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**Inventory of Potentially Relevant Initiatives for
Strategic Partnerships and Possible Modes of Collaboration**

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Abstract (for dissemination)	This deliverable provides a general description of the task which aims to expand and encourage sustainable collaboration with other multilateral initiatives and stakeholders with which EHRI seeks to engage. This deliverable provides information on the drafting of a list of potential strategic multilateral organizations for partnership consideration. In addition, it presents information on two in-person meetings that have taken place with IHRA and Claims Conference representatives, and plans for a workshop with a number of strategic partners scheduled for the second half of 2025 – date to be determined in early 2025. This document outlines potential avenues of future cooperation and the strategic reasoning behind the WP team's assessments.

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1. Executive Overview

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.

Within EHRI-ERIC's expansion workplan, Task 5.3 aims specifically at expanding EHRI-ERIC by encouraging sustainable collaboration with other multilateral initiatives and stakeholders with which EHRI seeks to engage, such as the European Union and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). These multilateral organizations shall be globally distributed organizations, rather than strictly national institutes or purely nationally bound organizations, thus increasing EHRI-ERIC's networking capacities and leveraging EHRI-ERIC's multinational distribution, maximizing potential outcomes. EHRI-ERIC has identified a number of potential national and international multilateral bodies for potential cooperation, in particular the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance due to its significance in leading, coordinating and developing Holocaust research guidelines and best practices across the globe.

Following initial workplan meetings, Work Package members and associates have highlighted three types of potential strategic partners on the multi-lateral plane: Archival Consortia, such as ICA (the International Council on Archives), the EBNA (the European Board of National Archivists), and the EAG (The European Archives Group); European Research Infrastructures in the Humanities, such as DARIAH or CLARIN; and Multilateral Holocaust-Related Networks, such as the IHRA and the Claims Conference (with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany).

Task members were requested to fill out a table with relevant information on potential partners. This information was then also distributed within the EHRI-IP WP team who were then invited to add their professional input and suggestions. As a result of these discussions, the members of this Work Package would like to prioritize fortifying connections, namely with the Claims Conference and the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, as well as the European Union and its efforts to foster Holocaust remembrance. In parallel to intensifying engagement with these initiatives, EHRI will continue to develop and deepen its strategic collaborations with other ERICs and ERICs-to-be in the Social Sciences and Humanities, and in particular with DARIAH, CLARIN and E-RIHS.

An inventory of potentially relevant initiatives for strategic partnerships, to date, may be found in Annex I to this document.

2. EHRI-ERIC and Strategic Partnerships

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 is headquartered in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and co-located at the NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies.

As EHRI-ERIC leads to significant synergies and efficiency gains through economies of scale, it provides its users and partners with integrated online and in-person access to highly dispersed Holocaust archives, advanced training opportunities, and an important trans-national and inter-disciplinary space conducive for methodological innovations.

3. Identifying Potential Relevant Strategic Partners

As noted above, EHRI-ERIC currently seeks to advance its global profile and enhance its positioning in the wider Holocaust-related public policy and Social Science and Humanities research landscape. Under WP 5.3, strategic partnership activities have started preparing lasting associations with some of the most important stakeholders and initiatives in the Holocaust field.

For example, WP 5.3 task members met early on in 2024 during the development of 5.3 to begin discussing how to map out potential strategic partners. This task identified the main stakeholders and initiatives that complement work done by EHRI-ERIC, and outlined potential means of collaboration.

By mid-November, 2024, a list of about 15 institutions was compiled. This initial list of potential partners, appended as Annex I, will serve as a basis for this task and will remain useful going forward within the WP. The list should be considered a work-in-progress, and, therefore, shall be amended as necessary in due course.

Considering potential multilateral partnerships, EHRI-ERIC is in a unique position to partner with the IHRA and support one of the IHRA's focus areas, namely Holocaust archives and research. IHRA is an intergovernmental organization with 35 Member Countries and several international partner institutions. Founded in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, IHRA is a unique international body that promotes Holocaust education, research and remembrance.

Within the context of EHRI and IHRA's mutual focus and striving for access to Holocaust-related archives, EHRI and IHRA have cooperated and strengthened each other already significantly in the past. Moreover, IHRA's working definition of Holocaust-related materials (2012), providing archivists and researchers with a useful starting point, is fully in line with EHRI-ERIC's scientific mission and has been adopted by EHRI as its content-guideline for the EHRI Portal. In addition, EHRI representatives presented resources during the IHRA Stockholm plenary in June 2022. Furthermore, EHRI-ERIC is fully committed to the Stockholm Declaration (2000), as well as the 2020 Ministerial Decision that reaffirms IHRA's commitment to "Underline the importance of identifying, preserving, and making available archival material, testimonies and authentic sites for educational purposes, commemoration and research."

EHRI-ERIC is committed to work closely with experts, civil society and other international partners to further these goals. EHRI-ERIC, therefore, looks to partner with IHRA to "safeguard the historical record of the Holocaust" as well as "underline the importance of identifying, preserving, and making available archival material, testimonies and authentic sites for educational purposes, commemoration and research." Furthermore, the IHRA's drafted

recommendations on archival access, submitted during the IHRA Zagreb plenary in December 2023, specifically outlines joining professional archival networks in general and EHRI in particular.

A potential partnership with IHRA would be mutually beneficial to both networks, especially in light of IHRA's Archival Access Forum (AAF), newly established in December 2024, following from a number of projects on [monitoring access to Holocaust collections](#) during which EHRI-ERIC and the IHRA cooperated on these endeavours.

The IHRA AAF began to convene in June 2024 in order to facilitate cross-cutting online discussions among working groups and committees and to ensure continued attention to archives, as the foundation of the future of Holocaust remembrance, education and research. In keeping with this goal, the IHRA calls on "IHRA member countries [under the AAF] to strengthen their connection and create national nodes in EHRI."

In addition to the IHRA, WP members identified a number of other key institutions as potential strategic partners. Included among these organizations is the Claims Conference as it is a key global provider of grants specifically focused on aiding organizations and projects that promote research, education and documentation of the Holocaust.

During 2024 alone, the Claims Conference provided funding to projects and organizations located in 34 countries across the globe, including in all ten EHRI-ERIC founding member-countries. Several such exemplar grants were for Memorial de la Shoah, which has previously been involved in EHRI projects as a partner organisation and is another key archival and research institute of strategic interest to WP members, with the grants earmarked for "Research Education and Documentation" purposes.

The Claims Conference also oversees the Saul Kagan Fellowship in Advanced Shoah Studies. This fellowship opportunity is an international program that supports Ph.D. and post-doctoral students focusing on Holocaust research. The Fellowship program began funding Ph.D. students in 2008 and was expanded in 2013 to include the funding of post-doc candidates. The Kagan Fellowship program funds research, allowing scholars to travel to Holocaust-related archives, many of which have not been closely examined by other researchers.

The archival and research goals of the Claims Conference are, therefore, of particular interest to the WP members, who view this, and other such global and multilateral modes of archival cooperation, as a central interest of EHRI-ERIC.

In keeping with the criteria previously outlined, the Arolsen Archives is also of specific interest as they are an IHRA permanent international partner and active via the German EHRI-ERIC national node.

It would, therefore, be ideal to collaborate with the Claims Conference and the European Union, both of which are IHRA permanent international partners, on such initiatives in conjunction with the IHRA.

4. Ideas for Collaboration

In March 2024, EHRI-3 hosted an [international GDPR workshop](#), with presentations allotted to delegates from the IHRA. As a key objective of EHRI-3 was to further integrate Holocaust-related archival data and facilitate access to these resources, the synergistic capacities demonstrated during this past workshop and EHRI-ERIC's potential future cooperation with multilateral organizations, such as the IHRA's AAF, becomes more apparent with this form of professional collaboration.

However, considering the diverse array of relevant multilateral organizations, each being distinct and having specific fields of expertise, the form any joint association shall take will vary from one organization to another and shall be discussed in practical terms, outlining workplans and action items.

For the collaborating organization, association with EHRI could provide them with various benefits including:

- Access to a forum for international exchange
- Professionalization and knowledge exchange
- Access to working groups and methodological innovations
- Formulation of joint projects

4.1 Action Plan for Association with EHRI-ERIC:

Although no decisions have been made regarding how to finalize such associations, the current aim is to develop closer ties, such as the drafting of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), outlining the forms of collaboration between EHRI and future partner organizations. In the case of the IHRA, a different procedure will need to be adopted per the IHRA's working rules with a view that EHRI-ERIC will become a permanent international partner of IHRA: similar to the Arolsen Archives and the Claims Conference. It should be noted that all IHRA decisions are made during plenary sessions by consensus among the 35 member-countries.

As such, contact between the EHRI-ERIC and the IHRA on this matter was officially established on September 1, 2024, facilitated by an application document submitted by the WP noting EHRI-ERIC's interest in becoming a permanent international partner of the IHRA. In follow-up, a designated lead on behalf of the WP team will continue to facilitate this process in consultation with other EHRI-ERIC affiliated experts who are also associated with IHRA country delegations.

5 Workshop on Strategic Cooperation

Work Plan Task 5.3 also includes the mandate to organize a workshop in Europe in 2025 with some of the aforementioned partners. In order to compile the list of relevant attendees, the work group assembled an initial list of partners that will serve as a basis for this task, their respective focal points, while requesting comments and suggestions.

The main goal, presently, is not to attempt to exhaustively partner with all organizations listed, rather, simply provide an overview, weighing various potential avenues for future cooperation. With this in mind, and at this juncture, the WP members are compiling information to bolster considerations for either an in-person workshop including fewer organizations for an in-depth discussion or a broader dialogue including more participants with an aim to widen the net of EHRI-ERIC engagement.

Concerning practical next steps, the WP members will consider the number of staff members invited from these organizations and whether or not one of these organizations could be approached to host such a workshop, especially in light of the budgetary limitations of this WP. As such, WP members will first prioritize the scope of the workshop, identifying which organizations should be invited, followed by budgetary considerations and hosting locales.

In full consensus, WP members have decided, at this time, that it would be preferable to coordinate a more limited and focused workshop with fewer partners. However, this consideration is amenable to the potential changes noted above, in particular in consideration of potential future strategic partner limitations and budgetary considerations. This process intends to reduce the WP members' extensive list to two or three strategic organizations for more in-depth talks during the Fall 2025 in-person workshop.

Therefore, an in-person workshop is currently under discussion for the second half of 2025 and is due to take place in Europe, with a location to be determined by the end of first quarter of 2025. This workshop will include a limited number of potential partners representing the shortlist of multilateral organizations that have been identified from the broader pool of potential multilateral partner-institutions, such as the IHRA, European Union, and the Claims Conference, per the organization list found in Annex I. These proceedings will be an opportunity to develop action plans and lay the groundwork for concrete collaboration with EHRI-ERIC in the future. Considering the past experience of the Claims Conference, IHRA delegates and EHRI collaboration, there are already certain promising elements in place where continued collaboration with EHRI-ERIC could be mapped onto cooperation with other organizations and institutes.

6 Conclusion

EHRI-ERIC is seeking to become a permanent organization. This means that what started out as a project of four years in 2010, has, in 2025, matured into a permanent, independent European infrastructure for Holocaust research.

As a part of Work Plan 5.3, and in order to advance EHRI-ERIC's aim of expanding archival access across the globe, coordinating experts on Holocaust research and programming, EHRI-ERIC seeks to become a permanent partner to strategic multilateral organizations, such as the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance. In order to advance these and other goals, EHRI-ERIC is in coordination with key staff members from multilateral Holocaust organizations across the world. These organizations are to be identified under WP 5.3, and its internal workgroup, with meetings and planned international strategic partnership workshop being held in Europe in Fall 2025.

Finally, EHRI-ERIC's cooperative efforts, under DL 5.1, with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and USC Shoah Foundation may serve as a model for future modes of formalized cooperation between EHRI-ERIC and multilateral organizations such as the Claims Conference, IHRA and others bodies.

Annex I: Inventory of Potentially Relevant Initiatives

Name	Location	Website
IHRA	Berlin	https://holocaustremembrance.com
DARIAH	France	https://dariah.eu
CLARIN (CLARIAH)	The Netherlands	https://clarin.eu
CLAIMS CONFERENCE	United States	https://www.claimscon.org/
Arolsen Archives	Germany	https://arolsen-archives.org/en/
UNESCO	France	https://www.unesco.org/en/tags/holocaust-education
Association of Holocaust Organizations	USA	https://www.ahoinfo.org
EU Commission	Belgium	https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/combating-discrimination/racism-and-xenophobia/combating-antisemitism/eu-strategy-combating-antisemitism-and-fostering-jewish-life-2021-2030/about-eu-strategy_en
OSCE/ODIHR	Poland	https://www.osce.org/holocaustmemorialdays
European Network Remembrance and Solidarity	Poland	https://enrs.eu/
European Association of European Jewish Museums	The Netherlands	https://www.aejm.org
Jewish Heritage Network	The Netherlands	https://jhn.ngo/
E-RIHS	Italy	https://www.e-rihs.eu/
EU Fundamental Rights Agency	Austria	https://fra.europa.eu/en