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Deliverable 6.1

Inventory of High-Priority Countries and Institutions for Membership

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Abstract (for dissemination)	On the eve of the foundation of EHRI-ERIC as a permanent distributed research infrastructure, this report provides an inventory of prospective member countries. It is based on desk research evaluating the representation of the prospective member countries within the institutional history of EHRI, the EHRI Portal, other EHRI online and in-person services, as well as within the EHRI user community. The inventory thus identifies the most important European countries for future membership in EHRI-ERIC.
Management Summary	n/a

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1. Introduction

With the transformation of EHRI from a series of EU-funded projects into a permanent organisation under European law called European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), the question of the enlargement of EHRI-ERIC's membership became important. The general aim of WP6 is therefore to support research on the Holocaust in countries with existing interest and facilitate their accession to EHRI-ERIC, as well as to reach out to new prospective member and observer countries that have so far not committed to EHRI. Beyond the ten founding members of EHRI-ERIC (Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, the United Kingdom) and an eleventh member, Belgium, expected to join soon, there are countries and institutions that have already participated in EHRI projects for many years, such as Bulgaria, Hungary, France, Greece, Italy, and Lithuania. A new cooperation was established with Ukraine in 2020 in EHRI-3, which has continued in EHRI-IP. These seven countries with existing EHRI project partners form the first group of prospective member countries. Meanwhile, Finland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, and Switzerland have also expressed interest in joining EHRI-ERIC but have never participated in an EHRI project. They form the second group of prospective member or observer countries. In this second group of countries, EHRI "ambassadors" have been appointed. The third group is composed of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, and Spain. In these countries, there is interest in joining EHRI-ERIC, but no "ambassador" has been appointed yet.[1]

This deliverable is the first of three deliverables for WP6, and it provides an inventory of high-priority countries based on desk research evaluating the representation of prospective member and observer countries within EHRI, the EHRI Portal, and other EHRI online and in-person services, as well as among the EHRI user community. As a subsequent step, VWI also analyses the research results and data collected for the inventory. The inventory identifies the European countries with the most potential for future EHRI-membership.

Parallel with the desk research, the work package has established personal and institutional contacts with the prospective member countries and has organised regular meetings with EHRI ambassadors. Moreover, we have also contacted prospective member countries already involved in EHRI in certain respects (participation in EHRI-seminars and other EHRI programmes) to support them in the accession process. Desk research is important for this aspect as well because it makes them visible in the history of EHRI-ERIC.

2. Desk research – ideas, research methods, outcomes and limitations

The theme of strengthening regional activities within EHRI was already prominent in earlier EHRI projects. For example, the deliverables 5.2 (User Strategy and Access Policies) and 6.5 (Foresight Studies 3) of EHRI-PP and 6.2 of EHRI-3 (Final Evaluation Report) took a strong interest in the regional composition of EHRI users and fellows.[2] However, these deliverables focused on regions in a very broad sense (Western, Eastern, Northern, Southern Europe; North America, etc.) and not on individual country cases. Further steps were taken in EHRI-3

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[1] See Appendix 1.

[2] EHRI-PP, D 5.2., User Strategy and Access Policies, chapter 3.2 Size of EHRI's user community and geographical distribution, https://www.ehri-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/D5.2-User-Stategy-and-Access-Policies.pdf and EHRI-PP, D 6.5, Foresight Studies 3, chapter 2 Fellowship survey.

WP9, in which six regional hubs were established to amplify regional cooperation within EHRI.[3] This has also broadened the horizons of EHRI to include countries that received less attention in earlier projects despite playing an important role in the history of the Holocaust. Moreover, the regional focus has also brought new topics to the forefront of EHRI. While some countries are already represented with significant data on the EHRI Portal, they sometimes remain invisible due to the volume of the entries (2,304 archival institutions in 63 countries and 386,257 archival units as of November 2024). Science policy developments and the challenges of academic freedom in Eastern Europe in recent years have made it clear that transnational support for Holocaust research is needed more than ever.

After 15 years, it is time to look back at the progress of EHRI in each country where the Holocaust occurred or where research on the Holocaust is carried out. The EHRI research community has, of course, taken stock of its progress from time to time, but we have not needed to look systematically at the participation and representation of countries in the EHRI platforms until now. For all these reasons, painstaking desk research, including the collection and review of existing data in relation to the representation of single countries within EHRI, is of particular importance.

As a first step, we produced an overview of the history of the institutions that have collaborated with EHRI projects since the beginning of 2010. This overview was based on the data published on the websites of EHRI projects and shows which founding members of EHRI-ERIC and which prospective member countries were represented in or have not participated in EHRI projects so far. This survey can serve as an important contribution to the history of EHRI. Second, core country-related data provided by the EHRI Portal were collected: the year of the last modification of a given country report, the number of archival institutions, the number of archival descriptions, the number of archival description items ("child items"), and the year of the last modification of archival descriptions. Third, we manually gathered relevant country-specific data for some of the other online services provided by EHRI, namely the EHRI Blog, EHRI Online Editions, the EHRI Podcast, and EHRI Webinars. In the case of the blog, podcast, and webinars, we looked at the country references of the authors and the main topics of each post, episode, and event. Concerning the online editions, we looked at the institutions (archives) involved in the editions as main partners. As a fourth step, we compiled country-related data on EHRI in-person services, specifically on the Conny Kristel Fellowships awarded since 2018 with the support of INSHR-EW.[4] These data are based on the results of a detailed questionnaire created in EHRI-PP WP6 in which the country of affiliation and the country of citizenship were differentiated. We also analysed the affiliations of the participants of EHRI seminars during EHRI-3 (2020–2024). Finally, we gathered country-related data on the EHRI user community from, for example, the EHRI user advisory board, subscribers to the EHRI Newsletter, followers of EHRI social media (Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter), as well as visitors to the EHRI project and portal websites and listeners to the EHRI Podcast.

During our desk research, we faced certain limitations that reduced the potential for systematic statistical analysis. First of all, not all the archival descriptions are represented at the same level in the portal because individual institutions provided descriptions in accordance with their own descriptive practices for representing their archival collections. Second, this means that we have institutions that only represent a few collections (and do not go down further in the archival hierarchy), while others have many item-level descriptions. The lower the level of the hierarchy, the larger the number of descriptions is even though it does not necessarily represent the actual size of a given collection or archive. We learned during the desk research that data integration did not happen as organically as we would have desired. Third, the semi-automated data integration facilitated an increase in the number of archival descriptions while

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making quantitative comparisons between countries difficult and in some cases impossible. Therefore, for some variables, we use qualitative analysis to explore country differences.

For the EHRI blog, online editions, podcast, and the EHRI webinars, there was no metadata recorded with regard to the country of the participants (affiliation and citizenship) and the topics with which they engaged. Consequently, we had to extract this data manually. In the case of the EHRI-3 seminars, we lacked data on the country of citizenship, but we could refer to the data on the institutional affiliation of the participants. In the case of social media and the EHRI Newsletter, we were not able to use full country-disaggregated statistics due to limited EHRI licences and/or the internal data management regulations of the relevant social media platform. The quantitative data on the visitors of the EHRI project and portal websites (number of clicks) as well as on the listeners of the podcast (number of downloads) indicate a certain trend which, however, does not say anything about the time span and the quality of the visit or engagement (listening).

3. Results

3.1 The EHRI Landscape

EHRI has defined itself as a research infrastructure since its launch in 2010. Rather than a specific research project on the transnational history of the Holocaust, from the very beginning, EHRI sought to develop a platform that would make as many archival sources as possible visible and, thus, accessible to the widest possible research community. EHRI-1's main objective was to support the European Holocaust research community and initiate new levels of collaborative research through the development of innovative methodologies, research guides, and user-driven transnational access to research infrastructures and services. To this end, EHRI-1 designed and implemented a portal offering online access to a wide variety of disparate and dispersed key Holocaust-related archival materials as well as a number of online tools to work with them. The first 54-month construction phase created a stable institutional framework that later was awarded four additional project grants (a rare occurrence in the history of the EC), all of which served to lay the foundations for EHRI's infrastructure and reflexively develop it further. As detailed in Annex I, in total, 36 institutions from 21 countries participated in these subsequent EHRI projects. These institutions are also important because most of them are home to their respective country's Holocaust collections or sites where innovative Holocaust research has been undertaken. This stable institutional background has guaranteed not only the implementation of EHRI projects and the constant development of the research infrastructure but also, as we will see later, the expansion of the network. Even with the stable institutional link, we must mention the enthusiastic participants and colleagues, many of whom have served to advance the scientific mission of EHRI for more than a decade through their participation in various EHRI projects. (See Appendix)

It is safe to say that EHRI has now become a well-known and respected research infrastructure throughout the world. And although not all the countries represented by the above-mentioned institutions involved in one of the EHRI projects could join EHRI-ERIC in 2024 as founding members, the future is very promising, as in many cases, only one step toward membership remains. Such countries include France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, and Ukraine. If a country is willing to join EHRI, accession is an easy procedure: this is illustrated by the case of Croatia, which joined EHRI projects relatively late but is already a member of EHRI-ERIC (see Appendix). However, there remain countries that are significant in the history of the Holocaust that have not yet been formally linked, at least institutionally, to EHRI: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. The main objective of WP6 is to identify EHRI-ERIC ambassadors in these countries who can pave the way for accession to EHRI-ERIC.

In the following chapters, we will look at the representation of these two groups of countries within the EHRI Portal, the EHRI project website, and also EHRI in-person services, social media, etc.

3.2 The EHRI Portal

The EHRI Portal has been the flagship platform from the very beginning of EHRI because it connects Holocaust-related archival sources across borders and between institutions in Europe and beyond. For some countries, the EHRI Portal has provided an overview of a country's Holocaust-related archival holdings for the first time. As mentioned above, we faced certain limitations during the desk research that constrained the possibilities of statistical analysis: not all the descriptions are represented at the same level in the portal because such decisions were left to institutions with respect to their own descriptive practices on how to represent their archival collections. This is why the table and the maps below show such high values for France, Portugal, and Ukraine (marked with italics in the table). However, it is clear from the table that many countries are on EHRI's radar, with significant institutional and archival descriptions. According to the latest statistics from the EHRI-3 project (as of 18 November 2024), the portal contains 63 country reports, 2,304 collection-holding institutions, and 386,257 archival descriptions.[5] In light of these macro data, it can be seen that the countries in the first group, which are only a few steps away from joining EHRI-ERIC, are exhaustively represented on the EHRI Portal, while countries that have not participated in previous EHRI projects are relatively under-represented, with the exception of Portugal. The last column of the table suggests that for these countries too, progress has often been made in recent years, whereas for some countries, there is a clear need to complete or at least update the information if the intent to join the EHRI-ERIC is present, as in the case of Finland, Moldova, Norway, and Spain.

Table 1. INVENTORY OF HIGH-PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP – (ALL NON-EHRI COUNTRIES INCLUDED)				
	Descriptions in the EHRI-Portal			
countries	archival institutions	collection-holding institutions (CHIs)	archival descriptions	archival description items ("child items")	last change of archival descriptions
Albania	3	0	0	0	2019
Bosnia Herzegovina	13	12	65	2	2024
Bulgaria	33	17	100	27	2019
Denmark	11	1	28	50	2022
Estonia	4	3	17	0	2021
Finland	2	2	8	20	2018
France	124	12	203	*32.709*	2024
Greece	54	44	148	43	2023
Hungary	78	14	149	1.152	2024
Italy	92	64	197	*7.271*	2024
Latvia	6	3	70	70	2024

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[5] See EHRI-3 WP9 Deliverable 9.6 Overview of Data Integration.

Lithuania	21	9	168	1.920	2022
Luxembourg	4	2	22	29	2024
North Macedonia	7	6	11	0	2020
Moldova	4	3	164	523	2019
Norway	5	1	4	9	2015
Portugal	7	2	*10.929*	*10.935*	2022
Serbia	42	8	28	156	2024
Slovenia	14	6	23	23	2024
Spain	6	0	0	0	2019
Sweden	19	14	45	95	2024
Switzerland	28	2	4	6	2022
Ukraine	58	35	*973*	*5.666*	2024
Vatican City	1	1	1	107	2018

Table 1. Inventory of high-priority countries and institutions for prospective membership
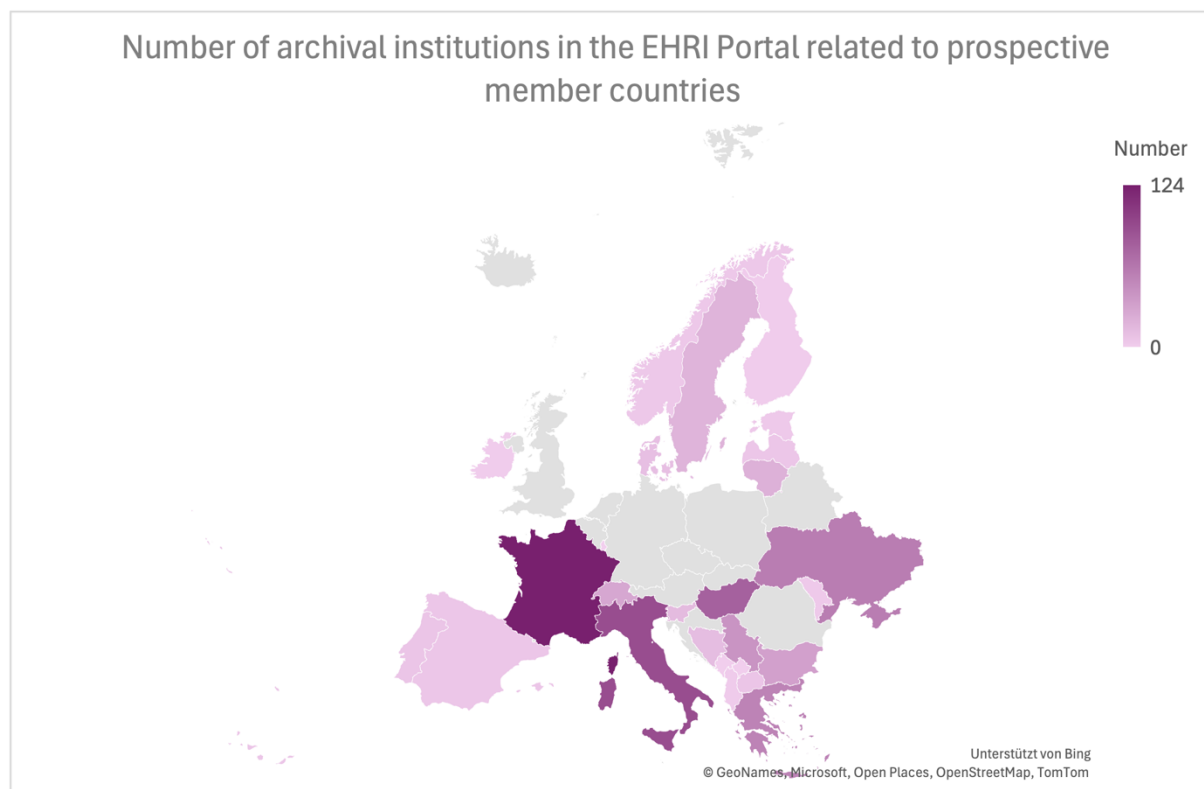
Map 1. Number of archival institutions in the EHRI Portal related to prospective member countries

Number of institutions with archival descriptions in EHRI Portal
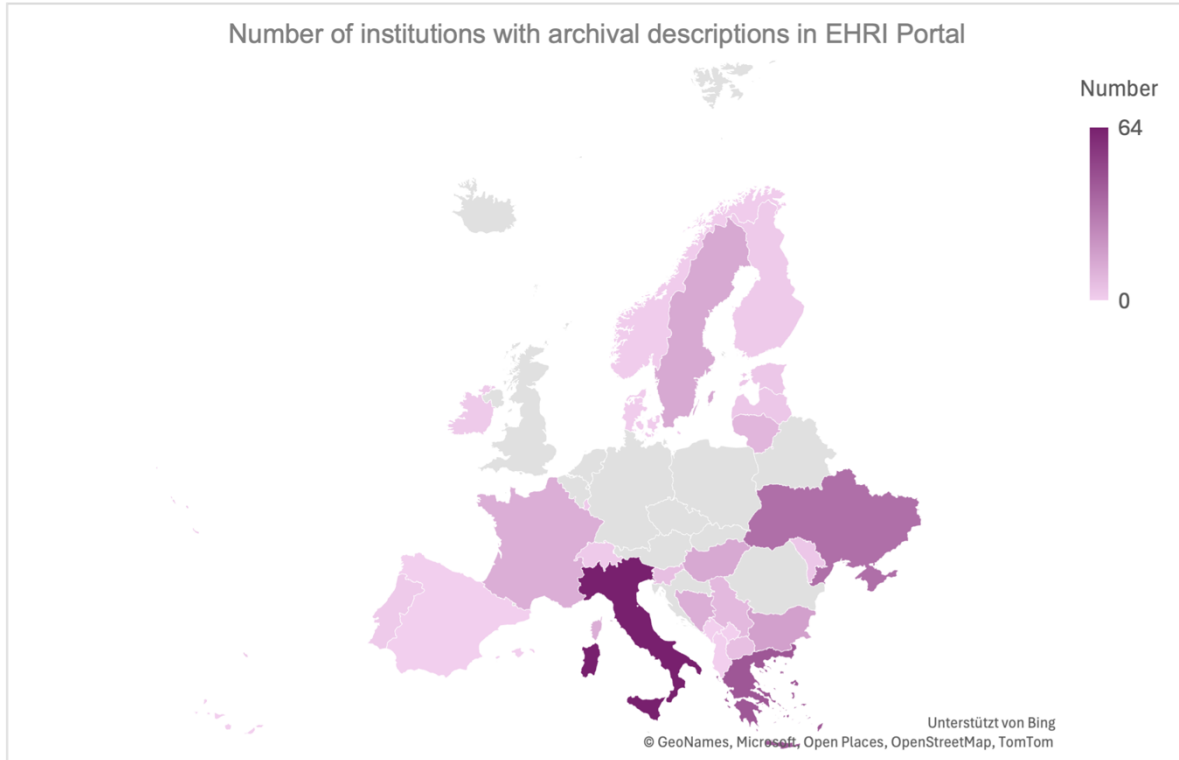
Map 2. Number of institutions with archival descriptions in the EHRI Portal related to prospective member countries
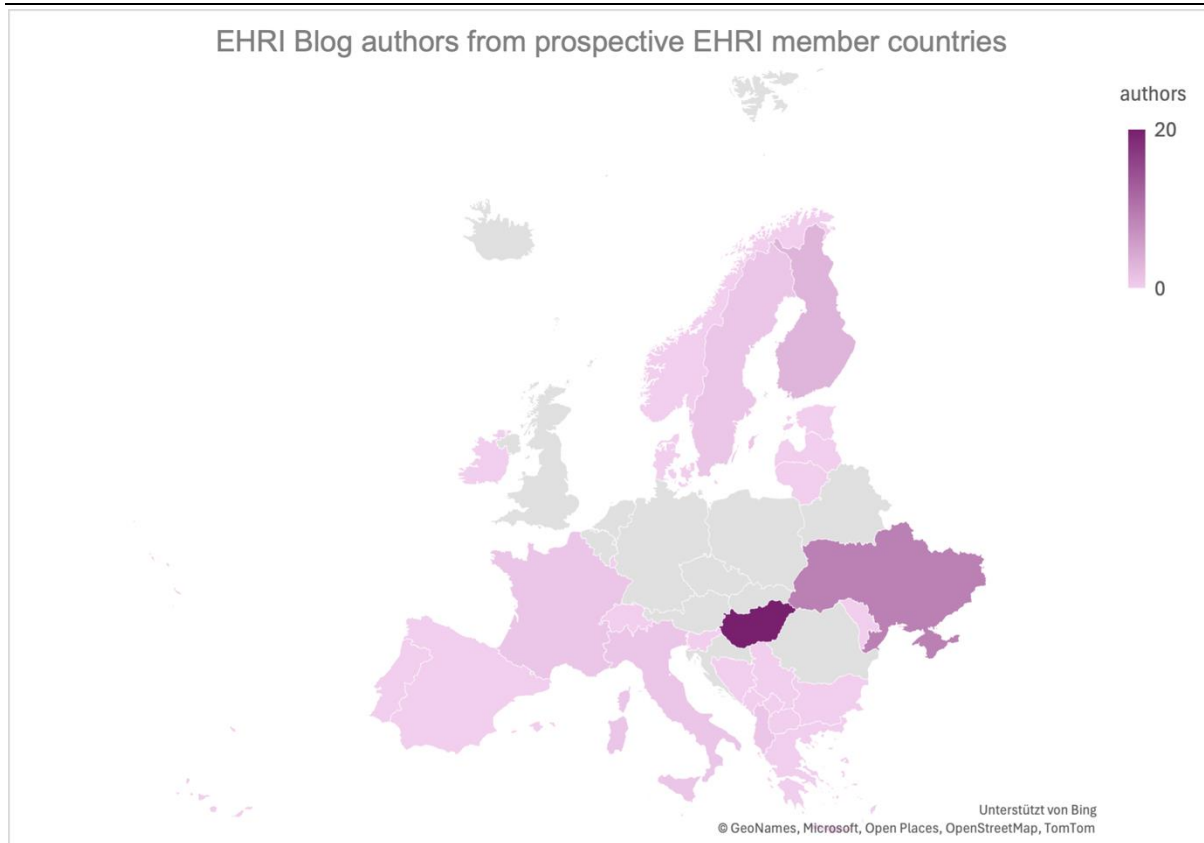
3.3 Other EHRI Online Services

The EHRI Portal is supported by a variety of other EHRI online services ranging from the EHRI Document Blog, established during EHRI-2 in 2016, to the EHRI Webinar series, initiated during EHRI-3 in 2023. In the following section, we will focus on the representation of prospective member countries among four EHRI online services – the EHRI Document Blog, EHRI Online Editions, the EHRI Podcast *For the Living and the Dead*, and EHRI Webinars – because they reach out to EHRI's diverse user communities.

The **EHRI Document Blog** was created in 2015–16 as part of EHRI-2 (WP12, New Views on Digital Archives) and comprised around 94 posts by the end of 2024. From the beginning, the EHRI Document Blog served as a platform for discussing current trends in Holocaust research, including, for example, Holocaust geography and early Holocaust documentation. Its main task was to open the floor to experiments in new digital technologies (visualisation, geodata, linked data, etc.). Although the initial contributions came from WP12 partner institutions, the blog soon became a place for contributions from within and outside the EHRI consortium. The document blog team[6] has also encouraged EHRI fellows as well as junior and senior researchers at workshops and conferences to contribute. Additionally, from the outset, a simple form on the EHRI Document Blog website invites researchers to propose contributions. In the second half of the EHRI-3 project, a special focus was placed on the history of the Holocaust in Ukraine with the express aim of bringing researchers from war-torn Ukraine into the EHRI spotlight.[7] This special series opened with a post on the historiography of the Holocaust in Ukraine in autumn 2022,[8] and it comprised 11 contributions by the end of 2024.
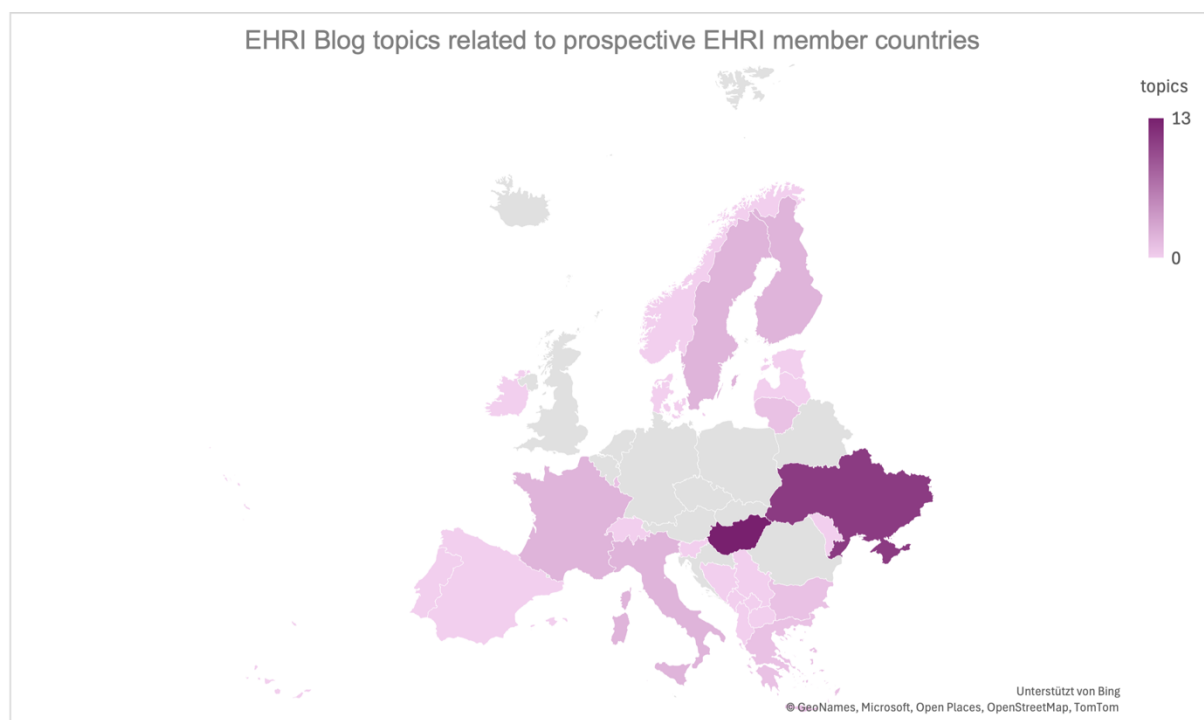
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[6] The editors are Michala Jandák Lônčíková and Wolfgang Schellenbacher.

[7] https://blog.ehri-project.eu/category/the-holocaust-in-ukraine/.

[8] https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2022/10/06/studying-the-holocaust/.

Map 3. EHRI Blog authors from prospective EHRI-member countries

Map 4. EHRI Blog topics related to prospective EHRI-member countries

Generally, the EHRI Document Blog does not index or categorize posts according to geographic affiliation, be it that of the topic or that of the authors – with the exception of the above-mentioned special series on Ukraine. Due to the lack of geographic categorization, desk research was undertaken manually, and the country(ies) relevant to the topic and the assumed

citizenship of authors was(were) recorded in the inventory. About one-third of the posts are related to the Holocaust in the territories of prospective member countries: 13 posts are related to Hungary, 11 to Ukraine, two posts each to France, Italy, Finland, and Sweden, and one post each to Bulgaria, Greece, Lithuania, and Luxembourg. Despite the limits of this manual technique of documentation, the results highlight the fact that countries that have already participated in an EHRI project are better represented than others. Notably, the posts on the Holocaust in Hungary cover a variety of topics and approaches including regional, micro-historical, and topographical studies, as well as studies on ego-documents. Two posts related to Hungary and two related to Ukraine are the four most read blogs.[9] However, as the posts related to Sweden, Finland, or Luxembourg demonstrate, countries that are rather peripheral to the history of the Holocaust have also started to use EHRI tools. For example, the post "History on the Margins," which discusses an important collection of *khurbn* literature and ego-documents preserved under the category "Yiddish 30 – Nazism" in the Stockholm Jewish Library, shows the importance of drawing attention to institutions and countries that are not generally associated with Holocaust research.[10] This contribution is among the top five most-read posts of the EHRI Blog.

The tool for **EHRI Online Editions** was developed between 2016 and 2018 as part of EHRI-2 (WP12 New Views on Digital Archives, D12.4). It was first tested in 2018 on the German-language edition of "BeGrenzte Flucht" about Jewish refugees from Austria in Czechoslovakia after the "Anschluss" in March 1938.[11] This was followed by the editions of "Early Holocaust Testimony" in 2020,[12] "Diplomatic Reports" (in English) in 2021,[13] and "Von Wien ins Nirgendwo. Die Nisko-Deportationen 1939" (in German),[14] "Uzavřít hranice" (in Czech),[15] and "Documentation Campaign" (in English)[16] – all published in 2023. By the end of 2024, a seventh edition, "The Sunflower: History and Reception of a Literary Holocaust Testimony" (in English)[17] was published. Institutions with Holocaust-related collections and experts from the prospective member countries are represented in two of the seven editions, i.e., Hungary (Hungarian Jewish Archives) in the edition "Early Holocaust Testimony" (2020),[18] and Denmark (Rigsarkivet Danish National Archives) and Italy (Archivio Storico Diplomatico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri) in "Diplomatic Reports" (2021).[19] In the latter case, diplomatic reports from Hungary and Sweden were announced as potential future extensions of the edition.[20] Furthermore, the editions often contain sources related to the transnational history and memory of the Holocaust, for example, documents in the "The Sunflower" that refer to memory culture in France, Italy, and Switzerland. EHRI Online Editions, both the existing ones that may be further extended in the future as well as future editions, possess great potential to integrate more prospective member countries in the future.

The **EHRI Podcast Series** *For the Living and the Dead*, introduced in 2022 and now in its third season, aims to reach a wider user community by presenting personal stories and lesser-

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[9] Namely, "Murdered on the Verge of Survival: Massacres in the Last Days of the Siege of Budapest", part I and part II by László Csősz and Laura Csonka; "The Rescue of Jews by Monks and Nuns of the Greek Catholic Church: The State and Prospects of Research" by Yuriy Skira; and "'More Terrifying Than the Germans': Information About the Holocaust from Investigation Files of Local Policemen (the Case of Kryvyi Rih)" by Roman Shliakhtych. These data were provided by Wolfgang Schellenbacher, December 17, 2024.

[10] https://blog.ehri-project.eu/2023/05/16/yiddish-holocaust-literature/.

[11] https://begrenzte-flucht.ehri-project.eu/.

[12] https://early-testimony.ehri-project.eu/.

[13] https://diplomatic-reports.ehri-project.eu/.

[14] https://nisko-transports.ehri-project.eu/.

[15] https://uzavrit-hranice.ehri-project.eu/.

[16] https://documentation-campaign.ehri-project.eu/.

[17] https://the-sunflower.ehri-project.eu.

[18] https://early-testimony.ehri-project.eu/.

[19] https://diplomatic-reports.ehri-project.eu/.

[20] See the header of this edition https://diplomatic-reports.ehri-project.eu/.

known aspects of the Holocaust across Europe through the lens of an object. Listeners are mainly located in Europe and in North America.[21] In total, 18 episodes have been produced thus far. Researchers from four prospective member countries – Hungary, Italy, Serbia, and Sweden – have contributed to the podcast series as authors or co-authors. Historian Laura Brazzo from Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea (CDEC) in Milan, an EHRI project partner since the beginning, was featured in the first series of the podcast. She presented the discovery of 33 vinyl discs at the CDEC which contain 16 interviews from Holocaust survivors conducted in 1955. It thus sheds light on a rare collection of early Holocaust testimonies.[22] In the second season, Hungarian historian and archivist András Szécsényi introduced a linoleum seal, and Yael Fried, a curator at the newly founded Swedish Holocaust Museum in Stockholm, shared a story about a paper heart. Both retold individual stories of rescue, survival, and life immediately after liberation.[23] The third, current season of the podcast is dedicated to objects and their stories from micro-archives in Europe. Biljana Albahari, a librarian advisor at the National Library of Serbia, served as an expert guest for an episode produced by Andreas Roth about printed stamps in books held in the National Library of Serbia that came from a Holocaust victim who donated his books to the library in 1941, even though by then, the library was prohibited from accepting donations from Jews.[24]

Picture 1. Presentation of EHRI Podcast episodes related to prospective member countries on the EHRI website

Furthermore, seven of the 18 episodes feature topics or sources related to the history of the Holocaust on the territory of prospective member countries including France, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Serbia, Sweden, and Ukraine. The very first podcast episode produced by Karel Berkhoff (NIOD) focused on the typewriter of a witness to the Babyn Yar massacre who wrote down his memoirs on this machine, which is now part of the collections of the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War. In the second season, Israeli historian Ofer Lifshitz tells the story of a small memory booklet created by a teenage girl who survived the

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[21] See EHRI-3, D 3.3 Societal and Cultural Impact Report, August 2023, p. 8f.

[22] https://www.ehri-project.eu/podcast-episode-box-old-gramophone-discs-dusted-off/.

[23] https://www.ehri-project.eu/podcast-episode-life-saving-linoleum/ and https://www.ehri-project.eu/podcast-episode-paper-heart-for-wanda/.

[24] https://www.ehri-project.eu/podcast-episode-podcast-episode-lost-stamp/.

Kovno ghetto and Stutthof concentration camp. The survivor's family donated the diary to Yad Vashem in 2020. All in all, the podcast series is an important forum for informing the broader public about current research on the Holocaust through the history of individuals and in connection with objects and micro-archives. In the future, the podcast could be used even more intentionally as a tool to integrate experts and institutions from prospective member countries. Objects and micro-archives related to the epicentres of the Holocaust in Ukraine and the Baltic States could be especially strengthened in connection with this effort.

One of the most recently introduced EHRI online services is the **EHRI Webinar**, which helps train expert communities in the field of digital humanities. Established in 2022 and based on the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic, the webinars serve as space for discussions on research projects related to Holocaust data, specific collections, and digital tools and methods. The presenters come mostly from former and current EHRI partners and their networks, as well as from among the EHRI Conny Kristel Fellows. For this reason, only two of 13 webinars were held by experts from prospective member countries (by affiliation), and from Hungary in particular. Two of the 13 webinars related to topics of Holocaust history in prospective member countries – Hungary and Greece, and these took place in 2024.[25] Depending on the future directions of the EHRI Webinars, this service could offer more space to digital experts and their projects based in prospective member countries.

The newest online service by EHRI is the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) "'It Must All be Recorded Without a Single Fact Left Out' – The Holocaust Through the Perspective of Primary Sources," which was created by the EHRI partner Yad Vashem and launched on the occasion of the 79th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The online course targets a broader audience interested in the history of the Holocaust, especially educators, and consists of five units, each of which is focused on a specific type of primary sources (photographs, diaries, letters, survivor testimonies, and German bureaucratic sources). So far, the EHRI MOOC has 817 registrants from various countries worldwide. Among the top ten countries with the most registrations are two prospective member countries: in the nineth place, France with 18 registered users; and Italy in tenth place with 15 registered users.

3.4 EHRI In-Person Services

The EHRI Conny Kristel Fellowship Programme was first introduced in 2012 and named after Conny Kristel, the principal investigator of EHRI-1 and EHRI-2 who died in 2018. It provides access to an exceptional range of key archives and collections related to the Holocaust, as well as access to archival and digital humanities expertise. It, thus, significantly contributes to EHRI's main goal of reaching out to, supporting, and connecting researchers and especially PhD students with limited access to resources. By November 2024, 100 researchers, PhD candidates, museum curators, and data specialists had benefited from the program, which is designed to enable researchers to carry out research in 19 EHRI partner institutions. Among these institutions are six from prospective member countries, which amounts to approximately one-third of the total: Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris, France); Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum (Vilnius, Lithuania); the Foundation Jewish Contemporary Documentation Center CDEC (Milan, Italy); the Jewish Museum of Greece (Athens, Greece) and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Thessaloniki, Greece), which co-host the fellowship together; and the Center for Urban History of East Central Europe (Lviv, Ukraine).

According to the survey conducted in WP6 of EHRI-3, most fellows were affiliated with institutions in Western Europe, followed by Eastern Europe. However, if the country of

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[25] While Paris Papamichos Chronakis (Royal Holloway University of London) reflected on his project "From Camp Survival to Camp Life: Digitising Greek-Jewish Social Networks in Auschwitz-Birkenau" in June 2024, Ildikó Barna (ELTE Budapest) presented the project "Revisiting Early Testimonies of Hungarian Jewish Holocaust Survivors through a Digital Lens."

citizenship is considered, then the majority of fellows were drawn from Eastern Europe.[26] Thanks to the data collected in this work package, we were able to draw a more detailed picture of the geographical background of fellows. Nineteen out of 100 fellows came from prospective member countries with regard to their institutional affiliation, mostly from France, Hungary, and Ukraine (four each). If we look at the country of citizenship, the number increases significantly to 35 fellows from prospective member countries, with eight from Ukraine, seven from Greece, and six from Hungary, followed by four each from France and Italy. It is striking that none of the fellows came from the Baltic countries, a region that was one of the epicentres of the Holocaust. Prospective member countries that are successor states of Yugoslavia are also not well represented, with only one fellow possessing Serbian citizenship.
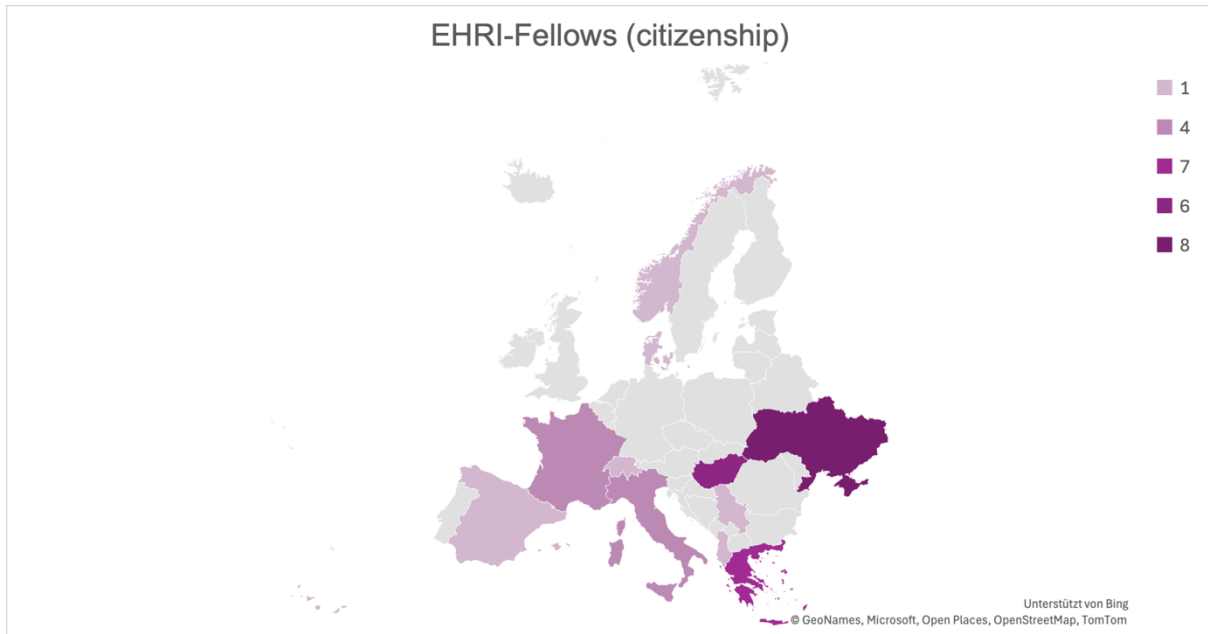
Map 5. Number of EHRI Fellows according to their citizenship

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[26] This is one of the important findings of the survey of EHRI Conny Kristel Fellowships. See EHRI-3, D 6.2, November 2024, p. 4–5. https://www.ehri-project.eu/deliverables-ehri-3-2020-2024/.
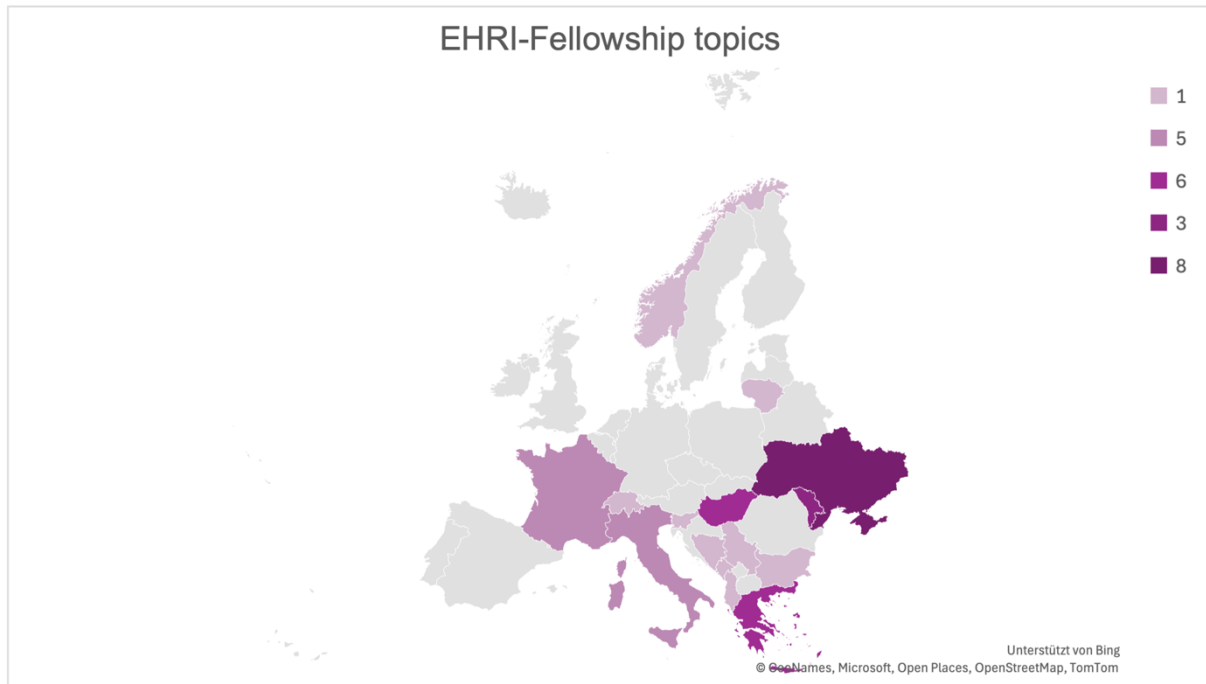
Map 6. Number of topics related to prospective member countries of EHRI Fellows

Since 2010, the **EHRI Seminars** have served as important regular activities for building the EHRI community. They have covered recent digital methods and regional-specific dimensions of Holocaust research, commemoration, and education. They often include excursions to memorial sites, archival institutions, and exhibitions. The seminars significantly support networking among experts in the field of Holocaust studies from various professional backgrounds such as digital experts, historians, sociologists, archivists, librarians, and educators.

For our purpose, we analyzed the institutional affiliations of the participants of the nine seminars that took place during EHRI-3 (2020–2024). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine, the first seminar "Documenting the War: Past and Present" (October 2022) organized by the EHRI project partner Centre of Urban History (CUH) took place online. It was the only seminar organized by an institution in a prospective member country. All the other seminars were organized by institutions in the founding members of EHRI-ERIC and were held in person: for example, the seminar "Engaging Educators" (Jewish Museum Prague/Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History, IfZ, August 2023), and "What's New in Austrian Holocaust Studies" (Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, January 2024). From the 108 participants of these seminars, only 22 were affiliated with an institution in a prospective member country. We lack data on the country of citizenship, but we can assume that the number would be higher because of the existing "brain drain" between Eastern and Western Europe.

3.5 EHRI user community

EHRI-ERIC has a steadily growing and diverse user community including researchers and collection professionals from across the globe. To learn more about various user communities, EHRI has been running an **EHRI User Advisory Board** since EHRI-PP. The UAB has also provided means to ensure the harmonization of the EHRI strategies with the needs of its users and enable ongoing conversation between with its users. Currently, the User Advisory Board has 15 members: Holocaust researchers, digital humanists, collection holders, educators, and media professionals. Eleven members of the board are from EHRI-ERIC founding member countries, one member is from the EHRI observer institution USHMM, and three come from prospective member countries: France, Hungary, and Latvia.

The **EHRI Newsletter**,[27] published at regular intervals since 2011, and **EHRI Social Media** (LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter/X) have become the main channels to inform EHRI user communities about events and recent developments within EHRI. As of September 2024, EHRI had 4,705 followers on Twitter, 4,016 followers on Facebook, and 1,616 followers on LinkedIn. At the time of writing, 2,211 people subscribed to the EHRI Newsletter. It is, however, difficult to grasp the geographical background of followers and subscribers. Whereas EHRI has no geographical data for Twitter, there is at least some data available for Facebook and LinkedIn.
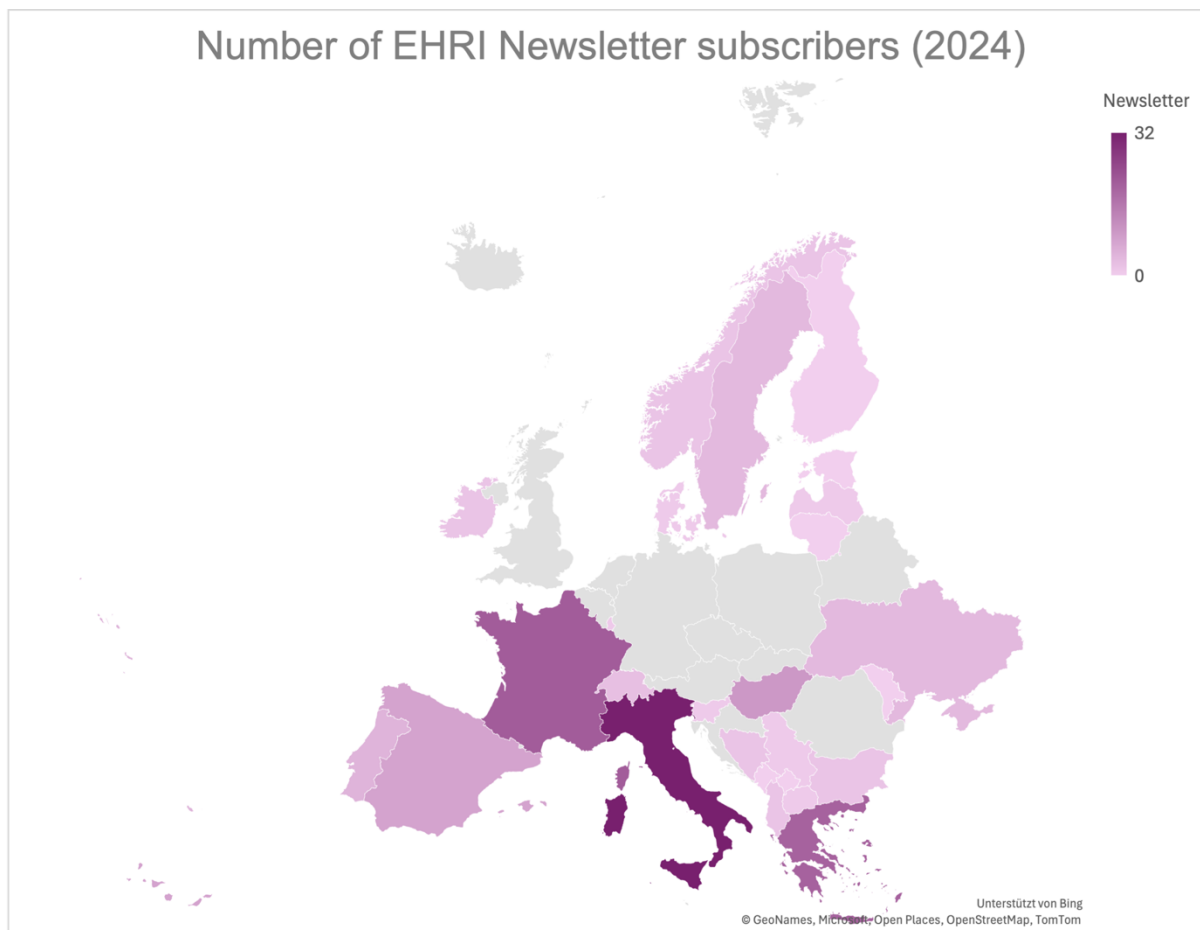
Map 7. Number of EHRI Newsletter subscribers (2024)

According to the available data for the newsletter, Facebook, and LinkedIn, most of the subscribers and followers from prospective member countries come from Italy, Greece, Hungary, and France, i.e., from those countries with institutions that have participated in EHRI projects. Among other prospective member countries, there is a certain interest in receiving digital information about EHRI in Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, and Ukraine. Since the data is rather patchy, it is impossible to draw any major conclusions.

For the inventory of high-priority countries, we also analyzed data concerning the number of visitors to the EHRI project and EHRI portal websites between October 2020 and September 2024. These figures show that the highest number of visitors to the EHRI project website come from countries which are or have been EHRI project partners for many years, specifically Italy, France, Greece, and Hungary. They are followed by countries without experience as EHRI partners: namely Switzerland, Sweden, and Spain, which have expressed interest in joining EHRI in recent year(s).

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[27] https://www.ehri-project.eu/ehri-newsletter/

Figure 1. Number of EHRI project website visitors (2020-2024), non-EHRI-ERIC member countries only

While Italy, France, and Hungary top the chart for the number of visitors to the EHRI Portal, the number of visitors from Greece is lower. In contrast, Ukraine ranks eighth regarding the number of visitors to the EHRI project website (Figure 1), but it ranks third for the number of visitors to the portal website (Figure 2). Due to the geography of the Holocaust, the Baltic states deserve a closer look. Lithuania, the only Baltic country with experience as an EHRI project partner, is among the top ten countries with regard to the number of visitors to the project website. However, it is only in 15th place with regard to the number of visitors to the EHRI Portal. Latvia and Estonia are even less represented in both statistics, ranking in the bottom third. Ireland, on the other hand, is a big surprise, ranking in the top third in both project and portal website visits.

The country-specific data on **listeners of the EHRI Podcast** provide further insight into EHRI's diverse user community. More than 20 percent of the total of 2,252 downloads originate in prospective member countries. Podcast episodes were downloaded most frequently in Italy (107) and Sweden (85). Hungary (67) follows from some distance, with Portugal (29), France (27), Ireland (23), Switzerland (21), and Denmark (20) even further behind. Ukraine and Greece, which have some project experience with EHRI, recorded a comparatively small number of downloads. Nevertheless, the fact that countries like Sweden, Portugal, Switzerland, and Denmark, which have never been EHRI project partners, are relatively well represented in the statistics of the podcast's listeners, shows the potential of this EHRI tool to reach interested users in prospective member countries (see Map 8).
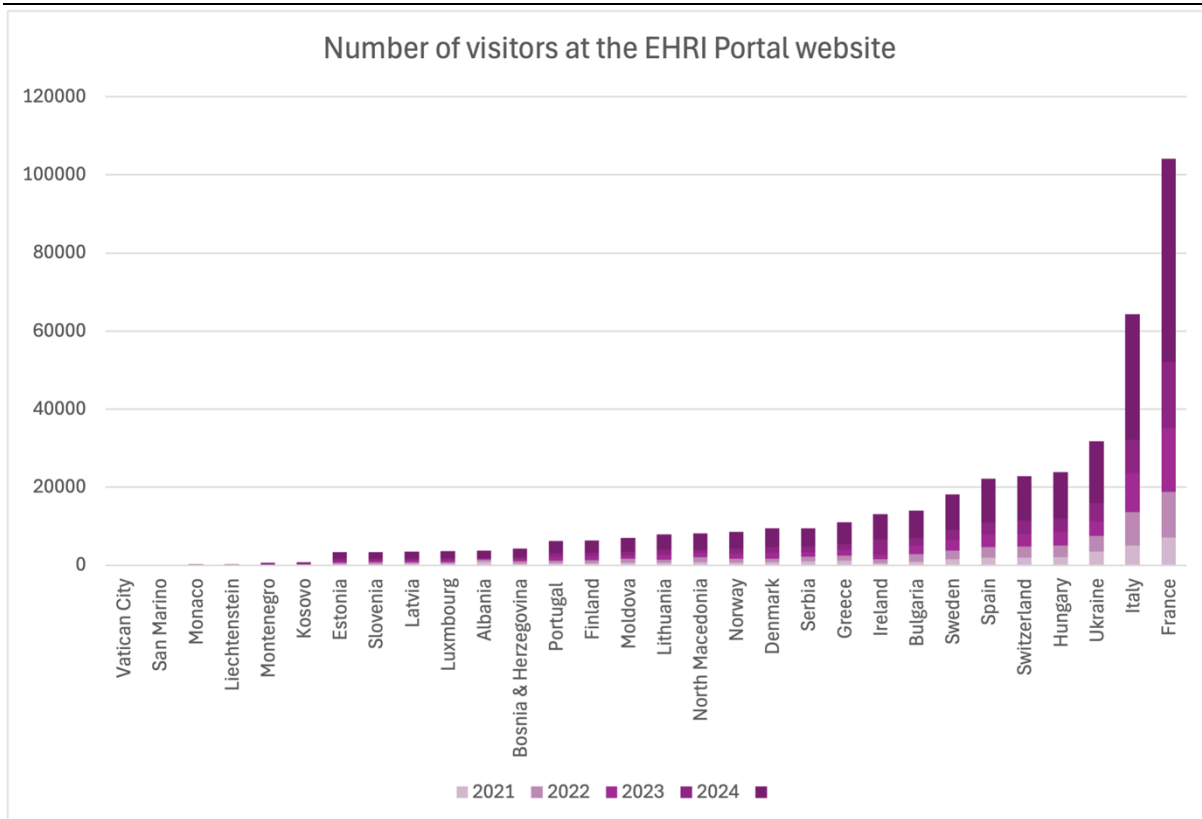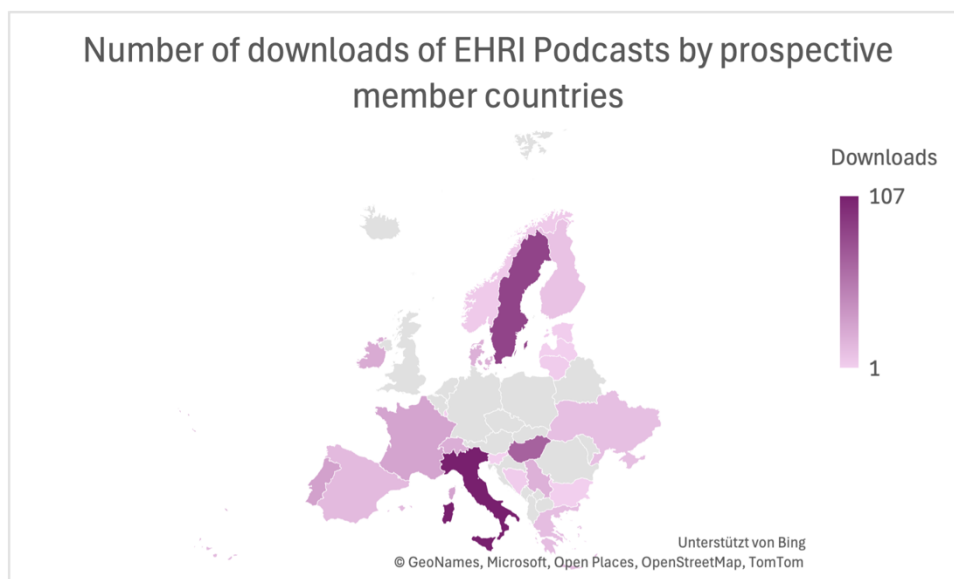
Figure 2. Number of EHRI Portal visitors (2020-2024), prospective member countries only

Map 8. Number of downloads of the EHRI Podcasts (prospective member countries)

4. Conclusion

This deliverable has provided an inventory of high-priority countries based on desk research evaluating the representation of prospective member and observer countries within EHRI, the EHRI Portal, and other EHRI online and in-person services as well as among the users of

EHRI's websites. The desk research has helped us not only support the implementation process more accurately but also shine a spotlight on country and regional specificities.

It is safe to say that EHRI has now become a well-known and respected research network throughout the world. In the inventory compiled through desk research, one can observe which countries are well prepared for accession to EHRI-ERIC, and which need further support in this process. Through this closer look at EHRI websites, the following results are important for the further planning of the accession process:

In general, the EHRI online tools are useful services for deepening relationships with future members. The EHRI Blog has been particularly successful in presenting new historical material on Ukraine and Hungary while also highlighting material in other countries not previously associated with EHRI, such as Sweden. Both the blog and the online editions have further potential to reach new countries. In the past few years, the EHRI Podcast series has become a very important forum for informing the broader public about current research on the Holocaust through the history of individuals and in relation to objects and micro-archives. In the future, it could be employed even more intentionally as an instrument for integrating experts and institutions from prospective member countries. In particular, objects and micro-archives related to the epicentres of the Holocaust in Ukraine and the Baltic States could be strengthened. Depending on the future directions of the EHRI Webinars as one of EHRI-ERIC's services, these could offer an additional platform for digital experts and their projects in prospective member countries.

Throughout all EHRI projects, access to in-person services was based on excellence and open to all applicants. The fellowship programme attempted to attract applicants from countries with less representation such as those in Eastern Europe, and for this reason, it has been able to appoint fellows from a number of countries not represented in EHRI projects. Nevertheless, regional differences that tend to favour Western Europe can still be identified. In the future, the EHRI Conny Kristel Fellowship Programme could place even more emphasis on integrating professionals from prospective member countries. Centrally held, detailed statistics on seminar participants would be helpful in accomplishing this goal. Similar inequalities can be observed for EHRI seminars, but we do not have as exhaustive statistics as those available for the fellowship programme. However, the EHRI-IP WP4 (Science, User and Technological Strategies) is working to fine-tune the monitoring of these services.

User community statistics display an even more positive picture. EHRI essentially covers the regions where the Holocaust occurred. Differences are mainly due to disparities in technical development and language skills. The statistics are not able to detect differences in the politics of memory, but the maps and figures nevertheless give an indication of those countries which have established institutions and a measured discourse on Holocaust studies and those where the Holocaust has not been at the forefront of academic research.

Appendix (in a separate document)