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Deliverable 5.1

Inventory of Potential International Associated Partners and Action Plan for their Association with EHRI-RI

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Abstract (for dissemination)	This DL provides an overview of the task aimed expanding EHRI's consortium, with international partners within EHRI scientific domain, outside the EU or associated countries whose expertise in the field of the Holocaust research can be of great value to EHRI. This DL will provide a first list of potential partner institutions outside the EU and associated countries and lay out initial plans for outreach and ideas for collaboration and association with EHRI-RI.

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1. Overview of the task

The task is part of EHRI's internationalization strategy which aims at expanding EHRI's global profile through outreach and partnership with institutions dealing with the Holocaust. These include institutions within the EHRI scientific domain notably Holocaust archives and research institutes that are located outside of the European Union or associated countries. These institutions thus have similar missions and expertise as the many partner institutions of EHRI, however because they are not located within the European Union or in an associated country, their ability to join EHRI-ERIC through full membership or observership of their respective country is restricted. In order to maximise EHRI's reach and impact, there is a need to strategize on how to build partnerships with such institutions. Task 5.1 thus aims specifically at exploring ways to expand the number of EHRI's international partners by first mapping out the main international institutions in EHRI's scientific domain with whom EHRI can build strong sustainable partnerships and then laying out initial ideas for collaboration and guidelines for association to EHRI-ERIC.

2. EHRI-ERIC and International Partners

EHRI has recently become a permanent research infrastructure. What started out as a project of four years in 2010 has now matured into a permanent European infrastructure for Holocaust research with its own legal identity and long-term funding streams. This permanent organisation takes the form of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). An ERIC is a full legal person under European Union Law with the objective of establishing and operating a research infrastructure of trans-national importance. The EHRI-ERIC was officially launched on January 26, 2025, and has ten founding members countries: Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Israel, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom with Belgium expected to join soon. EHRI-ERIC will operate as a distributed organisation, consisting of a coordinating Central Hub and linked National Nodes that integrate partner organisations in all member countries. The Central Hub of EHRI-ERIC will be established in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and be co-located at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Considering the global impact of the Holocaust and the presence of Holocaust

related institutions across the globe, there is a need to plan an internationalization strategy which will enable the collaboration of EHRI-ERIC with partners outside the EU and associated countries.

Models of integration for such third countries and organizations located in such countries is also an important topic in the ERIC Forum¹. A report published by the ERIC 2 Forum Project offers best practices and recommendations for procedures on engagement with third countries.² In addition to this useful report, the ERIC forum has organized a series of workshops, each dealing with a specific mechanism of engagement. Among them is a workshop dealing specifically with associated membership of International Partners.³ EHRI representatives have participated in several workshops organized by the ERIC Forum which dealt with the issue of internationalization, and the lessons learned by other ERICs in this area has significantly informed our own strategy. In particular, while increasing reach beyond Europe is seen as strategically important for most established ERICs, their experience suggests that significant hurdles remain to negotiate full membership or observership with third countries⁴. Instead, most ERICs implement their internationalisation efforts via bilateral agreements with individual relevant institutions in third countries.

Without ruling out an eventual association of third countries to EHRI-ERIC via full membership or observership, EHRI will in the first instance follow the practice of other ERICs by seeking bilateral collaboration agreements with international partners. This approach is also accommodated in the EHRI-ERIC Statutes, which includes provisions for the participation of Cooperating Partners in the tasks and activities of EHRI-ERIC. According to the Statutes, such Cooperating Partners must be located in countries that are not Members or Observers of EHRI-ERIC and the terms and conditions under

¹ The ERIC Forum aim is to advance operations of ERICs and to strategically contribute to the development of ERIC related policies the forum brings together the ERIC community to strengthen its coordination and collaboration. <https://www.eric-forum.eu/>

² Claudia Alén Amaro, John Dolan, Valentina Tegas, Franciska de Jong, Agnieszka Słowikowska, ERIC 2 Forum, DL 7.1 Best Practices and Recommendations for Procedures of Engagement with Third Countries, August 2024

³ The workshops took place online and included: ERIC Forum 2 Workshop on Associated Membership, October 23 hosted by and ERIC 3 Forum on International Observers, November 19, 2024.

⁴ There are some notable exceptions in the case of Clarin South Africa is a full member, while Qatar is an observer of the BBMRI.

which such Cooperating Partners engage with EHRI-ERIC are to be stipulated in cooperation agreements.

Following this approach, the immediate priorities for Task 5.1 are to (i) identify relevant institutions located in third countries in our domain; (ii) reach out to such institutions in order to identify areas of common interest and potential collaboration; and (iii) explore necessary prerequisites to prepare association agreements.

3. Mapping relevant international partners

Task members met early in the project to discuss how to identify potential international partners. An excel sheet was created in which we included the name of the institution, location, past connection with EHRI if any, and preliminary ideas for potential collaboration. The aim was to focus on prospective partners where we believe there is collaboration potential beyond the integration of meta-data into the EHRI portal. The excel sheet was initially shared among task members to solicit their suggestions, but, in a second step, was shared across the EHRI-IP consortium in order to get an as complete overview as possible. We particularly relied on the input from USHMM and Yad Vashem, the two EHRI-IP partners with the largest portfolio of working relationships with international Institutions in the field of Holocaust research. As institutions dealing with the Holocaust are located worldwide, the geographical scope for this data gathering exercise was wide and included the Americas, as well as Oceania, and Africa.

Overall, a list of 50 institutions was thus compiled (see Annex I). This initial list of partners will serve as a base for this task and will also be a useful information base for internationalisation and outreach activities across EHRI-IP and beyond. The list is not final and can be amended and added to as necessary by members of the consortium.

4. Initial ideas for areas of collaboration

Considering the diverse group of relevant international institutions, each being distinct and having specific fields of expertise, it is clear that eventual collaboration agreements will need to be flexible and adaptable to individual circumstances. Nevertheless, the task has already identified generic areas of potential collaborations, and we expect that

future collaborating international partners will contribute to the mission of EHRI-ERIC via several of the following activities:

- Provision of trans-national access via the Conny Kristel Fellowship Programme
- Provision of metadata to the EHRI Portal
- Provision of content to other EHRI Online Services
- Provision of technical skills and expertise
- Organisation of joint events
- Scientific and Methodological input into EHRI programming
- Development of externally funded joint projects

For the collaborating institutions, an association with EHRI can provide them with various benefits including:

- Access to a forum for international exchange
- Access to European research community
- Professionalization and knowledge exchange
- Access to working groups and methodological innovations
- Participation in externally funded joint projects

5. Strategy to formalise collaborations

While no final decision has been made about how to formalise collaboration agreements, we will most likely rely on Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). A survey by the ERIC 2 Forum Project suggests that MoUs are currently the most common mechanism by which ERICs formalise international collaborations with partners that share goals, activities and projects. According to the survey, the main advantages of using MoUs are simplicity, flexibility and adaptability to different types of collaboration as they can easily be tailored to suit the specific needs of each

partner. Since MoUs are non-legally binding, they save time and are often easier for institutions to implement. However, it is important to note that, because MoUs are not legally binding, they can sometimes make it more challenging to maintain long-term collaboration. This potential issue should be addressed when considering their use.⁵ As we begin negotiating with potential partners, we will explore the various options for formalizing association on a case-by-case basis.

6. Next steps

An analysis of the identified institutions suggests that the most important players are located in the Americas, and particularly in the US. Therefore, we decided to pursue an association of institutions in the Americas as our first priority. An in-person workshop is being planned for February 2025 and will take place in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and will serve as an important step to advance partnerships with institutions in the Americas. The workshop will bring together representatives from 11 potential partner institutions, from the Americas, selected from the overall list. Participants of the workshop will include the following institutions: USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archives, The Leo Baeck Institute New York I Berlin, Fortunoff Video Archives for Holocaust Testimonies, Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University, Strassler Center at Clark, Anne Tanenbaum Center for Jewish Studies University of Toronto, Yivo, Iberoamericana University, Montreal Holocaust Memorial Museum, American Joint Distribution Committee Archives, University of Buenos Aires. This workshop will be an opportunity to discuss in detail with various partners possibilities of concrete collaboration with EHRI-ERIC in the future.

Following the workshop itself EHRI staff members will remain an additional day to conduct discussions specifically with USHMM staff. The USHMM has been a key contributor and partner to EHRI since its very beginning with the establishment of the EHRI-ERIC, this will be an opportunity to discuss a model of association which will enable continued collaboration in the future. Given that EHRI and USHMM can

⁵ Claudia Alén Amaro, John Dolan, Valentina Tegas, Franciska de Jong, Agnieszka Slowikowska, ERIC 2 Forum, DL 7.1 Best Practices and Recommendations for Procedures of Engagement with Third Countries, August 2024

look back at a long history of successful collaborations, we are confident that a mutually beneficial agreement can be concluded swiftly.

In parallel to organising a workshop and advancing the association of USHMM, EHRI has also made significant progress in discussions with two additional US-based institutions that play a key role in the international Holocaust research and documentation landscape: the USC Shoah Foundation and the Fortunoff Video Archive.

Founded in 1994 and based at the University of Southern California, the USC Shoah Foundation's mission is to help preserve Holocaust memory and history, confront antisemitism, and strengthen democratic values through innovative programming, global-impact strategies, and forward-looking research and education initiatives. In particular, the USC Shoah Foundation hosts the Visual History Archive that features more than 56,000 oral testimonies of survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides. EHRI - via its coordinating institution NIOD - signed an MoU with the Shoah Foundation on 28 October 2024. The MoU mandates both parties to jointly explore areas of future collaborative work in general, and how access by European researchers to the Visual History Archive can be improved in the framework of EHRI-ERIC in particular. Following the signing of the MoU we expect intense engagement with the USC Shoah Foundation over the coming months and expect that the current MoU will be superseded by a lasting collaboration agreement between EHRI-ERIC and the USC Shoah Foundation in the short to medium term.

The Fortunoff Video Archive is based at Yale University and holds a unique collection of more than 4,400 Holocaust testimonies which comprise more than 12,000 hours of video tapes. EHRI and Fortunoff already have a long history of ad-hoc collaborations and engagements, and have recently started discussions on how these can be transformed into a long-term, strategic partnership. We are specifically exploring the scope for offering future joint fellowships, and, as with the Shoah Foundation, we expect that a related collaboration agreement between EHRI-ERIC and the Fortunoff Archive will be ready for signing in the short to medium term.

Annex 1: List of Potential International Partners

Name	Location
South America	South America
National University La Plata	Argentina
Nucleo de Estudios Judios IDES	Argentina
Museo del Holocausto de Buenos Aires	Argentina
Fundación IWO	Argentina
Centro Marc Turkow (AMIA documentation center)	Argentina
Museo y Archivo Histórico Regional de las Colonias Judías	Argentina
Brazilian Center for Nazism and Holocaust Studies NEPAT	Brazil
Museo Judio de Chile	Chile
Fundacion Memoria Viva	Chile
Memory and Tolerance Museum	Mexico
Centro de Documentación e Investigación Judío de México	Mexico
Museu Judaico de São Paul	Brazil
Archivo Judío de Colombia, La Sociedad Genealogica Judía Colombiana	Colombia
Jewish Cultural and Historical Museum in Curaçao	Curaçao
Red LAES	Pan-Latin America
Latin American Jewish Studies Association (LAJSA)	
Universiry of Buenos Aires	Argentina

Iberoamericana University	Mexico
The General Archive of the Nation - (Argentinian National Archive)	Argentina
AFRICA	
Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Center	South Africa
Federal UNiversity Dutse	Nigeria
North America	
Canadian National Archives	
Agudat Israel of America Archives	US
Montreal Holocaust Memorial Museum	Canada
Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Center for Jewish Studies Carleton University, Ottawa	Canada
Canadian Jewish Archives	Canada
Ontario Jewish Archives	Canada
Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada	Canada
US Holocaust Memorial Museum	US
USC Shoah Foundation Visual History Archive	US
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives	US
YIVO	US
Anne Tanenbaum Center for Jewish Studies University of Toronto	
Strassler Center at Clark	
Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University	US
Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies	US

Yeshiva University archives and special collection	US
Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum	US
American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati	US
Center for Jewish History (YIVO, American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, Yivo)	US
AUSTRALIA	
University of Sydney	Australia
Melbourne Holocaust Museum	Australia
University of New South Wales	Australia
European Institution that are not able to join EHRI-ERIC for various reasons	
International Memorial	RU/DE