

9th of March, 2015

INVITATION: **4th European Remembrance Symposium**
of European institutions dealing with 20th-century history
Remembrance of the Second World War 70 Years After
Winners, Losers, Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are proud to invite you to **4th European Remembrance Symposium** of European institutions dealing with 20th-century history which will take place in **Vienna on 11-13 May 2015**. This year's edition, entitled *Remembrance of the Second World War 70 Years After. Winners, Losers, Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders*, is held under the patronage of Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria.

European Remembrance Symposium is a meeting of European institutions and non-governmental organisations focusing on 20th-century history. The project grew from the question whether we as Europeans can agree on the so-called *Acquis Communautaire Historique*. The Symposium offers a forum for discussing the nature and form of the contemporary culture of remembrance and related historical education. The past editions of the annual project initiated in 2012 took place in Gdańsk, Berlin and Prague.

The end of the Second World War can be viewed as an event that closes a chapter of European history that shaped most our continent, our memories, and our national narratives. 70 years after the end of the war we can see the complexity of the images of the past, including the diversity of such categories as winners and losers. During the Symposium we want to look at the meaning of victory and loss in the war in different countries, especially those which had been liberated from the Nazi regime only to suffer under the communist dictatorship. We plan to ask the participants about the different national remembrance policies and definitions of the different war participants depending on the dominating ideology. We aim to review 1945 not as an end to a war started in 1939 but rather an end of a chapter in European history that opened a new phase of a conflict and oppression in Europe.

The debates during the Symposium will put a special emphasis on art and war, Holocaust, and differences in memories depending on region and ideology. The three day Symposium will additionally offer six smaller workshops organised by participating institutions, short individual presentations for all willing participants, and a field trip to a place of remembrance in Vienna.

Main organiser:



in cooperation with:



Stiftung
Denkmal für die
ermordeten Juden
Europas



This invitation is directed to professionals dealing with the history of 20th century in different fields and institutions. About 200 participants from all over Europe, Israel and North America will join the discussions in Vienna. Attached please find a preliminary programme of this year's meeting. To participate in the Symposium, please visit our website and register at:

www.europeanremembrance.enrs.eu/edition2015/register.

Organisers of the Symposium offer limited assistance with travel and accommodation expenses. If you will require such assistance please make sure to apply for such on our project's website after registration to the Symposium. If you have any further question or would like to have your institutions materials presented during the Symposium please feel free to contact us at europeanremembrance@enrs.eu.

This year's edition is organised by European Network Remembrance and Solidarity with Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Research on War Consequences, Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe Foundation, European Solidarity Centre, and Federal Foundation for the Reappraisal of the SED Dictatorship.

For more details about the Symposium, registration forms, and programme updates please visit: www.europeanremembrance.enrs.eu.

We would be honoured to meet you in Vienna.

Yours sincerely,

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