

Factsheet European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI)



Since 2010 EHRI has been building a successful European research infrastructure and a human network for Holocaust research. EHRI plays a vital role in the future of Holocaust research, commemoration and education.

Funding from the European Union has stimulated and enabled researchers from European countries and beyond. EHRI was initially funded under the EU 7th Framework Programme (€ 7 million). In 2015 the project acquired funding from Horizon2020 (€ 8 million). In order to further sustain Holocaust research EHRI is aiming for inclusion in the ESFRI Roadmap of 2018.

Facts:

- The consortium consists of 23 partners in 17 countries across Europe and beyond.
- Coordinator: NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam.
- Duration: 1 May 2015 – 30 April 2019.

Why EHRI?

- Holocaust-related archival material is fragmented and dispersed all over the world, making access for research complicated.
- Documentation on the Holocaust is an important part of European cultural heritage.
- Researching, understanding and remembering the Holocaust as a formative part of our shared European past, is crucial for social and political reasons.
- The availability and accessibility of properly contextualised and researched documentation on the Holocaust is necessary to enable trans-national research, and responsible and meaningful commemoration and education on the Holocaust as both a local and a European phenomenon.
- For an integrated approach of the history of the Holocaust it is crucial to establish connections with research communities especially in Eastern Europe and in countries with little infrastructural support for Holocaust research.
- We have witnessed mounting challenges to the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust in various parts of Europe.
- Survivors who can testify are dwindling in number, and the time will come when we will be without anyone who can speak from direct experience about these critical events.

What has EHRI achieved?

- The EHRI Online Portal (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu>) already provides access to information about more than 1,800 Holocaust-related archival institutions in 51 countries, and to more than 200,000 archival descriptions.
- An extensive network of researchers that creates new transnational and collaborative approaches to the study of the Holocaust.
- Innovative means to transform Holocaust research by combining digital and non-digital means.
- A powerful example of the relevance and topicality of a distributed research infrastructure for historical research.

Current activities

- Expanding the group of institutions associated with the project, and establishing working relations with researchers and institutions in various parts of Europe (especially in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and regions with limited institutionalization of Holocaust research).
- Deepening research into Holocaust-related collections and institutions and continually integrating new findings into the EHRI portal.
- Offering a fellowship programme that enables researchers to access the expertise and holdings at 15 EHRI partner institutions.
- Offering an interactive course in Holocaust Studies.
- Presenting an Online Document Blog on Holocaust archival material.
- Engaging with key user groups in order to receive feedback on EHRI tools and services.
- Organising a varied programme of conferences, methodological seminars and workshops across Europe focusing on current research trends and questions.