



press release

## **Holocaust research still unfinished**

### European Union launches first continental project for Holocaust studies

Brussels, 16 November 2010 **Today the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure was officially launched under the patronage of Council President Herman Van Rompuy. EHRI - the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure - is ensuring highest standards for research of continental history. With € 7 million funding from the European Union and 20 partner organizations out of 13 countries it is to date the most important European research project about the tragedy of the Holocaust. In the coming four years researchers will build up a unique database combining now dispersed archives around Europe. Researchers, but also teachers and students are going to use this immense source about the history of modern Europe.**

#### **Access to Archives - Connecting Collections**

Special attention will be paid to education and outreach by ensuring the online availability and maximum open access to Holocaust material as documents, objects, photo's, film and art for the larger public. According to Dr. Conny Kristel, director of EHRI, *'this joint effort of highly respected institutes worldwide, is about giving access to archives and connecting collections. In this way many more researchers but also the public at large, will profit from and contribute a higher level of Holocaust knowledge and awareness'*.

As such, the project will make an essential contribution to the ability of (non-governmental) organizations, teachers and individual citizens to make new generations aware of what happened.

#### **Consortium**

The EHRI partners are research institutions, libraries, archives, museums and memorial sites. They are based in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United Kingdom. Their scientists will join forces and transform the dispersed data available for Holocaust research around Europe, Israel and elsewhere into a cohesive corpus of resources. A focus will be put on Eastern Europe where the vast majority of Holocaust victims lived.

### **Virtual Research Environment**

EHRI will design and implement a Virtual Research Environment offering online access to archives and to a number of tools to work with them. Scholars involved are not only trained historians and political and social scientists but also archivists and digital research infrastructure specialists. EHRI will be an example and forerunner for digital research in a wide range of new disciplines in historical research and archival practices. The project is coordinated by NIOD, the Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide studies in Amsterdam.

### **Anniversary**

This year the world commemorates the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi death camp, which has become the symbol of the Holocaust and the destruction of European Jewry. The tragedy of the Holocaust led to the killing of over six million Jews in Europe.

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More information on the web: [www.ehri-project.eu](http://www.ehri-project.eu)

More information on EU support to research infrastructures:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures>

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