



**European Holocaust Research Infrastructure  
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**Deliverable 4.4**

**Report on European outreach and negotiation with funders**

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Abstract (for dissemination)	This deliverable reports on the work of WP4 to support the creation of EHRI national nodes and to secure their funding from M19 until M42, the end of the EHRI-PP project. It provides information about the efforts to expand the number of countries with national nodes and on track to support the future EHRI-ERIC, to harmonise activities between national nodes (workshops of National Coordinators), and to develop websites of the EHRI national nodes.
Management Summary	N/A

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## 1 Introduction

This deliverable reports on the work of WP4 to support the creation of EHRI national nodes and to secure their funding from M19 until M42, the end of the EHRI-PP project. In the previous period, WP4 has carried out activities to secure cooperation with partners in countries with high relevancy in terms of Holocaust history and the best potential for effective cooperation in this phase. WP4 activities focused on identifying priority countries, selecting national coordinators and developing strategies for obtaining national support and funding (e.g. by including EHRI on national roadmaps of RI). WP4 mapped the diversity of situations which affected the pace of progress in each country and coordinated this diverse process.

As reported in D4.1 (May 2021 [M18]), WP4 helped to appoint National Coordinators and create at least kernel national consortia in twelve countries. In seven countries, the National Coordinators were involved in a promising dialogue with relevant authorities and/or have already formally applied for the inclusion in the national roadmap and for funding. The activities were designed to initiate, coordinate and support National Coordinators in their national outreach and their paths to a gradual transformation of the institutions participating in the national consortia, many of them previously individual EHRI partners, into EHRI national nodes. Whereas the first period was devoted especially to mapping out the national landscapes and preparing the national coordinators for their role, in the second, WP4 could rely on National Coordinators for most of the work on the national level and expand the scope of its activity.

While WP4 continued to support the National Coordinators from the priority countries individually, through consultations focused on the composition of the national consortia, next steps in the negotiations with funders and strategic planning, their growing competence allowed the core team of WP4 to focus on further areas of activity which included:

1. Expanding the number of countries with national nodes and on track to support the future EHRI-ERIC
2. Harmonisation of activity between national nodes (workshops of National Coordinators)
3. Developing websites of the EHRI national nodes

## 2 National nodes and negotiating commitment from states

As priority countries were – following their country specific time tables – on track to establish the national nodes and negotiate with the governments, WP4 expanded the number of supported countries. It worked with institutions, hopefully to become future National Coordinators, which are not EHRI-PP partners (although some countries are represented in the EHRI-3 project consortium) but expressed the interest to join the work of EHRI-PP and the future EHRI-ERIC.

A “Newcomer Workshop” was organised on 13 December 2023, as a part of the EHRI-PP General Partner Meeting in Brussels, for representatives from institutions in four countries. These included the Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea (Italy), University of

Zagreb (Croatia), Institute for Holocaust Research in Sweden, Swedish Holocaust Museum, and the Hungarian Jewish Museum and Archives. The workshop made it possible to share the information about EHRI and the experience gathered so far on the steps necessary to establish a national node and to secure its funding. The “newcomers”, potential future National Coordinators, had the possibility to present their country cases and discuss their situation with the National Coordinators from the priority countries who could report on their progress. By participating in the GPM and meeting the National Coordinators and other EHRI-PP staff, they have gathered information about EHRI, created personal connections and directly experienced the spirit of EHRI cooperation. . Following the workshop, Croatia officially expressed the intention to join EHRI. In Italy, first efforts to establish a national node also took place.

In addition, a first conversation about possible cooperation and a Swiss national node was held with the Archiv für Zeitgeschichte in Zürich (a part of the ETH). First exploratory contacts were also made in several other countries: in Serbia, Denmark and Luxembourg.

Against the background of the Russian invasion, EHRI expedited its efforts to engage Ukraine as a prospective EHRI member state. It built on a strong engagement of the EHRI project consortia to support Holocaust researchers affected by the war and to advance the Holocaust studies in and about Ukraine. EHRI held preliminary discussions about the work towards the establishment of the EHRI national node for Ukraine with the Center for Urban History (an EHRI-3 project partner).

By the end of EHRI-PP, National Coordinators are active in 13 countries. In total, more than sixty institutions (including the coordinating ones) are involved in the building of EHRI national nodes or first contacts were established towards that goal. 23 workshops were held on the national level which were organised or co-organised by the EHRI national nodes. These meetings bring together national and sometimes international specialists and are used to advance the development of EHRI national consortia. The workshops were supported by representatives of the WP4 Core Team.

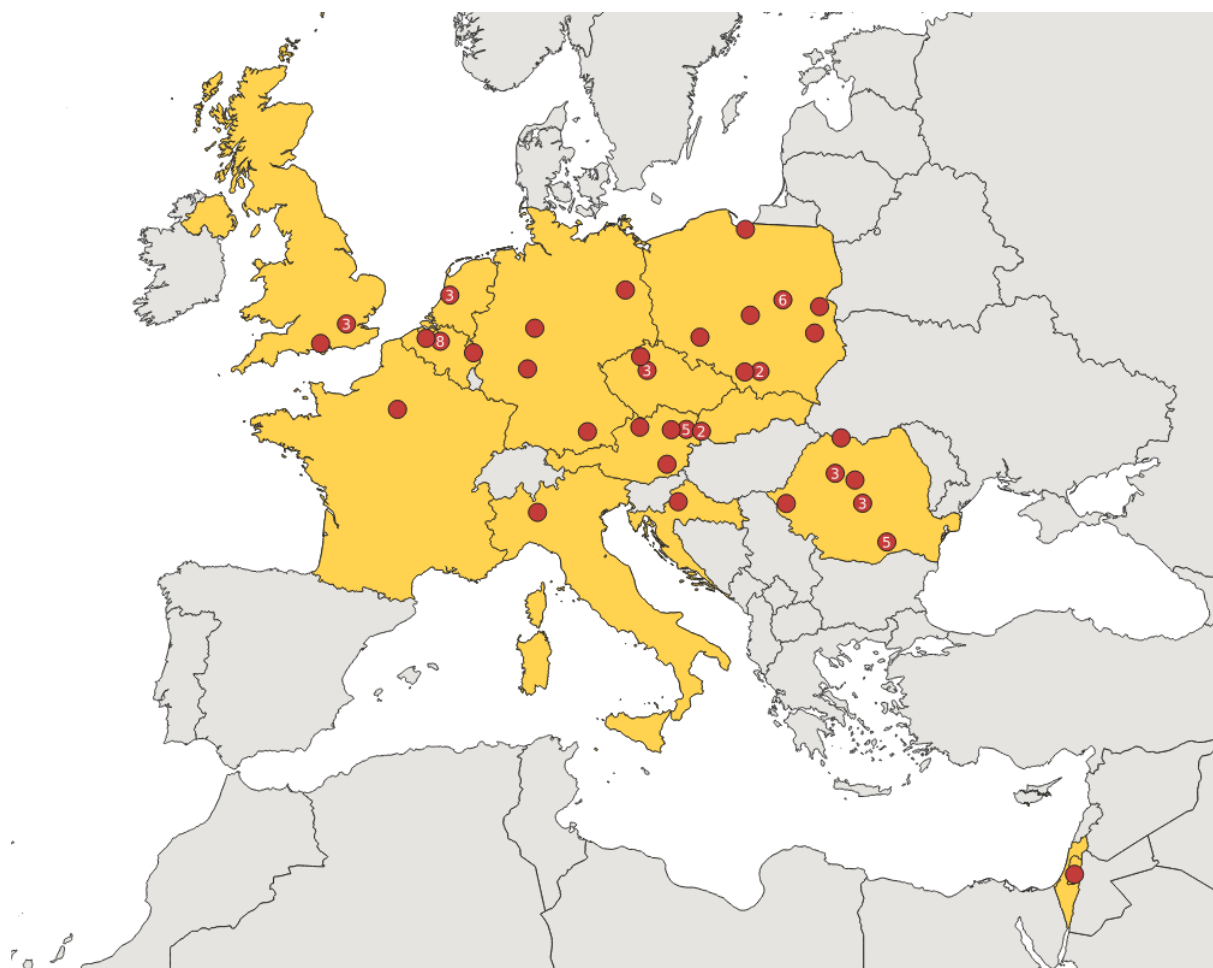


Figure 1: Locations of planned partner organisations in the EHRI national nodes.

Country	National Coordinator (institution)	Workshops held (in current reporting period)
Austria	Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies	8
Belgium	Kazerne Dossin; Belgian State Archives/CegeSoma	3
Croatia	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences	
Czech Republic	Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences	3
France	Mémorial de la Shoah	
Germany	Institute for Contemporary History	1
Israel	Yad Vashem	

Country	National Coordinator (institution)	Workshops held (in current reporting period)
Italy	Fondazione Centro di Documentazione Ebraica Contemporanea CDEC	2
The Netherlands	KNAW-NIOD Institute for War, Holocaust and Genocide Studies	1
Poland	The Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute	2
Romania	Elie Wiesel National Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania	1
Slovakia	Holocaust Documentation Center	1
United Kingdom	The Wiener Holocaust Library	1

Most National Coordinators are on the way to determining the sources and amount of financial support for the operation of the national nodes. In Poland, national funding has been guaranteed by the Ministry of Culture. In Austria: the BMBWF (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research) has already put up €108,000 (for 2021-2022), to which the VWI has contributed €150,000 over the same period. The total amount, including contributions from partner institutions, was €435,000 for 2021-22. The Czech Republic set a total of €1142,000 for 2023-26. Romania projected €30,000 plus capital and investment costs €100,000.

Throughout the project, ministerial representatives from nine countries that signed letters of political support for EHRI - Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Germany, Israel, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom - met regularly in the EHRI Board of Governmental Representatives (BGR) to discuss and agree all the documents required for an ERIC application. At the last BGR meeting in November 2022 all these documents were approved at BGR level. Subsequent to this last BGR meeting two additional countries - Croatia and Poland - handed in letters of political support.

In December 2022, the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science sent out an invitation letter to all eleven committed countries to sign an *Memorandum of Understanding on the implementation and establishment of a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC)*. Signatures of this MoU is a precondition for countries to become full members of the interim General Assembly (iGA) of EHRI which will replace the BGR once EHRI-PP comes to a close. To date, signed MoU have been received from seven countries - Austria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia - and the remaining four have indicated that signature is in process and likely to happen in the coming weeks. The first meeting of the iGA has been scheduled for 29 June 2023.

### 3 Workshops of National Coordinators

In contrast to the first period, WP4 developed and conducted a series of workshops involving the entire community of National Coordinators. Apart from advisory, instructional, and monitoring objectives, these meetings serve mainly as a venue for brainstorming about developing strategies for themes and questions shared by the national nodes. They were conceived as a forum for the exchange of experiences and best practices between National Coordinators (with the participation of invited selected partner institutions which will be part of the national EHRI nodes) on the construction of national nodes, the composition of national consortia and planned activities.

### **3.1 Pilot Workshop**

The introductory workshop was held online on 3 November 2021 during the General Partner Meeting of EHRI-PP (online). The goal was to present the idea of a series of internal workshops, after which the National Coordinators gave a brief update on progress and next steps towards gaining support in their countries and building national nodes. Key topics for future workshops were solicited and selected based on how important they appeared to National Coordinators.

### **3.2 Workshop 1: 'Building National Consortia'**

The first full workshop took place in an online format on 31 January 2022 and centred on the goals and ambitions of the national nodes. National Coordinators focused on questions regarding the vision for their respective nodes, their activities, synergies they would like to develop and what data to collect and methods to apply. They discussed what kind of institutions and how many they envisaged to include; specific areas of expertise that were particularly important and/or missing in their countries as well as how a good institutional and expertise coverage could be best achieved. The latter issue touched upon the possibility of clustering with national nodes of established ERICs, the advantages and disadvantages of this solution.

National coordinators raised questions about the extent to which a cross-section of disciplines should be represented in the consortia (historians, archivists, DH-professionals, etc.) and how inclusive should the consortia be. Coordinators reported both the problem with too many potential stakeholders (how to choose between them so that the national landscape is well represented, e.g. in Germany) and too few in smaller countries. Another uncertainty was related to the complicated modes of funding of the various partners and difficulties in communication in complex stakeholder structures. With some institutions state-funded, and others not, it is necessary to make sure that small project-funded institutions can also participate. Added to this were other national specifics, with Belgium, for example, reporting a concern about potential imbalances in regional institutional representation. Changing responsibilities and officers in the respective ministries were named as another, even if infrequent, problem. The challenge of uneven pace and different stages at which national nodes are approached in terms of the consequences of these disparities for building the EHRI-ERIC.

Following the discussion, participants were able to listen to talks on "Creating National Consortia: Experiences from other RIs", presented by Jan Hajič, the Director of the LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ. An additional perspective was shared by Luca Pezzati, CNR (National Research Council of Italy), E-RIHS Scientific Coordinator, who provided a general introduction to the topic "How to build a national hub?"

### **3.3 Workshop 2: 'EHRI National Websites'**



The second workshop on 28 March 2022 (online) launched the long-term and ongoing work on EHRI national websites. The topic – possible ways for national nodes to work together to create a common visual identity – was introduced by Jan Hlavinka (Holocaust Documentation Centre, Bratislava), leader of EHRI-PP WP8: “Dissemination and Communication”. Laura Benassi (CNR), Contact and Communication Officer for Heritage Science, presented the perspective of a creative designer and social media strategist, and experienced web developer for the E-RIHS project.

The issues raised during the workshop concerned the structure, content, functionality and users of the planned websites. On a practical level, the discussion related to the personnel needed to edit the websites and the frequency of updates. The participants concluded that national nodes should have space for differentiation in their websites while sticking to a coherent EHRI visual identity and a basic structure. Diverse audiences must be taken into account. Currently, EHRI is targeting the academic/research, archival, educational and heritage communities, but national nodes can place a different emphasis on these audiences, depending on the progress of Holocaust research in each country and their priorities. There is a need to adapt the website design and functionality to speak to non-academic users (media, various memory agents; survivors; civil society more broadly). National node websites need to be available in local languages. National websites could also provide access to the national data in the EHRI portal.

### **3.4 Workshop 3: ‘Planning the Outcomes until the End of the EHRI-PP Project’**

The third workshop was held on 17 May 2022 during the in-person GPM in Prague and gathered country updates on the progress in individual states. Its main objective was to build a calendar for the formal steps for political and financial support and the establishment of national nodes, negotiations and government decisions, proposals to be submitted or expected results. The issue of the memorandum of understanding or agreements to establish national nodes was explained in detail and discussed. These legal arrangements, however, differ between the countries and reflect the specific rules governing the funding of the research infrastructures as well as the specific legal situation. In addition, the coordinators touched on what is expected from the central hub and what further events are needed and planned on the country level as well as what kind of central support will be required for their organisation.

### **3.5 Workshop 4: ‘EHRI Services in National Context’**

The fourth workshop took place online on 14 September 2022 and focused on creating a structured and comparable view of the services which will be developed and provided on the national level. Building on previous meetings, the workshop advanced first rough descriptions of the services of the EHRI national nodes (including access to data, application of digital humanities methods, training, fellowships). Moving toward the EHRI-ERIC, it is important to reach a better understanding of how ideas on the national level connect or differ. This task was also helpful in structuring the template for the structure of national websites and brainstorming about future EHRI working groups. One of the outcomes of the workshop was the preparation by individual countries of structured information which could in the future serve as a basis for the national sections of the EHRI service registry.

### **3.6 Workshop 5: ‘EHRI Impact: Cooperation with Cultural and Educational Institutions’**

The fifth workshop took place in person during GPM in Brussels on 14 December 2022 and revolved around intersections and cooperation with cultural and educational institutions and the transfer of knowledge from research. The questions dealt with gaps in the work of cultural

and memory institutions in each country; as well as topics absent in communication with the wider public. Participants were asked to identify which research findings and/or areas remain insufficiently covered in knowledge transfer institutions and which opportunities to integrate relevant knowledge into decisions about educational and cultural programmes remain unexploited. Related to this was also the question of effective knowledge exchange between researchers and practitioners and which EHRI data should be shared more effectively and how best to translate research into implementation.

National Coordinators identified the most relevant stakeholders in the field of knowledge transfer, what services they provide, how they are funded, how they can be involved and in what areas these important intermediary institutions are not using their full potential in communicating the latest research trends to a wider audience. Among the thematic issues mentioned that find a problem in representation were other groups of victims of Nazism (e.g., the Roma, smaller religious groups, LGBTIQ\*), but also other issues, such as how to tell the entangled stories of victims and perpetrators.

Participants from some countries focused on the fragmented funding landscape and uncertainty about the rules of national funding; there is a clear need to understand what a national funding body might expect (e.g., a focus on combating antisemitism). This will vary from country to country and expectations from networked institutions need to be carefully managed. Tailored engagement is also important: who to talk to, e.g., in large institutions where it might be difficult to find the right interlocutor; making EHRI attractive to different audiences; some institutions have experience working on large projects/consortia, others do not, and this will require further instruction.

Among the recommendations is a clustering option for digitizing projects, for example, which could also leverage funding from other larger projects. Various studies on antisemitism and education are additionally funded by other sources, such as Rothschild Foundation support for digitization. For digitisation, clear ethical rules are needed on the handling of sensitive material, dialogue with the groups being studied (ethics committees, privacy committees, code of ethics for archives, application of national laws).

### **3.7 Workshop 6: 'EHRI Portal and Data Survey'**

On 13 March 2023, the sixth workshop took place online with a focus on data integration into the EHRI Portal, one of the key requirements for every EHRI national node. The workshop was designed to help to communicate what national nodes have to do for data identification and integration; outlining the current situation in each country in terms of preserving and describing Holocaust sources, and how to make them available on the EHRI Portal. Consideration was also given to how EHRI fits into the more general development of digital humanities/computer science in these countries.

The workshop was led by Veerle Vanden Daelen, Deputy Director General, Director of Collections and Research, Kazerne Dossin and the leader of the EHRI-3 work package 9 ("Data identification and integration"). The meeting allowed to assess the extent of knowledge and understanding of the data survey among National Coordinators, their needs and expectations, the already existing potential in each national node, and where to go from that level. Below is a sample of how results were collected through the Mentimeter platform:

## What do you expect the EHRI-ERIC central hub to do for data integration into the EHRI Portal?

Mentimeter



National Coordinators emphasized above all the need for technical support from the EHRI Central Hub, for validation tools and for training. They explained how the EHRI Portal's coverage of their country's archival resources needs to be expanded. The identification often remained incomplete because of the problems of translation, lack of resources (archives unwilling to invest time and staff in making records accessible) and/or technical expertise and metadata in shareable format at many archives. Moreover, they mentioned regional imbalance in their countries and problems with integrating smaller archives. At the same time, some suggested that in future, EHRI should prioritize quality over quantity. Several National Coordinators mentioned the lack of awareness about EHRI in their country as an obstacle for the integration of country-related Holocaust data.

The meeting resulted in conclusions that clear standards, tools and a procedure for integrating data into the EHRI Portal are needed in the future EHRI-ERIC. Further proposals included the idea of specialized training for national nodes and assistance from the Central Hub. The connection between EHRI national portals (planned in several countries) and the EHRI Portal also need to be elaborated upon.

### 3.7 Summary

The exchange of ideas and sharing of concerns in a broader forum has been effective in finding a common (or individual) solution to problems that sometimes recur and sometimes prove to be country-specific. The workshops were helpful to overcome the diversity of country situations and to harmonise the progress across the differing schedules in the

individual countries. The workshops of the National Coordinators are also first steps towards the establishment of the National Coordinators Committee which is envisioned in the structure of the EHRI-ERIC.

#### **4 Websites of the EHRI national nodes**

As one of the priorities for the second phase, WP4 worked towards the development and creation of the websites of EHRI national nodes. The websites are recognised as one of the most important and highly functional means of communication that EHRI national nodes will use.

EHRI considers it essential for its online publicity to adhere to a consistent visual style and structure. In the discussion during the second workshop of National Coordinators and in further meetings, especially the work package meeting during the GPM in December 2022, and in cooperation with WP8, the work package formulated recommendations for the standard structure and content of the national websites (such as general information about EHRI, overview of partners of the national node, services of EHRI, events and news, etc.). To prepare this proposal, WP4 and WP8 also examined best practices in national websites of other research infrastructures.

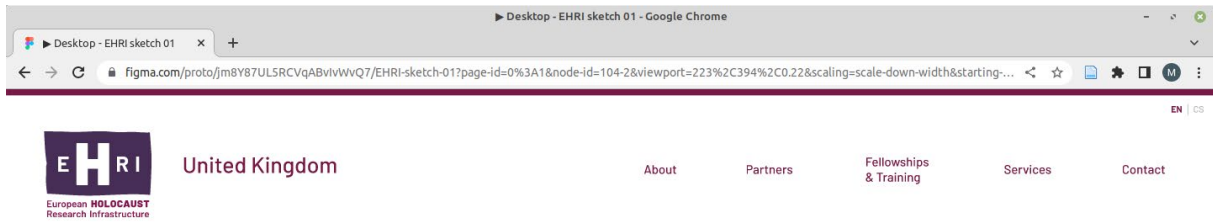
In parallel, WP4 formulated requirements for the visual style which will be modern and adequate for a research infrastructure, with the focus on supporting access to archives and innovative research while also remaining attractive to a wider public. The layout will visually connect to existing EHRI web platforms, will be based on a responsive design (for use on screens of different sizes) and will be optionally multilingual.

WP4 engaged a professional web designer to produce a skeleton website which national coordinators can – with only a modest time investment – fill with their content and which they can extend according to their needs. The design work included the upgrade of the EHRI visual style (the colour palette, new versions of the EHRI logo, fonts and more). Wireframes were prepared for the desktop, mobile and tablet versions and finally, the layout was designed and discussed in detail.

Local implementation of national websites will depend to a large degree on resources and expertise available to specific nodes and other constraints imposed by the hosting institution or responsible party. To allow national coordinators flexibility in building the websites and not impose on them a specific platform, WP4 has implemented the design using a static site generator (SSG), a tool that generates web pages in an offline manner using templates and configuration files.

While the static site approach does have limitations when compared to a database-powered CMS such as Wordpress or Drupal, particularly with regard to ease-of-use, websites generated in this manner are significantly cheaper and less complex to host, and avoid a raft of potential security pitfalls. For the first iteration of the site templates, we have used an SSG tool Hugo<sup>1</sup>, which provides a very high level of flexibility and the ability to manage multilingual content. Testing instances of the UK and Czech national nodes were used to test the implementation. We aim to publish the first EHRI national websites in the new design in June 2023.

1 <https://gohugo.io/>



# Creating a UK National Holocaust Research Infrastructure

The UK holds a unique collection of records relating to the Holocaust and refugees who fled Nazi oppression. EHRI-UK is working towards finding and linking this source material in the UK through a national digital Holocaust Research Infrastructure.

[Learn more](#)



Figure 2: Design of the national websites: Desktop version (home page).

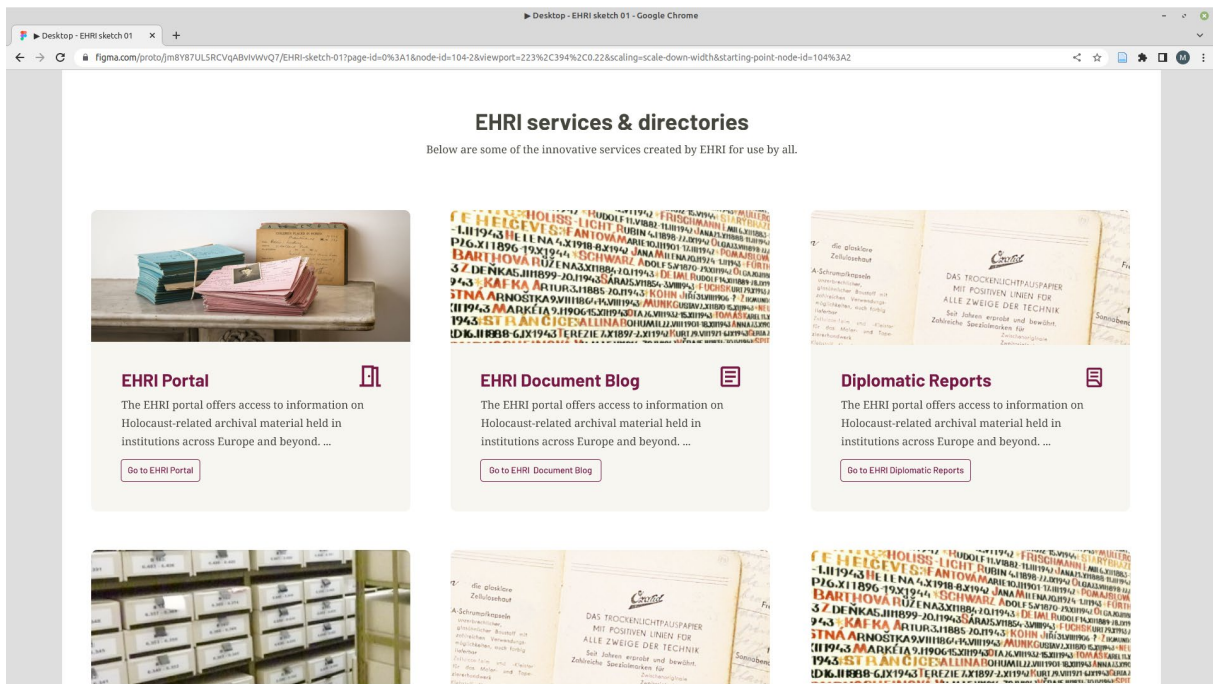


Figure 3: Design of the national websites: Desktop version (services page).

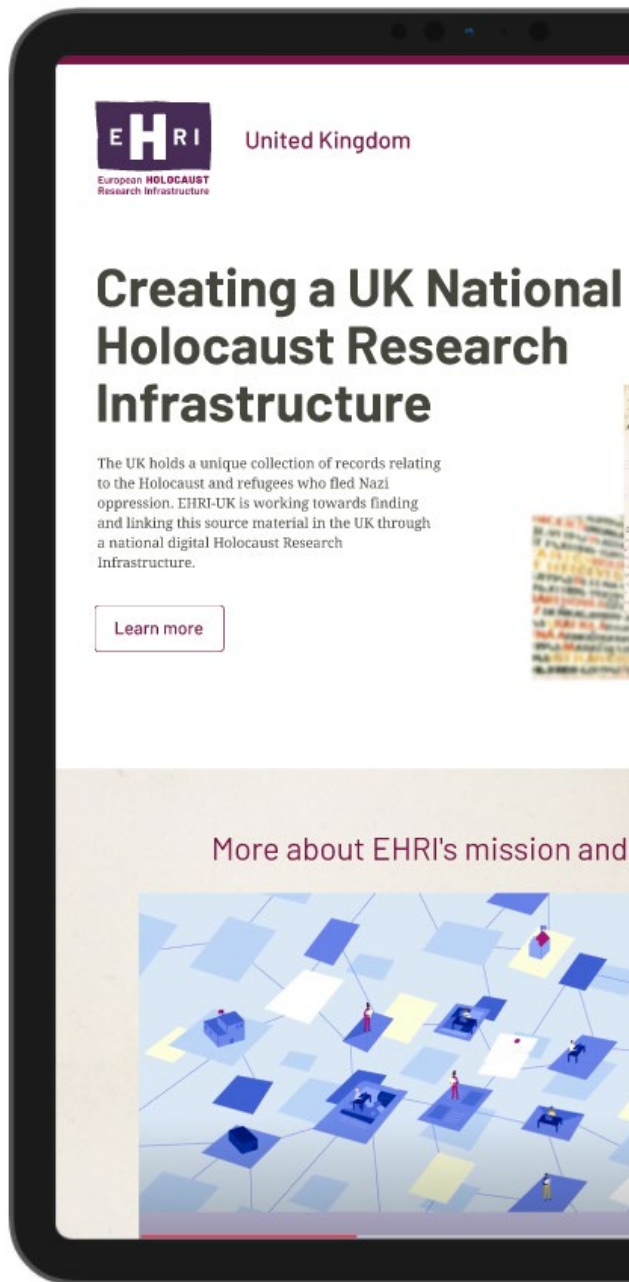
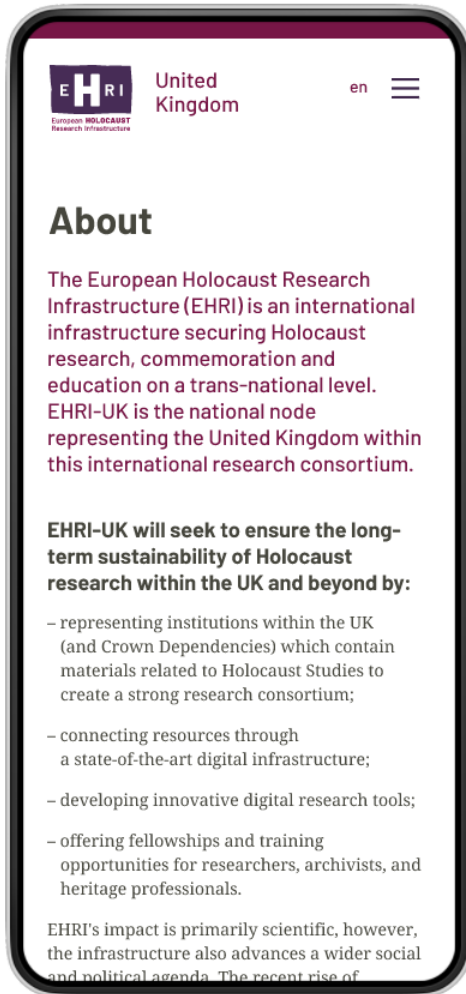


Figure 4: Design of the national websites: Tablet version (home page).



*Figure 5: Design of the national websites: Mobile version (home page).*