



INTERNATIONAL
**HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE**
ALLIANCE

2019 IHRA Grant Projects

August 2019

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In order to strengthen the collective impact of its priority areas “countering distortion” and “safeguarding the record” in the next five years, the IHRA has aligned its grant strategy from 2019 on to support projects that are aiming either to contribute to a more complete historical record of the Holocaust and the Genocide of the Roma, or seek effective and meaningful ways to prevent and counter distortion.

Through its funding, the IHRA helps to fulfill essential commitments made under the Stockholm Declaration and increase the capacities of governments and non-governmental institutions to uphold and disseminate the comprehensive truth of the Holocaust and Genocide of the Roma as well as to ensure and facilitate access to the record of this truth.

Ten excellent projects were found to align this year with IHRA’s strategy and Grant Program objectives.

1. Yehuda Bauer Grant: Mapping the Genocide of the Roma in Hungary

The outstanding proposal “Mapping the Genocide of the Roma in Hungary” was awarded the Yehuda Bauer Grant.

The outcome of this transnational project will be an online portal and interactive map created by digitizing and utilizing unexplored archival sources on the genocide of the Roma. The online portal will visualize collection and labor camps, sites of killings and atrocities, burial sites, memorials, and routes of forced marches in wartime Hungary. Educational materials will complement the research, promoting educator engagement and access. The National Archives of Hungary will work to ensure a robust dissemination strategy so that resources can be widely shared.

The IHRA’s Grant Review Committee highly valued the project’s comprehensive effort and focus on a deeper integration of the genocide of the Roma in education, research, commemoration activities and public discourse and felt it fits very well into the IHRA’s priority of safeguarding the record.

Applicant: [National Archives of Hungary](#)

Partner countries: Slovakia, Austria, Hungary

Partnering organizations: Sered’ Holocaust Museum, Wiener Wiesenthal Institut für Holocaust Studien, Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance

2. Jasenovac Past and Present: History and Memory of Institutional Destruction

In order to counter distortion, there is a great need to combine scholarship with high-quality education on both formal and informal levels. This project will do so by providing state-of-the-art knowledge about and supporting historical accuracy around the Jasenovac Site in Croatia, to be widely disseminated in an open access publication.

The Jasenovac camp complex, which was established by the fascist Ustaša regime in the Independent State of Croatia in August 1941, remained in operation until late April 1945. A team of local and international experts will work together to connect the history and memory of Jasenovac to broader European trends, and to inspire discussion related to the political uses of history, distortion, and denial. Their ideas will be shared during an international conference taking place in both Belgrade and Zagreb. The Hugo Valentin Center and its partners plan for numerous outreach activities that seek to counter distortion by creating awareness about this historically important site.

Applicant: Hugo Valentin Centre, Sweden

Partner countries: Serbia, Croatia, France, Germany

Partnering organizations: Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade University; Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb; Jasenovac Memorial Site; Memorial de la Shoah; Topographie des Terrors

3. Concept of the exhibition for Lety – Memorial of Genocide of the Roma

On the site of the former concentration camp for Roma in Lety, where a pig farm stood until 2018, a memorial shall be opened in 2023. IHRA and its Committee on the Genocide of the Roma cooperated with the Czech Delegation to the IHRA for several years on the removal of the pig farm, so that the place can be turned into an appropriate site of remembrance.

The proposed project aims to create a concept for an exhibition for the Lety memorial, through consultation with various museums and memorials from different countries. This exhibition shall pass on information about the history of the concentration camp, and prevent false assumptions on the purpose of the camp and the conditions of the victims therein. Furthermore, any denial of the genocide of the Roma as well as antigypsyism shall be addressed.

Applicant: Museum of Romani culture, Czech Republic

Partner countries: Norway

Partnering organizations: Falstad Centre

4. Modern Antisemitism in the Visegrád countries

“With humanity still scarred by genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils. Together we must uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it.”

How can secondary antisemitism be manifested in Holocaust distortion? And how can it lead to Holocaust distortion? With these questions, the Tom Lantos Institute would like to address the relationship between different subtypes of modern antisemitism and Holocaust distortion from a regional perspective. The findings will be based on country-specific analyses in the Visegrád countries of Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

The research project will use focus groups from these IHRA member countries to explore topics and logic feeding Holocaust distortion in the region. During a policy workshop, key stakeholders will discuss current policies countering distortion of the Holocaust and how they can be improved. Deliberations will result in policy recommendations to be disseminated to decision-makers.

Applicant: Tom Lantos Institute, Hungary

Partner countries: Slovakia, Poland

Partnering organizations: Institute for Public Affairs, ‘NEVER AGAIN’ Association

5. Mapping the Holocaust: Preservation of the Topovske Šupe camp

The Topovske Šupe concentration camp was located on the outskirts of Belgrade, operated by Nazi Germany with the help of Milan Nedić’s government during World War II. It held about 5,000 to 6,500 Jewish and Roma inmates. Between August and December 1941, the camp was a hostage centre from where the Nazis would select victims for shootings. Today, the site of this former camp is abandoned, its history mostly unknown to the general public. It is at risk due to the planned construction of a shopping mall on that site.

The project intends to conduct historical research on the Topovske Šupe camp and create a permanent record of this site in order to preserve its memory. This will include collecting archival and other documentation as well as testimonies, producing an inmate database, and publishing the research results on the website. The work will be accompanied by a variety of advocacy campaigns. These shall help to raise awareness and preserve the camp from destruction. The Centre for Public History supports the demand for transforming the site into an appropriate place of remembrance, research and education.

Applicant: Centre for Public History, Serbia

Partner countries: Germany

Partnering organizations: Culture and more

6. Documenting the Holocaust: A Portrait of the Destroyed Jewish Community

By digitizing and integrating portrait photos and transcribed personal details of Jews from their pre-war passports in the database “Jews of Latvia: Names and Fates 1941-1945”, the Center for Judaic Studies in Latvia would like to keep the memory of the victims alive and contribute to a more complete historical record. In order to make these sources accessible, a comprehensive survey of the pre-war passport collections will be made within Latvian State Historical Archives’ fonds.

“We share a commitment to throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust. We will take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers.”

The Center for Judaic Studies in Latvia believes that demonstrating the vibrant prewar Jewish community through photos and expressing that Jews should not be encountered “only” as victims but under consideration of their lives before their murder, will help to promote Holocaust education and commemoration.

Applicant: Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Latvia

Partner country: Israel

Partnering organization: Association of Latvian and Estonian Jews in Israel

7. Developing methodologies and tools to safeguard the historical record of the Holocaust by making it visible and accessible through educational outreach program in local archives

This project constitutes an innovative approach in archival practice by inviting archivists to a new and active role in Holocaust education. Through a series of conferences and seminars, experts from various countries will exchange best practices and ideas to empower and train local archivists from five local and regional archives in Vojvodina province. Archivists shall be enabled to identify important archival records and use local materials to create educational outreach programs about local histories. The materials shall be permanently incorporated into educational programs.

The project will also seek to discover unidentified materials and facilitate accessibility to these materials. Primary sources will be made available to visitors, cultural and educational institutions, as well as to international (research) audiences. The experiences during the project will feed into the final project publication “Education at Archives and Safeguarding the Record of the Holocaust”, designed to help the implementation of similar projects in other parts of Europe. This project is part of the larger project “European Capital of Culture Novi Sad 2021.”

Applicant: The Archives of Vojvodina, Serbia

Partner country: Austria, Germany, Serbia, Hungary

Partnering organizations: Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) / Foundation Novi Sad 2021 / International Tracing Service (ITS) / Terraforming South / Jewish Community of Novi Sad / The Historical Archive of the City of Novi Sad / The Holocaust Memorial Center in Budapest

8. Countering Distortion through Governmental Action

Governments and their officials play a key role in understanding the gravity of distortion and in implementing programs that counter this phenomenon. For this to be successful, it requires a whole-of-society approach; the public must be made aware of distortion and support these efforts in their own capacity. Based on this understanding, the project by the Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation intends to increase the capacity of governments in parts of Southeastern Europe to counter distortion of the genocide of the Roma.

“We must strengthen the moral commitment of our peoples, and the political commitment of our governments, to ensure that future generations can understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences.”

Through an intensive four-day seminar, government officials from 11 states in the region will be trained to develop and implement policies aimed at improving public discourse, education, research and memorialization. The training will offer interactive and dynamic group exercises in which the participants will, themselves, produce possible policy responses to contemporary conditions. Resources will be created on the basis of this and will be available to be shared more widely, to be of use for further government officials who did not attend the program.

Applicant: Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation, United States

Partner countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Partnering organizations: Center for Peacebuilding

9. The Beginning of the End: Klooga. Why we are still talking about it?

The Klooga concentration camp was one of the main camps of the Holocaust in Estonia in 1943-1944, resulting in the systematic murder of approximately 2400 prisoners on 19 September 1944.

In order to increase awareness about a not-widely known episode, the Estonian “case” of the Holocaust, and ensure that its history is referred to in a truthful manner, the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory will organize a conference, connecting the local history to the overall fabric of events in Europe. The conference will be followed by a participatory roundtable discussion. The content will be streamed and made available afterwards online. Research articles will also be published in a respective compilation. The conference “The beginning of the End: Massacre in Klooga 75” takes place on 18 September 2019 in Tallinn. It will be followed by a commemoration event the next day. The program of the conference is available [here](#).

Applicant: Estonian Institute of Historical Memory

Partner countries: Lithuania, France

Partnering organizations: Genocide and Resistance Research Centre of Lithuania
/ Kistler-Ritso Eesti Foundation: Vabamu Museum of Occupations and Freedom
/ MEMORIAL DE LA SHOAH

10. Remembering Concentration Camps and Countering Distortion

The project will contribute to combating antisemitism, xenophobia and countering distortion of the crimes against victims of Fascist, Ustashe and Nazi regimes in concentration camps and detention centers in Croatia, Italy, Serbia and Slovenia.

The project hopes to achieve more efficient government involvement in countering distortion and developing a culture of remembrance. It further aims to increase public visibility and awareness of venues that may not get ample attention. This will be done through raising public awareness, through establishing effective ways of monitoring and reporting, as well as creating a professional development program around the investigation of hate crimes. The proposed activities include meetings with local and national authorities and public events. The Documenta Center for Dealing with the Past believes that facing the history and countering the distortion of facts is a sound base for a non-violent future.

Applicant: Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past, Croatia

Partner countries: Slovenia, Croatia

Partnering organizations: Apis Institute, Civic Committee for Human Rights

DECLARATION of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust

We, High Representatives of Governments at the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust, declare that:

- 1. The Holocaust (Shoah) fundamentally** challenged the foundations of civilization. The unprecedented character of the Holocaust will always hold universal meaning. After half a century, it remains an event close enough in time that survivors can still bear witness to the horrors that engulfed the Jewish people. The terrible suffering of the many millions of other victims of the Nazis has left an indelible scar across Europe as well.
- 2. The magnitude of the Holocaust,** planned and carried out by the Nazis, must be forever seared in our collective memory. The selfless sacrifices of those who defied the Nazis, and sometimes gave their own lives to protect or rescue the Holocaust's victims, must also be inscribed in our hearts. The depths of that horror, and the heights of their heroism, can be touchstones in our understanding of the human capacity for evil and for good.
- 3. With humanity still scarred** by genocide, ethnic cleansing, racism, antisemitism and xenophobia, the international community shares a solemn responsibility to fight those evils. Together we must uphold the terrible truth of the Holocaust against those who deny it. We must strengthen the moral commitment of our peoples, and the political commitment of our governments, to ensure that future generations can understand the causes of the Holocaust and reflect upon its consequences.
- 4. We pledge to strengthen** our efforts to promote education, remembrance and research about the Holocaust, both in those of our countries that have already done much and those that choose to join this effort.
- 5. We share a commitment** to encourage the study of the Holocaust in all its dimensions. We will promote education about the Holocaust in our schools and universities, in our communities and encourage it in other institutions.
- 6. We share a commitment** to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and to honour those who stood against it. We will encourage appropriate forms of Holocaust remembrance, including an annual Day of Holocaust Remembrance, in our countries.
- 7. We share a commitment** to throw light on the still obscured shadows of the Holocaust. We will take all necessary steps to facilitate the opening of archives in order to ensure that all documents bearing on the Holocaust are available to researchers.
- 8. It is appropriate** that this, the first major international conference of the new millennium, declares its commitment to plant the seeds of a better future amidst the soil of a bitter past. We empathize with the victims' suffering and draw inspiration from their struggle. Our commitment must be to remember the victims who perished, respect the survivors still with us, and reaffirm humanity's common aspiration for mutual understanding and justice.

ABOUT IHRA

“The future we are shaping now, is the past that we will share tomorrow.”

– Former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson

The International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance unites governments and experts to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance and to uphold the commitments to the 2000 Stockholm Declaration.

The IHRA (formerly the Task Force for International Cooperation on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research, or ITF) was initiated in 1998 by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson. Today the IHRA's membership consists of 33 member countries, each of whom recognizes that international political coordination is imperative to strengthen the moral commitment of societies and to combat growing Holocaust denial, distortion and antisemitism.

The IHRA's network of trusted experts share their knowledge on early warning signs of present-day genocide and education on the Holocaust. This knowledge supports policymakers and educational multipliers in their efforts to develop effective curricula, and it informs government officials and NGOs active in global initiatives for genocide prevention.

In the period 2018 – 2022 the IHRA's experts and political representatives are focusing their efforts on countering Holocaust distortion and safeguarding the historical record.

We do this by building an engaged network, by sharing practices and by making those practices visible and accessible to decision-makers. In this way we ensure accurate and sensitive remembrance of history with a view to informing the policymaking of today.

Read more about our approach here:

<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/index.php/our-approach>

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