

Quarterly Report October-December 2016

Institutional Development

Fund-raising

Halyna Senyk in cooperation with other members of ESLI team prepared and submitted a project proposal to DG Justice for 464,339 EUR, with CEJI and the Muslim Jewish Conference as partners, to develop EU Guidelines on promoting the integration of minorities based on the historical research of integration of Jews in Germany after 1945 and after 1989. In case of successful application the project would commence in October 2017.

Lochlan Warren in cooperation with Halyna Senyk drafted a proposal for Horizon 2020 DG Culture to propose development of the EU Policy on Cultural Heritage Management, including promotion of provenance research. The project was for 1,5 mln EUR and included two partners and numerous associates. The project's proposed duration was 4 years. However, due to the withdrawal of the partners, ESLI was unable to submit the application. ESLI's team changed the application for Horizon 2020 into a proposal to Head of Cultural Diversity and Innovation Unit at the European Commission and hopes to develop a direct cooperation with the European Commission on this project.

In preparation of a proposal to Europe for Citizens Program, Anezka Nekovarova met with Pavel Tychtl, European Commission Directorate General Migration and Home Affairs, Director of Europe for Citizens Program to discuss a draft proposal and incorporate his comments to secure better chances for success. Mr. Tychtl commended ESLI project proposal and add few more recommendations how to improve the project goals. Furthermore, she met with the Czech Coordinator of Europe for Citizens to get information about possible project partners and application formalities. She addressed numerous organisations to find project partners, including the Federation of Jewish Organizations in the Czech Republic.

Halyna Senyk identified and contacted Frank Lowy - an Australian-Israeli philanthropist and Holocaust survivor, whom she asked for financial assistance. In addition, she contacted Adam Milstein, an American philanthropist who has been following ESLI on Twitter. Furthermore, she contacted Steven Spielberg with an enquiry as to his interest in assisting ESLI in making a documentary about the post-Holocaust restitution of immovable property wrongfully seized during WWII.

2017 Action Plan

Throughout December 2016 ESLI Team worked and prepared an Action Plan for 2017, which includes all domains emphasised in the Terezin Declaration and anticipates utilization of ESLI's work done in previous years, such as social welfare database, provenance research banners, post-Holocaust restitution of immovable property banners, and multiple presentations on and dissemination of the study on post-Holocaust restitution of immovable property. Many of the proposed activities are proposed to be funded through targeted grants from private or public donors or via crowdsourcing.

Restructuring of the Administrative and Supervisory Boards

ESLI's Administrative and Supervisory Board meeting took place on November 3, 2016 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Czernin Palace, Prague.

On November 29, 2016 the Ambassador of the State of Israel informed the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jakub Dürr, that Israel had decided to withdraw its representatives from ESLI's governing bodies. This decision concerns Ambassador Joel Lion (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), nominated to the Administrative Board, and Director-General Avi Cohen (Ministry for Social Equality), member of the Supervisory Board.

Current state:

Administrative Board:
5 members appointed

Supervisory Board:
4 members appointed

Future Tasks and Challenges

1. ESLI needs to intensify its search for private donors and increase its direct communication with the European Commission
2. ESLI needs to generate more financial support through creative ways of fundraising.
3. ESLI needs to focus on activities which are less aimed in the past, but are related to the past and aimed towards the future and are relevant to existing calls for proposals initiated by the European Commission.

Restitution/Compensation of Immovable Property:

International Conference on Importance of Restitution as a Part of Restorative Justice

Patronage:

ESLI managed to prolong the patronage of the Slovak presidency of the Council of the European Union which expired in December 2016. Should the conference receive patronage from the current presidency of the Council - Malta - it will further underscore the support of the Council and prove international cooperation on the issue.

In cooperation Mr. Felix Kolmer - Honorary Member of the Board - ESLI addressed the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, to request patronage for the conference. As he was due to vacate his position prior to the conference, he advised requesting patronage via the online application available on the Parliament's website. The Conference Steering Committee agreed to ask incoming President Antonio Tajani for patronage.

ESLI requested the patronage of Malta through a letter sent to the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, ESLI cooperated with the Czech MFA and Permanent Representatives in Brussels to pursue the Maltese patronage request. ESLI is still awaiting a decision from the Maltese authorities.

Steering Committee meeting:

On the 7th November a second Steering Committee meeting took place in Brussels. The group discussed the agenda and potential keynote speakers who could attract the attention of a broad audience and guarantee high participation levels. ESLI has suggested Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat or Hannah Lessing, both very experienced in the field of restitutions. Other suggestions were actors somehow connected with restitutions or Jewish or Holocaust issues generally, such as Helen Bonham Carter, Christoph Waltz, or Helen Mirren. The Committee agreed that the conference will take place at the European Parliament and will target MEPs, representatives of the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, ministers of the EU, and journalists. The conference will be chaired by MEP Gunnar Hokmark whose team will be responsible for booking and managing the venue, including catering and registration. There was a need to come up with catchy title for the Conference. ESLI created an online voting tool which helped members of the Steering Committee vote on numerous proposed titles and pick the most popular one. The new title of the conference is: “Unfinished Justice: Restitution and Remembrance”.

ESLI prepared the conference timeline and insisted on a division of the labour between all partners organisations – ESLI will be responsible for the creation and maintenance of the conference website, sending out invitations and administering registration, communication with speakers, subsequent logistical arrangements, developing a communication strategy focussing on utilisation of social media, updating Permanent Representatives in Brussels, audio-visual preparations, production of self-standing banners summarizing the study on restitution, and presentation of the study results.

Sending out Save the Dates to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of TD countries:

ESLI designed and printed Save the Dates and sent them via diplomatic missions to all Ministers of Foreign Affairs in order to secure their participation in the conference.

Study on Restitution/Compensation of Wrongfully Seized Immovable Property

As of December 2016, final responses from 22 governments (via questionnaire or otherwise) have been received.

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)

Members of the Claims Conference and WJRO are currently reviewing the study's Germany and Austria sub-reports.

The Immovable Property Restitution Study is nearly completed and the final version will be submitted to the European Shoah Legacy Institute by January 15, 2017.

The completed Study will consist of:

- an Executive Summary,
- 47 individual Country Reports, and
- 22 Government Responses.

Lobbying at the European Parliament

ESLI drafted an Amendment on Restitution for the Annual LIBE Committee report on fundamental rights. ESLI, WJRO, EJC and B'NAI B'RITH tabled and submitted it via MEP Gunnar Hokmark, who chairs the working group European Alliance for Holocaust Survivors in the European Parliament. In order to support the amendment, ESLI also created a Position Paper on the importance of restitution which was endorsed by a number of Special Envoys for Holocaust Issues, the Vice-President of the International Auschwitz Committee, and numerous civil society organisations. The submission was followed by active lobbying by ESLI in cooperation with WJRO and B'NAI B'RITH. ESLI approached all members of the LIBE Committee - 120 members – asking for their support of the amendment by email and followed up by telephone. ESLI explored other possibilities on how to raise restitution issues at the European Union level and discovered the possibility of addressing the European Parliament Committee for Petitions. ESLI will address the Committee for Petitions at the beginning of 2017.

Welfare for Holocaust survivors and other victims of Nazi persecution

Social Welfare Database and Media Hackathon

In partnership with a local coding school, Tanzima Chowdhury executed a media hackathon with Data4You and their founder, Jana Vecerkova. The event was successful as Petra Seidlova handled the catering, and the team managed to modify the social welfare database which is now more aesthetically-appealing, useful, and engaging with all the services clearly listed across the EU.

The social media strategy to promote the update was created and letters drafted to be sent to governments, civil society organizations, and other contacts who assisted with the information in this regard. Civil society organizations will be invited to add information to the renewed database about the services they offer to Holocaust survivors.

Recovery of Looted Art

EU Legislative Initiative

Throughout the fourth Quarter of 2016, the European Shoah Legacy Institute continued to liaise and work with the Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI Committee) of the European Parliament on the EU legislative initiative.

On Monday 14 November 2017, Project Manager Mr. Lochlan Warren met with Martin Hančl, parliamentary assistant to Mr. Pavel Svoboda MEP, following the latter's appointment as rapporteur for the EU legislative initiative on provenance research and cultural heritage protection. Mr. Hančl stated that the European People's Party (EPP) were very pleased to have secured this file and that Mr. Svoboda, as Chair of the Committee on Legal Affairs, was delighted to have the opportunity to lead this important initiative.

During this meeting, the possibility of hosting events at the European Parliament relating to this initiative was discussed. Whilst Mr. Hančl said that the timing of events would be very much dependent upon the progress being made on the initiative between the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs, he mentioned the possibility of hosting a medium to large-scale event aimed at highlighting the issues being addressed by this initiative in the first half of 2017. Also discussed was the possibility of hosting a complimentary event in Prague to provide an additional opportunity to highlight the issues involved whilst exporting the ideals and work of Brussels to Prague. Mr. Hančl stated that Mr. Svoboda has an outstanding relationship with the Czech Minister of Culture, Mr. Daniel Herman, as they are both members of the same domestic political party. Mr. Hančl discussed the possibility of Mr. Svoboda, the Ministry of Culture, and ESLI co-hosting a conference in Prague on provenance research and cultural heritage protection. He believes that the Ministry of Culture would be very happy to support this event.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Hančl stated that Mr. Svoboda and the JURI Secretariat would be happy to continue to develop close cooperation with ESLI and to rely upon us to act as the facilitator of cooperation between JURI, the European Parliament, museums, and other cultural actors. He stated that they would be appreciative of the opportunity to count on our support in engaging with museums and other cultural actors to ensure that they remain appraised of issues and developments, and that they may also be able to assist this by liaising with both CULT and LIBE committees on activities and events of mutual interest.

Mr. Warren has subsequently been invited to brief shadow rapporteur for the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, Ms. Virginie Rozière, on ESLI's EU legislative initiative priorities and objectives in January 2017.

Conferences and Events

On Saturday, 8 October 2016, Project Manager Mr. Lochlan Warren attended the launch of the "Transfer of Cultural Objects in the Alpe Adria Region in the 20th Century" research project at the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich, Germany. At this event, Mr. Warren informed the

various project partners of ESLI's ongoing work with the Committee on Legal Affairs of the European Parliament, and presented Mr. Heinz Schödl - Director of the Austrian Commission for Provenance Research and a participant in ESLI's provenance research and cultural heritage event at the European Parliament in September 2015 – with a German-language copy of the report released by the JURI Committee as part of this initiative.

Also in early October, Mr. Warren was invited to meet with Dr. Michael Franz and Mr. Rüdiger Hütte – Head of the Department for General and Administrative Matters and Executive Board member, respectively – of the Deutsches Zentrum Kulturgutverluste (German Lost Art Foundation) at their offices in Magdeburg in late November to discuss the possibility of organisational cooperation on the EU legislative initiative in 2017. Unfortunately, this meeting was unable to take place due to institutional limitations.

From Thursday 10 to Sunday 13 November, Mr. Warren attended the annual conference of the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO) in Karlsruhe, Germany. It was during this conference that the European Shoah Legacy Institute launched its new twitter handle - @CultinConflict – dedicated to sharing and promoting news relating to provenance research and cultural heritage protection.

On Tuesday 15 November 2016, ESLI was represented by Project Manager Mr. Lochlan Warren at the UNESCO World Heritage Sites exhibition launch at the Parliamentarium in Brussels.

On Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 November 2016, Mr. Warren attended the “Cultural Heritage: Reuse, Remake, Reimagine” conference at Hamburger Bahnhof in Berlin, Germany.

On Monday 28 November 2016, Mr. Warren accepted an invitation to address the Board of Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung (Provenance Research Working Group) at their autumn conference at Museum Fünf Kontinente in Munich, Germany. The Board of Arbeitskreis Provenienzforschung were presented with a German-language copy of the JURI Committee report published as part of ESLI's EU legislative initiative and expressed their interest and enthusiasm to participate in the initiative and its related events in 2017.

Mr. Warren was invited to participate in the Provenance and Collection Research Symposium being hosted by the Zentralinstitut für Kunstgeschichte in Munich, Germany on Wednesday 30 November 2016. Unfortunately, it was not possible for him to attend.

From Monday 5 to Wednesday 7 December 2016, Mr. Warren attend the “Catastrophe and Challenge: Cultural Heritage in Post-Conflict Recovery” conference hosted by the Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus, Germany.

Mr. Warren was invited to participate in the closed workshop “Looted Art as Realm of Memory”, hosted by the Polish Academy of Sciences in Berlin, Germany from 14 to 16 December 2016. Unfortunately, it was not possible for him to attend.

CPPP Website

Throughout November and December, the Cultural Property and Provenance Project website was subjected to persistent, ongoing security breaches that resulted in the website being taken offline for

a significant period of time. These breaches were addressed and security protocols subsequently upgraded and reinforced.

Education Commemoration and Holocaust Studies

Attendance and support of our partners and NGOs

Halyna Senyk and Anezka Nekovarova attended a commemorative event at the Bubny Memorial accompanied by an exhibition. Anezka Nekovarova also attended an event organized by the Israeli Permanent Mission in Brussels.

Communications and Digital Report

During this quarter, we focused on building depth into our websites: the ESLI main site and the provenance research website, initiated a Twitter account for provenance activities, recreated our social welfare database through our partnership with a local coding school (media hackathon), and developed our strategies for the looming conference in Brussels in April, particularly the banners for the exhibition and the conference platform.

Achievements and Assessment for this Quarter

Social Media Platforms

- Twitter

OCT 2016 SUMMARY

Tweets
18

Tweet impressions
4,262

Profile visits
303

Mentions
10

New followers
8

NOV 2016 SUMMARY

Tweets
21

Tweet impressions
2,898

Profile visits
177

Mentions
9

New followers
8

DEC 2016 SUMMARY

Tweets
12

Tweet impressions
2,625

Profile visits
134

Mentions
6

New followers
8

As you can see, we've reached a plateau in our Twitter and a decrease during the November and December months as these were holiday times and engagement was lower. However, our profile visits in October were high due to all activity, especially as the #HolocaustRestitution campaign with Aharon Mor was in full swing. The result of that campaign was a connection formed with Marc Zell who was Donald Trump's campaign manager in Israel, and we hope to continue our advocacy efforts for restitution.

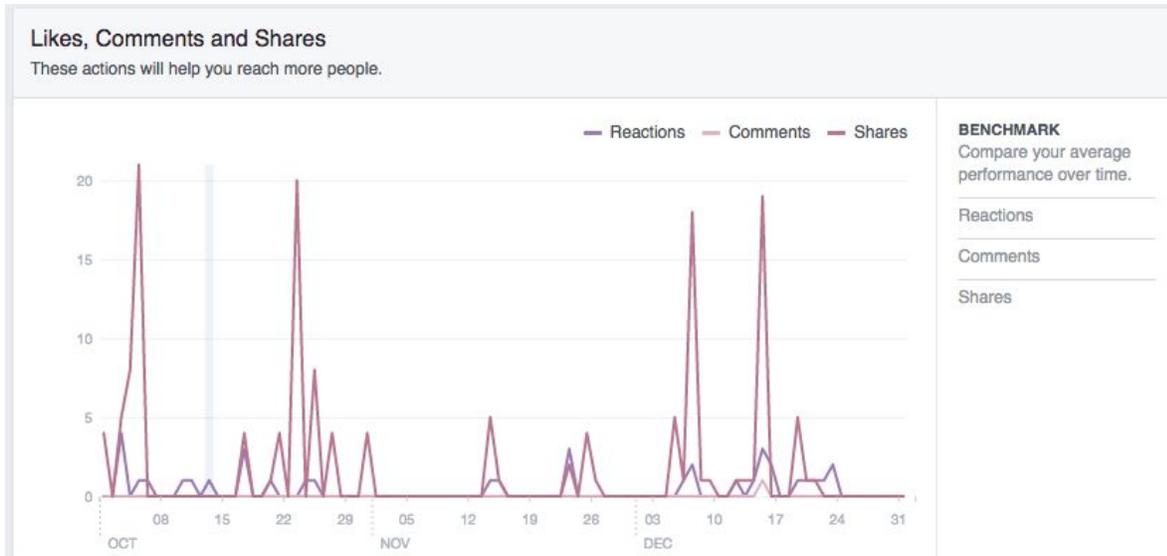
Despite our lower numbers in profile visits and tweet impressions, the number of our followers has consistently risen to 137, and we expect it to get higher with the impending conference in April. Our Klout score however is high and remains so at 48.

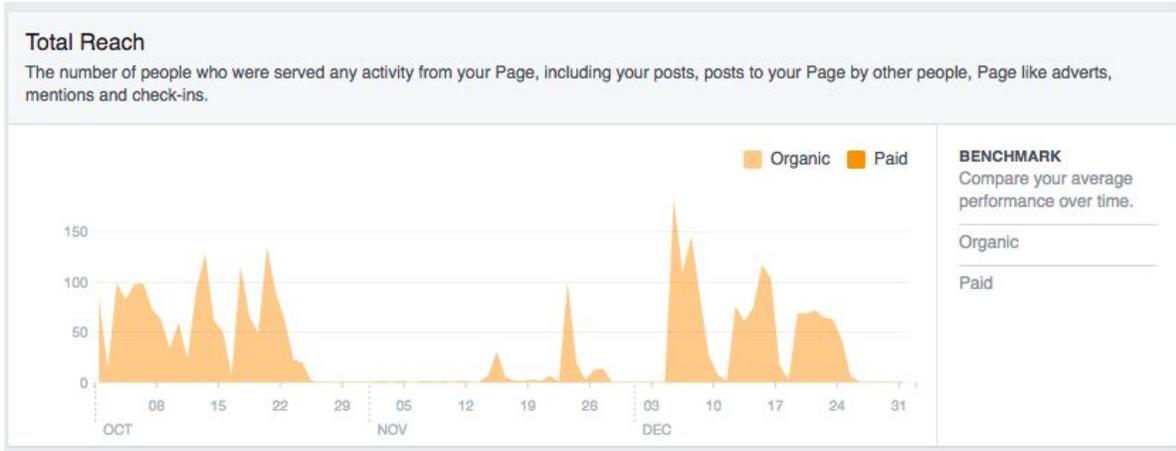
Also, because it is still new, the @CPPP Twitter account which is the exclusive one for provenance research has not been added but with the conferences that Lochlan Warren had been attending in the late autumn and early fall months has boosted its engagement and the Klout score is decent for a budding account: 27. This is important for our audience as ESLI's work is mainly networking and liaising at this point, and we need to be more visible if we are to be seen as experts.

- Facebook

On our Facebook page, we kept news related to our areas on our platform. However, the problem persists that in order to keep numbers, we must pick trending materials if we are to keep our audience engaged. The problem again is lack of exclusive material and this is due to our lack of tangible activities or even networking to show we are proactive. However, we have seen an increase in followers here from 183 on October 1 to 192 on December 31.

Our highest reach for posts this quarter was on October 20 at 132 for a meme strategy that Communications experimented with known as #ThursdayThoughts. The second highest post reach was on December 7 at 129 for the AJ+ on accepting responsibility for genocide with the hashtag #NoDAPL. It seems that memes and videos are our best way forward at this point in terms of engagement.





ESLI Main Website and Provenance Research Website

The rebranding and restructuring of both websites began as a long-term process, however, it must be noted that obstacles were faced, especially in the management of the provenance research website: <http://provenanceresearch.org/>. These delays that still persist began from a security breach in November due to lack of specialized expertise in handling this problem. Despite these hurdles, we have managed a clean record for the past weeks and hope it continues.

On ESLI's main website, Marianna Dushar assisted Communications in cleaning up the website tabs by removing all superfluous activity and keeping only our work, expert areas and multimedia on the site. It has allowed the site to finally serve its intent as an informative portal. However, the next problem remains that we do not have consistent and exclusive work to post that personalizes us and keeps us

in a position of expertise.

April Conference: Banners and Platform

During the months of December and January, Petra Seidlova with Communications began organizing and collating the information required for the banners for the exhibition in April for our restitution work to show at the conference. All 28 country reports were meticulously scanned by Ms. Seidlova, and with Tanzima Chowdhury, they sent it to Evan Hochberg for final approval.

In the meantime, pictures and media were asked for by two important entities: Dina Gold and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Both agreed with the requirement of being mentioned and credited; thus, the process began of selecting pictures for the banners and sending them to our designer, Tomas, to create the banners.

In addition, the information of the contents of the conference platform began with an outline and strategy produced between Anezka Nekovarova and Tanzima Chowdhury.

Future Tasks and Challenges

4. We need exclusive content instead of recycled or rehashed information.
5. We need to discover more financial support through creative ways of fundraising.
6. We need a new direction if we are to stay relevant and proactive on our websites and social media platforms.
7. The Civil Society Platform must be restructured. However, we may have lost our opportunity with the coding school to be assisted in this regard.