



## National Fund for Victims of National Socialism Figures. Data. Facts.

### Statistical Overview\*

**National Fund:** From 1995 until 2005, 31'962 applications reached the National Fund. In 29'598 cases, each applicant received 5'087 EUR resp. the total amount of 150 million EUR. In total, 385 projects were supported. Applications are still being accepted.

**Hardship Fund:** 500'000 EUR from project funds of the National Fund. Since 1999, payments to 76 persons.

**Looted Gold-Pot:** 7,8 million EUR of so-called looted-gold funds, out of the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund. Since 1999, funding of 163 projects worldwide and individual payments to 46 persons who are socially in need.

**Compensation for Tenancy Rights:** Allocated with 150 million USD in 2001. Deadline for application ended on 30 June 2004. Payments to 20'245 persons of 7'630 EUR each. Additional payments for 16,181 entitled applicants of 1'000 EUR each.

\*Figures as of 21.10.2005

### National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism

**Address:** Parlament, Dr. Karl-Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Wien  
**Tel.:** (+43 1) 408 12 63, **Fax:** (+43 1) 408 03 89  
**E-Mail:** sekretariat@nationalfonds.org  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nationalfonds.org>  
**Press:** [presse@nationalfonds.org](mailto:presse@nationalfonds.org)

### General Settlement Fund

**Address:** Parlament, Dr. Karl-Renner-Ring 3, 1017 Wien  
**Tel.:** (+43 1) 408 12 63, **Fax:** (+43 1) 310 00 88  
**E-Mail:** [gfsf-sekretariat@nationalfonds.org](mailto:gfsf-sekretariat@nationalfonds.org)  
**Homepage:** <http://www.nationalfonds.org>  
**Press:** [presse@nationalfonds.org](mailto:presse@nationalfonds.org)

Fotos: Walter Reichl Grafik: Bernhard Rothkappel

*"We all know that the payments by the National Fund can only represent and remain a gesture, but gestures are also important if you are wanting to make the effort of a true and lasting reconciliation."*

Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of the Republic of Austria



## Origin

The National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism was established per federal law (BGBl. Nr. 432/1995) on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Second Republic. The aim was to express Austria's special responsibility towards the victims of the Nazi regime.

The establishment of the National Fund with the Parliament reflects this objective. The President of the National Assembly presides over the Board of Trustees and the Committee, which are the executive bodies of the National Fund. Eligible for payments by the National Fund ("gesture payments") are all persons who were persecuted by the Nazi regime for "political reasons, reasons of origin, religion, nationality, sexual orientation, a physical or mental disability or for the accusation of so-called asociality" or "who were otherwise victims of typical national socialist injustice". The National Fund, for the first time, took into consideration Nazi victims who until then had experienced no or inadequate recognition by the Republic of Austria; the "Spiegelgrund children", homosexuals, victims of Nazi military justice, and Roma and Sinti.

## Far-reaching Tasks

The National Fund, planned by the legislator originally with a time limit, has developed into an institution whose duties go far beyond those of a mere payment agency.

Persons who are socially in need have the possibility to receive second and third payments. In 1998, the National Fund was entrusted with the distribution of funds from the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund. In this connection, the National Fund administers the Austrian share of the so-called looted-gold funds

and with these finances worldwide payments for Holocaust survivors in need, as well as projects, which are dedicated to the remembrance and research of the Nazi horrors. Since 1999, there is the Hardship Fund for those surviving victims of National Socialism, which do not completely meet the legal prerequisites for a payment. Raising awareness in regard to National Socialism and its aftermath is one of the lasting tasks of the National Fund: it is achieved through the financing, among other things, of cultural and historical projects. In addition, the Fund is incumbent on the utilization of "unclaimed" looted art from public property.

## General Settlement Fund

A solution of extant open questions regarding property losses, which were caused by persecution, was found in the Washington Agreement of 17 January 2001. On its account, the National Fund was entrusted with two further tasks: the compensation for tenancy rights (compensation for apartment and small business leases, household property and personal valuables) as well as the administrative support of the General Settlement Fund.

It is the General Settlement Fund's task to provide an extensive and conclusive compensation for material losses, which have been suffered by victims of the Nazi regime on the territory of the present-day Republic of Austria. Losses which have already been covered by earlier restitution measures and monetary compensations are not included. Directly affected persons as well as their heirs are entitled to this compensation. Compensation categories reach from liquidated businesses to insurance policies, from bank accounts to bonds, up to occupational or educational losses. Different from the lump

sum payment by the National Fund and from the compensation for tenancy rights, the General Settlement Fund provides a compensation in proportion to the amount of losses applied for. In consequence, the registration and examination of all individual losses has become necessary and concerns around 200'000 claims from over 19'000 applications, which have reached the Fund until the 28 May 2003. A proportionally reduced payment from the compensation amount, totalling 210 million USD, will be possible only after the assessment of all losses.

## Building Bridges

In comparison to the work of the General Settlement Fund which, due to its broad range of duties, necessitates more time, the compensation for tenancy rights as an emergency measure was realized relatively quickly. In its position as the official contact between the Republic of Austria and victims of National Socialism, the National Fund still continues to accept applications for the "gesture payment": "In our daily work, personal contact with applicants is crucial" emphasizes Hannah M. Lessing, Secretary General of the National Fund and of the General Settlement Fund. Formerly persecuted and expelled persons used this opportunity to speak with a representative of the official Austria about their own fate, as well as the fate of their families and friends. "This symbolic bridging from the Republic to the victims around the world", Hannah M. Lessing states, "was put into action through the work of the National Fund." Over 18'000 persons have personally visited the National Fund or made contact with representatives of the National Fund during one of the numerous information events abroad.