

## **Workshop “From the European Day of Jewish Culture to the European Route of Jewish Heritage”**

Girona, November 25<sup>th</sup> 2012

# **REPORT**

**Venue:** The Museum of Jewish History, Girona (Spain)

**Asistants:**

Mr. François Moyse, Mrs. Claude Bloch, Mrs Annie Sacerdoti, Mrs. Assumpció Hosta, Mr. Julio Sarmento, Mr. Raphael Elmaleh, Mrs. Sira Fatucci, Mrs. Marjetka Bedrac, Mr. And Mrs. Jean-Pierre Lambert, Mr. and Mrs. Jean Cahn, Mrs. Micaela Zanon, Ms. Sara Moscatelli, Ms. Olga Melasecchi, Mr. Peter Gyori, Ms. Deborah Abisor, Mr. Mario Izcovich, Mrs. Teresa Serra, Mr. Pol Andreu, Mrs. Neus Casellas, Ms. Ariane Roura.

**Program:**

- 1- Welcome of participants**
- 2- “The European Route of Jewish Heritage”**

**Lunch**

- 3- “The European Day of Jewish Culture”**
- 4- Miscellaneous**
- 5- Conclusions and closing session**

**1- Welcome of participants**

The meeting was opened at 9 am with the welcome speeches by Mr. François Moyse, chairman of the AEPJ, and by the deputy mayor of Girona, Ms. Marta Madrenas.

Then, Mrs. Assumpció Hosta, general secretary of the AEPJ, presented an overview of the work carried out by the association up to now, its values and a SWOT analysis.

Mr. Mario Izcovich, Director of Pan European programs for JDC Europe then took charge of the direction of the development of the working session.

## **2- “The European Route of Jewish Heritage”**

After a brief introduction into the framework of associations within the Jewish communities, and the work carried out all around Europe with regards to the recovery of Jewish heritage, the participants split into three different groups to debate during 30 minutes on the following issues:

- What can we do locally to promote the Jewish heritage?
- How can we contribute to the AEPJ?
- How can we contribute to a more coordinated task within Europe?
- How do we see the development of Jewish heritage, including the EDJC, and Cultural Routes by 2015?

The ensuing debates were intense and diversified, and by way of conclusions the most significant comments were as follows:

### 1. What can we do locally to promote the Jewish heritage?

- The importance of sharing experiences
- Think globally, act locally - Act locally and think European
- Communication has to be improved
- The importance of more contact, both virtual and personal, between actors

### 2. How we can contribute to the AEPJ?

- Volunteering: There has been a shift in the perception of volunteer work, in the sense that it has to become more business-oriented: even though it is still volunteering, it has to be professionally done.
- It is essential to work together closely with the public administration, regional government and municipalities, in all countries.
- Links with other routes should be established, from region to region and from country to country.

### 3. How can we contribute to a more coordinated task within Europe?

- Involving youth organisations
- Setting up a joint venture by including the Route of Jewish Heritage in other Routes touching the same territory, but with other contents.
- Creating a synergy between Jewish and non-Jewish society at large.
- Keeping the EDJC as a program, but extending the idea over a longer period of time in order to establish a kind of “EDJC-Route”, so that visitors can tour different cities following the activities those are presenting.
- Finding out, with regards to volunteer work, what it is that will make people commit themselves, and which forms this commitment is bound to take.
- Including a wider base of persons in the making of decisions so that they should feel more involved.

### 4. How do we see the development of Jewish heritage, including the EDJC, and the Cultural Routes by 2015?

The development of the Route of Jewish Heritage will start with a pilot project which consists in the preparation of a publication of Jewish heritage sites.

A first step will include and reflect all those singular and significant initiatives and heritage elements which currently can be visited already.  
Then a second step will include all those places which are currently being recovered and restored and fulfil the minimum requirements for being visited.  
This publication will take advantage of the new technologies in order to avoid the high costs of conventional paper publication, thus ensuring quick and easy access to the information it will contain by computers, tablets, mobile phones and other similar tools.

For the preparation of this publication the AEPJ is counting on the collaboration of Ms. Deborah Abisror, who, within the next few months, will gather all the necessary information about the existing heritage sites, and then proceed to build heritage routes which reflect our mission. Our aim is to set up something that people like and feel attracted to.

Furthermore, the AEPJ proposes an agreement of institutional cooperation with those organisations and associations wishing to formalise their commitment to cooperation, according to Article 6 of our Statutes.

At 1.30 pm the first part of the workshop ended, and the participants took a buffet lunch in the courtyard of the Museum.

#### **4- "The European Day of Jewish Culture"**

At 2.30 pm, the second part of the workshop started, with a new issue: the organisational details of the European Day of Jewish Culture.  
After a fruitful debate, the following decisions were taken:

From next year on – 2013-, the EDJC will take place on the last Sunday of the month of September, whenever this is possible and does not interfere with the calendar of Jewish festivities. This way there will be more time for preparations, and the date will not coincide with the celebration of Rosh ha Shana.  
Thus, the date of the EDJC in 2013 will be September 29<sup>th</sup>.

As to the subject matter, there have been chose 4 runner-ups for the next two years 2013 and 2014, after a long debate:

- Building Bridges
- Nature –ecology-4 elements
- Symbols in Judaism
- Women in Judaism

It was decided to send these four proposals to all local and national coordinators of the event, in order to ask them to choose the subject matter for 2013, as well as for 2014. This appeal will be sent by the secretary office, establishing the deadline for placing the votes on December 14<sup>th</sup> 2012. The result of the election will be communicated both by email to all EDJC coordinators and through the website.

At the same time, the association will look for a formula to strengthen the commitment between the participants of the event and its organisation.

## 5- Miscellaneous

Towards the end of the working sessions, several participants presented their different projects, such as:

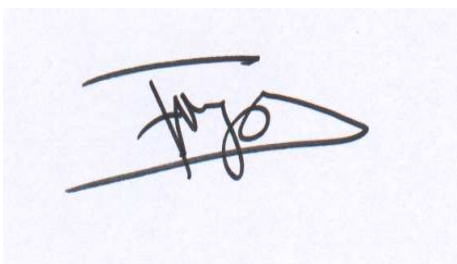
- Czech Republic: Peter Gyori presented the initiative of a concert at the Spanish synagogue in Prague, of music composed and performed by himself, and recorded by the Czech television.
- France: Mr. Raphael Elmaleh presented an application for smart-phones and tablets, which allows to access the details of chosen heritage sites within France
- Spain: Mrs. Assumpció Hosta presented RASGO, an initiative of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters for tourist excellence.
- Italy: Mrs. Micaela Zanon and Ms. Sara Moscatelli presented the work of Coopculture and the Hebrew Museum of Venice.

Also, on the previous afternoon, November 24<sup>th</sup>, a working session was held from 7.30 to 20.30 pm, where Ms. Cristina Taberner and Ms. Ariane Roura presented the logistic and organisational tools offered by the new technologies, such as the AEPJ website [www.jewishheritage.org](http://www.jewishheritage.org), as well as online facilities for transferring files and translating texts.

## 6- Closing session

At 5.30 pm, the workshop was closed with a few parting words from Mrs. Assumpció Hosta, who thanked all assistants for their participation and input, and expressed the hope that this event will have contributed to reinforce and strengthen the bonds between organisations and to enhance mutual collaboration.

Signed:



François Moyse  
Chairman AEPJ



Assumpció Hosta  
General Secretary AEPJ