

EUROPEAN SHOAH LEGACY INSTITUTE

PROGRESS NARRATIVE REPORT #2/2016

Reporting Period: July – September 2016

1. Institutional Development:

Restructuring of the Administrative and Supervisory Board

In the period July - September 2016 ESLI in cooperation with the Czech MFA, we continued working on the appointment of new members of both Boards.

Current state:

Administrative Board:

Five members appointed and there are six legitimate members according to the newly approved Amendments.

Ambassador Tibor Shalev- Schlosser (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel) has been nominated as the 6th member of the Administrative Board by the Federation of Jewish communities but due to his new professional duties he could no longer accept the membership.

The Israeli Embassy in Prague sent a request to the Federation of Jewish Communities to nominate Ambassador Joel Lion – the newly appointed Israeli Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel). The Federation of Jewish Communities will approve his nomination at the next meeting of the Council of the FJC and after the approval will send the nomination letter to the Czech MFA.

Supervisory Board:

Five members appointed and one more member of the Supervisory Board is expected to be nominated by the US Embassy in Prague before the end of 2016.

2. Restitution/Compensation of Immovable Property:

Building alliance at the European Parliament

- Meeting with Head of the Secretariat of the LIBE Committee
On 15 July 2016, Anezka Nekovarova and Lochlan Warren met with Antoine Cahen, Head of the Secretariat of the LIBE Committee in Brussels, and he provided ESLI with useful information on how to put the restitution issue on the LIBE Committee agenda. Antoine Cahen suggested that the first step shall be the inclusion of the overview of post-Holocaust restitution in the Report on Fundamental Rights which is written by LIBE Committee. In addition, Antoine Cahen was very helpful in identifying potential allies within the Committee to work with on the Motion for Resolution on Importance of Restitution as a Part of Restorative Justice.
- Meeting with LIBE Committee Member
On 6 September, Anezka Nekovarova met with MEP Pal Csaky who organized the roundtable on restitutions in April 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce our study and activities related to restitutions as a part of restorative justice. We also discussed a possibility including a short paragraph about restitutions in the LIBE Report. Mr. Csaky was very supportive, and he

agreed to address a rapporteur of the report, Mr. Josef Nagy. Furthermore, MEP Csaky agreed to co-organize awareness raising event about restitutions at the European Parliament.

- Meeting with ARDI Intergroup – anti-Racist and Diversity Intergroup
ESLI met with Mr. Alfiaz Vaiya, representative of the ARDI. We introduced to him our study and activities related to restitutions as a part of restorative justice. ARDI intergroup expressed its support for our activities and agreed to cooperate on raising awareness events at the European Parliament.
- Meeting with B NAI B RITH
Halyna Senyk and Anezka Nekovarova met with Benjamin Naegele in order to initiate cooperation on the restitution conference since we strongly believe that all relevant CSOs should be involved in the conference. Mr. Naegele was very interested in the conference and the motion for resolution and agreed that his organisation will become one of partner organisation for the conference.

Report on the situation of fundamental rights in the European Union in 2015

Per advice of Mr. Antoine Cahen, Secretary Head of the LIBE Committee, EJC, ESLI and WJRO managed to tab an amendment in the Report on Fundamental Rights written by LIBE which advocates restitution as an important part of restoration of justice in the aftermath of extreme hate crimes, however, we still have to persuade Report's rapporteur and LIBE Committee to accept proposed amendment. The amendment would allow us to tackle restitutions on the European level.

Steering Committee meeting

In order to organise international, inclusive and transparent conference, the Steering Committee has been created. The Committee consists of representatives of Czech and Israel MFAs and civil society organisations relevant to the conference topic, in particular ESLI, WJRO, European Jewish Congress and B NAI B RITH. The Committee will meet regularly to deliver a successful conference in April 2017 in Brussels.

The first Steering Committee meeting took place on 20th September in Brussels at the Israeli Mission to the EU and was attended by:

- Mrs. Shuli Davidovich, Deputy Head of the Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO
- Amb. Joel Lion, Special Envoy of Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs for Holocaust issues
- Dr. Avraham Weber, Advisor to the Ministry for Social Equality
- Ms. Halyna Senyk, Executive Director, European Shoah Legacy Institute (ESLI)
- Mr. Nuno Wahnnon Martins, Director of European Union Affairs, European Jewish Congress (EJC)
- Mr. Dimitri Dombret, European Representative of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO)
- Ms. Pavla Papírníková, Legal Affairs and Communication Unit, Relations with the European Parliament, Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic to the European Union
- Ms. Anežka Nekovářová, Project Manager, European Shoah Legacy Institute (ESLI)
- Ms. Michal Weiler-Tal, Head of European Parliament Liaison Department, Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO
- Mr. Jonathan Rosenzweig, Deputy Head of the European Parliament Department, Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO

- Mr. Nicolas Servranckx, European Parliament Relations Officer, Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO
- Ms. Smadar Shapira, Bilateral Relations Officer, Mission of Israel to the EU and NATO

The first meeting was rather informative, since all members needed to get on the same page, however different components of the Conference were discussed: Date; Purpose of the agenda; Division of roles of each organization; Patronage of EU governments; Participation of senior EU officials; Possible invitation to all states of the Terezin declaration; Participation of Special Holocaust \ Restitution Envoys; Famous figures to lead the conference; Involvement of the EU special envoy on Human Rights; Dividing it to a political part and an informative part; A well-known moderator; Cooperation with a Think Tank; Partnership with media organization; Gala dinner; the need to secure sufficient budget.

The meeting could be concluded in following points:

1. The tentative date which looks feasible is **25.4.2016**
2. A division of labor is required: it was suggested that EJC will lead the political and logistical parts of the conference, and they need to examine this possibility and update the other participants regarding their level of involvement. ESLI will lead the content of the informative part and will focus on the database. WJRO will provide assistance by the EAHS. WJC and Bnai Brith will also be included in the Steering Committee.
3. The Mission to the EU will serve as the coordination platform and will assist in the political coordination with the EU institutions, as well as in consultation with the Czech Perm. Rep. on how to involve other EU Perm. Reps. in this important effort.

Meeting with Civil Society Organisations

Participants:

Nuno Wahnnon Martins – EJC
 Benjamin Naegele – B NAI B RITH
 Sorina Gagiarau – WJRO
 Anezka Nekovarova – ESLI

Representatives of above mention organisations met on 30.9.16. The purpose of the meeting was to unify our voices and brainstorm in order to facilitate further discussion and provide a solid groundwork for the next Steering Committee meeting. All representatives agreed that it is important to continue in preparatory activities if we are to deliver a successful conference in April. Group agreed to meet on regular basis and also to include representative from the Permanent Israeli Mission to the EU.

The group discussed following issues:

ROLE OF EACH ORGANISATION

Representatives agreed to divide tasks according to the proposed planning timeline elaborated by ESLI who is responsible for logistics of the conference. Based on the timeline, WJRO and B'B will identify which activities they can help with in order to serve the conference's needs the best. The Steering Committee will

approve assignments.

ORGANIZERS OF THE CONFERENCE

Meeting participants discussed the role as organizers. Group agreed that all involved organisations can be organizers of the conference and their logos should be on invitations since an involvement of more organisations can extend more pressure and manifests united voices.

INVITATIONS

One invitation will be created with all logos. The group proposed that each organization will send out invitations to their relevant partners and networks. The pattern on how to deal with follow up needs to be found.

PATRONAGE OF THE EP

It is necessary to obtain a patronage of the EP. Steering Committee has to take into consideration that Martin Schulz, current president and great supporter of Jewish community, might be replaced by someone from EPP at the beginning of 2017. This person might have a different approach towards Jewish issues, post-Holocaust justice, etc.

FORM OF THE CONFERENCE

It was suggested holding a part of the conference at the EP and different venue. The form of the conference should reflect desired outcomes of the conference as well as target audience. One of the proposed outcomes was a signed declaration which later will facilitate to proceed with a motion for resolution. WJRO mentioned possible cooperation with the EAHS (European Alliance for Holocaust Survivors), since the group of MEPs supports the conference. Steering Committee needs to decide about the form of cooperation. It was also mentioned that the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the group might host the part of the conference at the EP. All the participants at the meeting suggested defining the goal of the conference and the target group. According to this, the Steering Committee will decide the final form of the conference.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

A more detailed budget needs to be created. ESLI should identify how much money is going to allocate for the conference and should calculate

Preparations of the Information Package for Steering Committee meeting

ESLI has prepared the Information package to facilitate discussions and speed up a preparation process. The package has been disseminated in printed as well as an electronic version to all Steering Committee members.

The package is consisted of: Timeline of activities related to the Conference and motion for resolution; Draft of the agenda; Draft of the list of invitees with full contact details; Planning timeline for the Conference preparations with concrete steps and deadlines; Preliminary budget proposal; Possible venues in Brussels; Initiative Group members, EAHS members, Conference logo visualization, Progress Report on the International Conference, Minutes from Initiative Group Teleconferences.

Immovable Property Database

As of September 2016, final responses from 22 governments (via questionnaire or otherwise) have been received. More questionnaires are still expected later in 2016 from governments who previously indicated they are working on the questionnaires.

Submitted answers:

1. Slovakia (email)
2. Greece (email)
3. Latvia (letter)
4. Serbia (2 questionnaires)
5. Australia (e-mail stating cannot complete - no resources)
6. Finland (letter)
7. Spain (email)
8. Malta (email)
9. Macedonia (questionnaire)
10. Cyprus (email)
11. Uruguay (questionnaire)
12. Turkey (email)
13. Estonia (questionnaire)
14. Hungary (questionnaire)
15. Sweden (questionnaire)
16. Argentina (email)
17. Germany (email)
18. Denmark (questionnaire)
19. France (questionnaire)
20. UK (questionnaire)
21. Austria (questionnaire)
22. Israel (questionnaire)

The database team has continued in cooperation with over 50 pro bono attorneys from major global law firms including White & Case, O'Melveny & Myers, Morgan Lewis, Fried Frank, and Brownstein Hyatt Farber & Schreck. These pro bono attorneys, under the guidance of the directors and their associates, have continued to complete research reports addressing the status of restitution legislation in a particular Terezin Declaration country.

Building upon the research of the pro bono attorneys and the responses from government Questionnaires as they have been received, the Study team has completed comprehensive narrative reports for all 47 Terezin Declaration countries. The reports detail each country's historical and current restitution legislation and key international and domestic court decisions. The country reports include in-text links to available primary legislation and cases. The reports have been sent to external scholars and legal practitioners to confirm accuracy of the content. The external review process of the reports is nearing completion.

Following country reports are currently being verified by experts:

Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Netherlands, Russia, Denmark, Portugal, Spain.

3. Welfare for Holocaust survivors and other victims of Nazi persecution

Civil Society Platform

The Web Manager created a new website <http://ngo.shoahlegacy.org/> and has been working on special calendar where platform members can see upcoming events, funding opportunities and other important actions. Once this tool is done ESLI will address current members asking them for comments and suggestions which will be incorporated to the Platform.

Pilot Project for European Parliament funding

Following suggestions by the European Commission's cooperation with Europe for Citizens Program in working on the Pilot Project, Activity Manager Anezka Nekovarova met with Director of Europe for Citizens Program Mr. Pavel Tychtl, European Commission Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs, to discuss possible projects suitable for program Europe for Citizens. Anezka Nekovarova and Pavel Tychtl discussed a Pilot Project focused on register of social services available to victims of Nazism in TD countries and possibility to apply this project to Europe for Citizens program. Mr. Tychtl suggested ESLI to apply for two types of grants: Institutional grants which will be open by the end of 2017. The Social Services Register would be included in this kind of grant. The second type of grant is focused on projects related to European values, strengthening citizenship and tolerance. Based on Mr. Tychtl advice, ESLI came up with a project which will focus on restoration of Jewish cemeteries and killing sites, however the project per se will facilitate the cooperation between local municipalities, Jewish communities, schools and CSOs in three European countries. The major focus is to persuade local municipalities and citizens that cemeteries and killing sites are our common heritage and history and it is important to restore them and protect them. The project will be accompanied with numerous events, such as exhibitions and seminars.

4. Recovery of Looted Art

Project Rebranding

In September 2016, the European Shoah Legacy Institute rebranded its provenance research-related projects from 'Provenance Research Initiative' to 'Cultural Property and Provenance Project'. This name change reflects the expanded scope and achievements of ESLI's projects in this field over the past year and helps distinguish it from a number of similarly-named, but unrelated, projects.

EU Legislative Initiative

The European Shoah Legacy Institute has continued to work closely with the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI Committee) of the European Parliament on its legislative initiative on provenance research and cultural heritage protection.

Preliminary expectations were that Dr. Dietmar Köster from the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats would be appointed unopposed as rapporteur for this initiative in August 2016. However, intensive lobbying and awareness-raising by ESLI of the important issues involved in this initiative resulted in significantly increased interest within the JURI Committee, resulting in the European People's Party and the European United Left/Nordic Green Left also expressing interest in assigning the Rapporteur. As part of this lobbying effort, Project Manager Lochlan Warren also met with advisors to Ms. Heidi Hautala MEP and Mr. Kostas Chrysogonous MEP.

A scheduled vote by the Committee on Legal Affairs on the appointment of the Rapporteur scheduled for Monday 26th September was postponed due to the absence of the Committee Chair, as per parliamentary protocol. The vote is now scheduled to be held on Wednesday 12th October.

As part of this legislative initiative, Mr. Warren also met with Mr. Antoine Cahen – Head of Unit of the Secretariat of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice, and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee) – regarding the potential for future collaboration between LIBE and JURI Committees, to which the LIBE Secretariat agreed. Mr. Warren also travelled to the Netherlands to meet with Ms. Evelien Campfens – former Head of the Dutch Restitution Committee and participating in the ESLI workshops in Brussels in September 2015. Ms. Campfens reaffirmed her commitment to supporting ESLI and its EU legislative initiative and facilitated an introduction to the new Head of the Dutch Restitution Committee, Mr. Robbert Nachbahr.

Finally, the report commissioned by the Committee on Legal Affairs at the request of ESLI at the beginning of 2016, entitled ‘Cross-border restitution claims of art looted in armed conflicts and wars and alternatives to court litigations’, has been published in German and French. Both versions, in addition to the original English-language version, are available on the Cultural Property and Provenance Project website.

Pilot Project

ESLI continues to liaise closely with Ms. Olga Sehnalova MEP and the Committee on Budgets of the European Parliament regarding the pilot project proposal ESLI submitted on the importance of provenance research to cultural heritage protection. This project was highly appraised by the Directorate-General for Education and Culture of the European Commission and the European Parliament is expected to assign up to €650,000 for this project in its budget for 2017.

As part of this pilot project proposal, ESLI Director Ms. Halyna Senyk and Project Manager Mr. Lochlan Warren met with Mr. Walter Zampieri – Head of Unit for Cultural Diversity and Innovation with DG Education and Culture – and his Deputy – Ms. Catherine Magnant – to discuss the European Commission’s priorities for education and culture from 2016 through to the European Year of Cultural Heritage in 2018.

Opening of New Office in Brussels

In August 2016, ESLI officially announced the opening of its new sub-office in the Ixelles neighbourhood of Brussels, Belgium. This office will provide ESLI with a more permanent and influential presence at the European Institutions and will enable it to better campaign for important and emerging issues within its various projects.

5. Education Commemoration and Holocaust Studies

Fundamental Rights Agency Conference

Project Manager Anezka Nekovarova attended the international conference in Vienna organized by Fundamental Rights Agency. The Forum was attended by over 650 leading decision-makers and experts from all EU governments, parliaments, international organisations, business, academia and civil society, including rights holders and their representatives, as well as media and professional groups. Participants had a chance to find new partners, exchange best practices, learned about current burning problems related to fundamental rights in Europe. Although all endangered groups were tackled, the conference primarily focused on the migration crisis. Europe has been experiencing moral crisis, and it is absolutely critical for us to establish more cohesive and more solidary Europe.

Conference on Future Prospects for Europe’s Jewish Communities

The current situation in Europe of Anti-Semitism and future prospects for Europe’s Jewish communities was debated at a conference hosted by EP President Martin Schulz and First Vice-President Antonio Tajani on 27th October 2016 at the European Parliament. The conference was attended by representatives of the EP

and their assistants, leaders of European Jewish communities and civil society organizations. It is clear that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Europe and we have to fight for the European values, as was several times mentioned.

6. Communications and Digital Report

During this quarter, we continued to stabilize our brand and following, but also, focused on developing our presence internationally, refining existing projects, introducing new media outreach items, and creating relationships with our collaborators in Brussels.

Achievements and Assessment for this Quarter

Social Media Platforms

- Twitter

JUL 2016 SUMMARY		AUG 2016 SUMMARY	
Tweets	Tweet impressions	Tweets	Tweet impressions
38	7,498	30	4,031
Profile visits	Mentions	Profile visits	Mentions
229	5	141	10
New followers		New followers	
-2		3	
SEP 2016 SUMMARY			
Tweets	Tweet impressions		
57	39.7K		
Profile visits	Mentions		
788	14		
New followers			
13			

Noting the timeline of this quarter and in particular, the past month, our followers on Twitter have grown from 100 to 117. We had lost random followers in between and instead, gained a strong niche of individuals and institutions following us for our expertise. For instance, our followers (who also have their own commendable following) now include the Deputy Director & Head of Research of the Wiener Library, Christine Schmidt, the Art Recovery Group (dealing with Nazi-looted art), and Prime Politics, a US-based news service dedicated to breaking news.

Also, our impressions have begun gaining momentum: We have had more Tweets this past month from the previous two months (approximately 19-27 more), however, the amount of Impressions (number of times a user is served a Tweet in timeline or search results) has been almost five-fold from July to September.

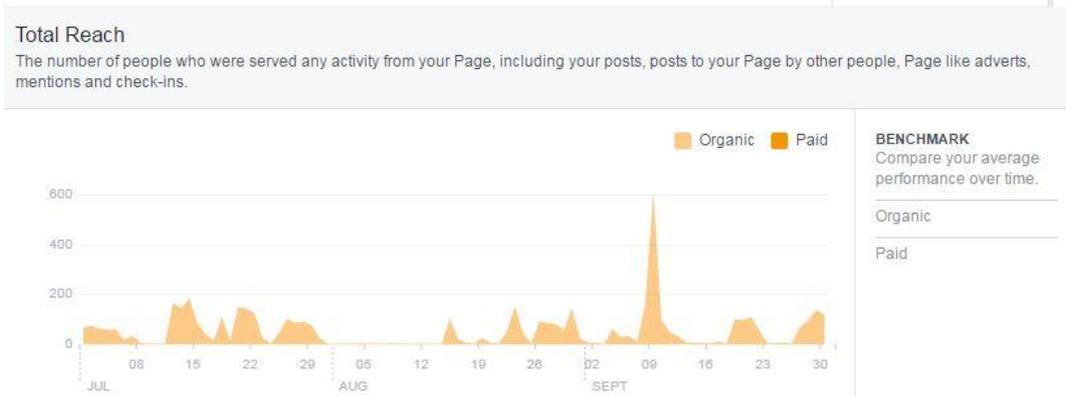
The explanation for this result can be traced to Brussels (and other institutions) opening for the year after the summer and also, our extensive Twitter campaign for the US elections.

- Facebook

On our Facebook page, we wanted to try something different by keeping it only as visuals--for instance, graphics and videos, as a way to interest audiences to our website and also, to showcase pieces that remain

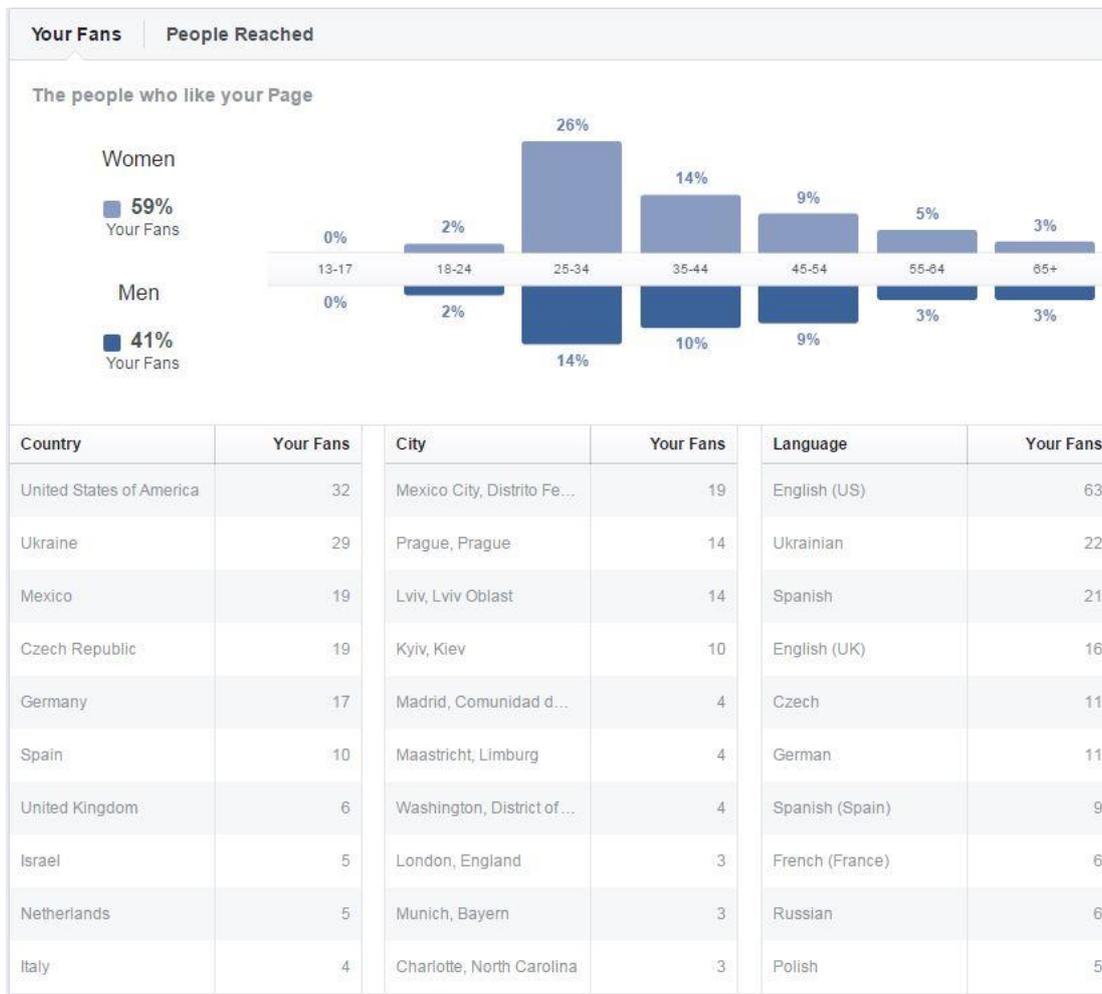
hidden on our website. We have seen an increase in followers here from 172 on July 1 to 183 on September 30.

The following data shows the number of people reached during this quarter which has also been the highest we have seen this past year: 678 people on September 9. This post was our announcement about our foray into Brussels.



It does prove that personalizing our platforms is important and that ESLI needs a face to further its brand reputation and following.

Additionally, this is a breakdown of our Facebook audience. It is interesting to note that the USA contains our largest fan base, and it is also a region where we should focus on establishing our presence.



Social Media Campaigns

ESLI, with the support and guidance of Aharon Mor, began its first social media campaign for the US presidential elections with the goal of being noticed by the US political candidates and other socio-political, economic and cultural institutions and organizations, and garnering support for Holocaust Restitution and ESLI's work in this field.

In addition, we created specific multimedia graphics for this campaign that generated engagement as we included quotes from people such as Stuart Eizenstat and Norm Eisen.

With our strategy, we managed to gain the attention of Marc Zell, who heads the Donald Trump campaign office in Israel, and Michael Bazylar and his assistant Elaine Dick crafted a letter for him, specifically asking the Trump campaign for their support. On the other hand, Communications Manager Tanzima Chowdhury with Aharon Mor wrote the letter for the Democratic candidacy and enlisted the help of Stuart Eizenstat. The letter was also intended to be sent around the Democratic Party to specific candidates.

Within this campaign, we achieved support and engagement on Twitter from the Jewish community supporting Trump and gaining followers such as the notable Israeli-American philanthropist, Adam Milstein and the LA Holocaust Museum. However, we want to continue our campaign even after the US presidential elections when we will have more certainty of the political candidate in place and also, we hope to gain more recognition for ESLI in the USA as this is imperative for our future aims.

Post-Holocaust Restitution Study

The restitution study conducted by Michael Bazylar and his team was analyzed to see if a user-friendly and informative visualization could be created. We decided on creating a database on the platform Silk to include all the laws (<http://history-of-restitution-in-the-eu.silk.co/>), and this space would serve to allow us to constantly revise until we arrived at a final version that was approved by all our collaborators.

For our initial version, we produced a brochure laying out all the laws; however, we found that it limited certain timeframes and provided an unclear historical picture. Currently, we proceed to work with Michael, his team and Gideon Taylor from WJRO and Evan Hochberg from the Claims Conference to produce a product that can be used by experts and the public alike. We intend on finalizing a conclusive and comprehensive version this quarter for the upcoming conference in Brussels.

Public Relations and Media Outreach

Upon discovering that ESLI's brand needs a face to increase its reputation and following, we decided to embark on new strategies to appreciate our collaborators and bring our work to the public eye.

Halyna Senyk wrote a blog detailing her first experiences of working in Brussels. We published the blog on the ESLI webpage and on Twitter prior to Sukkot, and it received, until now, 137 impressions. We want to continue to cement our relationships and reach out to our collaborators in a positive manner by showing our appreciation.

In addition, Lochlan Warren wrote a piece for outside media detailing the importance of provenance research. Once that is also published, we hope to create further ties to local and international media outlets to further ESLI's presence.

Also, Tanzima Chowdhury went to the Prague Bubny commemoration memorial and tweeted the event. It produced high engagement and also, proved that showing our support for events in the city we are based in is extremely vital to our recognition and can only assist in greater cohesiveness and awareness of our work.

Future Tasks and Challenges

1. We are in the process of creating a Media Center on our website for future conferences, our social media campaigns and to have an archive for our multimedia.
2. We need to discover new ways of crowdfunding and create a campaign around our donation page to push for more support and resources for our future research.
3. We will need to create a feasible structure for our past and future databases with local developers to produce products of public service.
4. We need to create a budget for paid advertising on both FB and Twitter, especially with the conferences coming up.
5. We should establish greater presence in the USA as that is where one of the greatest numbers of survivors resides and a way to do that would be to work with other organizations dealing with restitution or provenance research.