

# Andrea Despot

Dear reader,

*For real?* breaks new ground and opens new vistas. Its mobile version also travels to regions with fewer historical and political educational opportunities. It goes directly to the young people who will decide the future of our democracy and the future of our culture of remembrance.

This was a major reason behind the decision by the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) to support the project as part of its Education Agenda NS-Injustice with funding from the Federal Ministry of Finance (BMF). Just as crucial was the project's integrated approach. *For real?* combines practical educational experience with specialized historical knowledge and technological expertise. Not least of all, *For real?* sets standards in its critical scientific monitoring of innovative technologies.

Above all, however, *For real?* is a legacy. It has preserved and made accessible the life stories of Charlotte Knobloch, Inge Auerbacher, Ruth Winkelmann, Leon Weintraub and Kurt Hillmann in a completely new form. These individuals have dedicated years of their lives to giving first-hand testimonies of historical events. In speaking about their ordeals, their survival and how they embarked upon new lives, they have moved countless people and encouraged them to reflect.

*For real?* places this legacy in a worthy setting and helps anchor accounts of National Socialist crimes in our cultural memory. It forms a new type of archive that preserves stories, experiences and voices – for all of us, now and on into the future.

**Dr. Andrea Despot**, Dr. phil., political scientist and historian of Eastern Europe, studied in Munich and at Harvard, doctorate from the Freie Universität Berlin. Since 2020 chief executive officer of the Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ). Extensive work including research and publications on Eastern European society and history, on the teaching of history and political science, and on remembrance culture(s) in Europe and their contribution to European integration.

#### **About the EVZ Foundation**

The Foundation Remembrance, Responsibility and Future (EVZ) seeks to preserve the memory of National Socialist persecution, to assume the resulting responsibility for our society here and now, and to actively shape the future. The primary motivation for launching the foundation in 2000 was the payment of humanitarian reparations to former forced laborers under the Nazi regime – a milestone in how Germany has addressed its past. Today, the EVZ Foundation sponsors education and action-oriented projects that support survivors of National Socialist persecution, promote international understanding and strengthen human rights.