś” (World of theirs). It was
written in 1945, shortly after the war, and it is still
relevant today. It is a commentary on the
situation in contemporary Poland, where heated
discussions about Polish-Jewish relations abound,
even though there are hardly any Jews left.

The memory of Poland’s Jews is also being
revived by large-format murals on the walls
of buildings. They are appearing in towns
where Jews made up a significant portion of
the population before World War II. They are
the work of small groups of urban residents
who want to remind their fellow residents of
their former Jewish neighbors.

Dziś toczą się burzliwe
dyskusje o relacjach
polsko-żydowskich,
choć w Polsce mieszka
już niewiele Żydów.
Murale są jedną
z reakcji na lata
przemilczenia i próbą
zmiękczenia się
z trudną historią.

**IMAGINE
MURALS**

Imagine a world where the memory of the Holocaust is not just a distant past, but a living part of our present. Imagine a world where the stories of the victims are not just read in books, but are brought to life through art and public space. This is the goal of the Imagine Murals project, which aims to create a visual record of the Jewish community in Poland before the war. The murals are being created in small towns and villages where Jews once lived, and they are a powerful way to keep their memory alive.

**IMAGINE
MURALS**

The Imagine Murals project is a collaborative effort between artists and historians. The murals are being created in small towns and villages where Jews once lived, and they are a powerful way to keep their memory alive. The project is a response to the need for public spaces that honor the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The murals are a visual record of the Jewish community in Poland before the war, and they are a powerful way to keep their memory alive.

Fot. M. Jaźwiecki, Muzeum Historii Żydów Polskich

16th EUROPEAN SUMMER- UNIVERSITY RAVENSBRÜCK

The 16th European Summer University Ravensbrück is dedicated to the topic of testimony. The testimony of survivor witnesses is an integral part of the historical and educational work at memorial sites. However, has this seemingly self-evident fact always been common practice? Should the role of the survivor witness itself be historicized given the changes in the cultures of remembrance since 1945? And how can the postulate of critical reflection in educational work be balanced with the conception of the witness as a moral authority?

This year's Summer University will address this area of tension between the witness, testimony, and historical and pedagogical conveyance. Thereby, changes in the meaning of testimony, its use in memorial education as well as current digital approaches to the presentation of eyewitnesses will be explored. The Ravensbrück Summer University is characterized by its emphasis on women's and gender history.

As eyewitnesses, the former inmates receive great attention in contemporary memorial work: they are the moral authorities of activities at the sites, their memories shape knowledge about the National Socialist concentration camps, and in many cases, they were involved as actors in the establishment of memorials at sites of National Socialist persecution.

Survivor witnesses played an essential role in post-war trials, out of which the act of testifying developed. With their accounts, they increase knowledge about the concentration camps, especially from the perspective of social and everyday history.

Theoretical, methodological, and ethical questions of historiography and oral history also build on their accounts as sources. Thus, these narratives have become essential resources for the educational work at memorial sites and are closely linked to

these sites.

With the developments in media, established formats of videographed eyewitness accounts are being adapted into new shapes that are expected to meet the demands and habits of younger generations. During the summer university, such new digital formats and strategies and their impact on the dissemination, relevance and substance of survivor testimony will be critically assessed.

The European Summer University is aimed at an interdisciplinary audience of scholars, students, practitioners from the area of memorial sites and other interested individuals. It is intergenerational, and multidisciplinary and takes up questions of gender studies. The programme includes lectures, guided tours and workshops, as well as an open laboratory on new digital formats for the presentation of testimonies.

Additionally, a research forum for emerging scholars is planned within the conference framework, during which final theses (BA, MA, PhD) related to the thematic range of this year's summer university may be presented. For this, a separate Call for Papers will follow.

Participation in the European Summer University is free of charge. The conference languages are German and English. Simultaneous translation throughout the



HONORING PROFESSOR YEHUDA BAUER AT THE DUBROVNIK PLENARY

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) has successfully concluded its first Plenary Meetings under the Croatian Presidency, which took place over four days in the city of Dubrovnik. The meetings, attended by experts, political representatives, and representatives of international organizations and civil society, inspired exchanges and developments in the field of Holocaust remembrance, education, and research with a focus on securing the future of remembrance for generations to come.

The Dubrovnik Plenary marked the retirement of IHRA Honorary Chair, Professor Yehuda Bauer, at the age of 97. He was one of the founders of the IHRA and the author of the 2000 Stockholm Declaration. World leaders from Croatia, the founding countries of the IHRA, and Professor Bauer's home country sent messages of gratitude and admiration, underlining the impact of Professor Bauer's work.

The Croatian Prime Minister, Andrej Plenković, opened the special session by highlighting the need to "ensure that we continue to live up to the IHRA's moral foundations and carry the torch that Professor Bauer so generously hands over to all of us today."

President of Israel, Isaac Herzog, stated that it was a "daunting task indeed, to attempt to summarize the contribution of a man who is, quite simply, a living legend."

United States Secretary of State, Antony Blinken sent a letter thanking Professor Bauer for "being an example we all want to emulate: someone who speaks the truth about the darkest chapter of our history, and someone who teaches us to look forward as we learn from looking back."

Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Rishi

Sunak, expressed in writing that Professor Bauer "infused the IHRA's deliberations with a constant sense of the gravity and urgency of its work." His Majesty King Charles III sent a personal letter to Professor Bauer, expressing admiration for his life's work.

The Minister for Culture in Sweden, Parisa Liljestrand sent words of admiration for Professor Bauer's commitment to combating antisemitism. Former Prime Minister of Sweden, and one of the founders of the IHRA, Göran Persson gave a special video address, describing his decision to invite Professor Bauer to become the Advisor to the IHRA as "perhaps the best thing" he had ever done, because Professor Bauer "created both an academic framework, but also a friendly intellectual atmosphere that made it possible for us to discuss the worst crime against humanity ever."

Professor Bauer's legacy was secured by IHRA members deciding to establish a Professor Yehuda Bauer Grant aimed at supporting research on the Holocaust and antisemitism, hosting a symposium on the same topic later this year in Israel, and inviting the Global Action Against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC) to become a Permanent International Partner of the IHRA. These important steps help secure the IHRA's – and Professor Bauer's – vision for a



'THE MEMORY OF CAMP WESTERBORK' EXHIBITION AWARDED EUROPEAN PRIZE

The Camp Westerbork Memorial Centre has won the Call for Support awarded by the European Union and the Council of Europe for its exhibition The Memory of Camp Westerbork. Researcher and exhibition curator Bas Kortholt has been invited to present the project at the European Heritage Label Award Ceremony in Brussels on Tuesday, 14 June. The Memory of Camp Westerbork Remembered explores the many recollections and meanings associated with the historic site over the past 76 years. It will be on view at Camp Westerbork's museum from 8 July.

Camp Westerbork was the site from which more than 100,000 Jews, Roma and Sinti people were transported to extermination camps in central and eastern Europe. But before it became a transit camp, Westerbork was a refugee camp where large groups of foreign Jews were housed. It was also where dozens of members of the resistance were shot dead during the Second World War.

Camp Westerbork as a 'site of memory'
Camp Westerbork is also the place where, for more than two decades thousands of Moluccans were 'temporarily' housed. And it was where Indo Dutch people (individuals of mixed Indonesian and European ancestry) were received, soldiers trained and Dutch citizens suspected of Nazi collaboration interned. Camp Westerbork is a site of many





STEP 1. APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH EHRI AS AN ERIC SUBMITTED TO THE EU

On 13 July 2023, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science submitted to the European Union the step 1 application for EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, to establish itself as an European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).

“With this submission, we are well on our way towards EHRI transforming itself from a series of successful projects that have been running since 2010 into a permanent European organization that will help secure the future of trans-national Holocaust research, commemoration and education,” explains Dr. Reto Speck, Co-Director of EHRI.

Shortly before the Step 1 submission, the interim General Assembly (iGA) decided unanimously to approve all the necessary documents for this first part of the application process. The iGA comprises of representatives of the 11 prospective founding member countries of the ERIC and is the key committee that prepares and evaluates documentation for the process of establishing EHRI-ERIC. EHRI started as a project in 2010 and is now in its third phase with 27 partners in 15 European countries, Israel and the United States. The Dutch NIOD Institute for

War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies has been coordinator of the projects and the Netherlands has been chosen as the hosting country of the ERIC.

The European Commission will assess the Step 1 application by obtaining the views of independent experts. It is expected that after 3 months, EHRI will be informed of the results of the assessment. Taking into account necessary modifications, EHRI will then progress to Step 2, which is a formal request to the Commission to set up the ERIC, signed by all future members of the ERIC.

“After approval of the European Commission, EHRI will then be ready to establish itself as an ERIC,” says Reto Speck, “It is our sincere wish to launch EHRI-ERIC by January 2025, the 80th-anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.”





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