



The EHRI Project: Developing a Pan-European Archival Infrastructure for Holocaust Research

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CONNECTING COLLECTIONS



Outline

- What?** EHRI background, ambitions and context
- Why?** The need for international co-operation
- How?** Methods of international co-operation
- So what?** General conclusions



What? EHRI's mission

The main objective of EHRI is to support the Holocaust research community by

1. **integrating** information on key archival **collections** and **institutions** into an online portal (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu>)
2. **encouraging** collaborative Holocaust **research and archiving** and investigating new methodologies

www.ehri-project.eu



What? A Digital infrastructure and a human network

Digital infrastructure

- Online Portal (<https://portal.ehri-project.eu>)
- Online Training (<https://training.ehri-project.eu>)
- Document Blog (<https://blog.ehri-project.eu>)
- Online Editions (work in progress)
- Digital Methods and Tools (work in progress)

Human Network

- Fellowship programme
- Training seminars
- Workshops and conferences



What? EHRI Facts

EHRI-1

October 2010 - March 2015

~ EUR 7 mio funding (EU FP7)

20 partners

EHRI-2

May 2015 – April 2019

~EUR 8 Mio (EU H2020)

24 partners

EHRI-forever?

Efforts to transform time-bound project into a permanent European organisation

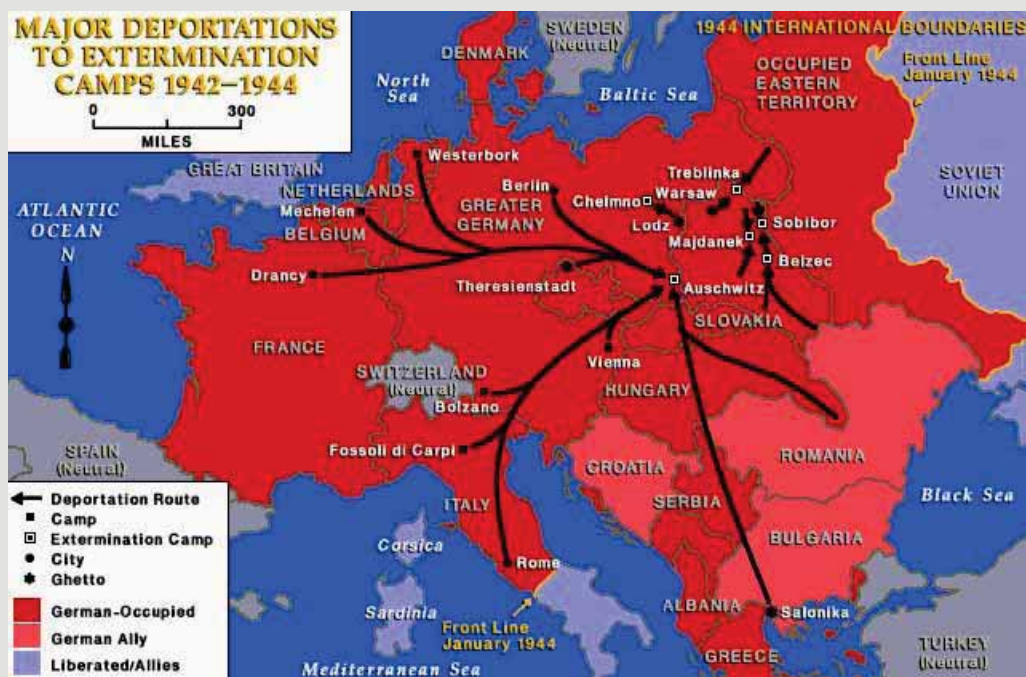
Long term goal of establishing an European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).



EHRI-1 EHRI-2 EHRI-ERIC?

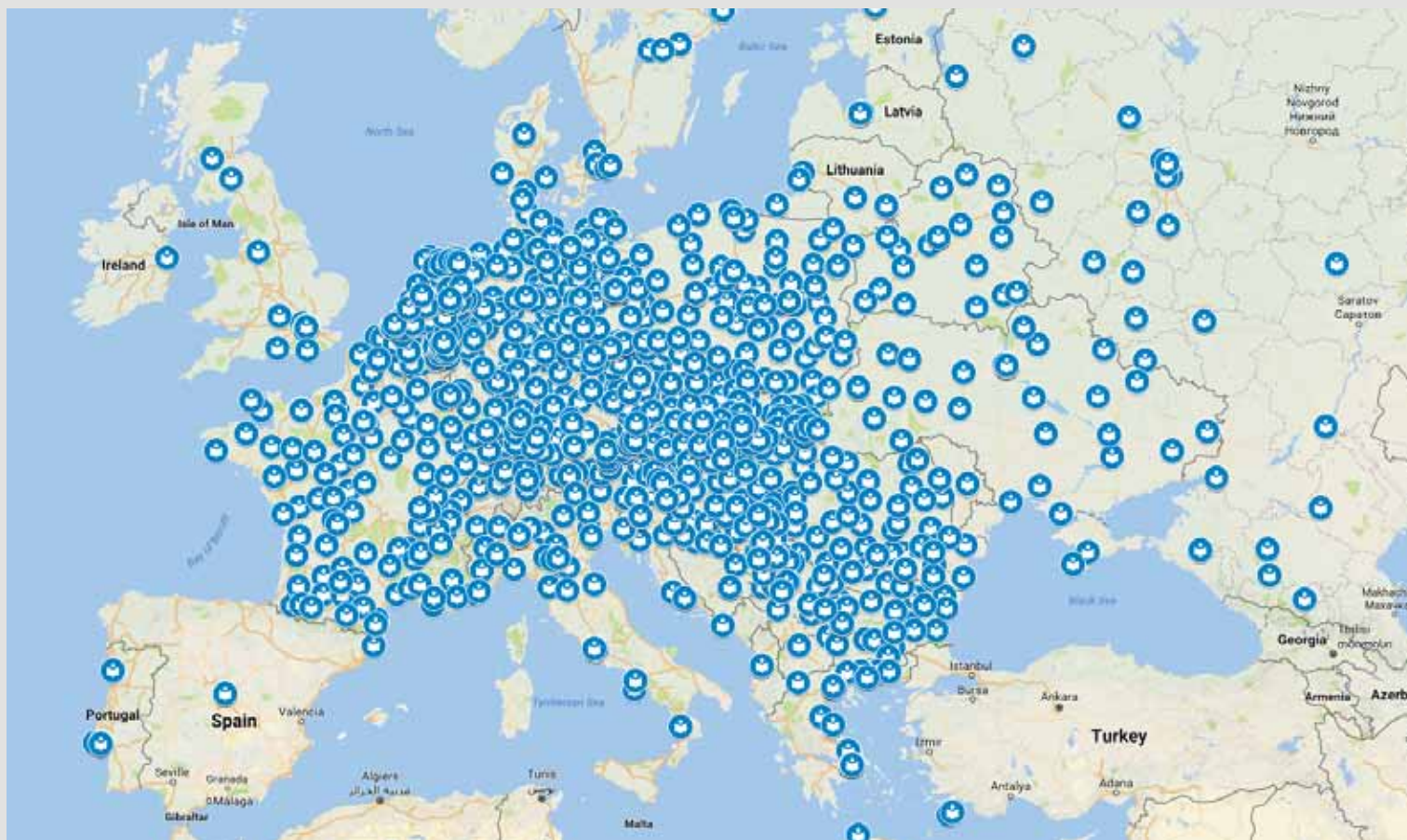
Why co-operation? Geography of the Holocaust

- Holocaust as a European phenomenon taking place over a vast geographic space.
- Migration and refugees
- Multiplicity of documentation projects after the war



Why? Fragmentation of the archival record

So far EHRI has identified **1,942** archival institutions located in **51** countries that hold relevant archival sources



Location of institutions holding Holocaust-related collections as described in the EHRI Portal

Why? Capacity gaps between European regions

EHRI focuses on Eastern Europe because ...

- Main locus of the crime
- Majority of Holocaust victims lived in Eastern Europe
- Local archives often still underexplored and under-described
- In places, weak institutional networks and infrastructural support



Holocaust victims by country

How? EHRI Consortium

24 partner institutions from 17 countries, representing archives, libraries, museums, research institutions



& a large network of associated partners

How? Exchange of knowledge across borders

Principles

- Plurality, diversity and horizontality
- Foster a decentralised network
- Knowledge is held locally but distributed globally
- Evidence based: surveying the needs of archival institutions

Local partners provide EHRI with

- Access to local knowledge (collections, research trends, etc.)
- Access to local archival and research networks

Local partners receive

- Integration into international research infrastructure landscape
- European/global reach
- Access to innovative methodologies, tools, et al.

How? Capacity building in Eastern Europe

... Help regions without strong networks and infrastructures ...

Enhance information

Data integration activities

Support institutions

Co-organisation of events

Support individuals

Fellowship and Training programmes



So what? Benefits of international co-operation

Broadening of horizons

- Historiographical progress through integration of sources, knowledge and expertise

Mutual benefits

- access to expertise
- cross-fertilisation
- widening of audience

Transnational framework

- access to funding
- access to a support network





NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies (NL)

CEGESOMA Centre for Historical Research and Documentation
on War and Contemporary Society (BE)

Jewish Museum in Prague (CZ)

Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for
Contemporary History in Munich (DE)

YAD VASHEM The Holocaust Martyrs' and
Heroes' Remembrance Authority (IL)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USA)

Bundesarchiv (DE)

The Wiener Library Institute for the Study of
the Holocaust & Genocide (UK)

Holocaust Documentation Centre (SK)

Polish Center for Holocaust Research (PL)

The Jewish Museum of Greece (GR)

Jewish Historical Institute (PL)

King's College London (UK)

Ontotext AD (BG)

Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of Holocaust
in Romania (RO)

DANS Data Archiving and Networked Services (NL)

Shoah Memorial, Museum, Center for Contemporary
Jewish Documentation (FR)

ITS International Tracing Service (DE)

Hungarian Jewish Archives (HU)

INRIA Institute for Research in Computer Science and
Automation (FR)

Vilna Gaon State Jewish Museum (LT)

VWI Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (AT)

Foundation Jewish Contemporary Documentation Center (IT)

CONNECTING KNOWLEDGE



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THANK YOU

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