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זִכְרוֹן
 memory

European Days of Jewish Culture Sept. 2023

aepj
 jewishheritage

Cultural route
 of the Council of Europe
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 du Conseil de l'Europe



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Foreword by the President

On behalf of the AEPJ board, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage in 2023. This year's theme, "Memory," provided a profound opportunity to commemorate our past, honour our present, and envision our future amidst the rich tapestry of Jewish culture and heritage.

The 2023 festival witnessed an extraordinary collaboration among partners across Europe, exemplified by the concerted efforts of the consortium within the framework of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program of the European Union. The dedication and creativity of this consortium played a pivotal role in expanding the reach and impact of the EDJC, fostering dialogue, and understanding on a continental scale.

I am particularly grateful for the invaluable contributions made during the Coordinators Meeting held at the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris. This gathering served as a catalyst for innovation and collaboration, providing a platform for sharing best practices and aligning strategies to enhance the festival's effectiveness and relevance.

Moreover, the prestigious patronage bestowed upon the EDJC 2023 by UNESCO underscores the festival's significance in promoting cultural heritage and fostering intercultural dialogue. This recognition is a testament to the enduring impact of our collective efforts in preserving and promoting Jewish culture and heritage across Europe.

The Opening Ceremony of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage 2023, held at the Great Synagogue of Europe in Brussels, was a poignant and memorable event that set the tone for the entire festival. Against the backdrop of this iconic venue, attendees

were treated to a rich tapestry of cultural performances, heartfelt speeches, and symbolic gestures that underscored the theme of "Memory." The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of preserving and honoring the collective memory of the Jewish people, while also highlighting the vibrant cultural heritage that continues to thrive within European communities. It was a moment of unity and reflection, bringing together participants from all walks of life to celebrate the richness and diversity of Jewish culture.

The challenges we faced this year, including the tragic events of October 7th and the escalating antisemitism in Europe, underscored the importance of our mission. Despite these obstacles, the resilience and determination of our organizers and coordinators prevailed, ensuring the success of the festival and its vital role in promoting understanding and solidarity.

I extend my deepest gratitude to all the organizers and coordinators who volunteered their time and energy to make the EDJC 2023 possible. Your dedication and commitment are truly commendable and have made a lasting impact on communities across Europe.

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2023 festival, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to preserving and promoting Jewish culture and heritage. Together, we will continue to forge meaningful connections, foster dialogue, and inspire future generations to cherish and celebrate our shared heritage.

With warm regards,

François Moyse
AEPJ President

About the AEPJ

The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), an NGO created in 2004, is a network of European institutions, including public bodies, private foundations, federations of Jewish communities and NGO's, that serves as a platform to develop cultural initiatives and educational programs to European Jewish sites. The AEPJ network acts as a channel for intercultural dialogue and promoting better knowledge and understanding of European history, creating awareness of cultural diversity and strengthening European citizens' cultural identity.

The AEPJ serves as an organisational umbrella to welcome, promote, train and help develop unique Jewish cultural and heritage projects of excellence around Europe. A community, a network and a meeting point of professionals working in the field of Jewish Heritage. The AEPJ helps organisations develop their programs, offers training in the field of Jewish cultural tourism and exchange of good practices and promotes the development of transnational programs.

With a heritage approach in line with the Council of Europe, with its integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage and diversity, the AEPJ promotes fundamental European values of human rights, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue seeking to bring the Jewish heritage closer to all European citizens, involving them in the production, circulation and conservation of Jewish culture and heritage.

The AEPJ is integrated by 30 members:

Members

The AEPJ is formed by the following member organizations:



B'nai Brith Europe

B'nai B'rith Europe is a Jewish association that is present in 28 countries. B'nai B'rith means "Son of the Alliance" - the concept of alliance is

a key concept in the Bible and in Judaism - and it has non-governmental organisational status. Its role is to fight racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism; to support the State of Israel; to help the needy; to promote Jewish identity; to strengthen the knowledge about the Jewish presence in Europe through culture and heritage; to en-

courage and train young Jewish adults for leadership in the Jewish communities.



**PATRONAT
CALL DE GIRONA**

Patronat Call de Girona

The Patronat is responsible for the physical and cultural restoration of the Jewish heritage in Girona, in-

cluding the renovation, revitalization and promotion of the historic Jewish Quarter, named Call. The Museum of Jewish History and the Nahmanides Institute for Jewish Studies are the two main bodies.



Diputació de Lleida

Diputació de Lleida

The Diputació de Lleida is a county council institution that has its reason for being in the town councils of the

Region of Lleida, Catalonia. Presided over since 2011 by Joan Reñé, the corporation jointly with the L'Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs, and the Tourism Board, create a project under the moto "Perseguits i Salvats". This project recovers and indicates the four itineraries used around 80,000 refugees to escape the Nazis in the World War II, it is estimated that about 20,000 were Jewish. This initiative coincides with the recovery of the Chemin de la Liberté (liberty road), route of evasion that joined the French Department of Ariège with the region of Pallars Sobirà, The routes are about 150 km. distributed around different regions in France and Spain Pyrenees.



**KIRIATY
FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL**

Supporting Cultural, Art & Educational Projects

Kiriathy Foundation International

The Mordechai Kiriathy Foundation is a philanthropic non-profit N.G.O., that has encouraged and supported humanitarians educational and cul-

tural institutions. The Foundation has initiated two major ventures and supports them: The Peace Academy which focuses on teaching peace studies in Israel, and the Izmir Project which focuses on preservation of the historic synagogues in Izmir-Turkey, and establishing a Jewish Museum.



Israeli House

The Israeli House NET (NGO) was established in 2013 in Tbilisi and works to achieve solidarity by public diplomacy and enhance the cooperation between Israel and friendly states among them Georgia. One of the important goals is to promote the Jewish Heritage, and present it a bridge between Georgia, Israel and the World Jewry, and also to promote the remembrance of the Holocaust. At the Israeli House NET, lectures on topics related to Israel and Jewish Culture and Heritage are conducted regularly. Also, meetings, exhibitions, presentations and seminars are organized in the cultural, economic, business, technological or political spheres. The organization's Advisory Board includes international representatives: diplomats, leading businessmen, heads of the international organizations, academic staff and public figures. The initiator of the organization is Itsik Moshe, the president of the Israel-Georgia Chamber of Business.



Azerbaijan Tourism Board

Azerbaijan Tourism Board is in charge of regulation of the activities, development of tourism, and the promotion of Azerbaijan as a destination. Core tasks of ATB include managing Azerbaijan's destination brand, innovative marketing in the most internationally promising markets, and transferring our knowledge of guests and markets to the domestic tourism industry. Since 2016 joined the AEPJ and they work in a specific itinerary through Jewish local sites.



Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft - Research Society Burgenland (BFG)

The Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft - Research Society Burgenland (BFG) was founded in 1987 as a regional research and educational institution at the interface between science and adult education. Its goal is the advancement of education, science and research in a structurally weak, rural and peripheral border region.

Research and educational work in regional context are therefore constitutive elements of what the BFG does.

As a regional research institute, the BFG supports institutions and decision-makers in Burgenland in analyzing, developing and preparing current topics in the areas of education, culture and society and acts as an important interface to national and European educational policy discussion and research. The research results are published in the form of publications, studies or project reports and communicated to experts, politicians, multipliers and the media through symposia, conferences, workshops or websites.

In the field of contemporary history and civic education, the BFG's expertise lies in the history of Judaism in Burgenland. In this context and next to other projects, the BFG has organized and coordinated the European Days of Jewish Culture in Burgenland since 2014.



CoopCulture

CoopCulture is a cooperative operating in the heritage and cultural activities sector in Italy. CoopCulture is a qualified partner positioned to offer answers and solutions to the increasingly complex needs of a continuously evolving sector, from the perspective of integration between cultural heritage and territory and between culture, tourism and local economy. With the intention of bringing diverse audiences closer to art, it has developed user paths differentiated by language and method, taking advantage of the potentials offered by new technologies and paying special attention to local communities in all of their aspects, families, young people, children, the elderly and immigrant communities.



FEDERATION
OF JEWISH
COMMUNITIES,
CZECH REPUBLIC

Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (FJC) is an umbrella organisation representing 10 Czech Jewish Communities and other independent Jewish institutions across the Czech Republic.

FJC coordinates the activities of the Jewish communities' especially in religious, social, educational and cultural aspects. FJC works with

Czech government institutions, state administration, local authorities, or other Czech institutions. FJC also functions and cooperates with foreign institutions and organisations.

FJC actively monitors the environment against all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, fascism or any other discrimination. Federation protects the memory of Shoah victims. FJC preserves and maintains the Jewish monuments in the Czech Republic, promotes the Jewish culture and heritage, educates the young people and provides care for the elderly, funds Jewish needs and supports Israel.



Global Partnership Hannover e.V.

Global Partnership Hannover was founded on the occasion of Expo 2000 in Hannover.

The aim of the association is to promote sustainable development, international understanding, international cultural exchange as well as environmental and climate protection by means of its own projects and through cooperation with corresponding networks.

The current focus is on sustainable tourism, sustainable social models and remembrance culture. Here, the anchoring of the “European Route of Jewish Cultural Heritage in Germany” plays a special role. To illustrate Jewish life in the past and today, we have developed various attractive modules, for example:

Click&Walk photo workshops to make traces of Jewish life visible

A composition competition combined with a concert series to make Jewish awareness of life sound

A poetry slamWW competition to bring Jewish thinking to mind



Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre- Shtetl Routes

The idea of the Shtetl Routes arose from the documentary, artistic and educational work connected to the Jewish heritage of Lublin as part of the work of “Grodzka Gate – NN

Theatre” Centre (Ośrodek “Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN”), Lublin-based municipal cultural institution dealing with education and

cultural heritage since 1992. The Centre’s work draws on the symbolic and historical significance of the building where it is located – the Grodzka Gate, which was once a passage way between the Christian and Jewish quarters, as well on Lublin’s position as the meeting point of various cultures, traditions, and religions.



Haggadah Association

Haggadah Association is a non-profit organisation for preserving and promoting Jewish culture and tradition in Balkan and Bosnia and Herzegovina was established to preserve and promote Jewish culture and tradition. Haggadah is dedicated to promote and preserve this heritage and to disseminate information about Balkan-Bosnian Jewish culture and heritage.

Our duty is to educate tourist guides to be able to lead the Tour «Jewish Sarajevo», Jewish Mostar and Jewish Balkan tour.

Haggadah offer new destination to preserve good memories on Bosnian’s Jews: Visit original manuscript Sarajevo’s Haggadah, Pilgrimage to Stolac on the TZADIK grave Rabbi Moshe Danon, Old Jewish cemetery –with specific tombstones, Bosnian Sephardic cuisine. HAGGADAH tries to preserve Sarajevo’s reputation as The European Jerusalem.



Heritage Springs

Heritage Springs is a non-profit organization based in the United States, Israel and Ukraine. The vision of the organization is primarily the preservation of Jewish heritage, beginning in the Zakarpattia oblast

with the restoration of the former synagogue in Vilkhivtsi. In addition to this flagship project, Heritage Springs has also been active with other Jewish preservation projects including the restoration of multiple Jewish cemeteries including in Vilkhivtsi as well Sokyryntsia in Ukraine. The organization is also currently developing a route of Jewish Heritage spanning the “Maramorosh” region of Western Ukraine, an area previously occupied by Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania.



Jewish Community of Athens

The Jewish Community of Athens, the largest Jewish community in Greece, is a vibrant and dynamic community consisting of over 3.500

members.

Its main purposes are philanthropic, cultural and educational.

Our community operates two Synagogues – a Sephardic and a Romaniote one, a cultural center, a Jewish cemetery and the Lauder School of the Jewish Community of Athens.

of our primary goals is to preserve the historical course of our Community, to cultivate and enrich the Jewish identity of our members with an emphasis on education and strengthen the impact of our community. Additionally, we are hosting touristic and educational tours to various target groups (touristic, educational and donor groups) from Greece and abroad through which we aim not only at educating but also at fighting growing antisemitism.



Jewish Mosaics of Moldova

Agudath Israel in Moldova is one of the veteran and leading Jewish organizations in the republic that operates since 1991 in Chisinau, Balti, Ti-

raspol, etc. attracting over 1,000 active participants.

The spectrum of programs run by Agudath Israel includes a wide variety of activities for children, teens, and adults: Shabbats and holidays, learning Torah and Jewish traditions, kosher meals cooking and distribution, afterschool and Sunday programs, summer camps, welfare programs for the needy community members, etc.

In 2021, Agudath Israel in Moldova entered the Agency of Interethnic Relations of Moldova and AEPJ (The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage). In the frames of these structures, it initiated and launched several innovative for Moldova projects on the Jewish Heritage like European Routes and Jewish Tours, European days of Jewish Culture, as well as the joint programs and events with the government of Moldova, Embassies of Germany, Italy, USA, Sweden, Ukraine, municipality of Chisinau.



Journées Européennes de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juifs - France

The association “Journées Européennes de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juifs – France” (JECPJ-France) is

dedicated to promote and preserve this heritage and to disseminate information about French Jewish culture. For 15 years, JECPJ-France has contribute to the European Day of Jewish Culture in various French Regions (Alsace, Centre, Lorraine, Nord-Pas de Calais, Paris, Provence-Côte d’Azur, Sud-Ouest), welcoming each year thousands of visitors from all backgrounds and beliefs. JECPJ-France is also part of the European program developing the “Jewish Heritage Routes”



Lithuanian Jewish Community

Lithuanian Jewish Community is an association of seven regional/local communities and twenty other Lithuanian Jewish active organizations. The aim of LJC are to bring together all the Lithuanian Jews, to defend and

look out for their interests in Lithuania and abroad, preserve and celebrate Jewish traditions, cultural and historical heritage, to keep the memory of the Holocaust victims alive, to promote tolerance and fight anti-Semitism and to build and nurture various relations and connections with Jewish and Litvak organizations and individuals all over the world.



Makom Sefarad

Makom Sefarad is a cultural project dedicated to facilitating spaces of dialog and coexistence through activities and programs connected to the

history and legacy of Jewish Spain.

Our activities and programs delve into the history of coexistence of the Spanish Jews alongside other peoples, and in the rich Sephardic tradition that resulted from their encounter with diversity, with the

objective of identifying aspects of that tradition that might guide us as we face the challenges of life in a plural society today.

Makom Sefarad is an invitation to see opportunities for growth in encounters with difference, both as individuals and as a society.

Our Mission: To be a Point of Encounter

Makom means “place” in Hebrew. Makom Sefarad, therefore, signifies a place in Sefarad (Spain) to meet with the other, who may live, think, or be different from oneself.

In Makom, we facilitate encounters between:

People of different beliefs and cultural identities.

Jewish visitors and Jews living in Spain.

Diverse communities of Jewish Spaniards.



Project 2025 – Arche Musica

The Project 2025 – Arche Musica is an innovative German-Israeli research and education project Project of musical remembrance. It is run on a voluntary basis.

Project partners are the “Music Department and National Sound Archive of the National Library of Israel” in Jerusalem and the “Music Department of the Tel Aviv School of Arts”. The scientific project team processes, digitizes and transliterates the works collected in the “Arche Musica” and transfers them into the regular and barrier-free musical notation. Because of its special significance, Dr. Felix Klein, the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life and the Fight against Anti-Semitism, has assumed patronage.

A central goal of the project is the research of secular Jewish-German music history and the establishment of a musical culture of remembrance for the prevention of anti-Semitism, which does not yet exist in this form.



CAMINOS DE
SEFARAD
RED DE JUDERÍAS DE ESPAÑA

Red de Juderías de España - Caminos de Sefarad

Red de Juderías de España (Network of Spanish Jewish Cities) is a non-profit public association created in 1999 with the goal of protecting the urban, architectural, histori-

cal, artistic and cultural Sephardic heritage in Spain. It is a cultural and tourist network that brings together 24 member town (Ávila, Barcelona, Cáceres, Calahorra, Córdoba, Estella-Lizarra, Hervás, Jaén, León, Lucena, Monforte de Lemos, Oviedo, Palma, Plasencia, Ribadavia, Segovia, Tarazona, Toledo and Tudela). Each of these towns has highlighted its ancient Jewish heritage and manages a programme of events, tours, and training.



Routes du Judaïsme Rhénan

The European Route of Judaism on the Rhineland is a non-profit public association based in Strasbourg (France). It aims to explore, revitalize and promote the history and tangible and intangible heritage of Jewish communities and to create competitive cultural and touristic offers - with the possibility of including them in transnational networks through synergistic tools and services jointly presented and accessible to a wide audience with the aim of openness and transmission..

The Route is carried out in the Upper Rhine area with the participation of cities and regions, associations and museums: as Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse and other sites in Alsace (France), Bade Wurtemberg with the Südlicher Oberrhein sites, ShUM cities as Mainz, Worms and Speyer in Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany), and Basel Jewish Museum (Switzerland) and Hohenems Jewish museum (Austria) which are already or in the future our partners in the project.

This tangible and intangible Jewish heritage of the Upper Rhine Valley, the cradle of Ashkenazi Judaism in the Middle Ages finds its natural place on the European Route of Jewish Heritage of the Council of Europe.



SERVICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT
AND CULTURAL MUSEUM RESERVATIONS
NON-COMMERCIAL STATE ORGANIZATION

Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations

The “Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations” NCSO is a nonprofit, educational, scientific-informational organization, which implements the protection

and development of the state historical – cultural immovable monuments, complexes of monuments, natural and historical environments, historical-cultural lands and surrounding landscapes.

One of the major goals of the organization is the management and development of the 17 state museum-reserves, which are a remarkable part of the cultural heritage of Armenia and landmark touristic attractions. The “Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations” NCSO is engaged in diverse educational and development programs and activities locally and internationally, which foster further advancement and international outreach of the rich Armenian cultural heritage.



Tarbut Sighet Foundation

Fundatia Tarbut Sighet Culture si Educatia Iudaica was Established in 2014 following the 70th Anniversary to the Jewish May 1944 deporta-

tions. A yearly Gathering for Sighet – Maramorish Region descendants from all over the world, took place in 2014 and 2015, providing a commemoration and celebration event.

Tarbut Sighet Foundation has put forth two major missions since its establishment:

To provide information to all Maramures Jewish generations about the history of the Jews pre- and post-Holocaust. And, producing and staging cultural Jewish programs teaching about the Jewish Heritage and history of the Jews in Maramures pre- and post-Holocaust, at regional high schools, libraries, community centers, theatres and at Jewish synagogues. This will result in a better understanding of the past in order to have a better relationship with the local and the World Jewry. One of the main goals of FTS is to promote Jewish Heritage in Maramures Region (Northern Transylvania), taking place at high schools, libraries, community centers, and theatres as well as at local city halls etc.



Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning is dedicated to enriching Jewish life in Poland and to connecting Jews from

around the world with their East European heritage. Through heritage tours, educational, and cultural programs in Poland, supporting Jewish studies, publishing, the arts and media, it strengthens Polish Jewish literacy and cultivates global knowledge of a living Polish Jewish heritage drawing on its complex and historically rich legacy. The Center is partnered with organizations in Poland, Israel, Europe, and the United States.



The Jewish Community Foundation of Izmir

Izmir in Turkey is the only city in which an unusual cluster of Synagogues bearing a typical architectural style dating from the 16th century are preserved. These Synagogues built by decedents of Jews who were deported from Spain & Portugal are an historical architectural complex which is unique in the world.

The aim of the Izmir Project is to turn the compound of these ancient Synagogues into a Jewish Heritage Museum, which will tell the story of Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain and arrived in the Ottoman Empire. This future museum will expose the mutual influence of Jewish and Muslim cultures and the intercultural dialogue between them.

This hopefully restored complex of Synagogues was confirmed in Izmir city-plan, as the future Jewish Museum of Izmir, and we at the Kiriatiy foundation are working closely with Izmir Municipality and the local Jewish community to realise, and promote it.



The Jewish Heritage Foundation – Menorah

The Jewish Heritage Foundation – Menorah researches Slovak Jewish heritage, synagogue architecture and cemeteries, other built heritage, and other artifacts of Jewish material culture in Slovakia. The Foundation was established in 2000 and engages in heritage preservation through documentation, research, exhibition, publication and educational activities. We are a strategic partner of the Jewish Community Museum. We cooperate with the Jewish Community of Bratislava and the Jewish Cultural Institute. The Slovak Jewish Heritage Route is a project of the Jewish Heritage Foundation – Menorah in Bratislava



**the
together
plan**

coming out of collective trauma in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, enabling, rather than providing, through a self-help approach.

In spite of the traumatic past, there are many who yearn to reconnect with their lost identity. It is the mission of The Together Plan charity, to help those Jews still living in the region learn how to rebuild their communities, and also to reconnect those in the diaspora to their ancestry and the homes they left behind. The Together Plan is playing a vital and much needed role in the repair and renewal process for a better connected and meaningful Jewish future for Jews everywhere.

The Together Plan

The Together Plan is a UK charity dedicated to the rehabilitation, repair and revival of Jewish communities



Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane

The UCEI is a non-profit organisation representing 21 Jewish communities in Italy, whose millennia presence

in the country have contributed to enriching its cultural, artistic and social heritage. The main purpose of the UCEI is to promote the unity of the Italian Jewish community ensuring its development in religious, spiritual, cultural and social areas. UCEI represents the Jewish community before the State, the Government and other authorities, as well as the general public in all matters regarding Jewish interests. The UCEI recognises that the State of Israel plays a central role in contemporary Jewish identity, and therefore also works to strengthen relations with Israel, and represents Italian Judaism within international organisations.



**WADDESDON
MANOR**

Waddesdon Manor

In 1874 Ferdinand de Rothschild bought the Waddesdon estate and commissioned French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur, to build a country house to entertain friends and family. The project was immense; the hill-top on which the house

stands was levelled, drives and terraces were cut and the grounds

landscaped and planted with mature trees. Ferdinand, like other members of his family, was an avid collector. Waddesdon is renowned for its superb collections in what became known as 'the Rothschild style' – English 18th-century painting combined with French decorative arts. Today, still managed by the family on behalf of the National Trust, it is a vibrant expression of Rothschild spirit, with thriving programmes of events and activities, changing exhibitions and growing collections of contemporary art and architecture.



World Jewish Travel

The World Jewish Travel, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 2011. The WJT mission is to preserve Jewish heritage worldwide and promote tourism to a variety of sites and cultural events around the world

that are of great importance to the Jewish heritage continuity. WJT stand up for our heritage, giving it back its long-lost voice, in honor of past generations, and in favor of those to come. To do so, WJT have developed an integrated ecosystem, bringing together heritage, travel and technology, via an innovative, first-of-its-kind platform, reframing the concept of Jewish heritage and adjusting it to the 21st century.

The general assembly 2021 approved four new candidacies, already fully operational in 2021, as follows:

The AEPJ Board of Directors 2023

The AEPJ Board is comprised of 14 dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the European Days of Jewish Culture. Their commitment to promoting Jewish heritage and culture is evident in the way they approach their work, and their efforts have undoubtedly played a significant role in the continued growth and success of the festival.

Each member of the board brings a unique perspective and set of skills to the table, and their collective expertise has helped to shape the festival into the dynamic and engaging event that it is today. From developing and implementing innovative programming to fostering relationships with key stakeholders, the AEPJ Board members are instrumental in making the European Days of Jewish Culture a reality each year.

Their hard work and dedication are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for all that they do to support and advance the festival. Without their tireless efforts, it would not be possible to celebrate and explore the rich cultural heritage of Jewish communities across Europe in such a meaningful way.



François Moyse

Chairman, representative of Bnai Brith Europe

Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Currently, the President of AEPJ and is one of the founders of the European Days of Jewish Culture. Has worked on the project since the beginning. Has been formerly chairperson of the European Union of Jewish Students, Director of B'nai B'rith Europe and President of the Jewish community of Luxembourg.

gaged in developing the Jewish Heritage in Alsace and setting up the European Day of Jewish Culture. Likewise, Claude played a crucial role in fostering lasting relations with the Council of Europe and establishing fruitful cooperation with this Institution.



Lluç Salellas

Vice-Chairman, Patronat Call de Girona

Girona, Spain

Lluç Salellas Vilar (Girona, 31 December 1984) is a journalist and political scientist, mayor of the city of Girona since 2023. Since 2016 he has also been a member of the national secretariat of the CUP, re-elected as an independent in February 2018..



Claude Bloch

Honorary President

Strasbourg, France

Claude Bloch is one of the founders of the AEPJ, and is presently its Honorary President. She has dedicated many years of her life to the promotion of Jewish culture in Europe. She was particularly en-



Assumpció Hošta
General Secretary

Girona, Spain

Since 1987 working for the restoration of the Jewish neighbourhood of Girona in Spain. Director of the Patronat Call de Girona since 1992, founder member of the Red de Juderías de España in 1995, having the responsibility of Secretary-General until 2016. Founder member on the AEPJ association and current Secretary-General.



Patrick Bikard
Treasurer

Brussels, Belgium

Patrick Bikard, Treasurer based in Brussels, Belgium, retired from Vesuvius plc in 2022 after serving on the Executive Committee since 2008. His last role at Vesuvius was President, Operations & Technology. Prior to that, he held executive positions at Faurecia and Alstom, accumulating extensive experience in operations and technology. With a background at Renault and education from Ecole Polytechnique, Ecole des Mines de Paris, and Cedef (INSEAD), Patrick, a French citizen, brings a wealth of expertise. At 67, he resides in Brussels with his large family.



Noemi Di Segni
Italian UCEI President

Roma, Italy

Since July 2016 the president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities has been Noemi Di Segni. Born in Jerusalem but Roman

by adoption, married with three children, former Councillor for the Budget of the UCEI Council, Di Segni is in charge of the International Activities Office of the National Council of Accountants.



Annie Sacerdoti
Representative of UCEI

Milan, Italy

Annie Sacerdoti, journalist, author of the first “Guide to Jewish Italy” and a series of regional Italian Jewish Itineraries and Italian Jewish Museums. Member of the Board of AEPJ from the beginning, she was in the team of the first European Day of Jewish Culture. She is Vice President of Fondazione Beni Culturali ebraici in Italia (UCEI).



Thierry Koch
Chairperson of JECPJ-France

Strasbourg, France

Member of the Board since 2018. Representative of JECPJ-France as Chairman of this French association. JECPJ-France coordinates all involved cities and Jewish cultural associations in their participation in the EDJC and also aims at networking the French regional routes of Jewish heritage now being developed in France. Also an active member of the steering committee in charge of organizing the EDJC in Alsace, a French region with an outstanding Jewish heritage.



Claudia De Benedetti
Director of the Jewish Museums of
Casale Monferrato

Claudia De Benedetti is a distinguished leader in the Jewish community in Italy and Israel. She holds several high-profile positions, including CEO of Società Immobiliare Agricola Settentrionale in Torino and Executive Director of the Jewish Museum and Synagogue of Casale Monferrato. Claudia is also a member of the World Zionist Organization and the Scientific Committee of MEIS - Museum of the Italian Jewry and Shoah in Ferrara.



Itsik Moshe
Chairman of Israeli House

Itsik Moshe is a highly accomplished Jewish leader and member of the AEPJ board of administration. He has held numerous leadership positions, including as the first representative of the Jewish Agency in the Soviet Union, and today serves as the President of the Israel-Georgia Chamber of Business. Itsik has also received multiple international awards and recognition for his contributions to the Jewish community.



Peninah Zilberman
CEO of the Tarbut Sighet Founda-
tion

Peninah Zilberman is a respected Jewish leader and CEO of the Tarbut Sighet Foundation, dedicated to promoting Jewish culture

and education. With over 40 years of service to the Toronto Jewish Community, she has initiated commemorative events and established the “Fundatia Tarbut Sighet” to assist All Generations with genealogy research and provide cultural programs across Romania.



Judith Kiriathy Matalon
President of the Kiriathy Foundation

President and chairperson since 1982 of the MORDECHAI KIRIATHY FOUNDATION, a non-profit organization supporting humanitarian, educational, and cultural institutions. The foundation is behind two major ventures: the PEACE ACADEMY, teaching peace studies in Israel, and the IZMIR PROJECT, preserving historic synagogues in Izmir, Turkey, and establishing a Jewish museum.



Juli Alegre
Responsible of the Patronat Intercomarcal de Turisme “Terres de Lleida”

1. The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory



remembrance, the EDJC 2023 served as a potent platform for fostering dialogue, empathy, and solidarity.

A significant highlight of this year's festival was the invaluable support received from the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program of the European Commission. This project empowered us and our partners to extend the festival's reach and impact, engaging with a broader audience and establishing meaningful alliances with local organizations and communities.

In addition, the festival was enriched by the insights and connections forged during the Coordinators Meeting held at the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris. This gathering provided a vital forum for sharing best practices, aligning strategies, and strengthening collaborations among EDJC coordinators and stakeholders. We are honored to have received the patronage of UNESCO for the EDJC 2023, underscoring the festival's significance in promoting cultural heritage and fostering intercultural dialogue.

Across Europe, hundreds of events and activities unfolded throughout the festival, encompassing exhibitions, concerts, guided tours, workshops, and more. This diverse array of offerings delved into the theme of Memory from myriad perspectives, fostering immersive experiences enriched by values-based education and personal narratives. The convergence of traditional and contemporary artistic expressions, coupled with the interplay of fiction and reality, offered attendees profound encounters with Jewish culture. Amidst this diversity, tradition and innovation intertwined, ensuring the cultural evolution while honoring ancient roots.

The success of the EDJC 2023 owes much to the unwavering commitment and diligence of our volunteers, organizers, and coordinators. Their tireless dedication ensured the seamless execution of each event, fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all participants. The AEPJ extends heartfelt appreciation to our partners and stakeholders for their steadfast support and collaboration. Together, we have underscored the enduring relevance and importance of Jewish culture and heritage in Europe, reaffirming our pledge to preserve and promote it for generations to come.

The EDJC 2023 was not merely a celebration of Jewish culture and memory; it was also a testament to the resilience and vitality of our community. Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect across Europe and beyond.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 achieved remarkable success, underscoring our ongoing dedication to safeguarding and advancing Jewish culture and heritage throughout Europe. As an annual initiative led by the AEPJ, this year's festival united individuals of diverse ages and backgrounds from across the continent.

Themed "Memory," the 2023 edition offered an opportunity to reflect on the imperative of commemorating and cherishing the past, particularly amidst contemporary challenges. Against the backdrop of escalating antisemitism and the perpetual need for education and

2. The EDJC 2023 under the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program of the European Union



Co-funded by the European Union

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 embraced a transformative journey under the auspices of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program of the European Union. This initiative marked a pivotal moment not only for the participating countries but also for the entire network of organizers and coordinators of the festival.

The project's funding provided an unparalleled opportunity for the EDJC consortium countries, empowering them to expand and enrich their cultural offerings while fostering greater inclusivity and dialogue. Through a diverse range of activities funded by the program, the festival reached new heights of engagement and impact, touching the lives of communities across Europe.

For the AEPJ, its board, and its team, the project represented more than just financial support—it was a catalyst for growth and collaboration. By establishing connections with esteemed institutions such as the Memorial de la Shoah and UNESCO, the AEPJ strengthened its position as a leader in the preservation and promotion of Jewish culture and heritage.

The project facilitated knowledge exchange and capacity building among EDJC organizers and coordinators, enabling them to en-

hance their skills and expertise in cultural programming and community engagement. This collaborative spirit fostered by the CERV program laid the foundation for future editions of the festival, ensuring its continued success and relevance in the years to come.

The European funding project under the CERV program has been instrumental in elevating the EDJC 2023 to new heights of excellence and impact. It has empowered participating countries, enriched cultural offerings, and strengthened partnerships, ultimately advancing the shared mission of preserving and promoting Jewish culture and heritage in Europe and beyond.



3. EDJC Organisers & Coordinators Meeting 2023



The EDJC Organisers and Coordinators Meeting 2023 convened from February 22 to February 23, providing a platform for collaboration and reflection amidst the remarkable backdrop of Paris. Hosted primarily at the prestigious Memorial de la Shoah, with a concluding session at UNESCO headquarters, this bi-annual gathering brought together organizers and coordinators from across Europe under the auspices of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme of the European Union.

Throughout the two-day meeting, participants delved into training sessions and workshops focused on this year's theme of memory, a concept deeply intertwined with the fabric of Jewish culture and heritage. Led by experts in the field, including historians and memorialization specialists, attendees engaged in discussions, debates, and networking opportunities aimed at enhancing their understanding and approach to the theme.

During the meeting, over 120 participants actively engaged in the various sessions and activities, marking a significant milestone for the association. This number represents the highest attendance achieved in an in-person activity organized by the AEPJ to date, underscoring the growing interest and commitment of the community to the preservation and promotion of Jewish culture in Europe.

A highlight of the meeting was the unveiling of the official poster for the 2023 edition, designed by Nikola Radic Lucati, founder of the Center for Holocaust Research and Education in Belgrade, Serbia. This visually compelling artwork served as a poignant symbol of the festival's commitment to commemorating and celebrating Jewish memory.

Keynote speeches by distinguished guests further enriched the discourse, offering valuable insights into the significance of memory in shaping our collective consciousness. AEPJ partners and representatives from organizations such as MahJ, Liberation Route Europe, and the National Library of Israel contributed to panel discussions and interactive sessions, fostering a spirit of collaboration and innovation.

The concluding sessions held at UNESCO provided a fitting conclusion to the meeting, with discussions centered on the protection and safeguarding of Jewish cultural heritage. These thought-provoking dialogues opened new avenues for exploration and underscored the ongoing commitment to preserving the legacy of Jewish culture for future generations.

4. UNESCO Patronage: A landmark achievement for the EDJC 2023



This year, the European Days of Jewish Culture festival was granted the prestigious UNESCO patronage. This significant recognition not only underscored the importance of preserving cultural diversity and historical memory but also paid homage to the dedicated EDJC organizers and coordinators who tirelessly nurtured the festival's growth.

The UNESCO patronage held profound implications, symbolizing the deep resonance between the festival's objectives and UNESCO's mission to safeguard cultural heritage and foster cross-cultural dialogue. This milestone achievement traced back to the pivotal EDJC Organizers & Coordinators Meeting held earlier in the year in Paris. During this gathering, participants had the privilege of visiting UNESCO's headquarters, engaging in purposeful sessions designed to

deepen their understanding of the organization's endeavors and their connection to the European Days of Jewish Culture.

UNESCO's unwavering commitment to Jewish heritage and culture was evident in its multifaceted missions and recent accomplishments. The organization's publication "Holocaust Education in a Global Context," edited by Karel Fracapane and Matthias Haß in collaboration with the Topography of Terror Foundation, Berlin, served as an enlightening resource. It comprehensively explored the significance of Holocaust education in a global perspective, offering valuable insights for those exploring the themes of EDJC 2023.

The grant of UNESCO patronage to the EDJC 2023 was not only a testament to the festival's enduring relevance but also a tribute to the dedication and passion of the individuals who had nurtured its growth. The alignment of UNESCO's core values with the festival's mission served as a poignant reminder of the collective effort to celebrate the richness of Jewish heritage and culture. As the festival gathered participants from over 28 countries, this honor underscored the paramount importance of memory, reflection, and dialogue in shaping our shared past and future.



5. Activities of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory

In the 2023 edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the theme of “Memory” took center stage, inviting participants to reflect on the profound significance of memory in shaping our understanding of the past and its impact on the present and future. Held in a year free from the challenges of a pandemic, we are delighted to report a significant increase in both the number of activities and participants compared to the previous year. The festival was celebrated in 28 countries, with a remarkable total of 1,118 activities organized in 397 cities and an impressive turnout of 220,000 attendees.

However, it’s important to note that the events unfolding in Israel from October 7 onwards, coupled with the rising tide of antisemitism in Europe, posed security concerns for some activities in certain countries. Despite experiencing a slight reduction in territorial reach, and with some activities having to be canceled or postponed due to security reasons, the number of activities and participants this year was still remarkable.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Countries	28	30	25	29	29	28
Activities	1.009	1.211	954	987	860	1.118
Participants	183.183	220.054	140.075	152.325	146.866	219.993

This year’s festival served as a poignant exploration of memory, offering a diverse array of activities that engaged participants in reflecting on the collective and personal memories that shape our identities and narratives. From thought-provoking exhibitions to immersive performances, interactive workshops, and educational lectures, the festival provided a dynamic platform for dialogue, remembrance, and commemoration.

The significant increase in participation reflects the enduring significance of memory within Jewish culture and its broader resonance across Europe. New institutions and participants joined the festival, enriching the diversity of activities and perspectives and fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Jewish heritage.



6. Opening Ceremony of The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.



The AEPJ proudly inaugurated the 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture EDJC on 3rd of September, from the Great Synagogue of Europe in Brussels. This year's festival, dedicated to the theme of "Memory," delved into the profound exploration of the past that shapes our present and guides our future.

The ceremony commenced with a moving performance in Hebrew of Se'u Sheorim by the synagogue choir; setting the tone for an inspiring event. Baron Julien Klener, Honorary President of the Consistoire central israélite de Belgique, provided a heartfelt introduction to the ceremony, emphasizing the significance of memory in Jewish culture.

Key speakers from prominent European institutions, including the European Commission, UNESCO, and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, underscored the festival's importance in promoting Jewish culture and safeguarding Jewish heritage. Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, highlighted initiatives to ensure the flourishing of Jewish life across Europe.

For the first time, UNESCO provided its patronage to the festival, recognizing the AEPJ's efforts in promoting culture and heritage. Ms. Louise Haxthausen, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels, reiterated UNESCO's commitment to preserving cultural heritage and commended the festival's focus on memory.

The Opening Ceremony featured captivating performances, including a musical journey through European Jewish history and traditional Jewish hymns performed by the synagogue choir. The event also honored the festival's esteemed founder, Ms. Claude A. Bloch, in a touching tribute attended by all participants.

7. EDJC 2023 collaborates with the National Library of Israel



The collaboration with the National Library of Israel greatly enhanced the European Days of Jewish Culture festival in 2023, providing invaluable resources for the development of exhibitions and educational materials. These contributions not only added significant value to the festival but also facilitated its celebration across the continent.

One of the highlights of the collaboration was the creation of an exhibition that delved into the multifaceted nature of memory. Titled “Memory: A Journey Through Time,” the exhibition explored both personal and collective aspects of memory, showcasing archival materials, memoirs, press excerpts, historical photos, communal registers, and postcards from eight European communities.

The exhibition offered visitors a glimpse into the rich history of these communities, presenting a series of “postcards from the past” that invited reflection on the preservation of memory. It encouraged viewers to consider the documents that shape their own memories and contemplate what they would contribute to a poster about their community.

Designed as a digital supplement to the physical exhibit, additional materials and deeper insights into the stories hinted at in the digital exhibition that were made available online. This comprehensive approach ensured that the exhibition served as a valuable educational resource and fostered a deeper understanding of the importance of preserving collective memory. Visit the online exhibition at <https://www.nli.org.il/en/at-your-service/nli-in-europe/european-days/memory-exhibition>

The collaboration with the National Library of Israel not only enriched the European Days of Jewish Culture festival but also underscored the significance of libraries as repositories of memory and knowledge. Through this partnership, the festival was able to engage audiences across Europe in meaningful conversations about the past and its enduring impact on the present.



8. The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in numbers

Countries	Number of cities	Number of activities	Number of attendants
Austria	15	22	750
Belarus	1	2	125
Belgium	1	1	61
Bosnia & Herzegovina	-	-	-
Bulgaria	1	1	1.000
Croatia	7	70	4.500
Czech Republic	10	19	1.250
Denmark	-	-	-
Estonia	2	3	75
Finland	1	1	70
France	53	165	30.000
Georgia	-	-	-
Germany	71	98	15.000
Greece	-	-	-
Hungary	1	1	2.000
Ireland	1	3	2.045
Israel	-	-	-
Italy	105	375	22.000
Latvia	-	-	-

Countries	Number of cities	Number of activities	Number of attendants
Lithuania	7	9	2.438
Luxembourg	1	1	100
Moldova	3	7	1.100
Montenegro	-	-	-
Netherlands	11	15	2.654
Norway	1	16	1.003
Poland	18	51	1.291
Portugal	2	7	2.022
Romania	19	29	5.000
Serbia	1	2	350
Slovakia	2	3	505
Slovenia	10	25	4.769
Spain	30	120	30.000
Switzerland	9	30	1.800
Turkiye	-	-	-
Ukraine	1	2	450
United Kingdom	13	40	8.575
TOTAL	397	1.118	219.993



15
Participating cities

22
Total activities

750
Total visitors

Austria

CITIES: EISENSTADT, KITZSEE, FRAUENKIRCHEN, KOBERSDORF, LACKENBACH, DEUTSCHKREUTZ, LOCKENHAUS, RECHNITZ, STADTSCHLAINING, OBERWART, MATTERSBURG, NEUSIEDL AM SEE; VIENNA; LOWER AUSTRIA: SANKT PÖLTEN

JÜDISCHES
MUSEUM
HOHENEMS




Jüdische Gemeinde Graz

BURGENLÄNDISCHE
FORSCHUNGSGESELLSCHAFT
RESEARCH SOCIETY BURGENLAND



Research Society Burgenland (BFG)

The Research Society Burgenland (BFG) has been an integral part of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) since 2014, spearheading events in collaboration with local and regional partners to make the history and culture of Burgenland's former Jewish communities accessible to the public. This initiative, driven by a commitment to commemoration, holds particular significance in Burgenland, where the Jewish population faced expulsion and persecution during the Nazi regime. The EDJC serves as a poignant tool for preserving the memory of these communities and highlighting their contributions to Austria's history.

Since its modest inception in 2014, the EDJC in Burgenland has experienced remarkable growth, both in terms of participation and

the diversity of events offered. This year marked a milestone with a record-breaking 22 events held at 15 locations, including an online program. Notably, for the first time, the program expanded beyond Austrian borders to include venues in Vienna, Lower Austria, and Hungary. This expansion reflects the growing reach and impact of the festival, fostering cross-border collaboration and engagement.

The success of this year's program is further underscored by the exceptional turnout, with over 300 actively participating and nearly 750 attendees overall. The diverse range of activities, including readings, lectures, guided tours, film screenings, and concerts, catered to a wide audience, reflecting the EDJC's inclusivity and relevance across age groups.

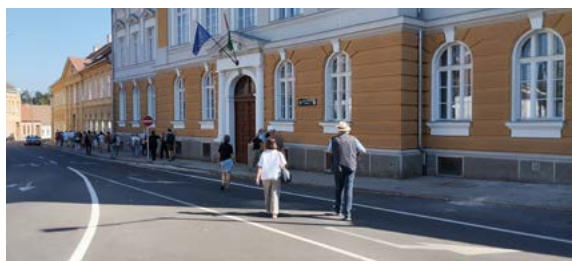
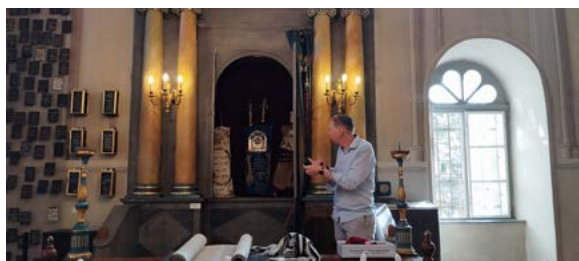
Several collaborations stood out as highlights of this year's festival. Partnerships with the Jewish Museum Vienna and the Institute for

Jewish History in Austria (INJOEST) enabled the expansion of programs beyond Burgenland, garnering enthusiastic participation and laying the groundwork for future collaborations. Additionally, a poignant commemorative event in Neusiedl am See, featuring the unveiling of a memorial plaque, drew significant attendance and left a lasting impact on the community.

The EDJC's promotional efforts, including printed program booklets, social media outreach, and media coverage, contributed to heightened visibility and engagement. Notably, the festival received

extensive coverage from regional media outlets and prominent broadcasters, amplifying its reach and impact.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Austria were a resounding success, marked by increased participation, expanded collaborations, and enduring commemorative initiatives. The festival's growth and resonance underscore its pivotal role in preserving Jewish heritage and fostering dialogue and understanding across communities. As interest in Jewish history continues to grow, the EDJC remains a beacon of remembrance and celebration, poised to inspire and engage audiences for years to come.





1
Participating cities

2
Total activities

125
Total visitors

Belarus

MINSK



The Together Plan

The Together Plan, in collaboration with the International Public Organization Dialog and the Religious Jewish Union of Belarus, orchestrated two significant events in Belarus as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture Festival 2023. Our participation at the EDJC Conference in Paris organised by the AEPJ, was instrumental in exploring the festival's theme of 'Memory' and conceptualizing the impactful events we would host. On October 23rd, we solemnly commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the Minsk Ghetto—an occasion to honour the lives lost and foster an enduring culture of remembrance, ensuring that the tragic events of the past are eternally memorialised.

The commemoration event included a poignant procession through Minsk, retracing the harrowing path of history to sites where countless Jews fell victim during the Holocaust. This procession served

not only as a physical journey but also as a deeply emotional and historical one, connecting participants with the profound legacy of the past and allowing them to stand in solidarity with the victims and survivors. Concurrently, The Together Plan curated the art exhibition 'Jewish Minsk Before Me,' showcasing the evocative works of graphic artist Bogdan Dovgyalo.

Dovgyalo's art captures the vibrant essence of pre-Holocaust Jewish life in Minsk, reflecting a community rich in culture, tradition, and collective experiences. Several pieces in the exhibition paid poignant tribute to the Minsk Ghetto, honouring the memories of those whose lives were tragically cut short. These events not only celebrate Jewish heritage but also reinforce the profound importance of memory in fostering empathy and understanding in our world today. Through these endeavours, we are committed to preserving cultural heritage and fostering unity amidst diversity, paving the way for a more compassionate and inclusive future.





1
Participating cities

1
Total activities

61
Total visitors

Belgium

BRUSSELS



B'nai B'rith Europe



B'nai B'rith Europe

The Henry Jones lodge in Brussels had planned a retrospective on the life and work of Joseph Wybran, which had been planned for 25 October 2023.

Regrettably, following the 7 October massacre in Israel and the subsequent worsening of the security situation for Jewish communities in Europe, Belgian communal security arm BESC advised to postpone the event.

The event took place on 29 January 2024, with 23 in-person participants. The event focused on the transmission of the memory through the life of Joseph Wybran, a Holocaust survivor, immunologist and Jewish communal leader tragically murdered in 1989. The event focused on the work of Jewish communities and civil society organisations promoting the memory of the Shoah, and especially on two moments on Joseph Wybran's life: On the one hand the moment in which anonymous Righteous Among the Nations sheltered him and his family in the countryside in the Ardennes, refusing later

to be honoured as they regarded this acts as “a normal attitude”, and on the other hand the last speech by Joseph Wybran on 23 September 1989 during a pilgrimage at the Kazerne Dossin in Mechelen, just ten days before his murder, in which he declared that the next generations are the “guardians of the memory.”

In addition, a website honouring his life and relating the circumstances of Joseph Wybran's murder was presented by the author, journalist Agnes Bensimon, who presented several historical documents on the efforts of Joseph Wybran to preserve the memory of the Shoah.

The event took place in the presence of communal leaders, members of the Henry Jones lodge, the Chief Rabbi of Brussels, students and members of the general public. In addition, an online audience of approximately 38 people were able to watch the proceedings on zoom. It was a great opportunity to come together and reflect on the meaning of service to the memory of the Shoah, through the footsteps of such and admired figure in Belgian Jewish communal history, who is sorely missed.



1
Participating cities

1
Total activities

1.000
Total visitors

Bulgaria

SOFIA



SHALOM

Organization of the Jews
in Bulgaria

Sofia Synagogue & Organization of the Jews in Bulgaria 'Shalom'

Right before the beginning of the new Jewish Year the Synagogue of Sofia hanged the exhibition 'Memory' from National Library of Israel. All of the community members as well as regular people passing by on the street have the opportunity to watch it.

Within the first week more than 1000 people saw the exhibition including some who were doing visits during a local cultural festival.

Due to the short amount of time we did not manage to include a board for Bulgaria, but we believe that the message is quite valuable on its own as the theme 'Memory' has been surrounding many of the events we organised throughout the whole year that would include more local context.





7
Participating cities

70
Total activities

4.500
Total visitors

Croatia

OSIJEK, ZAGREB, RIJEKA, SPLIT, PULA, ČAKOVEC, KARLOVAC



ŽIDOVSKA OPĆINA ZAGREB
הקהילה היהודית של זגרב



ŽIDOVSKA OPĆINA SPLIT
הקהילה היהודית - ספליט
JEWISH COMMUNITY OF SPLIT



ŽIDOVSKA OPĆINA RIJEKA



אחראים בארץ סדו
אשורס



Jewish community of Croatia

This year's program in Croatia was rich, it was attended by over 4500 visitors live, and even more through the media and social networks. There is a visible increase in the public's interest in rich Jewish heritage and culture.

This year in Croatia, EDJC was celebrated in Osijek, Rijeka, Split, Zagreb, Karlovac, Pula and Čakovec. The most complex pro-

gramme was prepared in Osijek, where, just like the last two years, events were organized throughout the month and therefore are called the Month of Jewish Culture.

Many concerts, exhibitions, film screenings, book promotions, lectures, living libraries, workshops, literary evenings, sports tournaments, dance performances and walking tours were organized as a part of this year's EDJC in Croatia.



10
Participating cities

19
Total activities

1.250
Total visitors

Czech Republic

PRAGUE, PILSEN, ÚSTĚK, KRNOV, BRNO, DĚČÍN, JIČÍN, POLNÁ, LIBEREC, LOMNICE, ČÁSLAV



FEDERACE
ŽIDOVSKÝCH OBCÍ
V ČESKÉ REPUBLICE



Židovská obec Děčín
קהילה יהודית בדקלין

Židovská obec
Plzeň





Federation of Jewish communities in Czech Republic

The European Days of Jewish Culture opened on 31 August with a three-day multi-genre festival ŠTETL FEST in Brno. The festival provided an insight into Jewish culture and history. For more information about the event, visit www.stetl.cz.

The Dr. Dagmar Lieblová Foundation joined the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 with four events in the Čáslav synagogue - a concert, a Sukkot workshop, a guided tour and the laying of the Stolpersteine.

The Jewish Community of Děčín organized a screening of a documentary film about a grandson searching for his unacknowledged Jewish grandfather.

The synagogue in Jičín organized a talk about important but unjustly neglected Czech-German-Jewish personalities and a concert - songs of Bosnian Sephardic Jews.

The synagogue in Krnov organized an exhibition about the trip of the first Czechoslovak president T. G. Masaryk to the territory of the present-day State of Israel.

The Eisler Gallery in Lomnica held an exhibition on the family of Rabbi Schmiedl of Lomnica.

The Jewish Community in Pilsen organized an exhibition and a lecture.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic organised a concert by a klezmer band in the synagogue in Ústěk and an exhibition by Holocaust survivor Helga Weiss - Hošková.

In the synagogue in Brandýs nad Labem, the Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic organised an exhibition of photographs of Jewish cemeteries.

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic also held a concert and exhibition in the synagogue in Polná.



2
Participating cities

3
Total activities

75
Total visitors

Estonia

TALLINN, VALGA



Estonian Jewish Museum

The European Jewish Culture Day was celebrated for the first time in Valga, where the exhibition “Judaism and Jewish customs” was opened in the Valga museum on October 3. The exhibits of the exhibition have been selected in cooperation with the Estonian Jewish Museum and the Estonian National Museum. At the opening event, the head of the Estonian Jewish Museum, Gennadi Gramberg, gave a lecture on the history of Judaism, the Jewish calendar and Jewish holidays and customs. The lecture was followed by a kosher cooking workshop by the project coordinator of the Estonian Jewish Community Social Center, Aljona Haš. 25 people were present, including school children. An exhibition with such a theme, which is held as part of the Days of European Jewish Culture, is being organized in Valga for the first time. According to the director of the Valga Museum, Neeme Punder, the exhibition generated quite a lot of interest in the city. Even before the opening of the exhibition, local schools booked time to visit the exhibition. For example, from October 9 to 13, “Hanukah” educational programs on the topics of Jewish cultural history will be held in the Valga Museum as part of World Education Month. The programs were prepared in cooperation between Valga Museum and Valga Gymnasium.

The exhibition is open until November 11.

15th October 2023, Tallinn. Walking tours on Tallinn Jewish cemeteries:

At 11:00 begins the guided walking tour on the former Old Jewish cemetery, now Magasini Street cemetery park.

The oldest Jewish graveyard in Tallinn (Estonia) was founded at the end of 18th century. It was brutally destroyed through a decision which was taken while Estonia was under Soviet occupation in 1963. In 1967, a car depot, repair workshop, and parking lot were built on the site of the cemetery.

In 2021-2023 the City of Tallinn provided renovation of this spot which was transformed into cemetery park opened on 12th October 2023.

Guided tour is organized by Estonian Jewish Museum and attending is free of charge.

At 13:00 begins the guided tour to the Tallinn Rahumäe Jewish cemetery. The graveyard was opened in 1909 and is still in use. There are a variety of examples of different styles of gravestones. It houses a monument in tribute to the victims of the Shoah, which was one of the first monuments commemorating victims of Holocaust in the former Soviet Union.

Guided tour is organized by Estonian Jewish Museum and attending is free of charge.

Website <https://museum.jewish.ee/en/edjc-2023/>





1
Participating cities

1
Total activities

70
Total visitors

Finland

HELSINKI



HELSINGIN JUUTALAINEN SEURAKUNTA
JUDISKA FÖRSAMLINGEN I HELSINGFORS
JEWISH COMMUNITY OF HELSINKI
עדת ישראל בהלסינקי

Pro Cultura team

The EDJC- seminar 2023 in Finland (Helsinki) took place in the hall of the oldest public library in the country, called Rikhardinkatu Library, which is located in the very historical center of the city of Helsinki. The event turned out to be a real success! The audience amongst which one could also see quite a few prominent cultural figures from different fields of cultural activities in Helsinki was allowed to participate in the general discussion after every lecture. The moderator had first welcomed everybody to the event and presented the theme of the year which was Memory. And this theme every speaker, in one or another way, took into consideration in her /his presentation. During the event the atmosphere was friendly and warm. The program started with a fascinating lecture about the Jewish history in the country presented by the Jewish writer Samuel Davidkin after which we could hear a most interesting presentation by one of the most famous Finnish writers Marja-Leena Mikkola about the Russian Jewish author Isaac Babel as the history of the Finnish Jewry is most intimately linked with the history of the Russian Jewry. During a half an hour break the audience had the possibility to become acquainted with the book exhibition about Jewish cultural history in Europe and Jewish artists etc. arranged in the library especially for this occasion. The book exhibition was probably the largest

of the kind ever taken place in Finland. The second half of the program started with a bit more serious theme as the librarian Outi Virmala told us about the ideas of some of the most prominent post-holocaust philosophers. This theme turned out to inspire a specially vivid discussion. The last presentation was given by the psychotherapist and school teacher Mervi Liljeberg whose topic was to reflect the very roots of the theory of the psychoanalysis upon both the Jewish religious and philosophical thinking. After her presentation the audience had many comments to which she could though also answer in a most closed to earth manner which delighted everybody. The program included also between the lectures and discussions amusing musical moments with the clarinetists Gil Agaba-Shaked and Tal Gottdiner who played traditional Jewish songs and religious hymns. Actually, the whole event started with their playing Hava nagila in a most pleasant way! And so the program ended with a Jewish song and the moderator thanking all at present for their participation and especially all the speakers for their excellent presentations and the musicians for their part. Great happening! So thought both the audience and the organizers!

The photograph enclosed from the event was taken by Ann Andersson.

(By the way, there would not have been more room for a single more persons in the hall, it was more than full!)





54
Participating cities

186
Total activities

39.640
Total visitors

France



All the events of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 (EDJC 2023) in France were placed under the supervision of the Association JECPJ-France, the national coordinator. Organisations or individuals who are members of JECPJ-France provided regional coordination in Alsace, Lorraine, Côte d'Azur, Occitanie-Provence and Paris- Ile-de-France. In the department of Aube, this role is played by the Route Médiévale de Rachi en Champagne, supported by the Agence Départementale du Tourisme de l'Aube.

JECPJ-France is the representative of the European Route of Jewish Heritage to the French Ministry of Culture. The Ministry provides funding to support the development of all the Council of Europe's

Cultural Routes in France. The European Days of Jewish Culture, which are part of the French section of the European Route of Jewish Heritage, indirectly benefit from this support.

Through its participation in the EDJC 2023 - Memory project, co-financed by the European Union as part of the multiannual CERV programme (Citizenship, Equality, Rights and Values), JECPJ-France has also provided financial support for several events of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023. This co-financing from the European Union has given the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 a particular impetus and richness.

Alsace

BELFORT, BENFELD, BIESHEIM, BISCHHEIM, BOUXWILLER, BRUMATH, COLMAR, ETTENDORF, FEGERSHEIM, GERSTHEIM, HAGUENAU, HEGENHEIM, HOCHFELDEN, INGWILLER, MARMOUTIER, NEUWILLER-LES-SAVERNE, OBERNAI, PFAFFENHOFFEN (VAL DE MODER), RIXHEIM, ROSENWILLER, ROSHEIM, SAVERNE, SCHIRMECK, SOULTZ-HAUT-RHIN, SOULTZ-SOUS-FORETS, STRASBOURG, STRUTH, THANN, TRIMBACH, VILLE, WEITERSWILLER, WESTHOFFEN





In Alsace and the Territoire de Belfort, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 took place from 26 August to 22 October. As in previous years, they were coordinated by B'nai B'rith Strasbourg, drawing on local initiatives taken by the heads and correspondents of the JECPJ-Alsace network: tourist offices, museums, consistories, Jewish communities, local associations for the preservation of synagogues and cemeteries, etc.

The Collectivité Européenne d'Alsace provided financial support for the communication supports (printed programme leaflets, posters).

This 2023 edition involved 32 communes:

- Bas-Rhin department: 27 towns
- Department of Haut-Rhin: 5 towns
- Territoire de Belfort: 1 commune

60 activities were offered to the public, broken down as follows by type:

Guided or commented tours: 27

Concerts: 13 (+ 2 musical events as part of another activity)

Open doors (with or without activities): 10

Lectures: 3

Exhibitions: 3

Ceremonies (placing of commemorative plaques): 3

Other shows: 1

Around 3,000 people took part.

Three events (Belfort, Bouxwiller and Thann) were co-financed by the JECPJ-France association with European funds obtained as part of the EDJC 2023 - Memory project.

In the Belfort synagogue (28 September), a ceremony to unveil a commemorative plaque "To the good servants of the Belfort synagogue", in memory of the rabbis and presidents of the Belfort Jewish community since 1791, took place in the presence of a large number of local civil and religious figures, including the Prefect, Raphaël Sodini, the Mayor of Belfort, Damien Meslot, the President of the Departmental Council, Florian Bouquet, and the Members of Parliament, Cédric Perrin and Ian Boucard. The evening also included a talk by organisers Nadia and Laurent Hofnung (Judaïques Cultures) about most of the rabbis and presidents honoured,



giving the historical and sociological context of each and the issues at stake in their work. Musical interludes featuring liturgical songs were performed by hazan Jonathan Blum, accompanied on the keyboard by Michel Cazeaux.

The Musée Judéo-Alsacien in Bouxwiller (3 September), in conjunction with the Hanau-La Petite Pierre Intercommunal Tourist Office, organised an entire day of ceremonies, guided tours, exhibition openings and concerts in tribute to Gilbert Weil, founder of the Musée Judéo-Alsacien, who passed away early 2023. The day also marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Museum. The day's programme included: the inauguration by the town of Bouxwiller of the "Parvis Gilbert Weil", a guided tour of Bouxwiller's Jewish heritage, the unveiling of plaques in memory of Gilbert Weil in the Museum's grounds, a recital of oriental Jewish songs accompanied by the saz, the opening of the exhibition "The Jewish postcard in Alsatian life", and a liturgical concert by the "Le Chant Sacré" choir from Strasbourg's Great Synagogue.

At the Synagogue de Thann (3 September), Haïm Korsia, Chief Rabbi of France, was invited by the Friends of the Synagogue de Thann and the Consistoire Israélite du Haut-Rhin to give a lecture on the theme of 'Memory' in Judaism, which was very well received by the audience: Memory, its transmission and its renewal, is a cen-



tral tool in Judaism to enable evolution, adaptation and the ability of men and women to face the challenges of each generation. At the end of the conference, the Ciné-Trio (violin, clarinet and piano) presented to the audience a musical performance of "Memory and Cinema", playing 14 themes from famous films, evoking the Shoah, the Second World War, contemporary Jewish history and memory in general.

Many events have been organised to introduce the public to Alsace's rich rural Jewish heritage. It is not possible to list all the organisers here. As far as Strasbourg is concerned, mention should be made of the tours of the city's Jewish heritage organised by the Strasbourg Tourist Office and the Université Populaire de la Krutenau respectively, as well as the "spotlight" tours specially organised for these EDJC by the Musée Alsacien.

The Mini-Festival of Jewish Music, organised by the Hanau-La Petite Pierre Intercommunal Tourist Office, was also part of the EDJC 2023, with klezmer concerts in Struth (27/08), Weiterswiller (07/09) and Ingwiller (10/09), which made a major contribution to the success of the EDJC 2023, as did the Yiddish music concerts organised by the Musée du Bucheneck in Soultz-Haut-Rhin (3/09), the Musée de l'Image Populaire in Pfaffenhoffen-Val de Moder (10/09) and the association Les Amis de Rosheim in Rosheim (3/09).

Bretagne

RENNES



The Sholem Association organised, at the Maison Internationale in Rennes, a screening (8/10) of “The Dybbuk”, a landmark film of Yiddish cinema, a spellbinding, expressionist and masterful work made in Poland in 1937, about the spirit of a dead man who comes

to inhabit the body of a living man, at the heart of an impossible love story. The screening was followed by a concert of songs in Yiddish, Judeo-Spanish and Hebrew by the Sholem association choir.

Champagne

TROYES, L'HUITRE



For the 2023 edition of the EDJC, the Route médiévale de Rachi en Champagne, run by the Agence Départementale du Tourisme de l'Aube, presented 27 activities and events through its partners (Communauté de Communes Arcis Mailly Ramerupt, Maison Rachi, Institut Universitaire Européen Rachi à Troyes, CulturistiQ), attracting 4,101 visitors and participants.

- Communauté de Communes Arcis Mailly Ramerupt: opening to the public of the worksite (10 to 15/09) and inauguration (23-24/09) of the Lhuître fresco highlighting local Jewish heritage from the time of the Counts of Champagne: 3,300 visitors

- Maison Rachi/Synagogue de Troyes (September to November, 414 visitors): 15 guided tours for the general public of the “Maison Rachi Exhibition”.

- Institut Universitaire Européen Rachi (16 and 17/09, 287 visitors): Jewish music from Eastern Europe, public reading by Michel Degardin of “Adam’s Diary and Eve’s Diary”, conference on “Rachi and European heritage” by Paul Gradwohl and Gérard Rabinovitch, visits to the exhibitions and the Judaïca hebraïca library.

- Troyes La Champagne Tourisme (September to November, 70 visitors): 2 guided tours “In the footsteps of Rachi”.

- CulturistiQ (3/09, 30 visitors): 1 “Rachi” day comprising 1 guided tour and 1 lecture.



Côte d'Azur

ANTIBES, CANNES, NICE



B'nai B'rith Europe



VILLE DE NICE



B'nai B'rith France



UNION DES COMMUNAUTÉS JUIVES
CÔTE D'AZUR - CORSE



Given the circumstances (the 7 October pogrom in Israel) and the fact that the events were scheduled to take place in October and November, the 11th edition of the EDJC organised by the JECJ Côte d'Azur association could not take place normally. Several events had to be cancelled, firstly out of respect for the victims, and then in the following weeks for security reasons. Visits to the Synagogues in Antibes, Cannes and Nice could not take place.

However, other events were able to be maintained despite the reduction of attendance :

- Cannes: guided tour (created in 2023) of the Jewish plot in the Grand Jas cemetery, by Frédéric Vincent, a descendant of the Capron family, who showed visitors the grave of Adela Weisweiler and those of the Capron, Hass, Borges, Rouff and Dreyfus families.
- In Antibes: a halot (special Shabbat bread) making workshop, in which Mrs Odette Haccoun passed on her ancestral know-how,

- Nice: 3 tours of the Nice Ghetto, led by Robert Lewitt, now also available in English to reach a wider audience, at the Grande synagogue Deloye in Nice: a concert entitled "Pour Tommy" ("For Tommy") by clarinetist, author and composer Hélios Azoulay and the ensemble Incidentale, who performed lullabies written in the camps. The audience responded with emotion and passion to the story of Tommy, a child survivor of the camps, and of his father who died in the Shoah. This story is the subject of the book "Berceuses pour Tommy", which was presented to the public in Nice and has just been awarded the "Prix 2024 du livre d'humour et de résistance". The concert was co-financed by the European Union (through the associations JECJ France and B'nai B'rith Europe), with the support of the Consistoire de Nice, the FSJU and the Département des Alpes Maritimes.

170 participants and visitors attended these events.

Ile-de-France

PARIS



GALERIE SAPHIR





The programme proposed in Paris for the 2023 European Days of Jewish Culture involved more than a dozen organisations, including the Museum of Jewish Art and History (MAHJ), an art gallery, Galerie Saphir, a collective of cultural organisations and cultural centres, the Pourim Shpil Collective, cultural centres, Centre Medem, Institut Polonais de Paris, ECUJE (Espace Culturel Universitaire Juif Européen) and Institut Elie Wiesel, Maison de la Culture Yiddish and Cercle Bernard Lazare, theatre companies, Théâtre du Soleil and Compagnie Transmosaik, as well as cultural and social associations, Aki Eštamós, Farband and Fédération des Sociétés Juives de France.

More than fifteen activities were offered, many of which dealt with the memory of the Shoah from different artistic perspectives or with Jewish remembrance more generally. Four activities received financial support from JEC PJ-France with funds from the European Union.

Together the activities reached an estimated minimum audience of 2,750 people, including 1,792 for the “Books to devour, Jewish cuisine to savour” day organised by the MAHJ (03/09), the best attendance figure since the museum began participating in the EDJC. Many of the other events were scheduled after October 7th, and were therefore affected by the political and security context in Paris following the tragic events in Israel and Gaza. As a result, attendance was lower than expected, but it should be emphasised that all the planned events were able to go ahead, albeit under heavy police protection.

Among the activities directly linked to the ‘remembrance’ theme of the EDJC 2023, particular mention should be made of:

- The memory project by artist Inna Sandler presented at the Galerie Saphir (3 to 19/09)
- The play “It was a Saturday, it was Sabbath, 25 March 1944 in Ioannina” presented (9 to 30/09) at the Cartoucherie by the Théâtre du Soleil company, which shows the life, culture and tragic fate of a Jewish community in Greece,
- The presentation-vernissage of the photographic exhibition “Warsaw, City of the Living, City of the Dead”, the fruit of collaboration between the Medem Centre, the Polish Institute in Paris and Farband,
- A conference on “Writings from the Shoah against erasure of memory” by Maxime Decout (ECUJE-Institut Elie Wiesel, 13/11)
- The inauguration of the Pourim Shpil virtual museum by the Pourim Shpil Collective at the Espace Rachi-Guy de Rothschild (19/11), a website dedicated to the history of this traditional Jewish theatrical play which recounts, in a humorous and ironic way with references to current events, the biblical episode in the Book of Esther and its thwarted attempt to exterminate the Jewish community of Persia.
- The show “Hanina, Sephardic wedding songs from the former Ottoman Empire”, by the Transmosaik company,
- The concert (15/10, organised by Aki Eštamós) by the Jack and Janet Esim Quintet from Istanbul, pioneers in the research and interpretation of the Judeo-Spanish musical heritage of Turkey.

Lorraine

DELME, MARLY, METZ, MONTIGNY-LES-METZ, NANCY, SARREGUEMINES, THIONVILLE

Soutenu par



Metz et coordination Lorraine



Nancy



métropole
GrandNancy



Communauté Juive de Nancy



CENTRE ANDRÉ SPIRE

ville de
Nancy

From 3 September to 13 December, under the banner of Remembrance, the public in Lorraine enjoyed 58 events, 53 of which were organised under the coordination of Metz (JECJ- Lorraine) and 5 events initiated by the coordination of Nancy (JECJ Nancy-Lorraine Sud): conferences, concerts, workshops, symposiums, theatre, guided tours, film festival, meetings in bookshops, etc. For this exceptional edition welcomed with enthusiasm, Lorraine recorded 29,053 spectators and visitors, including 27,853 for Metz and the surrounding area and 1,200 for Nancy.

Lorraine aims to attract a large and diverse audience. To achieve this, it is promoting partnerships, increasing the number of event venues (31 in Metz and the surrounding area and 5 in Nancy) and diversifying the range of events and content on offer.

One of the flagship events of the EDJC 2023, entitled “Mémoire du sensible” (Memory of the Sensitive), was a free performance of Albert Cohen’s “Ô vous, frères humains” (O You, Human Brothers) in Metz secondary schools. The show was seen by 527 people, including 372 students. Organised with the support of AEPJ (European Association for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage) and JECPJ-France, in partnership with the Bibliothèques Médiathèques de

Metz, the show was performed in 3 lycées (Fabert, Louis Vincent and Georges de la Tour). It was also presented at the AGORA, the Paul Verlaine multimedia library and the Centre de Préfiguration de la Mosquée de Metz (in place of the Borny multimedia library, which had unfortunately been destroyed by fire in the preceding days).

Entitled “Perennial Memory”, the most important of the EDJC 2023 projects, gave a strong impetus to the refurbishment of the Judaïca room in the Cour d’Or Museum in Metz. Thank to the talents of the museum team, assisted by the JECJ-Lorraine team and artist Jean-Christophe Roelens, this large-scale project, supported by several institutions and associations (including the Bnai-Brith Elie Bloch) and by sponsors, attracted 15,863 visitors, many of them schoolchildren.

A 3rd project, entitled “Mémoire à vif - Mémoires vives - Mémoires juives”, brought together two different but complementary exhibitions. The first, in partnership with the Archives Municipales de Metz and the Cercle de Généalogie Juive de Paris, explored the quest for roots, to keep memory alive. The second, in partnership with the University of Lorraine and the Shoah Memorial - at a time



of terrible tragedy in the Middle East - presented an exhibition designed to remind us of the unsurpassable tragedy of Jewish memory. Two complementary aspects through which Jewish memories challenge the human being and the human condition. The first exhibition gave rise to a number of events and two very dynamic partnerships. The second exhibition, devoted to the sportsman Alfred Nakache, the Shoah and resilience, proved to be an extraordinary opportunity, both conceptually and historically. Both exhibitions were curated by Isabelle and Vincent Adelus & Suran, and included original, contextualised creations. They were accompanied by a series of conferences and meetings. The exhibition and events at the Archives Municipales drew 1,063 visitors. The exhibition at the University Library was seen by over 8,000 people, making a total of 9063 people reached by this project.

The 4th project of the EDJC 2023, “Variations around Memory”, from the memories of the past to the future of memory” is the one

that best reflects the constant ambition of the Lorraine coordination. Running for the entire duration of the festival, it involved as many partnerships as possible and offered the widest possible range of events, perfectly reflecting Jewish remembrance in the city. This project included: the annual programme brochure, the many festive launch events, prestigious partnerships, such as the Colloquium organised with the Académie Nationale de Metz, the Film Festival and the work with referents from different towns: Marly, Montigny-lès-Metz, Delme, Sarreguemines, Thionville, Nancy who amplify the resonance of the EDJC. Around 2,400 people attended these various events (excluding those in Nancy).

At a time when hatred and anti-Semitism are on the rise, these actions, spread out over space and time, have the advantage of taking Jewish culture everywhere, making it resonate in a positive way and, above all, sharing it with the public.

Occitanie - Provence

AVIGNON, CARPENTRAS, CAVAILLON, L'ISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE, MARSEILLE, MONTPELLIER,
NARBONNE, SAINT-REMY-DE-PROVENCE





EDJC 2023 in Occitanie and Provence was coordinated regionally by the IMMAJ Foundation under the aegis of the Fondation du Judaïsme Français.

OCCITANIE

Montpellier (3/09, 30 participants): a visit to the medieval ritual bath (Mikvé) and the medieval Jewish quarter was organised by the Institut Maïmonide and its director Michaël Iancu, a historian, who then gave a lecture on the theme of “Between history and memory, Occitan Judaism”.

Narbonne (3/09, 60 participants): the Association Cultuelle Israélite de Narbonne organised a visit to Narbonne’s “Temple” (synagogue) with a historical evocation.

PROVENCE

Marseille

- **Temple Breteuil (Grande Synagogue) (3, 20 and 21 September, 200 visitors):** guided tours of this historic monument built in 1864 were organised by the Institut IMMAJ and the Consistoire Israélite de Marseille, with two tours organised in conjunction with the Catholic diocese of Marseille.
- **Temple Beth Shalom (3/09, 10 visitors):** the visit to this historic Constantinian-rite synagogue was a first for the EDJC in Marseille.

Comtat-Venaissin: Avignon, Carpentras, Cavaillon, L’Isle-sur-la-Sorgue

The four main towns that were home to the historic Jewish community of the Comtat-Venaissin (the “Pope’s Jews”) were all there for the EDJC 2023.

Avignon (3/09, 100 participants): visits to the synagogue (an 18th-century historic monument rebuilt in the 19th century after a fire) were organised by the Association Cultuelle Israélite d’Avignon.

Carpentras (10/09, 170 participants): an initial concert tour of the synagogue (a historic monument built in the 14th century and remodelled in the 17th and 18th centuries) was organised by the Culture and Heritage Department of the Communauté d’Agglomération Ventoux Comtat Venaissin (CoVe). It was followed by a free tour offered by the Jewish Community of Carpentras (AVPCJC association).

Cavaillon (10/09, 50 participants): the City of Cavaillon’s Museums Department organised a guided tour of the Synagogue (a historic monument dating from the 15th century and modified in the 18th century) and the Musée Juif Comtadin.

L’Isle-sur-la-Sorgue: With the financial support of JECJP-France (co-funded by the European Union), the Heritage Department of the town of Isle-sur-la-Sorgue put on a rich programme focusing on remembrance, divided into two days: 3 September and 26 November. On 3 September, 380 people took part in five activities: a visit to the historic Jewish cemetery, a tour of the former Juiverie (“carrère”), a presentation of the project to restore the Beaucaire house in the Juiverie, a tour of the archaeological excavations at the former synagogue, and a musical reading of “Sur les chemins de mon judaïsme” by Armand Lunel given by the Maâloum company. On 26 November, 117 people attended a lecture entitled “Archéologie de la présence juive en France” (Archaeology of the Jewish presence in France) given by Paul Salmona, Director of the Musée d’Art et d’Histoire du Judaïsme (MAHJ) in Paris.

Saint-Rémy-de-Provence (10/09, 50 visitors) The Commune of Saint-Rémy-de-Provence organised a visit to the “Cimetière des Juifs” (Historic Monument, 14th century).



71

Participating cities

98

Total activities

15.000

Total visitors

Germany

ALZEY, ASCHERSLEBEN, ATTENWEILER, BAD BUCHAU, BAD FRIEDRICHSHALL, BAD RAPPENAU, BADEN-BADEN, BINSWANGEN, BRAUNSBACH, BRAUNSCHWEIG, BREISACH AM RHEIN, BRUCHSAL, BUCHEN, CRELINGEN, DORSTEN, EFRINGEN-KIRCHEN, EMMENDINGEN, EPPINGEN, ESSLINGEN A.N., FREIBURG, FÜRTH, GIFHORN, GOSLAR, HALBERSTADT, HELMSTEDT, HEMSACH, HOHBERG, KALRSRUHE, KIRCHARDT-BERWANGEN, KITZINGEN, KOCHENDORF, KÖLN, KRUMBACH, LAUFERSWEILER, LAUPHEIM, LIEBENBURG, LUDWIGSBURG, MASSENBAACHHAUEN, MICHELBAACH AN DER LÜCKE, MÜNCHEN, MÜSINGEN, NECKARSULM, NEUDENAU, OBERSULM, OFFENBURG, PEINE, PFORZHEIM, RASTATT, REUTLINGEN, SAARBRÜCKEN, SALZGITTER, SCHÄBISCH GMÜND, SCHNAITTACH, SCHWABACH, SCHWAIGERN-MASSENBAACH, SEESEN, STAUDERNHEIM, STUTTGART, SULZBURG, TITZ-RÖDINGEN, TÜBINGEN, ÜBERLINGEN, ULM, UNTERGRUPPENBAACH, UNTERMERZBAACH, WALDSHUT, WERNSDORF, WIMPFEN, WOLFENBÜTTEL, WOLFSBURG, ZELL AM MAIN



The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Germany

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Germany marked a significant celebration of Jewish culture and heritage, fostering intercultural dialogue and understanding across communities. From August 8 to November 12, 2023, a total of 98 engaging activities unfolded across 71 cities and regions, with active participation from 93 institutions and organizations, attracting an estimated 15,000 visitors.

The events, including exhibitions, concerts, workshops, lectures, film screenings, and tours, explored the theme of “Memory” from varied perspectives and disciplines, captivating a broad audience both in person and online. Mr. Andrei Kovacs, former director of the 1700 Years of Jewish Life in Germany festival, was appointed as the coordinator for initiatives in Germany. His role aimed to enhance the quality, diversity, and visibility of local initiatives, fostering collaboration among organizers and increasing public accessibility.

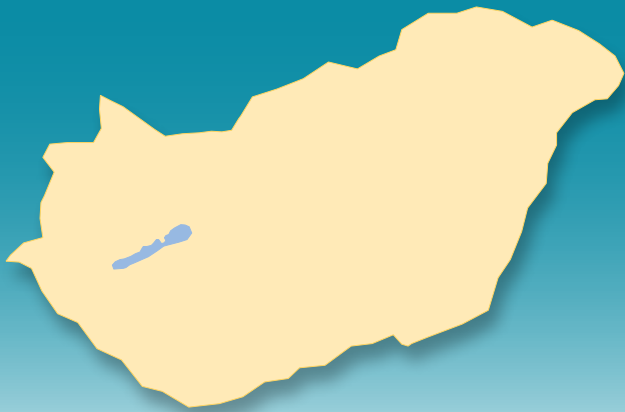
An exhibition commemorating the 70th anniversary of the historic Luxembourg Agreement, symbolizing a pivotal step in German-Israeli relations, attracted over 500 visitors and received extensive media coverage, fostering dialogue on historical, political, and cultural dimensions. A comprehensive cultural showcase in Baden-Württemberg offered 83 activities ranging from guided tours to culinary explorations, promoting dialogue and recognition within the local community. A full-day event in Augsburg celebrating the rich history of the Halderstraße Synagogue featured guided tours, exhibitions, concerts, and workshops, attracting over 350 visitors and fostering intercultural dialogue and understanding.

Extensive outreach efforts, including press releases, interviews, and newsletters, facilitated widespread awareness and participation. The establishment of a dedicated German-language website and newsletter further streamlined communication and engagement. The initiatives not only promoted a positive image of Jewish culture and heritage but also addressed contemporary challenges such as anti-Semitism, fostering dialogue and understanding across diverse audiences.

Enhancing communication channels and standardizing branding materials will improve organizational cohesion and public recognition. Continued efforts to engage local and national media will amplify the EDJC's visibility and impact, broadening its reach and relevance.

In conclusion, the EDJC 2023 in Germany was a resounding success, showcasing the richness and resilience of Jewish culture while fostering dialogue and understanding across communities. With lessons learned and feedback collected, future editions are poised to





1
Participating cities

2
Total activities

2.000
Total visitors

Hungary

BUDAPEST





Gólem Center and the Erzsébetváros Municipality

This year the city of Budapest is 150 years old, so the Erzsébetváros Municipality has announced a series of programmes entitled “150 years of Jewish Budapest”.

KULTUTCA, a Festival of Contemporary Jewish Culture and Art, was born out of a joint organisation of the Gólem Center and the Erzsébetváros Municipality.

During the one-day free street festival, participants were able to discover a wide range of cultural activities: visual arts, gastronomy, theatre, cinema, literature, music and etc. For example:

Learning in the Street Yeshiva with well-known artists and Jewish teachers.

At the mini Cinema, they could watch Israeli short films.

They could see an exhibition by Hannah Brandt, organised by the Brazilian Embassy, the Stefan Zweig House and Csányi5.

He could build a Lego Golem and see two award-winning theatre performances.

JCC Budapest – Bálint Ház made programs for children.

Merkaz (Hebrew and Israeli Cultural Centre) made an open day.



1
Participating cities

3
Total activities

2.045
Total visitors

Ireland

DUBLIN



The Irish Jewish Museum

The exhibition on the Solomons Family “Remembering Estella Solomons and the Solomons Family” was very well received and was seen by many groups as well as regular visitors to the museum throughout the period of September-December. I would estimate that approx. 2,000 people altogether attended the exhibition. In addition, we had a special gathering at the opening (approx. 45).

Our first event “Identity, Belonging, Memory and Loss after the Holocaust, Emigration and Displacement.” was an ambitious concert of new music written for the Shoah mixed with a variety of Jewish music on the theme of memory, loss, and exile. We had a packed house of about 45 in attendance in the old synagogue in the museum and it was a splendid evening.

Our third event, the talk by Susan Solomons scheduled for Oct 15th was most unfortunately cancelled at the last moment due to fears by the speaker for the safety of those in attendance following the events of 7th October.



105

Participating cities

375

Total activities

22.000

Total visitors

Italy

SIENA, LIVORNO, PISA, PITIGLIANO, MONTE SAN SAVINO, PESCARA, ARENA, BELVEDERE MARITTIMO, BOVA MARINA, CATANZARO, CAULONIA, CITTANOVA, COSENZA, CROPANI, CROTON, FERRUZZANO, GERACE, MOTTA SAN GIOVANNI, NICOTERA, PALMI, PISCOPIO, REGGIO CALABRIA, RENDE, ROCCELLETTA DI BORGIA, SAN FLORO, SANTA MARIA DEL CEDRO, SORIANO CALABRO, STILO, TARSIA, VIBO VALENTIA, ZAMBRONE, CASTROVILLARI, NAPLES, BOLOGNA, CARPI (FOSSOLI), CENTO, CESENA, CORREGGIO, CORTEMAGGIORE, FERRARA, FINALE EMILIA, LUGO DI ROMAGNA, MODENA, PARMA, REGGIO EMILIA, SORAGNA, TRIESTE, GORIZIA, SAN DANIELE DEL FRIULI (UDINE), ROME, FIUGGI, SEZZE, GENOVA, MILANO, MANTOVA, BOZZOLO, SONCINO, OSTIANO, POMPONESCO, SABBIONETA, VIADANA, ANCONA, FANO, JESI, PESARO, SENIGALLIA, URBINO, FERMO, TORINO, ALESSANDRIA, ASTI, CARMAGNOLA, CHERASCO, CHIERI, CUNEO, MONDOVÌ, SALUZZO, CASALE MONFERRATO, VERCELLI, BIELLA, LECCE, MANDURIA, ORIA, SAN NICANDRO GARGANICO, TARANTO, TRANI, CAGLIARI, CASTROREALE, ENNA (AGIRA), MARSALA, MODICA, PALERMO, SIRACUSA, TRAPANI, MERANO, VENEZIA, PADOVA, VERONA, VICENZA, CONEGLIANO, PORTOBUFFOLÈ, ROVIGO AND VITTORIO VENETO, AND PORTOGRUARO



UCEI

The 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Italy involved 105 locations spread over 16 regions covering the whole National territory.

To avoid the already widespread juxtaposition between Judaism and the Shoah and persecution, this year the Italian theme – “Beauty” – deviated from the European and focused exclusively on Jewish culture emphasizing its relationship with beauty in all its aspects. The localities, helped by the suggestions shared with them, declined as always the theme through hundreds of initiatives with different modalities: round tables, conferences, concerts, exhibitions, guided tours, performances, theatre shows, tastings, in-depth studies, workshops, activities for adults and children, and even video contributions.

The 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Italy confirmed the patronage of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Culture, and the National Association of Italian Municipalities. And, of course, it was recognised by the Council of Europe.

This edition received the Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella.

Most of the initiatives took place Sunday, September 10th with many events starting the previous night after Shabbat (September 9th). For a variety of reasons, few places celebrated it on different dates throughout September and October compatibly to Jewish festivities.

Numerous mayors, councilors, and representatives of local cultural associations attended the events all over the country.

In Florence –the leader city– the program began on Saturday, September 9th with Liron Meyuhas’ concert; an Israeli percussionist who, accompanied by a group of Florentine musicians, made an audience of about 500 people singing and dancing.

The day after, Sunday, September 10th, the official and National inauguration was attended and greeted by guests such as the Israeli Ambassador in Italy, the Mayor of Florence, the President of the region Tuscany, the Minister of Culture, and numerous positive responses to many other UCEI’s invitations to civil and religious authorities. The richness of the following initiatives welcomed over 1200 people.

Initiatives and events have taken place in:

TUSCANY – Siena, Livorno, Pisa, Pitigliano, and Monte San Savino.

ABRUZZO – Pescara

CALABRIA – Arena, Belvedere Marittimo, Bova Marina, Catanzaro, Caulonia, Cittanova, Cosenza, Cropani, Crotone, Ferruzzano, Gerace, Motta San Giovanni, Nicotera, Palmi, Piscopio, Reggio Calabria, Rende, Roccelletta di Borgia, San Floro, Santa Maria del Cedro, Soriano Calabro, Stilo, Tarsia, Vibo Valentia, Zambrone, and –for the first time– Castrovillari.

Part of them have participated with the realization of a series of videos and interviews dedicated to the Jewish presence and traces in the territory.

Videos can be seen at the following link <https://www.ucci.it/giornatadellacultura/calabria/>

CAMPANIA–Naples

EMILIA ROMAGNA–Bologna, Carpi (Fossoli), Cento, Cesena, Correggio, Cortemaggiore, Ferrara, Finale Emilia, Lugo di Romagna, Modena, Parma, Reggio Emilia, and Soragna

FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA–Trieste, Gorizia, and San Daniele del Friuli (Udine)

LAZIO – Rome, Fiuggi, and Sezze

LIGURIA – Genova

LOMBARDIA – Milano, Mantova, Bozzolo, Soncino, Ostiano, Pomponesco, Sabbioneta, and Viadana.

MARCHE – Ancona, Fano, Jesi, Pesaro, Senigallia, Urbino, and – for the first time – Fermo.

PIEMONTE – Torino, Alessandria, Asti, Carmagnola, Cherasco, Chieri, Cuneo, Mondovì, Saluzzo, Casale Monferrato, Vercelli and Biella.

PUGLIA – Lecce, Manduria, Oria, San Nicandro Garganico, Taranto, and Trani

SARDEGNA – Cagliari with a week-long program.

SICILIA – Castoreale, Enna (Agira), Marsala, Modica, Palermo, Siracusa e Trapani.

TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE – Merano

VENETO – Venezia, Padova, Verona, Vicenza, Conegliano, Portobuffolè, Rovigo and Vittorio Veneto, and – for the first time – Portogruaro

Report e participation:

The local reports received make it possible to count an audience of around 22.000 people.

To assume a national total number, we must consider that it represents slightly less than a third of the localities adherent but it includes the biggest cities and the most active communities.

Social Network:

Between July 1st and September 19th

Facebook Page coverage: approx. 17500 visitors reached

Instagram Coverage: approx. 1700 visitors reached





8

Participating cities

9

Total activities

2.438

Total visitors

Lithuania

VILNIUS, JONAVA, AKMENĖ, KLAIPEDA, PRIENAI, TAURAGĖ, KUPIŠKIS



JEWISH (LITVAK)
COMMUNITY
OF LITHUANIA



Jewish Community of Lithuania

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Lithuania marked a significant celebration of Jewish heritage and culture, highlighting the rich history of the Jewish community in the region. Despite facing challenges such as the aftermath of the Holocaust and Soviet-era restrictions, the small Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania (JCL) has shown resilience in preserving its historical memory.

In recent years, there has been a noticeable increase in attention towards Jewish culture and heritage in Lithuania. Before 2016, the JCL's participation in cultural events was limited, but since then, they have organized an annual local event in Vilnius each September. The 2023 edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Lithuania saw a remarkable transformation, becoming the most vibrant and extensive event yet, showcasing the community's vitality and determination to be an integral part of Lithuania's cultural landscape.

The main event took place in Vilnius, with eight additional events held throughout Lithuania from September to November. These events attracted hundreds of visitors and represented a collaborative effort between the JCL, major regional cultural institutions, and local communities.

Highlights included a celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture in Vilnius, featuring a diverse program focused on the theme of **MEMORY**. Activities included guided tours of the Vilnius Choral Synagogue, Yiddish and Hebrew classes, a bagel baking workshop, and a Klezmer music concert in Cvi Park. A symbolic highlight was the opening of the Had Gadja mural by renowned Lithuanian artist Ilja Bereznickas, celebrating both culinary and artistic heritage.

Regional events in towns like Akmene, Taurage, and Kupiškis connected local Jewish communities with cultural and educational societies, fostering understanding and appreciation of Jewish heritage.

The events received extensive media coverage, with television broadcasts, radio interviews, and online reports reaching a wide audience across Lithuania. The coverage helped raise awareness of Jewish culture and heritage and showcased the community's contributions to the country's cultural tapestry.

Overall, the 8th European Days of Jewish Culture in Lithuania marked a turning point in the country's Jewish cultural scene, strengthening networks between cultural institutions and communities. The celebration of **MEMORY** contributed significantly to cultural preservation, education, diversity promotion, and community building, enriching Lithuania's cultural landscape and fostering a more inclusive society.



1
Participating cities

1
Total activities

300
Total visitors

Luxembourg

ETTELBRUCK



Al Synagog Etelbréck

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Luxembourg provided a unique opportunity to explore the rich Jewish heritage of Etelbruck. On Sunday, September 24th, 2023, visitors gathered for an open day at the former synagogue of Etelbruck, a historic landmark that dates back to 1870.

Despite enduring the dark days of Nazi occupation during the Second World War, the synagogue remained standing as a symbol of resilience. Since 2019, the non-profit organization Al Synagog Etelbréck has been dedicated to preserving and revitalizing this cultural treasure as a hub for cultural and educational activities.

During the open day, visitors had the chance to step inside the synagogue and learn about its history and ongoing restoration efforts. Guided tours were conducted from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and again from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM, providing valuable insight into the significance of this landmark.

Located on Rue de Warken in Etelbruck, the synagogue served as a poignant reminder of Luxembourg's Jewish heritage and the resilience of its community. The open day was a testament to the importance of preserving and celebrating cultural history, allowing visitors to connect with the stories that shape our collective past.



1
Participating cities

1
Total activities

60
Total visitors

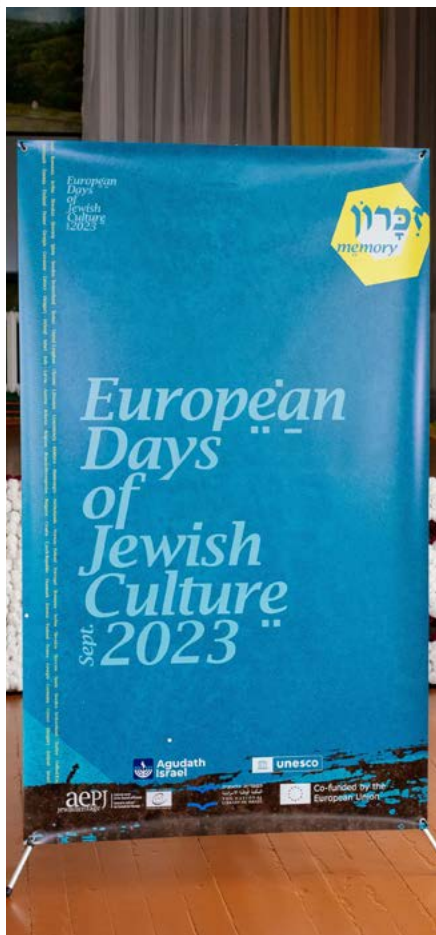
Moldova

CHISINAU



MINISTERUL CULTURII
AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA





Agudath Israel in Moldova

Our event that took place in Vadul-Rashkov, 130 km from Chisinau, one of the most picturesque places in Moldova. It used to be one of many traditional shtetles of the country with up to 70% of the Jewish population (in the end of 19th century) and seven synagogues on the eve of the World War II. It is also known as the place of birth of the most eminent writer in Yiddish from Bessarabia - Yechiel Shraibman.

The event itself was organized by Agudath Israel in Moldova in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and European Integration, National Philharmonic, Museum of the Jewish History of Moldova.

It was a journey back to the Memory of the Jewish history, virtual in your imagination and real while visiting the old Jewish cemetery with the oldest graves yet of the 18th century, monument to Yechiel Shraibman, visit by passing to another famous former Jewish place of the town of Orhey, and a wonderful open air concert by Select Quartet led by Master of Arts, one of the leading conductors of the country Mihai Agafita who performed klezmer melodies for over 100 people audience composed by the local inhabitants and guests from Chisinau that included officials led by the state secretary of the Ministry of Culture Mr. Andrei Chistol and diplomatic corps representatives.



11
Participating cities

15
Total activities

2.654
Total visitors

Netherlands

AMSTERDAM, COEVORDEN, GRONINGEN, MAASTRICHT, MEERSSEN, MIDDELBURG, OVERVEEN,
ROERMOND, TILBURG, ZUIDLAREN, ZWOLLE



B'NAI B'RITH
LOGE HILLEEL



B'nai Brith Netherlands

During the European Days of Jewish Culture in the Netherlands, held on September 9th and 10th, 2023, a significant number of participants, totaling 2654, attended various events across the country. Spread over 15 locations in 11 Dutch cities including Amsterdam, Coevorden, Groningen, Maastricht, Meerssen, Middelburg, Overveen, Roermond, Tilburg, Zwolle, and Zuidlaren, the activities offered diverse experiences for attendees.

In Amsterdam, events unfolded across four different venues. The Raw Aron Schuster (RAS) synagogue welcomed approximately 700 participants, where volunteers provided insights into the synagogue's history and architecture, including a presentation on Rabbi Aron Schuster. At the Gerard Dou synagogue, 18 visitors engaged in a lecture and guided tour, while 8 explored the "Art and Family" exhibition at the Joma Museum. Additionally, 62 individuals participated in guided visits to the Zeeburg Old Jewish cemetery.

In Coevorden, attendees enjoyed guided tours of the synagogue and multiple concerts by the Leoville Klezmer Syncopators, attracting a total of 200 participants.

Groningen hosted events over two days, coinciding with the city's museum night on September 9th. The following day featured concerts by renowned artists, including the duet of flutist Eleonore Pameijer and singer Irene Maessen, highlighting music by composers persecuted during the Holocaust. These events, attended by an estimated 390 individuals, aimed to preserve and promote the work of persecuted composers, contributing to the theme of the festival.

Maastricht offered a lecture on the province's Jewish history followed by a concert, engaging 55 participants. In Meerssen, the "Never Liberated" exhibition, focusing on the persecution of Sinti during the Holocaust, attracted 116 visitors.

Other cities such as Middelburg, Overveen, Roermond, Tilburg, Zuidlaren, and Zwolle hosted guided visits, lectures, and presentations, drawing various numbers of participants ranging from 18 to 421.

Overall, the European Days of Jewish Culture in the Netherlands provided an opportunity for thousands of people to explore Dutch synagogues, learn about local Jewish heritage, and engage in cultural activities commemorating the memory of Holocaust victims. The success of these events would not have been possible without the support of the Hillel lodge in the Netherlands and the dedicated volunteers from Jewish communities across the country.



1
Participating cities

16
Total activities

1.003
Total visitors

Norway

OSLO

JØDISK מUSEUM OSLO



Oslo Jewish Museum

Oslo Jewish Film Festival 05.-10.09.23

Six movies from all over the world, twelve screenings. A varied program with documentaries, feature films and a kids movie. Engaging topics from historic and present time. 494 audience members in total.

A Night of Klezmer 09.09.23

Two klezmer bands on stage. 13 musicians! Traditional klezmer melodies, and new, jazz-inspired interpretations. 376 people in the audience.

Cultural Day in the Oslo Jewish Museum 03.09.23

1) Theatre “Dos Verterbuk” in Swedish and Yiddish for our youngest audience to begin with – an engaging and dramatic story about caring for a language.

2) Berit Reisel, the renowned Norwegian jewish psychologist gave a talk called “Judaism in a nutshell” on Jewish History for an attentive audience.

3) Screening of the graphic film “The Wolf of Baghdad” by Carol Isaacs, and a talk between Isaacs and Lyn Julius on jewish history in Iraq afterwards.

In total 55 people stopped by the museum on the Cultural Day.

Concert – Preßburger Klezmer Band 02.09.23

Energetic music from a seasoned Slovak band engaging the audience with both playful and sensitive klezmer melodies. 78 in the audience.



17
Participating cities

51
Total activities

1.291
Total visitors

Poland

BIALYSTOK, ŁÓDŹ, PŁOCK, WARSZAWA, KRAKÓW, WROCŁAW, KAZIMIERZ DOLNY, PARCHATKA, ZAMOŚĆ, LUBLIN, OŚWIĘCIM, NAREWKA, MIĘDZYRZECZ, TYKOCIN, ORLA, KOŃSKIE, WOJSŁAWICE





Gminne Centrum Kultury
Sportu i Turystyki
w Wojśławicach



יְהוּדִישׁ זְיֶדוּשְׁקִי
הִיסְטוֹרְיָה
אִינסְטִיטוּט
זְיֶדוּשְׁקִי
INSTITUT
HISTORYCZNY



STUDIOJOT

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning Foundation

The 2023 edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Poland marked a significant milestone, with coordination for the first time by the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning Foundation. Established in 2009, the Taube Center serves as a platform for fostering interdisciplinary projects aimed at sharing knowledge about Jewish heritage in Poland. Its main activities include organizing study tours, educational programs for youth and adults, and publications.

Prior editions of the EDJC in Poland consisted mainly of separate events organized by various institutions, lacking a structured festival program. Recognizing the need for institutional coordination, the Taube Center implemented a new organizational structure to ensure a cohesive and impactful festival experience. This involved coordinating efforts among multiple stakeholders and institutions within the Taube Center's network.

Through a criteria-based assessment system, the Taube Center selected 19 events to receive financial support from an EU grant, while an additional 32 events were organized with existing resources. In total, 51 activities were held across Poland, attracting 1291 participants from Poland and 11 other countries.



Among the highlights of the festival were:

1. The grand inauguration at the Nozyk Synagogue in Warsaw, featuring speeches by Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael J. Schudrich and Taube Center Director Helise E. Lieberman, followed by a concert by Yuri Vedenyapin.
2. “The Historical Walk in the Footsteps of the Jews of Końskie,” which attracted nearly 150 participants eager to explore the vibrant history of the local Jewish community.
3. The concert “Drzewo życia” (Tree of Life), celebrating the 100th anniversary of Chava Rosenfarb’s birth, a renowned Yiddish writer.
4. The Commemoration of All Souls in Wojśławice, which included the inauguration of an exhibition titled “The Book

of Memory of Wojśławice” and a musical performance by the “Szalom Chełm” group.

5. The Virtual Exhibition “History of the Nozyk Synagogue,” offering an immersive experience of one of Warsaw’s pre-war synagogues.

The festival’s communication strategy utilized various platforms, including a dedicated website, social media, and collaborations with other Jewish festivals and organizations.

The 2023 European Days of Jewish Culture in Poland represented a significant step forward, providing a structured and coordinated platform for celebrating Jewish heritage and culture. The success of the festival underscored the growing interest in Polish Jewish culture and the potential for future editions to become a permanent fixture in the country’s cultural landscape.





2
Participating cities

7
Total activities

2.022
Total visitors

Portugal

Oporto, Torres Vedras



Museu do
Holocausto
Porto

Município de Torres Vedras - Centro de Interpretação da Comunidade Judaica

The Interpretation Center of the Jewish Community of Torres Vedras held the inauguration of the temporary exhibition The Portuguese Jewish Diaspora, 15th-21st centuries: New Christians, crypto-Jews, Marranos, «people of the Nation», designed by historian Livia Parnes to Editions Chandeigne (Paris), whose tour in Portugal is promoted by the Hagadá Association | Tikvah – Jewish Museum Lisbon. At the same time, took place the inauguration of the Documentation Center room of this museum unit, marking the online availability of its bibliographic catalogue.

Participants had the opportunity to watch two short documentaries introducing the exhibition, one about the role of the Jewish community of Bayonne (France) – originally from Portugal and nicknamed the “Portuguese nation” – in the production and dissemination of chocolate in Europe, and another about the crypto-Jewish community of Belmonte (Portugal). There was also a musical flute moment, by musician Ricardo Meira, who played Renaissance dance themes, ending with a Torres de honor, accompanied by the famous bean pastries from Torres Vedras.

Jewish Community of Oporto

B’nai B’rith Portugal, in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Porto and other organisations hosted a series of activities at the Kadorie Mekor Haim Synagogue, the Jewish Museum and Holocaust Museum, which are located in its proximity in Porto on 3 September 2023.

The program began with the inauguration of a Memorial to the Victims of the Inquisition at the Jewish Museum of Porto, at which the speakers were the Director of the Jewish and Holocaust Museums of the CIP/CJP, Dr. Michael Rothwell, the National Coordinator of the European Strategy to Combat Antisemitism and Promotion of Jewish Life in Portugal, Dr. Pedro Bacelar de Vasconcelos, and the President of the Porto Municipal Assembly, Dr. Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo.

At the synagogue, visitors were able to enter. An exhibition of 15 paintings by local artist Flor Mizrahi was displayed on the first floor of the synagogue portraying the ancient Jewish history of the city. In the late afternoon, the Mekor Haim synagogue Choir sang liturgical songs in the main Prayer Room to a full audience.

At the Jewish Museum of Porto, three sessions of the film Sefarad were shown, which tells the story of the Jewish Community of Oporto, which in 2023 turned 100 years old. After the screening, the public had the opportunity to talk to Isabel Lopes, vice-president of the Jewish community of Porto and a granddaughter of Captain Artur Barros Baço persecuted in the 1930s for being Jewish and known as the “Portuguese Dreyfus”. In addition, visitors were able to attend a permanent exhibition on contemporary antisemitism.

At the Holocaust Museum of Porto, the book “The Portuguese on Hitler’s Blacklist” was presented by the author Miriam Assor. In the same place, Josef Lassmann, member of the CIP/CJP, spoke to the public about the story of his mother, Holocaust survivor Chaja Lassmann, who was in block 10 of Auschwitz, where Josef Mengele experimented with prisoners. Lassmann’s father, also a survivor, never said a word about his experiences, a common occurrence among Holocaust survivors.





19
Participating cities

29
Total activities

5.000
Total visitors

Romania

SIBIU, RESITA, LUGOJ, TIMISOARA, CARANSEBES, SIGHET, BAIA MARE, SOLCA, IASI, SAVENI, BOTOSANI, CLUJ, SATU MARE, SEINI, BUCHAREST, TURDA, VASLUI, SILVANI SIMLIU, TULCA





Tarbut Sighet Foundation

The Romanian chapter of the European Days of Jewish Culture in 2023 was led by the Tarbut Sighet Foundation for Jewish Culture and Education (FTS), an esteemed member organization of the AEPJ. Since 2015, FTS has been at the helm of coordinating EDJC programs, initially focusing on activities in the Maramures Region before expanding its reach across Romania. The inclusion of FTS in the 2023 EDJC grant program was greatly appreciated, as it allowed for the continuation and expansion of their impactful initiatives.

Despite facing challenges, including closures of Jewish Community Centres following events on October 7, 2023, FTS persevered in delivering its programming, albeit in a limited capacity. The theme of Memory held particular significance for high school students in Romania, especially following the implementation of a parliamentary decision to include Holocaust Studies and Jewish heritage in the curriculum for Grade 11 History. FTS capitalized on this opportunity to engage with schools and communities across Romania, raising awareness of Jewish heritage and history.

FTS's mission for the year was to extend its reach to new locations across Romania, where Jewish life may be less visible. Through strategic partnerships and innovative programming, FTS succeeded in bringing Jewish heritage to towns, cities, and villages across the country. Activities were held at various locations, including muse-

ums, synagogues, libraries, and public venues, attracting participants from diverse backgrounds and ages.

One of the highlights was the circulation of the National Library of Israel exhibition, translated into Romanian by FTS and displayed at four locations. Additionally, FTS collaborated with local organizations to design exhibits, conduct workshops, and organize visits to significant sites of Jewish heritage. These initiatives not only fostered a deeper understanding of Jewish culture but also facilitated meaningful interactions between different communities.

Communication played a crucial role in promoting FTS's programs, with outreach efforts conducted through various channels, including telephone, WhatsApp, email, posters, and media interviews. Word of mouth proved to be particularly effective in reaching audiences, with enthusiastic responses from participants across different demographics.

FTS's efforts were met with overwhelming appreciation and positive feedback from participants, who expressed gratitude for the meaningful and educational programs. The success of the 2023 EDJC in Romania reflects FTS's dedication to preserving and promoting Jewish heritage and culture, paving the way for continued engagement and collaboration in the future. FTS participants in the Paris sessions and seminars found them to be descriptive, analytical, and brought out a different outlook on the meaning of MEMORY. They were helpful and brought knowledge and new perspectives to the professionals in the field.



1
Participating cities

2
Total activities

350
Total visitors

Serbia

BELGRADE




ЈЕВРЕЈСКА ОПШТИНА БЕОГРАД
BELGRADE JEWISH COMMUNITY
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E-MAIL: office@jebcograd.org



Jewish Community Belgrade

In celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Community Belgrade hosted a diverse range of events aimed at showcasing the rich cultural heritage of the Jewish community in Serbia. Among the highlights was a captivating concert featuring esteemed performers and a fascinating walking tour exploring Jewish Belgrade.

The concert, held to mark the occasion of the European Day of Jewish Culture, featured performances by the Serbian Jewish Singing Society, the Baruch Brothers Choir, and talented soloists Nevena Tatomirović and Vuk Zekić. Under the direction of conductor Stefan Zekić, the ensemble delivered a mesmerizing musical experience, captivating the audience with their renditions of traditional Jewish melodies and contemporary compositions. Accompanied by Mina Mendelsohn on violin, Maša Babić on piano, and Luka

Bošković on clarinet, the performers brought the spirit of Jewish culture to life through their exceptional artistry.

In addition to the concert, the Jewish Community Belgrade organized a free walking tour titled “In Search of Jewish Belgrade.” Led by Čedomila Marinković, Ph.D., an esteemed art historian, the tour offered participants a unique opportunity to explore the historical and cultural landmarks of Jewish Belgrade. From iconic sites to hidden gems, the tour provided insights into the vibrant history and enduring legacy of the Jewish community in the city.

The walking tour culminated with a visit to the Jewish Cultural Center “Oneg Shabbat,” where attendees had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Jewish music performed by Nikola Albahari Salaćanin. Through this immersive experience, participants gained a deeper appreciation for the rich tapestry of Jewish culture and heritage in Belgrade.



1
Participating cities

3
Total activities

505
Total visitors

Slovakia

BRATISLAVA, SENEC



B'nai B'rith Europe



B'nai B'rith Europe

Two activities took place in Slovakia, organized by the Tolerancia and Concordia lodges in Bratislava and Košice respectively.

In Bratislava, the opening ceremony of the exhibition “Beyond Duty” dedicated to the Diplomats who were recognized as the Righteous Among the Nations took place in the Museum of the Jewish Culture of the Slovak National Museum on 31 August at 16:30.

The opening ceremony was accompanied by the exhibition “Jewish Swimming Revolution” highlighting successful Slovak Jewish swimmers. David Sivor, a Slovak Jewish swimmer and Holocaust survivor who emigrated to Israel in 1949 was present at the event, as was Ivona Tobišová, a second-generation Holocaust survivor born in 1948.

In addition, the synagogue on Heydukova Street was opened together alongside an exhibition about the architect Artur Szalatnai-Slatinsky. He was the designer of the only synagogue in Bratislava which celebrates 100 years since its opening.

In addition, the Memorial to Chatam Sofer, an early 19th century rabbi who established the reformist Pressburg Yeshiva in Bratislava, as well as the Orthodox cemetery were opened for visitors. These activities took place on 3 September 2023. A total of 65 participants attended these events.

In Košice, a Shana Tova (Happy New Year) concert was held on 12 October 2023. On the same day, a series of lectures on the Jewish community of the city and especially on the Holocaust-era history of the community was held on the same day at the Orthodox synagogue.

The programme had to change following the October 7 massacre in Israel, after which travel was suspended. The workshop replaced a guided exhibition on the life and works of Slovak Jewish artist Ludovít Feld, a survivor of Auschwitz and a victim of Josef Mengele's human experiments. The workshop nevertheless discussed the life of Ludovít Feld among other topics.

The workshop took place three times, each time for 30 visitors, totaling 90 participants.

The concert featured the Kaschauer Klezmer band, followed by a concert of soloists from the national Slovak opera. Alongside festive music and traditional Yiddish and Israeli songs.

It was a very emotional event, where participants signed a declaration of solidarity and hope for Israel and the victims of the massacre, which was handed out to the Israeli Ambassador to Slovakia, Eitan Levon. An estimated 350 people attended the concert in Košice.



10
Participating cities

25
Total activities

4.769
Total visitors

Slovenia

MARIBOR, MURSKA SOBOTA, LENDAVA, NEGOVA, PTUJ, GORNJA RADGONA, ŠALOVCI,
DOMANJŠEVCI, LJUBLJANA, GRADEC



Pomurski muzej
Murska Sobot

Univerza v Ljubljani
Teološka fakulteta



Enota v Mariboru





Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor

Synagogue Maribor is the national coordinator for European Days of Jewish Culture in Slovenia. In 2023 we received applications for 24 events from 10 cities, and directly participated in half of them. Events were very various in nature, ranging from exhibition open-

ings, round table discussions, lectures, guided tours, concerts. We organised open doors days, lectures, guided tours, exhibition openings, concerts, conferences, and online symposiums. In Maribor Synagogue we translated the Memory exhibition from the National Library of Israel and published it online. Attendance was satisfactory, on some events even crowded beyond expectation, and each event received a positive feedback. Media were present on the majority of the events, mostly local radio and TV stations.



30
Participating cities

125
Total activities

30.000
Total visitors

Spain

ÁVILA, BARCELONA, BÉJAR, BESALÚ, CÁCERES, CALAHORRA, CASTELLÓ D'EMPÚRIES, CÓRDOBA, ESTELLA-LIZARRA, GIRONA, HERVÁS, JAÉN, LEÓN, LORCA, LUCENA, MADRID, MONFORTE DE LEMOS, OVIEDO, PALMA, PLASENCIA, RIBADAVIA, SAGUNT, SEGOVIA, TARAZONA, TÀRREGA, TOLEDO, TORTOSA, TUDELA, TUI, ZARAGOZA



Patronat Call de Girona

In 2023, the European Days of Jewish Culture have taken place in 30 cities in Spain and have had great success in terms of participation: we estimate that more than 30,000 people have attended more than 120 activities organized by city councils, museums and collaborating organizations

This event has been possible due to the involvement of different cultural agents who have collaborated with the Patronat Call de Girona since the beginning of 2023. They are:

- Spanish Network of Jewish Cities-Routes of Sefarad (made up of 21 cities: Ávila, Barcelona, Béjar, Cáceres, Calahorra, Córdoba, Estella-Lizarra, Hervás, Jaén, León, Lorca, Lucena, Monforte de Lemos, Plasencia, Ribadavia, Sagunto, Segovia, Tarazona, Toledo, Tudela, and Tui)
- City Council of Besalú
- City Council of Castelló d'Empúries, its Archives and Museum
- City Council of Girona
- City Council of Palma
- Government of Catalonia, Ministry of Justice, Rights and Memory
- Honorary Consulate of Israel in Barcelona
- Sefarad-Israel Centre in Madrid
- ATID Jewish Community of Catalonia
- Jewish Community of the Balearic Islands (CJIB)
- Jewish Community of Girona-Costa Brava
- Federation of Jewish Young Adults in Spain (FEJJE)
- Barcelona Jewish Film Festival
- Sefer Barcelona, Jewish Book Festival
- Museu Comarcal de l'Urgell-Tàrraga
- Mozaika Cultural Platform, in Barcelona
- Sefarad Aragón association in Zaragoza
- Arca-Llegat Jueu association in Balearic Islands
- Institute of Cultural Relations Balears-Israel
- Sinagoga del Puig del Mercadal in Castelló d'Empúries

The Patronat Call de Girona has worked with these local stakeholders, exploring the subject "Memory" with an innovative perspective,

and conveying to them the learning achievements established in the training for trainers activities.

Consequently, some of the activities programed in various cities have explored the subject of European historical memory in alternative ways. Thus, we have met the objectives established in the Co-operation Agreement.

The coordination work started earlier, after attending the "Coordinators Meeting" in Paris in February 2023. The guidelines established there were shared with all the local partners in Spain during the first online coordination meetings organized by the Patronat Call de Girona in Spring. Also, the "Inspiring Memory Sessions", launched in May and June, were sent to the stakeholders and discussed during different meetings, mainly online, but also in person in Madrid and Barcelona.

Later, the work of the Patronat has been integrating all the scheduled activities into the EDJC program. All the Spanish cities and the organizations have carried out more than 120 activities within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture between September and November 2023. We are going to highlight some of them:

In Córdoba (Andalusia) Jewish heritage has been celebrated with the Sephardic Autumn festival (40 acts and events related to Jewish culture and heritage, such as workshops, concerts, exhibitions, gastronomy, conferences, guided tours, historical recreations and multiple activities), enhancing the city's Sephardic culture and heritage. It is worth mentioning that this year's edition of the event included a symbolic tribute to Mr. Moshe Shaul, the recently deceased chairman of the National Ladino Authority, with the open air concert by Paco Díez (voice) and Raúl Olivar (guitar), including a repertoire of Sephardic traditional songs interpreted with flamenco arrangements.

In Girona (Catalonia), the temporary exhibitions in the Museum of Jewish History have reached a large audience, and they linked to other related activities, proposing a reflection on the concept of memory. For instance, the temporary exhibition "Synagogues, architectures of memory" explored the Jewish architectural and cultural heritage of Europe with the lithographs by Dora Szampanier, focusing on buildings that were destroyed, or transformed for other uses, in the 20th century. Following that, a Kapla construction workshop brought this topic to the youngest audience in a playful way, using some Szampanier's images of ancient synagogues to build some large-scale models out of pieces of wood, in a team effort. This activity aimed to build a link between the young generations



and those spaces that, in the past, welcomed Jewish communities from all over Europe.

In Castelló d'Empúries (Catalonia), the event commemorating the 700th anniversary of the expansion of the Synagogue of Puig del Mercadal was remarkable as it allowed the public to learn about the history of the recently discovered archaeological remains. The event took place inside the building of the ancient synagogue, and it was chaired by the Councilor for Culture and Heritage of the Castelló d'Empúries City Council, accompanied by the owner of the building, and the responsible for the archaeological excavations carried out inside it.

In Lorca (Murcia), some interesting activities were organized from September 1st to 30th in the castle and in the town, such as theatre performances, guided tours, and workshops, some for adults and some for children. The main purpose had been to bring the newly discovered Jewish heritage closer to the public --after the discovery, a few years ago, of the archaeological remains of the Jewish quarter and its synagogue in the Castillo area. The local and regional public have appreciated all the activities, which had the assistance of local and regional political representatives. Lorca's participation in the

EDJC has become a great success in the long-distance race to strengthen the society's connection with this shared heritage.

In Oviedo (Asturias), the hospitality of the Kehila Beit Emunah Asturias has made it possible to celebrate the 3rd of September with open doors to the synagogue, including an exhibition of ritual elements used in the Jewish annual cycle. Finally, a tour of the signage of the Oviedo Jewish quarter followed the plaques that remember the limits of the Jewish quarter of Oviedo and the complex coexistence between religions in medieval times.

In Palma de Mallorca, the collaboration with the Jewish Community of the Balearic Islands (CJIB) has created activities that merged the Sephardic and Xueta heritage with contemporary Jewish life in the Balearic Islands, with lectures, concerts, cinema, and a day of open doors to the synagogue. The lecture "Anti-Semitism from the perspective of the European Union" by Max Benalal has shed light on the institutional framework that aims to combat anti-Semitism in Europe nowadays.

The Sefarad-Israel Centre in Madrid has hosted a dialogue between Antonio Muñoz Molina (author of works such as "Sefarad") and Luis García Montero (director of the Cervantes Institute and also a



writer), under the title: “The representation of Sefarad in 21st century Europe”. The conversation aimed to reflect on how the Sephardic identity, its meaning and symbolism, participates in modern-day Europe, in a journey of more than 500 years that has surpassed borders and generational limits.

In addition, our partner the Spanish Network of Jewish Cities-Routes of Sefarad has promoted a campaign on social media platforms. Starting on Friday, September 1st, the memory of Sefarad was kept alive in the cities of this network through the “Door of Memory”. The recreation of an ancient door was placed in a visible place in each Jewish quarter, evoking the memory of a time when Sephardic families lived in Sefarad. The door had printed a QR code linked to an explanatory video about the EDJC. By uploading a photo from there to the Instagram profile @redjuderias, tagging #memory #redjuderias, you entered the draw for several promotional packs from the Spanish Network of Jewish Cities. This campaign moved the event to the digital world, allowing commitment to the EDJC to the smallest towns.

The National EDJC in Spain have been a great success in 2023, involving such a number of cities and institutions with the common goal of promoting Jewish culture and heritage.

It cannot be denied that the political situation in the Middle East since October has posed a challenge for the latest scheduled activities. However, the success achieved in the month of September, and the involvement of the society in the celebration of the Jewish heritage in every town ensure the continuity of the EDJC in the future.

This edition has allowed us to expand and strengthen the network of coordinators and organisers of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Spain. Not only new alliances are born during the coordination of the activities of 2023, but also new tools and ideas for promoting and celebrating Jewish culture and heritage throughout Europe are available for future events.

The European Days of Jewish Culture make a significant contribution to the promotion of Jewish heritage in Spain. They are an excellent opportunity to bring living communities closer together, while offering spaces to share memories and educate about respect and mutual understanding.



9

Participating cities

30

Total activities

1.800

Total visitors

Switzerland

BASEL, BERN, DELÉMONT, ENDINGEN-LENGNAU, GENÈVE, LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS, LAUSANNE,
ZÜRICH, HÉGENHEIM



**JÜDISCHES
MUSEUM
SCHWEIZ**



Jewish Museum of Switzerland (Jüdisches Museum der Schweiz)

The European Day of Jewish Culture 2023 was very well received by the public, the programs were very appealing and diverse. The individual organizers in Basel, Bern, Delémont, Endingen-Lengnau, Genève, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, Zurich and Hégenheim are very satisfied with the number of visitors and their reactions. The guided tours of the synagogues, the city tours, the movie screening, the scenic presentations, lectures, discussions and con-

certs attracted a large public. The panel discussions on family research of the third and fourth generation of Holocaust survivors, the expert discussion on the medieval Jewish communities at the Jewish Museum in Basel, the staged Bernese trial of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" at the Jewish Community of Bern and the discussion on memory and trauma in the Archives for Contemporary History in Zurich met great interest. Well-attended concerts took place in Basel, Endingen-Lengnau, Lausanne and Geneva. A total of around 1800 visitors attended the European Day of Jewish Culture.



1
Participating cities

2
Total activities

450
Total visitors

Ukraine

LVIV





Jewish Youth organization "Hillel"

This year, despite the situation in the country, three Jewish organizations: All-Ukrainian Jewish Charitable Foundation "Hesed-Arieh", Jewish Youth Organization "Hillel", and Progressive Judaism Community "Tejva" the two-day program with various activities was for the first time organized and held in Lviv within the frames of the European Days of Jewish Culture.

It was dedicated to the topic of the year - Memory. The first day various workshops and master-classes were organized, representing Jewish cultural tradition of the region: traditional Jewish songs - nigunim, traditional Jewish dance and Jewish reizele art. The main event was the concert "Jewish Mosaic" with the participation of artistic groups of the local Jewish organizations. The guests of the event had the opportunity to watch the performances of the "Sheine

Meidelach" vocal group, the choreographic ensemble "Jewish Miniatures" and the Jewish song ensemble "Shtrudl-Band".

The concert program was enriched by the participation of non-Jewish representatives - the soloist of the Lviv National Philharmonic - Olena Matseliukh with the performance of works by Jewish authors on the organ and the soloist of the Lviv National Opera - Hanna Nosova.

We appreciate that the initiative of the Jewish representatives was strongly supported by Lviv State Museum of Religion. It kindly offered the place for the events and supported with technical and organizational assistance.

One more remarkable point: considering the date of the concert - 21st of October - the concert was also organized as the act of support for the State of Israel.



13
Participating cities

40
Total activities

8.575
Total visitors

United Kingdom

LONDON, EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NORWICH, WINCHESTER, CHELTENHAM, YORKSHIRE,
PLYMOUTH, CHATHAM, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, READING, YORK



B'NAI B'RITH UK

B'nai B'rith UK

B'nai B'rith UK, in collaboration with two prominent UK Jewish organizations, orchestrated an engaging and thought-provoking panel discussion via Zoom on Sunday, November 26th. Over 100 participants convened online for the event, which was jointly organized by B'nai B'rith UK, the Jewish Music Institute, and Jewish Renaissance magazine, focusing on the theme of 'Music & Memory: Unlocking memories and secrets of the brain through music'.

Renowned composer and conductor Malcolm Singer chaired the panel, which featured four distinguished experts in the fields of music and memory:

- Professor Catherine Loveday: A leading authority on memory, Professor Loveday delves into both normal and impaired memory and is renowned for her expertise showcased in her book 'The Secret World of the Brain'. She frequently shares her insights as a psychologist on BBC Radio 4's 'All In The Mind'.
- Michael Etherton: A Music Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford, Michael's expertise spans performance, orchestral conducting, and vocal ensemble leadership. He also serves as CEO of UK Jewish Film.
- Ilana Webster-Kogen: As an ethnomusicologist, Ilana specializes in the music, diaspora, and ethnicity of the urban Middle East. Her research sheds light on the intricate connections between music, culture, and identity.
- Judith Ish-Horowicz: Co-founder and Director of Apples and Honey Nightingale, Judith is dedicated to bridging generational divides through innovative intergenerational programs, leveraging music to evoke memories and foster connections.

Under Malcolm's adept moderation, the event commenced with a warm welcome from BBUK Chairman, Alan Miller, followed by introductions from each panelist, outlining their respective areas of expertise.

Judith shared poignant insights into the profound impact of music on memory, particularly within the context of her work with dementia patients at Nightingale Hammerson. Through intergenerational engagements, Apples and Honey Nightingale pioneers innovative approaches to memory care, enriching the lives of both young children and elderly residents.

Ilana provided a captivating exploration of Middle Eastern music, highlighting its ability to evoke vivid memories of time and place. Her research delves into the cultural and migratory pathways of musical traditions, offering unique perspectives on identity and heritage.

Catherine illuminated the intricate relationship between music and the brain, demonstrating how music can profoundly influence mood and memory. Her groundbreaking research examines the neuropsychology of autobiographical memory, offering invaluable insights into memory loss and cognitive functioning.

Michael shared the inspiring journey of Mosaic Voices, a choir dedicated to preserving and reimagining Jewish choral music. Through their innovative interpretations, Mosaic Voices breathes new life into cherished traditions, bridging past and present.

The panel discussion sparked lively engagement from the audience, with questions ranging from the impact of lyrics versus melody on memory to the correlation between musical training and memory retention.

The evening concluded with heartfelt appreciation from BBUK heritage co-ordinator, Valerie Bello, echoing the sentiments of all attendees. The event proved to be a captivating exploration of the intricate interplay between music and memory, enriching our understanding of both.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2024: Family



Austria • Belarus • Belgium • Bosnia-Herzegovina • Bulgaria • Croatia
Czech Republic • Denmark • Estonia • Finland • France • Georgia
Germany • Greece • Hungary • Ireland • Israel • Italy • Latvia • Lithuania
Luxembourg • Moldova • Montenegro • Netherlands • Norway • Poland
Portugal • Romania • Serbia • Slovakia • Slovenia • Spain • Sweden
Switzerland • Türkiye • United Kingdom • Ukraine

In a celebration of diversity and tradition, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2024 will delve into the heart of Jewish life with its central theme: “Family.” The festival promises an exploration of family from a myriad of perspectives, blending the timeless traditions with the dynamism of the modern world.

The European Days of Jewish Culture is an annual event that brings communities together to celebrate and explore Jewish heritage and culture. With each passing year, the festival selects a central theme to serve as a focal point for discussions, performances, and various cultural activities.

For 2024, the chosen theme of “Family” aims to showcase the intricate tapestry of family life within European Jewish communities. From ancient traditions rooted in biblical narratives to the contemporary challenges faced by families in the modern world, the theme provides a platform for a rich and nuanced exploration.

The theme of “Family” invites a wide array of perspectives. Activities can range from delving into the historical significance of family in Jewish culture to exploring the evolving role of women within Jewish families. It opens doors to discussions on the impact of significant historical events, on family dynamics and the concept of a “chosen family” beyond blood relations.



Moreover, the festival encourages a look into the diversity of Jewish communities across Europe, each with its unique family structures, rituals, and values. It provides a stage for considering generational shifts in the perception of family and the transmission of cultural values, ensuring a comprehensive exploration.

The festival, as usual, will start on the first Sunday in September, which this year will be the 1st. Activities will start on this day and the national programmes will run until the end of November, thus giving the opportunity for activities to be adapted to the relevant national calendars.

For activities organizers and coordinators, the planning process for the European Days of Jewish Culture 2024 begins with a deep dive into the theme of “Family.” Consider the aspects that resonate most with your community or organization, and envision activities that can engage participants in meaningful conversations and experiences. Visit our exclusive page for organisers and coordinators to find out all the details and be aware of all the resources that AEPJ will make available to plan your activities.

- **Choose Your Focus:** Decide on a specific aspect of family life that aligns with the theme. This could range from organising discussions on the role of women in Jewish families to hosting events that celebrate the diversity of family structures.

- **Collaborate:** Reach out to local community leaders, scholars, and artists to create a diverse and engaging program. Collaboration enhances the richness of the festival experience and ensures a broader perspective.
- **Utilize Various Formats:** Activities can take various forms, including lectures, workshops, performances, and interactive discussions. Be creative in your approach to appeal to a diverse audience.
- **Promote Inclusivity:** Ensure that your activities are inclusive and considerate of the diverse identities within the LGBT-QIA+ community, acknowledging the broad spectrum of family experiences.

In addition, and as usual, this project is extensively reinforced by the collaboration with the National Library of Israel, which acts as a means to develop all kinds of exhibition and educational materials, which gives an important added value to the festival while facilitating its celebration throughout the continent.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2024 provides an exceptional opportunity to celebrate and explore the intricate tapestry of family life within European Jewish communities. By embracing the theme from a multitude of perspectives, the festival promises to create a vibrant and inclusive space for cultural exchange and dialogue. It's time to start planning – let the celebration of family begin!

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Cultural route
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Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

