

6

SEPTEMBER
2015

EUROPEAN DAYS OF JEWISH CULTURE

DISCOVER JEWISH CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE

BRIDGES



AUSTRIA - BELGIUM - BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA - BULGARIA - CROATIA - CZECH REPUBLIC - DENMARK - FINLAND - FRANCE
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NORWAY - POLAND - PORTUGAL - ROMANIA - RUSSIA - SERBIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN
SWEDEN - SWITZERLAND - TURKEY - UNITED KINGDOM

Report 2015



Dear friends,

In 2015 we once again renewed our commitment to the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC), marking its 16th year of life: this has been a difficult year for Europe, marked by terror attacks - many, too many of them having Jewish targets - and by the massive arrival of migrants. The dramatic events, as well as the ongoing difficult economical situation, have shed light on old divisions and deep differences among various European countries, even putting the concept of European unity in jeopardy.

While the situation doesn't seem to be too positive, yet the size, quality and success of the EDJC are still growing.

But has this year really been so gloomy? If one looks carefully beyond the newspaper headlines, one can see series of quiet - but impressive - acts of *hesed* ("loving-kindness" in Hebrew) performed not necessarily by governments and institutions all over Europe: rather by citizens offering food to refugees or opening their houses for them, spontaneous networks to help impoverished people, Muslims condemning terror acts and offering solidarity to Jews, just to quote some. In our opinion, these are clear signs that, in the minds, hearts and desires of its old and new citizens, Europe is well alive, conscious of the fact that its differences constitute its richness.

Thus, we believe that the European Days of Jewish Culture are now more important than ever. Terrorists would like Europe to abandon its democratic and freedom-loving mentality; Jews, being as always in the "first line" of history, are also exposed to such temptation. We do think and have always thought that, on the contrary, openness and knowledge are the key to defeating fear and hatred, as well as to building a shared and stable future in common.

Therefore we would like to commend all the people and institutions that - all over Europe and without knowing each other - have contributed to such an impressive and important event, and in particular the Council of Europe for its ongoing interest and support to Jewish Heritage.

We hope you will enjoy this report as much as we enjoyed learning about different EDJC activities. Our most heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and helpers, to everyone that contributed and, finally, to the public that every year rewards EDJC with a growing success.

Yours sincerely,

François Moyses

AEPJ Chairman



Index

The AEPJ.....	4
The European Day of Jewish Culture	5
The European Cultural Routes and the European Route of Jewish Heritage	6
EDJC 2015 subject matter: BRIDGES	7
Austria	10
Belgium.....	12
Bosnia-Herzegovina	14
Bulgaria	16
Croatia	18
Czech Republic	20
Denmark	22
France	24
Georgia	30
Germany.....	32
Greece.....	36
Hungary.....	38
Ireland	40
Italy	42
Latvia	48
Lithuania	50
Macedonia	54
Netherlands.....	56
Norway.....	58
Poland.....	60
Portugal	62
Romania	64
Russia	66
Serbia	68
Slovakia	72
Slovenia	74
Spain.....	76
Sweden	82
Switzerland	84
United Kingdom	86
The EDJC in numbers:	
cities.....	90
activities	91
visitors.....	92
European Day of Jewish Culture 2016: JEWISH LANGUAGES	93

The AEPJ

The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage – AEPJ -, was created in 2005, encouraged by the Council of Europe, to devise and develop the European Route of Jewish Heritage. The association is currently formed by a number of members:

- ***b'nai B'rith Europe***, a Jewish association present in 28 countries. B'nai B'rith means «Sons 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 Jewish presence in Europe through culture and heritage; to encourage and train young Jewish adults for leadership in Jewish communities.
- ***Red de Juderías de España – Caminos de Sefarad***, a non-profit public association of Spanish towns whose goal is to protect the urban, architectural, historical, artistic and cultural Sephardic heritage in Spain. It currently includes 24 member cities, and each of these has highlighted its ancient Jewish heritage and established a programme of animations, tours, and training.
- ***Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane (UCEI)***, a non-profit organisation representing 21 Jewish communities in Italy, whose millenary presence in the country has contributed to enrich the cultural, artistic and social heritage. UCEI represents and tutors, also generally coordinates and unifies Italian Judaism before the State, the Government and other authorities, as well as the general public in all matters regarding Jewish interests.
- ***Rede de Judiarias de Portugal – Rotas***

de Sefarad, a public association ruled by private law, with the intention to act jointly to defend the urban, architectural, environmental, historical and cultural Jewish heritage in Portugal. Founded on March 17th 2011, it includes 28 towns and cities.

- ***Journées Européennes de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juifs - France (JECPJ-France)*** is dedicated to promoting and preserving this heritage and to disseminating information about French Jewish culture. For 15 years, from September to December, JECPJ-France has been contributing to the European Day of Jewish Culture by organizing conferences, on-site visits, exhibitions, concerts... in various French regions, welcoming each year thousands of visitors from all backgrounds and beliefs. This association has also developed an application for mobile devices, which locates and provides information about major Jewish sites all over France. JECPJ-France is also a member of the European Association for Jewish Heritage as well as a member of the French Federation of European Cultural Routes (Fédération Française des Itinéraires Culturels Européens).

Furthermore, AEPJ also has individual members. The association is operating in three fields:

- Coordinating the European Day of Jewish Culture, celebrated since 1999.
- Developing the European Routes of Jewish Heritage, acknowledged in 2005 by the Council of Europe as European Major Cultural Route within the COE programme of European Cultural Routes.
- Acting as interlocutor with the Council of Europe on Jewish culture and heritage issues.



The European Day of Jewish Culture

Already into its 16th edition, the EDJC was held on Sunday, September 6th, 2015. The subject matter of this edition, *Bridges*, has been a very peculiar one: instead than suggesting a well-defined topic, it encouraged organizers and coordinators to take a step “outwards”, exploring new possibilities and often stepping on previously new grounds. You will be surprised in reading about how many different activities have been organized in the 30 participating countries.

A growing trend in the last years has been for some countries, such as France, the United Kingdom, Spain, Lithuania and Italy, to expand the celebration of the EDJC to the whole weekend, to one or more weeks, or even spread it in a space of months: the EDJC’s “original” date, September 6th, became a “gravity center” around which a whole range of activities and festivals revolves.

We would like to thank the enthusiasm and efforts of all people involved in the organization and celebration of this important event, and especially all volunteers that have been contributing to the success of EDJC one more year.



The European Cultural Routes and the European Route of Jewish Heritage

The programme was launched by the Council of Europe in 1987. Its aim was to demonstrate, by means of a journey through space and time, how the heritage of different countries and cultures of Europe contributes to a shared cultural heritage.

The Cultural Routes put into practice the fundamental principles of the Council of Europe: human rights, cultural democracy, cultural diversity and identity, dialogue, mutual exchange and enrichment across boundaries and centuries.

The key objectives of the programme are to reinforce the potential of Cultural Routes for cultural co-operation, sustainable territorial development and social cohesion, with a special focus on themes of symbolic importance for European unity, history, culture and values and the discovery of little-known destinations. It helps to strengthen the democratic dimension of cultural exchange and tourism through the involvement of grassroots networks and associations, local and regional authorities, universities and professional organizations. It contributes to the preservation of a diverse heritage through theme-based and alternative tourist itineraries and cultural projects. The Governing Board of EPA awards the "Council of Europe Cultural Route" certification and carries out regular evaluation of certified routes in conformity with Committee of Ministers, which

establishes the rules for the awarding of this certification.

Currently there are 29 European Cultural Routes, among which stands the **European Route of Jewish Heritage**, which received the certification in 2005, being awarded the status of "Major Cultural Route" two years later, in 2007.

The main goals of the European Route of Jewish Heritage are to preserve, to promote and to keep Jewish heritage alive, to develop tourism around involved cities and regions, and to make Europeans aware of the cultural richness created by Jews in Europe.

The European Route of Jewish Heritage is already active in the following countries: Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and more countries are on the way of activating a national Jewish Heritage Route.

The Routes mainly include archaeological sites, synagogues and cemeteries, ritual baths, Jewish quarters, monuments and memorials, archives and libraries, as well as museums specialized in Jewish culture and history. But even more important is the fact that the European Route of Jewish Heritage and the European Day of Jewish Culture connect the work of communities with the cultural, artistic, economic and social agents of different territories, thus mutually promoting their task on an international level.



EDJC 2015 subject matter: BRIDGES

Reflections by Hanna Lorer (EDJC coordinator for Bulgaria)

"Humanity has proven it is more inclined to build walls that separate people from each other than direct its efforts to building bridges, these ancient facilities that make it easy to achieve one great goal - the establishment of relations among people".

Isaac Newton

The purpose of the technical facility called "bridge" is to serve people in crossing from one bank of a river to the other, or any other water body, and also in crossing deep mountain gorges. The simplified notion of the bridge, however, as a means of passage, suggests other allusions, with many-sided metaphorical, symbolic meanings. This gave many renowned thinkers with artistic attitude grounds to interpret the notion "bridge" not only as a way over a river or a mountain gorge, but also as a metaphor with another, deeper meaning. It is also necessary to build spiritual bridges, whose elevated goal is the implementation of contacts among people, in the name of common humane goals, for promotion of human rights, for respect and forbearance to the otherness, in the spirit of tolerance.

American writer Ernest Hemingway used the metaphor of bridge as follows: "To create mutual relations is tantamount to the building of a bridge. Vitiating of relationships is tantamount to destroying bridges". In his book *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Hemingway wrote: "For a man standing at the crossroads of fate, the choice of the right way means to find, step firmly and cross the right bridge".

For humanity, it is more constructive to build bridges that help human communication instead of erecting walls that alienate them. Big Bulgarian poet Valeri Petrov made an appeal to seek "a magic gold key", which will open widely the gates that have been built in the fortress walls.

Own viewpoints on the symbolic character of the spiritual bridges have been put forward

by religious leaders and secular thinkers, who see and interpret the existence of the bipolar, contradictory realities in the life of the people in their own way:

Rebbe Nachman, a famous Ukrainian mystic, said: "The entire world is a very narrow bridge: the important thing is not to be afraid." There is danger of falling off the bridge; and this may happen if you succumb to Devil's temptations and then fail as a person. However, if during your lifetime you do good to people, this is "Mitzvah", like newly constructed bridges connecting those in need to their benefactors.

The world-famous Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić provided a literary interpretation of this term: "A bridge built centuries ago bears silent witness to the good and bad things happening around and on it; it collects, absorbs and keeps them, just like stony memory. The twists in the human fate are concomitant to life, but they happen over the bridge, and the troubled water continues to run under its wonderful and rounded arches".

Spiritual bridges suggest deriving knowledge as a result of the exchange of opinions on different levels. There does not exist a more durable spiritual bridge for believers, who realise their contacts with the Almighty by saying their prayers while passing on the blessed bridge in order to reach to God.

The harmoniously built friendships have a solid foundation and their connecting bridge is stable. The ability to understand and accept the others the way they are, to demonstrate tolerance and respect for the different, to exchange various cultural values, results in mutual enrichment, and makes people not only more knowledgeable or cleverer – it brings wisdom.

The moral courage in man is conducive to building spiritual bridges to establish durable relations with both the like- and otherwise minded. Upstanding are the people who resist the temptations of destructive causes, unscrupulous friendships



and ethical compromises. They are the creators of the bright spiritual bridges.

The Torah describes the legend of the conflict between Cain and Abel, which arose because of God's preference for Abel. This fact provoked envy, hate and desire to revenge in Cain, which incited him to the decision to kill his brother. This is the first fratricide described in the history of humankind, committed due to Cain's reluctance to attempt to extend to Abel the bridge of reconciliation.

The term "bridge" /in Latin *pons, pontis*/, as well as its derivatives, has another meaning even as far back as the time of the Roman Empire. "Pontifex" means bridges' builder, and later the Emperor of the Roman Empire was pronounced Pontificex Maximus. Today the word "pontiff" denotes the head of the Roman Catholic church, whose sacred role is to be the mediator in the creation of a "Spiritual bridge" between the earth and heaven, between humans and the Almighty.

A wonderful symbol of an invigorating bridge is the fresco painted by the ingenious Michelangelo on the dome of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican – God's hand reaching for Adam, breathing life into him.

Many theorists of the social structure of the society define the Diaspora as presence of foreign elements in the national countries, who are most often unwanted, as they are ascribed the introduction of a "hibridity" and "corruption" in the national society. In the event of such so-created intolerance between the local population and the heterogeneous citizens residing in the same territory, defined as Diaspora, the creation of a bridge for the purpose of establishing relations between them is desirable, necessary, imperative, but is very difficult and under certain circumstances impossible – for instance, in Nazi Germany, where they deliberately bred complete lack of loyalty and absolute absence of tolerance.

What does it mean to be Jewish in Europe, to live in the Diaspora as a Jew, as minority? How can we express our collective Jewish identity, bearing in mind the differences

in the way we exist as Jews in the various countries in the Diaspora? Do we differ, like European Jews from the American ones and from those who consider themselves true Jews, those living in Israel? There is also the question of the effect that the experience in the extermination camps had on the Jews surviving the Holocaust. Has the terrible period in the camps influenced their attitude to the non-Jews that surround them in their new existence? Looking at the heterogeneous picture in that light, it can be compared to a multi-coloured kaleidoscope, in which the figures, albeit of different shapes, are connected to each other and are united under the laws of the Halakhah. The minorities comprising the Diaspora bear more or less the mark of the countries where they reside. This influences the language in which they speak - Ladino or Yiddish, the music which is performed, Klezmer or Sephardic, and brings nuances to the synagogal services according to the different trends in Judaism. But despite the specific features that have established themselves, the Jewish life is subject to the laws of the Halakhah, which is a solid defensive bridge. Judaism has survived for thousands of years; it managed to preserve itself, resisting all challenges and mostly the global anti-Semitism.

The Anti-Defamation League /ADL/ was founded in 1913 for the purpose of stopping the defamation of the Jewish people, for ensuring just treatment of all subjects in one and the same way and protecting the population from anti-Semitic incidents. At the end of the annual session of the League in 1998, Mr Abraham Foxman, executive director of the organisation, announced the establishment of an award for the noble deeds of every righteous person who contributed to the salvation of the Jews, called "Courage to Care". On a metal plate, seven bas-reliefs are shown, which depict different episodes of the persecution of the Jewish people with a bridge portrayed as the symbol of salvation.

At a congress convened by the International Peace Foundation, held on 09.11.2009, the main discussed topic was "Bridges-dialogues



for understanding and peace". It was attended by a number of famous people, among which several Nobel Prize winners, of which one was the only scientist from the Weizmann Institute in Israel - Prof. Ada Yonath. She delivered a report entitled "Building bridges between the molecules in a living cell".

The versatile spiritual meaning of the term "bridge" has found a place in modern music, too. There are works in which the key word is "Bridge". For example, the song "Under the Bridge" performed by Anthony Kiedis with the world-known band Red Hot Chili Peppers, or that by Simon and Garfunkel – "Bridge Over Troubled Water", by Pink – "Bridge of Light", "Burning Bridges" performed by the band "One Republic", etc. The dual role of the bridge is wonderfully reproduced in the film "The Bridges of Madison County" starring Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood, which can both connect and separate. Influential are not only the musical and drama works, but also the silent arts, such as dance, ballet and pantomime, which have a beneficial influence by sending the spectator feelings and emotions that comprise positively charged spiritual bridges.

A powerful factor for establishing spiritual connections between various people in a concert hall, who differ socially, in terms of race, gender and nationality, immersed in the beauty of a musical composition, bond silently with one another, establishing a spiritual bridge under the influence of the effect of the musical piece. This is a wonderful example of the creation of a very similar spiritual state by the impact of the musical piece. Although abstract as a sense, it is universal in terms of effect, and is even more valid for the prayers in the temples during religious services, whose aim is not only to throw a bridge between those attending the service, but also to carry them, via the heavenly arc, to the celestial dwelling place of the Almighty.

The Indian pacifist and humanist Mahatma Gandhi appealed to people in his entire life to be tolerant and benevolent to one another, to entwine in their thinking the idea of lending a helping hand. He was dead against the incantation "an eye for an eye", as he believed

such a punishment would turn the entire world into a truly blind person.

Martin Luther King, known throughout the world for his idea for building bridges between people in the name of tolerance, in many of his speeches emphasised that waging wars, as early as in the most ancient times, was a destructive factor for the noble erection of the spiritual bridges that peace needs. He championed brotherhood among people, and fought against racial discrimination and the establishment of a unity with the help of the hand reached out as a bridge. He preached philanthropy and the following quotation belongs to him: "Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Crossing a bridge, in the end we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends on the other bank".

In accordance with the resolution adopted by UNESCO, 2015 is declared "YEAR OF THE LIGHT". The world is preparing to celebrate it with various, topical events. With the current topic for holding EDJC this year, "Bridges", we can join this global celebration, led by the profound conviction that the positive appeals of the spiritual bridges, addressed to the humanity for tolerance and peace, bring light.

A curious fact, as a symbol in the artistic arrangement of the European currency– Euro, valid in a large number of the EU member countries, is that the notes do not feature human profiles, which are typical of the banknotes of each country, but have bridges outlined on the front, and arches on the back.

The eyes of all people who are ready to lend, like a bridge, a helping hand to every person in trouble, shine like gold and shed light in the world. The golden radiance brings peace in people's souls and lays the foundations for the creation of elevated bridge from earth to heaven.

Austria

Burgenland (Deutschkreutz, Eisenstadt, Frauenkirchen, Kittsee, Kobersdorf, Mattersburg, Oberwart, Rechnitz, Stadtschlaining) Bregenz, Hohenems, Vienna



The Jewish museum of **Vienna** organized an open doors' day and guided tours to its collections.

In the region of **BURGENLAND**, participating for its second time, activities were organized in 9 cities (last year they were 5) by the Burgenland Research Society:

In **Eisenstadt**, guided visits were organized to the ancient *Wolf'sche Synagoge*, the Jewish cemetery, and the Wolf collection in the Landsmuseum.

In **Kittsee** there was a lecture about *Personalities of Jewish Kittsee*, followed by a guided walk through the town.

In **Frauenkirchen, Deutschkreutz, Rechnitz** and **Mattersburg**, guided walks

made visitors discover these towns' Jewish heritage and history.

In **Kobersdorf**, visitors attended a lecture about persecution and survival in 1938-45, followed by a guided walk to the town's Jewish memories.

In **Stadtschlaining**, guided visits to the former synagogue and the city museum were carried out.

In **Oberwart**, a memorial path was inaugurated: authorities were present and the opening was followed by music and a buffet.

In **Hohenems**, the Jewish museum staged 2 guided tours: one about the history of the city's Jewish community (annihilated in the Holocaust after 9

centuries of presence in town), the other about the new streetcar line in Jerusalem, serving as a sort of bridge among Jews, Arabs, secular and religious inhabitants of the city.

In **Bregenz** on lake Constance, the cultural association KulturKiste from Überlingen, a town on the German shore of the lake organized a cross-border activity, consisting in the screening of two films: *Stealing Klimt*, telling the extraordinary story of some of this painter's works and of heiress Maria Altmann and how she recovered her paintings stolen by Nazis; and the documentary *Wie Dachau am See kam*.

Participating cities: 12



Total activities: 14



Total visitors: 581





In **Antwerp**, activities began on September 3 at the AMUZ music center, with the concert of klezmer band Or Le Israel! The concert was a complete success, with a long standing ovation by an enthusiastic public. Another extremely appreciated event was the visit to Plantijn-Moretus Museum (UNESCO World Heritage): The Plantin-Moretus Museum is a really special place, an unique location in Europe. It used to be the residential house of the Plantin-Moretus printers' family, containing the publishing house and printing press. After 440 years, the studio of the most important 16th century printing press still looks like the composers, type founders, printers and proofreaders could commence their working day at any moment. The oldest printing press in the world is there. They bear witness to the first industrial distribution of knowledge and image. A rich art collection is also located in the historical

residence, including paintings from family friend Pieter Paul Rubens.

A free guided tour to the Jewish Quarter of Antwerp (home to one of the biggest Hasidic communities in Europe) also had an excellent outcome, with more than 70 participants.

Finally, dr. Willy Lipschutz lectured about *Important Jewish contributions to Belgian society in 'Belle Epoque'*: with the help of examples of leading Jewish personalities in pre-war Belgium, he shown to a big public which role the Jewish people had as bridge builder in Belgium, a country which on its own was and is a bridge builder in Europe!

In **Bruxelles**, the Jewish Museum of Belgium organized a wide array of activities; in the morning, visitors could attend the guided walk about Jewish Bruxelles *Bruxelles la Juive*, a guided visit to Cartier-Bresson's exhibition by Raya Lindberg-Baudinet, and another one to the museum, about significance of biblical

ancestors for Jews, Christians and Muslims, by Zahava Sevald and Vo Minh.

Starting from 1 p.m, there were various dance workshops, by Nitay Lehrer and Lodie Kardouss.

In the afternoon, the book *Le livre des petits. Répertoire des familles juives à Bruxelles*, by Philippe Pierret, was presented; following Rachel Besonhé led visitors in a multi-sensorial visit to the museum, titled *La culture juive accessible à tous les sens*; after that, she also led an artistic workshop for children. The *Altland* klezmer band performed at the Museum's 2nd stage, followed by an address by Rachid Madrane, minister of Bruxelles' promotion, and Philippe Blondin, president of the Museum.

At 5 pm, the theater play *Ceci n'est pas plus un couple* by Ismael Saïdi, was performed, with a big success. Furthermore, guided visits were carried out at the cemetery in Dieweg and at the National Memorial of Jewish Martyrs.



Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 17



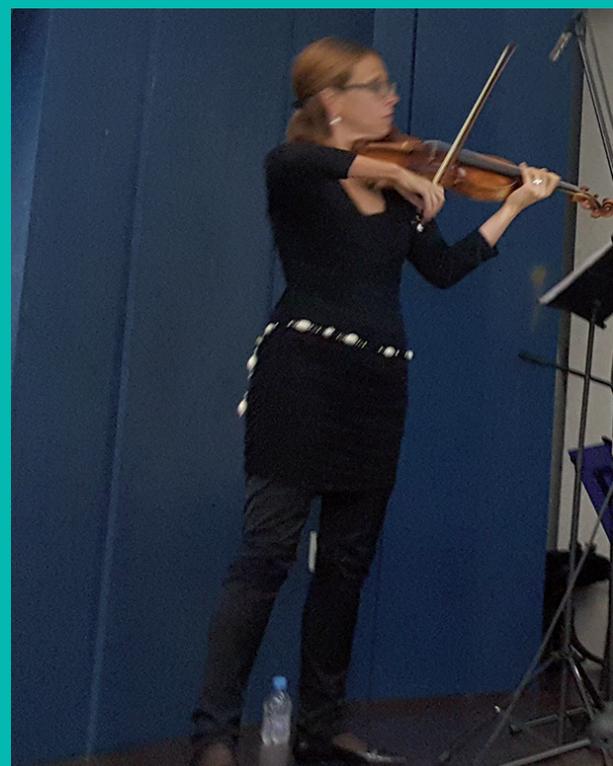
Total visitors: 1495





For the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, 2015 was a special year: the Community celebrated this year the 450th anniversary of its foundation. First of all, best wishes from the AEPJ! This respectable age, however, hasn't stripped the Community of its love of music; thus, the Jewish Community of Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Jewish Cultural-educational and humanitarian Society *La Benevolencija*, marked the European Day of Jewish Culture 2015 with a concert of klezmer music performed by *Kontra-Kvartet* band from Maribor (Republic of Slovenia

- the choice of a group from Slovenia also created a "bridge" between two countries that shared a good part of their history). The concert was held at Sarajevo's Jewish Community Center on September 6. Musicians (Vesna Čobal – violin, Daliborka Ancel – accordion, Branko Smrtnik – contrabass and Petar Marić – guitar) have greatly impressed the audience playing a lively and varied program of klezmer music, rarely heard in Sarajevo. The public was driven to dance and celebrate, and the concert was defined as a success and covered by the main Bosnian media.





450 GODINA
JEVREJSKE OPŠTINE SARAJEVO



450 ANNIVERSARY
JEWISH COMMUNITY SARAJEVO



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 1



Total visitors: 89



Bulgaria

Sofia



Bulgaria celebrated its EDJC 2015 on September 26th: an exhibition, two conferences, open doors in **Sofia's** main synagogue and Jewish museum, a Sephardic food sampling and three widely appreciated concerts registered an excellent outcome. Celebrations were very well organized, the theme's presentation was done by Hanna Lorser, while important visitors brought their greetings and appreciation - leaders of the community, personalities from the University and the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, as well as from some important business companies, the Union of Bulgarian writers, various religious denominations and others





Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 5



Total visitors: 300





In **Zagreb**, activities began with opening of the exhibition *Karl Sirovy* in the house of the living, at Milan & Ivo Steiner Art Gallery. They went on at the Jewish Community's premises, the documentary *Lav Katz Kalda*, a piano concert by Iva Ljubicic and Kosjenka Turkulin, and closed with a kosher cocktail.

The **Zagreb Bet Israel** Community participated for its second time, collaborating with the Italian Institute of Culture. Its activities began on Saturday September 5 in the evening, at the Italian Institute of Culture in Zagreb, with a concert of Sephardic songs by Aleksandar Kabiljo and a documentary by Eva Kraljevic. On Sunday activities continued at the Community, with a lecture by rabbi Kotel Dadon and a concert of Jewish songs for voice and piano. In the evening, at the Mimara museum, another concert of Sephardic and Klezmer music was performed by trio Solenza.

In **Osijek**, music was protagonist of this year's EDJC: the day opened with a performance by the Serbian folk group *Sveti Sava*, that brought its song and dance to Croatia; following, a clarinet recital by Emma Stern, then a concert by the city's Choir of Evangelical Pentecostal church, also including Jewish songs; activities closed with *Bridges among generations*, a show by dance group *Haverim shell Israel*.





Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 13

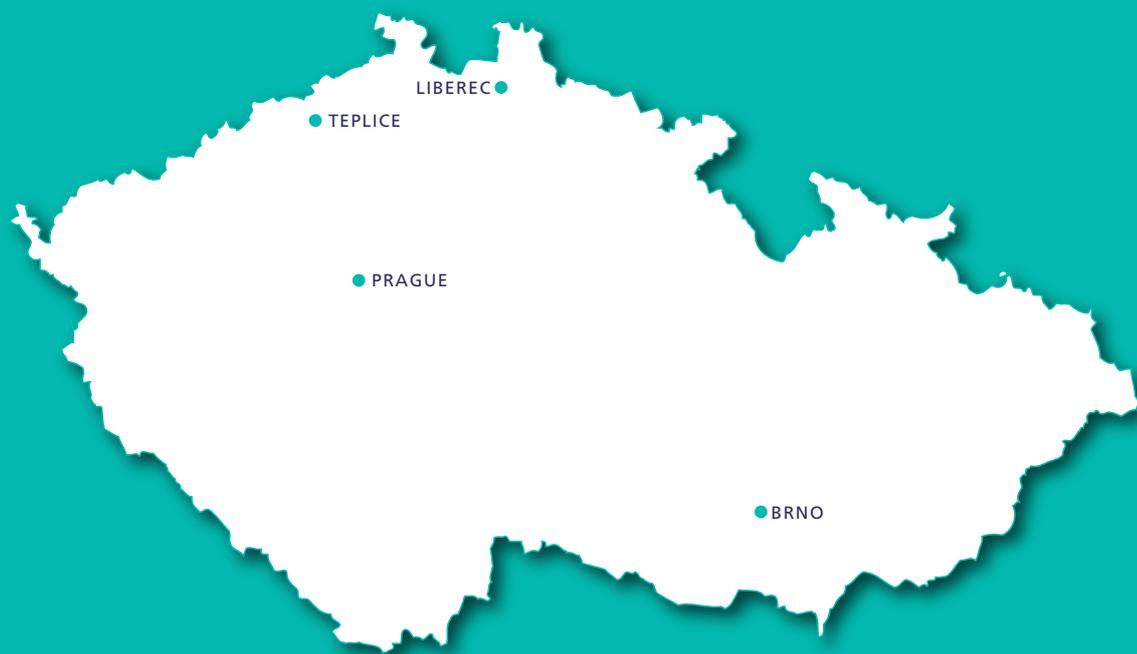


Total visitors: 530



Czech Republic

Brno, Liberec, Prague, Teplice



B This year, the EDJC was celebrated in four Czech cities. In **Prague**, the cemeteries in Liben and Zizkov were opened to visitors, with guided tours going on. In **Brno**, activities lasted an entire week, beginning on September 3, with opening of an exhibition of artist Eva Zahradníková, accompanied by a musical performance and reading of some of the artist's poems. On September 6th, activities started in the morning with a series of workshops for children, focused about various aspects

of Jewish daily life. Later, the Jewish cemetery in Brno-Židenice was opened to visits, with a lecture by Katerina Suchankova. On September 7th, the book "Peace in Israel", reporting journalist Jan Kovanice's trips to Israel, was presented. On Tuesday, September 8th, the Duo Graz (Lubomir Graffe - violin, and Jaromir Zizek - accordeon) performed together with Isabella Oravová. On September 9, a special double number of the magazine Plav devoted to Yiddish literature was presented. On September 10th, Brno's Jewish community opened its Community

Center to celebrate its 25 years of activity. During the whole week, the Jewish Community's library was opened to the public.

In **Liberec**, the Jewish cemetery and memorial to the victims of the Shoah were opened to the public on September 13th.

In **Teplice**, from September 5th to 13th, the Hotel Prince de Ligne dedicated one whole week to Jewish food; visitors could taste a special menu, and at the opening ceremony various personalities attended.



FEDERATION OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES, CZECH REPUBLIC



Participating cities: 4



Total activities: 12



Total visitors: 750





The Danish B'nai B'rith organized the panel meeting titled *Building bridges between religions*. After a welcome brunch and the official opening by Denmark Lodge's President, the discussion started; the speakers were rabbi Jair Melchior, church vicar Flemming Pless, Copenhagen city council member Lars Aslan Rasmussen, and Member of Parliament Öslem Cekic. Moderator was Finn Schwarz, lawyer

and former president of the Jewish community. The panel was long, deep and fruitful, centered about the opportunities inherent in similarities and differences among communities and religions; Speakers discussed ways in which people from different backgrounds can live together, not only tolerating each other but profiting from each other's differences. After the panel, coffee and cake were offered to the guests.



B'NAI B'RITH
DANMARK LOGE



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 1

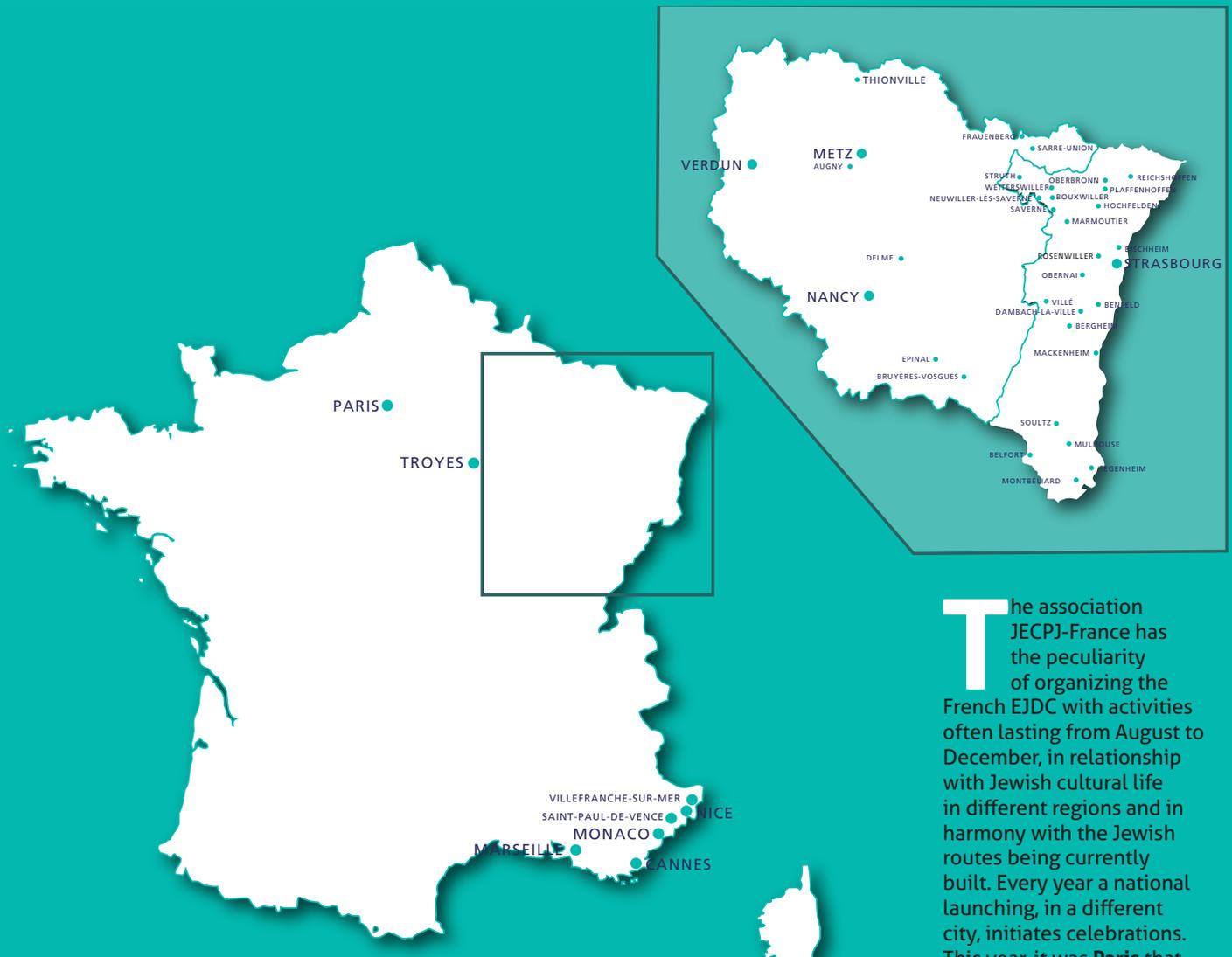


Total visitors: 79



France

Alsace (Belfort, Benfeld, Bergheim, Bischheim, Bouxwiller, Dambach-la-Ville, Hegenheim, Mackenheim, Marmoutier, Montbéliard, Mulhouse, Neuwiller-les-Saverne, Oberbronn, Obernai, Pfaffenhoffen, Reichshoffen, Rosenwiller, Sarre-Union, Saverne, Soultz, Strasbourg, Struth, Thann, Villé, Weiterswiller), **Amiens**, **Bayonne**, **Lorraine** (Augny, Bruyères Vosges, Delme, Epinal, Frauenberg, Lunéville, Marly, Metz, Montigny-lès-Metz, Nancy, Saint-Avold, Sarreguemines, Thionville, Verdun), **Paris**, **Sud-Est** (Cannes, Marseille, Monaco, Nice, Saint Paul de Vence, Villefranche sur Mer), **Troyes**



The association JECPJ-France has the peculiarity of organizing the French EJDC with activities often lasting from August to December, in relationship with Jewish cultural life in different regions and in harmony with the Jewish routes being currently built. Every year a national launching, in a different city, initiates celebrations. This year, it was Paris that welcomed us.

After a press conference organized on September 1st at MAHJ, *Musée d'Art et d'Histoire du Judaïsme*, the national EDJC launching took place on September



2nd, at the *mairie* of Paris IV, in the historical Jewish neighborhood of Marais, under patronage of the Minister of Culture and Communication at in presence of her representatives.

A quite large crowd answered the warm appeal by mr. Christophe Girard, mayor of Paris IV. At the ground floor, the official vernissage of the superb exhibition *Tu es nous*, by internationally renowned artis Michel Kirch, took place. In the celebrations' hall, official speeches were followed by two greatly interesting panel discussions. The final performance by musicians Denis Cuniot (piano) and Yom (clarinet) won the hearts of the whole public. The copies of magazine *Patrimoine Juif* the France reported a huge success. Jecpj-France would like to thank its deputy chairman Claude Hampel, coordinator for the Paris region and redactor of our publication, as well as *Cercle Bernard Lazar* for the excellent organization and great success of this event.

We are accustomed to mention in this report that it was in the French region of **ALSACE** that the EDJC began many years ago; as usual, it featured a wide array of activities, spread over a great number of cities and towns.

In **Belfort**, activities began already on September 5, focusing on Sephardi Moroccan heritage. A lecture, a food tasting and a Sephardic music concert made up the evening.

In **Benfeld**, the synagogue was opened to the public.

Bergheim's synagogue hosted a concert of Russian and Yiddish songs, by Elena Fastovski and Dimitri Sharkov, as well as the conclusion of an exhibition by painter Jacques Jacobi.

In **Bischheim**, the ancient *mikveh* and Jewish museum witnessed guided visits by mr. Emile Zenou. A guided walk through the town's Jewish heritage was staged by Jean-François Kovar, while mr. Alain Loeb led visitors through the Jewish cemetery.

In **Bouxwiller**, the Jewish-Alsatian museum was open to visits, with a reduced entrance fee.

In **Dambach-la-Ville**, the former synagogue hosted the lecture "Being Jewish in Alsatia...and in Dambach".

In **Hegenheim** and **Mackenheim**, guided visits were carried out to the local Jewish cemeteries.

In **Marmoutier**, the Museum of Alsatian Jewish heritage staged an open doors' day, with a lecture by Roland Heymann.

In **Mondéliard's** synagogue, an exhibition was focused on Alsatian *mappot*, hand-woven cloths that used to be made by mothers when a child was born, carrying calligraphy and scenes from the Torah.

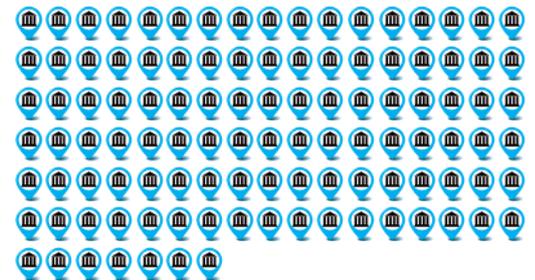
In **Mulhouse**, doors were opened at the synagogue, while the nearby Jewish Community Center hosted a conference about Sephardic Moroccan culture and Andalusian heritage, complete with a Sephardic music concert.

In **Neuwiller-les-Saverne**, the oldest known Jewish

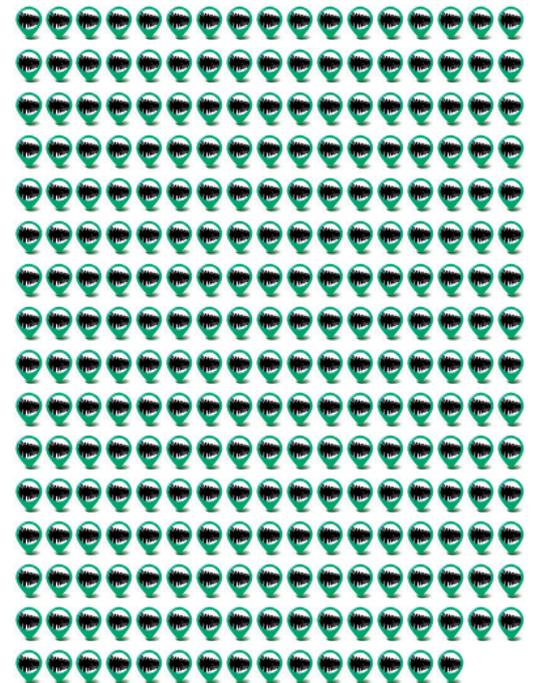
Participating cities: 42



Total activities: 92



Total visitors: 27000







cemetery in Alsatia (used from 1260 to 1550) was opened to visits.

In **Oberbronn**, at the Jewish cemetery, visitors were introduced by Raymond Lévy to Jewish funerary customs, then walked to town for a guided visit to the traces of its Jewish history.

In **Obernai**, a guided visit on the traces of the town's Jewish community was carried out, and the synagogue was opened to the public, also hosting a concert of Gypsy music.

In **Pfaffenhoffen's** synagogue, Raymond Lévy, Béatrice Sommer and Michel Levy introduced the public to Jewish humour.

In **Reichshoffen**, the synagogue was opened, hosting a concert by *Papyroz'n* band.

In **Rosenwiller**, the cemetery was opened to visits.

In **Sarre-Union**, the synagogue and the cemetery were opened to the public.

In **Saverne**, the synagogue and cemetery hosted guided visits, while the public was invited to a picnic and guided walk at the Interreligious Public Garden.

In **Sultz**, the Bucheneck Castle Museum staged an open doors' day.

In **Strasbourg**, several events were staged at the local Liberal Jewish Union: activities opened with a lecture about the three great thinkers Maimonides, Averroes and Thomas of Aquin, by historian Carole Wenner. Following, Alfonso el Sabio's Cantigas were presented and sung by Philippe Kahn. Then, Michel Jermann discussed with the

public about current trends and evolution in inter-religious dialogue. After a food tasting, actresses Marie-Jo Kahn and Patricia Rogosinski played their reading-show *Nathan the wise and others...*

Guided walks and visits to Jewish Strasbourg were held in French and German. At the ORT school, Richard Aboaf presented a lecture and a guided visit to the school itself.

In **Struth**, the synagogue was opened to the public.

In **Thann**, the synagogue was also opened to visits; a second event was staged on September 20, focused on kosher wine; tastings and lessons about wine and kosher enology attracted a wide and happy public.

In **Villé**, a lecture about interreligious dialogue, a concert by Daniel Elbaz and Christophe Oury, a second lecture about interreligious dialogue in Alsace were staged; the Day ended with a concert of lithugic songs from different traditions, by the Chorale des Jeunes de la Vallée de Villé.

In **Weiterswiller**, the synaogue hosted an exhibition (inaugurated at the presence of Jewish, Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist representatives, as well as of descendants of Weiterswiller's last two Jewish families, the Haenels and Meyers) and film about the town's Jewish community. At the Protestant temple, mr. Jean-Pierre Lambert lectured about the representation of Jews in Middle Ages iconography. Then, a guided walk, led by André Dorschner, took visitors through the town's synagogue, Catholic

church and Protestant temple. The Jewish cemetery was also opened to visits. Activities closed with a concert by the *Mantiq Singers*.

In **LORRAINE**, events took place in various towns and were characterized by a very high cultural proposal, as well as by being spread over a rather wide range of time. Our most heartfelt thanks to national EDJC coordinator Désirée Mayer from Metz, that did a great work this year, raising - *together with her collaborators at JECPI-France, ça va sans dire!* - the level of EDJC not only in Lorraine but all over France.

On **September 6**, in Metz's Metropole theatre, various performances took place. Mrs. Zenouba Lahbabi, accompanied on oud and voice by Hafid Lahboub, guided the public on the traces of her travel from Morocco to France through Italy, through a colorful narration in Arabic, French and Italian. Following, Robin Renucci performed the theatrical reading *Franz Kafka- Lettres à Milena*. Finally, a concert by Chorale Chalom took place, dedicated to the memory of Elie Bendelac.

A distinctive and important exhibition made its appearance in Metz from August 27 to October 23: *The Bridge*, featuring 47 pictures by 13 Jewish, Christian and Muslim artists from various countries, such as Egypt, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Iran...all these artists created works on the theme of The Bridge, searching for common roots. The exhibition, already presented in Cairo and on the way to the United States, has been presented at the Municipal





Archives and at Saint Etienne Cathedral.

On September 17, *Noëmi Waysfeld et les Blik* performed the concert *Alfama*, an unusual and innovative show of Yiddish *fado* music.

On September 20, *Cabaret klezmer* quartet took the audience into the world of Jacob, imaginary clarinet player born on the shores of the Black Sea.

In Nancy, on September 6, a panel discussion titled *Bridges and cultures: material and symbolic bonds* began at 2 p.m., followed by a lecture by writer and historian Charles Szlakmann. From September 7 to 13, Judaica art and ritual objects' collections were exposed at the Hall du livre; On September 16, the movie *Tinghir-Jérusalem: les échos du Mellah* by Kamal Hachkar was screened and discussed in the author's presence, in partnership with LICRA and the Berber Cultural Association. On September 20 the synagogue and Jewish cultural association were opened for guided visits; following, activities were closed by a double concert: Chorale Meyers from Neuilly (direction: Rosy Farhat) and Yid'n'Blues from Nancy itself (direction: Danièle Morali) Sunday September 20 saw various activities taking place over different towns in Lorraine:

In **Bruyères Vosges**, a guided visit on the traces of the town's Jewish community was led by Gilles Grivel.

In **Epinal**, the synagogue was

opened for a guided visit, led by Léon Sibeoni, president of the Jewish community.

In **Frauenberg**, Sylvia Cahn led visitors through the Jewish cemetery.

In **Thionville** and **Verdun**, synagogues were opened to guided and commented visits.

In **Aigny**, the exhibition *Jews in Lorraine: history and heritage* opened on October 5, until December.

In **Delme**, on October 4, Conference, performance, meeting around the *Quartet for the End of Time* by Messiaen. Bridging disciplines, the musical language of Messiaen establishes correspondences between music, color and ornithology. On January 15, 1941, he composed the *Quartet for the End of Time* before the prisoners of Stalag 8 in Görlitz, Silesia. Inspired by colorful hallucinations caused by conditions of extreme deprivation, he composed a work whose color is the same subject. Therefore his musical language will be haunted by the color-sound correspondence ... and bird songs he introduced for the first time in his quartet.

In French **SOUTH-EAST**, activities have grown very impressively in the last years, improving their coordination and developing a wide program, spread over various cities and over a range of some weeks.: our most heratfelt compliments and thanks to the B'nai B'rith, and to the organizers Régine Bessis, Patricia Trojman (who, as co-president of UHLCA -

Université Hebraique libre de la Cote d'Azur - was in charge of all guided visits, except the one in Nice's old ghetto, by Mme. Brigitte Tanauji), and all the others that we couldn't include here!

On September 6 at **Monaco's** Grimaldi Forum, a guided visit to Chagall's Exhibition was organized. The same day, a concert-reading was held at the Centre Fleg in **Marseille**, titled "When music and literature meet": music accompanied the reading of texts by Haim Potok, Stephan Zweig, Marek Halter, Bernhard Schlink. The concert counted with participation and support by B'nai B'rith.

On September 8 in **Villefranche sur Mer**, another guided visit titled "From Amsterdam to France: the journey of an exceptional artist with a tragic destiny: Charlotte Salomon" saw a good participation by the public.

September 20, coinciding with the French Heritage Day, saw various activities taking place: rabbi Michel Liebermann held a lecture on the Yiddish language at the B'nai B'rith premises in **Marseille**. One more guided visit was organized to the Chagall museum in **Nice**, followed by a concert of liturgical music at the Deloye Synagogue. The same day, in **Cannes**, the synagogue was opened to the public.

On October 11, in **Saint Paul de Vence**, the guided walk "En chemin, or bridges from Jewish thought to universal culture" took place, led by Patricia Trojman.

On October 18, activities closed in **Nice** with a wide-ranging activity dedicated to the city's Jewish



community, titled “History of a community with multiple origins”. Visits were organized to the Old City, the Great Synagogue, the Avigdor and Lascaris mansions, the ancient ghetto, rue Benoit Bunico’s synagogue and its ancient mikveh’s remnants, the old Chateau cemetery, the Path of the Righteous and City Walls. The day closed at the Centre Kling with the lecture *Pérégrinations de la communauté juive des Alpes Maritimes* by Jérémie Guedj, and a cocktail was offered to the public.

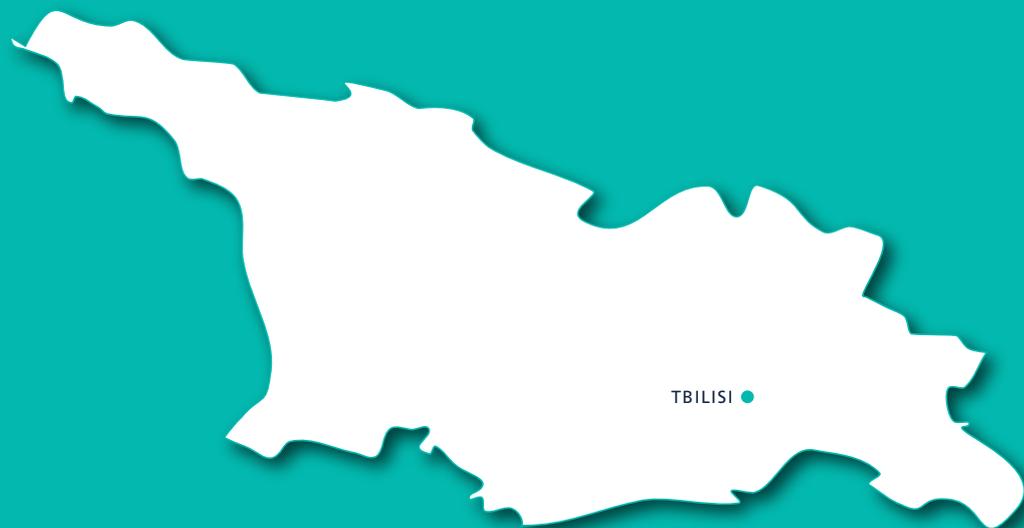


In the town of **Troyes**, famous for having been the hometown of Rashi, probably the greatest biblical commentator of all times, four guided visits were organized at the Rashi synagogue, accompanied by live klezmer music and explanations about the great commentator’s importance. Finally, in **Paris**, the Museum of Art and History of Judaism (Mahj) opened its doors to the permanent exhibition, as well as to the temporary ones, *Treasures of Venice’s ghetto* and *Mehitza: what woman sees*, this last one by Myriam Tangi.



Apart from open doors, the Museum organized a workshop of Jewish cooking, presented the book “Scoutisme et Resistance” by Liliane Klein-Lieber, organized a book market, and staged the guided visit “From cloth to *schmattes*”; activities closed with a concert by classical piano player Denis Cuniot and Bruno Girard, violinist, singer and founder of famous gypsy-klezmer-balkan music band *Bratsch*.





In Tbilisi, on September 7th, 2015, International Foundation "LEA" & Council of Jewish Women in Georgia, with partnership of David Baazov Museum of History of the Jews of Georgia and Georgian-Jewish Relations organized the meeting dedicated to the year's theme, Bridges. The program featured: official opening; open doors at the Jewish Museum; an exhibition about Jewish cultural heritage in Georgia; the seminar and virtual exhibitions *Discover Jewish cultural and historical heritage in Georgia and How contemporary Jewish woman artists in Georgia reflect on their ethnical background*; and finally an exhibition of graphic artwork by Marine Solomonishvili. Speakers of Opening official opening included: **Prof. Marine Solomonishvili**, president of International Foundation LEA & Council of Jewish Women in Georgia; **Prof. Givi Gambashidze**, Director of Museum of History of the Jews of Georgia; **Mr.**

Jamlet Khukhashvili, representative of Jewish community in Georgia; **H.E. Yuval Fuchs**, **Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Israel** in Georgia; **Mr. Gela Dumbadze**, State Minister of Georgia for Diaspora Issues. Speakers at the event pointed to the fact that cultural heritage of Georgian Jews and Georgian-Jewish relations have history of 26 centuries, thus it is important to value it and present it at both local and international level. Jewish cultural heritage is a key medium for development of relations among nations, popularization of Georgia's cultural diversity and support of European integration of Georgia. Preservation of cultural diversity is the main goal of UNESCO's Paris Convention "On Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expression" and this event was also dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the convention. Alongside this, culture is a universal language preventing anti-Semitism and other hate speech.

The speakers and all participants thanked organizers Mrs. Marine Solomonishvili, and Mr. Givi Gambashidze for the wonderful, interesting and diverse evening. They declared their enthusiasm and belief in the idea of annually celebrating EDJC in Georgia, and asked Mrs. Marine to step up the developing of joint projects, creating bridges between Georgia and other countries through culture. Alongside this, they noted the quality of Marine Solomonishvili's drawings, wishing an album will be soon released and presented in Georgia and abroad. Representatives of diplomatic corps, State institutions and political leaders, different religious leaders, members of the Jewish community organizations and leaders of the various ethnic/religious communities, youth and women's organizations, Georgian and International organization's, famous society leaders in Georgia, guests from Israel, and main state Media TV were present at the event.



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 5



Total visitors: 150



Germany

Augsburg, Baden-Württemberg (Attenweiler, Bad Buchau, Bad Mergentheim, Braunsbach, Breisach am Rhein, Bretten, Bruchsal, Buchen/Odenwald, Crailsheim, Creglingen, Efringen-Kirchen, Emmendingen, Eppingen, Esslingen am Neckar, Freiburg im Bressgau, Freudental, Haigerloch, Hechingen, Heidelberg, Hemsbach/Bergstrasse, Hohberg-Diersburg, Horb am Neckar-Rexingen, Karlsruhe, Kenzingen, Kippenheim, Konstanz, Laupheim, Leonberg, Lörrach, Münsingen-Buttenhausen, Obersulm-Affaltrach, Offenburg, Pforzheim, Rottenburg am Neckar, Rottenburg am Neckar-Baisingen, Schwäbisch Hall, Stuttgart, Sulzburg, Tübingen, Überlingen, Ulm, Waldshut-Tiengen, Wallhausen-Michelbach an der Lücke, Wiesloch), **Dorsten, Essen, München, Rödingen, Swabia** (Altenstadt, Binswangen, Bopfingen-Oberdorf, Buttenwiesen, Fellheim, Fischach, Hainsfarth, Harburg, Ichenhausen, Krumbach, Memmingen, Mönchsdeggingen, Nördlingen, Schopfloch, Wallerstein), **Überlingen**





Israelitische
Kulturgemeinde
München
und Oberbayern



IKG • SCHWABEN • AUGSBURG



JÜDISCHES KULTURMUSEUM
AUGSBURG SCHWABEN



netzwerk
HISTORISCHE SYNAGOGENNETZE
IN BAYERISCHEN SCHWABEN



Landesarbeitsgemeinschaft
der
Gedenkstätten
und
Gedenkstätteninitiativen
in
Baden-Württemberg



מוזיאון
יהודי
בסבליה Jüdisches
Museum
Westfalen



In the Bavarian city of **Augsburg**, 1364 people visited the Jewish Culture Museum of Augsburg and Swabia, which opened its doors both at the Museum in Halderstraße 6-8 and in the museum's branch in Augsburg-Kriegshaber. The activities in the museum at Halderstraße 6-8 were visited by 1039 people and opened with an official welcome and a lesson by rabbi Dr. h.c. Henry G. Brandt. Between 12.00 and 4.30 p.m. 6 thematic guided tours through museum and synagogue were held.

Various events during the day – such as a panel discussion about Jewish-Christian dialogue with Dr. h.c. Henry G. Brandt, Prof. i. R. Dr. Hanspeter Heinz, Dr. Nikolaus Hueck and Torsten Lattki, a lecture by cantor Nikola David about "Music between Orient and Occident" or a lecture about "Café synagogue—a bridge between Christian and Jews" dealt with the topic "Bridges" in different ways and attracted a lot of visitors.

Children had the opportunity to join a special guided tour, to explore the permanent exhibition with a rally for children or to take part in a crafting workshop. Performances by HATIKWA, the women's choir from the Jewish community and by Duo Unterstadt (Monika Müller and Frank Schillinger) animated the atmosphere with musical interventions.

A Jewish dances' workshop by Svetlana Zalmanson and an art exhibition about "Bridges" by Oleg Aizman completed the diversified program.

The klezmer ensemble Mame Loshn closed the day with a wonderful concert in Augsburg's major synagogue.

325 people visited the old synagogue in Augsburg-Kriegshaber, which was renovated and became a branch of the Jewish Cultural Museum in 2014.

2 guided tours at 11.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. explained the Jewish past of Kriegshaber and informed the audience about the history of the old synagogue and its handling after 1945.

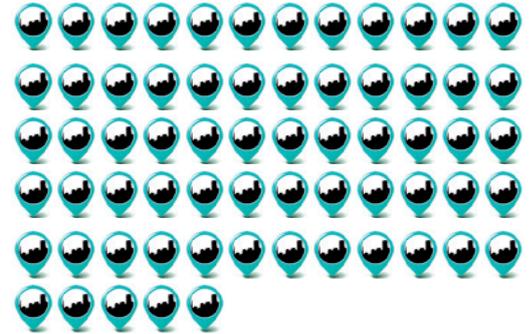
The Jewish Culture Museum of Augsburg and Swabia also organized a total of 43 activities in 15 towns located in **SWABIA**.

More than 933 visitors joined the events that were offered over the whole day. Former synagogues and Jewish cemeteries were opened, and guided tours through exhibitions, towns and Jewish cemeteries gave an impression about the local Jewish history. Different speeches and concerts completed the many-sided programs in **Altenstadt, Binswangen, Bopfingen-Oberdorf, Buttenwiesen, Fellheim, Fischach, Hainsfarth, Harburg, Ichenhausen, Krumbach, Memmingen, Mönchsdeggingen, Nördlingen, Schopfloch and Wallerstein**.

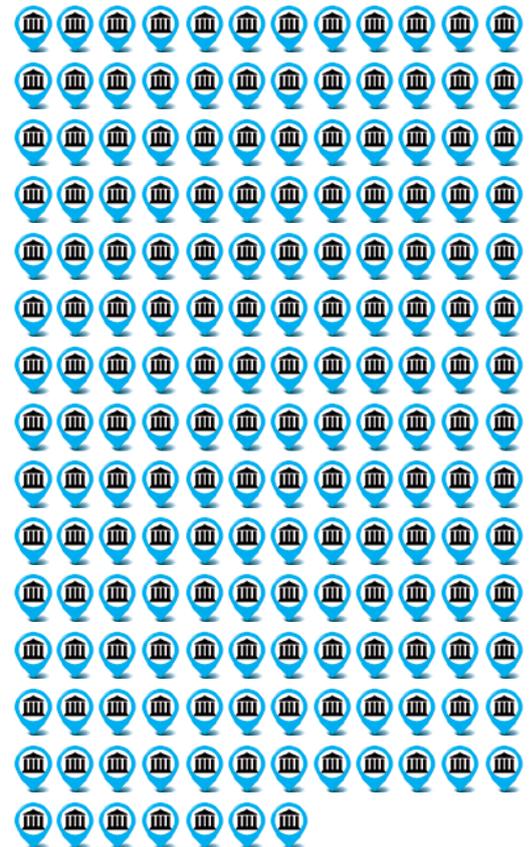
In **BADEN WÜRTTEMBERG**, 106 activities took place in 44 towns and cities, attracting the remarkable amount of 3661 visitors! Following, a short resume:

In **Attenweiler**, Martin Dreyfus lectured about

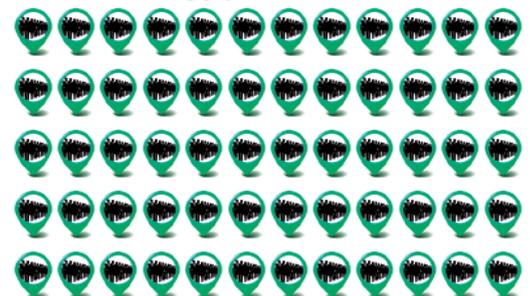
Participating cities: 42



Total activities: 175



Total visitors: 5948



"Byblical characters in literature" and Brunhilde Raiser about "Martin Buber"; Chaim Kapuja intervened with music, and the Glaser family with fine arts.

In **Bad Buchau**, the commemorative hall was opened, and a guided walk took place.

In **Bad Mergentheim**, Klaus Huth led visitors through the castle and town, instructing them about the history of Mergentheim's Jews.

In **Braunsbach**, the Rabbinat's Museum and Jewish cemetery were opened, with a photo exhibition by Matthias Lauterer.

In **Breisach am Rhein**, the Blue House in the town's old *Judengasse* was opened for a guided tour, followed by the screening of various films about Breisach's Jewish heritage, all by Bodo Kaiser; finally, a guided walk through the Jewish cemetery took place.

In **Bretten**, on September 20, the Jewish cemetery was opened and a guided visit by Heidi Leins took place.

In **Bruchsal**, the Jewish cemetery was opened with a visit by Dietmar Konanz.

In **Buchen/Odenwald**, the Jewish Library held an open doors' day, with guided visits and lectures.

In **Crailsheim**, visits to the town and to the Jewish cemetery took place.

In **Creglingen**, Albert Kraemer led visitors in guided visits to the town's Jewish heritage.

In **Efringen-Kirchen**, a guided visit to the Jewish cemetery was led by Wolfgang Weller.

In **Emmendingen**, the Jewish museum had an open doors' day and rabbi Y.Y. Yudkowsky lectured about "Kabbalah as a bridge through dimensions"; a guided visit with Noemi Wertheimer and Carola Grasse took place; following, Monika Miklis lectured about "Jacob's ladder in art", and Ursula Hellerich about "Building bridges with books"; in the *Simon-Veit-Haus*, a tasting of kosher wine, coffee, cakes and *challa* (shabbat bread) was offered to visitors; at the town's synagogue, rabbi Yudkowsky led visitors through a guided tour; finally, at the old Town Hall,

a concert by trio *Kol Hatikva* (Elizaveta Belinskaya, cello; Julia Khaykhova, piano; Vladislav Belinskiy, voice) closed the local Day's activities.

In **Eppingen**, a guided visit to the Jewish cemetery took place, followed by a concert by *Asamblea Mediterranea* in the Evangelical church.

In **Esslingen am Neckar**, the local museum and Jewish cemetery in Munsingen-Buttenhausen were visited.

In **Freiburg im Breisgau**, a guided tour by Marlis Meckel took place.

In **Freudental**, in the former synagogue, a concert by Tobinger Saloniker and Katharina Zerres paid homage to Jewish artists from before WWII.

In **Haigerloch**, guided visits to the former synagogue and ritual bath took place, and the permanent exhibition about Jewish life in the Hohenzollern region held an open doors' day.

In **Hechingen**, guided visits to the old synagogue (with Michael Hakenmueller) and Jewish cemetery (with Joerg Koester) took place.

In **Heidelberg**, the synagogue was opened for guided visits and for a lecture about Hermann Maas.

In **Hemsbach/Bergstrasse**, the old synagogue and ritual bath were opened to visits.

In **Hohberg-Diersburg**, a guided walk took place.

In **Horb am Neckar-Rexingen**, an exhibition about Jewish soldiers in WWI was opened.

In **Karlsruhe**, two guided tours explored the city's Jewish heritage; at the synagogue, a food tasting of Jewish delicatessen took place; activities closed with a concert of Yiddish music by Juri Zemski (voice) and Alexander Goldenberg (piano).

In **Kenzingen**, on September 7th, the film "Seeing Brundibar again" was screened.

In **Kippenheim**, an exhibition about the local Jews' deportation was opened.

In **Konstanz**, two guided walks through the Jewish cemetery took place, followed by the concert "Jewish Gauchos" by

Lucian Plessner.

In **Laupheim**, the Museum for History of Christians and Jews held an open doors' day, with guided tours.

In **Leonberg and Loerrach**, lectures took place.

In **Ludwigsburg**, a Roman Kuperschmidt and the Klezmer Musik Band entertained an enthusiastic public.

In **Muensingen-Buttenhausen**, Dilek Weiflster performed in a concert; the Jewish Museum held an open doors' day; Martin Stoldt lectured about "Bridges and barriers among Judaism, Christendom and Islam". Eberhard Zacher led visitors through a guided tour; Mania Altenburg and Angelika Janssen held a workshop about Israeli dances.

In **Obersulm-Affaltrach**, guided visits to the synagogue's permanent exhibition, the town and the Jewish cemetery took place.

In **Offenburg**, various guided thematic walks took place, with Daniela Schaffart and Marion Herrmann-Malecha.

In **Pforzheim**, the synagogue opened for a guided visit, and the film "Oma and Bella" was screened.

In **Rottenburg am Neckar**, a sculpture honoring the history of local Jews was inaugurated. Guided visits to the memorial in Baisingen and the Jewish cemetery took place.

In **Schwabisch Hall**, a guided visit to Hesselental's concentration camp took place, as well as visits to the former Jewish quarter and to the cemetery.

In **Stuttgart**, guided visits were organized, both to the synagogue and to the House of History of Baden-Wuerttemberg (this latter one centered on the history of Jewish women in the region).

In **Sulzburg**, a guided visit to the old synagogue took place, followed by a book presentation and a concert by Claudia Ott (Voice, Nay), Gilbert Yammine (Kanun) et Hadi Alizadeh (percussion).

In **Tuebingen**, a guided walk through the city's Jewish heritage took place.

In **Ueberlingen**, a guided visit

to the city museum was led by Thomas Hirthe, centered about "Jewish traces in Christian art".

In **Dorsten** at the Jewish Museum of Westphalia, activities included, apart from open doors and guided tours, a film screening and a lecture. The film was "Typisch Jude", a documentary on present-day antisemitism in Germany. The film is about the self-concepts of young Jews in Germany; non-Jewish students are interviewed on their images of Judaism. The patterns of antisemitism are commented by scholars and concerned people, and the Shoah survivor Tamar Dreifuss gives her view of the problem.

The lecture "Synagoga-an approach to Judaism, 1960" was delivered by Norbert Reichling: The exhibition "Synagoga" - presented in Dorsten's neighbouring town Recklinghausen in 1960/61 - was an important step of individual and collective learning curves concerning Jews and Judaism in the "old" Federal Republic of Germany: Culture and tradition of Jews were showcased for the first time after 1945 to a broader audience. This moment of "coming to terms with the past" can teach us a lot about the years around 1960 and the problems of exhibitions on Judaism and Jewry, particularly in Germany.

In **Essen's Alte Synagoge**, dr. Uri R. Kaufmann lectured about A bridge to the west? Immigration of Jews from Soviet Russia to Germany in 1990-2015; following, a guided tour through the synagogue's architecture and two visits to the Steinheim Institute for German-Jewish history took place.

In **Munich**, the local Jewish community organized a rich and diversified program, attracting about 850 visitors: two guided walks aimed at discovering trace of Jewish life in Munich's city center were carried out by Chaim Frank; a bookshop and market was open all day, and visitors could taste Jewish cuisine at Restaurant Einstein; Marian

Offman and Marcus Schroll led visitors through Munich's magnificent synagogue; the vernissage of an exhibition of famed illustrator Mark Podwal took place; finally, activities closed with a fascinating concert titled *Feuervogel*, starring Marina Baranova on piano and Murat Coskun on percussion.

In Überlingen, the cultural association KulturKiste participated in EDJC for the second time, with a film screening that actually took place in two countries: in Überlingen itself and in the Austrian town of Bregenz, just across the border (for the latter, see Austrian report). A special attention was dedicated to the memory of Jewish artist and illustrator Walter Trier, with a screening of some of his most detached animated cartoons. Following, the documentary "Wie Dachau an den See kam" was projected; this year, activities in Überlingen arrived to attract over 160 people, striking a record: in the organizers' own words, "we never had so many visitors!"





In Greece, despite the ongoing economical problems, the Jewish Museums of Athens and Thessaloniki celebrated the EDJC with an open doors' day and free guided tours.



ΕΒΡΑΙΚΟ ΜΟΥΣΕΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ
JEWISH MUSEUM OF THESSALONIKI
MUSEO DJIDIO DE SALONIK

Participating cities: 2

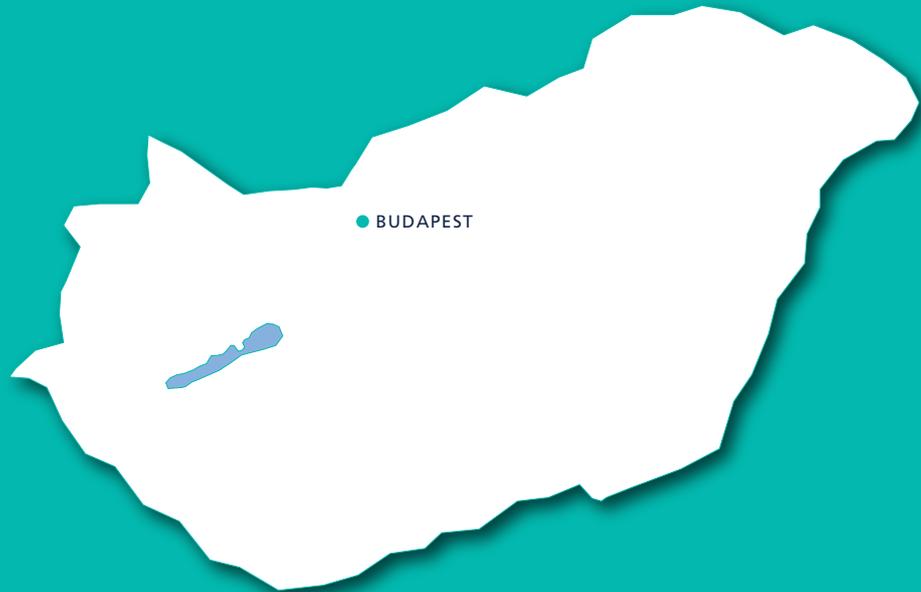


Total activities: 2



Total visitors: 33





The Mazsike center in Budapest contributed as usual to the EDJC, with a concert in the frame of the Budapest Festival of Jewish Music. In particular, the Center developed this year a lasting cross-border partnership with the city of Cluj-Napoca in Romania (Kolozsvár in Hungarian - for a long time the city was part of the Austro-Hungarian empire), inviting the Tokos Klezmer band from Cluj to perform in Budapest's Rumbach synagogue.

Collaboration wasn't however limited to September 6th; about one month later, the Center organized a 5-days' cultural trip to explore Kolozsvár's Jewish heritage. About 40 participants from Budapest attended; the trip covered October 7-11 and included various activities, among them:

-Performance by the Tokos orchestra (Kolozsvár), Muzsikás ensemble and Bob Cohen (Budapest) and guest

performers in the Hungarian State Opera of Kolozsvár.

-*What a nice town is Kolozsvár: Wandering among the secrets of the "town of treasures" and its Jewish heritage.*

-*Holocaust commemoration and concert to the memory of the victims: Commemoration, followed by a concert: Levente Gyöngyösi's works in the framework of the Contemporary Music Festival. Performing: Pro Musica Girls' Chorus, conducting: Dénes Szabó. Cantemus Mixed Chorus, director: Soma Szabó; Orfeo Chamber Orchestra; Orsolya Sivák-Nyakas – soprano; László Kálmán – tenor; conducting: György Vashegyi.*

In a good mood – World and music, tune and text, voices and instruments: concert by the Vodku Orchestra

-Shabbat services in Kolozsvár's 19th century synagogue





Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 10



Total visitors: 340





In **Dublin**, the Jewish Museum of Ireland participated in the EDJC for its second time, registering a sheer increase of visitors in comparison to 2014. Doors were opened (with guided visits of the museum) and a guided walk through Dublin's old Jewish neighborhood was well attended. The Museum's curator Yvonne Altmann O'Connor sent the following report to the AEPJ: "This was Dublin's second year participating in the EDJC programme. We are a very small community but the museum attracts local visitors as well as tourists from all around the world. We held an open house at the museum providing tours throughout the day with our expert volunteer guides. For most people, this was their

first visit to the museum and they enjoyed the experience of learning about Ireland's long Jewish history in the traditional setting of the old synagogue and former Jewish home.

In addition, we arranged for a professional guide to give a walking tour of the old Jewish neighbourhood which stretches between two bridges of the canal and provides a glimpse into the life of the community from the 1880's until the 1970's.

The EDJC brought many additional visitors to the Jewish Museum in Dublin and the special walking tour of the area of the old Jewish neighbourhood between the two bridges of the canal attracted a good crowd. We look forward to developing more programmes in the future."



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 3



Total visitors: 95



Italy

Acqui Terme, Agira, Ancona, Asti, Biella, Bologna, Bova Marina, Bozzolo, Brindisi, Carmagnola, Carpi, Casale Monferrato, Cento, Cherasco, Chieri, Correggio, Cortemaggiore, Cosenza, Cuneo, Fano, Ferentino, Ferrara, Finale Emilia, Fiorenzuola d'Arda, Firenze, Fiuggi, Fondi, Genova, Gorizia, Ivrea, Livorno, Lugo di Romagna, Mantova, Merano, Milano, Modena, Moncalvo, Mondovì, Monte San Savino, Napoli, Ostiano, Padova, Palermo, Parma, Pesaro, Pisa, Pitigliano, Pomponesco, Ragusa-Camarina, Reggio Calabria, Reggio Emilia, Roma, Sabbioneta, Salerno, Saluzzo, San Nicandro Garganico, Santa Maria del Cedro, Senigallia, Siena, Siracusa, Soncino, Soragna, Torino, Trani, Trieste, Trino Vercellese, Udine, Urbino, Venezia, Vercelli, Verona, Viadana, Viareggio, Vibo Valentia, Vicenza.





Alto Patronato
del Presidente della Repubblica



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In Italy, many big cities and town, big and small and spread all over the country, participated in EDJC 2015, offering a surprisingly wide choice of activities. Let's have a brief survey, sorted by region:

The Northwestern region of **PIEDMONT** has a very rich Jewish history: Jews arrived there from France in the Middle Age and spread all over the country; the result is a surprising number of ancient synagogues and Jewish sites, even in small towns where there's no active community anymore. **Turin's** Jewish Community sponsored a very rich program, featuring an exhibition, food tastings, guided walks, open doors and closing with a concert by Eyal Lerner and Sergio Pugnalin.

In **Casale Monferrato**, famous for its gorgeous Baroque synagogue, the programme included visits, open doors, and two concerts: on Saturday, September 5, the *Ghesher* choir; on Sunday, September 6, *Divertimento Ensemble*, directed by Sandro Gorli. Furthermore, an exhibition of special *Hanukkiot* (nine-armed candleholders for *Hanukka* holiday) took place in the town's ancient fortress. Casale has a museum dedicated only to Hanukkiot, with a collection including works by artists such as Pomodoro, Nespolo, Luzzati, Topor, Paladino and many more.

In **Acqui Terme**, activities included a lecture by Brunetto Salvarani, as well as a guided walk through the town's Jewish heritage, starting from piazza Levi, Acqui's main square.

In **Vercelli**, the magnificent synagogue was opened to free and guided visits, and hosted a *lectio magistralis* from Dario Arkel, professor at Genoa University.

Synagogues, old ghettos and cemeteries were also opened and visited in **Asti, Biella, Carmagnola, Cherasco, Chieri, Cuneo, Ivrea, Moncalvo, Mondovì, Saluzzo, Trino Vercellese.**

In **LOMBARDY**, activities were held in 8 cities and towns. In **Milan**, the main synagogue hosted a day of open doors, with various lectures; in the afternoon, activities moved to the Shoah memorial "Binario 21", with a film screening, a debate and a lesson by Torah scholar Haim Baharier.

In **Mantua**, the magnificent synagogue was opened to the public, with various food tastings, and activities closed with a concert by Angel Harkatz's *leHaim* quartet.

In **Sabbioneta**, the XIX-century synagogue opened its doors, also hosting a collection of Jewish texts printed in the town's ancient printing house. The ancient Jewish cemetery was opened, and activities closed with a concert in the town's square.

In **Soncino**, activities opened with a meeting-debate, went on with a book presentation and included the cultural tour "Shabbat. Wine in Jewish culture" at the local museum.

In **Viadana**, the former synagogue was opened for visits and hosted an exhibition about the town's Jewish community. Marcello Bergamaschi entertained the public with his violin.

Jewish cemeteries were also opened, and hosted guided visits, in **Bozzolo, Ostiano** and **Pomponesco.**

In the Alpine region of **TRENTINO-ALTO ADIGE**, the Jewish Community of **Meran** welcomed visitors in its synagogue and museum; among other activities were a food tasting and the musical theatre show *Café Odessa*, by Miriam Camerini and Manuel



Buda.

In **VENETO**, another region with an historically important and widespread Jewish presence, activities were organized in four cities.

In **Venice**, activities covered the whole day, centered around the old ghetto, with its historical synagogues and important Jewish museum. Activities included exhibition, inter-religious debates, a documentary screening about Venice's ghetto (the first ghetto in the world: in 2016 it will be its 500th anniversary) and finally a concert by Enrico Fink and Raiz, titled *Music from the sea* and presenting songs and poetry from the Mediterranean basin.

In **Padua**, the Italian synagogue was opened to visits, as well the newly opened Museum of Jewish Padua, hosted in the former German synagogue. The Old Jewish cemetery (Padua has more than one) was opened in the morning. Activities closed in the evening in the Italian synagogue, with a concert of lythurgical songs by rabbi Adolfo Locci.

In **Verona**, activities opened on the evening of Saturday, September 5, with the screening of the film *Bethlehem* by Yuval Adler, in the frame of Verona's third Festival of Israeli cinema. On September 6, activities opened at the synagogue in the morning, with musical interventions by *Iorè Trio* and a food and wine tasting. The synagogue and cemetery were opened for various guided tours. In the afternoon, the *Enrico Fink Quartet* performed in front of the synagogue, and, at 6 pm, activities closed with a lecture about Verona's Jewish personalities, delivered by Roberto Israel.

In **Vicenza**, the Jewish cemetery was opened to visits and, in the evening, the public flocked to *Alef Band Trio's* concert.

In **FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA** activities were organized in three cities. In **Trieste**, the synagogue (second biggest in Europe!) and Jewish museum were opened all day. Activities went on with the meeting Jewish Trieste, a bridge between Mitteleuropa and the Mediterranean. Famous Qabbalah-influenced

artist Tobia Ravà inaugurated his new exhibition *Bridges of Peace - Transcendental Codes*, and lectured about *The mystery of numbers and letters in Jewish philosophy*. The city theatre Giuseppe Verdi anticipated its season's opening to host a special concert, featuring the first performance of the formerly lost work *In Limine*, by Vito Levi, followed by the same author's *Surge Propera*, and finally by *Il Canto* by Marco Podda, inspired by the Song of Songs.

In the border city of **Gorizia**, the ancient synagogue and the Jewish museum were opened with guided tours also featuring an exhibition about Jewish pilgrimages. The Jewish cemetery, on the Slovenian side of the border, was also opened to visits.

In **Udine**, activities included video screenings, a meeting about Jewish food, and a performance by soprano Selma Pasternak.

In **EMILIA-ROMAGNA**, twelve cities and towns participated in the EDJC 2015. In **Bologna**, activities lasted all day, including an exhibition, guided visits to the city's synagogue, a conversation with rabbi Alberto Sermoneta, bishop Pier Francesco Fumagalli and imam Yusuf Pisano, followed by a klezmer concert by students of the Conservatory. At the Jewish Museum, a bookmarket and food corner were very well visited. Guided visits to the old ghetto were carried out, and the Day closed with a musical reading inspired by A.B. Yehoshua's *A Journey to the End of the Millennium*, with Lisa Ferlazzo Natoli (voice), Gabriele Coen (saxophones and clarinet), Stefano Saletti (oud and guitar).

In **Carpi**, the former synagogue and deportation camp were opened, and Bible scholar Piero Stefani offered a lecture.

In **Cento**, activities were held on September 20, including guided visits to the town's old ghetto, and a lecture by Tiziana Galuppi about Dona Gracia Mendes. In the afternoon, *Progetto Davka* offered its concert, accompanied by a dance performance by *Gruppo Danzainsieme*.

In **Correggio**, the old Jewish cemetery was opened, and a study about the town's Jewish community and its demography between 1811 and 1861 was presented to the public.

In **Cortemaggiore**, an exhibition about Jewish presence in the region was inaugurated, excerpts from the book of *Qohelet* (Ecclesiastes) were read, with musical accompaniment.

In **Ferrara**, activities opened with a panel discussion and went on with visits to the Fanese synagogue in the afternoon. Furthermore, the MEIS (National Museum of Italian Jewry and the Shoah), still in the process of being built, was opened to visits, featuring the exhibition *Torah - Source of Life*.

Activities in the town of **Finale Emilia** included guided visits to the Jewish cemetery, a Jewish-style lunch at renowned *Osteria La Fefa* and a conversation with AEPJ Board member Annie Sacerdoti. Furthermore, the Jewish section of the City museum was opened for free, all day.

In **Fiorenzuola d'Arda**, the Jewish cemetery was opened and hosted an exhibition.

In **Lugo di Romagna**, the Day was celebrated on September 17, with the presentation of a book about the Jewish Brigade, by Primo Fornaciari. Activities went on on September 20, with visits to the town's Jewish cemetery by Ines Miriam Marach.

In **Modena**, the city's synagogues were opened for visits; rabbi Beniamino Goldstein lectured about *Bridges, aqueducts and roads in a passage from the Talmud*.

In **Reggio Emilia**, visitors were guided through the ghetto, Jewish cemetery and synagogue.

In **Soragna**, the Fausto Levi Jewish Museum held an open doors' day, and the band *Progetto Davka* performed in the town's precious ancient synagogue.

In **LIGURIA**, activities took place in **Genoa**. The synagogue opened its doors all day and hosted, throughout the day, short lectures by members of the Jewish community, about important Jewish

personalities that acted as a "bridge" of sorts: from Marc Chagall to Leonard Cohen, from Albert Einstein to Walter Benjamin. These lectures were closed by a speech by rabbi Giuseppe Momigliano. Throughout the day, the synagogue also hosted an exhibition of works by Emanuele Luzzati, famous Jewish artist from Genoa.

In **TUSCANY**, **Florence** was chosen this year as leading city (every year, a city is chosen as "leader" of the Italian EDJC). Activities in the city started at the end of August, going well beyond the Jewish community area and its wonderful Moorish-style synagogue. The activities leading to September 6 included workshops for children, concerts, food tastings, flash mobs, debates and book presentations; particularly notable was a meeting among Jewish and Muslim women, held on September 3 at the Islamic Community of Florence. As the EDJC date was approaching, activities intensified. On Saturday 5 in the evening, various shows took place at Florence's synagogue, opening with a light installation, projected on the synagogue itself and centered about the relationship between Florence and the Jews. Following, the movie *Ye Shanghai*, by Roberto Paci D'Alò, was screened; the movie is centered about Shanghai's Jewish neighborhood, that experienced an exponential growth in the years of WWII, arriving to host about 23000 Jewish refugees. On September 6 itself, activities included visits to the synagogue, Jewish museum and Jewish heritage in the city center, a concert by students of Florence's Conservatorium, workshops for children, a lunch prepared by students of Florence's hotel management school and "directed" by Israeli chef Moshe Basson, debates (featuring personalities like rabbis Yosef Levi and Roberto Della Rocca, writers Assaf Gavron and Gyorgy Konrad, Riccardo Calimani, Joseph Weiler and others). Activities culminated in the evening, with a concert on the synagogue's stairs by famous Israeli-Yemenite group A-WA,

that attracted an impressive crowd of young people from all backgrounds.

In **Livorno** (Leghorn), activities opened in the morning at the Yeshivà Marini, with official greetings and a lesson by rabbi Roberto Della Rocca; in the afternoon, the synagogue, museum and cemetery were opened for visits, and a practical workshop about preparing cous cous (a dish introduced into Italian cuisine, among others, by Livorno's Sephardic Jews)...everything concluded happily with a cous cous-based meal and a concert by *Shana Tova* band.

In **Monte San Savino**, the ancient synagogue, mikveh, Jewish quarter and cemetery were opened for visits.

In **Pisa**, activities started on August 30 with a very successful "appetizer": a kosher food tasting at the Tuscan city's Marina. On September 6, some spaces were inaugurated in Pisa's precious recently renovated synagogue; the Augusto Hasdà archive, Moisé Carvaglio exhibition room and Bettina Segre Hasdà matroneum, at the presence of the Mayor and other authorities. Activities went on with debates, readings from Benyamin de Tudela and Meshullam da Volterra's travel books, a lecture about the condition of Jews in Italy in 1848-1945, children workshops by Valentina Gabbrielli, guided visits to the synagogue by Paolo Orsucci and Federico Prospri and to the cemetery, by Alon Donitza.

In **Pitigliano**, the synagogue and Jewish museum were open to visits (also hosting a food tasting) all day; there were guided visits to the Jewish cemetery, a workshop and a concert.

In **Siena**, activities opened with a debate featuring rabbi Crescenzo Piattelli, Waldensian pastor Milena Martinat, Catholic priest Antonio Leopardi, imam Abdel Qader Mohamed and city prefect Renato Saccone. Activities went on with a film screening about Jewish artist from Siena Piero Sadun (and guided visits to his exhibition), guided visits to the synagogue and cemetery, a concert in the afternoon by *Balagan Café Orkestar*, a food tasting and another concert in

the evening, by *Trio 'Alom*.

In the coastal town of **Viareggio**, a section of Pisa's community, the synagogue was open to visits.

In **MARCHE**, activities took place in four cities. In **Ancona** (presently the only Jewish community in the region) and **Senigallia** (home of a precious historical synagogue) synagogues were opened and visited by a large public.

Fano participated for the first time this year, with a panel discussion about history of Jews in the town and music by soprano Samantha Faina and pianist Enis Bajrami.

In **Pesaro**, a guided walk through the city's Jewish sites (former synagogue, former ghetto and cemetery) was attended by a large public.

In **LAZIO**, the widest program was in the capital city **Rome**, hosting the biggest and oldest Jewish community in Italy. At the Jewish museum, *Tempio Maggiore* (major synagogue) and *Tempio Spagnolo* (Spanish synagogue), free visits took place all day, as well as to the *Tempio dei Giovani* synagogue and the historical neighborhood of Trastevere. A new event this year was the Art Safari - Play & learn tour, all over the old ghetto and its surroundings. The ancient Jewish catacombs of Vigna Randanini, normally always closed, were opened for a guided visit, limited, for security reasons, to 30 lucky people. The Jewish Community Center "Il Pitigliani" hosted a workshop in the morning and a lunch; in the afternoon, a guided walk centered about Rome's ancient bridges. Organ player Livia Mazzanti, accompanied by readings by actor Emanuele Carucci Viterbi, dedicated a wonderful concert to Jewish composer Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco, born in Florence and then exiled to the USA due to the fascist regime's racial policy. In the *Tempio Maggiore's* gardens, a food tasting, with explanation and didactic interactive route about Jewish alimentary rules, was offered to visitors. The ruins of Ostia Antica's synagogue, probably the oldest on European soil, were opened for a guided visit at 12.30. Further events included debates, lectures, children workshops





and finally, in the open-air arena on Tiberine Island, the screening of the movie *Ebrei a Roma* (Jews in Rome), about the history and life of the unique Roman Jewish community.

Activities, however, weren't limited to Rome: in the gorgeous little town of **Ferentino** guided tours were offered to the old Jewish neighborhood. A similar initiative was staged in **Fondi**, famed for its beautiful old Jewish quarter, called *La Giudea*.

In **Fiuggi**, activities lasted a whole week, culminating with a theater show and the ceremony of Anticoli Menorah Awards, named after an ancient menorah found in the old Jewish part of the city (Anticoli was Fiuggi's historical name).

In **CAMPANIA's** main city Naples, the Jewish community held an open doors' day. Guided visits to the synagogue were carried out, and a panel discussion took place in the morning; in the afternoon, rabbi Umberto Piperno dedicated a performance of liturgical songs to Abraham, a living bridge between different worlds.

in **Salerno**, on Monday, September 7, the panel discussion titled *Justice for the individual and the world; universal rights and the seven Noachic laws* took place, featuring various local

authorities and important scholars.

In **PUGLIA**, activities began in the port of **Brindisi** on September 3, when a true *Sefer Torah* (Torah scroll) crossed the port's waters and, accompanied by songs as tradition prescribes, arrived to the city museum, that then hosted a lecture about Abraham, founder of different peoples and religions.

In **Trani**, guided visits were organized to the famous medieval synagogue and Jewish quarter; activities went on with a lecture about the figures of Abraham and Moses, and a kosher food and drink tasting.

In **San Nicandro Garganico**, the synagogue and study hall were opened and hosted an exhibition about this small community's unique history (an almost unbelievable case of mass conversion to Judaism, in a tiny Southern Italian town) and its founder, Donato Manduzio.

In **CALABRIA**, activities interested a number of locations, thanks, among others to coordinator Roque Pugliese: in **Santa Maria del Cedro**, known for its production of citrons used in the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, activities started in the morning with guided visits, a debate, a food tasting and a ceremony, at the presence of local authorities, marking the long friendship between the town and Jews; activities

closed in the evening, with video screening and music.

In the afternoon of September 6, the city concert hall in **Vibo Valentia** hosted a meeting-panel discussion, followed by a piano concert by duo De Stefano-Tatievskaya. The city's authorities were present.

In the morning of Monday September 7, in **Reggio Calabria**, the ceremony of inauguration for the project *A Chanukiah for Reggio Calabria* took place, with official greetings and a panel discussion. In the afternoon of the same day, activities went on in **Cosenza**, with a panel discussion featuring local authorities and the inauguration of exhibition *Identità*.

On Tuesday, September 8, in the little town of **Bova Marina**, visits were carried out to the remnants of the 3rd century's synagogue, casually discovered in 1983 during works for a local road. Visits to the synagogue and *antiquarium* were by Emilia Andronico, director of the archaeological park.

In **SICILY**, EDJC experienced an exponential growth in the last years. In the city of **Palermo**, activities opened with visits to the ancient Jewish quarter. In the afternoon, a meeting was hosted at *Palazzo delle Aquile*, with the presence, among others, of Mayor Leoluca Orlando, Adham Darawsha

(president of the Cultures' Council), rabbi Pierpaolo Pinhas Puntarello and Luciana Pepi, Rita Calabrese, Angela Scandaliato. The meeting was closed with a concert of quartet *Klezmer4sale*. Activities concluded with a symbolic, multi-ethnic human chain around the *Pretoria* fountain.

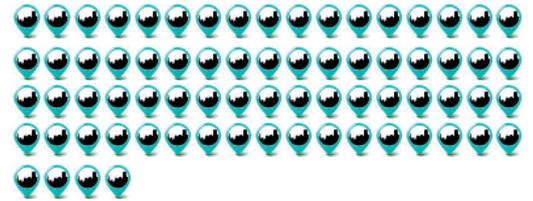
In **Siracusa**, the ancient medieval *mikveh* was opened all day to visits; additional activities included presentation of a book about the city's ancient Jewish quarter and ritual baths, as well as a lecture by professor Eva Cantarella. Activities closed in the evening with a theater play about Virdimura, the first woman (and a Jewish one!) to officially practice the profession of medicine in medieval Sicily.

In **Agira**, a small town in central Sicily known for the finding of a medieval *aron* (holy ark), a panel discussion took place and the remnants of the town's ancient synagogue were open to visits.

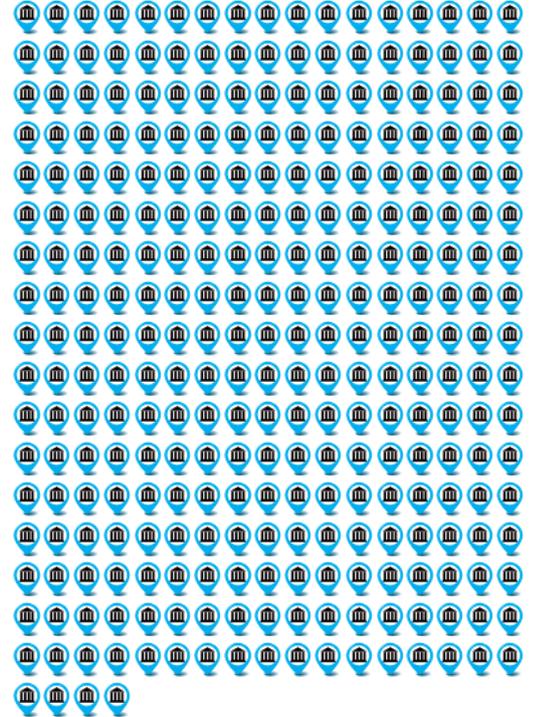
In **Camarina** (in the territory of the city of Ragusa), location of an ancient Greek colony, the archaeological museum was open for free all day, hosting an exhibition titled *Of Jews, Camarina and more*; this town, participating this year for its first time, became the southernmost participating location in Italy, being on the southern tip of the island of Sicily!



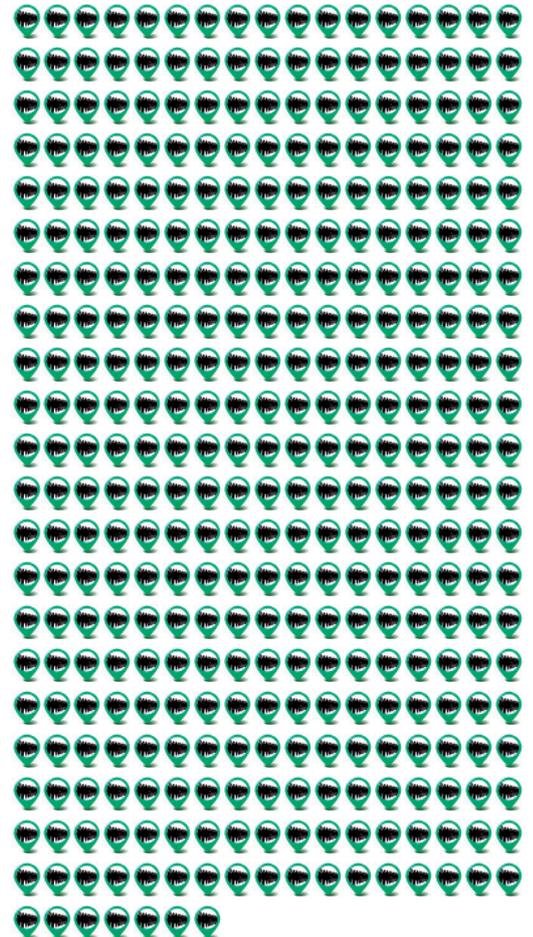
Participating cities: 72



Total activities: 293



Total visitors: 36371





The Jewish Museum of Riga celebrated EDJC for the second time this year, holding an open doors' day and attracting a good amount of visitors, thus registering a significant increase in comparison to last year.





Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 2



Total visitors: 50



Lithuania

Čekiškė, Jonava, Kalvarija, Kaunas, Kėdainiai, Pandėlys, Panevėžys, Radviliškis, Rokiškis, Šiauliai, Švėkšna, Telšiai, Vilnius, Žiežmariai



In Lithuania, activities were organized in several cities and registered a big success: AEPJ would like to thank coordinators Alfredas Jomantas and Akvile Jagminaite, and all the other organizers and volunteers. They included concerts, guided tours and visits, exhibitions, lectures, theatre performance, workshops, panel discussions, educational activities and much more. Media coverage was excellent, as well as the affluence of visitors. In the capital city of **Vilnius**, activities started in the morning with the guided tours "Return to the native place", guides K. Dūdaitė and E. Jackevičiūtė, and "The Jewish Vilnius and Lithuanian writers", guide V. Toleikis, and the educational activity "Journey of the heart: expressionism and graffiti". Morning activities went on with a concert of

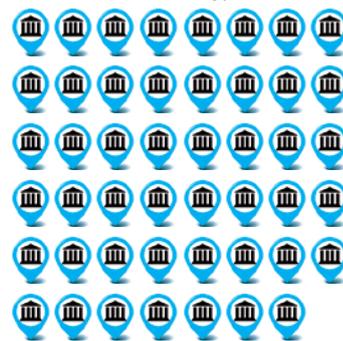
cantorial singing (by Šmuel Jatom) and guided tour (by Natalija Heifetz) in the Vilnius Choral Synagogue. At noon, in the Litwak Jewish Community premises, the concert of Jewish music band *Fajerlech* took place, together with the tolerance campaign "The Beigel Shop" and a presentation of the community. Afternoon activities included a number of panel discussions and lectures: "Lithuanian Jewish history and heritage: success cases and errors of study and preservation"; (Moderator: dr. Šarunas Liekis, Dean of the Vytautas Magnus University of Political Science and Diplomacy, Faculty of Political Sciences; director of Vilnius Yiddish Institute. Discussion participants: Sergey Kanovich, poet, essayist and public figure; assoc. prof., dr. Nerijus Šepetys, lecturer of Vilnius University, Faculty of History; assoc. prof., dr.



Participating cities: 12



Total activities: 47



Total visitors: 2670



Aurimas Švedas, lecturer of Vilnius University, Faculty of History, reviewer of cultural magazine "Literature and Art"; "Meetings in the old Jewish cemetery - a bridge to the Jewish cultural knowledge"; "Jews as a nation of Europe" (lecturer Giedrius Jokubauskis); "Not only Yiddish or Hebrew: multilingual Lithuanian Jewish community" (lecturer Dr. Lara Lampertienė); "The forgotten bridges of communities: stories of the Jewish and Lithuanian exiles", (lecturer Dr. Violeta Davoliūtė); "Hiding-saving-humanity: exhibition "Malina", narrations and discussion"(narrators: Rima Kazlauskaitė, Konstantinas Eugenijus Šatūnas, Iga

Makutėnienė); "The synagogue and the meaning of symbols in the tradition of Judaism" (lecturer Rabbi Meir Zorea); "The ideal language. The Ideal world. Esperanto in Lithuania" (lecturer Daiva Narkevičienė); Dialogues about the past and present of the Lithuanian and Jewish culture; moderator T. Janušauskas (Discussion participants: assoc. prof., dr. Jurgita Verbickienė, Director of the Study Centre of the East European Jewish Culture and History, lecturer at the Vilnius University Faculty of History; dr. M. Kvietkauskas, Director of the Lithuanian Literature and Folklore Institute, lecturer at the Vilnius University, Faculty of Philology); afternoon

activities also included the guided tour "Panerių hills stories: prof. Jacob Movšovičius and surveys of Lithuanian flora in the interwar period", guides dr. Mindaugas Rasimavičius and Radvilė Rimgailaitė-Voicik. Activities in Vilnius went on in the following days too: on September 7 with the guided tour and educational session "Roš ha Šana" (the Jewish New Year), on September 8 with a guided tour of the permanent exhibition of the Tolerance Centre "The lost world: echoes of traditional Lithuanian Jewish art", on September 9 with a repetition of educational activities "Journey of the heart: expressionism and graffiti", and on September 13 with a bus trip to the town of Šeduva, also known as "The Lost Shtetl".

In **Kaunas** and the surrounding region, activities started with a guided tour in the Kaunas Choral Synagogue (guide A. Gutermanaitė), the tour continued by bus, with the same guide "Through the Vilijampole bridge to the past – distant and near". Activities went on with a presentation of the building which in the beginning of the XXth century was housing the dining room of the Jewish community and in 1934-1940 here were premises of the Union of Jewish soldiers who took part in the fight for Independence. After the presentation, prof. Jonas Vaičenonis lectured about "Union of the Jewish



soldiers taking part in the fight for Independence - a bridge to the Lithuanian and Jewish cultural cooperation". Another interesting lecture was "From the translations of Lithuanian folklore to the national poet of Israel: Lea Goldberg" by L. Janonis. In the nearby town of **Garliava**, the guided tour "Remembrance of Garliava Jewish community" (guide R. Pauliukaitienė) took place. In the town of **Čekiškė**, the lecture "A Bridge to the past" by Chairperson of the Kaunas Jewish Religious Community M. Bairakas and assistant K. Mačiulaitytė was delivered. In **Žiežmariai**, the seminar "The Jewish heritage of Žiežmariai: a bridge from the past to the future" was followed by a tour of the town.

In **Kalvarija**, at the town's synagogue, the workshop "History is created hand in hand" attracted a wide public.

In **Jonava**, on September 4, the exhibition "The faces of Jonava Jews" opened, and A. Gutermanaitė lectured about "Historical bridges to the past of Jonava Jews". Activities in town went on on September

6 with the guided tour "Traces of Jonava's Jewish culture" (guide R. Kilinskaitė), starting in front of the town's Great Synagogue.

In **Kėdainiai**, activities consisted in the guided tour "The history of the Jewish community in the towns of Kėdainiai region", guide A. Pečiulytė.

In **Panevėžys**, celebration took place on September 10, including opening of the exhibition "Bridges of centuries of Panevėžys Jewish history"; the lecture "Signs of tradition and modernity in the life of Panevėžys Jewish community"; and the guided tour "Signs of the past of the Jewish community in Panevėžys".

In **Radviliškis**, the guided tour for schoolchildren "Jewish heritage in Radviliškis region" (guide V. Simelis) registered an excellent result.

In **Rokiškis** and its region, activities began on September 3 with the unveiling of the information desk about the region's Jewish community. Most activities, however, took place in the neighbouring town of

Pandėlys: they opened on September three, with the youth workshop "The bridge between Lithuanians and Jews", and went on the next day, September 4, with the educational games "Let's explore our neighbours, the Jews" and "Do you know the life of Jewish people?"; on September 6, activities in town culminated with the screening of the film "They lived in Rokiškis"; the lecture "Relations between Lithuanians and Jews in various periods of history"; and the presentation of exhibition "Our neighbours, the Jews".

In **Šiauliai's** Chaim Frenkel Villa Museum, the performance "Thousand, thousand, thousand miles away" and presentation of the exhibition "Vilna Ghetto Posters" (from the Vilna Gaon Jewish State Museum) attracted a wide public.

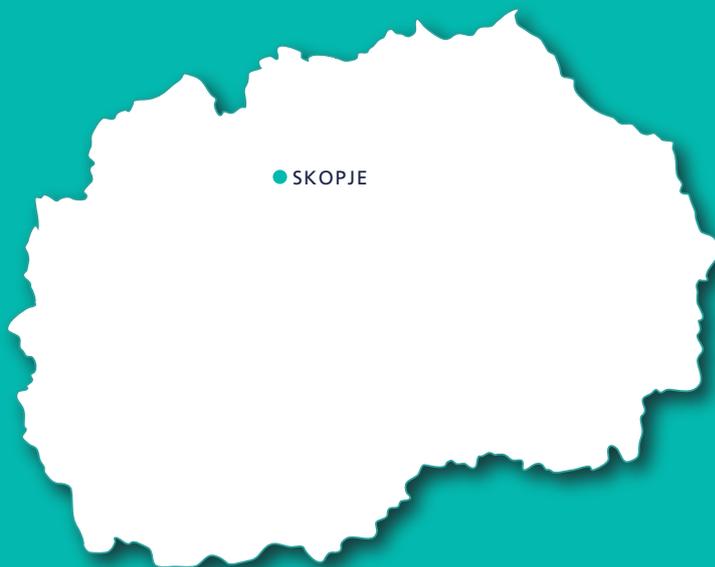
In **Švėkšna**, activities included presentation of a brochure about the town's Jewish community, the lecture "Features of cultural interaction between Lithuanians and Jews in Lithuania in the XIV-XX centuries (by dr. H. Vitkus), a guided tour in town and the opening of an exhibition about the town's synagogue's windows.

Finally, in **Telšiai**, the exhibition "Historical traces of the Jewish culture in Telšiai" was opened on September 6.



Macedonia

Skopje



In Skopje, the Macedonian Jewish Community celebrated EDJC on September 12th, at the Macedonian National Theatre, with a theatrical performance titled "Bridges"; the show starred theatre professionals, the Jewish Community's choir and children from the Community's children club. The theatre was full and the audience was delighted.





Еврејска заедница во Република Македонија
Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia

Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 1



Total visitors: 350



Netherlands

Bourtange, Groningen, the Hague, Leek, Leeuwarden, Winsum, Winterswijk, Zuidlaren



This year, various Dutch cities celebrated the EDJC, attracting a remarkable amount of public.

In **Groningen's** synagogue, an exhibition and film about famous Groninger artist and printer Hendrik Nicolaas Werkman and his work about *Chassidic Legends* attracted a wide amount of visitors.

In **Leek**, an exhibition about Dutch village judaism was held.

In **Leeuwarden**, Lucette van den Berg performed a repertoire of Yiddish songs, followed by Uzi Hagai's presentation of a collection of famous Hebrew grammarbooks.

In **Winterswijk**, the synagogue, mikve and

cemetery were opened to the public. An exhibition about livestock and meat trade in the town's Jewish community before WWII took place.

In **Winsum**, a photo exhibition took place, and Stephan van der Poel addressed the public about photographer Yisha Garbasz.

In **Zuidlaren**, the synagogue was opened to the public, with a musical event about artist Carla da Silva.

In **the Hague**, the EDJC was celebrated on September 13th and was centered on dialogue between Jews and Muslims. Intervention by various authorities took place, followed by a guided walk through the city's former Jewish neighborhood

Participating cities: 8



Total activities: 8



Total visitors: 612



Norway

Oslo

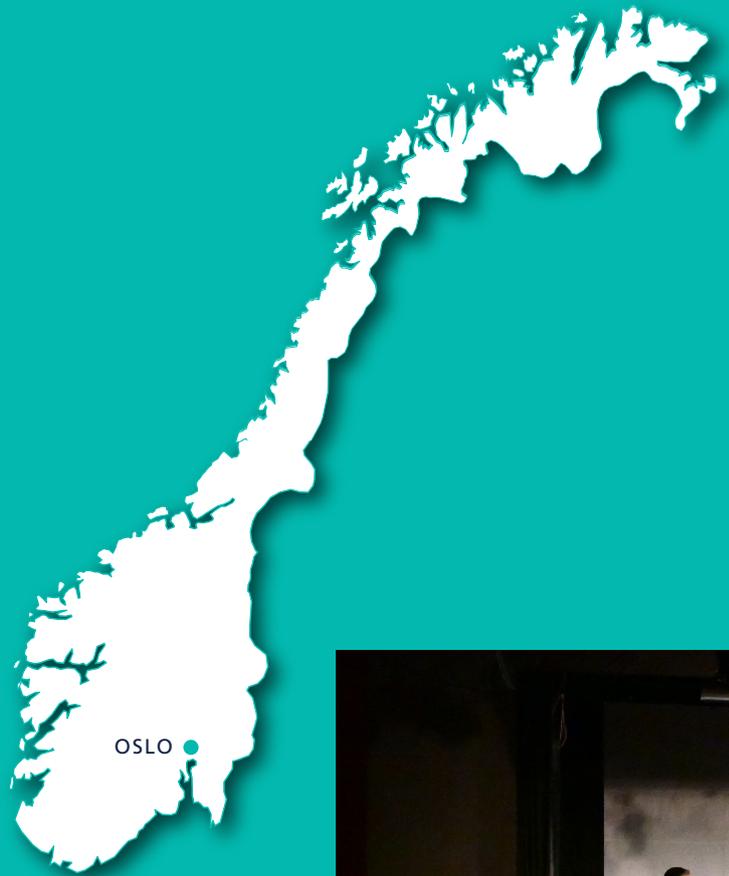
Oslo Jewish Museum invited State Jewish Theatre from Bucharest to Oslo to perform the old play *Der Yiddishe King Lear*, by Jacob Gordin...in Yiddish language, of course.

Before WWII, there was a vivid and active Jewish community in Oslo, with several theatre groups, playing Yiddish plays and farces every year. One of the most popular among them was *Der Yiddishe Kenig Lir*, often shown at an old theatre stage in Oslo.

On Saturday September 5th in the evening, the Romanian State Jewish Theatre performed this play on the same stage as in 1938, year when a Yiddish theatre play was shown in Oslo for the last time. The oldest woman among the audience, 100 years old and the only one left to remember the Jewish theatre in Norway before the war, expressed afterwards the best critics we could want: "Just like in the old days!"

A real event! And the audience was mostly non-Jewish. On Sunday, September 6th, the lecture *The great characters of universal theatre reflected in Yiddish theater* by Maia Morgenstern at the Museum was a "spot on" topic for the Day of Jewish culture. Interesting, humorous and containing lot of new knowledge for the attentive and dedicated audience in the museum.

This lecture was the last part of the 3 years co-operation the Museum has been carrying on with BK Foundation in Wroclaw under EEA-projects: the lecture was thus funded by EEA-grants. The two events



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 4



Total visitors: 205



by the Oslo Jewish Museum totalized 190 visitors. Mr Rami Kafarov, Jewish citizen of Oslo and tour guide by profession, made us a pleasant surprise this year: he volunteered and offered the EDJC two guided tours of Jewish Oslo, one in English and one in Russian; this journey into Jewish history in Norway looked a little bit different in comparison with traditional tours. Instead than visiting synagogues or cemeteries, Rami led about 15 people mostly through Karl Johan Street, the most central street of Oslo, understanding and discovering Jewish history in Norway, hidden among monuments and little-known city corners, as well as thorough archived materials. Congratulations to Rami and his Oslo Phototours, we hope it will be just the first of many times!



Poland

Krakow, Warsaw



In Krakow, The Galicia Jewish Museum joined in this year's edition of the "European Day of Jewish Culture" by organizing three events: a conference "Non-Jewish women preserving Jewish heritage" (featuring Aleksandra Bury, Karolina Jakoweńko, Małgorzata Płoszaj; moderated by Ireneusz Cieślik), a panel discussion with invited guests (the Rabbi of Krakow and the Abbot of Tyniec, moderated by Adam Szostkiewicz) and a concert by synagogue cantor Itzchak Horowitz and the monks' choir from Tyniec' Benedictine abbey. As this year's edition EDJC went on under the slogan "bridges", we focused on the interpretation of this leitmotif in the context of building bridges of intercultural and interreligious dialogue. This is what all invited guests, in a way, do. Step by step, they change the world by building the bridges in their communities - between Poles and Jews, between the past and the future, between the



Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 7



Total visitors: 350



generation of Survivors and Witnesses and contemporary youth.

A large number of participants during the whole program show that events like EDJC are needed and popular. The meetings organized by Galicia Jewish Museum gave participants the opportunity not only to broaden their knowledge (for example on the topic of preservation of Jewish heritage in Poland) but also attracted their attention to the topic of coexistence of various cultures and religions in Poland. The participants unanimously stressed that the events of this type are an interesting and original way of promoting the knowledge not only about Jewish history in Poland but also about tolerance and mutual respect. In **Warsaw**, the EDJC 2015 counted with the participation of a new, excellent coordinator: the recently-opened POLIN Museum for the History of Polish Jews; the organized program included:

a workshop for youth and adults about the importance of the New Year in the yearly cycle of Jewish celebrations; a second workshop/meeting with representatives of various religions, titled "New year, new beginning? About the meaning of the beginning in selected religions"; finally, the screening of the movie "Little Jerusalem" (by Karin Albou, France, 2005). The movie, winner of the SACD Prize for Best Screenplay at the 2005 Cannes Film Festival, is a portrait of two sisters in search of spiritual and sexual identity. Little Jerusalem is a nickname for Sarcelles – a Paris suburb, where a lot of Jews have settled down. Laura, torn between her religious upbringing and her studies in philosophy, experiences the first stirrings of love, while her sister Mathilde tries to breathe new life into her marriage. The passing of time is marked in the film by Jewish holidays, beginning with Rosh Hashanah.



Portugal

Belmonte, Castelo de Vide



The Rede de Judiarias de Portugal, this year, organized a meeting in Castelo de Vide on September 3-6, as well as a kosher market in Belmonte on September 13.





Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 2



Total visitors: 2350



**HISTÓRIA DA HERANÇA
JUDAICO-CRISTÃ**

CASTELO DE VIDE • ÁTRIO DOS PAÇOS DO CONCELHO
DE 3 A 30 DE SETEMBRO 2015

Exposição de pintura Álvaro Mendes



Romania

Bucharest, Sighetu Marmatei



In Bucharest, the Federation of Romanian Jewish Communities (FEDROM) celebrated EDJC 2015 with an all-stars klezmer concert at the *Muzeul Taranului Roman*. The invited bands included Hazamir Choir, the Bucharest Klezmer Band, the Mazal Tov Klezmer Band from Cluj-Napoca and the Hakeshet Klezmer Band from Oradea. About 500 people were present at the concert, while around 2000 more followed its live streaming on internet.

In Sighetu Marmatei/ Sighet, activities were organized, independently by FEDROM, by the Tarbut foundation: the program opened with a welcome by Chairwoman Ms. Peninah Zilberman followed by Mr. Todinca Gheorghe, the

Director of all Sighet-Marmatiei Museums, who emphasized in his speech "how the Museum of Elie Wiesel memorial House bridges the community and people from all over the world for a better understanding of the Jewish People".

As a follow up to the "Bridges" theme Ms. Otilia Chindris, (Educational team member) introduced the high School students and their projects, followed by each student explaining their interpretation of "what Bridges means to them". The Foundation rewarded them with a T-shirt – marking their participation.

Peninah Zilberman then addressed the "Bridges" theme from a Jewish perspective through history, while making it relevant to today's society.





FEDERAȚIA
COMUNITĂȚILOR
EVREIEȘTI
DIN ROMÂNIA



COMUNITATEA
EVREILOR
DIN BUCUREȘTI
CEB



The American Jewish
Joint Distribution
Committee



Muzeul Național al Țăranului Român
MEREU ACTUAL, DIN 1906



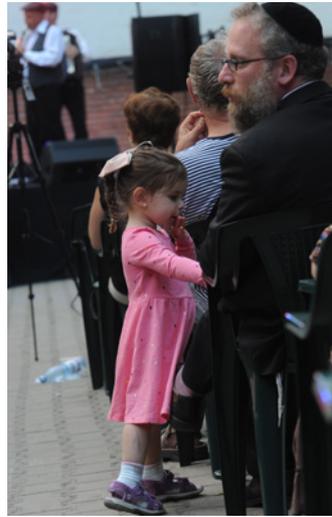
Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 7



Total visitors: 580



All guests enjoyed a *Le'Chayim* with honey cake and apple cake – explaining the symbolism for the upcoming New Year...wishing a Happy and Sweet New year to all.

The one and only Synagogue in Sighet was opened and some people and students toured the synagogue and the Museum.

A further activity was the screening of movie ALIYAH DA DA (an introduction was given to the audience followed by the screening and a short discussion).

The Tarbut foundation would like to thank all its volunteers: Alina Marincean, Rabbi Ezra Berger, Otilia Chindris, Dan Denielescu and Johnny Popescu.



Russia

Moscow



Tpleasant news in this year's EDJC was the participation of Russia, represented by the Museum of Jewish History in **Moscow**. Volunteers Elina Yoffe, Ilya Barkusky, Tatyana Razumova and Maria Kaspina organized an open doors' day, with two guided tours. Since the EDJC this year coincided with the Moscow City Day, the Museum of the Jewish History in Moscow offered theme-based guided tours dedicated to history of Moscow's Jewish community:

"Origins of the Moscow Jewish community", a tour guided by Ilya Barkusky, the museum's research assistant, candidate of historical sciences. The tour explained when and how Jews came to Moscow, where they settled, what they did, and how they created the community that still exists today.

"Jewish graveyards in Moscow: memory of the dead in traditions of a big city". A tour guided by the museum's research assistant Elina Ioffe. Visitors realized how one of the most conservative rituals of the Jewish culture – traditional

Jewish funeral - transformed over the years. The tour was dedicated to new forms of commemoration that became popular in the Moscow Jewish community at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century.

In the organizers' own words, "due to the limited space in the museum we were not able to accept more people, but the event was really very successful".

So, the AEPJ would like to congratulate with the Museum, wishing it will just be the first of many times!



Participating cities: 1



Total activities: 2



Total visitors: 30





MAP BASED ON EUROPEAN UNION SOURCES

In **Belgrade**, for the ninth year, the Jewish community, friends and associates, the most distinctive part of the cultural activities of the Jewish Community of Belgrade, the Serbian Singing Society -Jewish-choir "Baruch Brothers" with this year the superior role of the Jewish Chamber Orchestra organized a concert, which was held on the sixth of September in the Great Hall of the Kolarac Foundation. This year, EDJC was held for the first time in **Gracanica** municipality, in the premises of local Cultural center, on September 7, from 8 to 11 p.m. The event comprised a public exhibition and a lecture titled *Jews in Serbian daily newspapers between two world wars 1918-1941*. Author of

exhibition and lecturer was historian Milos Damjanovic. He was supported by historian Aleksandar Gudzic who exposed a short survey through general Jewish history. The event was accompanied by representatives of several local radio, tv and freelance journalists and photographers. During the event, there were around 20 visitors, that had a chance to ask the lecturer about any question related to this topic. It was a unique occasion to find out basic, but specific also issues regarding to Yugoslavian Jews, who for centuries shared life and workspace with other communities from this area. Rarely available printed material from the period when Yugoslavian Jews enjoyed full legal and public equality was





Participating cities: 5



Total activities: 8



Total visitors: 1320



in front of them, so visitors could read about Jewish life before the Holocaust, and get informed about their disappearance from the face of Earth and from the memory of non-Jewish subsequent generations. Jews in Kosovo were always a tiny and marginal part of population, often unknown to major Serbs and Albanians. Their tragic destiny was a never told story: they were erased from the heart and mind of those who knew them. For that group of people and for those youth which had no chance to meet them, this event was a rare chance to learn about them. After the end of lesson, author gave a short interview to media teams. The next day, the author was guest at studio of RTK2 in Pristina, where, in live program, he spoke about EDJC in general and particularly about passed events.

The EDJC concert was held in the magnificent **Novi Sad** Synagogue on Sunday, September 6th at 7 P.M. In the entrance hall, the public could see an exhibition with the title "The First Hundred Years of the Novi Sad Jewry". The items displayed in the showcases



were those precious sacral object - possession of our Community - that are used on Shabbat or High Holidays, including a Torah Scroll, whereas certain segments from the Community Register Books, explanations regarding historical periods along with photographs and maps were exhibited on museum billboards.

The author of this exhibition is Mrs. Olga Andraši, Museum Curator.

The concert was composed of various music pieces, both vocal and instrumental, with the aim to present a wide range of music, typical for different ethnic communities that live in our city. Therefore, the audience was listening to choir songs sung by a Slovak and a Croatian choir, along with "Hashira" Jewish choir; the Orthodox religion was presented by vocal sacral compositions from the 15th century; it was a young accordion artist who presented the Roma community; A renowned chamber music ensemble played two well known pieces, which were "Adio Querida" and music from the film "Shindler's List" and as a symbolic bridge between generations, the "Čarobne Frulice" (The Magic Flute) Children's Choir sang two charming songs.

Mr. Predrag Momčilović, actor at the Serbian National Theatre, was the program presenter.

the European Day of Jewish Culture took place in **Pancevo**, Serbia, on Wednesday September 9th 2015. The main event was the exhibition "Bridges", aimed at showing the good relationship and friendship between Israel and Serbia, specially in May 2014, when Serbia was hit by catastophic floods. The authors are David Montijas, the president of JC Pancevo as a creator, Miroslava Kon Panic, coordinator for cultural events who was in charge of setting of exhibition and Darko Derikrava, young volunteer as a designer. The exhibition was held in the premises of JC of Pancevo and lasted till the end of September. Opening the exhibition, the young member Miss Lidija Blagojevic addressed the visitors, introducing them

the EDJC and pointing out the importance of building bridges of friendships among people.

The exhibition consisted of twenty panels covering three main topics:

- the help of the State of Israel, Israeli voluntary organizations and the Embassy of Israel in Serbia during the 2014 floods;
- Israeli investments in Pancevo
- the cooperation and good relations of JC Pancevo with other ethnic communities (in Pancevo, more than 20 different communities are living together).

After the opening of exhibition, in front of the JC Pancevo premises, a concert of Jewish traditional music was held under the open sky. All visitors were offered to some Jewish food specialties, made by Women's League of the Community. At the same time, a bookshop was opened for interested visitors.

After the concert, in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere, a dinner was served for guests from other Jewish communities, friends and representatives of city government, other ethnic organizations and institutions, from Belgrade, Zemun, Vrsac, Zrenjanin etc.

Within the scope of marking the European Day of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Community in **Zemun** opened its exhibition dedicated to its members who perished in the Holocaust. The exhibition *Vanished in the Holocaust - Zemun - Every Picture Tells a Story* has been staged inside the Atelier cum Gallery, Čubrilo inside the Gardoš Tower. In her opening speech gallery Director, Ms. Borka Čubrilo, welcomed the numerous gathering of guests, among which were H.E. the British Ambassador to Belgrade, Denis Keefe with spouse Catharine, and ministers plenipotentiary to the Embassy of Croatia, Ms. Valentina Šarčević and Dr. Stjepan Glas. Among the guests were also Rabbi Yehoshua Kaminetzky and Mr. Milosav Stamenov member of the Zemun County Council. The author of the exhibition Mr. Nenad Fogel pointed out to the audience that during





the 200 years of Jewish settlement in Zemun, around 1000 people have been buried in the nearby Zemun Jewish Cemetery, stressing however, that only in a single day, July 27th 1942, some 574 of them were condemned to death by deportment to the death camps Jasenovac and Stara Gradiška. Their portraits, army pictures, photos of everyday life, group camping photos, photos made at numerous gatherings, school photos and photos depicting Zemun's Jewish population in their workplace, revealed on the exhibition panels tell the story of their daily lives, but also of their fears and hopes for a better future. For the greater part of them the bright future never came. Notwithstanding the fact, their life energy exudes on the viewers from the exhibition panels and as long as they have us, their descendants, they shall continue to live on.

Mr. Aleksandar Nećak, the former President of the Jewish Communities in Serbia is the author of a separate article "A Look into the Future from the Past" contained in the exhibition book. Speaking of the second part of the project which deals with requests made to erect common memorials to "all victims of World War Two", he pointed out that such requests are made by those who in many ways took part in the annihilation of Jews and murder of others who fought for liberty in the ranks of the anti-Fascist coalition within the territories of former Yugoslavia. We wish to call to mind to all who lean toward building such memorials that we are willing to accept the concept only in cases where the dead do not include convicted war criminals.

Ideological reckoning resulting in the submission of over 5000 requests for rehabilitation of convicted war criminals, among which the most interesting is the request to rehabilitate Milan Nedić, is just one side of this medal. The other side, the one more down to earth, is that for the restoration of property of war criminals. The state law in force declares that until official recognition of the rehabilitation of any war criminals is granted, their property remains in the ownership of the state. We, the Jewish Community in Serbia wish to speak of this and similar subjects with the representatives of other national boards, those of the Roma, Hungarian and German, but also with renowned historians, where each one of the parties concerned could put forward their official views.

Last to address and welcome the guests was member of the Belgrade County Council, Mr. Stevo Tatalović, who also officially opened the exhibition. Great devotees to the promotion of culture, the Cubriilo spouses, Borka and Đorđe, have for the fourth time lent - free of charge - their exhibition space for the staging our community's exhibition. Out of a dilapidated space, the two of them have managed to transform the Tower on Gardoš into one of the most visited spots in Zemun. We thank them for the will and courage shown to our city. The Project "Vanished in the Holocaust-Zemun, Every Picture Tells a Story" was funded by the Open Society Foundation Serbia, by the City of Belgrade, JDC New York and Eng. Josef Zamboki from Israel.



In the bilingual city of **Komárno**, the EJDC took place on August 30 at the Menhaz Jewish cultural and community center, and included a range of interesting activities, with a distinct - and very appreciated - cross-border "twist". They began in the morning with a lecture by rabbi István Darvas from Budapest

. Following, a session about Israel, organized by the Jewish Agency, took place. Then, guests were invited by a kosher lunch by Bina Stiefel. In the afternoon, activities resumed with a lecture about Jewish holidays, delivered by Viera Kamenicka from the Slovak national museum - Museum of Jewish culture; then, they went on with the presentation of a book by former chief rabbi of

Komárno, dr. Ármin Schnitzer . Later, the Kehila and Kehila Haver 2015 awards ceremony took place. Activities culminated with the impressive concert by the Budapest's Great Synagogue Choir (Dohány street) and the speech of Chief Rabbi of Hungary dr. Robert Frolich. All programs were free of charge and bilingual (in Slovak and Hungarian).

In **Bratislava**, activities took place on September 6th and included open doors at the Chatam Sofer memorial, the Orthodox cemetery, the Slovak national museum – Museum of the Jewish culture, the Synagogue and its permanent exhibition. At 4.00 pm, at Piszatoryho palace - 25 years of the Slovak – Israeli cultural relations were celebrated, thus closing the Day's activities.



Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 12



Total visitors: 850





This year, the European Days of Jewish Culture took place in five Slovenian cities. Altogether the Slovenian organizers prepared 14 events; as in previous years, the majority of the events were performed on Sunday, 6th September, while the rest took place from 3rd to 29th September. The visitors were offered a wide range of events, from exhibitions, a concert and a theatre play, an art intervention, two guided tours and a lecture. With them, we tried to popularize the beauty of Jewish heritage and culture among a wide circle of visitors and spread the idea about Jewish culture as a "Bridge", which connects different cultures and communities.

The central scene of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Slovenia was the former synagogue in **Maribor**. On this occasion, an exhibition "Synagogues of East-Central Europe, 1782-1944" by Prof. Dr.

Rudolf Klein was opened in cooperation with the Embassy of Hungary to Slovenia. The opening was attended by Szabolcs Takács, Hungarian State Secretary and Ministerial Commissioner in charge of the IHRA presidency, Dr. Sašo Gazdič (representative of Slovenian Ministry of Culture) and Dr. Smiljana Knez (representative of Slovenian Ministry for Foreign Affairs). After the opening, there was a concert by two extraordinary Hungarian musicians – Judit Klein (vocal) and Zoltán Neumark (piano) and an Open Day.

In the afternoon, the happening moved from Maribor to **Negova**. In Negova castle, an exhibition was opened entitled "Synagogue Maribor – Celebrating the First Decennial" by the Centre of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor. The exhibition was accompanied by a concert

of the Harfa-Kinnor music group from Murska Sobota who presented songs of the Psalms.

In **Ljubljana**, the events on that day took place at two locations, at the Jewish Cultural Centre – Mini Teatre and at Novi trg. The Ljubljana organizers prepared four events for the visitors: a theatre play by the famous puppet theatre Key Theatre from Tel Aviv; a ceremony on the occasion of the foundation of the Library of the Jewish Cultural Centre with the handover of a facsimile of the Iconotheca Valvasoriana total collection; an exhibition of Slovenian Judaica, under the framework of which two new acquisitions of the Jewish Cultural Centre Ljubljana were presented – two paintings by two famous Slovenian artists Anton Karinger and Bard lucundus; and an outdoor art intervention "My Room" by the young artist



Noemi Levovnik Veberič, accompanied by a poetry programme by Dejan Koban. The special characteristic of the latter event was that it was intended both for children and for coincidental visitors who passed by.

The European Days of Jewish Culture project in Slovenia started as early as 3rd September in **Murska Sobota**. In the Murska Sobota Regional and Study Library, a guided tour was organized of the exhibition about the history of the Jews in Slovakia. The following day, their first event was organized in Lendava, where at the synagogue, they opened an art exhibition "En Soph – The Eternity" by Cvetka Hojnik. Within the framework of the event, a music programme was performed by Ferenc Jávori and Bence Gazda, members

of the internationally renowned klezmer group the Budapest Klezmer Band.

Following Sunday as the central day of events at this year European Days of Jewish Culture, further events were held in Murska Sobota, Maribor and **Lendava**. On Monday 7th September, a visiting exhibition "Jews in Slovakia: The Museum of Jewish Culture presents itself" was officially opened. On Tuesday 8th September, in Maribor a short documentary about Klara Kukovec, the first Maribor woman physician, of Jewish origin was screened. On 16th September, in Lendava a lecture about the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah) by Vladimir Vajda was organized. The European Days of Jewish Culture were completed in Maribor with a guided tour tracing the heritage of the Maribor

Jews. The tour was guided by Dr. Janez Premk and Boris Hajdinjak.

According to statistical data and the number of performed events, this year's programme of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Slovenia was comparable to that of last year. We evaluate the attendance of the events as satisfactory, as well as the response of the media. However in the future, we would like to attract more visitors and connect internationally through the performance of the programmes.

The organizers of the EDJC 2015 in Slovenia were Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor, Embassy of Hungary to Slovenia, Maribor Public Library, Kultprotur – Institute

for Culture, Tourism and Promotion Gornja Radgona (Negova Castle), Pomurje Museum Murska Sobota, Regional and Study Library of Murska Sobota, Gallery-Museum Lendava (Lendava Synagogue – Slovenian Holocaust Museum), SEZAM – Association of Youngsters, Parents and Children, Jewish Cultural Centre Ljubljana – Mini Theatre.

The project was supported by Maribor City Municipality, Hungary – Chairman State of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), Embassy of the Slovak Republic to Slovenia, Lendava Municipality, Gornja Radgona Municipality, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, and Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Youth.

Spain

Ávila, Barcelona, Besalú, Cáceres, Calahorra, Castelló d'Empúries, Córdoba, Estella-Lizarra, Girona, Hervás, Jaén, León, Lucena, Madrid, Melilla, Monforte de Lemos, Oviedo, Palma de Mallorca, Plasencia, Ribadavia, Sagunto, Segovia, Sevilla, Tarazona, Toledo, Tortosa, Tudela, Tui, Valencia.



TFor the 16th time in a row, the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters has organised the celebration of the European Day of Jewish Culture in Spain. The 24 member cities of the Network, as well as other collaborating cities and associations, have offered a wide range of events and activities, such as concerts, exhibitions, theatre, open doors, guided visits, workshops, lectures, and much more. A total of **281 activities** have been held in **29 cities**, and have attracted around **76.000 visitors**.

For 3 days, the city of **Ávila** had evoked the memory of

medieval times with the 19th edition of the "Medieval Days- Three Cultures Fair", which was held all over the old part of town. Music, theatre, jousts, parades, reading of poetry, falconry, an exhibition of period costumes, as well as several competitions- all evolved around the subject of the three cultures, Christian, Jewish and Muslim, which co-existed in Ávila during the Middle Ages.

The Museum of History of **Barcelona** had organised both Open Doors and guided visits at the Visitor Information Centre of the Jewish Quarter and the Domus of Sant Honorat. Furthermore, there was free entrance for visitors

to the exhibition "Hagadot Barcelona", and on the emblematic Real Square the group *Al-Mawror* offered a concert of Sephardic music.

The picturesque town of **Besalú** had organised a guided theatrical tour around the Jewish quarter, including the Synagogue and the Mikveh. The guides acted as Jews and Christians, explaining the monuments and the ways of life back then, so that visitors could better understand the differences between the two religions. They also explained the bridges that unite our cultures and how to create such bonding. The participants of the guided visit were also invited to enter a prize draw sponsored



by El Al airlines, to win a trip to Israel.

The gastronomy part of the program offered visitors a sampling of a typical medieval Jewish dessert, fig bread, as well as "Ratafia", a traditional liqueur from Catalonia.

A special highlight of the program were the Open Doors at the Mikveh, since it offered visitors the opportunity to visit a very rare and singular monument.

The guided visit of the Old and New Jewish quarter of Cáceres was complemented with Open Doors at different heritage sites and information centres, such as the "Palacio de la Isla", the former Synagogue of the New Jewish quarter, at the "Torre de Bujaco" Information Centre, the "Baluarte de los Pozos" Tourist Centre and at the olive grove of the Jewish quarter. Furthermore there was an exhibition, *Jewish Quarters in Spain and Portugal*, on show during the whole month of September.

In Calahorra, the event extended over 2 days, starting on Saturday evening with a concert of Sephardic Music at the Courtyard of the Deán Palacios Cultural Centre, followed by a dinner of Sephardic "pinchos" with kosher wine, served by the city's RASGO restaurants: Ciudad de Calahorra, Gala,

Lares and Parador. Afterwards, a guided visit of the Jewish quarter by night ended the first day of activities.

On the next day, Sunday, visitors could participate in a guided visit of the Jewish quarter and the Sephardic documentation of the town, which concluded with a sampling of Sephardic sweets

At the courtyard of the Deán Palacios Cultural Centre, the group *La Canilla* enacted a Jewish wedding celebration, complemented with an offering of Sephardic sweets to the assisting public.

Furthermore, the RASGO restaurants -Parador Nacional, Restaurant Ciudad de Calahorra, Restaurant Gala and Restaurant Los Lares-, were featuring special "Sephardic Style" menus during the whole week-end.

An activity which is already held with great success for the second time in several towns and cities is the *Instagram your city* contest, promoted by the Patronato de Turismo Costa Brava-Pirineu in collaboration with the Regional Councils and the Municipal Tourist Boards.

As one of the participating towns, **Castelló d'Empúries** this year gathered the contestants, who were offered a breakfast followed by a guided visit of the Jewish quarter so that they could take their photos. The photos then had to be uploaded



on Instagram with the tag “#InstaCulturaJueva2015”, and the best photo received a prize courtesy of the shops of Castelló d’Empúries.

Another guided visit of the Jewish quarter, “Jewish Castelló d’Empúries”, as well as Open Doors at the Cúria-Presó Museum of Medieval History were part of the EDJC program, too, as well as a concert of klezmer-influenced centre-European music by the *Quartet Klaima*.

From September 4th to 27th, **Córdoba** has been celebrating its *Sephardic Autumn*, with a wide range of activities and events, both cultural and touristic, and with the special participation of the RASGO establishments of the city. On the EDJC itself, besides this program, there was also a free guided visit of the Jewish quarter, and Open Doors at the Al-Andalus Museum, the Alcázar of the Catholic Kings, the Synagogue and the Museum of Archaeology.

The program of activities in **Estella-Lizarra** was designed to acquaint the citizenry with different aspects of the Sephardic culture, focusing on the three most relevant: art and heritage, music and gastronomy. The guided visit started at Rúa Street, where the first borough of the city had formed, thus establishing the context of the creation of Estella-Lizarra. The visit continued then to the old and the new “aljama”, where the guide explained the most important historical facts of the Jewish population of Estrella-Lizarra, pointing out the most relevant buildings: Santa María Jus del Castillo (former synagogue, still preserving the original outlay), Santo Sepulcro, Santo Domingo convent, and the remains of castles, city walls, houses, etc.

The musical part of the program consisted in a concert “Music of Sefarad”, offered in the courtyard of a 16th century renaissance mansion, currently housing the Cultural Centre of Estrella-Lizarra. The concert was given by the group Zorongo, who also explained the history and tradition behind each of the songs they were performing.

As to gastronomy, Miguel

Fernández de Arcaya, owner of Bodegas Fernández de Arcaya, explained the peculiarities of kosher wine production and its importance in Jewish traditions. Then the participants were offered a tasting of the kosher wine *Alate*. And as a conclusion of the day, the Hospitality School and Workshop offered a variety of Sephardic sweets, accompanied by grenade juice.

In **Girona**, the subject matter of this year’s EDJC was addressed in a creative workshop for families, with the title “Time to play: Let’s build bridges”.

As every year, the Museum of Jewish History held Open Doors, and it was also the starting point of a special guided visit with a mystic tone of the “call”, or Jewish quarter, which ended at the “Garden of Angels” with an open debate on the three monotheistic cultures.

Also at the Museum of Jewish History, and coinciding with the 75th anniversary of the death of Walter Benjamin, the exhibition “Walter Benjamin. Constellations of exile”, presented books, texts, documents, photographs and other personal memorabilia of this German philosopher, giving special emphasis to his relations with different representatives of the cultural movements of his time, such as Hanna Arendt, Gershom Scholem or Adorno. On occasion of the EDJC the exhibition was complemented with the screening of the film “Who killed Walter Benjamin?”, show alternatively in Spanish, Catalan, English and French.

And Girona has of course been another venue for the “Instagram your city” contest again, inviting participants to shoot and post original and creative photos on Instagram, contributing to the promotion of the Jewish heritage of Girona.

Finally, Paco Díez, Idó Segal, Wafir S. Gibril and Raúl Olivar presented in their concert *Tres Culturas Tres* a varied, original program combining sounds from the Iberian Peninsula, Centre Europe, the Mediterranean and the North of Africa, with the Flamenco guitar as a red thread and the voices of four singers and

friends, representatives of the Three Cultures.

From September 3rd to 13th, **Jaén** celebrated the *Days of Sephardic gastronomy*, where visitors could sample Sephardic dishes at the participating restaurants: Taberna Restaurante Pillar del Arabalejo and Parador Nacional de Turismo.

As part of the program of exchanging activities between the cities of the group “al Sur de Sefarad” (in the south of Sefarad), a guided visit showed visitors from Córdoba Jewish Jaén. Another guided visit took up the subject from this year’s EDJC, with the title “Hasday Ibn Shaprut, a bridge between cultures”, and the exhibition of photographs, by Carlos Peris Viñé, of the gothic frieze of the cathedral of Jaén, which was opened on occasion of the EDJC, gave visitors the opportunity to consider the Jewish past in Jaén from yet another angle. The celebration in Jaén extended a few days further, with a screening of the documentary film “Knowledge is the beginning”, directed by Paul Smacny, which shows the great and successful endeavour of musician and conductor Daniel Barenboim, together with the Palestinian critic and writer Edward Said, to create the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, which unites young Arab and Israeli musicians, in a testimony to philharmonic rigour, cultural understanding and hope of future peace. And music also closed the program of Jaén, with the concert “The musics of Hasday Ibn Shaprut”, by the group *Klezmorim*, held in the courtyard of the Municipal Culture Palace.

The program of activities in **León** started with two lectures, one on ‘Jewish Mysticism and León’, held by Antonio Reguera Feo, professor at the university of León and specialist in Hebrew tradition and language. And the other on ‘The vicus of Ad Legionem VII Geminam’, by Victorino García Marcos, municipal archaeologist of the city council of León.

At the Padre Isla municipal library children were able to get a notion of Sephardic culture with the *Sephardic Tales* told and staged for

them. The Museum-Reception Centre Puente Castro offered a guided visit through its premises, and visitors could also take a guided theatrical tour of the Jewish quarter, with the collaboration of *Teatro Diadres*. Two concerts – one by Paco Díez with his ‘*Esencias de Sefarad*’, and another by *Ministriles del Viento* with ‘*El contador de vientos*’, and a show workshop featuring medieval trades, such as artistic forge and structural carpentry, completed the program of activities in León.

In **Lucena**, also called “the Pearl of Sefarad”, the EDJC began with an activity for children at the municipal public library with tales about “The cultures of Sefarad”. The young ones have also been the target of the 1st edition of the educational project of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters, called “Benjamin de Sefarad”, which has been developed during the 2014/2015 term in Córdoba, Sevilla, Jaén, Lucena, Plasencia, Girona, Castelló d’Empúries and Besalú. On occasion of the EDJC, a report and a video of the first experience with this educational project have been presented at the Counts of Santa Anna Palace.

1. A guided visit with host took visitors to the sites of Jewish heritage in Lucena, and they also had the opportunity to get acquainted with the Network of Spanish Jewish quarter’s own brand of touristic excellence, RASGO, by means of Open Doors at the establishments adhered to this program in Lucena.
2. The program of activities in Lucena continued until the end of September, with the opening of the exhibition “Benjamin de Tudela, un viajero en el tiempo” (Benjamin of Tudela, a traveller in time), an exhibition of photographs by Jesús Álava, showing the current state of the Jewish quarters visited by the traveler Benjamin of Tudela between 1163 and 1174.

Finally, a special performance, combining guided visit, music and theatre at night, called “Harmonies in Sefarad” ended the program of activities and events.

At **Monforte de Lemos** visitors were offered 2 guided didactic visits of the Jewish quarter in order to gain some in-depth knowledge about Jewish life, culture and heritage in the town.

The Fontán Synagogue was the centre of activities for the EDJC in **Oviedo**. The subject matter of this year, "Building bridges", was the perfect motto for the activities, which included Open Doors at the synagogue, an exhibition of Judaica at the library of the community centre, which included a Seder Pesaj (Jewish Easter) table and a visit of small museum of the community, as well as a colloquium for visitors to get acquainted with Jewish culture, explaining what it is and what it has represented in Spain.

Throughout the month of September, and till the beginning of October, **Palma de Mallorca** had programmed its annual Series of Jewish Cinema at the Catalina Valls Theatre. The films shown were "When day breaks" (2012, by Goran Paskaljevic), "Wish I was here" (2014, by Zach Braff), "Restoration" (2011, by Yossi Madmoni), "The Round-up" (2010, by Rose Bosch), and "Invincible", by Werner Herzog).

An exhibition on "European synagogues in glory and ruins", a collection of lithographies by Dora Szampanier, has also been on show for most of the month of September at the courtyard of the Casal Sollerico.

On the EDJC itself there had been several guided visits of the Jewish quarter, a Day of Open Doors at the Jewish Community of the Balearic Islands, with the opportunity to sample kosher food, as well as to buy kosher wine and flatbread.

A cooking workshop offering showcooking and sampling with Antonio Pinya Florit took place at the courtyard of the Municipal archive at Can Bordils, and the RASGO restaurant Las Olas Bistrot offered Sephardic dishes on occasion of the EDJC..

The 11th Jewish culture bibliographic exhibition was on show at Can Bordils, too, and at the Maimó Ben Faraig Information Centre Josep Amengual Batle held a lecture with the title "*El bisbe Sever i els jueus de les Balears*" (Bishop Sever and the Balearic Jews).

Two different kinds of guided visits were offered in **Plasencia**: on one hand, a didactic visit dedicated to the subject of Plasencia and the three cultures, and, on the other hand, a guided visit of the Jewish quarter and the Jewish cemetery.

Furthermore, the Tourist Information Office was handing out promotional items of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters on occasion of the EDJC free of charge until end of stocks.

The EDJC in **Ribadavia** started off with the "Arteficial" Music Festival, on September 5th, with musicians from all parts of Spain and Portugal offering their repertoires, the best klezmer, blues, jazz, folk and traditional music.

Furthermore there was a market with gastronomic products from different peoples and cultures.

The next day, visitors could discover the Jewish quarter of Ribadavia by means of a unique tour which delved into the history of the Jewish presence during the Middle Ages in this ancient town, wine capital of Galicia. The tour also included a visit of an ancient oven for baking traditional hand made Hebrew confectionery.

Another opportunity to taste the different traditional products of Ribadavian confectionery and different varieties of Hebrew sweets could be found on Madalena Square, where confectioners of Ribadavia and Galicia presented their products, giving visitors the opportunity to with sample sweets, taste wine, etc.

Open Doors were held at the Jewish Museum of Galicia, which features the history of the Jewish people and their presence in Galicia. Its interesting permanent exhibition



was complemented by the temporary show "*Erensyia. Human Landscape*", a tour of the Jewish quarters of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters by means of a high-quality audiovisual exhibition.

There were also Open Doors in **Segovia**, at the following sites: the Didactic Centre of the Jewish quarter of Segovia, the San Andrés Gate, the Ibáñez Synagogue, and the former Main Synagogue, now Corpus Christi Church. A guided visit of the Jewish quarter, as well as a theatrical guided tour from the Jewish Cemetery to the Didactic Centre of the Jewish quarter, including a visit of the "Little White House", where through tales and music it is shown how the Jewish culture faces mourning.

Sephardic gastronomy also had its place in the program, with a workshop on Sephardic cooking, and an offer of different Sephardic menus and tapas at several restaurants.

The program was complemented by a conference/colloquium on Centro Sefarad-Israel. Among the main projects of Centro Sefarad-Israel is the creation and developing of the Erensyia Platform, aimed at fostering the encounter and cooperation of the Sephardic communities in the world, both among themselves and with the Spanish administration and civil society. A concert with the title "Nostalgía de Sefarad" closed the EDJC program in Segovia.

Sevilla had organised a whole string of lectures on different subjects related to Jewish culture and heritage: "*Jews in Spain as a bridge between cultures*", "*Maimónides, ¿rabbi or sufi?*", "*Different identities, one single culture*", and "*Al Ándalus-Sepharad, knowledge as a bridge between cultures*".

Under the title "The Seville of the Leví Family- The Roots of Sefarad", several free guided visits in Spanish and English language took place, courtesy of Be! Sepharad! and La Judería de

Sevilla. They included a visit of the Information Centre of the Jewish Quarter with a sampling of traditional Sephardic sweets, offered in collaboration with the "Beit Rambám" community.

Another free sampling was offered by courtesy of the ice cream parlour "La Fiorentina", where visitors could try the exclusive ice cream "*Sefard'ice*", created by Joaquín Liria.

In **Tarazona**, the visitors had the opportunity to get acquainted with the Jewish heritage of the town by means of Open Doors at the "Moshé De Portella" Jewish Quarter Information Centre, and a guided visit of the Jewish quarter.

As every year, **Toledo** had prepared a comprehensive program of activities during the whole weekend. Coinciding with the poetry festival *Voix Vives*, a wide range of poetry readings took place at different venues of the city linked to its Jewish heritage, such as the courtyard of the Tránsito Synagogue ("*Poets and children, raise anchors*", for children), the Jew's alley ("*Intimate poetry in the alley*"), the prayer hall at the Tránsito Synagogue ("*A poet, a book*"), as well as at other significant sites, such as the Royal Foundation of Toledo ("*A voice alone*", an encounter with the Hebrew poet Marlena Braester), or the gardens of the El Greco Museum ("*The Mediterranean, a territory of peace*", an encounter with the poets from the Poetry Festival). The connection between cinema and poetry was also examined by means of a series of contemporary short documental films on the subject, as well as with the screening of a film by Eliseo Subiela, "The dark side of the heart".

Guided visits of the Jewish quarter, which included the Toledo Time capsule, the interiors of the synagogues of Santa María la Blanca and Tránsito, as well as the house of the Jew, were offered; as well as a tour of the sites and monuments on board of the Sephardic Train.

In the framework of the collaboration between the different member cities of the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters, citizens of Toledo had the opportunity of a touristic excursion to either Ávila or Tarazona, in order to get to know their Jewish quarters.

The Sephardic Museum held Open Doors, accompanied by Jewish music. This musical touch was provided by Renzo Ruggiero with the Nyckelharps, an instrument from the 15th century, and by Darya Neumiarzhyskaya with Cymbali. Two other musical events were held: a concert by *Cantigas de Sefarad* at the City Hall Square, performing Sephardic music on period instruments and dressed in traditional costumes; and an original "Gastronomic concert", dedicated to Hamantashes, which consisted in the preparing and tasting of this Sephardic pastry accompanied by live music.

Finally, an activity for families was offered at the art school, where an Origami workshop was organised and the participants could learn how to create figures and scenarios from Sephardic tales, which later were exhibited.

The program in **Tortosa** started with a lecture by historian Joan Hilari Muñoz on the millenary history of the Jews of Tortosa. Several different guided visits were offered to explore the Jewish heritage of the city, one including a visit of the permanent exhibition at the Cathedral. Another guided visit was themed around "The Jewess of Tortosa", a theatrical and musical performance which evokes the coexistence of peoples in the Jewish quarter.

Two restaurants of the city – the Parador and Restaurant Paolet- offered Sephardic dishes and menus on occasion of the EDJC, and the traditional Jewish giants Bonjuhà y Caxixa with their dance were participating this year in the *Ban Cabalcada* of the "Cinta" Festivities.

The Jewish quarters of **Tudela** were presented in a guided

visit, and the concert by the group *Kli-Zemer* at the market square was complemented by the offer of sampling kosher wine and cheese.

Every year an increasing number of other cities and associations are collaborating with the Network of Spanish Jewish Quarters in the organisation of activities on the European Day of Jewish Culture.

Lorca has participated this year in the EDJC with a varied program focussed on the motto "Bridges", and with the aim to promote the Jewish heritage of the city. There were activities for all ages: workshops, plays and tale-telling for children, as well as a special workshop on archaeology.

Several guided visits took place: one of the Jewish quarter and the recently discovered synagogue, another of the Alfonsina Tower, from where visitors could enjoy a magnificent view of the city, and another devised especially for the family public, where a guide acting as a Jewish merchant explained how life had been in former time when this was frontier territory between Christians and Muslims.

An exhibition on the cycle of the Jewish year, on show for several weeks, explained the different festivities of the Jewish calendar. Furthermore there was a screening of the documentary "Amos Oz The Nature of Dreams", based on the author's autobiography "A Tale of Love and Darkness".

Two activities related to Jewish and Sephardic gastronomy completed the program in Lorca: on one hand, the opportunity to sample kosher wine, and, on the other, the tasting of Sephardic recipes, such as cold gherkin soup, yoghurt, spinach and goat cheese bureks, lamb koftas with rosemary and honey, hamantaschen, etc.

In **Madrid**, the **Centro Sefarad-Israel** had organised an exhibition of photographs by the Judeo-

Argentinian artist Néstor Chprintzer, with the title "Paradojas". Also at the institution's headquarters, the play "Who kills Picasso?", written and directed by Eugenia Rico and performed by Nadav Malamud, was performed for the first time in Spain. The play is a combination of words and music about the last days of Picasso, and about the true sense of life and art. And finally, there was a colloquium about "The fiction of Jewish identity", a dialogue about aspects such as genesis, essence and the distinctive character of the so-called "Jewish identity", with the participation of Miguel de Lucas (Director of Centro Sefarad-Israel) and Roberto Blatt.

The city of **Melilla**, through the association **Mem Guimel**, has participated this year for the first time in the EDJC, with a guided visit of the Citadel, where Mordejay Guahnich explained the history, legacy and heritage, as well as how the first Jews arrived at Melilla in 1864. Another guided visit took participants to the Sephardic Museum of Melilla, where the different stages of Jewish life, festivities, liturgy and prayers, based on the different elements exhibited at the museum, were explained.

Also **Sagunto** has participated for the first time in the EDJC this year, with a tour of the Jewish quarter of Sagunto by night. During the tour, visitors did not only get acquainted with the history of one of the most important Jewish quarters of the Kingdom of Valencia in the 15th century. It also offered a didactic vision of the everyday life, customs, rites, etc. by means of mapping, music and different objects. The participants also had the opportunity to taste kosher sweets and wine during a break, and at the end of the tour the group **Mara Aranda** offered a little concert of Sephardic music.

As a tribute to this year's EDJC motto, **Tui** presented an

exhibition of photographs by Gus Abreu, featuring the different kinds of bridges of the region. For children there was a puppet show performing a traditional Galician tale called "El ciego de los Monifates".

A guided visit of Tui by night with the title "Living together and social rupture", focused on the subject of the role of Jews and Converted in the construction of the historic city of Tui, and was explained by historian Suso Vila. Then there was a concert of Renaissance music by *Caspervek trio*, and finally, the Gastronomy days, dedicated to Sephardic recipes and local traditions. Six different establishments in Tui had been presenting Sephardic dishes together with specialities from the local cuisine, both as complete menus and as tapas.

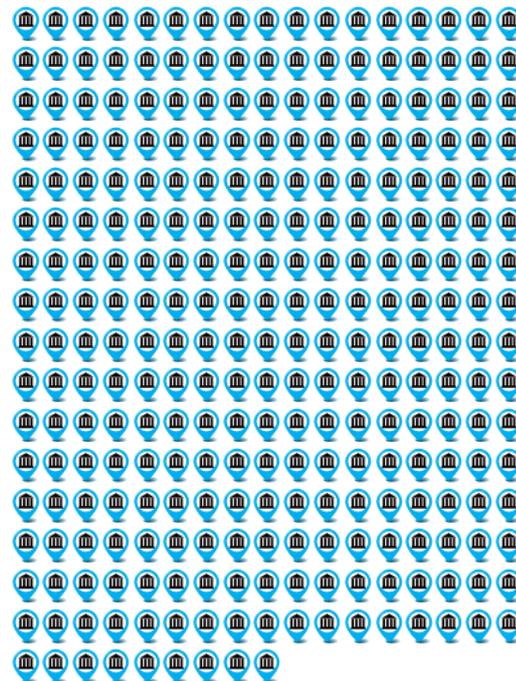
And last, but not least, in **Valencia** the conservative community **La Javurá** has offered two guided tours, in which the history of Jewish Valencia from the Romans to today was explained.



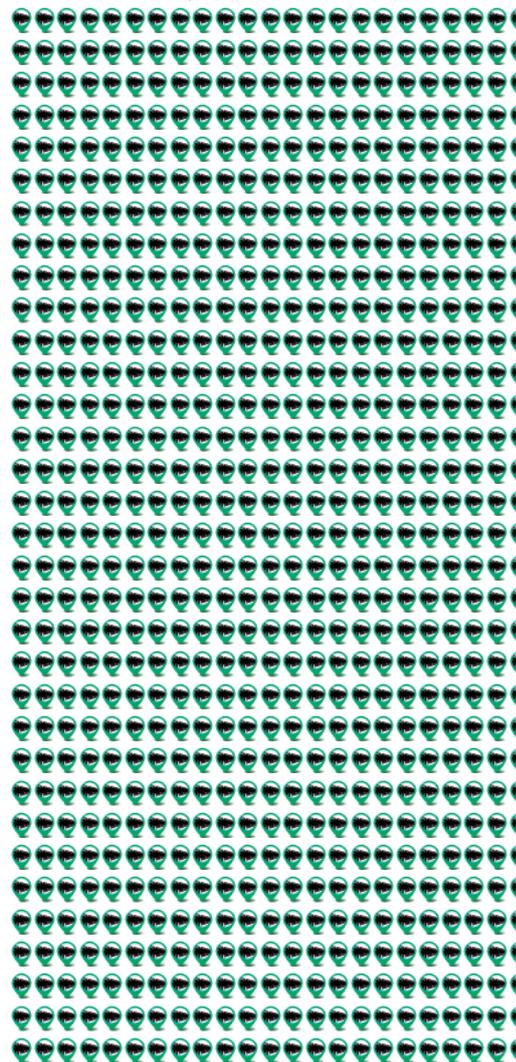
Participating cities: 29



Total activities: 281



Total visitors: 76000



Sweden

Stockholm



In **Stockholm's** Jewish Community, activities started on Saturday September 5 in the evening, with a concert by cantor Isidoro Abramowicz and two musicians, recorded by the Swedish public service television. The main part of activities took place on September 6, including:

- a flea market, (collected money went to young refugees coming to Sweden without parents)
- Guided tours of the Great synagogue and Jewish Stockholm.
- Sandwiches were offered to the public.
- Bookstore

- New written Jewish texts read by actors and the Swedish Interior Minister.
- Monologue about "My Jewish grand mother".
- Music
- A talk about Bridges from a Jewish perspective.
- Jiddish poetry
- Tales by I B Singer
- A concert in the Big Synagogue with music by B. Bartók, J. Brahms, A. Piazzolla, R. Schumann and folk music and klezmer.

The Jewish Museum of Stockholm also staged an open doors' day.





The Jewish Community
of Stockholm



JUDISKA MUSEET
STOCKHOLM



Participating cities: 2



Total activities: 7

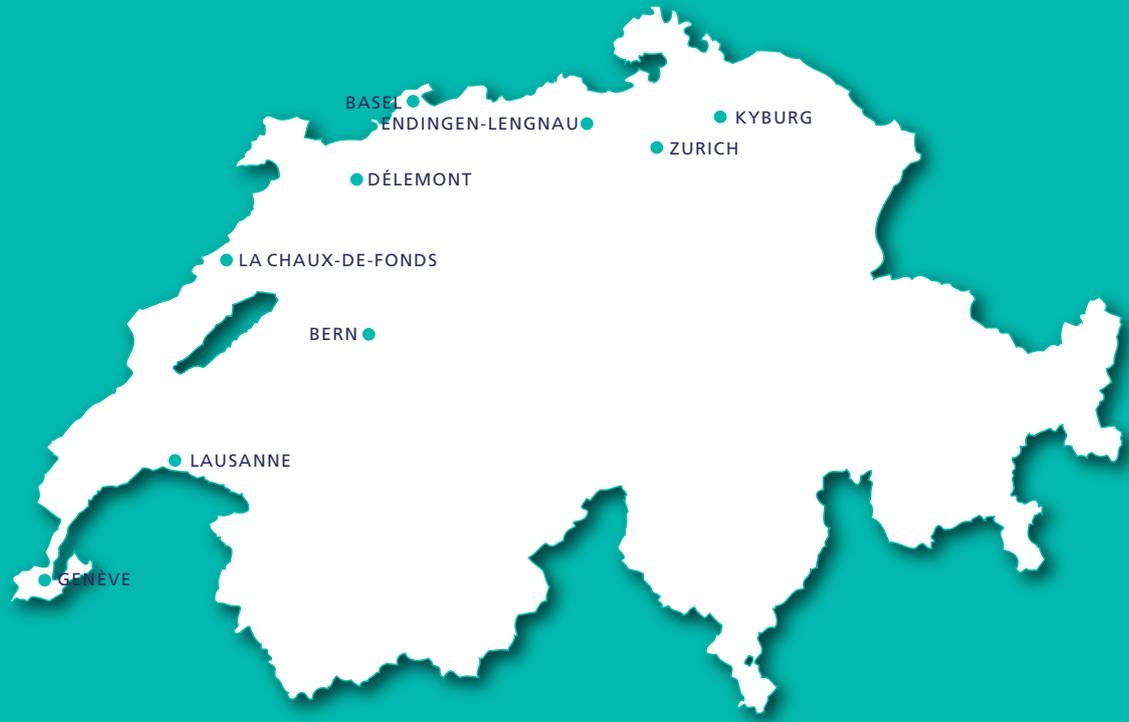


Total visitors: 580



Switzerland

Baden, Basel, Bern, Delémont, Endingen-Lengnau, Genève, Kyburg, La Chaux-de-Fonds, Lausanne, Zürich



In Switzerland 10 cities and towns presented over 30 activities, which were very well received by a public of more than 2500 participants. Our most dedicated local organizers were enthusiastic about this year's topic and prepared a wonderful selection of events. Hence the day included a remarkable variety of programs on the topic Bridges – 3 *roundtables*: 2 in **Basel** about bridges and dialogue between religions, 1 roundtable about a movie in **Zurich**; *concerts* in almost all cities (in **Baden** for example the public could listen to Jiddish and Hebrew Songs), *live performances* in **Bern, Geneva** (an art

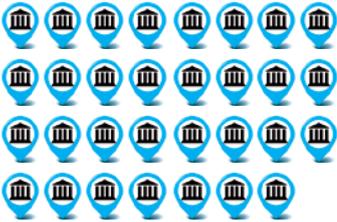
performance) and **Zurich**; furthermore *conferences* by various specialists in **Delémont, Geneva** and **Lausanne**; *guided tours* in museums, exhibitions, as well as our traditionally very successful *tours of the synagogues*, sometimes conducted by prominent personalities (in **Baden, Basel, Delémont, Endingen-Lengnau, Geneva, Lausanne** and **La Chaux-de-Fonds**). The walk across the *Basel medieval bridge* was appreciated and in **Geneva** the *visit of churches and synagogues* as well. We are very pleased, that the events at the recently renovated synagogue of **Lausanne** were most successful: 570 participants!



Participating cities: 10



Total activities: 31



Total visitors: 2519



For the first time the synagogue of **Baden** and the castle of **Kyburg** participated in the European Day. The concerts of Yiddish and Hebrew Songs in Baden and the concert at the Kyburg dedicated to the woman composer A. Maria Herz-Bing attracted a large public. Also in **Basel** an acclaimed concert of organ music of Jewish composers took place for the first time in a church.

Omanut in **Zurich** and the main community of **Geneva** presented special programs, which met great interest. A witness of the thirties and the war period accompanied Omanut's day trip to Diessenhofen and Gailingen and evoked childhood-memories. The *MusiCalligraphie* in the Geneva synagogue was one of our outstanding innovative events. The program of the Communauté Libérale of Geneva included a conference by a member of the government (250 participants).

This year's topic was received with great enthusiasm by all the organizers, the public and the media of Switzerland. On the whole the reporting by the Swiss Newspapers can be considered very positive. The success of the events in Lausanne can actually traced back to the announcement of the newspaper *Le Temps*.



United Kingdom

Bangor in Wales, Birmingham, Canterbury in Kent, Chatham in Kent, Cheltenham, Exeter in Devon, Glasgow, Hull, Kingston in Surrey, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Plymouth, Ramsgate in Kent, Reading, Southsea in Portsmouth, York



This year, B'nai B'rith UK's 15th annual European Days of Jewish Culture & Heritage was split over two different dates, due to the high holydays. A number of participants held events on Sunday 6th September and then the full week of activities ran from Sunday 11th to Sunday 18th October. The events got off to a great start on Sunday 6th September with a wide range of activities and events, when

many of the synagogues followed this year's theme of 'Building Bridges' by holding open days and interfaith talks and events.

Nearly 70 people of all faiths filled **West London Synagogue** on the first day of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage, for a special event organised by WLS, the Council of Christians and Jews and B'nai B'rith UK. Rabbi Helen Freeman explained how Jewish Heritage Days gives the

general public an opportunity to learn more about Judaism by opening synagogues and Jewish historic sites all over the country, as well as by arranging events based on an annual theme, which this year, appropriately, is 'Building Bridges', so vital at this present time.

A tour of the shul and a delicious tea was followed by a panel representing a wide range of faiths, which included Navraj Singh from the Sri Guru Sabha



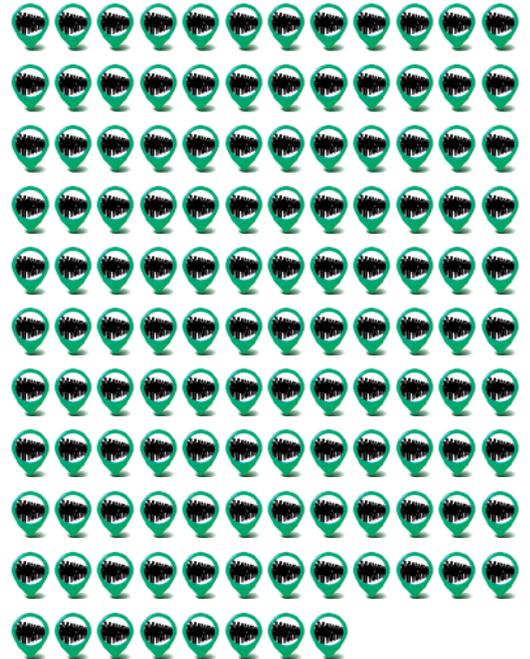
Participating cities: 18



Total activities: 47



Total visitors: 12800



in Southall, (representing the Sikh faith), Rakin Niassi Tijani-An-Nisa (representing the Moslem faith), Reverend Mark Poulson, National Inter-Religious Adviser for the Church of England, Michika Delucia of the Shinnyo-en-Temple, Surrey (representing Buddhism) and Rabbi Helen Freeman. Amongst questions raised by the audience were the different concepts of God and attitudes to conversion, as well as many other issues, which helped to shed light on

the beliefs of other religions. Around 70 members of the B'nai B'rith Young Professionals group attended a free **B'nai B'rith Moroccan bazaar-style picnic** at the annual **Klezmer in the Park**, as they chilled to the tunes and feel-good vibes in the sun. The picnickers tucked into a variety of Middle-Eastern dishes and the band *She'koyokh* got everyone in high spirits as the picnic area filled out and everyone chatted and sampled the

delicious food.

Klezmer in the Park itself enjoyed well over 6,000 visitors at a fun-packed afternoon of music and dance for all the family in one of London's most beautiful parks, Regents Park, with special guest presenter, BBC Radio 3 DJ Max Reinhardt.

Ben Uri Gallery's centenary exhibition 'Out of Chaos' at Somerset House (which started on 2nd July and runs until 13th December this year)

has been a huge success so far, with very good feedback and a great deal of national press coverage. There have been 5,000 visitors to date, around 100 – 150 per day, with around 60% of them being Jewish to 40% non-Jewish.

Cheltenham Synagogue held a very successful talk on Jewish genealogy by professional genealogist, author and lecturer, Jeanette Rosenberg, which was attended by almost 50

people, of which least 50% were not Jewish.

Exeter Synagogue were delighted to welcome over 100 people to their open day, despite the fact that it was held on a weekday to avoid Rosh Hashanah. Most were Jewish, but those who weren't Jewish were very interested in tracing possible Jewish ancestry.

Liverpool Old Hebrew Congregation held a guided walk in the **Deane Road Cemetery** and a separate talk in conjunction with National Heritage Days, both of which were very well attended by over 300 people. Only 5% of these were Jewish, which went a long way towards creating excellent relationships with non-Jewish members of the local community, in the spirit of the interfaith theme for this year.

Garnethill Synagogue Preservation Trust in conjunction with **Garnethill Hebrew Congregation** and the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre received over 850 visitors for their open day and secured local media coverage.

Petra Laidlaw of the **Jewish Historical Society of England** led a guided walk around Jewish Islington, which was attended by 30 people, of whom half were not Jewish.

New West End Synagogue in London's St Petersburg Place, which is described by English Heritage as 'the high-water mark of Anglo-Jewish architecture', had over 80 visitors to their very successful open day, around 90% of whom were local residents and were not Jewish.

Chatham Memorial Synagogue saw almost 30 visitors come through their doors on their open day, around 70% of whom were not Jewish.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain held an ancestry-tracing event at West London Synagogue, which was attended by a small but very interested group of visitors, 25% of whom were not Jewish. The Society reports that they may have recruited two new members who went away very happy!

Around 25 people attended a slide-illustrated talk at **Leo Baeck (London) Lodge** by

Kenneth Marks, M.Phil, on his new book, 'The Archaeology of Anglo-Jewry 1656-1880'. Kenneth has researched his subject extensively visiting most of the Jewish heritage sites and cemeteries all over the country and, based on the trends in the growth and decline of the Jewish population, tracked the path of Jewish settlement through synagogues and cemeteries, which sadly are no longer in use and have fallen into disrepair. In recognition of his work, Kenneth has been awarded a grant from English Heritage to continue his work on Jewish cemeteries.

Shlomo Argov Lodge held a very successful talk entitled 'Bridging the gap: relationships within and without the Jewish religion'. 45 people attended the talk, which was held at Bushey Country Club.

The most high profile event was organised by the **BBUK heritage committee** itself. Taking this year's theme of 'Building Bridges', the committee put together an interfaith film screening and panel discussion, which took place at the **Jewish Museum**, chaired by **Dame Helen Hyde DBE** (centre in the picture, top).

A moving and award-winning film called 'David/Daoud' was screened, followed by a discussion on the issues raised in the film. On the panel were four representatives from different faiths, all distinguished in their own fields: **Archbishop Kevin McDonald**, Chair of the Bishops' Conference Committee for Other Faiths and of the Committee for Catholic-Jewish Relations; **Sheikh Dr Usama Husan**, Senior Researcher at the Quilliam Foundation and campaigner against extremism and for religious reform within Muslim circles; **Henry Grunwald OBE QC**, former President of the Board of Deputies, Chairman of the Jewish Leadership Council and President of World Jewish Relief; and **Ameet Aggarwal**, representing the internationally renowned Art of Living Hindu foundation who has done a lot of work in interfaith relations globally.

Over 80 people attended the event, which provided a

lively discussion, including a number of thought provoking questions from the audience. All attendees left feeling impressed, inspired and challenged to reach out to and create more meaningful dialogue with other faiths.

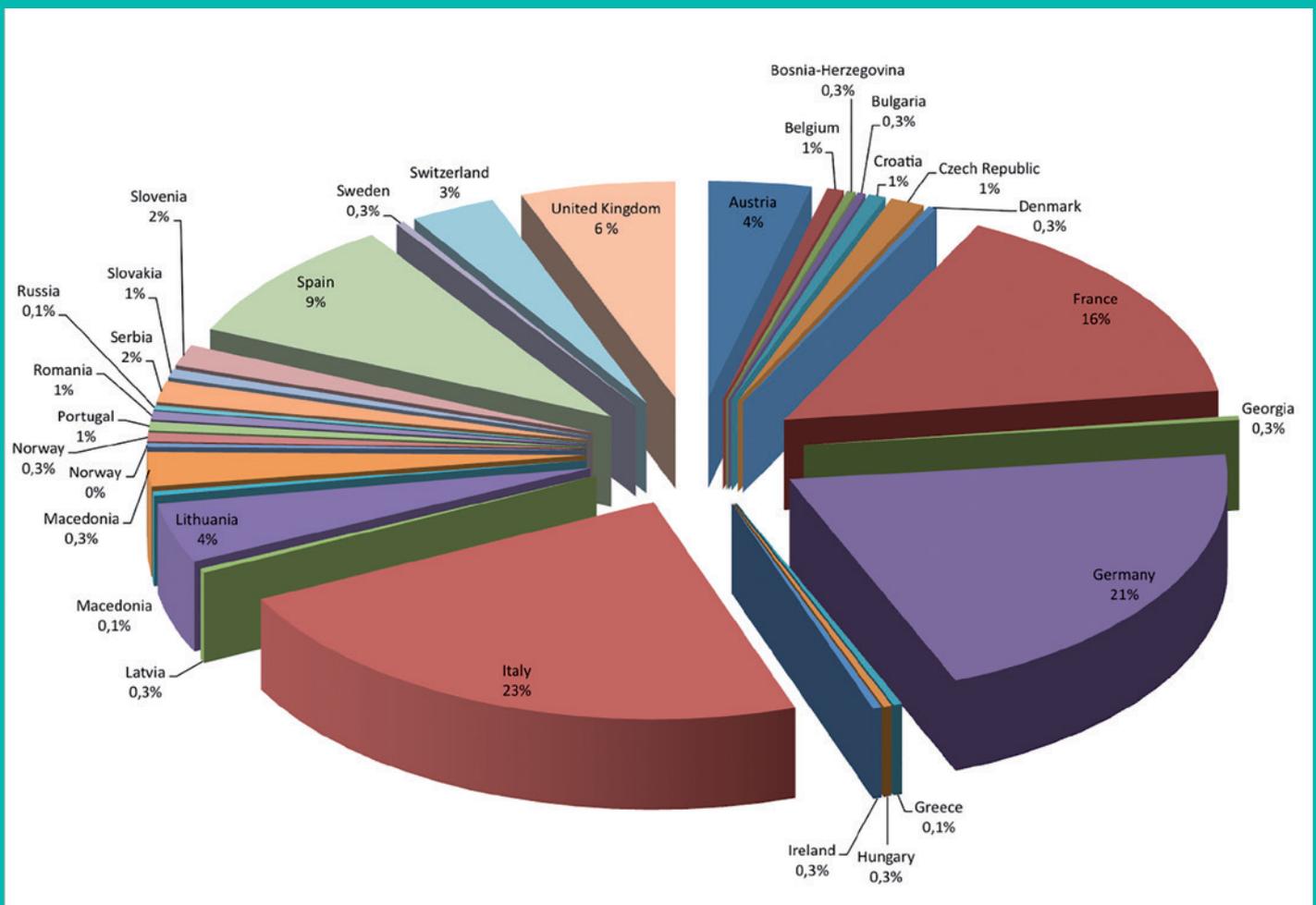
Valerie Bello, B'nai B'rith UK Co-ordinator for EDJCH for the past 15 years, commented: "We believe that heritage plays an increasingly significant role in our national life, strengthening people's connection with their locality, making them conscious of their history and identity, and forging bonds between individuals and their communities.

We're encouraged that many people enjoyed the events that took place during heritage week, especially the response we received to our 'Building Bridges' panel event, which was a huge success. We were delighted to welcome large crowds to events, open days and guided walks that took place across the past week. Some of the open days received non-Jewish visitors of all ages and, of course, we're always delighted when this potential for interfaith understanding is achieved, while providing a rare opportunity for our own community to explore our heritage."

Celebrated on September 13th and was centered on dialogue between Jews and Muslims. Intervention by various authorities took place, followed by a guided walk through the city's former Jewish neighborhood

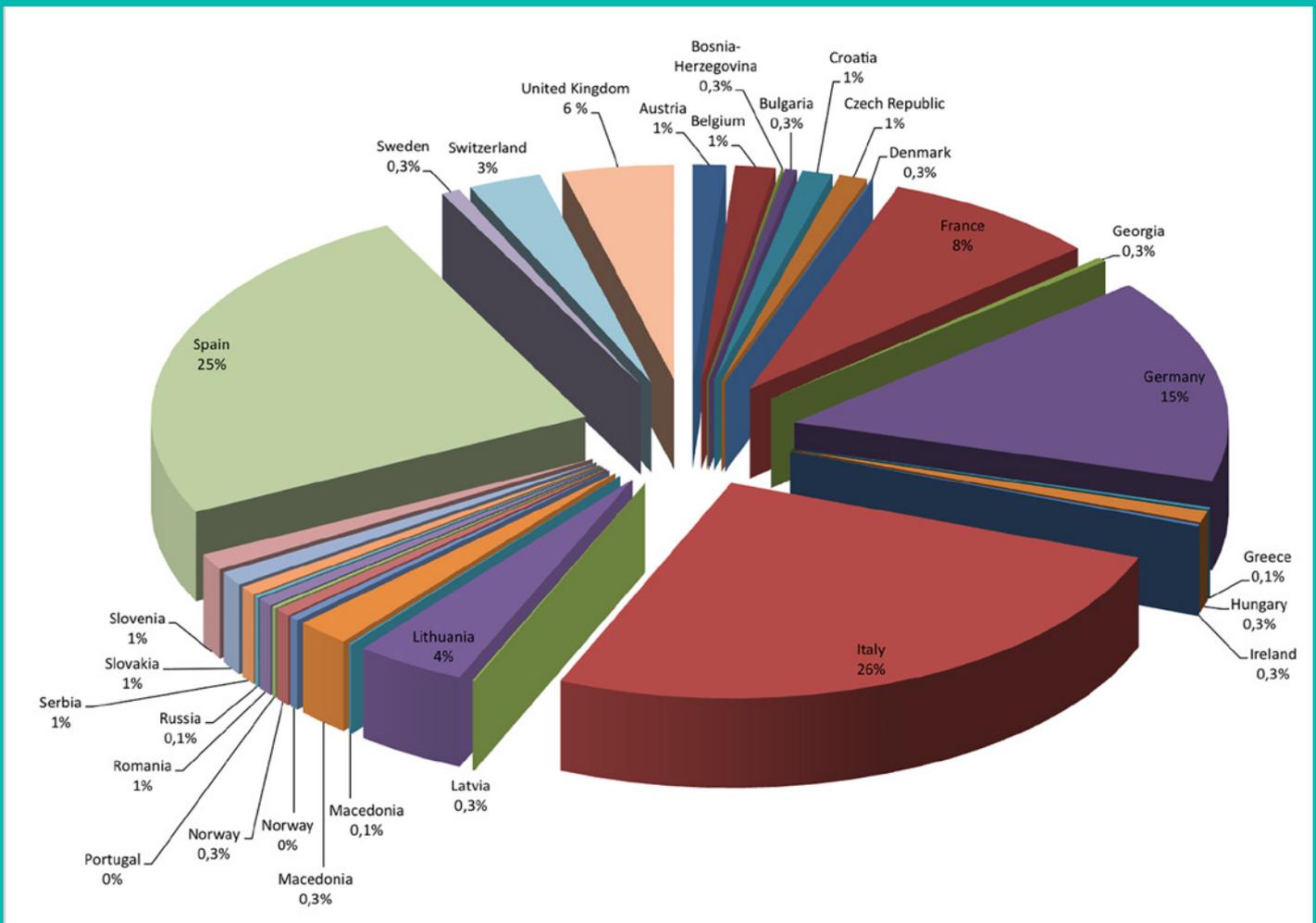


The EDJC in numbers: cities



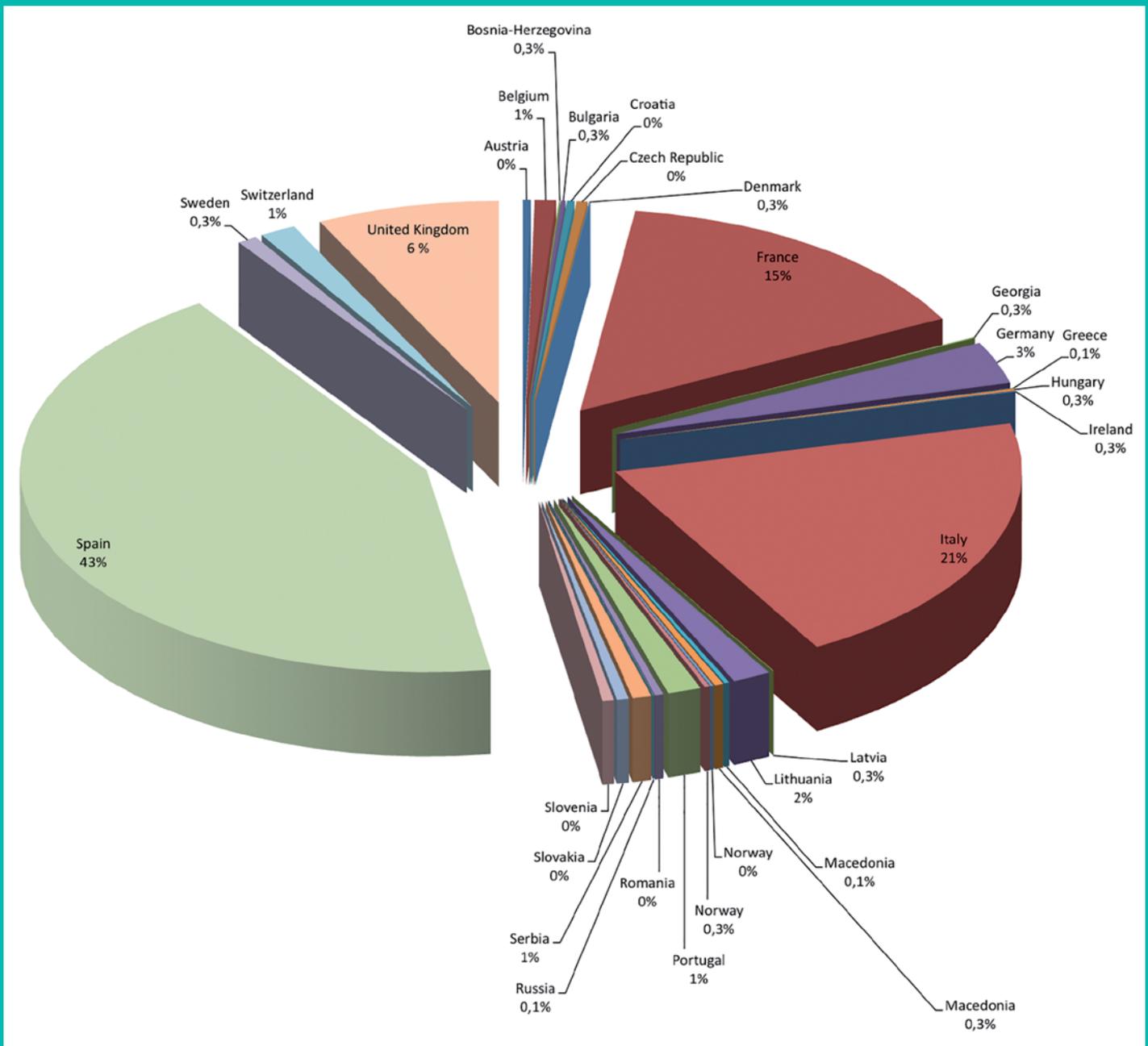
Austria	12	Hungary	1	Russia	1
Belgium	2	Ireland	1	Serbia	5
Bosnia-Herzegovina	1	Italy	72	Slovakia	2
Bulgaria	1	Latvia	1	Slovenia	5
Croatia	2	Lithuania	14	Spain	29
Czech Republic	4	Macedonia	1	Sweden	1
Denmark	1	Netherlands	8	Switzerland	10
France	49	Norway	1	United Kingdom	18
Georgia	1	Poland	2		
Germany	65	Portugal	2		
Greece	1	Romania	2	TOTAL:	315

The EDJC in numbers: activities



Austria	11	Hungary	4	Russia	
Belgium	11	Ireland	3	Serbia	11
Bosnia-Herzegovina	4	Italy	331	Slovakia	9
Bulgaria	8	Latvia	1	Slovenia	14
Croatia	16	Lithuania	22	Spain	227
Czech Republic	25	Macedonia	4	Sweden	8
Denmark	1	Netherlands	16	Switzerland	42
France	158	Norway	7	United Kingdom	59
Georgia	1	Poland	2		
Germany	196	Portugal	2		
Greece	4	Romania	31		
				TOTAL:	1228

The EDJC in numbers: visitors



Austria	582	Hungary	150	Russia	30
Belgium	1936	Ireland	31	Serbia	2215
Bosnia-Herzegovina	612	Italy	4000	Slovakia	450
Bulgaria	400	Latvia	60	Slovenia	800
Croatia	635	Lithuania	2000	Spain	32842
Czech Republic	1554	Macedonia	100	Sweden	450
Denmark	60	Netherlands	3000	Switzerland	2171
France	7060	Norway	800	United Kingdom	10000
Georgia	40	Poland	55		
Germany	10133	Portugal	1700		
Greece	350	Romania	2000		
				TOTAL:	122186

European Day of Jewish Culture 2016: JEWISH LANGUAGES September 4th, 2016

From Hebrew to Greek, from Ladino to Aramaic, from Yiddish to Judeo-Arabic, from Jewish-Italian dialects to Russian, Jews, this people created by a Word heard at Mount Sinai, have always had a strong - and, in a typically Jewish way, happily contradictory! - relationship with languages.

Did you know that Yiddish is based on German? That Hebrew can be pronounced in many different ways, the most complete being the variety from Yemen? That Jews on the Greek island of Corfu used to speak an ancient Apulian dialect, or that Moroccan Jews brought their dialect, called Haketia, to the Amazon river? That Ethiopian Jews have Ge'ez, and not Hebrew, as a sacred language? And what about the difference between Hebrew and Aramaic?

EDJC 2016 will investigate these - and many, many more - questions: let's explore together this joyful Babel crossing millennia and continents!

Graphic by Ghidon Fiano
Nadir Media S.r.l. - Rome