

PREVENTING HISTORICAL DISINFORMATION

Since 2020 we have seen a growing need to counteract disinformation about the history of the 20th century, particularly about the circumstances and course of the Second World War. Thus we have created a package of educational materials **No to Disinformation!** available under a dedicated tab of the Hi-story Lessons portal. The package includes articles, lesson plans and animations, as well as a guide *No to Disinformation!* by Lukasz Kamiński and the film 'How to Win a Memory War'.

Disinformation was also the subject of an international online conference **Disinformation in Memory Politics: Practices and Ways of Prevention**, which took place in May 2021. During the event, historians and communication specialists confronted questions about disinformation in memory politics: how it is constructed, who is behind it, what are its goals and, above all, how to prevent the manipulation of historical facts.



Promotional materials of the 'Disinformation in Memory Politics' conference included a famous photograph of Stalin and Nikolai Yezhov, which symbolise historical manipulation: when the head of the NKVD fell from Stalin's grace and was killed, he was edited from the photo.

The **European Remembrance and Solidarity** publishing series in cooperation with Routledge contributes to the debate on European memory and identity, shedding fresh light on the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Europe more broadly. Three volumes of the series were published in 2022: **A New Europe, 1918–1923: Instability, Innovation, Recovery**, edited by Bartosz Dziewanowski-Stefańczyk and Jay Winter; **Image, History and Memory: Central and Eastern Europe in a Comparative Perspective**, edited by Michał Haake and Piotr Juszkiewicz; as well as **Memory and Religion from a Postsecular Perspective**, edited by Zuzanna Bogumił and Yuliya Yurchuk.

ENRS milestones and institutional development

For the last two years the ENRS has grown considerably as an institution. It was with great satisfaction that we have welcomed Estonia and Lithuania as new observer states. Their representatives: Sergei Metlev, chief editor of the Russian desk of the Estonia's largest media group 'Postimees', and Marius Pečiulis, the director of Lithuania's Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum, became members of the Network's Advisory Board.



A part of the 'Between Life and Death' exhibition is dedicated to members of diplomatic corps who saved Jews from the Holocaust. One of them was Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese vice consul in Kaunas, who supplied thousands of Jews with transit visas to Japan – despite the fact that his country was an ally of Nazi Germany. He might have saved up to 6,000 lives. Photo by Mateusz Ingłot



The Warsaw presentation of the 'After the Great War' exhibition was part of the official programme for the commemoration of the centenary of the Battle of Warsaw. The battle was of great importance for the course of the process of delineating state borders, Poland's road to independence as well as stopping the Red Army's march to the West, which threatened to spill the Bolshevik revolution across to many European countries. Photos by Bartosz Frątczak (top) and Dominik Tryba (below)

yet relatively bloodless process liberating the Eastern and Central European countries from the communist regime.

Central and Eastern Europe after the First World War (2022) is a post-conference volume edited by Burkhard Olschowsky, Piotr Juszkiewicz and Jan Rydel. It focuses on the years following the First World War (1918–23), when significant political, military, cultural, social and economic developments converged in Eastern Europe.

Emerging from the pandemic

While the pandemic deprived us of the opportunity to meet in person, we have looked for alternative ways to maintain relationships with our partners. That is how the idea for **Making Memory Alive Together** emerged. The project involved weekly posts on the ENRS's Facebook and Twitter profiles dedicated to the Network's partner institutions, showcasing their projects, activities and events. In 2020 and 2021 we presented 46 institutions this way.

The ninth edition of the **European Remembrance Symposium**, titled **Memory and Identity in Europe: Present and Future**, was postponed twice, but we finally managed to organise it in a hybrid format in October 2021 in Tallinn, with more than 250 participants. The highlights of the programme included an opening speech by the Estonian Minister of Justice Maris Lauri and a debate 'Remembrance in Action: Everyday Challenges and Recommendations for the Future', which was held within the framework of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

COVID-19 restrictions did not stop our exhibitions from touring. **After the Great War: a New Europe 1918–1923** was shown in ten cities in Poland, Croatia, Austria, Estonia and Lithuania. In 2021 we produced a series of podcasts titled **Dialogues on 20th-century History**, intended to show the ways in which the host cities' past were linked to the theme of the exhibition.

Another exhibition, **Between Life and Death** travelled, to Switzerland (Bern), Germany (Dresden), Poland (Belzec) and Japan (Osaka, Yokohama and Tsuruga). A short film *Righteous Diplomacy*, dedicated to members of the diplomatic corps who made efforts to facilitate the Jews' escape to safety, was added to the set of educational materials accompanying the exhibition.

Publications

In the last two years, we have pursued a number of publishing projects.

In the book **1989 – The Autumn of Nations** (English edition 2021), Adam Burakowski, Aleksander Gubrynowicz and Paweł Ukielski attempted a comparative study of the turbulent

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European Network Remembrance and Solidarity

Project Partners in 2020-21

Genealogies of Memory

Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (Holocaust Memorial)
Institute of Sociology, University of Warsaw
Memory Studies Association (MSA)
Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE)

In Between?

(Polish) National Digital Archives
(Polish) National Film Archive - Audiovisual Institute
EUScreen
(Slovak) Nation's Memory Institute
Foundation Jednostka
SONY
German War Graves Commission
Kreissau-Initiative
Free Range Productions
Depot History Centre
Remembrance and Future Center
Borderland Museum in Lubaczow
Center for Polish Culture and European Dialogue
Jugendbegegnungs- und Bildungsstätte Golem
Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ)

Hi-story Lessons

Georg Eckert Institute for International Textbook Research
(Slovak) Nation's Memory Institute
Hungarian Academy of Sciences
European Association of History Educators EUROCLIO
Fazekas Mihály Primary and Secondary Grammar School
National College, Ion Luca Caragiale

January 27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day

House of the Wannsee Conference
Educational and Memorial Site
Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum
Foundation Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe (Holocaust Memorial)
POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE)
Nordost-Institut – Institute of Culture and History of the Germans in North-East Europe

Statistics and Catastrophe:

Questioning Eichmann's Numbers'
House of the Wannsee Conference
Educational and Memorial Site

When Did the Second World War Begin and When Did It End?

Pilecki Institute
Centre for Historical Research in Berlin of the Polish Academy of Science
Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE)
Institute of Lithuanian History

Making Memory Alive Together

List of 46 partner institutions of the project available at: enrs.eu/news/making-memory-alive-together-online-project

European Remembrance Symposium

Estonian Institute of Historical Memory
Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE)
(Slovak) Nation's Memory Institute
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tallinn
Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Estonia
Liszt Institute: Hungarian Cultural Center Tallinn

After the Great War: a New Europe 1918–1923

The Office of the "Niepodległa" Program
JAZ+Architekci
EUScreen
EFG European Film Gateway
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tallinn
Estonian Institute of Historical Memory
Free Range Productions
Genocide and Resistance Research Centre in Lithuania
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Vilnius
Kaunas Ninth Fort Museum
House of Austrian History
Centre for the Meeting of Cultures
The "Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre" Centre
Estrada Poznańska
Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
Wielkopolska Museum of Independence
Documenta - Center for dealing with the past
The University of Rijeka
Rijeka 2020 EcoC
Polish History Museum
History Meeting House
Fall in Love with Warsaw
The Józef Piłsudski Museum in Sulejówek
Krzyżowa Foundation for Mutual Understanding in Europe
Federal Institute for Culture and History of the Germans in Eastern Europe (BKGE)
City of Krakow
Galeria Krakowska
Depot History Centre
City of Wrocław

Between Life and Death

The Shoah Memorial
Chambon Memorial
The Danish Jewish Museum
"Tkuma" Ukrainian Institute for Holocaust Studies
Museum of the Second World War (Gdańsk)
NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies
Viina Gaon Museum of Jewish History (Slovak) Nation's Memory Institute
Holocaust Memorial Center Budapest
The 'Elie Wiesel' National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania
Villa Emma Foundation
POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews
Silent Heroes Memorial Center
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Bern
Jewish Community in Dresden
Museum – Memorial Site in Belzec
Osaka Peace Centre
Polish Institute in Tokyo
Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Tokyo
Earth Plaza

Disinformation in Memory Politics: Practices and Ways of Prevention

Romanian Ministry of Culture
Romanian National Institute for the Study of Totalitarianism
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration - College of Communication and Public Relations (Romania)

1989 – The Autumn of Nations

Natolin European Centre

The European Remembrance and Solidarity publishing series

Routledge



The programme of a three-day European Remembrance Symposium in Tallinn Creative Hub included not only panel discussions but also a number of practical and networking events. During a case studies session, speakers shared their experiences of conducting innovative projects, while those taking part in 'turbo presentations' had only 90 seconds to present their institutions. Photo by Martin Dremļuga

Facing challenges

The last two years have brought unexpected challenges to the ENRS's work. First, the pandemic affected our projects: some of them went online, others were rescheduled or reconceptualised. Then just as we saw the new formulas succeeding and as we started returning to on-site meetings, Russia's war with Ukraine erupted in full brutality. The terrible events from history that the ENRS has been remembering since its inception in 2010 became all too real again.



The debate 'Remembrance in Action: Everyday Challenges and Recommendations for the Future' during the ninth European Remembrance Symposium gathered representatives of key organisations active in the field of remembrance in Europe: the EUROM European Observatory on Memories (Oriol Lopez Badell), the European Network Remembrance and Solidarity (Rafal Rogulski), the House of European History (Constanze Itzel) and the Platform of European Memory and Conscience (Lukasz Kamiński). The debate was moderated by Sergei Metlev. Photo by Martin Dremļuga

Russian rockets have fallen and killed people all over Ukraine, including the western cities: of Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk, which we visited with the **In Between?** project in the summer of 2021. Further east, thousands of Ukrainians are falling victim to the invaders' violence. The Russians are murdering, raping, torturing and starving the weak and defenceless while fleeing from the strong. Yet again. But the Ukrainians are fighting relentlessly, for our freedom too. It is thanks to their bravery that we can still meet and, through dialogue, seek a vaccine against war and a cure for it.

The pandemic and online projects

Of the projects carried out in 2020 and 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic affected those based on face-to-face meetings the most. The **Genealogies of Memory** conference in 2020, titled **The Holocaust between Global and Local Perspectives**, was held entirely online. The aim of the conference was to assess the current state of Holocaust-memory

research in the context of the globalisation and universalisation of the meaning of the Holocaust and the empirical turn in Holocaust (memory) studies. Keynote lectures were given by Omer Bartov, Piotr Cywiński, Ewa Domańska, Jackie Feldman, Éva Kovács, Mindaugas Kvietkauskas and Daniel Levy.

Even more extraordinary, the following edition of **Genealogies of Memory** was organised as part of the prestigious congress of the Memory Studies Association, which annually gathers around 1,000 memory scholars from all over the world. One of the major events of the Genealogies of Memory stream called **European Remembrance and Solidarity** was the debate 'European Memory and Politics: a Crisis of What?' between Ivan Krastev and Marek Cichocki.

The pandemic also affected our youth projects. **Sound in the Silence** will only take place in 2022, while **In Between? 2020** was moved online. Instead of study visits to European border regions, we held an online competition titled **Image and Memory**. As state administrative borders were resurrected, making travelling

ONLINE PRODUCTIONS



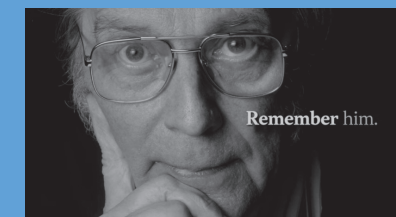
HI-STORY LESSONS

Materials on the ENRS educational portal, including new animations, are produced in six language versions to make them more accessible for education.



STATISTICS AND CATASTROPHE: QUESTIONING EICHMANN'S NUMBERS

Page 6 of the Wannsee Conference Protocol includes a list of European territories and an estimated number of Jews living in each of them, totalling 11 million people for the planned Holocaust.



REMEMBER: 23 AUGUST

Jaan Kross, whose story was featured in the 2021 edition of the project, was an Estonian writer, a symbol of resistance against totalitarianism and the 'conscience of the Estonian people'.

PODCASTS

In 2021 we joined Spotify and Simplecast platforms with two series of podcasts related to 'In Between?' and 'After the Great War' projects. Spotify: https://cutt.ly/ENRS_Spotify Simplecast: <https://enrs.simplecast.com/>



The 'Genealogies of Memory' conference was divided into eight broadcasts, which were streamed live from 4 to 26 November 2020 on the ENRS's Facebook and YouTube profiles. Photo by Agnieszka Wanat

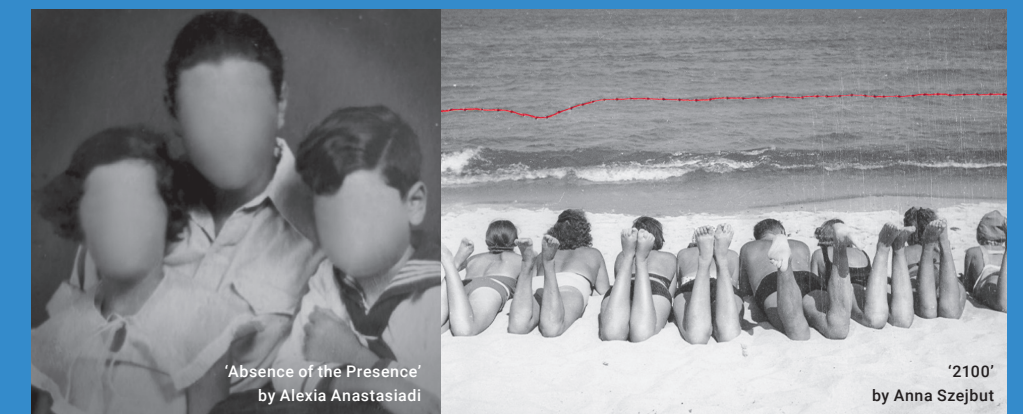
As the COVID-19 crisis has stimulated the growth of online education, we have looked for the ways to provide young people with high-quality online learning materials as well as a platform to express their thoughts creatively.

abroad nearly impossible, we asked an international group of students to look for traces of memory in their immediate neighbourhood, their own towns and districts.

In 2021 **In Between?** was held offline, although not without changes to the formula. **Neighbours Meet in the Borderlands** started with workshops in photography, podcast production and research using the oral-history method. Then the students set off for study visits in German-Polish, Polish-Slovak and Polish-Ukrainian border areas, where they interviewed members of the local community. The results were presented in the form of podcasts that allowed the participants to voice their opinions and comments.

As the COVID-19 crisis has spurred the growth of online education, the ENRS's platform **Hi-story Lessons** has expanded with quality materials relating to the 20th-century history. In 2020–21, three infographics relating to the peace conferences held during the Second World War were added; two further ones by Keith Lowe about the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and the Cold War, as well as animations: *Collapse of the USSR – Genesis* and *How to make a movie based on open resources?* The most important of all was, however, a new tab dedicated to historical disinformation (of which more below).

The ENRS's information campaigns saw their new instalments regardless of the pandemic. As part of the project **Remember: 23 August**,



Despite the modified concept of 'In Between?' in 2020, the project retained its character: the artworks submitted to the competition are very personal and testify to the students' deep reflection on memory and borderlands.

we presented the profiles of the Polish journalist and writer Kazimierz Moczarski and a Czech politician and a member of the clandestine resistance movement during the Second World War Milada Horáková (in 2020), as well as of an Estonian writer Jaan Kross (2021).

On 20 January 2021 we marked the 80th anniversary of the infamous Wannsee Conference, at which a group of high-ranking officials of Nazi Germany discussed the mass extermination of European Jews. Together with the House of the Wannsee Conference, we prepared an interactive online infographic called **Statistics and Catastrophe: Questioning Eichmann's Numbers**. The anniversary of the Wannsee Conference and **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** on 27 January

set the framework for a week-long social media remembrance campaign dedicated to victims of the Holocaust.

Symbolic dates related to the history of the Second World War determined the timeline for yet another project – **When Did the Second World War Begin and When Did It End?**, carried out in 2020. As part of this initiative, together with our partners, we held a series of three panel discussions: 'In the Labyrinth of Politics of Memory. The Hitler-Stalin Pact: Shared and Divided European Perspectives and Experiences'; 'Transnational History Textbooks: Can There Be a Common Narrative on the Second World War?' and 'The End of Worlds? Totalitarian Regimes and the End of Multicultural Communities in Eastern Europe'.