



G U V E R N U L R O M Â N I E I

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Ladies and gentlemen,

The workshop that starts today is being organized within the European Research Holocaust Infrastructure program, a partnership between multiple countries that aims to gather into one community the actors interested in research and/or in promoting the Holocaust remembrance. You are, of course, more familiar with the access to archives, with the role of the historic document in the historical narrative, with the stage of Holocaust research in various countries.

Two decades ago, we were discussing about the access to the Archives. Today, we have made a step forward and we are preoccupied by the online access to the Archives. From my point of view, online access, beyond ease of information, means a new perspective for comparative studies about Jewish tragedy in one country or another.

Besides infrastructure, financial and human resources, the online access also requires institutional policies to enable a maximum openness. I would like to mention here the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that has done and is doing a lot in this area of `softening` the bureaucrats and of bringing the archives closer to the audiences.

Most of you are probably for the first time in Romania. So I think it is a good occasion to share with you few information on `Elie Wiesel` Institute. We are a public organization, founded in 2005 and now we are coordinated by the Prime Minister. We have collaboration agreements with Yad Vashem, Memorial de la Shoah, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Thanks to USHMM, we now have copies of documents on the Holocaust in Romania from several central archives: National Archives, Romanian Intelligence Service, Army, Romanian Academy. Our research activity can be found in `Holocaust. Study and research`, the academic journal of the Institute to which we encourage you to publish. Here you can find a copy so you can get used to it. We are also editing original volumes or translations. This year, after the English, French and German editions published in 2015 we publish the Romanian version of Alfred Rosenberg Journal.

Still, Holocaust research is an `isolated` activity in Romania.

That`s why, let me add a few more words on education and memory, dynamic activities since depend on human interaction. Interaction with people who have reactions of all kinds. Last year, Romania had the Charimanship of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and with this occasion the working definition of anti-Semitism was approved. Ten days ago, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of the Institute, this definition was officially assumed by the

Romanian Government. This means that education about the Holocaust and public memory are gaining a consistent support. Besides the affirmative actions in this field to which the Institute also has a great contribution, preventing anti-Semitism, Holocaust denial, or heroism manifestations of the Romanian fascism are aspects that should not be avoided. That is why we are reacting publicly whenever there are such manifestations in the public space.

Last autumn, we were appointed by the Government to prepare the opening of the Museum of History of Jews and the Holocaust in Romania. It is not easy, given that in Romania there were 750 thousand Jews in 1930 and today there are only 3000, it is not easy at all to find and to highlight significant artifacts for a history where cohabitation was more a struggle for survival.

To conclude, we are a small team and we don't have time to get bored at all.

I wish you a pleasant stay in Bucharest and hope you will have a real and useful dialogue.

Good luck!