

VIENNA WIESENTHAL INSTITUTE
FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES (VWI)

RESEARCH - DOCUMENTATION - INFORMATION

CONCEPT

Vienna, July 2008

VWI online:

www.vwi.ac.at

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PREFACE



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For quite some time I have been occupied by the thought of which institution in Austria or abroad I should entrust with the holdings of my archives to make sure that the abundance of interesting material is made available for historical research in the best possible manner.

The initiative of the Jewish Community Vienna to establish and open a Shoah research centre at Rabensteig in Vienna proved to be the perfect solution to my problem. As an Honorary Citizen of the city of Vienna it is an important matter for me to know that the results of decades of my work will be kept in good hands in the heart of the city. Therefore I have agreed that the research center should bear my name.

Over and above this centre will combine the academic and educational work of existing institutions such as the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna and the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance.

Only a few years ago a memorial was dedicated in Vienna in commemoration of its fellow Jewish citizens murdered under the Nazi Regime. Its realisation was due to the approval of my suggestion by the mayor of Vienna, Dr. Michael Häupl, and his personal commitment. If commemoration is to be followed by knowledge about the Shoah, then a research centre of international standing, like planned, is a precondition.

For this reason I would ask the City of Vienna and the Republic of Austria for their support in realising this project which will do both of them honour and balance a deficit in the field of historical research.

Simon Wiesenthal (1908-2005)

Vienna, Autumn 2002

RESEARCH – DOCUMENTATION – INFORMATION

THE PROJECT OUTLINE

In the last years of his life, it was Simon Wiesenthal's special concern to make his archive accessible for historical research and to be assured that the spirit of his work will be kept alive in a time where both the perpetrators and the victims of the National Socialist regime will have died. For this reason, as early as in 2002 the Jewish Community Vienna, together with numerous renowned institutions, started an initiative to establish an international Shoah research center in Vienna that is to bear the name of Simon Wiesenthal: This *Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)*, in the planning of which Simon Wiesenthal, who died in September 2005, was personally involved, is to be dedicated to research, documentation and information on issues regarding anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust – in continuation of the spirit of the lifework of Simon Wiesenthal. In this center, the *Simon Wiesenthal Archive* is to be combined with parts of the *Archive of the Jewish Community Vienna*.

Simon Wiesenthal left behind a comprehensive documentation with around 8,000 files regarding NS-perpetrators and NS-crimes. These files contain Wiesenthal's correspondence with judicial bodies and documentary centers, with organisations of survivors and resistance fighters and with informants. Another focus is on court files, NS-documents, testimonies and press reports. In addition, the estate of Simon Wiesenthal consists of numerous documents in which he deals with Austria's internal and foreign policy and testimonials of his commitment against oblivion in the form of drafts for speeches and publications.

The Archive of the Jewish Community Vienna is the largest archive of a Jewish community that has been preserved worldwide and is composed of thousands of unevaluated administrative files, correspondence, card indexes and books. Material from three centuries documents the history of the Viennese Jewish community and its members up to the present. Special focus lies on the documents from the National Socialist era.

Based on the unique archival holdings, it is planned to invite guest researchers from all over the world, to carry out international research projects, to organise presentations and discussions, to offer educational programs for students and teachers and to hold exhibitions on a regular basis. Research, documentation and information are to form three pillars of equal importance. Historical issues are to be combined with present ones, the findings of academic work are to be

made available to the general public for discussion. An International Academic Advisory Board with high-ranking members is to ensure a high level of quality.

The implementing institution is an association specially formed for that purpose by the *Jewish Community Vienna (IKG)*, the *Documentation Center of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive)*, the *Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW)*, the *Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ)*, the *Institute of Conflict Research (IKF)*, the *Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW)* and the *IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies*. In June 2005 and again in June 2008, University Professor Dr. Anton Pelinka (IKF) was elected the association's chairman, his deputies are University Professor Dr. Bertrand Perz (IfZ) and Dr. Avshalom Hodik (IKG).

The City of Vienna had already promised in December 2002 to contribute to the funding of the project with the same amount as the Republic of Austria. On March 12, 2008 – the 70th anniversary of the so-called “Anschluss” – the Austrian Federal Government adopted a resolution on the form and scope of its support for the project: The Republic of Austria (the Federal Government) is going to provide a building at Josefstädter Strasse 39 in Vienna's 8th district for the Institute, which is scheduled to be ready for occupancy in 2012 - the Palais Strozzi. The costs of adaptation are to be borne in equal parts by the Federal Government and the City of Vienna, who are also to pay for one third each of the running costs. The operators are to finance the remaining third with so-called third-party funds to be raised from other financing sources with the assistance of the Federal Government and the City of Vienna.

Estimates of the costs of adaption and of the running costs at the new location require the clarification of various open questions. For the period from 2008 to 2011 a plan by stages and an up-to-date cost estimate have been submitted in July 2008.

The VWI-Working Group
Vienna, July 2008

VWI-CONTRIBUTORS

The responsible body is the association *Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies* (VWI). The founding organisations are full members of this association. They are listed in the order of their founding dates:

Jewish Community Vienna (IKG)

The beginnings of the Jewish community in Vienna reach back to the Middle-Ages. In 1825 after the Jews had been expelled more than once, the city temple on Seitenstettengasse was established as the first newly built synagogue. In 1848, for the first time, Emperor Franz Joseph officially recognised the community as the “Jewish Community” and then between 1849 and 1852 the organisation was formally founded. It was only in 1867 that Jews received the legal status as equal citizens. The Jewish Community Vienna has been looking after and supporting the religious and cultural life of the Jews in Vienna. It has been assisting with social work, integration issues and caring for Jewish history.

Homepage: www.ikg-wien.at

Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive)

It was founded in Linz by Simon Wiesenthal in 1947. The Vienna office was opened in 1961. The association concentrated on the search for Nazi perpetrators and the documentation of Nazi crimes. In addition a department was developed to track anti-Semitism and right-wing extremism. Since 2003, the association has been uniting its resources with the aid of an electronic database to increase its availability for users.

Homepage: www.wiesenthalarchiv.at

Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW)

Founded in 1963 by former resistance fighters and committed scholars, the center dedicates itself to the collection, archiving and academic evaluation of sources relating to resistance, persecution, exile and Nazi crimes, especially crimes related to the Holocaust. The centre also concerns itself with the justice that followed the Nazi crimes and related post-WWII issues such as right-wing extremism.

Homepage: www.doew.at

Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ)

Founded in 1966, the institute has concentrated itself on 20th century history. Above all the institute has focused on research regarding National Socialism and related topics such as historical anti-Semitism und racism.

Homepage: www.univie.ac.at/zeitgeschichte

Institute of Conflict Research (IKF)

This institution was founded in 1976 as an independent research institute. The interdisciplinary institute's concept is to explore and develop possible solutions for political, social und individual conflicts, i.e. in the field of research on prejudice.

Homepage: www.ikf.ac.at

Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW)

The Museum was re-founded in 1990 and opened in 1993 in the Palais Eskeles and then in 2000 the museum was expanded to the Judenplatz. The museum dedicates itself to presenting an encompassing look into Jewish life in Vienna during both the past and the present. The concept of the museum is embodied in the word "memory", which is the key to Jewish culture and history. The concept of "memory" is seen intertwined throughout the permanent exhibits, as well as the many changing exhibitions. The many events, the Bookshop Singer and the Café "Teitelbaum" create a place for coming together.

Homepage: www.jmw.at

IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies

The IFK was founded in Vienna in 1993 as an institute for advanced study in the area of interdisciplinary cultural analysis. The research center fosters research and cooperative research with a guest researcher and doctorate program. The findings are delivered through guest lectures and symposiums among the general scholarly public.

Homepage: www.ifk.ac.at

VWI-WORKING GROUP

The Working Group of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute is composed of representatives of the founding organisations and further experts. It emerged from the Committee of Proponents that was set up on February 14, 2002.

Rosa-Maria Austraat (Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime)
HR Univ.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Brigitte Bailer-Galanda (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance)
Mag.^a Viola Eichberger (IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies)
Mag. Raimund Fastenbauer (Jewish Community Vienna)
DI Thomas Feiger (Architect)
Univ.-Doz. Dr. Florian Freund (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Peter Gstettner (University of Klagenfurt, Institute for Pedagogics)
DI Georg Haber (Jewish Museum Vienna)
Dr. Birgitt Haller (Institute of Conflict Research)
Mag. Friedrich Herzog (Jewish Community Vienna)
HR Dr. Avshalom Hodik (Jewish Community Vienna)
Mag. Lothar Hölbling (Jewish Community Vienna, Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Center)
OR Dr. Peter Malina (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Univ.-Doz. Dr. Siegfried Matzl (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Dr. habil. Lutz Musner (IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies)
Dr. Ariel Muzicant (Jewish Community Vienna)
Hon.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Neugebauer (Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance)
Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anton Pelinka (Institute of Conflict Research)
Univ.-Doz. Dr. Bertrand Perz (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Univ.-Prof. Mag. DDr. Oliver Rathkolb (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Ing. Reinhard Schuhmann (Designer)
OR Dr. Gustav Spann (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
ao. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Friedrich Stadler (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)
Botschafter Dr. Ludwig Steiner (Honorary Member)
Mag. Michaela Vocelka (Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime)
Dr. Karl Albrecht-Weinberger (Jewish Museum Vienna)
o. Univ.-Prof. Dr. Ruth Wodak (University of Lancaster)
Mag. Dr. Ingo Zechner (Jewish Community Vienna, Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Center)

VWI-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the General Assembly of the implementing association on June 24, 2008 the members of the Executive Committee of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) were reappointed for the period 2008-2011. For the first time they had been appointed in the constituent General Assembly on June 16, 2005.

Chairman: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Anton Pelinka
(Institute of Conflict Research)

Deputy Chairman: Univ.-Doz. Dr. Bertrand Perz
(University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)

Deputy Chairman: HR Dr. Avshalom Hodik
(Jewish Community Vienna)

Secretary: HR Univ.-Doz. Mag. Dr. Brigitte Bailer-Galanda
(Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance)

Deputy Secretary: Rosa-Maria Austraat
(Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime)

Treasurer: DI Georg Haber
(Jewish Museum Vienna)

Assistant Treasurer: Dr. Lutz Musner
(IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies)

Honorary Member: Ambassador Dr. Ludwig Steiner

VWI-INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD

In summer 2006 the members of the International Academic Advisory Board of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) were appointed.

Prof. Raul Hilberg, 1926-2007, Honorary Chairman (Burlington, Vermont)

Prof. David Bankier (Yad Vashem, Jerusalem)

Prof. Omer Bartov (Brown University, Department of History, Providence)

Dr. Peter Black (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington D.C.)

Prof. Włodzimierz Borodziej (Instytut Historyczny Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, Warsaw)

Prof. Dan Diner (Hebrew University, Jerusalem and University of Leipzig, Simon-Dubnow-Institute)

Prof. Atina Grossmann (The Cooper Union, New York)

Prof. Gertrud Koch (Freie Universität Berlin, Institut für Theaterwissenschaft)

Prof. András Kovács (Central European University, Nationalism Studies Program, Budapest)

Prof. Andrei Markovits (University of Michigan, Department of Political Science)

Prof. Peter Pulzer (All Souls College, Oxford)

Prof. Gabriele Rosenthal (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Methodenzentrum Sozialwissenschaften)

Dr. Tom Segev (Jerusalem)

Prof. Annette Wieviorka (CNRS Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Paris)

Prof. Ruth Wodak (Lancaster University, Lancaster UK)

VWI-INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

The International Steering Committee is to be seen as a temporary international academic advisory board for the founding stage of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). Its role was to prepare a Mission Statement and to advise the Committee of Proponents in organisational matters and as concerns contents. For this purpose, an international meeting was held in Vienna on August 26 and 27, 2002. The Mission Statement was prepared and released at this meeting.

Prof. Omer Bartov (Brown University, Department of History, Providence)

Prof. Micha Brumlik (University of Frankfurt)

Prof. Dan Diner (Hebrew University, Jerusalem and University of Leipzig, Simon-Dubnow-Institute)

Univ.-Doz. Dr. Bertrand Perz (University of Vienna, Institute for Contemporary History)

MISSION STATEMENT
OF THE VIENNA WIESENTHAL INSTITUTE
FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES (VWI)
RESEARCH – DOCUMENTATION – INFORMATION

The establishment of a center of research and documentation of anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust in Vienna is important by itself because of the specific past as well as for the future of Vienna itself. Vienna was an important center for Jewish life and workings in old Europe. Here, the Jews made decisive cultural contributions, in particular to modern culture. On the other hand Vienna during the Monarchy was already clearly involved in the formation and spreading of anti-Semitism. After Austria's "Anschluss" to the Third Reich, the persecution of the Jews by the National Socialists intensified, starting its way in Vienna and working its way out. Furthermore from Austria came a noticeably high recruitment of National Socialist personnel to carry out the Holocaust in Europe.

In Vienna there is an inestimable supply of archival holdings and collections of sources that are of utmost importance to Austria and the international community. These sources are important for the investigation and presentation of what lead up to the Holocaust, the Holocaust itself and the aftermath. Because WWII and the Holocaust were the pivotal experiences for a uniting Europe, the establishment of such a center in Vienna has a European dimension as well. The Holocaust is regarded universally as legally und morally the epitome of crimes against humanity.

The center devotes itself to the exploration of the causes, the carrying out of and the consequences the genocide of the European Jews has brought. Other crimes committed by the Nazi Regime and its accomplices against alleged racial and biological enemies are addressed as well. The center conducts research on the origins of the Holocaust in its Viennese and Austrian contexts and the variations that lie with in. By researching in this manner, the center will play an important role in making the public aware of this issue. In addition it will contribute to the struggle against indifference when crimes against humanity are committed.

Holocaust research in Austria has been, until now, lacking a responsible institutional body, financial resources and cooperation. The center offers both nationally und internationally the opportunity to network already existing organisations, projects and ideas. This network will allow them to advise each other and plan new initiatives. Furthermore the center will strive to

provide its facilities as a platform for an international exchange of researchers. The center will also provide an environment to support the development of young researchers.

Historical knowledge is both in its academic and in its ordinary forms a substantial component of the personal and political self-perception of individuals and groups. Historical awareness will, above all for the younger generation, shape their political and moral awareness later on in life. An enlightened, didactic and mature information about the history of the Holocaust, the dehumanisation of the victims, the indifference of the bystanders and the inhumanness of perpetrators, can strengthen and promote the understanding of human dignity, the responsibility for one's own political community, as well as personal moral courage.

The center will display its insight for public discussion. These insights will be presented in the forms of teaching/learning forums, publications and varying exhibits. For this to be possible, cooperation between responsible ministries, various state and local government offices will be necessary. The cooperation between, concentration camp memorials, institutions of adult education and art/cultural organisations will all be sought after as well. The center will cooperate with similar institutions like Yad Vashem and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The center will bear Simon Wiesenthal's name:

“Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)

Research – Documentation – Information“

The Steering Committee:

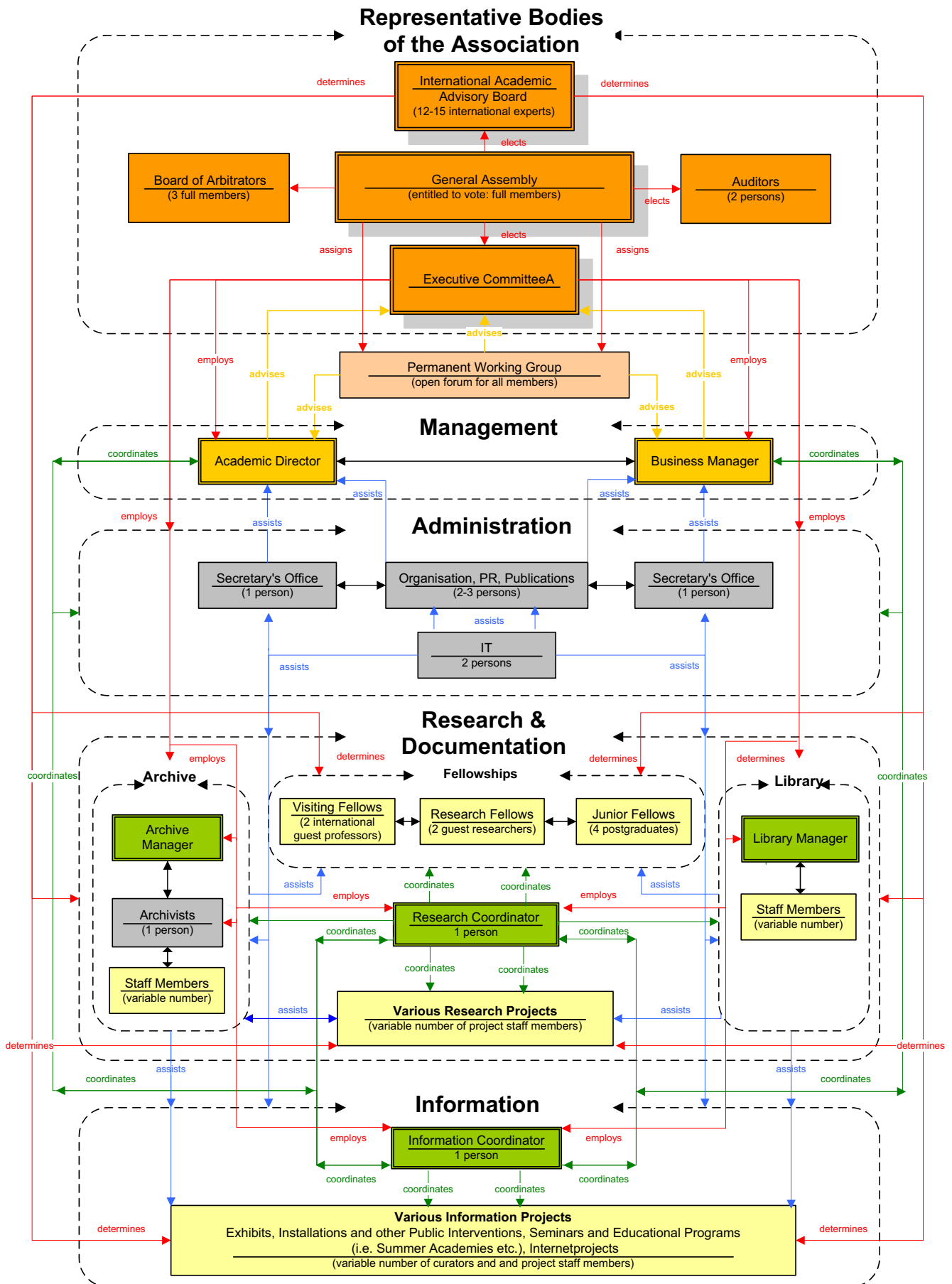
Omer Bartov

Micha Brumlik

Dan Diner

Bertrand Perz

ORGANISATION CHART VIENNA WIESENTHAL INSTITUTE (VWI)



ORGANISATIONAL CONCEPT
OF THE VIENNA WIESENTHAL INSTITUTE
FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES (VWI)
RESEARCH – DOCUMENTATION – INFORMATION

The *Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI)* is dedicated to the research, documentation and information on all issues regarding anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences.

It is a joint project of the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive), the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW), the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ), the Institute of Conflict Research (IKF), the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) and the Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW), which are its founding organisations.

The foundation of this institute is supported by renowned national and international partner organisations and institutions such as the Austrian State Archives (OeStA), the Austrian National Library (OeNB), the Vienna University Library (UB), the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP), Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

The Name of the Institute

In German, the full name of the institute is:

Wiener Wiesenthal Institut für Holocaust-Studien (VWI)
Forschung – Dokumentation – Vermittlung

VWI is the abbreviation of the institute's name in English:

Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies
Research – Documentation – Information

Organisational Goal

The project's organisational goal is to combine all of the founding organisations' activities in the stated subject area, to achieve close co-ordination and co-production between yourselves as independent partners and develop extensive co-operation and networking with numerous other national and international partner organisations as well as the development of new joint fields of activity through the foundation and the operation of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) as a joint institution.

Legal Structure

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) has the legal structure of a *non-profit association (gemeinnütziger Verein)*, which differentiates between three different types of members: *full members, associate members* and *honorary members*. The association's legal form offers maximum openness with respect to integrating new partners and the Associations Law makes it possible to flexibly adapt the organisation's structures to current requirements.

Full Members

Initially, the full members shall be the founding members:

- Jewish Community Vienna (IKG)
- Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive),
- Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW)
- Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ)
- Institute of Conflict Research (IKF)
- Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW),
- IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies

In all cases, only legal entities may become full members.

Associate Members

The associate members shall be national and international partner organisations who supported the foundation of the institute:

- Austrian State Archives
- Austrian National Library
- Vienna University Library
- Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP)
- Yad Vashem
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)

In general, both natural persons and legal entities (that promote the association's activities either in the form of financial contributions or exceptional non-material support) may become associate members.

Honorary Members

The honorary members are natural persons who have rendered great service towards the goals of the association.

New Members

In all cases, the General Assembly decides on the acceptance of new members. Each member at the General Assembly is represented with one seat and each full member has voting rights with one vote.

Further details may be found in the *Articles of Association of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) Research – Documentation – Information*.

Representative Bodies of the Association

In the following section, only the most important representative bodies and their functions are described. Further details (including the function of the auditors and the board of arbitrators) may be found in the *Articles of Association of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) Research – Documentation – Information*.

General Assembly

As a joint representative body that is available to all members, the General Assembly takes decisions on all far-reaching structural issues such as:

- adjusting the organisational structures, when necessary
- the acceptance and the expulsion of members,
- the approval and monitoring of the budget,
- appointing members to the Executive Committee (for 3 years),
- appointing the auditors (for 2 years)
- appointing members to the International Academic Advisory Board (for 3 years).

Normally, the General Assembly meets once a year, although, should it become necessary, it can meet more often and at short notice. All full members have voting rights.

Executive Committee

The operative body is the Executive Committee. It is comprised of 3-7 members who are elected for 3 years from among the institute's full members. It is responsible for taking all operative decisions not been expressly delegated to the Management.

- Personnel decisions,
- Preparation and implementation of the budget,
- Implementation of the research, documentation and information program

For structural decisions, the Executive Committee is entitled to resolve *Proceedings of the Executive Committee*. In the Proceedings, the Executive Committee not only regulates its own

decision-making processes, it also delegates authority to the Management, which is responsible to the Executive Committee in all matters.

The organisation chart provides for a strong Executive Committee where all founding members can also equally participate in operative decisions. Particularly during the foundation phase, it is intended that the Executive Committee should also be an active committee in order to prepare a common basis for all decisions.

Upon the appointment of a Academic Director, who shall be selected in accordance with a transparent appointment procedure through open international job advertisements (see “Management”), the Executive Committee will assign a significant portion of its authority to him/her.

International Academic Advisory Board

The International Academic Advisory Board will have a key role to play. It consists of at least 12 internationally recognised experts, of which at least 9 must be active abroad and a maximum of 3 may be active in Austria. Members and/or employees of full members may not serve as members of this Board. Similar to the Executive Board, ISAB members are elected by the General Assembly for a period of 3 years.

The Advisory Board should consist only of outstanding professional persons, who in addition to having academic qualifications in their respective discipline also have a comprehensive interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary broad range of experience in dealing with the topics and the range of functions covered by the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

In filling the positions on the Advisory Board, care should be taken to obtain a broad diversification of the disciplines and methods represented. In addition to historians, for example, philosophers, sociologists, linguists, political scientists, economists, lawyers etc. should also be taken into consideration. With regard to the focus on information, educators and museumologists, for instance, should also be considered. The emphasis, however, should not be on representing disciplines, but rather on the expertise of the scholars.

Moreover, the Advisory Board is entitled to bring in co-opted members and delegate decisions to them. To this end, mainly – but not exclusively – artists and writers should be considered, whose participation will ensure an experimental handling of questions concerning presentation and information.

The International Academic Advisory Board will play a key role in designing the research and information program. It provides recommendations concerning:

- the research and information priorities (in the form of a 3-year program),
- the awarding of fellowships,
- the awarding of research projects,
- the awarding of information projects (exhibits, installations and other interventions in public spaces, internet projects, educational and seminar projects etc.),
- the conducting of meetings and series of events or individual events for the expert community and the public at large,
- the realisation of publication projects.

In this regard, the Executive Committee shall take operative decisions within the scope of the Advisory Board's recommendations. Valid reasons are required for the Executive Committee to adopt a resolution varying from the Advisory Board's recommendations. In planning the budget, the Executive Committee shall take the long-term research and information priorities into consideration.

For structural decisions, the Advisory Board is entitled to resolve *Proceedings of the International Academic Advisory Board*. In the *Proceedings*, the Advisory Board regulates not only its own decision-making processes, but also the delegation of powers to co-opted members and the Academic Director – for the latter, however, this pertains exclusively to the conducting of meetings and series of events or individual events for the expert public and the public at large, and with regard to the realisation of publication projects.

The International Academic Advisory Board is also responsible for the quality control of the research and information program.

To perform its functions, the Advisory Board shall meet at least once a year in Vienna.

Due to the far-reaching powers of the Advisory Board, it is expected that its members will face an above-average workload. This applies not only to the foundation phase, during which the academic profile of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) will be worked out, but also in general.

The nomination of Advisory Board members shall be understood as an invitation by external experts to actively provide constructive input. In filling the positions on the Advisory Board, in addition to the individual candidates' academic qualifications, time constraints and their willingness to commit will also need to be considered.

The International Steering Committee identified a group of potential International Academic Board members during the course of drawing up the Mission Statement. This pool of experts has already been called on when the first International Academic Advisory Board was appointed in the summer of 2006 and is also to be considered in future.

Standing Working Group

Coordination, co-production, co-operation and networking are highly popular catchwords, however, for the most part, without any concrete meaning. At the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), they are the organisational goal, and therefore require an organisational form. Whereas the General Assembly and the Executive Committee ensure joint decision-making for structural and operational issues, an open forum is necessary for developing project ideas.

As an open forum, a standing working group shall be available to all Association members (full members, associate members and honorary members). Strictly interpreted, it is not a representative body of the Association. For this reason, it does not formally have any decision-making powers. In contrast to the International Academic Advisory Board, it advises the Executive Committee and the Management, without pre-designating their decisions. In fact, the Association members, the Executive Committee, the Management and the academic employees of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) consult *through* the Group, and consult with *each other* within the Group.

Unlike the General Assembly, participation is not limited to one seat per Association member. It is not set up according to the principle of representation, but rather through the principle of intervention. It is ruled by a free (inter-)play of forces, not least because of the individual commitment of the participants. It offers all of the individual member organisation's academic employees a direct involvement in the joint project.

Establishing such a Standing Working Group is in accord with the idea of extending the open working situation of a support committee through to the end of the foundation phase and beyond. Relative to the Association's responsible organs, the Standing Working Group is to be viewed as a "fermenting element", or in other words: a brain trust. It facilitates the informal exchange of ideas and is intended to ensure that the widely diversified voices of the Association members, who as legal entities are often comprised of a number of natural persons, are directly heard.

Although responsibility for the coordination and co-production between the full members and co-operation and networking between the national and international associate members formally lies with the Executive Committee or (in accordance with the *Proceedings*) the Management, the Standing Working Group, however, shall serve as a platform to propose and prepare joint activities, such as

- the candidacy for fellowships,
- the conceptual design of joint research projects,

- the conceptual design of joint information projects (exhibits, installations and other public space interventions, internet projects, educational and seminar projects etc.),
- the conceptual design of joint meetings and series of events for the expert public and the public at large,
- the conceptual design of joint publication projects.

The main objectives also include coordinating the research, documentation and information programs of the independent partner organisations and to realise synergy effects:

Thus, for example, it is conceivable that fellowships will be split between individual partner organisations, that they will be continued in fellowship programs of partner organisations, that fellowships will be supplemented by a simultaneous guest professorship in partner organisations that are university institutes or that joint applications for third-party funds could be made for joint projects etc.

There have already been and will continue to be various joint projects between individual partner organisations. To mention only a few examples:

Almost all of the Jewish Community Vienna's (IKG) archival holdings from the period 1933-1945 have been microfilmed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM); and the National Socialist files of the Provincial Archives have been sighted by the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW) for microfilming by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

In a cooperation between the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ) and the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG), the first Holocaust Studies conference of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) was held in 2006 in Vienna ("The Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal for Holocaust Studies"), and in cooperation with the Chamber of Labour of Vienna (*Arbeiterkammer Wien*), the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) and the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ), a second conference was held in 2007 ("Labour and Extermination"). Together with the Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW), the Simon Wiesenthal Lecture series began in 2007, in cooperation with the Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW), an exhibit on the Archive of the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) was shown in 2007 ("*Ordnung muss sein* – The Archive of the Jewish Community Vienna").

In future, such joint projects shall occur much more frequently.

Management

The Executive Committee delegates some of its powers and its operative tasks to the Management, which it has hired, of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). The scope and details of this delegation are reserved to the *Proceedings of the Executive Committee*, which will be drawn up by the Executive Committee.

In any case, it is the task of the Management to coordinate the administration and coordinate and implement the entire Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) research, documentation and information program, as well as participate in the meetings of the Executive Committee, the International Academic Advisory Board as well as the Standing Working Group.

The Management is comprised of one Academic Director and one Business Manager. This division serves the purpose of relieving the Academic Director of administrative and business tasks.

Academic Director

Similar to the Executive Committee, the International Academic Advisory Board is also entitled to delegate some of its powers to the Academic Director and to integrate the Academic Director in the evaluation process. The scope and the details of this delegation with respect to conducting conferences and series of events or individual events for the expert public and the public at large and with respect to the realisation of publication projects is reserved to the *Proceedings of the International Academic Advisory Board*, which the Advisory Board will draw up. Thereby, however, the academic independence of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), which must be guaranteed by the International Academic Advisory Board, is to be safeguarded

A direct link to university teaching and research would be created by establishment of a guest professorship for the Academic Director of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) at the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ). In a university context, opening the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) to students would similarly be guaranteed as would the testing of research approaches and research results. The position of Academic Director would thus become significantly more appealing and through co-financing, the financial expense, on the other hand, would decrease.

The Academic Director must be an international, highly-trained established scholar with years-long academic and leadership competencies. Similar to the members of the International Academic Advisory Board, the Academic Director should have a comprehensive interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary broad range of experience in dealing with the topics and the range of functions covered by the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). The modalities of the appointment procedure for appointing the Academic Director shall be regulated in the *Proceedings of the Executive Committee*. In any case, the preparation of a detailed requirements profile and an international job advertisement campaign are prerequisites.

Business Manager

The Business Manager manages the administrative and business affairs of the Association to ease the burden on the Executive Committee and the Academic Director. The scope and details of the activities involved, as well as the modus of the appointment to this position, shall be regulated in the *Proceedings of the Executive Committee*.

Administration

The Administration has been designed as a pool of employees that are, in general, available to anyone at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

The number of the positions is a minimum requirement. It must be ensured that an equivalent substitute is present during vacation times or illness.

Secretary's Office

Although the Academic Director and the Business Manager are each allocated a Secretary's Office, this only takes the form of a priority claim.

Areas of responsibility:

- Coordinate the appointments of the Executive Committee, the Management, and the Research and Information Coordinator,
- The correspondence of the Executive Committee, Management, and the Research and Information Coordinator,
- Organisation of the office,
- Reply to inquiries,
- Support fellowship holders and project participants.

Number of employees: **2 full-time employees**

Organisation, Public Relations, Publications

Areas of responsibility:

- Organisation of conferences, series of events, lectures, readings and discussions for the expert public as well as the public at large,
- Organisation and editing of publications (anthologies, yearbook, periodicals, internet publications),
- Editorial support of Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) website.
- Preparation of press releases, press conferences,
- Contact to media representatives,

- Provide the Research and Information Coordinator with organisational support,
- Support fellowship holders and project participants.

Number of employees: **2 to 3 full-time employees**

IT

Areas of responsibility:

- Acquisition, management and maintenance of hardware,
- Acquisition, management and installation of software,
- System administration,
- Data security (backups),
- Resolution of software problems,
- Programming of databases,
- Support, maintenance and further development of the communications system.

Number of employees: **2 full-time employees**

Research

In contrast to the phantasm of full knowledge and in contrast to the common belief that everything worth knowing has already been discovered and it is only important to disseminate that information, research will play a leading role at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). It will serve the purpose of providing stimulus for documentation and information.

Conducting Holocaust Studies will include research on anti-Semitism, racism, and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences. Although there is a historic dimension to anti-Semitism and racism, they can not be relegated to history solely on the grounds that they still remain topical. The relationship between the historic singularity of the Holocaust and the repeatability of genocides is questionable. Also unclear is the inextricable relationship between the Holocaust and memory. Neither can simply be presumed, they must both be topics of research.

The confrontation between research and information is to be understood as a reciprocal challenge. The issues of presentability and the relationship between the presentation medium and the presentation will equally need to be the topic of theoretical research as well as the topic of experimental practice in information.

An understanding of this topic's complexity can only be attained through an interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary diversity of question formulation and research methods. For example, philosophical, sociological, linguistic, political science, economic, pedagogic and museological research approaches will be needed in addition to historic approaches.

In this regard, the unique historic documents on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust stored in the Vienna Archives provide an excellent empirical basis. A substantial part of these archival holdings will be brought together at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) where they will be explored by researchers.

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) will act as an institutional anchor for the research of anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, which to-date has been lacking in Austria. Although the Austrian Historical Commission has researched various aspects of property rights during the NS regime under historical viewpoints, yet as a result, the lack of research in other areas has become even more obvious.

However, it is not the aim of the organisational concept to be pre-emptive with a list of research desiderata, but rather to provide the organisational framework for academic innovation and the quality of future research projects. It is intended to achieve the former by foregoing the hiring of permanent academic employees in favor of fellowships and research projects, and the latter through an evaluation process conducted by the International Academic Advisory Board. The organisational form is intended to facilitate a maximum permeability of research for the independent research scene, an intensive exchange of researchers with other domestic and international institutions and organisations as well as an optimum coordination, cooperation and networking with other domestic and international research institutes.

There will be two forms of research at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI): fellowship programs and research projects of flexible duration.

Fellowships

By institutionalising fellowships, the intent is to guarantee a permanent exchange of guest researchers and to integrate and support the upcoming generation of academic professionals at a high level. Young researchers and experienced scholars will work on their topics in an exchange of dialogue; present the results to the public at large in the form of conferences, lectures and publications and bring their knowledge to ongoing research and information projects. The fellowship program offers the opportunity to bring to Vienna the best, most interesting researchers of all ages and academic disciplines within Austria and abroad and/or to temporarily bind them to the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), without a disruption in their academic or professional careers.

Together with the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) member organisations such as the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies, high-profile guest professors can be brought to Vienna and granted lectureships at university member institutes such as the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna (IfZ).

In general, fellowships should be limited to a term of one academic year (9 months). It may also be possible to split this term into 2 semesters of 4 months each.

The fellowship program is also intended to provide an ongoing stream of international conferences (at least 2 per academic year or 1 per semester) and academic lectures (at least 6 per academic year) and a continuous production of academic publications (at least 6 articles per academic year) on current research topics: It is expected of the visiting fellows (2 people) that they will design an international conference (including their own academic lecture); from the research and junior fellows (6 people) it is expected that they will write a academic article and put together a academic lecture on their research topics.

The International Academic Advisory Board, without exception, will decide on the awarding of fellowships by providing a written assessment of the individual applications. The decision will be approved by the Executive Committee or – when provided for in the *Executive Committee Proceedings* – the Management.

Along with its decision on the research and information focus, the Advisory Board also specifies the topic focus of the fellowships. The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) will report extensively on these decisions on its website and in its newsletter. Research projects associated with fellowships should preferably be associated with the defined thematic priorities, although this is not mandatory. Ideally, this should result in an exchange of reciprocal enhancements between the research projects of the fellowships and the ongoing research and information projects.

The fellows in attendance should be a source of inspiration and a qualified reference person for the participants of the ongoing projects.

Applications for fellowships are to be submitted in written form by the stated deadline to the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), which will pass them on to the International Academic Advisory Board for their assessment. The International Academic Advisory Board, in its Proceedings, will lay down its decision regarding any pre-selection by the management of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). The individual applications should include a written concept for a research project for the term of the fellowship along with the applicant's comprehensive curriculum vitae. The International Academic Advisory Board will define the details in its Proceedings.

The fellows shall receive a stipend and reimbursements for travel and per diem living expense reimbursements. The Executive Committee will set these amounts.

There are three types of fellowships:

Visiting Fellows

Visiting fellows are international guest professors with many years of academic experience and institutional involvement. Similar to the members of the International Academic Advisory Board, they possess a comprehensive interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary broad range of experience in dealing with the thematic focus of their fellowship.

Tasks:

- On-site presence,
- On-site collaboration with the other fellows,
- On-site collaboration with research and information projects,
- Participate in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) internal workshops,
- Organise an on-site international conference or series of events (includes the fellow giving his/her own lecture).

Number: **2 people as fellowship holders**

Research Fellows

Research fellows are guest researchers who are pursuing a habilitation project or similar project and/or who have taken a sabbatical for a research project. Academic experience and institutional involvement are preferable.

Tasks:

- On-site presence,
- On-site collaboration with the other fellows,
- On-site collaboration with research and information projects,
- Participate in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) internal workshops,
- Where necessary, participate in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) conferences and events,
- Write a academic article on the research topic,
- Give a academic lecture.

Number: **2 people as fellowship holders**

Junior Fellows

Junior fellows are postgraduates who want to implement their own research project.

Tasks:

- On-site presence,
- On-site collaboration with the other fellows,
- On-site collaboration with research and information projects,
- Participate in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) internal workshops,
- Participate in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) conferences and events,
- Write a academic article on the research topic,
- Give a academic lecture.

Number: **4 people as fellowship holders**

Research Projects

By awarding and performing research projects, short-, medium-, and long-term research will be ensured independent of academic work schedules.

A number of variations are possible with regard to the design and awarding of projects:

- the joint design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of research projects together with the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) institutional full and associate members.
- the independent design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of research projects,
- the joint design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of research projects together with external partner organisations,
- the joint implementation or awarding of research projects designed by external project bidders proposed to the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI),
- the implementation or call for proposals and awarding of contract research.

The International Academic Advisory Board, without exception, will decide on the implementation or call for proposals of research projects by providing a written assessment of the project applications. (It is clear that those research projects will be excluded that are handled autonomously and independently by the full and associate institutional members of the joint Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).)

The Standing Working Group coordinates the proposals for joint and independent research projects.

It is the task of the International Academic Advisory Board to formulate possible topics for research projects along with the decision on research and information priorities without fully prejudicing the applications.

In any case, research projects will be implemented by a variable number of different project participants, who are preferably employed on the basis of fee notes or freelance contracts for services. Depending on the project type, a varying number of project participants with different qualifications will be needed in addition to the academic project leader.

In contrast to the fellowships, the research projects have to be separately budgeted and come into question for co-financing, financing through research funds and the acquisition of third-party funds.

Research Coordinator

The Research Coordinator should be a highly-trained established scholar with academic experience and administrative competency in the area of research organisation.

Areas of responsibility:

- Coordinate the entire research area with the Management,
- Coordinate the fellowships and research projects with the archive and the library,
- Coordinate the individual fellows' research projects,
- Coordinate and provide academic advice to the individual research projects,
- Coordinate the entire research area with information (closely cooperate with the Information Coordinator).

Number: **1 full-time employee**

Documentation

The two cornerstones of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) are its publicly accessible archive and its publicly accessible library. The initial organisational goal is the physical merging of various archive and library holdings on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences, so that they are under uniform storage conditions and uniform terms of use. In the course of this, two different models should be used:

1. The delivery of archive and library holdings belonging to individual full and associate members to the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) archive or library in the form of permanent loans;
2. The joint management of the user services of organisationally separate archives and libraries of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) and other organisations.

Model 1: Even in cases where the items are on permanent loan, the Association's members naturally remain the owners of their property. The delivery takes place on the basis of a permanent loan contract that is individually agreed upon between the loaning member and the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

The subject matter dealt with in these bilateral contracts is, for example, the question of conservation and restoration, the preservation or when necessary the reorganisation of archive and library holdings and archive and library signatures, the safeguarding or when necessary the merging of existing databases, any necessary user restrictions as well as identifying the ownership in a citation. The co-determination rights and access privileges of the respective owner are also regulated contractually.

This model comes into question for the archive and library holdings of the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) and the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive).

Model 2: In the case of user services jointly managed by the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) and other institutions with related goals, the latter not only remain the owners of their holdings, they are also responsible for its maintenance. The cooperation between the organisationally separated archives and libraries is based on individual agreements for the archive or library that the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) and the respective cooperation partner enter into.

The subject matter of such bilateral agreements is the use of common rooms, if any, the management and organisation of the user services, the internal regulations as well as the division of costs.

In addition to the idea of the central use by research, information and the public, both models for merging archive and library holdings also pursue the idea of relieving the individual members of their burden, an administrative and financial reorganisation of existing archives and libraries and a solution to the problem of space. In this process, numerous synergy effects are generated.

It is not the intent of either one of these two models to interfere with the existing ownership rights.

In both models, the control over one's own archive and library holdings is ensured twice: through bilateral contracts and the co-determination in the various representative bodies of the Association.

To avoid an undue separation of knowledge and knowledge production, the area of documentation has been designed to strongly interact with research. The indexing and preparation of archive material as well as the acquisition and provision of literature should take place in close coordination with the ongoing research and information projects.

In contrast to the research area, in the archive and library area it is desirable to have employees who have worked there for many years, as this ensures a corresponding detailed knowledge of the archive and library holdings.

Archives

The goal is to establish a central public archive on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences.

Long term, where possible, the goal is to make accessible all relevant archival holdings from public archives in Austria either as originals, reproductions (microfilm, microfiche, photocopy, digitalisation) or at least in the form of detailed finding aids, relevant holdings in foreign archives, when possible, should also be accessible in reproduction form or at least in the form of detailed finding aids.

An archive database project is already underway at the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG), which will contain a complete compilation of its own archival holdings and which will then be made available to the public at large through the internet. At the same time, in a number of individual projects, electronic findings aids are being created for various important archival holdings. A further project consists of the registration and commentated indexing of all relevant archival holdings of other institutions in Austria, which will then be made available to the public at large in the form of an online platform.

Based on this and other projects, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) archive will be able to leverage these experiences in executing the full compilation and the full indexing, and perhaps the merger of further archival holdings.

From the very beginning, one of the main motives for this joint project by the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) was the physical merging and the common management of the important archival holdings of the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) and the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive).

- With holdings in Vienna and Jerusalem, the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) has the most comprehensive and varied archive of any European Jewish community.
- The Simon Wiesenthal Archive has unique documentation, particularly in the area of perpetrator research.

A permanent loan of the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna's (IfZ), archival holdings may also be possible. It can be hoped that in future other members will also be willing, in the form of permanent loans, to make individual archival holdings available. The archive has actively been accepting inheritances from individuals since 2005.

The central files on the expropriation of the Jewish population are presently stored in the Austrian State Archives, with which a close cooperation is planned.

Archive Manager VWI

Using the expertise of the Austrian State Archives, a requirements and job profile will be prepared for the position of Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) Archive Manager.

Number: **1 person on the staff of VWI, full-time employee**

The position of Archive Manager of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) archives shall be advertised internationally.

Archivist VWI

Using the expertise of the Austrian State Archives, a requirements and job profile will be prepared for the position of archives employee with the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

Number: **1 person on the staff of VWI, full-time employee**

The position of archives employee with the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) archives shall be advertised internationally

Youth performing alternative community work instead of military service

To perform ancillary archive operation services, if possible, conscientious objectors doing community work should be obtained.

Library

The goal is to establish a central public library on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences.

The base stock of the library consists of the library holdings of the Documentation Centre of the Association of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime (BJVN – Simon Wiesenthal Archive) and the Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Center of the Jewish Community Vienna as well as holdings of books, periodicals and newspapers that were received by the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) from various library holdings of the former Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Culture (BMBWK), the Austrian Eastern and South-eastern European Institute (OSI) and the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF) for the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

Through a generously-sized budget in the foundation phase, a representative technical library will soon come into being.

A far-reaching cooperation is planned with the libraries of other full members such as the Library of the Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW) and the Library of the Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ): joint cataloguing, long distance lending contracts etc.

Cooperation discussions are being held with individual associate members (Austrian National Library (ÖNB), University Library of Vienna (UBW)).

Library Manager VWI

The Library Manager of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) should be a contemporary historian trained as a librarian and have an extensive knowledge of relevant literature.

Areas of responsibility:

- Acquisition and cataloguing of library holdings,
- Coordinate the library's offerings with the Archive Manager of the VWI, the Research Coordinator and the Information Coordinator,
- Provide fellows and research and information project participants with technical advice,
- Provide other library users with technical advice,
- Coordinate the cooperations with individual members' partner libraries.

Number: **1 person on the staff of VWI, full-time employee**

The position of Library Manager of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) shall be advertised internationally.

Youth performing alternative community work instead of military service

To perform ancillary archive and library operation services, if possible, conscientious objectors doing community work should be obtained.

Information

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) project is committed to a primary focus on enlightenment [*Aufklärung*]: educating for autonomy through the imparting of knowledge. The leading role played by research stems from the same idea, as the knowledge it imparts is not a priori. Not even the term “knowledge” has a fixed meaning: Knowledge ranges from the cognitive to emotional knowledge to theoretical understanding to practical know-how. Just as the way in which knowledge is communicated must be the subject of ongoing inquiry, so too must the form and content of the knowledge.

In any case, knowledge is problem comprehension. It is not the initial goal to solve problems, but rather to correctly formulate the questions and to recognise the relevance of the problems. Knowledge is the ability to differentiate between well formulated questions and questions that are not as well formulated and between real problems and fake problems. Autonomy means the development of one’s own problem awareness and not simply letting others specify the problems. Within this context, the acquisition of knowledge is empowerment – self-empowerment in the broadest context, but also self-empowerment in knowing how one learns.

With the corresponding means and methods, the dissemination of knowledge should lead to the development of problem awareness within the context of sustained learning. It is the objective of a comprehensive imparting of knowledge concerning anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences, to create a differentiated comprehension of the problems. Under discussion are the forms of imparting knowledge and acquiring knowledge, which will both become theoretical as well as practical topics of research at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI).

In this, the coverage is only one part of the problem. There are plenty of relevant examples where despite broad coverage, the broad dissemination of information was only an apparent success. Mass-media events such as the television series *Holocaust* in the late 1970’s and Steven Spielberg’s film *Schindler’s List* from 1993 are also examples of some attempts to impart information that have an enormously broad impact yet are lacking in sustainability. One has to banish the idea that the “medium” has no influence on the “message”.

Strictly speaking, no knowledge can exist if it is not somehow communicated. In this context, even the most exclusive knowledge is not conceivable if it is not communicated and the line of demarcation between research and imparting information can not be clearly drawn.

Traditionally, knowledge has been imparted orally and in phonetic script. At the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), both will be given ample opportunity: through the holding of

conferences, lectures, readings and discussions, as well as through the preparation of expert's reports, the publication of a yearbook with academic articles and other academic publications.

However, if the aim is to reach as many people as possible, academic lectures and texts have strict limitations with regard to the size of the audience. More narrowly defined, the dissemination of information is the attempt to engage the public at large in a discussion on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences. This requires communication concepts that utilise materials / equipment, which is simultaneously capable of linking various modes of perception and is capable of activating either audio-visual or tactile-visual senses. It should not be forgotten that "emotional learning" has sustainable effects which leave traces in the form of motivation to independently grapple with problems and issues. In addition to exhibits, installations and other interventions in the public arena, internet projects, training and seminar programs, educational material and teaching aids etc. will be developed and implemented. The broad communication will be aimed at various target groups and use various formats. In keeping the target group in mind however, one should not lose sight of the objectives.

The project-oriented organisation for the dissemination of information is intended to ensure that along with the target groups, the objectives and the selected materials remain topics for discussion. Similar to the research area, in establishing an organisation concept for communicating information, an organisational framework must be provided that will ensure innovation and quality with regard to future information projects. The former will be attained by foregoing the hiring of permanent employees in favor of temporary project participants and the latter through an evaluation process conducted by the International Academic Advisory Board. The organisational form is intended to facilitate a maximum permeability of information for the independent scene, an intensive exchange with other domestic and international institutions and organisations as well as an optimum coordination, co-production, cooperation and networking with other domestic and international exhibition and training centers.

The International Academic Advisory Board will play a key role here as it decides on the implementation or call for proposals of information projects by providing a written assessment of the project applications. When necessary, the Advisory Board is entitled to bring in co-opted members for assistance. In addition to educationalists and museologists, which should be represented on the Advisory Board as regular members, artists and writers should also be brought in, as their involvement will ensure an innovative and experimental handling of questions of presentation and communicating information.

It is the task of the Working Group, with the participation of all of the members of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI), to develop both joint and independent information projects, which can then be proposed to the Advisory Board.

A number of variations are possible with regard to the design and awarding of projects:

- the joint design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of information projects together with the institutional members of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, VWI (in particular, the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW), the Jewish Museum Vienna (JMW), Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) etc.),
- the independent design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of information projects,
- the joint design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of information projects together with external partners,
- the joint implementation or awarding of information projects designed by external project bidders proposed to the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI),
- the implementation or call for proposals and awarding of contract projects.

In any case, information projects will be implemented by a variable number of different project participants, who are preferably employed on the basis of fee notes or freelance contracts for services. For each project, a curator in-residence should be selected as the person mainly responsible for that project.

Information projects, in all cases, are to be separately budgeted and come into question for co-financing and the acquisition of third-party funds.

All information projects should be closely linked to the research area. The objective is to enable the public at large to participate in pending research questions and to utilise existing resources to prepare and implement information projects. Fellows and research project participants should be available for consultation during the designing of exhibits and for participation in accompanying programs etc.

Research and information priorities should be coordinated. Information projects should take place within research programmes.

Following extensive consultation, the International Academic Advisory Board defines the research priorities and the information priorities for a term of 3 years.

Exhibits, Installations and other Interventions

Since the 1980's, the politics of memory and the Holocaust's central role therein have become a global cultural policy debate. Triggered by popular products such as the television series *Holocaust*, the foundation of Holocaust museums and the building of memorials and monuments, from Claude Lanzmann's documentary *Shoah* to movies such as Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*, Charlie Schulman's play *Angel of Death* and the (planned) exhibit *Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/ Recent Art*, the question regarding the purpose and form of the Holocaust remembrance and its respective possibilities and limits was and is a debate that is highly controversial. The opposing positions converge at the point where it is not possible to present a naive, quasi-objective, direct evidence-based first-person account of the Holocaust in a documentary, as the factuality of the Holocaust is not open to the traditional pattern of historic understanding, nor can it be represented in art in the traditional sense of an aesthetic work: both forms fail in that the delirium of destruction of the perpetrators must be closed off to rationally-accompanied understanding. Outside of memorial and discourse communities, even the "relics" are against situational and contextual interpretations. Cornelia Brink¹ pointed out the fact that although photographs of the liberation of the camps preserve traces of the crimes, that in these images the perpetrators themselves are absent. (A discovery that was only made during the late occurrence of "perpetrator research".) Instead of documenting "the reality", the photographs became canonised new icons, which could also be classified a traditional Christian image (the suffering) or as an invitation to identify with the liberators – the camera's point of view; moreover, time has changed the contentual and stylistic codes under which the photographs are perceived. On the other hand, Claude Lanzmann insisted that his interview partners did not offer "knowledge" (on the pragmatics of the destruction), but rather an image of the "incarnation" of evil. On these questions of the uncontrollable "endowing with meaning" through monumentalising, documentation and performance, in particular, all forms of permanent representation must grapple with the constraint of the "economy of perception" in global competition with similar memorials, and with their influence on the precarious "appropriateness" of the manner of representation – an aspect, which in 2001 led to heated controversies surrounding the Berlin project "Monument to the Murdered Jews of Europe".²

Jean-Francois Lyotard³ pointed out a fundamental paradox of representing the remembrance of Shoah as a substitution for the traumatic experience of the victims: The will to annihilate the

¹ Cornelia Brink: Secular Icons. Looking on Photographs from Nazi Concentration Camps, in: History&Memory, Vol.12/Nr.1/2000.

² See. NZZ, 9.8.2001; To attract sponsors, the supporters of the project (who are quasi in "competition" with the Berlin "Topography of Terror") issued postcards, announcements and large posters with the (misinterpreted) slogan "there never was a holocaust".

³ Jean-François Lyotard: Heidegger and "the Jews", University of Minnesota Press 1990.

Jews was targeted towards eliminating them from memory. For this reason, every depiction of the Holocaust therefore denies (unintentionally) this total nature of the NS annihilation policy. When nevertheless the (necessary) efforts are made to remember the Holocaust in literary and other artistic representations, in monuments, memorials, museums, documentations or exhibits, then not without the respective producer of this “site of memory” questioning himself what effect the form he/she has chosen will have on the recollections themselves and what relation it has to the interpretation frame of the memorial communities addressed and to the hegemonic and competing discourse.

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (VWI) sees its information assignment as the task of also keeping the memorial cultural, media anthropological as well as the discursive background of popular recollections of the Holocaust and other genocides transparent for its audience.

For this reason, in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute’s (VWI) exhibits, the materiality and the act of remembering itself are the topics and the problem of information dissemination. In this, one can rely on the factuality of remembrance just as little as the obligation to remember. There is a memory of things, but conversely without things there is no memory. An institute for Holocaust Studies that has decided to take up a leading role in performing research can not know beforehand what the potential is of the objects it has stored in its archives.

No contact with history can avoid classification by Friedrich Nietzsche’s famous differentiation between the antiquarian, critical and monumental conceptions of history. Whereas the American model for a Holocaust museum clearly tends towards the critical, in contrast, the nation-state “House of History” tends towards the monumental conception of history and both presume the antiquarian is a given, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) shall explicitly pose the antiquarian as a problem and experimentally field-test the other two within various contexts. In doing so, artists and writers, in particular, will be involved.

In contrast to the debate on principles concerning the Houses of History, a clear stand must be taken: An institute for Holocaust Studies that concerns itself with all questions surrounding the topics of anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences will be less of a *House of History* than a *Center of the Contemporary*. Along these lines, in its exhibits it will decide for the principle of *intervention* and against the principle of *representation*.

Exhibition Center

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) will include an exhibition center with around 500 square meters of permanent exhibition space. An exhibition center is however not a museum: A permanent exhibition space implies that a decision has been made with regard to its permanent deployment, but not however for a permanent exhibit. The decision against the principle of representation means nothing more and nothing less than foregoing the presumption of being able to represent anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences in any form that could be considered an “overview”. Temporary exhibitions, in contrast, provide an opportunity to take on various aspects from various viewpoints and thereby develop the form and content of the individual exhibits out of the respective topic.

Every exhibit shall be supplemented with a comprehensive extensive accompanying program presenting a variety of information offers. The current topic will be introduced and the varying demand for more information beyond the subject at hand will be met through the targeted use of new media and trained information personnel.

The 2nd German “Wehrmacht” Exhibition, which took place in Vienna during April and May 2002, can serve as a model for disseminating information in such a manner. The form and content of the accompanying information program was designed in a series of workshops by a professional information team consisting of experienced art mediators and young historians working together with academic experts. Various types of tours were developed to address a variety of target groups. Special information programs, tailored by age group and interests, were offered to pupil groups. Through the form and content of the exhibit, the overall objective was to give the pupils the tools for independent research and to awaken interest in the subject matter beyond the exhibit. Teaching materials were created and sent to teachers so they could prepare for the visit to the exhibit. In addition to pupil-specific tours, tours on specific sub-topics were also offered in this model in an attempt to provide an even more specific focus on the already highly specific topic of the exhibit. Each thematic tour was performed by an exhibition mediator together with a academic expert. Notes were kept to record the team’s experiences and the reactions of the visitors and questionnaires were filled out to enable a academic evaluation of this information.

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute’s (VWI) exhibits should be accompanied by discussion groups, lectures and conferences, and whenever possible and meaningful also be supplemented by research publications. The greater the degree of coordination between Vienna Wiesenthal Institute’s (VWI) research and information programs, the greater the synergy effects that can be achieved.

The respective information team should also be capable of offering various EDP-supported information programs that go beyond the present topic of the exhibit, in particular to school

classes. A complex information communications system should make it possible to call up various subject blocks in an audio-visual format, which can either be selected by the individual visitor or which can be prepared by the information team. In addition to electronic info-stations, the exhibition center will also have a media-supported auditorium where basic information as well as information on various topics not shown in the current exhibit can be prepared and shown by the information team.

The exhibition center of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) shall hold at least one exhibit per year. In the case of larger exhibits, a co-production with various institutional members of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute, VWI (such as the Jewish Museum Vienna) or together with other institutional partners is planned. In addition to taking in interesting travelling exhibits, it is also planned to design travelling exhibits.

Public Space

In principle, it is not only the exhibition center, but rather the entire public space that can be utilised for exhibits, installations or other interventions. Such access implies a mindfulness of the character and the respective context of the exhibition spaces. In selecting the location, attention should be paid to its past and present, or expressed another way: to its historic and present situation. In this, it is also important to consult and cooperate with architects. It should be attempted to reproduce the collective memory of these sites, which in many cases has been lost. (Who knows the exact location in his neighbourhood of, for example, a satellite camp of the concentration camp Mauthausen?) An exhibition on the Gestapo in Vienna, for example, would be meaningful in a temporary installation at Morzinplatz etc.

Parallel to establishing an exhibition center, various forms of decentralisation should take place: In addition to utilising travelling exhibits of various sizes and forms and the most diversified exhibits, installations and other interventions in the public space, for example, alternative city tours should also be considered or the use of an exhibition bus. Instead of trying to get the people to come to the exhibit, the exhibit will be brought to the people...

Design and Implementation

The design and implementation or call for proposals and awarding of exhibition projects should take place based on the aforementioned modalities for information projects.

An accompanying information program is to be designed as a component of each exhibition project. The respective information team is to be involved in designing and preparing the exhibit.

The exhibition project "hardware" shall be built in cooperation with the Jewish Museum Vienna, as an institutional member and partner.

Educational, Seminar and Discussion Programs

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) will include a *Competence Center for Continuing Training for Teachers and Pupil Services*. In addition to teaching aids and materials that will be developed within each project, educational and seminar programs for teachers shall be offered in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs (BMUKK), the Vienna Municipal Education Authority and the Regional Education Authorities.

The implementation will be performed jointly with the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DOeW) as an institutional member and partner which has many years of experience in working together with schools.

Moreover, educational, seminar and discussion programs will be designed and implemented for specific groups of persons and problem areas: to train and accompany the personnel for memorial sites, for a dialogue between the offspring of perpetrators and victims and to train police or soldiers on the topics of xenophobia and racism etc.

Summer Academy

During the foundation phase, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) training and seminar programs will concentrate on continuing training for teachers. A Summer Academy will be established in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs (BMUKK), the Vienna Municipal Education Authority and the Regional Education Authorities, which will take place at the end of the school year in the early summer and before the start of the school year in the late summer. It will have two main areas of concern: to transfer knowledge and practical know how from the research area to the educationalists in the schools and to obtain their feedback on planned or current information projects.

The Summer Academy should also be a platform where ideas and concepts can be exchanged and where various additional information projects can be planned together with the teachers.

Design and Implementation

The design and implementation or tender and awarding of training, seminar and discussion programs should take place based on the aforementioned modalities for information projects.

Internet Information System

The Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) website will be the portal to a complex communications system, which will prepare and make available a variety of data and information on anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences and information on the activities of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) and its partner organisations (see chapter "Communications System").

For communicating information on-site (such as during exhibit tours, training, seminar and discussion programs, etc.) and elsewhere, various target-group specific subject blocks based on this communications system and detailed information can be called up in order to prepare for and follow up on exhibition visits.

The website should also be used as its own exhibition space in addition to providing a publication and communications platform with articles, discussion forums, event calendars, news, etc.

Information Coordinator

The Information Coordinator must be a highly-trained established expert with museological and pedagogic experience as well as administrative competency.

Areas of responsibility:

- Coordinate the entire information area with the Management,
- Coordinate the entire information area with research and documentation (closely cooperate with the Research Coordinator).
- Coordinate and provide advice on the individual information projects.

Number: **1 full-time employee**

Communications System

The internet is one of the most important interfaces between knowledge production and knowledge dissemination. In combination with research, documentation and information, it will have a crucial role to play at the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI). It is currently the only globally available technological system enabling access to and preparation of relevant data from a variety of sources in the form of pragmatic information systems irrespective of geographical location. Thus, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) web platform must be understood as one component in a comprehensive internal and external internet communications system.

The communications system is based firstly on the adapting and codification of the Humanities Information Technology uniform standards which are utilised for the compilation, integration and supply of relevant data within the institutional infrastructure. This not only refers to the input of raw data, it also pertains to technical standards for the research information generated from this data, internal and external communications and the management of all other resources.

These norms and standards constitute the basis for the formation of institution-wide *middleware*, which in turn is the prerequisite for the redundant use and sustainable expansion of the data -for internal information management and for presentations outwards. The advantage to this solution is that when combined with an effective content management system and complex user rights management, one and the same data pool can be used universally without any additional adaptation: e.g. to present the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) on a website, to work on internal or external projects, as a statistical basis for project management tasks, as a basis for multidimensional presentation formats ("virtual exhibition") and traditional publications, etc.

This concept not only makes it possible to compile data consistently, to generate relevant information pools therefrom and to develop complex knowledge in the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) central subjects of anti-Semitism, racism and the Holocaust, including its past history and consequences, it also synchronises the dynamics of the daily routine of research with the electronic processing and presentation of the results worldwide. Once data concerning source materials has been entered by researchers locally, for example, it creates the basis for work to be done by other researchers at partner organisations and forms a part of publicly accessible databases and potentially generates the statistical basis for project presentations on the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) website or partner organisations, so that this entire information mixture – either live or following its release – can be quickly updated without the need to employ an additional person at each of these junctures to incorporate the changed data

into the respective presentation formats. By managing the user rights it is always known who made what change and when. The entire web platform is composed of components of the very same data pool, which the middleware makes available.

This structure guarantees the sustained scalability of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) communications system and its interoperability with partner organisations while simultaneously supplying the basis for the set up of the institute's central areas during the 2008-2011 preliminary phase. These are the technical prerequisites for the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute (VWI) to become a global hub, even in the development phase, for the internal and external processing, supply and communication of Holocaust-related information.

Consequently, the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's communications system has been designed as a modular system, whereby the basic module will be implemented during the preliminary phase and additional modules can be added to expand the system as needed. In principle, the system will support three categories of applications and when necessary, hybrid forms:

- Intranet applications for intra-institute research and management
- Extranet applications for the handling of projects awarded to and in cooperation with partner organisations
- The website as the Institute's public presentation platform

The first several necessary applications on this basis will be:

- a project management application as an integral research and development tool and an internal communications system
- a pool of researchers comprised of globally active Holocaust researchers within the framework of a research communications system and a component of project management
- a source pool of the Simon Wiesenthal Archive database and the archive database of the Jewish Community Vienna (IKG) as well as all other Holocaust-relevant sources available in Austria – including the didactic preparation of the accessibility and the relevance of the materials for specialist and general questions (integration of existing data and separate projects)
- a topic pool, in which information on Holocaust-relevant persons, places, events, and images is gathered to provide the base for the appropriate preparation of source data and research results within the framework of an information communications system
- the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute's (VWI) website as a public platform for presentation