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Who are EHRI's [19 partners?](#)

Launch EHRI great success. Big response

The launch of the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure on 16 November 2010 in Brussels was a great success. Over 150 guests attended the event in the grand surroundings of the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire.

Among the guests were EHRI partners, politicians, journalists, historians, researchers, Holocaust survivors and many others. They listened to several speeches and saw a short film telling the

story of EHRI (now available on www.ehri-project.eu). The event was widely covered by the international press on radio and television.



Just before the launch event the official EHRI website went live. Almost a 100 emails were received showing support for the project,

asking questions and subscribing to this newsletter. With so much publicity it is not difficult to understand why some people were under the impression that the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure was already finished! However, the launch event only marked the beginning of a 4-year project. The work of EHRI has just started.

How to get involved in EHRI

We have received many enthusiastic emails asking how you can get involved in EHRI. Of course we are very pleased that so many people and organisations are willing to participate, and this is what we need if we want to make the project a success. EHRI is now based on the cooperation of [19 partners](#) from Europe and Israel who together will lay the foundation for the integration of dispersed Holocaust archives; that is

for a portal, virtual research environment, training, workshops and transnational access to established Holocaust infrastructures. If EHRI is to succeed in the future, long after the four years the project will run, it is essential that we build a large international community and offer as many institutions as possible opportunities to participate, either by connecting their collections, or by involving

potential users, or by starting to use the online environment for research, education and activities aimed at the general public. So how can you get involved in EHRI?

For organisations in the field of Holocaust studies or collections, there may be the opportunity to become an associate partner to EHRI in the future. This will mean... (continued on p. 2)



*Connecting
Collections*

*Access to
Archives*

*Research for
Remembrance*

*Connecting
Knowledge*

How to get involved in EHRI...

(from p. 1) ... early involvement in several activities and development. If you are one of the many enthusiastic people who have contacted us to let us know you share the vision of EHRI and are highly motivated to get involved, there will also be several opportunities to actively participate over the next four years. Different workshops for the more general public will be organised, as well as training and transnational access to research institutions for more professional users. We will keep you informed through this newsletter, the website and other channels.

For **more information on how to get involved** you can contact us through the EHRI website. Calls and announcements will also be published there.

We rely on you for input! Therefore we would like to ask anyone, especially our partners, to inform us of any news that may be suited for the website or newsletter. Please, send the information to [EHRI News](#). This newsletter is only a first provisional issue. Following newsletters will be published in the EHRI corporate design.

European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)

EHRI's main objective is to support the European Holocaust research community by giving it integrated online access to dispersed Holocaust related sources all over Europe and Israel and by encouraging collaborative research in multi-national research teams. To this end, 20 organisations from 13 countries will work together in a four-year project funded by the EU.

Holocaust data will be brought together in research guides, a portal and Virtual Research Environment. In addition, people will meet in workshops and gain transnational access to existing Holocaust infrastructures. If you want to know more, please visit: www.ehri-project.eu, where you can find information about the 19 partners of the consortium, a description of work and information on the 20 work packages.



1. General Partner Meeting, 16 November 2010. From left to right: Haim Gertner (Yad Vashem) and Conny Kristel (NIOD, Project Director) from the EHRI Executive Team, Maria Theofilatou from the European Commission, and Tobias Blanke (King's College London) from the EHRI Executive Team.

First EHRI workshop in Munich on Identification and Investigation

One of the first concrete tasks of EHRI was the organisation of an internal workshop on the identification and investigation of Holocaust related collections and institutions. In true European fashion this workshop was organised by Belgian EHRI partner CEGES-SOMA and hosted by the German Institut für Zeitgeschichte (IfZ) in Munich. All other EHRI partners were invited for this two day workshop.

The field of Holocaust studies relies more than most others on a huge variety of archives. Many institutions, old and new, have their own collections and their own research infrastructure, with different cataloguing systems and semantics. It is one of the most urgent tasks of EHRI to create an inventory of Holocaust related institutions, archives and collections, so this can be published

through the research infrastructure.

During the workshops it was stressed that the definition of the concept of Holocaust related sources should not be too narrow. A general agreement was reached on the importance of studying and gathering existing overviews and infrastructures of Holocaust sources. Then it will become clear where the gaps lie and extra efforts will be necessary. It is important to start the actual identification phase, perhaps without too much worrying about technical or theoretical difficulties. The added value of EHRI will lie in connecting existing infrastructures. Not too much time can be spend on looking for new or not inventoried collections, although for researchers a complete overview is important and a short description should be made.

In the first months research will focus on the level of institutions. A general overview of archives could be based on existing lists that will be systematically searched and refined country by country. Existing research guides on WWII archives will be helpful. Duplicating work should obviously be avoided. What has already been done and what is already known? Of course, this will all vary from country to country. In some the knowledge of what exists regarding Holocaust related sources is quite advanced, while in others this is hard to predict. EHRI will have to find out.



2. Institut für Zeitgeschichte (IfZ) Munich

Yad Vashem's photo archive online

One of EHRI's partners, Yad Vashem from Israel, has joined forces with Google to facilitate access to its large historical collection on the Holocaust. As a first step the photo archive was brought online. The images can be searched for directly from Google, using experimental optical character recognition

technology (OCR) that makes text within documents and photographs searchable in many languages. From now on the 130,000 photographs from the Yad Vashem archive can be viewed online, and people can add their own stories and knowledge.

If you want to have a look for yourself, go to the [Yad Vashem photo archive](#).



3. From the Yad Vashem photo archive: Lodz, Poland. A photo of the family of Moshe Langa.

*130.000
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People in EHRI: Petra Drenth, Publicity and Dissemination Officer

In every issue of the EHRI Newsletter we will introduce someone who works for EHRI. First up: Petra Drenth who is involved in publicity and dissemination.

Like everyone working for EHRI, I am in fact employed by one of the 20 organisations that form the consortium. My office is at NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in the Netherlands. NIOD is coordinator for EHRI and the Dutch institute has been involved in the project from the start. When the first initiatives for EHRI were taken, I was working for NIOD as

an assistant researcher on another project. Before my employment at NIOD I studied History at the University of Amsterdam and worked, among other things, for the Jewish Historical Museum in Amsterdam, making exhibitions. It was Conny Kristel, Project Director of EHRI, who asked me to become Publicity and Dissemination Officer for EHRI. When I joined EHRI, the project was still in its preparation stage, so I performed all sorts of tasks, whatever was necessary to get the Launch Event and Grant Agreement happening. Now the project has really

started, I work with other people from work package 8 on, for example, the website, this newsletter and communication. I love working for EHRI because it's a dynamic and international project with an interesting goal: the creation of a Holocaust Research Infrastructure. I like to tell people about this and I especially like to write. In fact I like writing so much I also write and publish fiction in my spare time, if I don't work for EHRI, or look after my 1½ year old daughter.



EHRI Information

This EHRI Newsletter is the first issue and a provisional one. Following issues will be in the EHRI corporate design. We will publish the newsletter at least four times a year.

If you don't want to receive this newsletter, please e-mail p.drenth@niod.knaw.nl.

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Visit our website at
www.ehri-project.eu

And watch our
[introduction film](#)

