

## **NATIONAL FUND**

OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

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GENERAL

## **SETTLEMENT FUND**

FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

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## **FUND FOR THE RESTORATION**

OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN AUSTRIA





## FROM REPRESSION TO REMEMBRANCE

“We acknowledge all the facts of our history and the deeds of all sections of our people, the good and the evil; and just as we take credit for the good, we must also apologise for the evil – to the survivors and to the descendants of the dead.”

Excerpt from the speech made by Dr Franz Vranitzky before the National Council on 8 July 1991  
Taken from the stenographic minutes of the 35th session of the National Council

In 1995, on the 50th anniversary of the Second Republic, the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism was established at the Austrian Parliament as a belated expression of Austria’s special responsibility towards the victims of National Socialism. Its establishment only became possible once the Austrian stance towards the Nazi era had evolved: from viewing Austria as the first country to fall victim to Hitlerite aggression, to a more nuanced perspective that takes account of the involvement of many Austrians in the crimes of the Nazis.

In a 1991 speech before the National Council, Federal Chancellor Franz Vranitzky emphasised Austria’s historical responsibility and, on behalf of the Federal Government, promised help to all those who had not yet received adequate consideration.

Four years after this declaration, the National Fund commenced its work. Some 30,000 survivors from Austria living around the world have since accepted a gesture payment from Austria. Providing recognition and support for survivors is a key task of the National Fund, as well as advising the victims of National Socialism and their families.

In 2001 the Washington Agreement was concluded between Austria and the United States of America. It laid the foundation for restitution and compensation measures to be implemented by two funds, both administered by the National Fund: the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism and the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria.

Other undertakings are also an expression of Austria’s special responsibility, such as the renewal and running of the Austrian exhibition at Auschwitz-Birkenau, the awarding of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize and tasks involving the restitution of looted art and the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial in Vienna.

A matter of particular importance is the advancement and transmission of knowledge about National Socialism, its after-effects and the fates of its victims, as is preserving the memory of the victims. The National Fund subsidises projects that promote remembrance and learning from history, and publishes memoirs of Holocaust survivors.

By passing the memory on to younger generations the National Fund is contributing towards a future in which there is no place for dictatorship, racism or antisemitism.





## RECOGNIZING ALL VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN AUSTRIA

The National Fund was established to express Austria's responsibility towards all victims of National Socialism. It provides benefits to survivors, regardless of why they were persecuted – whether on political grounds, on grounds of origin, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, a physical or mental disability, due to accusations of "asociality", or because they were victims of typical Nazi injustice in some other form.

Some 30,000 individuals have turned to the National Fund and received official recognition of their victim status. The National Fund also provides support to survivors who need extra help. Those who are struggling financially can request additional payments.



The archives of the National Fund and General Settlement Fund are unique. They document Nazi persecution and the bureaucracy of confiscation and seizure, as well as the earlier compensation and restitution measures that were put in place after 1945. Personal documents belonging to the Fund's applicants provide a compelling insight into the events of the time and their significance for those affected and for Austria.

Preserving the memory of the victims and their fates is a central task for the future. The National Fund safeguards historical knowledge in its archives for the generations to come.

The National Fund works in partnership with national and international organisations and remembrance and research institutions, in a combined effort to advance "learning from history" beyond Austria too.



Clockwise from top left: The Secretary General of the National Fund Hannah Lessing at the Austrian Embassy in Washington D.C. in 2010; at the ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the National Fund held at the Parliament in 2015; at the wreath-laying ceremony in Yad Vashem, Jerusalem in 2011; and in 2016 with students of the High School BG/BRG Baden at the Parliament's Democracy Workshop.

[www.nationalfonds.org](http://www.nationalfonds.org)





## PROJECT FUNDING

Project funding has been a central activity of the National Fund from the outset. It caters to all victim groups that were subjected to Nazi persecution.

Emphasis is placed on social and medical projects for survivors from Austria.

Funding is also granted to projects that undertake scientific research into Nazism and the fate of its victims, call to mind Nazi injustice or preserve the memory of the victims, such as school projects and workshops, exhibitions, art projects, film productions, scientific projects, publications, opera and theatre projects and memorials.



Left: The interactive educational app "Fleeing the Holocaust. My encounter with exiles". Top right: Theatre performance "Gaudiopolis. City of Joy". Bottom right: "Stones of remembrance", Neubaugasse 70, 7th District of Vienna.

Get-together in Café Centropa, 2018.



To date, the National Fund has sponsored around 2,500 projects and programmes in over 20 countries worldwide, in the amount of approx. 35 million euros (as at February 2022).

[www.nationalfonds.org/  
project-funding](http://www.nationalfonds.org/project-funding)





## ART RESTITUTION

The Art Restitution Act of 1998 provided the National Fund with a legal mandate to monetize “heirless” art and cultural objects from the museums and collections owned by the Republic of Austria and use the proceeds to benefit the victims of Nazism.

In 2006 an art database was set up to help victims of Nazi art theft and their descendants conduct a targeted search for looted art. The database contains information on 9,400 objects from the collections of twenty cooperating partners, including federal and provincial museums and universities.

In accordance with the Art Restitution Act, the Austrian National Library restituted “heirless” books acquired illegally during the Nazi era to the National Fund and subsequently repurchased them. In the picture from left to right: The Director General of the Austrian National Library, Johanna Rachinger, President of the National Council Wolfgang Sobotka and the Secretary General of the National Fund, Hannah Lessing at the commemoration ceremony in December 2018.



Left: Sledge figurehead from the Vienna Museum for Folk Life and Folk Art in the art database (questionable status still to be clarified). Right: Signing an agreement with the University of Vienna, with which the university transferred “heirless” art objects and books to the National Fund in 2017 and repurchased them.

The National Fund also provides assistance to provenance researchers at museums and collections and helps them to trace legal successors and establish contacts with Austrian institutions.

If, despite intensive research, the rightful heirs to art and cultural objects cannot be found, the items are transferred to the National Fund to be monetized. Ten thousand books from the National Library and numerous art objects from various collections have been monetized in this way. The proceeds raised are used for programmes benefitting the victims of National Socialism.

[www.kunstdatenbank.at](http://www.kunstdatenbank.at)

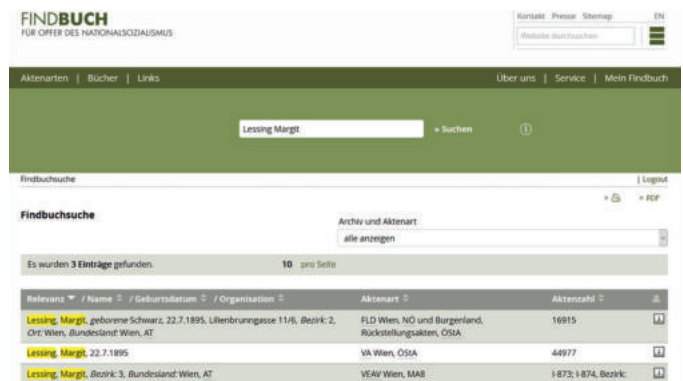




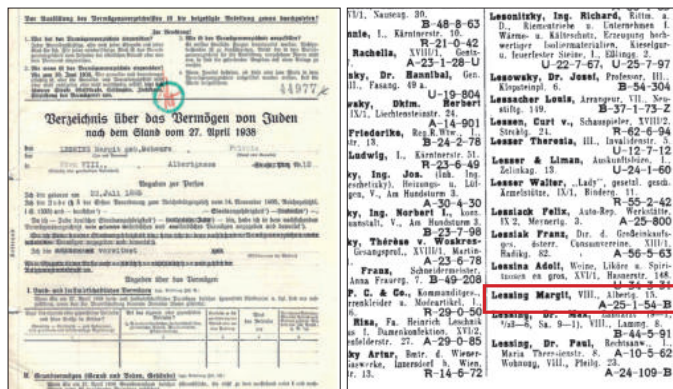
# FINDBUCH FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM

The *Findbuch* (“finding aid”) can be accessed at [www.findbuch.at](http://www.findbuch.at) and enables users to search Austrian archives for material on Nazi property seizures and Austrian restitution and compensation measures. It currently contains approx. 215,000 records from the Austrian State Archives and the Provincial Archives of Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Tyrol and Vienna.

The *Findbuch* contains the most comprehensive collection of personal information on those topics. It is intended to encourage people to come to terms with Nazism and its aftermath in Austria, both in terms of family history and at an academic, educational and societal level.



The search for Margit Lessing in the *Findbuch* database yields three hits. This makes it possible, among other things, to locate Margit Lessing’s property notice, which is kept at the Austrian State Archives.



Left: property notice of Margit Lessing (born 22 July 1895) from the year 1938. Right: residential address of Margit Lessing in the “Official customer directory of the Vienna telephone network, May 1938” (telephone directory).

In addition, the *Findbuch* contains 25,000 digitized pages of historical address directories and official handbooks on public offices and institutions, which can be consulted to facilitate research on private individuals, commercial enterprises, authorities responsible for the Nazi property confiscation and on restitution after 1945. In addition, the series “Wiedergutmachungsgesetze” – an annotated collection of Austrian restitution laws published by Manz Publishers between 1946 and 1954 – is available on the website.

[www.findbuch.at](http://www.findbuch.at)





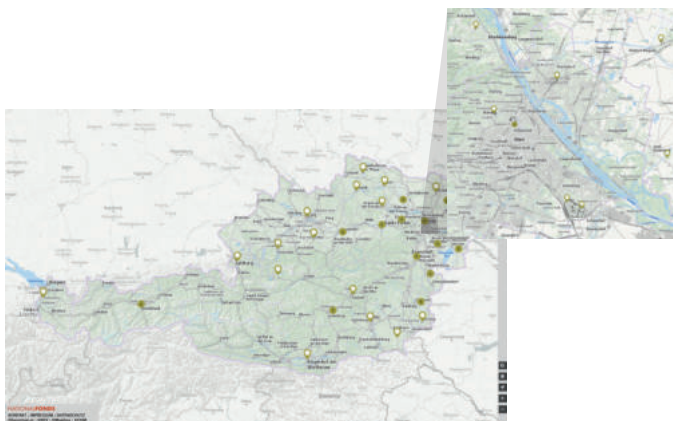
## THE RESTORATION OF JEWISH CEMETERIES

Jewish cemeteries are special places of remembrance; many of them are of significant cultural and historical value. During the years of Nazi rule countless graves were desecrated, the names of the dead extinguished. Following the expulsion of the Jewish communities and the murder of their members, for decades the Jewish cemeteries in Austria were left to fall to ruin.

In the Washington Agreement with the U.S.A., Austria undertook to provide additional support for the restoration and maintenance of known and unknown Jewish cemeteries in Austria.



The pictures above show: The Tahara house at Baden Cemetery following its restoration. Below them are the cemeteries in Kobersdorf (left) and Lackenback (right), both of which have been restored.



The map shows the geographical locations of the Jewish cemeteries in Austria. It can be accessed at [maps.nationalfonds.org/frgis](http://maps.nationalfonds.org/frgis).

In December 2010 the Federal Act on the Establishment of the Fund for the Restoration of the Jewish Cemeteries in Austria marked a decisive step in the domestic implementation of that international legal obligation. With the support of this Fund, by 2030 over 60 Jewish cemeteries throughout Austria will have been saved from falling into a state of disrepair. The Austrian government provides an annual sum of one million euros (20 million euros in total) for this purpose.

[www.friedhofsfonds.org](http://www.friedhofsfonds.org)



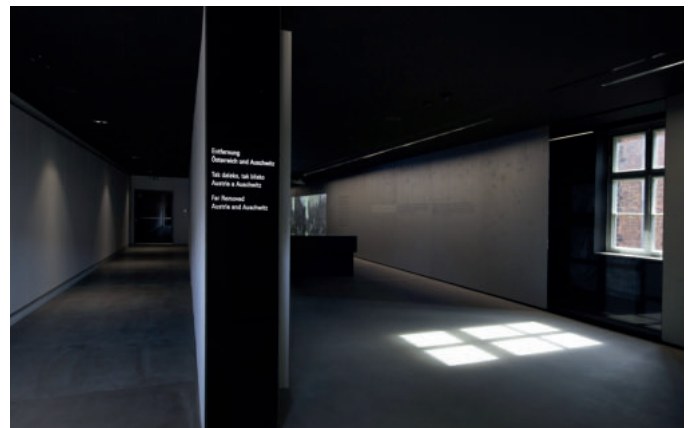




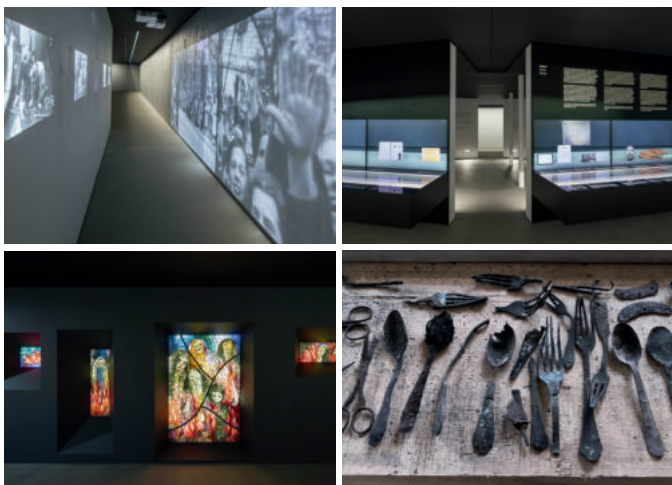
# AUSTRIAN EXHIBITION AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

In October 2021 the new Austrian exhibition opened in Block 17 of the former concentration and extermination camp and present Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum.

The exhibition portrays the fates of the Austrian victims of Auschwitz and the involvement of Austrians as perpetrators of the crimes committed there. As a place of remembrance and learning, it is hoped that it will help foster understanding and dialogue between the generations and people with different religious, national and ethnic backgrounds.



The entrance of the new exhibition.



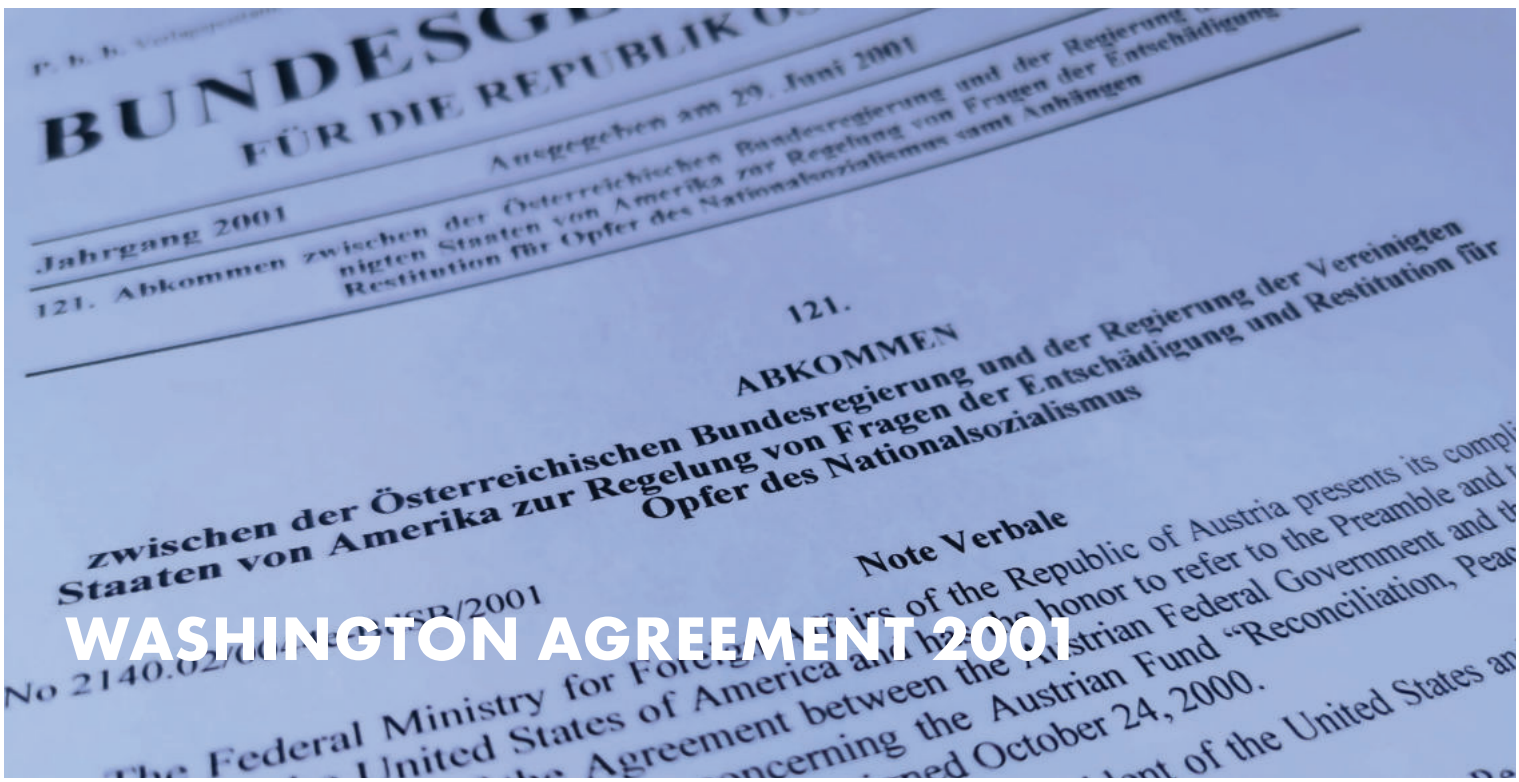
Images of the new exhibition. Below right: Items hidden by inmates that were discovered in April 2020 during the renovation of Block 17.

The original exhibition, which opened in 1978, largely glossed over the role played by Austrians in Nazi atrocities. Therefore, the Austrian Government entrusted the National Fund with the task of renewing the content and design of the exhibition and overseeing the restoration of the listed building that houses the exhibition. Following a pan-European call to tender the National Fund appointed a team led by curators Hannes Sulzenbacher and Albert Lichtblau to conceive and architect Martin Kohlbauer to design the new exhibition.

The National Fund is responsible for overseeing the content of the exhibition, ensuring its day-to-day operation and running the exhibition website.



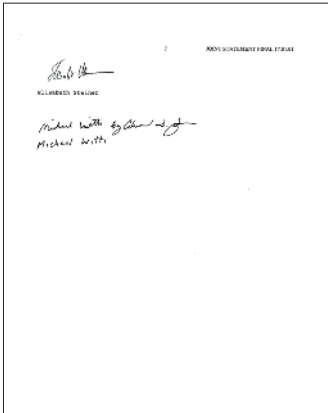
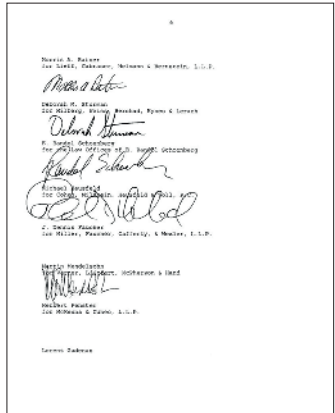
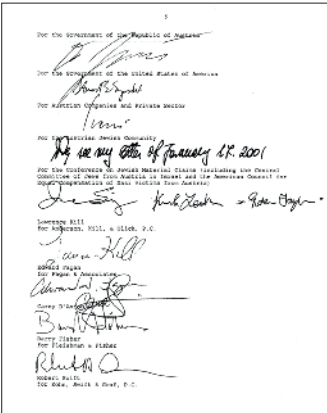
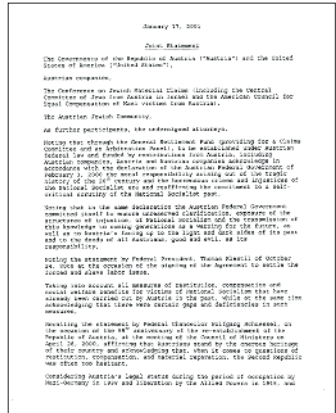
[www.auschwitz.at](http://www.auschwitz.at)



On 17 January 2001 representatives of the Republic of Austria, the United States of America and Nazi victims' organisations signed the "Joint Statement" in Washington D.C. This formed the basis for the "Agreement between the Austrian Federal Government and the Government of the United States of America on the Settlement of Questions of Compensation and Restitution for Victims of National Socialism". This international treaty set out concrete measures to benefit the Nazis' victims in a ten-item annex. Many of these measures were or are implemented by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria, the General Settlement Fund and the Fund for the Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries in Austria.



An historic moment: U.S. chief negotiator Stuart Eizenstat and the representatives of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, Israel Singer and Gideon Taylor, (from left to right) at the signing of the Joint Statement in Washington on 17 January 2001.



The first and the last three pages of the Joint Statement.

[www.nationalfonds.org/washington-agreement](http://www.nationalfonds.org/washington-agreement)



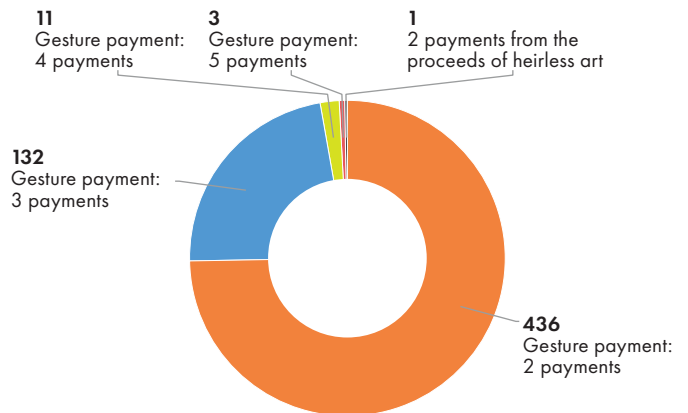


# GESTURE PAYMENT AND COMPENSATION FOR SEIZED TENANCY RIGHTS

The National Fund makes symbolic payments to those persecuted by the Nazi regime in recognition of their victimhood, so-called gesture payments in the amount of 5,087.10 euros (originally 70,000 Austrian schillings).

In certain cases, victim recognition payments in the same amount as the gesture payment can be made using the proceeds raised by the National Fund from "heirless" looted art. The National Fund uses these proceeds for the benefit of victims of National Socialism.

In the past, payments have also been made from the "Looted Gold Fund" and the "Hardship Compensation Fund". These funds, also administered by the National Fund, have now been expended.



Survivors in need of extra financial assistance may receive additional payments. Until 2021, a maximum of three payments per person was allowed. Since 2021, provision has been made for further payments when needed, in order to be able to offer additional financial support to people living in particularly difficult circumstances (mostly related to old age).

## Victim recognition payments since 1995

Gesture payments	29,842 persons
Payments from "heirless" art proceeds	30 persons
Payments from the Hardship Compensation Fund	100 persons
Payments from the Looted Gold Fund	48 persons
Total victim recognition payments	30,020 persons



According to the calculations of the Austrian Historical Commission, by April 1945 more than 59,000 rented flats in Vienna had been "aryanzized": many Jewish tenants were evicted and moved into collective housing from where they were deported to extermination camps. In 1948, a law on the restitution of tenancy and property rights was negotiated but never enacted.

## COMPENSATION FOR SEIZED TENANCY RIGHTS

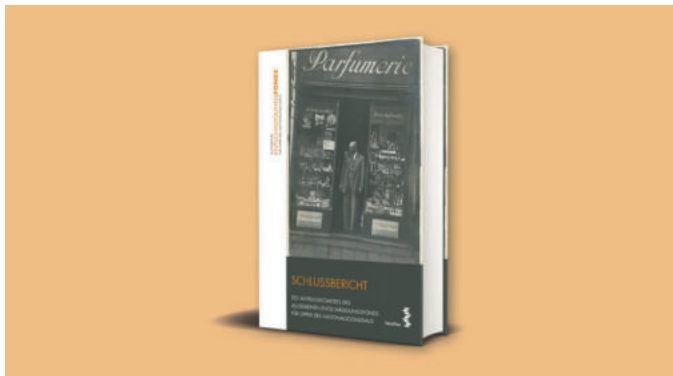
Since 2001, the National Fund has awarded survivors compensation totalling around 175 million euros for the loss of property rights to apartments and commercial premises, household effects and personal valuables. These awards took the form of a lump sum payment in the amount of 7,630 euro and an additional payment in the amount of 1,000 euros per person. The remaining funds were used for programmes benefitting the victims of National Socialism.

### Seized tenancy rights compensation

7,630 euros	20,344 persons
1,000 euros	19,623 persons

[www.nationalfonds.org/  
compensation-for-seized-tenancy-rights](http://www.nationalfonds.org/compensation-for-seized-tenancy-rights)





The Final Report by the Claims Committee of the General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism provides an insight into one of the largest Austrian compensation projects after 1945: *Allgemeiner Entschädigungsfonds für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus* (ed.), *Schlussbericht des Antragkomitees des Allgemeinen Entschädigungsfonds*, Vienna 2020 (currently only available in German).

The General Settlement Fund for Victims of National Socialism was established in 2001 on the basis of the Washington Agreement. Its objective was to provide a comprehensive solution to open questions of compensation for losses and damages incurred by Nazi victims as a consequence of or in connection with events that occurred on the territory of the present-day Republic of Austria during the Nazi era.

The Fund had the task of expressing Austria's moral responsibility for asset losses suffered by victims of the Nazi regime in Austria

between 1938 and 1945 in the form of *ex gratia* payments. This applied to losses which had not been (adequately) dealt with by previous Austrian restitution or compensation measures.

The amounts awarded were based on the individually determined asset losses and payments were made in proportion to the total amount available (*pro rata* payments). An independent, internationally-composed Claims Committee decided on 20,702 applications containing approximately 150,000 individual claims. Some 25,000 Nazi victims or their heirs received compensation payments totalling around 215 million U.S. dollars.

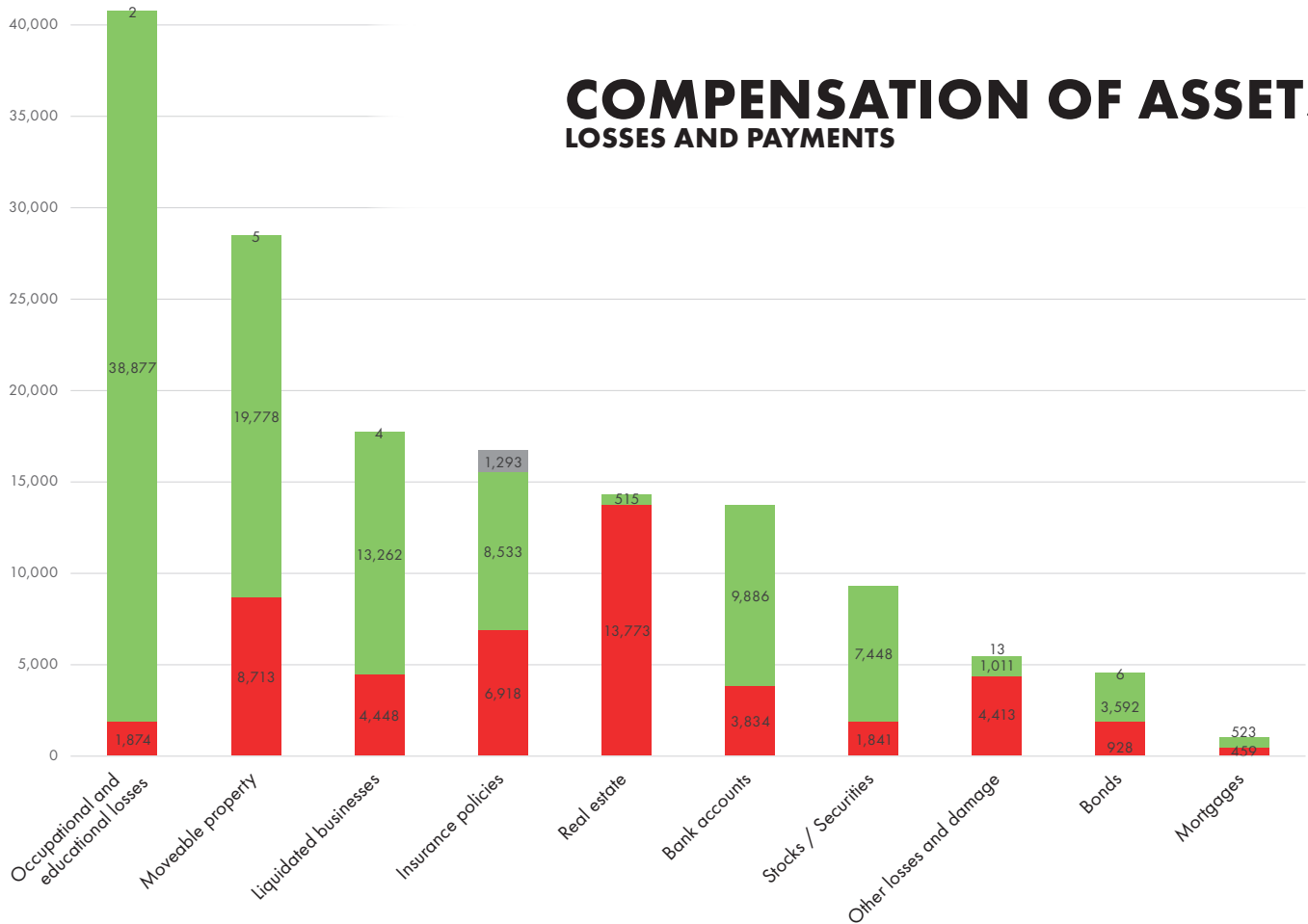


The Claims Committee of the General Settlement Fund, (from left to right) Kurt Hofmann († 2020), Sir Franklin Berman, G. Jonathan Greenwald, was dissolved in 2017 following the completion of its tasks.

[www.entschaedigungsfonds.org/  
monetary-compensation](http://www.entschaedigungsfonds.org/monetary-compensation)

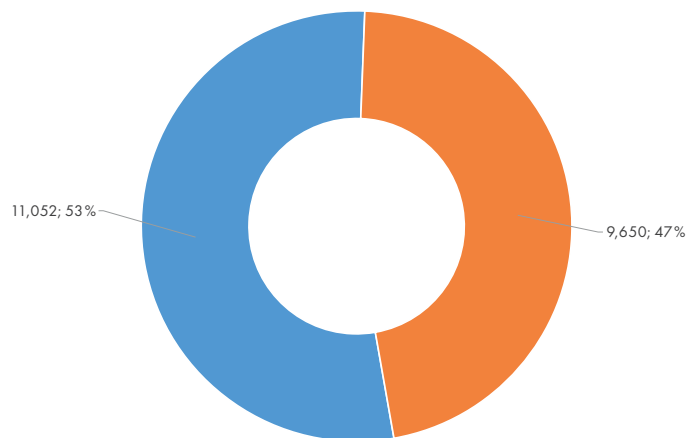


# COMPENSATION OF ASSETS LOSSES AND PAYMENTS



The Claims Committee of the General Settlement Fund could award compensation for individual losses and damage in ten different categories. This task was incomparably more complex than other national or international compensation measures, where claims could be filed in just a few categories of assets or compensation was awarded in lump sums.

In total, the Claims Committee decided on 151,949 claims – over two thirds of which were accepted. Around 32 % related to occupational and educational losses, a further 22 % to liquidated businesses and around 15 % involved stocks and securities. The remaining 31 % were distributed among the other categories of assets.



The diagram above shows the asset categories in which claims were made and how many of them were granted (green), rejected (red) or not decided on (grey) by the Claims Committee. Most of the merited claims related to occupational and educational losses (38,877), movable property (19,778) and liquidated businesses (13,262). These results reflect Austrian post-war restitution policy, which followed the principle of only restituting assets that still existed after 1945. The majority of rejected claims concerned real estate (13,773), most of which had already been dealt with by earlier restitution measures and had been restituted or compensated in a financial settlement.

Applicants before the Claims Committee n=20,702, applicants as heirs (orange) or the originally injured party (blue). Out of a total of 20,702 persons, 9,650 (47 %) applied for compensation as heirs of persecuted persons and 11,052 (53 %) also requested compensation for losses they had incurred personally.



# THE ARBITRATION PANEL FOR *IN REM* RESTITUTION



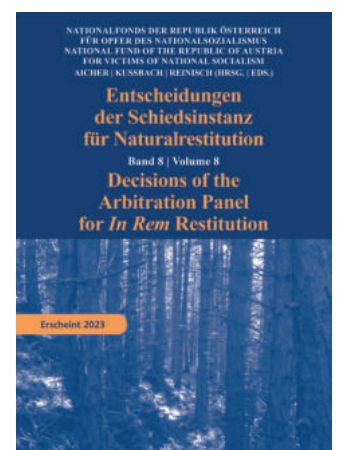
The Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution was established on the basis of the Washington Agreement of 2001 and could recommend the restitution of real estate, superstructures, and the moveable assets of Jewish communal organizations, if they had been seized between 1938 and 1945 and were publicly owned on 17 January 2001.

In cases where the claim to restitution had already been decided on by Austrian courts or administrative bodies or settled by agreement, the Arbitration Panel could only recommend *in rem* restitution if it considered the prior measure in question to have constituted an “extreme injustice”.

In total, the Arbitration Panel issued 1,582 decisions and was dissolved in 2021 having completed its tasks. Its decisions are published in anonymous form in a bilingual (German and English) database on the website of the General Settlement Fund. Since 2008 the decisions of the Arbitration Panel have also been published in a bilingual book series.



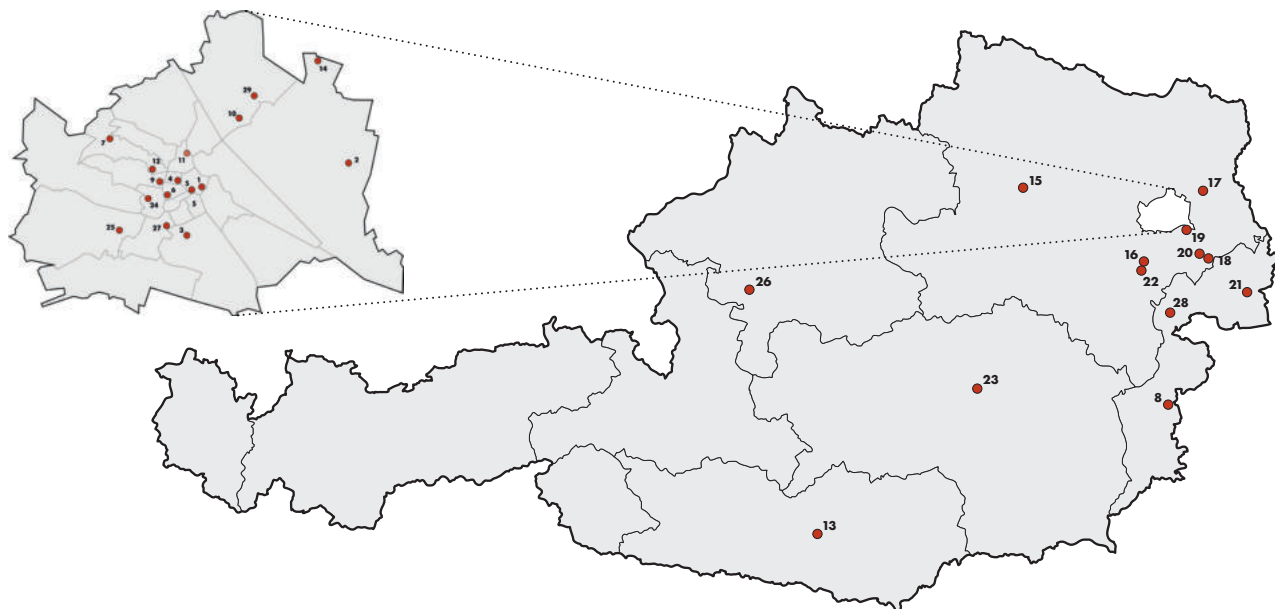
Topographical distribution of the requested properties according to cadastral districts, online at [maps.nationalfonds.org/sigis](https://maps.nationalfonds.org/sigis).



Volume 7 and volume 8 of the book series “Decisions of the Arbitration Panel for *In Rem* Restitution”

[www.entschaedigungsfonds.org/  
in-rem-restitution](https://www.entschaedigungsfonds.org/in-rem-restitution)





## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ARBITRATION PANEL FOR *IN REM* RESTITUTION

In total, the Arbitration Panel granted 140 applications for *in rem* restitution. The overall value of the properties that the Arbitration Panel recommended for restitution is approx. 48 million euros. Every one of its recommendations was implemented by the public owners.

The images of Vienna and Austria above show the location of the properties recommended for *in rem* restitution. The red dots indicate the location of the properties. The numbers correspond to those in the table below, which lists the decisions chronologically according to date of issue and with the federal province and cadastral district.

Number	Decision number/s	Federal province, cadastral district
1	3/2003	Vienna, Innere Stadt
2	24/2005	Vienna, Aspern
3	25/2005, 25a/2005	Vienna, Inzersdorf-Stadt
4	27/2005, 27a/2006, 27c/2008	Vienna, Josefstadt
5	88/2006, 88a/2006, 88b/2007	Vienna, Innere Stadt
6	89/2006, 89a/2006, 550/2009, 550a/2009	Vienna, Neubau
7	206/2006, 206a/2008	Vienna, Neuwaldegg
8	WA1/2007	Burgenland, Althodis, Neuhodis Markt
9	WA2/2007, WA2a/2008	Vienna, Neulerchenfeld
10	481/2008, 481a/2008	Vienna, Donauefeld
11	482/2008, 482a/2009	Vienna, Alsergrund
12	507/2008	Vienna, Hernals
13	533/2009	Carinthia, Steindorf
14	643/2010, 643a/2010	Vienna, Süssenbrunn
15	654/2010, 654a/2010	Lower Austria, Willendorf
16	700/2010, 700a/2011	Lower Austria, Bad Vöslau
17	735/2011, 735a/2011	Lower Austria, Markgrafneusiedl
18	737/2011, 737a/2011	Lower Austria, Sommerein
19	872/2012, 872a/2013	Lower Austria, Schwechat
20	961/2013, 961a/2013	Lower Austria, Sommerein
21	977/2013, 977a/2014	Burgenland, Frauenkirchen
22	1005/2013, 1005a/2014	Lower Austria, Kottlingbrunn
23	1034/2014, 1034a/2015	Styria, Judendorf
24	1106/2015, 1106a/2015	Vienna, Rudolfshaus
25	1121/2015, 1121a/2015, WA14/2016, 1121b/2016, 1121c/2016	Vienna, Hietzing
26	1135/2015, WA13/2015, WA13a/2016	Upper Austria, Steinbach am Attersee
27	1151/2015, 1151a/2016	Vienna, Meidling
28	1160/2016, 1160a/2016	Burgenland, Mattersburg
29	1526/2018, 1526a/2018	Vienna, Leopoldau

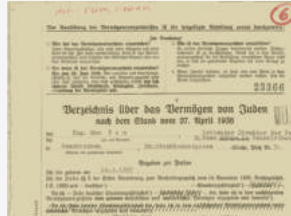
[www.entschaedigungsfonds.org](http://www.entschaedigungsfonds.org)





**19,624**

historical land register extracts



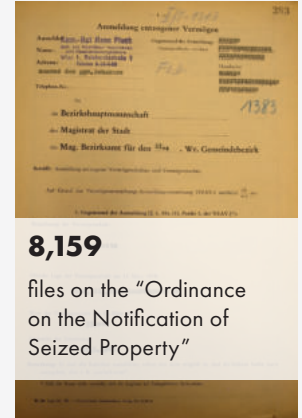
**17,315**

property notices



**10,902**

enquiries made with insurance archives



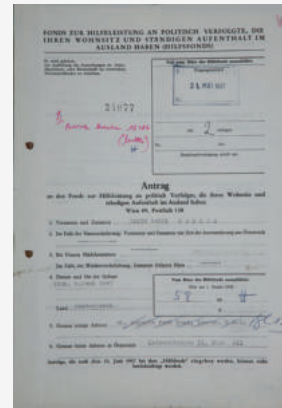
**8,159**

files on the "Ordinance on the Notification of Seized Property"

## HISTORICAL RESEARCH AT THE GENERAL SETTLEMENT FUND

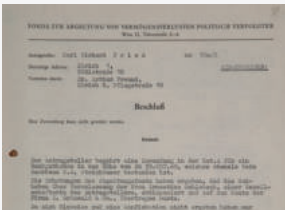
The historical research carried out at the General Settlement Fund formed an indispensable basis for the legal processing of the applications. In order to ensure the equal treatment of all applicants, care was taken to ensure that the same, in part very extensive, source material in archives was taken into account in each case. When special questions arose, the historians undertook specific, case-related research.

In total, the historical research department obtained **41,796** files and documents from archives, **19,624** historical land register excerpts, and carried out insurance policy research **10,902** times.



In addition, research was carried out using guardianship, victims' welfare and probate files, files from the office of the "Liquidation Commissar", from the holdings of the Assistance Fund at the Archives of the Republic (Austrian State Archives), extracts from the register of associations, residents' files, citizenship records, and files from the holdings of the Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments.

[www.entschaedigungsfonds.org](http://www.entschaedigungsfonds.org)



**4,864**

files of the Compensation Fund



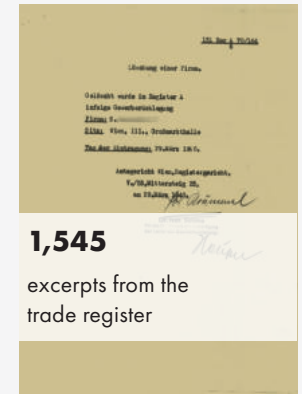
**3,404**

files from other holdings of the Provincial Archives



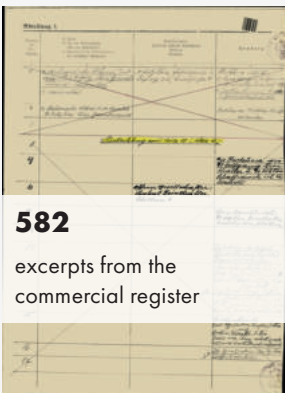
**5,750**

registration queries



**1,545**

excerpts from the trade register



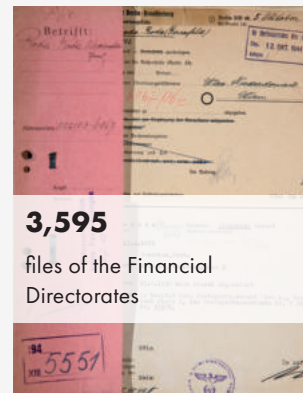
**582**

excerpts from the commercial register



**462**

files of the Property Transaction Office



**3,595**

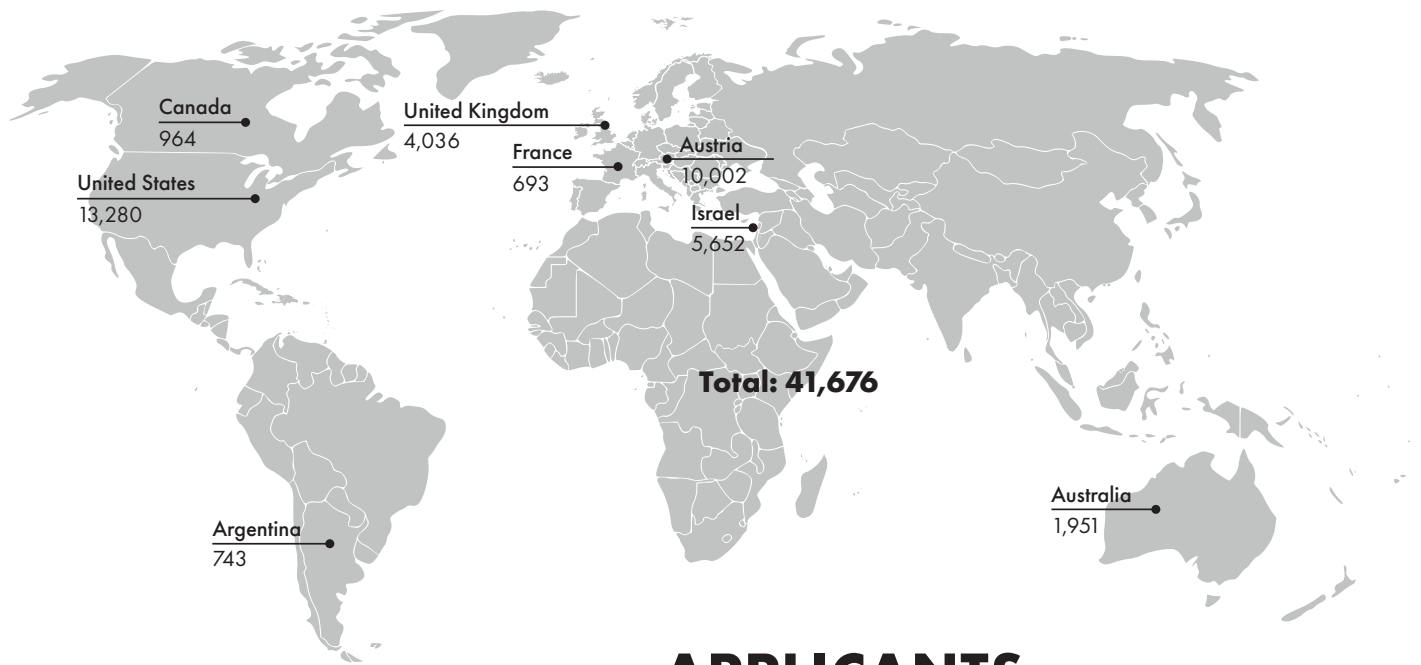
files of the Financial Directorates



**1,486**

files of the Collection Agencies A and B



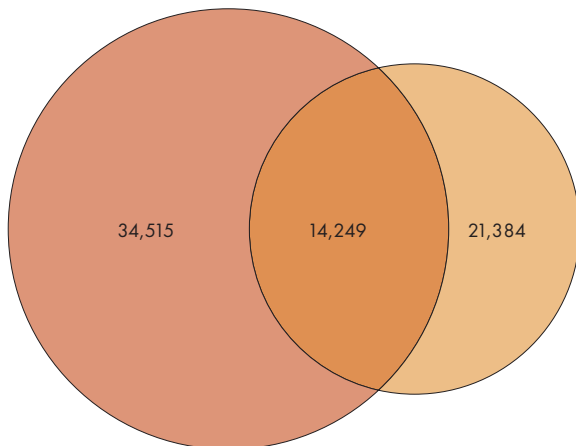


## APPLICANTS NATIONAL FUND AND GENERAL SETTLEMENT FUND

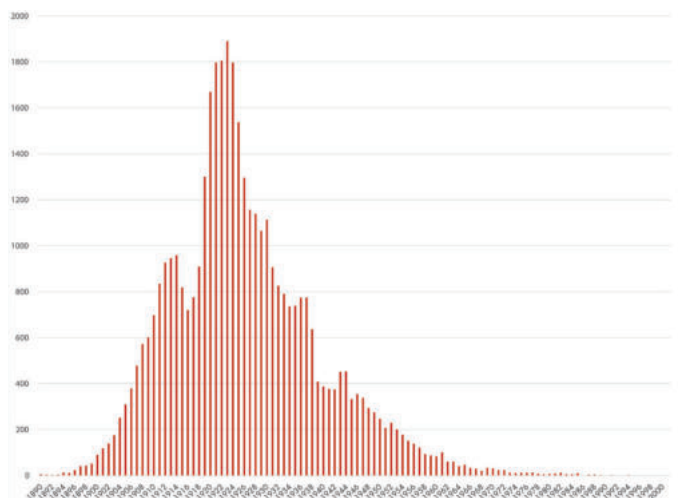
The applicants of the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund live or lived in over 80 countries around the world. The overwhelming majority of Austrians who fled persecution in Austria during the Nazi era did not return, but remained in their countries of refuge and exile after the war ended in 1945. The country in which most applicants live is the U.S.A., followed by Austria, Israel, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, Argentina and France.

Since 1995, more than 34,000 persons have contacted the National Fund and submitted an application. Around two thirds of the applicants to the National Fund also submitted an application to the General Settlement Fund: a total of 2,307 applications have been filed for *in rem* restitution and 20,702 for compensation of asset losses.

The world map above shows the countries in which applicants of the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund live or lived.



The number of persons who filed applications with the National Fund, with the General Settlement Fund and with both Funds. Left circle: applicants to the National Fund (34,515); Right circle: applicants to the General Settlement Fund (21,384); Intersection: number of persons who have filed an application with both the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund (14,249).



Applicants to the National Fund and the General Settlement Fund by year of birth. All applicants born between 1890 and 2000 are included.





# THE SIMON WIESENTHAL PRIZE

After surviving the Nazi concentration camps, Simon Wiesenthal (1908–2005) dedicated his life to hunting down Nazi criminals and bringing them to justice. Wiesenthal was also an advocate for vigilance and a tireless crusader against antisemitism. Austria bears a special historical responsibility and must remain watchful of the emergence of antisemitic sentiment. For this reason and to honour Wiesenthal's life's work, in 2020 the Austrian Parliament created the Simon Wiesenthal Prize for special civic engagement to combat antisemitism and for educating people about the Holocaust. This prize is awarded annually by the National Fund of the Republic of Austria and is endowed with 30,000 euros. Both individuals and groups such as school projects, associations and other groups are eligible to enter for the prize.

The inspiration for the Simon Wiesenthal Prize came about on a trip to Israel in July 2018, when National Council President Wolfgang Sobotka met with Simon Wiesenthal's granddaughter, Rachel Kreisberg.



The members of the Simon Wiesenthal Prize Jury sit for the duration of one legislative term. The current jury members are: Brigitte Bailier, Oskar Deutsch, Ariel Muzicant, Katharina von Schnurbein (Chairperson), Monika Schwarz-Friesel and Barbara Stelzl-Marx.

The prize winners are nominated by a jury and selected by the Board of Trustees of the National Fund. In 2021, the Simon Wiesenthal Prize was announced for the first time: 288 entries were received from over 30 countries worldwide – from Austria, Germany and other European countries, from Israel and the U.S.A., as well as from Asia, Australia, South America and Canada.

[www.wiesenthalprize.at](http://www.wiesenthalprize.at)





## DOCUMENTING LIFE STORIES

The documentation and publication of life stories is of key importance to the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism. In view of the current change of generations it is crucial to document these biographical recollections and make them available to a wider public, both as a valuable historical resource and in order to safeguard the memory of the victims of the Nazis. For many survivors and their families, the publication of their stories is perceived as a significant act of personal recognition.

The National Fund has been publishing the autobiographical testimonies of survivors of the Nazi period since the year 2000.

Volume 6 of the book series "Lives Remembered. Life Stories of Victims of National Socialism" about "Survival in Auschwitz".

The online collection contains over 120 life stories in German and English, as well as videos in which Nazi victims relate their experiences.

The National Fund has been publishing the book series "Lives Remembered. Life Stories of Victims of National Socialism" since 2011. The series, which so far comprises six volumes, is distributed to libraries and archives in Austria and abroad and to schools throughout the country, where it can be put to versatile use in lessons.



*I thought that I had come to terms with the past and was stunned by how deep my wounds still are. [...] But writing it all down started a healing process. I feel that even if no one reads it now, it is on record for the future.*

Margit Korn

[www.nationalfonds.org/  
life-stories](http://www.nationalfonds.org/life-stories)



