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Centrum für angewandte Politikforschung

**Remembrance of the Holocaust amongst young people  
in Germany**

**60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the End of the Second World War  
2005: The Year of Remembrance**

**FACT SHEET**

**Based on an Online Survey of the Research  
Group Youth & Europe  
Munich, Dec 2005 – Feb 2006  
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## STUDY OUTLINE

Two months **online survey** in German on the CAP website Dec 2005 – Feb 2006

Participants:

- 538 young people, mostly from Germany (78,1%) /Switzerland (6,1%), Russia (2%) and the Netherlands (1,1%)/
- Average age 22
- Male 56,3%; female 43,7%
- University students 44,8 %; Grammar school 42,4 %

## CORE QUESTIONS

- How much are young people interested in the Holocaust?
- Which media sources do young people use to get information about the Holocaust?
- In what manner should the Holocaust be remembered in the future?

## MAIN RESULTS

- ⇒ **Generally high degree of interest in the Holocaust, especially among the girls**
- ⇒ Sources of information:

<b>Popular</b>	<b>Less popular</b>
Newspapers (68,9%)	Discussions with family/friends (48,3%)
TV (63,5%)	Internet (36,6%)

- ◆ Surprisingly the internet was ranked among the less popular means for acquisition of information

**41%** of the participants thought that **events to remember the Holocaust in the context of the Year of Remembrance 2005 were provided to exactly the right measure** whereas 21,2% thought they were given too little opportunity and 19% thought there were too many events (especially among the Germans); while 18,7% didn't know

**The Year of Remembrance did not lead to a deeper active involvement in the topic** according to 81,4%, only 18,6% said it did

**97,1%** of the participants think that it **is important to remember the Holocaust** in the future

- As a means for remembrance mainly school (84,3%) and TV programmes (78,7%) as well as discussions with contemporary witnesses (76,1%) were mentioned
- **The wish for talks with contemporary witnesses was expressed by 79,6%** although a relatively high number doesn't know (14,5%) whether such talks would be a good idea
- The young people could name only very few institutions that are concerned with the Holocaust, e.g. Central Council of Jews in Germany (Zentralrat der Juden), Federal Office for Political Education Germany (Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung) or Associations like Aktion Sühnezeichen

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. **General interest in the topic “Holocaust” is amongst the young generation in Germany quite high**, but socially not consolidated and young people acquire information rather **passively** via e.g. TV or school.
2. **The Year 2005, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War could not create incentives for young people to get themselves further involved in the remembrance of the Holocaust.**
3. Consolidation of the topic “Holocaust” in society remains on a very low level, though the **activation of a dialogue between the generations** and specific educational programmes seems inevitable on an institutional level.
4. **The desire of young people to discuss the Holocaust with contemporary witnesses/ survivors of the Holocaust is very strong**, though institutions and organisations should seize this opportunity.