



International experts gather in Jerusalem to discuss EHRI progress over 2011

Jerusalem, January 2012. **Scientific research of the Holocaust will remain a moral responsibility of the international community, historians and archivists concluded during the annual meeting of EHRI, the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. While it will take time to bring together and categorize all dispersed sources and archives, the first steps to come to one worldwide research infrastructure are bearing fruit.**

The EHRI-project – financed by the European Union and coordinated by the Dutch NIOD – will connect all Holocaust-related collections and archives. More than twenty organizations in thirteen countries have worked together already for more than a year to execute this programme. In 2011 the rough structure of the EHRI- thesaurus was developed. This thesaurus will contain keywords like 'ghetto' and 'razzia' that will be the basis for EHRI's search engine. In addition, over the past year, expert workshops on Recording the Names and The Holocaust and Photographic Documentation were held and research fellowships were offered to scientists researching specific collections. Last week the first results of EHRI were being discussed in a meeting in the renowned Holocaust research centre Yad Vashem in Israel. All nineteen partners were present. After reviewing the first year, next steps were also on the agenda.



EHRI consortium. Third from left: project director, Conny Kristel. Sixth from left: Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

According to EHRI project director Dr. Conny Kristel the interest in the project is immense. 'Apart from the participants that we started off with, many new organizations have offered their contribution in bringing together the world wide dispersed Holocaust archives. What has become clear to all people involved is that EHRI will not be another institution but a movement towards integration.'

European added value

Present in Jerusalem, Director-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission, Robert-Jan Smits, underlines the added value of the EHRI project: 'The European Commission is impressed by the progress that the EHRI project, financed under the EU 7th Framework Programme and coordinated by NIOD, has made. EHRI is a project of great scientific importance since it brings together in a pan-European network, the national Holocaust archives, with the aim to stimulate research, facilitate access and preserve unique material on the Holocaust. The active participation of Yad Vashem in EHRI is key to its success,' says Smits.



Guided tour of Yad Vashem with Haim Gertner, Director of the institute's Archives Division, Conny Kristel, director of EHRI and Robert-Jan Smits, Director-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission.