

**EUROPEAN MEMORY DATA SPACE
(EMDS) - BLUEPRINT**

Kickoff Series Program



ABOUT THE PROJECT

Where do Holocaust Memory and Education meet European Data Spaces?

Holocaust memory and education represent a fundamental commitment of the European Union. As time goes by and fewer individuals remain to share lived experiences, our increasingly digital society sees Holocaust memory and education becoming mediated by digital technologies—a trend set to continue.

However, envisioning Holocaust memory in the digital realm and implementing effective projects, applications, and infrastructures raises fundamental technological, business, ethical and organisational questions. How can archives and museums, while adhering to their core mission of curation and preservation, effectively support the development of digital tools based on their digitised collections? As our interaction with Holocaust materials is increasingly mediated by online platforms and apps, how do we ensure the longevity of curated content, the interactions they facilitate, and the value they create, beyond the often short lifespans of these digital interfaces? As AI can generate seemingly authentic documents, images, and footage, how can we maintain trust in digital Holocaust materials? What even constitutes a monument in this changing digital world?

These pressing questions gain urgency as the European Commission launches an ambitious and timely innovation: **European Common Data Spaces**. The strategic objective of the

data spaces is to conceive and design new, holistic approaches for managing and using data at the level of ecosystems and domains, moving beyond individual organisations and data collections. The European Commission has already funded and launched data spaces in several sectors, including vital societal domains such as cultural heritage, media, and tourism.

The European Memory Data Space (EMDS) - Blueprint project makes a powerful statement: Holocaust memory and education are a foundational societal concern demanding a systemic approach to how our society organises, shares, and uses the vast digitised collections made accessible over recent decades by numerous European archives and institutions. How should a data space dedicated to these timeless materials be designed, and how can professionals, activists, and citizens be involved in the design process? What lessons can be learnt from existing data space projects?

The European Data Spaces program presents a strategic opportunity for Europe to fundamentally rethink how isolated data collections can be turned into interconnected data markets for businesses, and data ecosystems for societal needs. The EMDS project invites you to actively contribute to this critical thinking within the essential domain of Holocaust memory.

About the Kickoff Series of Events

All the events are taking place in the National Holocaust Museum in Amsterdam

Plantage Middenlaan 27, 1018 DB Amsterdam, Netherlands

EVENT 1

EMDS Blueprint Kickoff

June 5, 2025 | 9:00-12:00

The internal kick-off event will be a half-day workshop, bringing together project partners and close stakeholders to reinforce the project's vision and ambitions. It will feature presentations on the European Data Spaces and the concept of the Visual Blueprint that the project aims to develop. The participants will provide feedback on the design and scope of the project, which will be incorporated into further organisation of individual events.

EVENT 2

Vision and Ambition

June 5, 2025 | 13:00-17:00

prominent figures working on Holocaust memory and education across a range of disciplines will gather to inspire the project with their vision for the future of the domain and the role of data in realising this vision. The visions will address such fundamental topics as longevity of digital remembrance projects, Holocaust memory and media, digital monuments and others. Using the presented visions as the starting point the entire group will continue to an intensive co-creation session to add comments and questions on the provided visions.

EVENT 3

Data Space Approaches
and Lessons Learnt

June 6, 2025 | 9:00-17:00

On June 6th, the gear will switch to practice and implementation with data space architects, platform vendors, and cultural heritage professionals gathering for a full-day deep dive into what it really takes to build a meaningful, inclusive, and sustainable data space. During the morning session, leading data space initiatives will share their experiences, expectations, and challenges. In the afternoon session, two high-paced round tables will bring together experts and stakeholders to translate vision into high-level functional requirements – and to discuss the realities of implementation.

Project Partners



Jewish Heritage Network is developing digital projects, services and ecosystems with forward-looking heritage institutions, entrepreneurs and funders. JHN's mission is to leverage innovative technologies to provide global access to Jewish heritage materials and develop transformative experiences for traditional and new audiences.



Centropa has the goal of preserving Jewish memory in Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Baltics, and the former Soviet Union. creates educational resources and films based on interviews and photographs collected from Jewish communities across Europe.



The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage aims to promote better knowledge and understanding of European history, create awareness of cultural diversity, and strengthen European citizens' cultural identity. The AEPJ coordinates and manages the European Route of Jewish Heritage, one of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.



The Post-Platforms Foundation aims to promote a decentralized version of Web 3.0 where users have full control over their data and digital identity. It envisions a future where platforms compete in providing services over the same users' data, and total security is built-in by design.

●●● Post Bellum

Post Bellum aims to increase public knowledge of the 20th century history of the Czech Republic and neighboring countries, especially among younger generations, by collecting and publishing personal testimonies of witnesses who lived through significant historical periods.



Terraforming develops educational methodologies and teaching materials, combining best practices in contemporary pedagogy with new-media technologies while facilitating multidisciplinary cross-sectoral international project cooperation and exchange.



The Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) creates partnerships throughout the world, strategically implementing new and creative solutions to combat antisemitism. It leverages the collective power of its broad-based coalition to unite individuals of all backgrounds in this fight.

EVENT 1

Blueprint Kick-off



National Holocaust Museum, Plantage Middenlaan 27, Amsterdam

5 June 2025, 9:00-12:00

Program

09:00 Doors Open & Morning Coffee

09:30 Welcome to European Memory Data Space • Pavel Kats - Jewish Heritage Network

Introduction to the project, its ambition and what makes this project unique in the landscape of European data spaces

09:45 Introduction into Data Spaces • Alex Tourski - Post-Platforms Foundation

Introduction to the Data Space vision of the European Commission and the progress in implementing this vision until now

10:00 SWAT Session • Kris Petrasova - JHN

A facilitated discussion session for participants to openly share the ideas on what can make this project a success. The participants's contributions will be guided by the SWOT model:

- **Strengths:** Where do you see strong parts of this project? How can they help us deliver a more impactful project?
- **Risks:** Where do you see risks for the project? Does the ambition of this project present a risk?
- **Opportunities:** What opportunities (collaborations, additional funding, resources) can you see made possible by this project?
- **Comments:** Anything else that comes to mind concerning this topic.

The outcome of this session should be a register of issues for project partners to address while planning the continuation of the project.

11:30 Closing

EVENT 2

Vision and Ambition

National Holocaust Museum, Plantage Middenlaan 27, Amsterdam

5 June 2025, 12:00-17:00

Program

12:30 Doors Open & Coffee

13:00 Welcome words • Emile Schrijver - general director Jewish Cultural Quarter

13:15 Session 1: Visionary Interventions on Fundamental Topics

15:00 Coffee Break

15:15 Session 2: Interactive Co-Creation - Commenting on the Visions

16:45 Closing

17:30 Drinks: De Plantage • Plantage Kerklaan 36, Amsterdam

20:00 Dinner: Esh Pitabar* • Moreelsestraat 1-3, Amsterdam

*Own Expense

Any significant endeavor starts with inspiration. In the case of the Data Space for Holocaust remembrance, where should we begin? Should we contemplate the potential of a Holocaust monument in the digital age? Reflect on the inherent perils – and opportunities? – that Artificial Intelligence presents for Holocaust memory? Or perhaps consider the valuable lessons learned from previous experiences in building digital solutions and infrastructures for Holocaust materials?

We believe the answer is all of the above, and more. These are some of the fundamental topics and perspectives that are essential for shaping a comprehensive vision for how the future of Holocaust memory and education can unfold in the digital realm. Crucially, these topics are interconnected and, therefore, should be discussed together, not in isolation.

This event has two goals: first, to gather critical insights and forward-thinking visions into each of these fundamental topics of digital memory. Second, to interconnect these individual visions through thoughtful and critical discussion.

In the first part of our session, several leading scholars, thinkers, and practitioners will deliver concise 10-minute visionary interventions. These will serve to articulate the main ideas, pressing questions, and key challenges related to their specific areas of expertise within digital Holocaust memory.

Following these insightful interventions, the second part of our session will involve a collaborative co-creation workshop. Here, we will collectively engage with the presented subjects, delve deeper into their implications, cite relevant examples, and explore the crucial connections between them.

Our overarching goal for this session is to jointly create a conceptual mind map for the future of digital Holocaust remembrance and education. This mind map will serve as a source of inspiration for the entire EMDS project and provide the foundational structure upon which we will develop specific requirements and concrete use-cases.

During this session several leaders will deliver their Visionary Interventions on different Strategic Topics on the future of Remembrance.

Session 1: Visionary Interventions on Fundamental Topics

01 Longevity of Digital Remembrance Projects

A recommendations guidebook for funders and policymakers published by the UN based on Prof. Victoria Grace Richardson-Walden's analysis, highlight short-termism and fragmentation as critical weaknesses in current digital memory and education projects. Indeed, digital initiatives that significantly outlive their funding are exceptions, not the norm. The digital landscape is marked by abandoned websites, unmaintained software, inaccessible data, and a consequent loss of value. Drawing on her experience with the Landecker Digital Lab, Victoria will share her insights on transitioning from the short-term focus and siloed thinking that undermine public digital projects and infrastructures to genuinely prioritizing longevity and sustainability, moving beyond typical 2-5 year funding cycles to cultivate a long-term vision spanning decades and even longer.



HOST

Prof. Victoria Grace Richardson-Walden

The primary investigator of the Landecker Digital Lab, leading the research, impact and knowledge exchange strategy. She holds the positions of Professor of Digital Memory, Heritage and Culture, and Deputy Director of the Sussex Weidenfeld Institute of Jewish Studies. She is also an Executive Board Member of the UK's Media Education Association. Her background is in Media, Film and Memory Studies.

02 Remembrance and Media

From the footage captured by Allied forces liberating Nazi concentration camps, through landmark works like Claude Lanzmann's Shoah and Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List, to contemporary discussions around Holocaust-related content on platforms such as TikTok, media has consistently been central to public communication and remembrance of the Holocaust. Looking ahead, the media landscape is widely predicted to undergo radical changes, with trends like extreme personalization, immersive experiences, increased participation, and new forms of social engagement on the horizon. Dr. Ingo Zechner, Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History (LBIDH) and coordinator of the HE project Visual History of the Holocaust, will reflect on how these evolving media trends might shape Holocaust remembrance and education, and what potential opportunities they may offer.



HOST

Dr. Ingo Zechner

Ingo Zechner is a philosopher and historian directing the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History in Vienna. His extensive experience includes research on provenance, restitution, and archives at the Jewish Community Vienna, where he also headed their Holocaust Victims Information and Support Center. He was the founding managing director of the Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies and held research positions at the Austrian Labor History Society and the IFK International Research Center for Cultural Studies in Vienna.

03 Public Digital Infrastructures

Public digital infrastructures are the primary means for European authorities to foster innovation, particularly within societal domains like remembrance. However, the current landscape of significant infrastructure projects suffers from a lack of coordination, duplicated efforts, siloed mentality, and overall confusion. This Intervention directly addresses this challenge: What is the path forward to build effective and sustainable digital infrastructures for Holocaust memory and education?

HOST - TBD

04 What is a monument in the digital age?

Our public spaces now offer novel opportunities for combining physical and digital remembrance. Growing amounts of historical content, coupled with rapidly advancing technologies like Augmented Reality (AR), can superimpose reconstructed virtual worlds onto physical reality, adding layers of meaning, interpretation, and interaction, engaging the public both onsite and online. Memorials like the National Holocaust Names Memorial or the Hollandsche Schouwburg, both parts of the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, are urban nerve centers where personal meets public, history meets present, and commemoration meets politics. What is even a monument in the digital age? Prof. Emile Schrijver, General Director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter, will reflect on how a society accelerating into its future can remember its past.



HOST

Prof. Emile Schrijver

Prof. Emile G.L. Schrijver (1962) is the General Director of the Jewish Cultural Quarter in Amsterdam, encompassing several key Jewish cultural and Holocaust memorial sites. He is also a professor of the "History of the Jewish Book" at the University of Amsterdam and curates the Braginsky Collection of Hebrew Manuscripts and Printed Books in Zurich. Additionally, he is the executive editor of the Encyclopedia of Jewish Book Cultures. Schrijver serves on various boards of Jewish cultural organizations and is also a published author of fiction and non-fiction works on Jewish history and antisemitism.

05 Holocaust Education

In his Intervention, Misko Stanisić will explore the role of Holocaust education in the evolving landscape of digital remembrance. The challenge is not only to adopt digital tools in education but to shape the digital memory, tools, and practices through education, embedding critical thinking, ethical reflection, and historical accuracy. How can educators harness emerging technologies to engage new generations, preserve authenticity, and counter distortion, and at the same time, how can student-generated content deepen learning and strengthen digital citizenship, critical media consumption, and ethical online behavior? Can we reimagine Holocaust education as a driver of meaningful digital memory, grounded in pedagogy and guided by responsibility?



HOST

Miško Stanišić

Miško Stanišić co-founded and directs Terraforming, a Serbian NGO dedicated to improving Holocaust education, strengthening memory, and fighting antisemitism through innovative educational materials. Author of the "Ester" graphic novel series, he brings many years of international NGO experience in project development and collaboration, specializing in connecting diverse institutions and organizations. Miško creates teaching materials, exhibitions, and leads workshops on teaching and learning about the Holocaust and genocide of the Roma, media literacy, and distortion and abuse of history for nationalist propaganda. He is a member of the Serbian Delegation to the IHRA.

06 Funding for Innovation

The realization of any innovation crucially depends on securing sufficient funding from state entities, philanthropic organizations, or private investors. Yet, the prevailing funding environment for innovation in societal domains, such as remembrance, often impedes systemic innovation. Despite ambitious statements from funders, conservative policies, lengthy approval processes, red tape and a reluctance to embrace risk can obstruct progress. Benny Fischer, formerly the Program Director of the Alfred Landecker Foundation, will consider a crucial question: Can we anticipate the development of a new generation of funding approaches capable of supporting transformative projects in digital memory and education?



HOST

Benjamin Fischer

Benny is a European activist for digital and minority rights, and former Program Director at the Alfred Landecker Foundation, focusing on data-driven activism. Previously, he held key digital and public affairs roles in Jewish organizations in Germany and Europe, and consulted on combating online hate. He helped establish several initiatives and AI tools in this area. A former president of the European Union of Jewish Students and the German Jewish Student Union, he now serves on multiple boards. He holds degrees in politics, law, and an EMBA.

07 What to do with all the Data?

Data and information sources are fundamental for creating museums, monuments, and other ways to know, educate and remember. Today, driven by widespread digitisation and accessible digital technologies, the volume of data is rapidly expanding. AI tools now possess the capability to process and meaningfully connect these massive datasets, generating new spaces of understanding. Theoretically, our capacity to know and tell more and better about specific historical events, individuals, and places should expand immensely, as AI allows us to combine and align diverse sources, reconstruct rich timelines and maps with exceptional detail, and reconstruct contexts. In practice, however, we often find ourselves overwhelmed by this deluge of data, struggling to navigate poorly connected silos, disparate formats, and conflicting usage frameworks. Can we truly master the unprecedented amounts of data now at our disposal?



HOST

Jesse de Vos

A project manager at WO2Net, a foundation that brings together Dutch WW2-collections, enriches and contextualizes these to then present them to a general audience. A recent project he did dealt with the colonial collections of the former Dutch Indies. His previous experience include the enrichment and publication of audiovisual collections. He has also been involved with the Network for Digital Heritage in the Netherlands that aims to direct the heritage field towards a 'distributed network of heritage information', by applying existing standards for sustainability and interoperability.

Session 2: Interactive Co-Creation - Commenting on the Visions

This session will move participants through a dynamic process of actively engaging with and expanding upon the visionary statements presented. Attendees will contribute their insights and perspectives in a variety of structured formats, fostering a rich and collaborative dialogue.

Participants can offer:

- **Comments**

Statements that affirm and further develop aspects of the presented visions, adding layers of detail and nuance.

- **Examples**

Concrete instances – projects, events, stories, or other identifiable elements – that illustrate, exemplify, or challenge the ideas within the visions.

- **Questions**

Thought-provoking inquiries that push the boundaries of the formulated visions and encourage deeper exploration.

- **Connections**

Observations that highlight relationships between the presented visions and other elements within the session, such as other visions or participant contributions.

The expected outcome of this session is an annotated mind-map of fundamental topics concerning the future of Holocaust.

Comment

A statement confirming a part of the vision and specifying it further with another idea.

Question

A question, for preference a challenging one, to the formulated vision. *For example: How can this work in the world where data authenticity is fundamentally challenged by AI-produced fakes?*

Example

A specific example of a project, event, story or anything else easily identifiable that can serve as an example, illustration, or contradiction to the idea expressed in the vision. *For example: A project, paper or exhibition dealing with a related issue.*

Connection

A comment emphasizing a connection between the formulated vision and just any other element. *For example: In the room - another Vision, a comment.*

EVENT 3



Data Space Approaches and Lessons Learnt

National Holocaust Museum, Plantage Middenlaan 27, Amsterdam

6 June 2025, 9:00-17:00

Program

09:00 Doors Open & Morning Coffee

09:30 Opening Pitch • Pavel Kats - JHN & Alex Tourski - PPF

We open the day with a strategic look at the European Memory Data Space (EMDS) – its long-term vision, the challenges of fragmented memory infrastructures, and the political and historical urgency behind the project. The session will lay the foundation for the day's work: digesting the high-level goals from the previous day into concrete functional requirements needed to make EMDS viable.

09:45 The Landscape of Data Space Initiatives: What Have We Learned So Far?

Speakers: Gianfranco Cecconi - IDSA, Christoph Strnadl - Gaia-X, Alex Tourski - PPF, Harry Verwayen - Europeana • **Moderator:** Yekaterina Travkina - Dutch Center of Excellence for Data Sharing, CoE

Across Europe, multiple initiatives have emerged to define and implement “Data Spaces” – but each follows a different path. In this session, four leading projects present their goals, architectures, values, and lessons learned. Together, they offer a multidimensional view of what's already possible, and what any new initiative must carefully choose, adapt, or avoid.

10:45 The Platform Perspective: Opportunities & Frictions

Speakers: René van den Heuvel - Axiell, Egor Yakolev - tmatic.travel • **Moderator:** Alex Tourski - PPF

Platforms are both enablers and bottlenecks in building shared infrastructures. In this session, leading CH platforms reflect on their experience with data governance, interoperability, and their expectations from an emerging Data Space.

11:30 The User's View: What Do Organizations and Users Really Need?

Speakers: Yekaterina Travkina - CoE, Pavel Kats - JHN • Moderator: Alex Tourski - PPF

This session highlights the real-world struggles of organizations and end-users working with fragmented systems, redundant processes, and siloed data. Drawing from concrete cases across sectors – from memory institutions to transport and city infrastructure – we'll uncover surprisingly similar needs and challenges. Can we define a shared set of functional requirements across these domains? What must a Data Space deliver to be truly useful – and adopted?

12:15 Reflection: The Philosophy of Data Spaces • Alex Tourski - PPF

This short talk offers a moment to zoom out and reflect on the broader context of what we're building. Drawing on historical moments where technological shifts transformed how societies handled power, memory, and identity, we'll consider what kind of world Data Spaces might help shape. Before diving into architectures and protocols, it's worth asking: what essential roles should this new infrastructure play? What must it preserve, protect, prevent — and enable? Perhaps, before we write specifications, we need something like a Data Space Manifesto — a shared set of intentions to ensure that innovation supports memory, not just power.

12:30 Lunch Break

13:00 Roundtable: Deriving What Really Matters (Functional Requirements)

Participants: Gianfranco Cecconi - IDSA, Christoph Strnadl- Gaia-X, Alex Tourski - PPF, Harry Verwayen - Europeana, Marcel Wendt - Digidentity, Tom Barbereau - TNO, Yekaterina Travkina - CoE, Ingo Zechner - LBIDH • Moderator: Pavel Kats - JHN

A live co-creation session to define the functional requirements of the European Memory Data Space – not technical specifications or architectural choices, but the core capabilities such a system must support. Drawing on the synthesis of insights from the previous day, we will move through a structured process – requirement by requirement – to make the logic of the design transparent and open to contribution. No formal speeches, just focused dialogue with active involvement from the audience.

15:00 Coffee Break

15:15 Roundtable: From Requirements to Roadmap (Implementation & Governance)

Gianfranco Cecconi - IDSA, Christoph Strnadl - Gaia-X, Alex Tourski - PPF, Harry Verwayen - Europeana, Marcel Wendt - Digidentity, Tom Barbereau - TNO, Ingo Zechner - LBIDH • Moderator: Pieter Verhagen - TNO

Once we know what we need – how do we make it real? This session tackles the tough questions: who builds what, who pays, how do we scale, and how do we avoid fragmentation? We'll discuss concrete scenarios and possible paths to a pilot.

16:45 Closing Session: What We've Learned and What Comes Next • Alex Tourski - PPF

A summary of key takeaways and open questions. We'll reflect on emerging consensus, capture divergent views, and outline the next steps toward launching the EMDS initiative.

17:00 Drinks • Location TBD

About the Speakers



Alex Tourski • Post-Platforms Foundation
Founder & CEO of Post-Platforms Foundation, leading initiatives in Web 3.0 Data Spaces and decentralized internet infrastructure.



Pavel Kats • Jewish Heritage Network
Executive Director at Jewish Heritage Network, specializing in digital innovation for cultural heritage and Jewish history.



Yekaterina Travkina • Dutch Center of Excellence for Data Sharing
Consultant at INNOPAY and researcher at CoE-DSC, focusing on federated data sharing and interoperability.



Christoph Strnadl • Gaia-X
CTO at Gaia-X AISBL, driving federated data infrastructure and trust frameworks across Europe.



Gianfranco Cecconi • IDSA

Chief Solutions Officer at the International Data Spaces Association. He has been contributing to the development of open data and data sharing practices and technology for over a decade, first as a data scientist and consultant at the Open Data Institute in London, and later as the lead for the European Union's programmes on open data and data sharing. Today, he serves as Executive Director of the European Commission's Data Spaces Support Centre.



Harry Verwayen • Europeana

General Director of Europeana Foundation, supporting digital transformation in cultural heritage institutions.



Tom Barbereau • TNO

Research scientist at TNO, with a focus on governance and the impact of digital technologies.



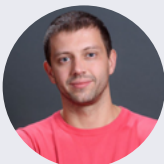
René van den Heuvel • Axiell

Product Manager at Axiell, specializing in digital solutions for archives and museums.



Pieter Verhagen • CoE

Pieter Verhagen is a senior advisor at the Dutch Centre of Excellence (CoE) with extensive experience in data sharing and innovation.



Egor Yakolev • tmatic.travel

Co-founder and Development Director at tmatic.travel, focusing on digital storytelling and travel technologies.



Ingo Zechner • LBIDH

Director of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Digital History, expert in digital media and Holocaust studies.



Marcel Wendt • Digidentity

Founder and CTO of Digidentity, leading innovations in digital identity and secure authentication.



EMDS KICKOFF SERIES



Meals & Refreshments

COFFEE & REFRESHMENTS

Coffee will be served during the whole day

Keep your energy up and your attention high!

LUNCH

A Kosher & vegetarian lunch will be provided during the events.

Please let us know if you have allergies of any kind.

DRINKS

5 June 2025 • 17:00 • De Plantage, Plantage Kerklaan 36, Amsterdam

6 June 2025 • 17:00 • TBD

We welcome everyone to continue the conversation with a drink at the bar.

DINNER

5 June, 2025 • 20:00 • Esh Pitabar, Van Baerlestraat 51, 1071 BJ Amsterdam

We would love for you to join us! Keep in mind that dinner is at your own expense.



EMDS KICKOFF SERIES

Getting to the Venue

VENUE LOCATION

National Holocaust Museum

Plantage Middenlaan 27, 1018 DB Amsterdam

GETTING THERE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The National Holocaust Museum is located in the Plantage area on the eastern central side of the city.

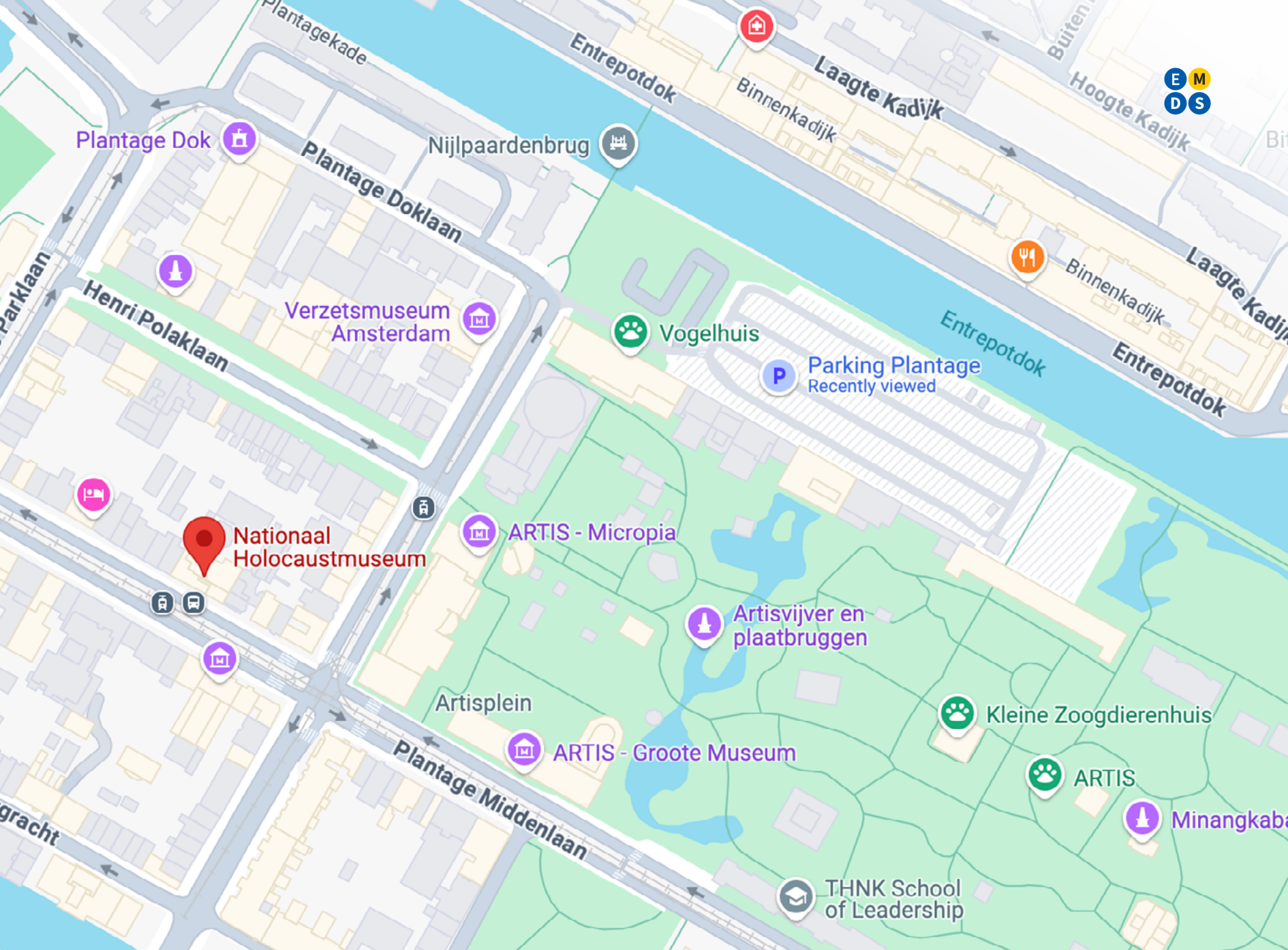
Tram 14 • Artis/Holocaustmuseum

Tram 7 • Alexanderplein, walk 10 minutes to Plantage Middenlaan

Metro 51, 53 & 54 • Weesperplein, walk 10 minutes in the direction of Artis Zoo

NEARBY PARKING

Parking Plantage • Located 5 minutes walk from the museum, behind the Artis Zoo and Planetarium



**FOR QUESTIONS & INQUIRIES
PLEASE CONTACT**

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memorydataspace.eu