

Towards a permanent structure for EHRI

On 23 August, it was announced that funding of the European Union for the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), in which the State Archives/CegeSoma are a partner, will continue. Objective of this funding is to sustain and expand its resources and activities and to enable it to become a permanent European home for international Holocaust research and collaboration.

Over the past nine years EHRI, has already proven itself by building and supporting a digital infrastructure for the international Holocaust research community. EHRI provides online access to information about dispersed sources relating to the Holocaust through its Online Portal, and tools and methods that enable researchers and archivists to collaboratively work with such sources. Apart from providing an online platform, EHRI also facilitates an extensive network of researchers, archivists and others to increase cohesion and co-ordination among practitioners and to initiate new transnational and collaborative approaches to the study of the Holocaust. EHRI thereby seeks to overcome one of the hallmark challenges of Holocaust research: the wide dispersal of the archival source material across Europe and beyond, and the concomitant fragmentation of Holocaust historiography.

A permanent organisation

Thanks to the new funding, EHRI can now be sustained as a permanent and independent organisation. Its dependence on European funding will be replaced by a business model in which a number of member states will contribute to the financing of the organisation.

The organisation will still be coordinated by NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, which has been carrying out this task successfully for the past nine years. The State Archives/CegeSoma and Kazerne Dossin are the Belgian partner institutions that accompany the transition from a project to a permanent infrastructure. This way, CegeSoma, which contributed to the creation of EHRI, can continue to support research about this important aspect of the history of the Second World War.
<http://www.ehri-project.eu/>