

Report 2025

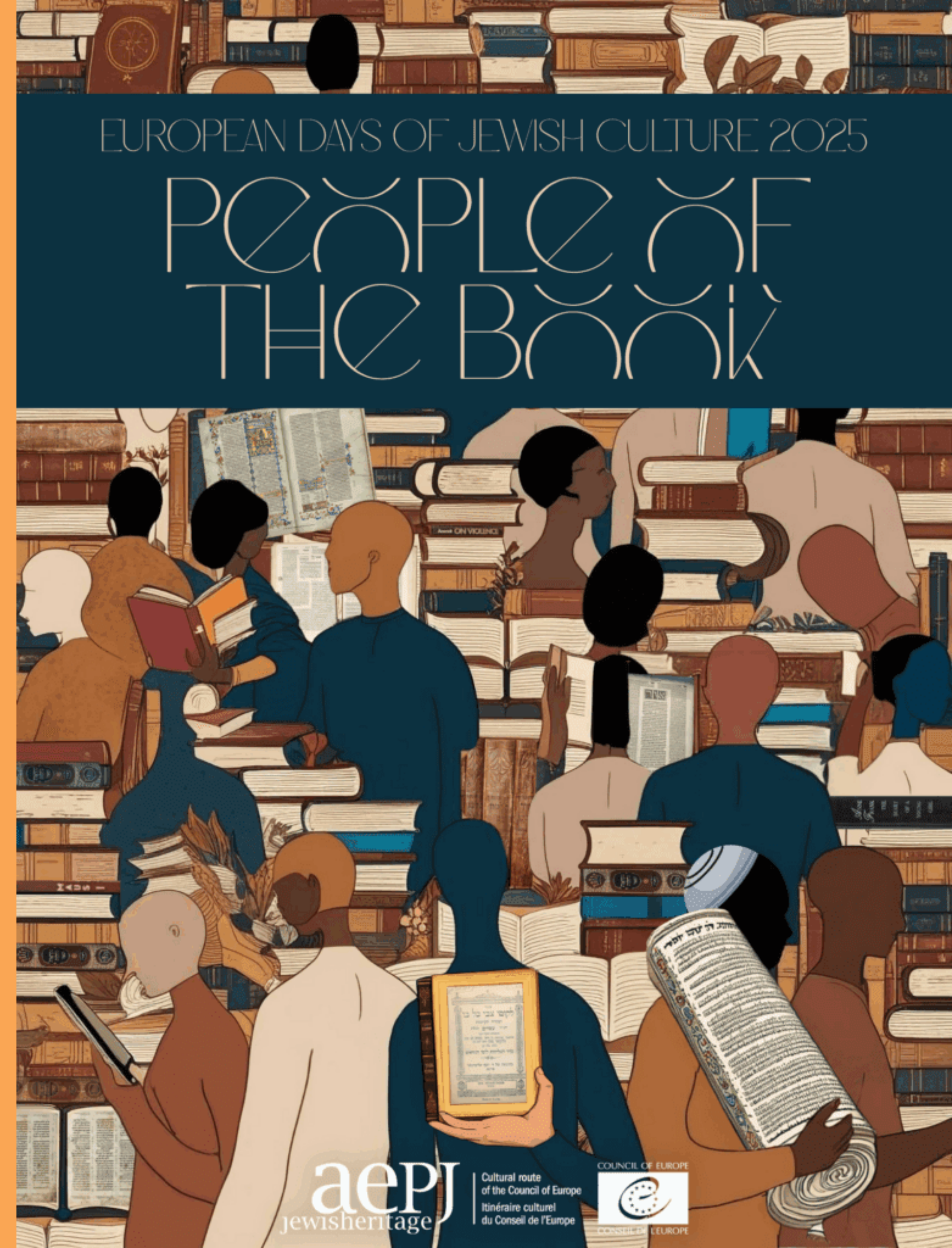
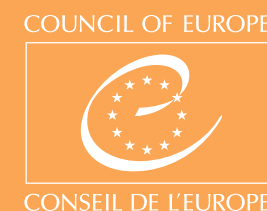
# European Days of Jewish Culture: People of the Book

## 26<sup>th</sup> Edition

Curated by



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EUROPEAN DAYS OF JEWISH CULTURE 2025

# PEOPLE OF THE BOOK



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## Opening Remarks – François Moyse, President of the AEPJ European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 – “People of the Book”



François Moyse  
President of the European Association for the Preservation and  
Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ)

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends, partners, organisers, and colleagues across Europe,

It is a pleasure and an honour to introduce this report on the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, dedicated to the theme “People of the Book.” Each year, the European Days remind us that Jewish culture is not only part of Europe’s past, but a living presence—deeply rooted in local histories, shaping contemporary cultural life, and offering valuable resources for dialogue, learning, and shared civic values.

Since 1999, the EDJC has grown into a unique Europe-wide initiative: decentralised, pluralistic, and open, bringing together institutions, communities, and cultural actors across the continent. Around the first Sunday of September—and often beyond—hundreds of local programmes take place simultaneously, including concerts, exhibitions, conferences, guided visits, workshops, and many other forms of participation.

Coordinated by the AEPJ, the EDJC is above all a network of people—professionals and volunteers, educators and artists, municipal teams and community leaders—who share the belief that culture can create encounters, build trust, and open meaningful dialogue.

The theme “People of the Book” was particularly resonant. It invited audiences to explore the central role of texts in Jewish tradition, from sacred scriptures and rabbinic learning to literature, music, storytelling, and archives. At the same time, it spoke to a broader European reflection on memory, identity, and how knowledge can connect communities rather than divide them.

The 2025 edition also highlights why the EDJC matters today. In a context marked by polarisation, misinformation, and prejudice, Jewish heritage and

culture—presented with openness and creativity—can help counter ignorance and foster empathy through real encounters.

The 2025 edition was launched on 7 September in Stockholm, marking 250 years of Jewish life in Sweden. Developed in cooperation with Paideia and the Jewish Community of Stockholm, the programme reflected the spirit of the EDJC: accessible, contemporary, and rooted in heritage.

Cooperation remains central to the EDJC's strength. Our continued partnership with the National Library of Israel has supported the development of valuable exhibition and educational materials, enriching public engagement across countries and languages.

At the same time, 2025 marked the consolidation of new directions. The Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage initiative, now active in 20 cities across 12 countries, reflects a growing commitment by municipalities to use Jewish heritage as a tool for inclusion, intercultural dialogue, and the fight against antisemitism and hate speech. This demonstrates that Jewish heritage is increasingly recognised as a living resource for civic life and social cohesion.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all organisers and coordinators, whose dedication—often under challenging circumstances—makes this initiative possible. I also thank our partners and supporters, as well as the AEPJ team and board, for their continued commitment.

Thank you for being part of this shared effort. As we leave behind the 2025 edition and look ahead to the 2026 edition, dedicated to the theme "Love," may we carry forward not only what we have learned, but what we have felt—continuing to nurture dialogue, deepen understanding, and strengthen the bonds that bring us together across cultures and communities.

# The European Days of Jewish Culture

The fundamental objective of this European-wide event, which has been organised since 1999 for 26 years, is to highlight the diversity and richness of Judaism and its local, regional and national historical importance, with the firm intention of promoting dialogue, recognition and exchange through conferences, concerts, performances, guided tours and other activities, which take place simultaneously throughout the continent.

The European Days of Jewish Culture festival is held every year around a central theme that serves as inspiration for all the activities that take place in a decentralised, pluralistic and open way from the first Sunday in September. The AEPJ has coordinated this event at European level since its beginnings, giving cohesion, visibility and relevance to the activities organised. In addition, the AEPJ offers training, resources and support to any organisation, institution or individual who wishes to organise an activity that allows Jewish culture to be shared with the whole of society.

This project has been extensively reinforced by the collaboration with the National Library of Israel, which has acted as a means to develop all kinds of exhibition and educational materials, which have given an important added value to the festival while facilitating its celebration throughout the continent.

The European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) 2025, centred on the evocative theme “People of the Book,” offered a powerful and timely exploration of the enduring role of the written word within Jewish tradition and across cultures. Drawing on the concept that Jews, alongside Christians and Muslims, have long been described as custodians of sacred scriptures, the theme invited participants to reflect on how texts—from ancient scriptures such as the Tanakh to modern literature and illuminated manuscripts—have shaped cultural identity, ethical values, and collective memory in Europe and beyond. This focus underscored not only the historical significance of Jewish textual traditions

but also their capacity to foster interfaith understanding, dialogue, and shared cultural values.

Throughout the festival, a diverse programme of cultural, educational, and artistic activities brought this theme to life across the continent. From exhibitions and literary encounters to guided tours, performances, workshops, and open-door events, organisers in cities ranging from Paris and Barcelona to Vilnius and Skopje engaged audiences in the multifaceted legacies of Jewish writing, storytelling, and scholarship. These activities highlighted the ways in which texts act as living bridges between past and present, inviting audiences of all backgrounds to engage with Jewish heritage while also celebrating universal values of justice, compassion, and shared humanity.

The 2025 edition reaffirmed the need for cultural initiatives that deepen understanding of Jewish heritage and promote meaningful intercultural and interfaith dialogue within today's diverse European societies. By foregrounding the written word as a source of resilience, wisdom, and connection, the festival responded to broader conversations about identity, memory, and coexistence at a moment when such dialogue remains vital to social cohesion.

Overall, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 was widely regarded as a resounding success, attracting a significant number of participants and fostering cultural exchange throughout Europe. With events unfolding from September into November across a multitude of countries, the festival's collaborative and decentralised spirit brought Jewish cultural heritage into dynamic conversation with local communities, reinforcing the EDJC's role as a meaningful platform for education, dialogue, and shared celebration.

# Coordinators Meeting



Coordinator's meeting Barcelona 2025

The Organisers & Coordinators Meeting of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) serves as a central platform for collaboration, planning, and strategic alignment among the diverse network of stakeholders involved in the festival. Bringing together organisers, coordinators, and institutional representatives from across Europe, the meeting plays a key role in shaping the direction and coherence of the annual programme. Its scope extends beyond logistical preparation: it fosters the exchange of ideas, best practices, and innovative approaches to presenting Jewish heritage and culture to broad audiences. The meeting also strengthens connections within the EDJC community, ensuring that local initiatives contribute to a shared European vision while maintaining their unique cultural perspectives.

The annual European Days of Jewish Culture Organisers & Coordinators Meeting, organised by the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), concluded successfully in Barcelona on 26 March, 2025, drawing more than 50 enthusiastic participants from across Europe. Over two days of vibrant sessions at the innovative Ca l'Alier venue in Barcelona's Poblenou district, organisers shared insights, formed new partnerships, and prepared strategies for the upcoming 2025 festival.

The event began with a warm institutional welcome from AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen and AEPJ General Secretary Assumpció Hosta, along with local representatives, including Sara Belbeida, Commissioner for Citizen Relations and Cultural and Religious Diversity of the Barcelona City Council, and leaders of Barcelona's Jewish communities, Bryan Blacher (CJB) and Silvia Leida (ATID). These opening remarks highlighted the commitment to strengthening intercultural dialogue and reinforcing the visibility of Jewish heritage across Europe.

Keynote speaker Donna Dina Eliezer from the Rabbinic Library of Izmir set the tone with her compelling presentation titled “People of the Book and the Power of Preservation,” emphasising the enduring significance of Jewish texts and heritage preservation. Additionally, Itana Prljevic from the European Heritage Days discussed opportunities for collaboration, emphasising shared values and potential for joint initiatives.

Participants enjoyed vibrant discussions, including the panel “Jewish Literature in the Spanish–Speaking World,” featuring renowned speakers: poet and literary translator Aurelio Major, writer and editor Valerie Miles, Jewish contemporary literature specialist David Aliaga, and journalist and literary translator Paul Sánchez Keighley. The dialogue offered deep insights into contemporary literary landscapes and Jewish narratives.

The first day concluded with the thought–provoking panel “Women and the Tanach: A Personal Perspective,” presented by Sonja Viličić (CEJH Project Manager), Rabbi Irene Muzás Calpe (ATID Barcelona Jewish Community), Olga Lempert (National Library of Israel Project Manager), and Lena Rubenfeld (FestivALT Artistic Director), followed by an insightful lecture by writer and journalist Bilal Dídac P. Lagarriga on the intersections between Judaism and Islam. A poetry open mic concluded the day’s activities, fostering a warm and creative atmosphere among attendees with the outstanding presence of poets Paul Sánchez Keighley, Maia Evrona and Rafael Azram.

The second day provided practical sessions, led by EDJC Project Managers Federico Szarfer and Sonja Viličić, focusing on logistics, organisational tips, and insights into the Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage initiative. Interactive workshops facilitated by experts like Gastón Lisak, Robin Sclafani, Olga Lempert, and Lena Rubenfeld offered strategies on topics such as overcoming

antisemitism through culture, enhancing exhibitions, and using art to communicate powerful stories of Jewish heritage.

Throughout the meeting, organisers took advantage of numerous networking opportunities, forming connections and exchanging best practices to strengthen the EDJC's impact at the local level. The event culminated with a forward-looking Pitch & Connect Session, allowing attendees to propose and explore collaborative project ideas.

Participants departed Barcelona energized, equipped with fresh ideas, practical tools, and renewed enthusiasm for the upcoming festival. The EDJC 2025 was officially opened on 7 September in Stockholm, coinciding with Sweden's milestone celebration of 250 years of Jewish life. The successful meeting in Barcelona clearly set the stage for what promises to be another inspiring celebration of Jewish culture across Europe.

Recordings, presentations, and conclusions from the meeting will soon be made available on the event webpage, enabling participants and organisers to revisit the sessions and continue benefiting from the valuable exchanges and ideas shared during these two productive days.

# About us



**François Moyse**

François Moyse is one of the founders of AEPJ, together with the Honorary President Mme Claude Bloch. A former president of the European Union of Jewish Students and of the Luxembourg Jewish Community (Consistoire israélite), he became involved in Jewish Heritage matters at the time he was Director of B'nai B'rith Europe. He is dedicated to the cause of saving and valorizing Jewish heritage sites, while promoting Jewish culture as whole. 'Our action is the best tool to extend a hand to other citizens in Europe and fight prejudice against the Jews, while acting for a common history in Europe', he believes.



**Claude Bloch**

Claude Bloch is co-founder and Honorary President of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ). Her work has focused on enhancing the value of Jewish heritage in Alsace, expanding the European Days of Jewish Culture across Europe, and supporting transnational routes and projects. Her contribution has been publicly recognised with a medal from the French Ministry of Tourism, awarded on 22 March 2024.



**Caroline Lambert-David**

Caroline Lambert has served on AEPJ's board since 2007, first as volunteer Treasurer and today as a board member and Vice-President (2025–2028). In Alsace, she has been active in preserving and promoting Jewish heritage since 1988, supporting local initiatives that safeguard sites, memory, and community narratives. Professionally, she is a senior finance leader, having worked as CFO/Head of Finances for an international non-profit organisation delivering scientific services and managing European Commission grant funding.



## Noemi Di Segni

Noemi Di Segni, born in Jerusalem on 24 February 1969, is the elected President of the \*\*Union of Jewish Communities in Italy (UCEI), serving her first term from 2016 to 2020 and a second term from 2021 to 2025. She lives in Rome with her husband and family and serves as Head of the President's Office and International Affairs of the Consiglio Nazionale dei Commercialisti e degli Esperti Contabili, the national professional body representing chartered accountants and statutory auditors in Italy. Within UCEI, she previously served as Assessor for Budget and Finance, promoting reforms to harmonize internal reporting, budgeting, and statutory compliance. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress and the European Jewish Congress, sits on the board of AEPJ, chairs the Jewish Foundation for

Civil Protection and the Foundation for the Development of Jewish Cultures (Grazia Dio Isaia Ascoli), and serves as treasurer of ORT Italy. As UCEI President, she promotes the contribution of Italian Jewry to civil society, culture, and entrepreneurship; fosters inter-religious dialogue with the Vatican, the Italian Church, and Muslim communities; and leads initiatives against antisemitism, Shoah denial, and radicalism. Her work includes parliamentary advocacy, preservation of Jewish heritage and museums, academic programs in Jewish studies, and government appointments related to Shoah memory, Auschwitz, and Italy's national strategy against antisemitism.



## Patrick Bikard

Patrick Bikard has been AEPJ Treasurer since 1 July 2023. He retired from Vesuvius plc, where he had been a member of the Executive Committee since 2008, on 31 December 2022. His last position at Vesuvius was President, Operations & Technology.

Patrick joined Vesuvius from Faurecia, where he was Executive Vice President, Operations since 2002. Before that, he had spent 7 years at Alstom as President "Traction & Equipment" of the Transport Sector and Chief Industrial Processes Officer of the Power Sector, and 9 years at Renault, his last position being Director Production & Supply Chain of the Douai plant. He is a graduate from Ecole Polytechnique, Ecole des Mines de Paris and INSEAD.

Patrick is a French citizen. He is currently based in Brussels. He is 69 years old and has a large family.



## Taly Mair

Taly Mair is an experienced leader and as of February 2025, appointed Director of the European Council of Jewish Communities (ECJC). With over 13 years of experience as the Executive Director of the Jewish Community of Athens, she has successfully cultivated partnerships with international Jewish organizations and spearheaded innovative community programs. Taly holds an MBA in Marketing from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and previously worked as the Marketing and PR Director for an international fashion brand.

Born in Haifa–Israel, and raised in Thessaloniki–Greece, Taly has been deeply involved in Jewish community

life from a young age, volunteering in various capacities and participating in the Jewish Youth, Summer Camp, and Choir playing the flute. In addition to her role as Director at the ECJC, she currently serves as a Consultant for the Jewish Community of Athens, focusing on Social Welfare, Cultural Heritage, and International Affairs. Taly is also a certified professional coach.

Outside of her professional pursuits, Taly is married to Aris and is the proud mother of three children: Moses 14, Vivian 18, and Myriam 20. With her innovative vision and collaborative spirit, Taly is dedicated to nurturing Jewish communal life across Europe.



## Helise Lieberman

Helise Lieberman has served as the Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning Foundation since 2009. She is the founding principal of the Lauder–Morasha Day School in Warsaw (1994–2006), having previously served as the Hillel program director at SUNY Purchase, New York University, and Barnard–Columbia. Helise has consulted for the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe, the Westbury Group, and the POLIN Museum, among others. In 2007–2008, she received a scholarship for the Senior Educators Program at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University. She was awarded the Bene Merito medal by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015 for her contribution to Jewish life in Poland. She developed the Taube Center’s heritage educational program, Mi Dor le Dor, and the TJHTalks webinar, and is a contributing editor to the Taube Center’s publications. Helise currently serves on the board of the AEPJ and Hillel Poland. A dual citizen (Poland and the U.S.A.), Ms. Lieberman has lived in Warsaw since 1994.



## Alfred Lang

Historian and Chairman of the Board of the Research Society Burgenland (Burgenlaendische Forschungsgesellschaft – BFG) in Eisenstadt, Federal State of Burgenland, Austria.

Organizer and national coordinator of the European Days of Jewish Heritage (EDJC) and the European Route of Jewish Heritage in Austria.

The research work focuses on 20th century history, particularly the Nazi era and the history of Jews. Various publications on the history of Jews in Austria, lecture activities and local studies of Jewish History. Born in 1959 in Vienna; graduate of the University of Vienna (Political Science, Media and Communication Studies, Philosophy).



### Judith Kiriaty Matalon

Judith Kiriaty–Matalon is President of the Kiriaty Foundation, an international foundation supporting humanitarian, educational, and cultural initiatives, with a strong focus on the recovery and promotion of European Jewish heritage. A member of the AEPJ since 2019, she has actively supported and contributed to numerous AEPJ projects. In 2022, she was elected to the AEPJ Board at the Association’s General Assembly in Hanover, Germany. Through the Foundation’s work—including the restoration project documented in *The Jews of Smyrna – Remembering through Reconstruction*—she promotes heritage as a powerful tool for cultural memory, dialogue, and renewal.



### Claudia De Benedetti

Claudia De Benedetti is a cultural leader and senior figure in Jewish communal life in Italy and internationally, based in Turin. She serves as Executive Director of the Jewish Museum and Synagogue of Casale Monferrato, where she has played a key role in the preservation, management, and international promotion of Jewish heritage in Piedmont. She is also President of the Fondazione Casale Ebraica, guiding its cultural, educational, and heritage initiatives.

At the international level, she is a member of the Board of Trustees of ANU – Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv and of the Maccabi World Union in Ramat Gan, contributing to global Jewish cultural, educa-

tional, and community networks. She also holds the role of Honorary President of Jewish Agency for Israel (Sochnut) Italy, reflecting her long-standing commitment to strengthening ties between Italian Jewry and Israel.

Within Italian Jewish institutional life, Claudia De Benedetti serves as President of the Board of Arbitrators (Collegio dei Probiviri) of the Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane (UCEI) in Rome. Her work is marked by a sustained dedication to governance, cultural preservation, and the transmission of Jewish history and identity at both national and international levels.



## Assumpció Hosta

Assumpció Hosta i Rebés is a historian with extensive experience in the preservation, management, and promotion of Jewish cultural heritage in Spain and Europe.

Since 1987, she has worked in collaboration at Girona's City Council, on the long-term project to rehabilitate and enhance the city's historic Jewish quarter (El Call) as Director of the Patronat Call de Girona, the public body responsible for the management of the Museum of Jewish History and for the strategic cultural development of the Jewish quarter.

Throughout her career, she has held senior executive positions in key national and European cultural heritage networks, including Secretary General of the Red de Juderías de España – Caminos de Sefarad

and of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ). In these roles, she has contributed to the coordination of international cooperation projects, institutional partnerships, and heritage policies related to Jewish culture.

She has been a leading promoter of major cultural initiatives, most notably the European Day of Jewish Culture, fostering cross-border collaboration and public engagement with Sephardic and Jewish heritage. Her work has been instrumental in positioning Girona's Jewish quarter as a benchmark for sustainable heritage management and an internationally recognised destination for cultural tourism. Retired since 2023; continues to collaborate with the European organization AEPJ as a Board member.



## Annie Sacerdoti

Annie Sacerdoti is a journalist and writer specialising in Jewish history and cultural heritage, with a particular focus on Italy. She is the author of *The Guide to Jewish Italy* and several regional volumes dedicated to Jewish history across Italy. Through her work, she has played a key role in bringing lesser-known Jewish sites, stories and traditions to wider audiences, both in Italy and internationally. Annie Sacerdoti is a member of the board of the Association of European Jewish Heritage (AEPJ) and of the *Fondazione Beni Culturali Ebraici* in Italia, where she contributes her expertise to the preservation and promotion of Jewish heritage.



## Karin Sczech

Dr. Karin Sczech is an archaeologist specialised in medieval and medieval Jewish archaeology. She has been a member of the scientific staff at the Thuringian State Office for Heritage Management for more than twenty years, responsible among other projects for the excavation of the mikveh and the medieval Jewish cemetery in Erfurt. She was also a member of the team elaborating the concept of the exhibition in the Old Synagogue in Erfurt. Since 2020 she has been working for the city of Erfurt as coordinator for the medieval Jewish heritage. Since 2023, when Erfurt was awarded the UNESCO title for its Medieval Jewish Heritage she is site manager. She is coordinating the Route of medieval Ashkenaz.

This year's edition has already seen remarkable engagement, with 824 submitted activities across 306 cities in 28 countries. Italy, France, and Lithuania lead the list of most active contributors, followed closely by Spain, Germany, Great Britain, Slovenia, Netherlands, Croatia, and the rest — a testament to the dedication of local organisers and communities.

A wide range of activities, including exhibitions, concerts, conferences, and guided tours, were organised across Europe.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 was widely regarded as a resounding success, attracting a significant number of participants and nurturing cultural exchange throughout Europe. Its collaborative, decentralised spirit brought Jewish cultural heritage into dynamic conversation with local communities and public audiences, reinforcing the EDJC's role as a meaningful platform for education, dialogue and shared celebration across the continent.

# Activities of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025: People of the book

# Kick off of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Stockholm, Sweden

The European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) 2025 officially kicked off on Sunday, 7 September, in marking the start of a continent-wide festival dedicated to Jewish heritage and culture. This year's theme, "People of the Book", highlighted the enduring significance of the written word in Jewish life and its deep connections with Christianity and Islam.

A delegation of representatives from the AEPJ team and board of directors attended the opening activities in Stockholm, where the local Jewish community was celebrating 250 years of history. Their rich programme of activities was organised by Paideia: The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden and Judiska Församlingen in Stockholm (Jewish Community of Stockholm). AEPJ's General Secretary, Noemi Di Segni, delivered an inaugural address at the opening of the event.

Across Europe, more than 28 countries marked the launch with diverse events, from walking tours to concerts and open-door visits. Hundreds more activities followed through November, offering opportunities to engage with Jewish culture and explore shared heritage across traditions.

François Moyse, President of AEPJ, underlined the festival's importance: "More than ever, in these unstable times, even in war-torn Ukraine, the European Days of Jewish Culture demonstrate the importance of reaching out to others and promoting coexistence and the discovery of the Other."

Noemi Di Segni, General Secretary of AEPJ and President of UCEI, added: "Jewish heritage should stay and continue to be recognised as a vehicle for serving development and wellbeing. It is an essential part of Europe, its constitution, its attention to welfare, its educational project, its political and democratic principles."

Since 1999, the EDJC has been coordinated by the AEPJ, fostering dialogue, recognition, and cultural exchange through a European network of communities and institutions.

# The European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 in numbers

COUNTRY	CITIES	ACTIVITIES	PARTICIPANTS
Austria	14	20	1,098
Belarus	1	1	47
Bulgaria	1	1	No registered data
Croatia	3	35	1,340
Czechia	12	27	3,000
Estonia	1	1	z70
France	59	203	27,500
Georgia	1	2	200
Germany	28	73	2,542
Hungary	4	31	250
Italy	105	110	22,100
Lithuania	2	100	330,700
Luxembourg	1	1	30
Moldova	2	13	600
Netherlands	15	23	3,000
North Macedonia	1	1	150
Poland	4	12	590
Portugal	1	3	650
Romania	2	6	400
Serbia	3	8	1,650
Slovenia	11	50	5,477
Spain	21	60	3,183
Sweden	1	6	100
Switzerland	8	5	1,600
Ukraine	1	4	745
United Kingdom	3	27	1,235

# Austria

EISENSTADT, KITTSEE, FRAUENKIRCHEN, GOLS, MATTERSBURG, KOBERSDORF, LACKENBACH, DEUTSCHKREUTZ, LOCKENHAUS, NEBERSDORF, RECHNITZ, STADTSCHLAINING, ST. PÖLTEN, WIEN

14 cities 20 activities 1,098 participants



As an important member of the AEPJ, the Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft plays a central role in the organisation of these Europe-wide action days. In addition, it acts as the national coordinator of events in Austria and can look back on a highly successful history of these initiatives.

Eleven years ago, on the initiative of the Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft, the first events within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture were held in Burgenland. What began at the time with a handful of activities has grown significantly over the years and is no longer limited to Burgenland alone. Through cooperation with the Institute for Jewish History in Austria and the Jewish Museum Vienna, the programme has been expanded since 2023 to include Lower Austria and Vienna as well. What has remained unchanged throughout these eleven years is the commitment to making the history, traditions, and religion of the former Jewish communities and their inhabitants accessible to a broad public.

This year as well, under the coordination of the Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft and in cooperation with local and regional partners, commemorative initiatives, and schools, the European Days of Jewish Culture offered a wide range of events in Burgenland, Lower Austria, and Vienna. These included guided tours of former Jewish communities, lectures, readings, and film screenings, as well as concerts and exhibitions.

For the first time, the towns of Gols and Nebersdorf were also included in the 2025 programme. In Gols, participants attended a lecture by Alfred Lang, BA, on the history of the Jewish community of Gols, while in Nebersdorf Castle, Michael Schreiber presented the history of Jews in the Croatian-speaking villages of the Oberpullendorf district. This lecture marked another premiere, as it was delivered bilingually in German and Croatian. Also new to the programme was a thematic guided tour of the University of Vienna, which explored the history of Jews at the university from the 19th century to the present day.

# Belarus

## MINSK

47 participants

On 26 October, an event was held at the Minsk Jewish Heritage Centre to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the liquidation of the Minsk Ghetto and to introduce a major new historical publishing initiative. Originally planned as the presentation of the first volume of 496 Ghettos of Belarus – The Minsk Ghetto, the gathering evolved into a broader moment of commemoration and reflection, addressing themes of memory, resilience, and the ongoing responsibility of historical research and documentation.

The event also marked the second anniversary of the Minsk Jewish Heritage Centre and brought together community members, researchers, historians, and distinguished guests. At the heart of the programme was the history of the Minsk Ghetto, where more than 100,000 Jews were imprisoned between 1941 and 1943, underscoring both the scale of the tragedy and the continued importance of remembrance and education.

The presence of former prisoners of the Minsk Ghetto lent profound emotional depth to the commemoration. Among them were Frida Reizman, Chair of the Minsk Ghetto Survivors' Association, and Vladimir Trachtenberg, whose participation served as a powerful testament to survivor resilience and the urgency of preserving lived memory. The programme also included a solemn moment of remembrance led by the Chief Rabbi of Belarus, Rabbi Mordechai Raichentstein, who recited the Kaddish prayer in tribute to the victims.

The programme featured the screening of the documentary Yama (The Pit), which recounts the largest punitive action carried out within the Minsk Ghetto, during which 5,000 Jews were murdered. This was followed by a presentation of rare archival photographs from Minsk between 1941 and 1943, including images of survivors whose personal histories remain central to the Centre's mission.

Rather than presenting a completed publication, the organisers introduced the broader concept of the seven-volume series 496 Ghettos of Belarus, developed by historian Vladimir Melnitsky. The scope and significance of the project were outlined, and it was announced that work is already underway on the publication and translation of the first volume dedicated to the Minsk Ghetto, with the aim of ensuring its accessibility to international audiences.

Participants expressed strong appreciation for both the emotional impact and the educational value of the programme. Many emphasised the importance of further strengthening public awareness of Belarus's wartime Jewish history. Overall, the event successfully honoured the memory of the victims, acknowledged the resilience of the survivors, and reaffirmed a shared commitment to preserving and transmitting this essential history for future generations.



# Bulgaria

## RUSE

The growing integration of Holocaust memory into Europe's historical, cultural, and commemorative frameworks, together with the sustained demand for related exhibitions, continues to challenge museums and cultural centres to develop innovative and meaningful forms of engagement. In response to this need, the project Unfinished Landscape – Places of Remembrance and Forgetting was developed by the Comité Conmemorativo del Holocausto – en el Caribe, in collaboration with Canetti House – Ruse. The project presents Holocaust memory through a carefully curated selection of three works: a poem by Dan Pagis and two photographic works. Together, these elements create an evocative dialogue between text and image, offering visitors the impression of a return to the past. Through this approach, distant and often abstract historical references are transformed into experiences that are both personal and emotionally resonant, enabling visitors to engage with Holocaust memory in an intimate and reflective manner. By positioning the visitor as an active participant rather than a passive observer, the event initiates a process of identification that approaches the role of a quasi-witness. At the same time, Unfinished Landscape articulates an innovative exhibition model that frames remembrance as an active cultural practice. In doing so, the project contributes to contemporary efforts to combat antisemitism by fostering critical reflection, empathy, and historical awareness through artistic and curatorial intervention.



**Недовършен Пейзаж**  
Места на Паметта и Забравата

Memento of the Comité Conmemorativo del Holocausto – en el Caribe  
Canetti House – Slavovska Street 12, Ruse  
10 September 2025, 11.00. h

# Croatia

OSIJEK, SPLIT, VUKOVAR

35 activities

1,340 participants

The Month of Jewish Culture 2025 was held in Osijek from 7 to 28 September, attracting more than 1,340 visitors and participants over the course of three weeks. Organised by the Jewish Community of Osijek, the festival once again demonstrated its strong public appeal and its role as a key platform for cultural exchange and community engagement.

During the festival period, more than 35 diverse activities were delivered, reflecting the breadth and vitality of Jewish cultural life. The programme included one major concert and several smaller musical performances, three exhibitions, two guided city tours, two sports tournaments, a theatre performance, four film screenings, two project presentations, four book promotions, eight lectures, one panel discussion, and a visit to the Museum of Personal Stories, alongside numerous workshops. In addition, educational activities were organised in primary and secondary schools, actively engaging students and teachers in exploring Jewish culture and heritage.

A particular highlight of the programme was the Shabbat weekend, which welcomed guests from Sarajevo and Belgrade. During this weekend, new partnerships and cooperation were established with Haver Srbija, JCC Global, Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish communities of Sarajevo and Belgrade, and a Reform community from Israel represented by Yosef Elmackias. The Shabbat programme included Kabbalat Shabbat, Shacharit, Havdalah, and a range of accompanying cultural and educational activities, strengthening both spiritual and communal ties.

The successful implementation of the Month of Jewish Culture was made possible through close collaboration with a wide network of institutional partners. These included academic, cultural, and educational institutions such as the Evangelical Theological Seminary, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Museum of Slavonia, the Archaeological Museum, the Consulate General of Hungary in Osijek, the European House Vukovar, the Vukovar City Library, and the Jewish Cultural, Educational and Humanitarian Society La Benevolencija Sarajevo, as well as schools, cultural centres, theatres, cinemas, and religious communities in Osijek and the surrounding region.



Overall, the Month of Jewish Culture 2025 once again confirmed Osijek's role as a city committed to intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, and respect for diversity. Through its rich and inclusive programme, the festival contributed to the preservation and promotion of Jewish cultural heritage, strengthened connections between communities, and promoted shared values of tolerance, cooperation, and cultural exchange.



# Czechia

BRNO, TREBIC, KOLIN, KRNOV, DOLNI KOUNICE,  
BREZNICE, PRAHA, POLNA, USTEK, TURNOV,  
LIBEREC, DECIN

12 cities 20 activities 3,000 participants

The 2025 edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) in the Czechia unfolded as a diverse and well-attended programme highlighting Jewish history, culture, and contemporary dialogue. Taking place from late August through November, the season featured concerts, panel discussions, exhibitions, guided walks, workshops, and open-door days, engaging audiences across multiple regions of the country.

The programme opened in Brno with Štetl Fest Brno, a multi-day urban festival combining music, literature, and cultural workshops. The event was widely praised for its lively atmosphere and its ability to present Jewish culture in an accessible and contemporary format, attracting a broad and diverse audience.

On 7 September, synagogues in Třebíč and Kolín opened their doors to the public free of charge. In Třebíč, the Rear Synagogue drew steady visitor interest thanks to its unique Baroque interior, while in Kolín individual visits supported by multilingual materials enabled international visitors to engage with one of Bohemia's oldest synagogues.

In Krnov, two well-attended discussions held on 9 and 10 September addressed contemporary and historical themes, focusing on the Middle East and on the question of whether the Holocaust could be repeated. Contributions from military historian Jaromír Vykoukal and editor Daniel Žingor prompted thoughtful and engaged debate among participants.

On 12 September, Dolní Kounice hosted the opening of an exhibition presented by art historian Julius Müller, tracing the journeys of Moravian Torah scrolls since 1942. Music followed two days later with a concert by Der Šenster Gob in the synagogue of Březnice, which attracted an enthusiastic audience.

A second programme in Kolín on 14 September combined a guided tour of the former



ghetto with the exhibition KafkaOrte, presenting places connected to Franz Kafka. On the same day, the Jewish Museum in Prague hosted a creative workshop for children inspired by the book Herrmannovic holka, while the synagogue in Polná welcomed audiences to a classical concert featuring works by Jewish composers.

Later in the month, the Maisel Synagogue in Prague held a discussion on Jewish women through history, with contributions from Jan Fingerland and Pavlína Šulcová, complemented by culinary inspirations drawn from the legacy of Fania Lewando. Additional regional activities included a concert by the women's choir Nashira in Ústěk, guided tours in Turnov, and the annual Judafest Prague, which focused on the theme Future as a Challenge.

October brought further engagement through an online lecture in Liberec, an open-door day and exhibition in Děčín, and the Prague premiere of The Story of a Book, followed by a discussion with Angela Strach. The programme concluded in November with the exhibition The Golden Age of the Jews of Al-Andalus, offering a broader historical perspective on Jewish cultural flourishing.

The successful realisation of the 2025 programme was made possible through the cooperation of numerous partners, including Štetl Fest Brno, Rear Synagogue Třebíč, Kolín Synagogue and the City of Kolín, Krnov Synagogue, Dolní Kounice Synagogue, Březnice Synagogue, the Jewish Museum in Prague, Polná Synagogue, Ústěk Synagogue, Turnov Synagogue, the Czech Union of Jewish Students, the Jewish Communities of Děčín and Liberec, the Embassy of Spain in Prague, as well as the many historians, musicians, lecturers, and volunteers whose contributions ensured a rich and truly nationwide programme.

# Estonia

## TALLIN

70 participants



As part of the Estonian Book Year and within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, themed “People of the Book,” the Estonian Jewish Museum organised a literary conference entitled *The Book – A Bridge Between the Jewish and Estonian Worlds*. The event explored the written word as a shared cultural space and a vehicle for dialogue between Jewish and Estonian traditions.

The conference programme brought together a diverse group of scholars, researchers, and cultural practitioners, reflecting the wide-ranging interactions between Jewish and Estonian cultures. Speakers included experts in Jewish studies from the University of Tartu and Tallinn University, representatives of the Estonian Jewish community, translators from Estonia and Israel, and contemporary writers. One of the keynote contributions was delivered by Kalle Kasemaa, Professor Emeritus and a leading figure in the translation of Hebrew literature into Estonian.

The programme was structured in two thematic sections. The first, *Stories of the People of the Book in Estonia*, focused on Jewish narratives, texts, and historical experiences within the Estonian context. The second section, *Builders of Literary Bridges*, examined the role of translation, scholarship, and literary exchange in fostering mutual understanding and cultural connectivity between Jewish and Estonian worlds.

The conference highlighted the enduring power of literature as a bridge between cultures and reaffirmed the role of Jewish textual heritage as a living and dynamic contributor to Estonia’s cultural landscape.



# France

59 cities 203 activities 27,500 participants

All events of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 in France were coordinated at national level by JECPJ France. Regional coordination was ensured by several member organisations: SEJAL for Alsace and the Territoire de Belfort, JECJ-Lorraine for Lorraine, JECJCA for the French Riviera, and Aube-en-Champagne Attractivité, coordinator of the Medieval Route of Rashi in Champagne, for the department of Aube. In Paris and the Île-de-France, coordination was provided by Dominique Friedmann, an individual member of JECPJ France, while organisers in Nouvelle Aquitaine, Occitanie, Provence, and Brittany were coordinated directly at national level.

JECPJ France represents the European Routes of Jewish Heritage, a Council of Europe Cultural Route led by the AEPJ, to the French Ministry of Culture, which supports the development of Cultural Routes in France. Within this framework, the European Days of Jewish Culture benefit from the Ministry's support. In addition, JECPJ France received financial support from the FSJU for its activities within the 2025 edition.

# Alsace & Belfort

BELFORT, BENFELD, BISCHHEIM, BIESHEIM, BOOFZHEIM, BOUXWILLER, BRUMATH, COLMAR, DIEMERINGEN, DUPPIGHEIM, ETTENDORF, FEGERSHHEIM, GUEBWILLER, GUNDERSHOFFEN, HAGUENAU, HERRLISHEIM, INGWILLER, MARMOUTIER, MUTTERSCHOLTZ, NEUWILLER-LÈS-SAVERNE, OBERNAI, REICHSHOFFEN, ROSENWILLER, SAINT-LOUIS, SARRE-UNION, SAVERNE, SCHIRMECK, SÉLESTAT, SOULTZ-HAUT-RHIN, SOULTZ-SOUS-FORÊTS, STRASBOURG, STRUTH, THANN, VILLÉ, WEITERSWILLER, WESTHOFF, WOERTH

In Alsace and the Territoire de Belfort, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 took place from 24 August to 19 October, coordinated for the first time by SEJAL (Société pour l'Étude du Judaïsme en Alsace-Lorraine). Alsace, home to the largest concentration of Jewish heritage sites in France, offered a particularly rich setting, supported by the strong mobilisation of local partners within the JECPJ-Alsace network.

With financial support from the European Community of Alsace for communication activities, the programme reached approximately 2,700 participants. More than 60 events were organised in 37 municipalities, including guided tours, lectures, concerts, and performances, with eight activities held during the European Heritage Days weekend.

The theme "People of the Book" was explored through music, readings, and lectures. Key highlights included the Mini-Festival of Jewish Music organised by the Hanau-La Petite Pierre Tourist Office, a well-attended concert in Saverne, and the dynamic programme in Thann, where preparations are underway to



# Bretagne (Brittany)

## RENNES

On 5 October, the Sholem Association organised a screening of the film Oylem at the Arvor Cinema in Rennes, as part of both the European Days of Jewish Culture and the Grand Soufflet world music festival, in partnership with Clair Obscur, a regional association promoting cinema and audiovisual media. Directed by Arthur Borgnis, who was present for the screening and discussion, the film draws exclusively on Yiddish literary texts, highlighting the written word as a living vehicle of memory and transmission. The event concluded with a performance by the Sholem Choir, offering a musical perspective on Yiddish culture and demonstrating its continued vitality. The screening attracted 80 participants of all ages, fostering intergenerational engagement and cultural exchange.



# Champagne / Aube Department

## TROYES

On 4–5 October, as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture and Biblis en folie, the GIP Rachi, in partnership with the Jacques Chirac Media Library in Troyes, organised the workshop Innovation in the Middle Ages with Rachi. Aimed at both children and adults, the workshop explored ethics, memory, and knowledge transmission through the figure of Rashi, the 11th-century scholar from Troyes. Around 50 participants engaged with manuscripts, games, and the Hebrew alphabet in an educational and interactive format.

The Maison Rachi and the Institut Universitaire Culturel Européen Rachi also contributed to the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 through lectures, guided tours, and exhibitions held between September and December, including activities during the European Heritage Days.



# French Riviera / Alpes-Maritimes Department

ANTIBES, CANNES, NICE AND PIEDMONT REGION (ITALY)

On the French Riviera, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, themed People of the Book, attracted an audience of more than 1,000 participants, returning to the attendance levels of 2022, with additional events scheduled to continue into January 2026. Coordinated by JECJCA, the 13th edition offered an expanded and diverse programme combining heritage discovery, artistic creation, and intercultural dialogue. The season opened with an innovative four-day cultural journey to Turin and the synagogues of Piedmont, introducing participants to seven historic sites through cooperation within the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage network. On 21 September, coinciding with the European Heritage Days, more than 330 visitors took part in guided tours of synagogues and Jewish heritage sites in Nice, Antibes, and Cannes. The day concluded with a widely attended artistic performance at the Deloye Synagogue, featuring calligrapher Frank Lalou. Additional highlights included concerts, philosophical discussions, guided tours, educational activities for children, and a Shabbat meal fostering Jewish-Christian dialogue. The programme will continue in Cannes in January 2026 with an exhibition, a conference, and a new artistic creation dedicated to Hebrew letters.



# Île-de-France

PARIS, SAINT-ARNOULT-EN-YVELINES

In Paris and the Île-de-France, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 offered a rich and diverse programme highlighting literature, visual arts, music, memory, and dialogue, in line with the theme People of the Book. The season opened on 7 September at the MAHJ – Museum of Jewish Art and History with a Comic Book Day featuring book signings, free access to the permanent collections, and a lecture by cartoonist Jul, attracting over 1,000 visitors. JECPJ France ensured strong visibility for the programme through on-site outreach.

Literary and artistic encounters formed a central pillar of the programme. The Medem Center hosted performances, participatory digital storytelling projects, and the exhibition People of the Book from the National Library of Israel. Aki Estamos welcomed illustrator Alain Korkos for a presentation of his graphic novel tracing Jewish family histories across Europe, while Galerie Saphir presented the exhibition La chair du livre, bringing together writers and visual artists in dialogue.

Major memory institutions also played a key role. The Mémorial de la Shoah welcomed more than 1,500 visitors over two days through an exhibition and a conference linked to UNESCO heritage. Additional contributions included lectures and encounters organised by Farband, the Maison de la Culture Yiddish – Bibliothèque Medem, ECUJE, the Alliance Israélite Universelle, the Fédération des Sociétés Juives de France, B'nai B'rith France, and the Maison Elsa Triolet–Aragon.

Together, these initiatives demonstrated the vitality of Jewish cultural life in the Paris region, fostering intergenerational transmission, intellectual exchange, and broad public engagement with Jewish heritage.



European Days of Jewish Culture



# Lorraine

FRAUENBERG, MARLY, METZ, MONTIGNY-LÈS-METZ, NANCY, SARREGUEMINES, THIONVILLE, VERDUN

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 in Lorraine, held from September 2025 to January 2026, unfolded through a deliberately multidisciplinary programme aligned with the European theme People of the Book. Through exhibitions, conferences, concerts, films, performances, school activities, and heritage tours, the programme explored the central role of books, writing, and transmission in Jewish history and their universal relevance. Coordinated by JECJ-Lorraine, the edition mobilised numerous institutional, cultural, and associative partners across Metz and the wider Lorraine region, confirming the association's strong regional roots and cultural leadership.

With nearly 50 events, around 20 venues, and an estimated audience of 17,000 participants, the 2025 edition demonstrated both its broad appeal and its capacity to reach diverse audiences, including the general public, students, educators, cultural professionals, and institutional actors. The official launch on 7 September at the Centre Pompidou-Metz set the tone with an exceptionally rich programme combining exhibitions, film screenings, performances, workshops, debates, and live radio, supported by an unprecedented mobilisation of partners and attracting 750 participants in a single day.

Major highlights included the exhibition Abram Krol, Book of Shadows and Light, which welcomed over 1,100 visitors, the reopening of the Grand Synagogue of Metz, attended by 1,300 people, and the exhibition Resisting through Art and Literature, presented at the University Library and reaching approximately 11,000 visitors. Concerts, literary encounters, symposia, film cycles, and educational initiatives further reinforced the programme's cultural, civic, and pedagogical impact.

Overall, the 2025 edition affirmed the European Days of Jewish Culture in Lorraine as a major platform for dialogue, remembrance, and transmission, using books, art, and culture as powerful tools of connection, resilience, and shared understanding.



European Days of Jewish Culture



# Nancy

In Nancy, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 were organised by the JECJ Lorraine-Sud association. The opening conference, held on 7 September at the Jewish Cultural Association, brought together 60 participants in the presence of Mathieu Klein, Mayor of Nancy, and Chaynesse Khirouni, President of the Meurthe-et-Moselle Department. The programme explored the theme People of the Book through multidisciplinary perspectives, including theology, archaeology, translation, psychoanalysis, literature, and visual arts, with contributions from religious leaders, academics, and cultural practitioners.

The programme continued on 9 November with a Klezmer concert at the Nancy Synagogue, performed by the Mizmor Chir Ensemble under the direction of Ezriel Erlich, accompanied by guitarist Raphaël Strock. The concert, featuring Yiddish repertoire, attracted an audience of 200 people, many of whom were visiting the synagogue for the first time, underscoring the initiative's strong outreach and cultural impact.



# Nouvelle Aquitaine

## ARCACHON

On Sunday, 21 September, the Jewish Community of the Arcachon Basin (ACIBA) once again participated in European Heritage Days, now an essential event for discovering the history, cultural richness, and vitality of the Jewish community of Arcachon. But this year, for the first time, the events offered were also part of the European Days of Jewish Culture.

Despite inclement weather that may have discouraged some visitors, the 2025 edition still attracted a large turnout: more than 150 people walked through the doors of the synagogue to discover its architecture, history, and traditions. Participants also enjoyed the culinary workshop, an always popular event that combines cultural discovery and conviviality. During the day, five lectures were also offered, providing a lively and accessible insight into various aspects of Judaism. All of them aroused genuine interest and captivated the audience.



# Occitanie

BEZIERS, MONTPELLIER, VAUVERT

In Béziers, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 were marked by semi-guided tours of the former Jewish quarters on 20–21 September, organised by the Mémoire Juive de Béziers association as part of the European Heritage Days. Led by volunteers in medieval costume, the tours attracted strong public interest, welcoming 350 visitors on the first day alone, and highlighted 1,600 years of Jewish history, including major local figures such as Abraham Ibn Ezra and Yedaiah ben Abraham Bedersi.

In Montpellier, the IUMAT organised guided visits to the medieval mikveh and Jewish quarter on 7 September, led by historian Michaël Iancu, followed by an artistic performance, *Contes en chemin*...

In Vauvert, which participated for the first time, a lecture by Alexis Nouss on “Is there such a thing as Jewish literature?” engaged local audiences and resonated with the town’s medieval intellectual heritage.



# Provence



In Cavailon (Vaucluse), the Heritage and Museums Department organised a major study day on 26 October entitled Magic, Kabbalah, and Freemasonry among the Jews of the Pope. The symposium attracted over 250 participants and brought together leading historians and scholars to explore the intellectual, spiritual, and cultural life of the Jews of the Comtat Venaissin. Through lectures on liturgy, Kabbalah, popular practices, and Freemasonry, the programme highlighted the Jews of the Pope as a true “people of the book(s)”. Complementary activities included an exhibition of Kabbalistic books and Masonic vestments at the synagogue, educational workshops for children, and the recording of all lectures for future dissemination. The event was co-funded by the AEPJ and the Combat Antisemitism Movement (CAM) within the Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage programme.

In L’Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, activities on 21 September combined guided heritage tours and a Jewish music concert, despite adverse weather conditions. Participants explored the former Jewish quarter, archaeological remains of the synagogue, and ongoing restoration works, before attending a well-received concert by the Quintet de Pioche. The programme was also supported by the AEPJ and CAM.

In Marseille, the B’nai B’rith France organised a symposium on People of the Book on 1 December, bringing together scholars and intellectuals for five lectures addressing antisemitism, education, literature, translation, and cultural transmission. The event welcomed 80 participants, both on site and online, extending the reach of the EDJC in Provence and Occitanie.



# Georgia

## TBILISI

2 activities 200 participants



In 2025, the Georgian National Museum marked the European Days of Jewish Culture with two public events in Tbilisi dedicated to the theme People of the Book, engaging approximately 200 participants from academic, cultural, and community backgrounds.

The first event took place on 7 October at the Sh. Amiranashvili Georgian State Museum of Fine Arts. It opened with welcoming remarks by Nika Akhalbedashvili, First Deputy Director of the Georgian National Museum, followed by a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the 7 October terrorist attacks. Dr. Lela Tsitsuashvili introduced the theme and the mission of the European Days of Jewish Culture, and welcomed Professor Dodo Chikvashvili of Tel Aviv University, who delivered a lecture on the genetic connections among different Jewish groups.

The programme also included presentations on the Jewish collections of the Georgian National Museum and an exhibition developed with the National Library of Israel, alongside a photo exhibition featuring historical materials from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The second event was held on 3 December at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University within the framework of the research project Jewish Identity in Georgia: The Soviet Transformation (1921–1941), funded by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia. Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Aliyah from Georgia to Eretz Israel, the event featured public lectures by Dr. Lela Tsitsuashvili, Dr. Ketevan Kakitelashvili, and PhD Mikheil Meparishvili, and focused on Jewish identity, migration, and historical memory.

The programme was further extended through articles published in the Jewish newspaper Menorah. Overall, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 in Georgia successfully combined academic research, museum collections, and public engagement, contributing to greater awareness of Jewish cultural heritage and intercultural dialogue.



# Germany

**KULTURZENTRUM DER ISRAELITISCHEN KULTUSGEMEINDE MÜNCHEN & OBERBAYERN, CITY OF MAGDEBURG AND WOLMIRSTEDT–HALDENSLEBEN SCHOOL OF MUSIC, SYNAGOGENGEMEINDE BONN**

**28 cities 73 activities 2,542 participants**

Attenweiler, Aschersleben, Augsburg, Bensheim, Biberach, Bonn, Braunschweig, Breisach am Rhein, Celle, Dessau-Roßlau, Erfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Gifhorn Goslar, Halberstadt, Hannover, Helmstedt, Hildesheim, Leiferde, Leipzig, Magdeburg, Munich, Peine, Salzgitter, Salzgitter-Hallendorf, Seesen, Sigmaringen, Titz-Rödingen, Wolfenbüttel

From 7 September to late November 2025, Germany hosted an extensive and diverse programme of activities within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) 2025, held under the central theme “People of the Book.” Coordinated at the European level by the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), the festival aims to highlight the richness and diversity of Jewish culture while promoting dialogue, cultural exchange, and public engagement across Europe. In Germany, a total of 73 activities were organised, reaching audiences of different ages and backgrounds and showcasing Jewish history, culture, music, education, and memory.

A strong focus of the German programme was placed on music and artistic expression. One of the highlights was the participation of the European Music Trails – Notenspur Leipzig festival, which in 2025 launched a multi-year exploration of Jewish musical heritage. Under the motto “shir chadasch – a new song,” the festival presented Jewish music traditions from East and West, linking historical routes with contemporary interpretations. The programme included concerts, guided thematic tours, lectures, and performances inspired by Jewish liturgy, poetry, and song traditions, as well as an extensive educational outreach component with workshops and school activities. In total, this programme alone reached more than 1,760 participants, including students from primary to high school level.

JÜDISCH MITTEL  
ALTERLICHES  
ERBE / ERFURT





Heritage-focused and educational activities formed another core pillar of the EDJC programme in Germany. Guided tours and archaeological walks introduced participants to Jewish life across centuries, offering insights into former Jewish quarters, synagogue sites, and communal infrastructures. In Erfurt, for example, 35 people joined guided tours, explored archaeological remains of medieval Jewish communities and presented planned excavation projects, encouraging public interest and engagement with Jewish heritage preservation. These activities fostered direct interaction with material culture and historical research, generating strong public response and discussion.

Community engagement and learning were further strengthened through interactive formats. In Munich, the European Day of Jewish Culture was celebrated through a full-day programme combining cultural exchange, education, and public dialogue. Activities included an open “Ask the Rabbi” session addressing questions on Torah, Talmud, and Jewish tradition; guided tours highlighting Jewish traces in the city; synagogue visits; and a documentary screening dedicated to the life and work of writer and filmmaker Ephraim Kishon. Complementary cultural elements, such as a book and CD bazaar and kosher culinary offerings, helped create an open and welcoming atmosphere. Approximately 300 participants attended the Munich events.

The programme also addressed contemporary social issues through dialogue-based formats, including panel discussions that encouraged critical reflection on Jewish life in today’s Europe and broader societal challenges. In addition, hands-on workshops, such as kosher cooking courses for young people, offered accessible and experiential entry points into Jewish culture, emphasising everyday practices as part of cultural transmission.



In Baden-Württemberg the EDJC's the focus was on art exhibitions. The lectures by the rabbi, the musical contributions by the musician and the cantor were singing and piano. Family, biblical aspects, German-Jewish history and a strong reference to the families of the hostages and victims of the terrorist massacre in Israel on 7 October, 2023 was also addressed. The art was on display in the rooms of my cooperation partners, Catholic and Protestant educational institutions. The exhibition in my studios was open for three weeks and guided tours were offered. Based on the invitation flyer, the radius of those invited was approx. 80 km in the surrounding area and covered approximately 220 participants.

Heritage-focused activities were another major component of the programme. Guided tours, historical walks, and site-based interpretations introduced participants to tangible and intangible aspects of Jewish heritage. These activities included explorations of historic Jewish quarters, cemetery tours, and archaeological interpretations connected to former Jewish communities. Through such experiences, participants were invited to reflect on the continuity of Jewish life and to engage with Jewish history through architecture, archaeology, memorial spaces, and cultural landscapes.

Interactive and community-oriented activities formed an important part of the German EDJC programme. Workshops and hands-on experiences—some specifically designed for younger participants—offered accessible entry points into Jewish culture through everyday practices. Examples included educational workshops focused on Jewish food traditions, cultural learning through ritual practices, and activities that encouraged intergenerational engagement with Jewish heritage. These initiatives connected abstract cultural themes with lived experience, reinforcing the idea of knowledge transmission as a core element of Jewish tradition.

In addition, the programme included dialogue-based formats, such as panel discussions and public conversations, which addressed present-day challenges and societal questions. These events created spaces for open discussion on Jewish life in contemporary Europe, including issues of memory, identity, and social responsibility, thereby promoting mutual understanding and critical engagement with current realities affecting Jewish communities.

Overall, the activities organised in Germany for the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 exemplified the festival's core mission: to promote recognition of Jewish cultural heritage, encourage intercultural dialogue, and highlight the central role of texts, learning, and memory within Jewish civilization. The theme "People of the Book" foregrounded the enduring importance of written traditions—religious, literary, and historical—in shaping Jewish identity and cultural continuity, while inviting the wider public to engage with Jewish heritage as a living and dynamic part of Europe's cultural landscape.



# Hungary

Municipality of Biatorbágy in partnership with :  
Biatorbágy Heritage Committee, Biatorbágy Landscape  
Protection Circle, Juhász Ferenc Cultural Center, Karikó János  
Library, B-Közép Architecture Group, Zsámbék Heritage  
Committee, Páty Heritage Committee, Hungarian Jewish  
Cultural Association (MAZSIKE).

NAGYKANIZSA, BUDAPEST, BIATORBÁGY, MISKOLC

4 cities 25 activities 250 participants

The European Days of Jewish Culture in Hungary were outlined by a series of distinctive activities, engaging audiences with diverse formats that highlighted Jewish written heritage, communal memory, and cultural expression. These activities took place in Budapest and reflected the EDJC's aims of promoting understanding, exchange, and public engagement with Jewish culture.

A standout feature of the Hungarian programme was the "Salom Street" event in Budapest, which served as a vibrant public celebration of Jewish culture. Organised by the Golem Theatre and the Centre of Jewish Performing Arts, this all-day event brought Jewish heritage into the public sphere with interactive and community-oriented activities. Held on Csányi utca on 7 September 2025, the programme of about 25 activities offered opportunities for performance, dialogue, and engagement with the cultural theme of "People of the Book." Through theatre, discussion, and participatory formats, the event encouraged local residents and visitors to connect with Jewish cultural narratives and shared heritage.

Local History Tour around the Jewish Biatorbágy completed the variety of the events in Hungary. Between 1888 and 1944, the Jewish community played an active role in the life of Biatorbágy. Their presence is still reflected in local heritage through former Jewish residences, the prayer house, and the cemetery. Building on the tradition of thematic city tours, this event will offer a guided walk following the traces of Biatorbágy's Jewish population, reviving their memory and highlighting their contribution to the town's growth and culture. Participants learned about the history of key buildings and the families who once lived there, including a pharmacist, a vinegar manufacturer, a farmer, and a merchant. The walk was led by two experts: sociologist and community researcher Bihari Zoltán Judit and architect Tótpál DLA.

SINAGOGA

CENTER JUDOVSKÉ KULTURNE  
DEDIŠČINE SINAGOGA MARIBOR





The tour was designed for residents of Biatorbágy, as well as visitors from neighboring towns, descendants of former Jewish families, and members of Jewish organisations. It was organised by the Biatorbágy Város Önkormányzata (Municipality of Biatorbágy) in partnership with : Biatorbágy Heritage Committee, Biatorbágy Landscape Protection Circle, Juhász Ferenc Cultural Center, Karikó János Library, B-Közép Architecture Group, Zsámbék Heritage Committee, Páty Heritage Committee, Hungarian Jewish Cultural Association (MAZSIKE).

Other Hungarian EDJC activities complemented this central event by focusing on aspects of Jewish textual and cultural history. These included educational talks, presentations, and cultural programmes designed to reflect on Jewish literary traditions, historical memory, and identity – all rooted in the festival’s emphasis on the enduring significance of texts and books in Jewish life.

The Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor put a documentary exhibition called “A Story of Two Transports”. Jews in Međimurje and Prekmurje during the Holocaust presents the long history of Jews in the Prekmurje and Međimurje regions, the rise and flourishing of Jewish communities in the region, their contribution to the development of towns and villages in both regions, and the sad fate that befell them during the Holocaust. The exhibition, by Boris Hajdinjak, director of the Maribor Synagogue, was originally made in a Slovenian-English language version, but a Hungarian-English version was also prepared for the visit to the synagogue in Nagykanizsa, where the exhibition has been on display since May of this year. As part of the opening ceremony, a memorial plaque will be erected at the former Winter Agricultural School (Téli gazdaža iskola), where Jews from Prekmurje and Međimurje, as well as Nagykanizsa and surrounding areas were imprisoned shortly before being deported to the Nazi extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.



Another event organised by the Municipality of Miskolc in partnership with The Miskolc Jewish House, operated by the EMIH – Hungarian Jewish Federation enlarged the frame of the European days of Jewish Culture in Hungary. Jewish and non-Jewish communities in and around Miskolc were invited to take part in a special one-day event celebrating the richness of Jewish culture and traditions. The programme created space for both adults and children to learn, enjoy, and share in a unique communal experience.

At the heart of the event was a musical performance that introduced audiences to the beauty and diversity of Jewish music, creating an atmosphere of warmth and connection. To mark the upcoming Jewish New Year, a lecture and informal discussion exploring the symbolism of holiday foods such as honey, apples, and fish heads, as well as the idea of Jews as the “People of the Book” took place. Children could enjoy creative craft workshops, offering a fun and engaging way to discover Jewish culture, while participants of all ages are invited to taste kosher food specialties.

**A BIA-TORBÁGYI ZSIDÓSÁG NYOMÁBAN HELYTÖRTÉNETI SÉTA**

2025. SZEPTEMBER 27. 14 óra

**Gyűlekező:** a séta első állomásán, az Ányoskereszt Gyógyszerház előtt – Szabadság ut. 14.

**Vezető:** Bihari Zoltán, zoológus  
Tátpál Judit, DLA, énekes

**A séta útvonala:**  
Szabadság ut. (Jászai Arilla utca kereszteződés) → Szabadság ut. → Erőshelyi utca (Gyógyszerek Beosztásánál) → A tér → Nagy utca → Csoda utca → Nagy utca → Csuda tér → Csuda utca → Csuda tér → Csuda utca → Csuda tér

**A séta hossza: 2,5 km. Ideje: 3 óra**  
Az állomásokról érkező buszok az utca végén várakoznak, a buszok utasaitól, amíg el nem indulnak. A BIA-Torbágyi Zsidóság nyitvatartási ideje: 10.00 – 18.00 óráig. A séta megkezdése mellett a buszok egyidejűleg érkezők, a buszok.

Az esemény a DTK-ék és a DTK-ék támogatásával, a DTK-ék által szervezett események keretében.

**aepj** **EMIH**

Across all activities in Hungary, the EDJC 2025 programme highlighted the diversity of Jewish cultural expression — from open-air, community-driven events to more introspective and scholarly explorations of heritage — and invited the public to consider how books, manuscripts, and written traditions have shaped Jewish communities and contributed to wider cultural landscapes.

These Hungarian events contributed to the broader European celebration of Jewish culture, reinforcing the festival’s mission to promote dialogue, mutual recognition, and appreciation of Jewish heritage through intercultural activities that connect past and present.

# Italy

105 cities 110 activities 22,100 participants



The 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) in Italy represented one of the most extensive national participations in the 2025 European programme. Coordinated by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities (UCEI), the Italian edition involved 105 locations across 16 regions, covering the entire national territory and welcoming approximately 22,000 participants.

While aligned with the European framework of the EDJC, Italy adopted a wider frame of the annual theme “People of the Book.” This choice aimed to move beyond the often-assumed association between Judaism and persecution or the Shoah, highlighting Jewish culture through its relationship with beauty in its many forms—artistic, intellectual, spiritual, and everyday life.

Across Italy, the theme was interpreted through hundreds of initiatives, including conferences, round tables, concerts, exhibitions, guided tours, theatrical performances, tastings, workshops, educational activities for adults and children, and digital contributions such as video interviews and documentaries. These activities emphasised Jewish creativity, cultural continuity, and the plurality of Jewish heritage embedded in Italian history.

Most initiatives took place on Sunday, 10 September 2025, with several events beginning after Shabbat on Saturday evening, 9 September, while others were scheduled throughout September and October in accordance with Jewish holidays. The programme received broad institutional recognition, including the patronage of the Italian Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Education, and the National Association of Italian Municipalities, as well as formal recognition by the Council of Europe. Notably, the 2025 edition was awarded the Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, underlining its national cultural significance.



Florence, as the lead city, hosted the national inauguration. The programme opened with a concert by Israeli percussionist Liron Meyuhas, joined by Florentine musicians, attracting an audience of approximately 500 people. The official inauguration on the following day welcomed prominent guests, including the Israeli Ambassador to Italy, the Mayor of Florence, the President of the Tuscany Region, and the Italian Minister of Culture. The Florentine programme alone welcomed more than 1,200 participants.



Events were held throughout Italy, including in Tuscany (Florence, Siena, Livorno, Pisa, Pitigliano, Monte San Savino); Lazio (Rome, Fiuggi, Sezze); Lombardy (Milan, Mantua, Sabbioneta, Soncino, Viadana); Piedmont (Turin, Casale Monferrato, Alessandria, Asti, Vercelli, Biella); Veneto (Venice, Padua, Verona, Vicenza, Conegliano, Rovigo, Portobuffolè, Vittorio Veneto, and Portogruaro for the first time); Emilia-Romagna (Bologna, Ferrara, Modena, Parma, Reggio Emilia, Cesena, Carpi, Lugo di Romagna, Finale Emilia, Soragna); Liguria (Genoa); Marche (Ancona, Pesaro, Urbino, Fano, Jesi, Senigallia, and Fermo for the first time); Campania (Naples); Puglia (Lecce, Taranto, Trani, Oria, Manduria, San Nicandro Garganico); Sicily (Palermo, Siracusa, Trapani, Marsala, Modica, Enna, Castoreale); Sardinia (Cagliari, with a week-long programme); Trentino-Alto Adige (Merano); Friuli Venezia Giulia (Trieste, Gorizia, San Daniele del Friuli); Abruzzo (Pescara); and Calabria, where numerous municipalities participated, some contributing through video projects documenting Jewish traces in the region.



The 2025 Italian edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture reaffirmed Italy's leading role within the European EDJC network. Through its wide geographical reach, strong institutional support, and innovative thematic approach, the programme successfully promoted Jewish culture as a living, dynamic, and integral part of Italy's cultural heritage, fostering dialogue, curiosity, and cultural exchange on a national scale.

# Lithuania

VILNIUS, KLAIPEDA

100 activities 330,700 participants



The 21st anniversary of the European Day of Jewish Culture (#EDJC2025) was successfully celebrated in Vilnius, drawing hundreds of residents and guests. This year's theme, "People of the Book," served as a powerful metaphor for the "living library" of Jewish heritage, preserved through storytelling, academic study, and communal dialogue. The day-long festival offered a diverse programme ranging from linguistic workshops to high-energy musical performances.

Key Highlights were built around:

Education and heritage and linguistic engagement with morning programme focused on the preservation of the Litvak intellectual tradition. High interest was shown in the Hebrew and Yiddish language lessons led by Dr. Ruth Reches and Algirdas Davidavičius. These sessions provided a rare opportunity for the public to engage with the *Mama lošen* (Mother tongue) of Ashkenazi Jews.

Synagogue Tours and Cultural & Musical Showcases. Expert educator Natalja Cheifec led guided tours of the Vilnius Choral Synagogue, providing deep historical context to one of the city's most significant spiritual landmarks. As the festivities moved to Cvi Parkas, the atmosphere shifted to a vibrant community celebration. The stage featured a diverse lineup, including talented students from the Vilnius Sholem Aleichem ORT Gymnasium, the "Fajerlech" song and dance ensemble, and the Kapela Kotra, who brought traditional Klezmer music to life. The event concluded with a prestigious concert featuring the Aaron Alkalai Conservatory Youth Quartet (Israel) and Cantor Isidor Abramowicz (Berlin), highlighting the global nature of Jewish culture.

A major draw for the crowds was the Keila's Deli tasting. Integrating with the "Vilnius – European Green City 2025" initiative, the culinary programme emphasised: Sustainability: Traditional Litvak forshmak and handmade jams using local forest berries. The menu honored Fania Lewando, the legendary Litvak author of the first vegetarian cookbook, bridging the gap between historical tradition and modern plant-based diets.





Art & Memory: The exhibition "And the Bride Came..." by Simon Karczmar opened in the courtyard of the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community. Curated by Katya Kov, the exhibition was personally introduced by the artist's son, Natan Karczmar. The event notably paid tribute to the strength of women in the arts, specifically the artist's wife, Nadia.

The 2025 European Day of Jewish Culture succeeded in making Jewish heritage accessible and relevant to a modern, multicultural audience. By offering all events free of charge and blending history with contemporary sports, food, and music, the Lithuanian Jewish (Litvak) Community continues to be a vital pillar of Vilnius's cultural landscape.

The Lithuanian cultural Jewish scenery also hosted The fifth International Jewish Culture Festival "Shalom Everywhere" held in Klaipėda as an important milestone marking the event's growth from a modest initiative into a highly professional cultural gathering and the only festival of its kind in Lithuania. Over five years, it attracted musicians, lecturers, writers, scholars, and filmmakers from across Europe, while welcoming audiences of all ages from Klaipėda and beyond and building a strong network of partners and supporters, with the Klaipėda City Municipality serving as its main sponsor.

The 2025 edition commemorated the 100th anniversary of YIVO, the Yiddish Scientific Institute founded in Vilnius in 1925 to preserve and study the history and culture of Eastern European Jewry, and visitors explored its legacy through a special exhibition highlighting the institute's vast archives and library in New York.

The festival also emphasised the historical importance of Yiddish—once the everyday language of Lithuanian Jews and spoken by the overwhelming majority before the Holocaust—while showcasing Jewish literature spanning more than 3,000 years and the broader richness of Jewish cultural heritage. Held throughout September and organised by the Žydų kultūros dienos in Klaipėda, Salantai, and Gargždai, the festival formed part of the wider European Days of Jewish Culture, contributing to a continent-wide initiative that promotes awareness, dialogue, and appreciation of Jewish history, language, and traditions, and fostering intercultural understanding across Europe.

# Luxembourg

LUXEMBOURG

30 participants

As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture, and in connection with this year's theme, People of the Book, around 30 participants took part in a guided visit to the Luxembourg Synagogue. They were warmly welcomed and guided by the Chief Rabbi, whose engaging explanations combined historical background, insights into religious practice, and reflections on the central role of texts and learning in Jewish tradition. The visit sparked curiosity and thoughtful exchanges, helping participants connect more deeply with Jewish heritage and contemporary Jewish life in Luxembourg.

The activity reflected the spirit of the European Days of Jewish Culture by fostering dialogue, encouraging understanding, and creating a meaningful encounter between the wider public and Jewish heritage.



Consistoire Israélite  
du Luxembourg

# North Macedonia

SKOPJE

150 participants



As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia hosted an unforgettable artistic evening celebrating the rich history, traditions, and wisdom of the Jewish people. The event took place on 30 September 2025 in front of the Holocaust Memorial Center for the Jews of Macedonia and was attended by approximately 150 guests. Among them were the Minister of Justice of Macedonia, members of Parliament, ambassadors representing the OSCE, Germany, Sweden, Spain, and Croatia, as well as friends and supporters of the Jewish Community in Macedonia. The presence of these distinguished guests underscored the event's importance as a space for cultural dialogue and the strengthening of community ties.

The evening unfolded through a series of literary and musical moments reflecting the enduring power of Jewish wisdom and memory. Stories inspired by the teachings of ancient rabbis were interwoven with the words of Nobel laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer, while readings from Primo Levi's *If This Is a Man* invited reflection on memory, responsibility, and the transmission of lived experience to future generations. Musical performances, ranging from Sephardic romances in Ladino to Yiddish songs, illustrated the deep connection between words and music, showing how melody can carry stories and emotions across time.

One of the most moving moments of the evening was the symbolic creation of a communal book, in which attendees were invited to write their thoughts and reflections on the themes of "people" and "book." These pages will be preserved as a lasting memory and become part of the community's archive, embodying the idea that a people live through their books, and books live through the people who read and experience them.

More than a cultural event, the evening was a shared experience that brought people together, inspired reflection, and celebrated the importance of cultural heritage. It reaffirmed the power of community, literature, and music as vital means of transmitting wisdom, memory, and a deep connection to roots and tradition.

# Moldova

CHIȘINĂU, BĂLȚI

13 activities 600 participants



As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, Moldova presented a diverse programme of cultural, educational, and artistic events highlighting the richness of Jewish heritage and its role in the country's historical and contemporary life.

The initiatives came from the Jewish Community of Moldova and Agudath Israel Moldova.

The events were introduced at a press conference attended by Minister of Culture Sergiu Prodan and Jewish Community leader Alexandr Bilinkis, who emphasized the importance of Jewish culture in Moldova and the festival's role in promoting diversity and intercultural cooperation. A central event was the educational conference "Gesher," which brought together renowned experts to address topics including history, religion, linguistics, education, family life, and gastronomy. Highlights included historian Dr. Roman Rabinovich's presentation on the Jewish Museum in Orhei, linguist Dr. Boris Glozman's lecture on Hebrew influences on the Russian language, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Axelrod's discussion of the purpose of creation, Dr. Mark Siegel's analysis of antisemitism risks, and Binyamin Hadad's overview of the Israeli education system. Additional contributions ranged from Chef Alexander Tkachuk's exploration of Jewish cuisine to Rabbi Daniel Muntian's reflections on family values and a creative session led by director Joseph Shatz. The programme also featured a screening of the Israeli film *Seven Blessings* at the Loteanu Cinema, warmly received for its portrayal of Jewish traditions; the exhibition "Moldovan Artists of Jewish Descent" at the National Museum of History, showcasing the cultural contributions of artists such as Eduard Maidemberg, Mikhail Brunia, and Yakov Tikhman; and the theatrical premiere *Mic și-al dracu'*, directed by Maia Morgenstern, which explored social themes through satire. The celebrations concluded with a Sephardic music concert by the Spanish ensemble *Milo ke Mandarinini* at the Ginta Latină Cultural Center, offering audiences a vibrant musical finale and reinforcing the festival's mission to foster intercultural dialogue and appreciation of Jewish cultural heritage.

Also part of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, Agudat Israel din Moldova organised a series of educational and cultural activities in Chișinău that highlighted Jewish history, literature,



and cultural identity, engaging both young people and students. In total, the programme reached approximately 100 participants.

Two of the events were dedicated to the presentation of the book *History of Moldovan Jews* by Dr. Eugen Brik and were hosted at the Rambam Theoretical Lyceum and the Yu. Harmelin Arts Lyceum. Together, these events brought together around 70 students, teachers, and invited guests.

The meetings opened with welcoming remarks by M. Finckel on behalf of the organisers. The guest of honour, Veaceslav Reabchinskii, Director General of the Agency for Interethnic Relations, highlighted Moldova's rich ethnic diversity, noting that more than 150 ethnic groups coexist in the country. He emphasised that the European Days of Jewish Culture have become an increasingly recognised cultural tradition in Moldova and an important platform for intercultural dialogue.

The directors of the host institutions, Sofia Shkolnik and Natalia Vysotina, also addressed the audience, underlining the importance of studying the history and culture of different peoples, especially in educational settings.

Dr. Eugen Brik presented his book, offering an engaging overview of the long and complex history of the Jewish community in Moldova. The presentation sparked strong interest among students and teachers and was followed by an interactive discussion and questions. To ensure a lasting educational impact, each lyceum received 20 copies of the book, enabling further exploration of the topic in the classroom.

In addition to the school-based events, a special programme for children was organised at Agudat Israel in Moldova, bringing together approximately 30 young participants. This activity focused on the literary traditions of Jewish culture and aimed to encourage a love of reading. The programme included the presentation of new Jewish books for children, introducing both contemporary stories and classic texts. A key highlight was a friendly reading competition in which children shared presentations about their favourite books and reflected on what inspired them most. The children also took part in an educational session titled "Why Jews Are Often Called the People of the Book," which explored the cultural and historical importance of texts such as the Torah and the Talmud in Jewish life. The programme concluded with an awards ceremony celebrating



the most enthusiastic readers, who received new books as prizes to encourage continued engagement with literature.

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 activities organised by Agudat Israel din Moldova successfully combined education, literature, and cultural dialogue. By addressing different age groups and learning environments, the programme strengthened awareness of Jewish heritage, promoted intercultural understanding, and fostered a meaningful connection to shared cultural values.

On another level the second edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in the Republic of Moldova, held between 3 and 5 September 2025 under the theme People of the Book, reaffirmed Moldova's festival role as a major cultural platform for dialogue, memory, and artistic expression. Organised by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with the Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova, the programme unfolded in Chişinău and Bălţi and offered a rich and diverse series of events, including exhibitions, concerts, lectures, theatre, and community gatherings. The festival opened in Bălţi with the exhibition "Mein Shtetle Belz – My Dear Little Town, Bălţi," which invited audiences to rediscover the city's Jewish heritage through personal stories, historic landmarks, and reflections on collective memory. In Chişinău, the official opening was marked by a press conference and a gala concert by the National Symphony Orchestra, whose programme combined classical and contemporary works deeply connected to Jewish cultural memory. Educational dialogue continued through the cultural forum "Gesher," where lectures on Jewish diaspora history, Israeli cinema, and klezmer music culminated in an open-air concert and gastronomic encounter. The festival also featured a poetic-musical theatre performance inspired by the work of Nathan Alterman and concluded with the exhibition "Jerusalem – The Youth of the Eternal City," presenting Jerusalem as both a historic and living cultural space.

Altogether, this edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Moldova successfully strengthened cultural bridges, celebrated diversity, and highlighted Jewish heritage as an integral part of Europe's shared identity.

# Netherlands

B'NAI BRITH HILLEL AND NETWORK JEWISH HERITAGE NETHERLANDS

AMERSFOORT, AMSTERDAM, JOMA, DEVENTER, GOUDA, GRONINGEN, LEEK, MIDDELBURG, OVERVEEN, TIEL, TILBURG, WIERINGERMEER, WINSUM, ZUIDLAREN, ZWOLLE

15 cities 23 activities 3,000 participants



On 14 September 2025, the European Day of Jewish Cultural Heritage was celebrated across the Netherlands with a nationwide programme organised by B'nai Brith Hillel and the Network Jewish Heritage Netherlands, under the coordination of Vivian Collard. Under the annual theme People of the Book, 23 activities were implemented, attracting an estimated 2,800–3,000 visitors. The programme brought together a wide range of events, including commemorative initiatives such as Light of Remembrance in Amersfoort; scholarly lectures including People of the Book by Prof. Emile Schrijver, Crocodiles, matzos, and Kabbalah – the Haggadah through the centuries by Heide Warncke, and From story to story. Jewish parables as intangible heritage by Prof. Eric Ottenheim; and text-focused encounters such as the Mokumse Geniza lectures on ancient religious books. Exhibitions like From Remembering to Commemorating, Believing in Gouda, Edith, an ordinary girl from Gouda, and 30 years of “Een Joodse Erfenis Winsum” highlighted Jewish memory and identity, while guided tours and heritage walks explored synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, historic quarters, and memorial sites.

Musical and literary programmes, including An Ode to Etty and lectures such as Living between the lines, complemented educational activities dedicated to Jewish texts, rituals, and cultural transmission. Together, these events demonstrated the vitality and diversity of Jewish heritage in the Netherlands and confirmed the European Day of Jewish Cultural Heritage as a well-established and impactful initiative, strengthening public awareness, remembrance, and impactful initiative, contributing meaningfully to public awareness, intercultural dialogue, and the safeguarding of Jewish cultural heritage in the Netherlands.

# Poland

WARSAW, PŁOŃSK, ŁĘCZNA, BIAŁYSTOK

4 Cities 12 activities 590 participants

During the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 in Poland, held under the shared European theme “People of the Book,” a wide range of events highlighted the country’s rich Jewish literary, religious, and cultural heritage while encouraging intercultural dialogue and historical reflection. Activities across Polish cities included exhibitions, lectures, guided visits, and educational programmes exploring Jewish texts, traditions, and community life.

The Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning organised an educational workshop and thematic walk in Warsaw devoted to significant Polish Jewish literary figures who lived, worked, or were connected to the city. The initiative addressed the frequent absence of major Polish Jewish writers such as Julian Tuwim, Bolesław Leśmian, and Krzysztof Kamil Baczyński from both Polish and Jewish public awareness as literary figures of Jewish background. At the same time, it highlighted Jewish authors and poets including Jacob Dinezon, I.L. Peretz, and Isaac Bashevis Singer, who are often insufficiently recognised within Polish literary history as key personalities linked to Poland and its capital. By situating these writers within the shared urban context of Warsaw, where both Polish and Jewish literary masterpieces were created, the event sought to bridge cultural perspectives and promote a more integrated understanding of literary heritage.

The programme combined two expert-led components, each lasting approximately 90 minutes. The educational workshop took place at the organiser’s headquarters, located near the site where the Jewish Writers’ Union was based for much of the interwar period. Immediately afterwards, participants joined a thematic walk through city spaces associated with the featured literary figures, institutions, and historical events, allowing attendees to connect the discussed works and biographies with Warsaw’s physical and historical landscape.

Another highlighted initiative was the exhibition “Traces of Mezuzot – Windows into the Polish–Jewish World,” presented at the Ludwik Zamenhof Centre, which invited visitors to reflect on everyday Jewish religious symbols and their cultural meaning. Educational events and heritage presentations examined Jewish manuscripts, literature, and the



historical presence of Jewish communities in Poland, while public discussions and cultural encounters fostered awareness of shared European heritage and mutual understanding.

As part of this year's European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC), held under the inspiring theme "People of the Book", the Płońsk Memorial House will host a series of creative and educational workshops for children aged 6–10 from local kindergartens and schools.

At the Memorial House – a museum dedicated to the history of the town's Jewish community, a total of 8 workshop meetings will be held in September. Through engaging activities, storytelling, and art, children will discover the richness of Jewish culture and heritage connected to their town.

As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the City Hall of Łęczna, in cooperation with the Municipal Public Library named after Zbigniew Herbert, organized a special culinary workshop dedicated to Jewish cuisine. The event took place in the distinctive setting of the Great Synagogue in Łęczna, an important landmark of the region's cultural heritage, and was led by Hanna Kossowska, an artist, cultural promoter, and enthusiast of traditional Jewish cooking.

Participants explored the flavors, history, and symbolism of Jewish dishes while engaging with the town's multicultural heritage. Designed as an integrative, educational, and hands-on experience, the workshop not only introduced traditional recipes but also created space for intergenerational dialogue and shared cultural discovery. Through the collaboration between the City Hall and the Municipal Public Library, the initiative became both a culinary and cultural experience, connecting taste, tradition, and history in a single event.

Through these initiatives, Poland's participation in the European Days of Jewish Culture contributed to the broader European celebration of Jewish textual tradition, memory, and identity, emphasising the enduring role of the written word in preserving history and strengthening intercultural dialogue.

# Portugal

## OPORTO

3 activities 650 participants



The European Day of Jewish Culture in Porto was marked in 2025 by a rich and multifaceted programme that highlighted both the openness of Jewish heritage to the wider public and the power of interfaith dialogue. Through major public initiatives led by the Jewish Community of Oporto and HaMakom, hundreds of visitors and participants engaged with Jewish history, culture, texts, music, and memory across the city.

On Sunday, 7 September 2025, the Jewish Community of Oporto opened the doors of its key institutions—the Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue, the Jewish Museum of Oporto, the Holocaust Museum of Oporto, and the kosher restaurant Iberia—to the general public. This exceptional open day, the only one of the year, attracted hundreds of visitors eager to learn about Jewish life and heritage. The Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue, inaugurated in 1938 and the largest synagogue in the Iberian Peninsula, impressed visitors with its North African-inspired architecture, its art gallery depicting the history of Jews in Portugal, and the Rosh Pinah Library, home to more than 10,000 volumes. The synagogue's main hall hosted a performance by the Mekor Haim Choir, conducted by maestro Leonardo Mendonça, featuring songs in Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino, with contextual explanations provided by choir member Yonah Yaphe.

The Holocaust Museum of Oporto, usually reserved for school visits, welcomed a large and diverse audience. Visitors engaged with exhibitions tracing the journey of Jewish refugees through Oporto and viewed the powerful video testimony of Auschwitz survivor Chaya Lassmann. Reflections were shared by the Israeli Ambassador to Portugal, Oren Rozenblat, alongside the Director of the Jewish and Holocaust Museums, Michael Rothwell, and Josef Lassmann, Chaya's son, reinforcing the importance of remembrance and the transmission of memory. The Jewish Museum of Oporto further enriched the programme with exhibitions on Jewish presence in Portugal and film screenings—The Light of Judah, 2000 Kidnapped Jewish Children, and 1506 – The Lisbon Genocide—followed by lectures from historian César Santos Silva and an address by the Israeli Ambassador. The day concluded with a convivial cultural experience at the kosher restaurant Iberia, where visitors enjoyed traditional dishes such as shawarma and chullent. This marked the fourth consecutive

year that the Jewish Community of Oporto has taken part in the European Day of Jewish Culture, confirming its strong public resonance.



Complementing this large-scale public programme, HaMakom organised a meaningful ecumenical event in Porto that brought together the Reform Jewish community and the congregation of St. James Anglican Church in a shared celebration of Jewish texts, music, and dialogue. Held in the historic St. James Church, built in 1815, the event welcomed approximately 135 participants and filled the venue to capacity, creating a warm and engaged atmosphere that extended into the closing reception. A joint choir performance stood at the heart of the programme, highlighting music as a shared language and a bridge between communities. Rabbi Georgette and Father Colin alternated reflections on Jewish texts, offering complementary perspectives and demonstrating how sacred writings can inspire dialogue across faith traditions. A particularly moving moment occurred during the Torah reading, when nearly 40 participants stood behind the Torah, expressing collective respect for the written word and its enduring significance.

During the reception, guests explored panels on Jewish books from the National Library of Israel and engaged with educational materials, including Judaism 101 printouts, which were widely appreciated. In a gesture of gratitude and partnership, HaMakom presented the host church with a commemorative gift, and conversations throughout the evening pointed toward future collaboration between the two communities.

In the same context of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the Taybelekh Band from the United Kingdom brought an unforgettable celebration of Yiddish and Ladino music to Porto, blending soulful melodies with vibrant klezmer dances. Hosted at Clube Fenianos Portuenses and the Holocaust Museum of Porto, the event combined live performances with The Righteous exhibition — a tribute to Christians and Muslims who courageously saved lives during the Holocaust. Across three days of music, culture, and remembrance, audiences are invited to experience the enduring power of heritage and humanity.

A project by Director: David Hayes, Associate Director: Marcos Bazmandegan  
Together, these initiatives demonstrated the vitality and diversity of Jewish cultural life in Porto. By combining large-scale public engagement with intimate interfaith dialogue, the European Day of Jewish Culture in Porto successfully embodied the spirit of the initiative—using texts, music, memory, and shared experiences to foster understanding, mutual respect, and lasting cultural connections across communities.



# Romania

## TULCEA, SIGHETU MARMATIEI

6 activities 400 participants



As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, the city of Tulcea hosted a special cultural programme dedicated to the annual theme People of the Book, centred on music, heritage, and public access to Jewish culture. The main event took place on Wednesday, 12 November 2025, marking the Day of the Israelite Temple of Tulcea, and was held at the Templul Israelit din Tulcea, attracting approximately 120 participants. The event was organised in partnership with Asociația Culturală “Divas” and Tulcea City Hall, whose support contributed significantly to the visibility and success of the programme. The highlight of the evening was the concert “Misterele Operei” (The Mysteries of Opera), featuring celebrated pages from opera, operetta, and canzonettas. Through its carefully curated repertoire, the concert illustrated how music, much like the written word, serves as a powerful medium for storytelling, memory, and cultural transmission. The programme also included a visit to the Jewish History Museum of Tulcea, offering participants an opportunity to engage with the history of the local Jewish community and its contribution to the cultural life of the region. By opening both the synagogue and museum spaces to the wider public, the event strengthened awareness of Jewish heritage in Tulcea and encouraged dialogue and mutual understanding. Overall, the Tulcea celebration successfully translated the theme People of the Book into a multidisciplinary cultural experience, demonstrating how Jewish tradition is preserved and shared not only through texts, but also through music, performance, and living heritage.

Historically, Sighetu Marmăției has been one of the most significant centres of Jewish culture in northern Romania, renowned for its vibrant pre-war Jewish community, its rich intellectual and religious life, and its lasting contribution to Jewish memory and heritage, most notably as the birthplace of Elie Wiesel. Within this context, the European Days of Jewish Culture were marked in Sighetu Marmăției by a series of meaningful events organised by the Elie Wiesel Museum and the Tarbut Sighet Foundation, in cooperation with the Jewish Community of Sighet and several local cultural and educational institutions.

The programme included exhibitions, lectures, and artistic interventions that addressed themes of survival, memory, and the enduring power of the written word. The exhibition “We Won” offered a strong visual narrative of resilience and continuity, presenting stories of Jewish survival and renewal in the region. Literary and educational events such as “On Elie Wiesel and Jewish Books” highlighted the central role of books, testimony, and moral reflection in Jewish culture, linking local heritage to universal human values. The programme was further enriched by a Holocaust-focused perspective through the exhibition “Incomplete Landscape” which invited visitors to reflect on absence, loss, and the fragmented nature of remembrance.

Together, these events demonstrated how Sighetu Marmăției continues to serve as a vital space for Jewish cultural expression and remembrance, where history, literature, and collective memory intersect to foster dialogue, understanding, and cultural continuity in the spirit of the European Days of Jewish Culture.



# Serbia

Kragujevac, Belgrade, Novi Sad

8 activities 1,650 participants

In Serbia, the European Days of Jewish Culture were marked by a series of events organised in Belgrade, Novi Sad and Kragujevac, bringing Jewish heritage, learning, and cultural expression to different regional contexts while engaging diverse audiences with the annual theme People of the Book.

As part of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Community of Belgrade organised a series of four cultural and educational activities in Belgrade, engaging approximately 400 participants and marking the 2025 theme People of the Book. Audiences were invited to explore an exhibition developed by the National Library of Israel, which examined the central role of books in Jewish culture through their material forms, authors, journeys, sacred texts, and libraries. The opening evening also featured the concert “The Book in Song: Sephardic Music of the Balkans,” performed by the ensemble Šira Ufila with vocalist Branislava Podrumac, highlighting how musical traditions transmit stories, memory, and textual heritage. The programme continued at the Jewish Cultural Center with two workshops: “What Will Remain After You,” led by Isidora Jurjević on 11 September, and the Bet Midrash session “Akedat Yitzhak – Binding the Words of the Covenant,” led by Filip Belevski, which connected the biblical text read before Rosh Hashanah with the annual theme. Together, these activities offered a rich reflection on Jewish texts, interpretation, and cultural transmission, while promoting Jewish heritage and universal values and fostering dialogue between tradition and contemporary European cultural contexts.

At the same time the Jewish Community of Novi Sad organised a rich programme of eight activities in Novi Sad, held throughout September under the annual theme People of the Book and engaging approximately 250 participants. The programme highlighted the central role of texts, learning, wisdom, and tradition in Jewish culture through a balanced combination of educational, creative, and musical events hosted at key cultural venues in the city. A strong emphasis was placed on younger audiences through calligraphy workshops titled Calligraphic Magic, led by Gabriela Hajzler, which introduced children and



adolescents to the beauty of Hebrew letters and the artistic dimension of written tradition. Public lectures formed the intellectual core of the programme, addressing foundational Jewish texts and ideas, including reflections on the Tanakh as a source of morality and wisdom, the Sayings of Solomon as an expression of divine insight, the Psalms as a bridge between liturgy and literature, and Torah Chaim, offering insight into the role of Torah in daily Jewish life. These lectures were delivered by distinguished scholars and religious leaders, including Rabbi Yehoshua Kaminecki, Dr. Danilo Mihajlović, Dr. Gordana Todorić, and Isaac Asiel, Chief Rabbi of the Republic of Serbia. The programme was further enriched by a choral concert by the Hashira Choir of the Jewish Community of Novi Sad, held at the synagogue, which demonstrated how music serves as another form of textual and spiritual transmission. Altogether, the Novi Sad programme successfully embodied the theme People of the Book by connecting sacred texts, artistic expression, and contemporary reflection, while fostering intercultural dialogue and a deeper understanding of Jewish cultural heritage.



# Slovenia

LENDAVA/LENDVA, MARIBOR, MURSKA SOBOTA, NAGYKANIZSA (HU), NEGOVA, NOVA GORICA – GORICA/GORIZIA (IT), PTUJ, ŠALOVCI – DOMANJŠEVCI/DOMONKOSFA, LUBLIJANA

11 cities 36 activities 5,000 participants



In 2025, Slovenia marked the European Days of Jewish Culture with particular significance, celebrating its 20th consecutive participation in this important pan-European initiative. The anniversary edition was embraced with enthusiasm by organisers and audiences alike and was implemented under the annual theme People of the Book. As in previous years, the programme offered a rich and diverse array of cultural, educational, and artistic events that highlighted Jewish history, languages, texts, and heritage, while encouraging dialogue and engagement with wider audiences.

Under the coordination of the Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor, Slovenian organisers jointly realised 32 events, attracting approximately 5,000 visitors. Activities took place across multiple locations, including Lendava/Lendva, Maribor, Murska Sobota, Ptuj, Negova, Šalovci–Domanjševci/Domonkosfa, and Nova Gorica–Gorizia, with additional cross-border events organised in Nagykanizsa (Hungary). The programme included open-doors days, exhibitions and exhibition openings, lectures, round-table discussions, book presentations, interactive and dance workshops, guided tours, theatre and puppet performances, and concerts, offering varied entry points for audiences of all ages.

Several activities directly addressed the 2025 theme People of the Book, including the Hebrew writing workshop “The Basics of Hebrew Language and Its Peculiarities,” the exhibition “Jewish Languages” (created by the National Library of Israel), the presentation of the scholarly monograph “Citing and Researching Biblical, Jewish, and Early Christian Written Sources,” and the round-table discussion “Spelling Rules for Translating Hebrew.” These programmes foregrounded Jewish textual traditions, linguistic diversity, and scholarly engagement with written sources. At the same time, additional events invited visitors to explore broader aspects of Jewish history, culture, and heritage through artistic and historical perspectives.

City of Ljubljana

SINAGOGA

CENTER JUDOVSKÉ KULTURNE  
DEDIŠČINE SINAGOGA MARIBOR





With the lecture “The Sarajevo Haggadah. Habent sua fata libelli,” the Slovenian programme also joined the Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage initiative, supported by the AEPJ and the Combat Antisemitism Movement, further embedding the national programme within wider European frameworks of remembrance and cultural responsibility. Two events extended the geographical and conceptual scope of the programme: a commemorative event in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, and a guided tour of Jewish heritage sites in the Goriška region, integrated into the programme of the European Capital of Culture Nova Gorica–Gorizia, highlighting the potential of interregional and cross-border cooperation.

The organisers of the EDJC 2025 events in Slovenia were: Zavod Košček sreče; Zavod za turizem, šport in kulturo Šalovci; Občina Šalovci; Madžarska samoupravna narodna skupnost Občine Šalovci; Center judovske kulturne dediščine Sinagoga Maribor; Kulturna četrt Židovska; Embassy of the Republic of Poland to Slovenia; Żydowskie Muzeum Galicja, Krakow; Mariborska knjižnica; Univerzitetna knjižnica Maribor; Mladinska knjiga Založba; Teološka fakulteta Univerze v Ljubljani, Enota v Mariboru; Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije; Inštitut za slovenski jezik Frana Ramovša ZRC SAZU; Pomurski muzej Murska Sobota; Muzej Međimurja Čakovec; Pokrajinska in študijska knjižnica Murska Sobota; Muzej novejšje in sodobne zgodovine Slovenije; GO! 2025 – Evropska prestolnica kulture, Nova Gorica – Gorizia; Zavod za kulturo, turizem in promocijo Gornja Radgona, Grad Negova; Embassy of the Republic of Slovakia to Slovenia; Slovenské národné múzeum – Múzeum židovskej kultúry, Bratislava; Nagykanizsai Zsidó Hitközség; Holocaustt Emlékközpont, Budapest; Zveza kulturnih društev Lendava; Kulturno društvo Lendava; Galerija–Muzej Lendava, Sinagoga Lendava – slovenski muzej holokavsta; Agencija Tosch; Hotel Mitra Ptuj.

Although visitor numbers remained comparable to previous years, the strong interest, openness, and engagement of audiences reaffirmed the relevance of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Slovenia. The 2025 edition demonstrated the vitality of Jewish heritage within contemporary cultural life and encouraged organisers to continue developing innovative, interactive, and inclusive programmes for future editions of the festival.

# Spain

21 cities 60 activities 3,183 participants



In Spain, the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 unfolded from 7 September through late November, demonstrating the broad engagement of Spanish cities and communities with the festival's People of the Book theme, which invites reflection on the enduring role of written texts, manuscripts, and literary traditions in Jewish culture and their interconnections with wider European heritage. Across the country, a diverse set of activities was offered, including exhibitions, guided tours, concerts, performances, workshops, lectures, and heritage visits that celebrated Jewish historical memory and cultural expression. Several municipalities participated intensively in the celebration: in Lorca, the Jornadas Europeas de la Cultura Judía – El Pueblo del Libro featured guided visits to the historic judería and synagogue, interactive workshops, theatrical experiences, gastronomic offerings, and an exhibition of archival documents, emphasising the local Sephardic legacy and its integration into Spanish cultural history. In Jaén, the municipal cultural programme presented music events and related activities that invited audiences to engage with Jewish cultural expression in contemporary artistic formats. Other cities, including Lucena, Tui, Calahorra, and Monforte de Lemos, joined the festival with rich local programming such as urban heritage walks, theatrical and musical presentations, gastronomic experiences, and interactive historical activities that wove together storytelling, food, music, and the written word in ways resonant with the People of the Book theme.

Throughout September, some remarkable locations and events took place. Lorca hosted the European Days of Jewish Culture under the theme “People of the Book,” highlighting the town’s rich Sephardic heritage. Activities included guided tours of the medieval Jewish quarter, the 15th-century synagogue, CIUFRONT, and the Archaeological Museum, along with theatrical visits, children’s workshops, and a Sephardic gastronomy experience. A new exhibition, Written Memory of the Jewish Presence in Lorca, displayed original municipal



EXCMO. AYUNTAMIENTO DE TARAZONA



CAMINOS DE SEFARAD

RED DE JUDERÍAS DE ESPAÑA



Ayuntamiento de Lucena

TURISMO



CAMINOS DE SEFARAD

RED DE JUDERÍAS DE ESPAÑA



aePJ  
jewishheritage



documents revealing daily life in the medieval community. As part of Spain's Red de Juderías, Lorca promoted its uniquely preserved synagogue and cultural legacy, complemented by an Instagram contest encouraging visitors to share their experience.

Cáceres celebrated the 26th European Days of Jewish Culture on 7 September, presenting a programme focused on the theme "People of the Book," which highlighted the literary legacy of Sephardic culture and its role in preserving identity and traditions.

Lucena presented a new edition of Sephardic September, a programme of activities held within the European Days of Jewish Culture under the shared theme "People of the Book," celebrated simultaneously across dozens of countries and Red de Judería. Throughout September, the free programme combined gastronomy, heritage tours, literature, music, lectures, theatrical performances, and literary gatherings to deepen understanding of the city's Sephardic past and promote intercultural dialogue. Tastings linked to Sephardic tradition and expert talks on Hebrew studies complemented guided routes and cultural events. An exhibition at the Palace of the Counts of Santa Ana offered an inclusive perspective on Jewish heritage and its contribution to modern Europe.

Monforte de Lemos marked the European Day of Jewish Culture on 7 September with two free guided tours exploring the city's historic Jewish area, departing from the Tourist Office at 11:30 and 18:00. Led by local researcher Felipe Aira and lasting about ninety minutes, the visits formed part of the municipal Summer Cultural program. As a member of the Network of Jewish Quarters of Spain, Monforte highlighted its medieval heritage and the legacy of its Hebrew community. Held under the theme "People of the Book," the initiative



emphasised Jewish tradition as a living library preserved through storytelling, study, and dialogue, celebrating a shared cultural legacy.

In September, within the same context, Sagunto held the sixth edition of Sephardic September, highlighting Jewish heritage through Sephardic cuisine, guided night tours of the Jewish quarter, cultural performances, and an interactive digital city game. The initiative promoted awareness of the city's Sephardic legacy while encouraging cultural tourism and community participation.

The wide geographic participation, spanning traditional Jewish quarters and broader cultural centres, reflected both the historic depth of Jewish presence in Spain and the ongoing commitment of Spanish communities to celebrate and share Jewish heritage with a general public, fostering intercultural dialogue, understanding, and appreciation of shared European identities.

# Sweden

## STOCKHOLM

6 activities 100 participants

The European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) 2025 in Sweden were officially launched in Stockholm, highlighting the city's key role in promoting Jewish heritage, intercultural dialogue, and cultural exchange. The programme was organized by the Jewish Community in Stockholm in cooperation with Paideia folkhögskola and Paideia – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden, with support from Kulturrådet and Stockholm Stad. All activities were offered with free entrance, ensuring accessibility and broad community participation.

A total of six main activities were presented throughout the day, attracting approximately 100 participants. The programme reflected the 2025 EDJC theme, People of the book, encouraging dialogue, cultural understanding, and community connection.

The day opened with a family concert by Anne Kalmering & Stahlhammer Klezmer Classic, offering audiences of all ages a joyful introduction to klezmer and Jewish musical traditions.

The Opening Ceremony, delivered in English and featuring an AEPJ representative, welcomed participants and presented the vision and objectives of the European Day of Jewish Culture.

Parallel educational programming included a Golem workshop for children, led by author Samuel Adler, combining storytelling, discussion, and creative activities that allowed children to create their own golem figures.

Rabbi Eiran Davies presented People of the Book – The Book of People, offering reflections on central Jewish texts and the figures who have shaped Jewish thought.

A panel discussion organised by Paideia, Finding the Courage – Writing about Jewish Experiences in a Polarised Time, explored creative writing as a means of expressing Jewish identity and experience. Writers shared personal insights and practical guidance for emerging authors.

Following a traditional fika break, participants attended Together Through Life: My Jewish Relationship with Bob Dylan, an interactive session blending seminar, comedy, music, and sing-along elements to explore Bob Dylan's work through a Jewish cultural lens.

The day also featured a shared viewing of Swedishkayt – YidLife Crisis in Sweden, a documentary-style comedy exploring Jewish culture, Yiddish language revival, and identity in Sweden.

The programme concluded with closing remarks reflecting on the day's themes of cultural continuity, dialogue, and community connection.

Through its diverse programme of music, education, discussion, and cultural engagement, the Stockholm launch successfully fostered intercultural dialogue and strengthened awareness of Jewish heritage in Sweden. The events provided participants with meaningful opportunities to engage with Jewish culture while reinforcing the broader European mission of promoting understanding, combating prejudice, and celebrating cultural diversity.



# Switzerland

**BADEN, BASEL, BERN, ENDINGEN-LENGNAU, GENEVA,  
LAUSANNE, LA CHAUX-DE-FONDS AND ZURICH**

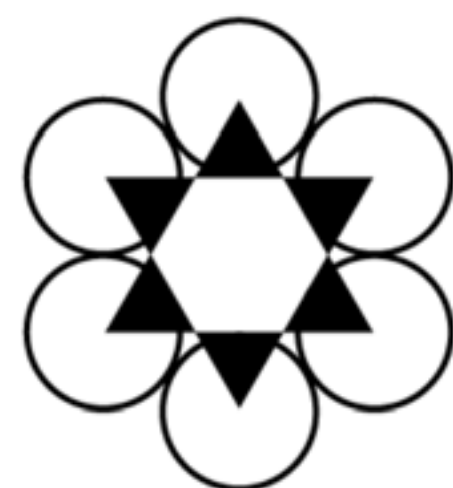
**8 cities 5 Activities 1,600 participants**

The European Day of Jewish Culture 2025, were received very positive—even enthusiastic—in Switzerland. The programs were well attended, engaging, and diverse. The organizers in Baden, Basel, Bern, Endingen–Lengnau, Geneva, Lausanne, La Chaux–de–Fonds and Zurich were very pleased with the number of visitors.

The two city tours in Baden and Zurich drew great interest, as did the concerts at the Jewish Museum of Switzerland and in the Endingen Synagogue. Film screenings also attracted many visitors: at the Israelitische Gemeinde Basel, the silent film *Der Golem* (1920) was accompanied by impressive live music, while the Israelitische Cultusgemeinde Zurich showed *Wilder Urlaub*, based on the novel by Kurt Guggenheim. The “Schauplatz Brunngasse” featured themed guided tours, and in Basel, Geneva, La Chaux–de–Fonds and Lausanne, synagogues opened their doors to the public.

A special highlight was the unveiling of the newly designed façade of the new Jewish Museum of Switzerland, which presents with Frank Stella’s artwork *Jeziory* an architectural interpretation of an important work from the Polish Village series. For the vernissage—the opening of the new museum’s inaugural events in the last week of November at Vesalgasse 5 in Basel—numerous representatives of the City of Basel, the Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities, various Jewish communities, and Basel’s museums attended. More than 500 guests took part in the museum’s events.

Altogether, around 1,600 visitors attended this year’s European Day of Jewish Culture. A great thank you and a huge success for all the participating institutions, for their great commitment and attractive programs.



**JÜDISCHES  
MUSEUM  
SCHWEIZ**

European Days of Jewish Culture



# Ukraine

## LVIV

8 activities 400 participants

Within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025, a rich programme of events took place in Lviv and the surrounding region.

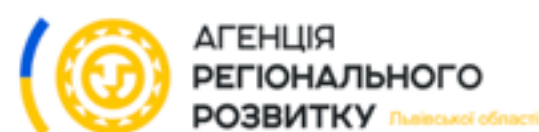
In Lviv, NGO “Lemberik” organised two city tours — “Jewish Lviv through the Prism of Literary Works” — offered in both Ukrainian and English. The Regional Development Agency of Lviv Region led a regional tour to Zhovkva and Drohobych, dedicated to renowned Jewish writers and publishers whose work was closely connected to the Lviv region.

Participants also visited the museum “By the Traces of Galician Jews” at the Hesed–Arjeh Jewish Charity Foundation, where they were introduced to its unique and compelling exhibits.

A series of outstanding lectures enriched the program. At the UFOTO Photo Museum — whose exhibition received special admiration — attendees learned about the restoration of Jewish written artifacts, including ketubahs, mezuzahs, and Torah scrolls, each with its own remarkable history. Another engaging lecture, “Sepher vs. Bukh,” held at the Center for Urban History, explored representations of the masculine and feminine in Jewish literature.

A symbolic and highly successful pairing of events took place at the Honorary Consulate of the State of Israel in the Western Region of Ukraine: the opening of the exhibition “People of the Book” from the National Library of Israel (presented by NGO “Hillel Lviv”), alongside a musical gathering featuring the festival’s special guest — singer, actor, professor, and renowned Yiddish scholar Yuri Vedenyapin (USA/Poland), who has worked at Harvard, Cambridge, and other world-famous institutions.

He traveled specifically to support the initiative with his concert “Sholem!”, which became the culmination of the European Days of Jewish Culture in Lviv and the Lviv region. The performance united musicians, dancers, and singers in celebrating and promoting the rich Jewish cultural heritage for the Lviv audience.



European Days of Jewish Culture



# United Kingdom

LONDON, GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL

835 participants

The 2025 European Days of Jewish Culture and Heritage in the United Kingdom featured a wide-ranging programme of lectures, tours, exhibitions, workshops, and community events that explored the theme “People of the Book.” Activities were organized by cultural institutions, heritage sites, synagogues, museums, and community groups across the country, highlighting Jewish history, literature, faith, and cultural contributions within British and wider European contexts. From scholarly conversations and guided walks to open days, exhibitions, and family history workshops, the programme encouraged intercultural dialogue and public engagement while showcasing the richness and diversity of Jewish heritage.

Among the flagship events was B’nai B’rith UK’s national online conversation, “Abraham as You Have Never Known Him,” featuring lawyer and author Anthony Julius in discussion with Rabbi Michael Pollak, alongside numerous local initiatives that connected audiences with Jewish history, literature, architecture, and communal life. Together, these activities demonstrated the continued vitality of Jewish cultural heritage in the UK and the importance of preserving and sharing it with broad and diverse audiences.

An ‘In Conversation’ on zoom between lawyer and author, Anthony Julius (on the right in the photo below), and his long-time friend, Rabbi Michael Pollak, was B’nai B’rith UK’s main event on Sunday 19 October, for their annual Jewish Heritage Days 2025 on the theme ‘People of the Book’. The event was hosted by Rebecca Taylor, editor of Jewish Renaissance magazine, media partner of B’nai B’rith UK.

During the event, Anthony was interviewed about his latest book, ‘Abraham: The First Jew’, which has already garnered high praise from authors such as Simon Sebag Montefiore: “Fascinating and profound, scholarly and playful, philosophical and aesthetic, Anthony Julius’s Abraham is an original and compelling hybrid that brings Abraham to life and through him discusses the nature of faith and his own personal philosophy” and Sir Stephen Fry: “Learned, rich in revelation, beautifully articulated and researched. In an age when the phrase ‘the Abrahamic religions’ is



tossed about with ease, it is more than fascinating to follow Anthony Julius's meditations on the man himself."

Anthony spoke very eloquently about the origins of the fundamental struggle within Judaism and the way he described Abraham's life as two separate lives, before and after his monotheistic belief. In this new biography of Abraham – Judaism's foundational figure – Anthony offers an account of the origins of a fundamental struggle within Judaism between scepticism and faith, critique and affirmation, thinking for oneself and thinking under the direction of another.

Julius describes Abraham's first life as an early adulthood of questioning the polytheism of his home city of Ur Kasdim until its ruler, Nimrod, condemns him to death and he is rescued, he believes, by a miracle. In his second life, Abraham's focus is no longer on critique but rather on conversion and on his leadership over his growing household, until God's command that he sacrifice his son Isaac. This test, the Akedah (or 'Binding'), ends with another miracle, as he believes, but as Julius argues, it is also a catastrophe for Abraham. The Akedah represents for him an unsurpassed horizon – and in Jewish life thereafter. This book focuses on Abraham as leader of the first Jewish project, Judaism, and the unresolvable, insurmountable crisis that the Akedah represents – both in his leadership and in Judaism itself.

Over 80 people from across the Jewish spectrum including other faiths, attended the event. As a lifelong friend of Anthony, Rabbi Michael's excellent questions and interaction with Anthony prompted many questions from the audience, which also gave plenty to think about in this stimulating conversation.

Alan Miller, President of B'nai B'rith UK, who welcomed both guests and all attendees to the event, said: "We were delighted with the large number of attendees to our flagship zoom event and would like to thank our esteemed guests, Anthony Julius and Rabbi Michael Pollak, both of whom provided a lively and thought provoking 'In Conversation', enjoyed by us all, including some interesting questions from the audience."



### CHC Heritage Day 2025



Psalms from the bimah filled the Synagogue which looked beautiful as Alan, Geoff and Jessica sang, entertaining their Heritage audience. 'Beautiful singing' wrote our guests. Members engaged fully with the visitors who recorded that they had had very interesting conversations.



William Hill Knight, the architect of our Synagogue aged only 22, was the focus of Neela Mann's talk. He went on to design 43 further buildings. The schools he designed had high windows so the children would not be distracted from their studies.



Dr Steve Blake encouraged us to visit Cheltenham's surviving non-conformist chapels as he described such buildings, most of which were illustrated in Rowe's Illustrated Cheltenham Guide of 1845.

Anthony Julius is Deputy Chairman at international law firm Mishcon de Reya and holds the Chair in Law and Arts in the Faculty of Laws, UCL. As a lawyer, he is best known for his successful defence of historian Deborah Lipstadt in the libel case brought by David Irving. As a scholar, he is the author of the widely praised 'Trials of the Diaspora: A History of Anti-Semitism in England', amongst other books.

Rabbi Michael Pollak studied at City of London School. He spent three years at the legendary Chevron Yeshiva in Jerusalem and subsequently he graduated in Philosophy at the London School of Economics. He works as a consultant in education for the UJIA, London School of Jewish Studies and Partnership for Jewish Schools, whilst teaching Daf Hayomi at the Ner Yisrael Community Centre and Ethics and Religion at Hendon School. He is also the Director of Education at Yad Vashem UK.

### Go London Tours

London tour guide Rachel Kolsky reported that she had a full house once again of nearly 25 attendees for her guided walk, 'Radicals to Rinkoff's'. This ever-popular tour with Rachel and Esther Rinkoff explored Jewish Whitechapel including synagogues, bakers and Boris the photographer but also the radical history of the East End's revolutionaries and activists including the Siege of Sidney Street, Rachel's favourite anarchist couple, Rudolph Rocker and Millie Witcop and the 20th century rent strikes.

### B'nai B'rith UK – Yad B'Yad Lodge

Yad B'Yad Lodge had 45 attendees to their talk 'Jews and the Shtetl' by Graeme Kirk.



### **Worth Park History Society**

Worth Park was open to the public once again this year. Worth Park is a 40-acre public park on the East side of Crawley, West Sussex. The formal gardens that surrounded Worth Park Mansion and laid out in the 1880's have been restored to the Victorian splendour of yesteryear, creating a unique gem that is enjoyed by many today. The Italianate Terraces, geometric forms and Camellia Corridor, meadow and lake area are all maintained by their excellent garden team and volunteers. The former stables to Worth Park Mansion houses the Visitor Centre where visitors can find displays on history of the park and the Montefiore family. The former stable complex was built to compliment the mansion. Built in 1882 it is now Grade 2 listed. Jame Pulham and Sons laid out the formal features of the garden while in the lake there is a Pulhamite Islet and stonework on the larger island. A Fern Rockery has been restored at the former carriage turning circle to the mansion.

### **National Trust – Nymans**

Nymans mounted a small display about the Messel family's Jewish background and their collections for most of the month of September. They had an average of 400 visitors in the building per day, with over 100 visiting the display. They said they liked the way this year's display worked. It was low key and as it was in a quiet room apart from the rest of the house it provided a bit of an escape from the business of the property.

### **Manchester Jewish Museum**

The museum mounted an exhibition: 'Adapting to Change: The artwork of Beverley-Jane Stewart'. As communities evolve, so do the stories within them. Beverley-Jane Stewart captured these shifts in the communal life of a city by taking synagogues as a starting point to trace the





changes in the lives of the people around them. Manchester Jewish Museum proudly presented three of Stewart's series of paintings: 'Synagogue Series: An intimate invitation into some of the UK's most remarkable places of worship', 'Jewish Visual Stories: A compelling chronicle of change within British Jewish communities' and 'Beyond the Ashes: A poignant exploration of destroyed synagogues across the Middle East and their enduring Sephardi connections'.

### B'nai B'rith UK – Yitzchak Rabin Lodge

15 people attended a coach outing to Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham. Strawberry Hill House is Grade I listed, set in a Grade II listed landscape created by Horace Walpole in the 18th century. This extraordinary building is internationally famous as Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic revival architecture and home to an increasingly important collection of paintings and objects.

### B'nai B'rith UK – First Unity Lodge

First Unity Lodge held a fascinating talk: 'Titus Flavius Josephus' given by Jonathan Bergwerk. Over 50 people attended the in person talk.

### Cheltenham Synagogue

The Synagogue held two talks in one day on subjects varying from the architect William Hill Knight to Cheltenham's surviving non-conformist chapels. Over 70 people attended the talks in total. Articles on the talks were written for the shul's newsletter including this piece on the left.



# Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage 2025

Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage, the new initiative of the European Days of Jewish Culture, was launched at the end of 2024 with the objective of leveraging Jewish heritage and culture in European cities as a strategic tool to counter antisemitism, foster social inclusion, and strengthen intercultural dialogue. Its mission is to activate the rich layers of Jewish history embedded in urban spaces as a meaningful response to antisemitism, hate speech, and ignorance. By illuminating the historic and contemporary contributions of Jewish communities to European society, the project aims to promote understanding, cooperation, and mutual respect among diverse populations.

The Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage 2025 initiative was implemented across 20 European cities in 12 countries, strengthening municipal engagement with Jewish heritage, culture, and contemporary Jewish life. Participating cities included Ljubljana, L' Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Biatorbágy, Vilnius, Miskolc, Kragujevac, Łęczna, Glasgow, Großwarasdorf, Cavailon, Lviv, Magdeburg, Białystok, Lackenbach, Płock, Tarazona, Fermo, Maribor, Bonn, and Lucena.

Across these locations, the programme delivered a wide range of activities, including concerts, exhibitions, lectures, guided heritage tours, educational workshops for children and adults, literary events, film screenings, and interfaith gatherings and discussions. Activities were embedded within the European Days of Jewish Culture.

In total, the initiative reached over 465,000 people.

A significant outcome of the 2025 programme was the expansion of the EDJC network, with multiple new partner cities and institutions joining the initiative. New partners included municipalities, cultural departments, public museums, libraries, etc., across Europe.

Key highlights included first time Jewish cultural events in newly engaged cities, strong municipal leadership and cross sector partnerships, high visibility concerts and festivals reaching mass audiences, innovative educational formats for children, youth, and educators, sustained dialogue on antisemitism, memory, and contemporary Jewish life.

Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage 2025 solidly demonstrated the growing commitment of European cities to safeguarding Jewish heritage, promoting cultural diversity, and embedding Jewish life within local cultural policies and public spaces

**NUMBER OF EVENTS PER COUNTRY**

Austria, 2  
 France, 2  
 Germany, 5  
 Hungary, 2  
 Italy, 4  
 Lithuania, 1  
 Poland, 11  
 Serbia, 10  
 Slovenia, 10  
 Spain, 9  
 UK, 1  
 Ukraine, 2

**NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER COUNTRY**

Austria, 130  
 France, 210  
 Germany, 225  
 Hungary, 250  
 Italy, 100  
 Lithuania, 330,000  
 Poland, 590  
 Serbia, 1,000  
 Slovenia, 477  
 Spain, 183  
 UK, 400  
 Ukraine, 345

**NEW CITY OF EDJC**

Biatorbágy, Hungary  
 Białystok, Poland  
 Bonn, Germany  
 Cavaillon, France  
 Großwarasdorf, Austria  
 Lackenbach, Austria  
 L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France  
 Lviv, Ukraine  
 Łęczna, Poland  
 Magdeburg, Germany  
 Miskolc, Hungary  
 Płock, Poland  
 Fermo, Italy

# Ljubljana, Slovenia



Department of Culture, City of Ljubljana, in partnership with Jewish Cultural Center and Mini Theatre Ljubljana, organised the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025. The event featured a vibrant, diverse programme that celebrated Jewish history, music, theatre, literature, and cuisine. Highlights included concerts by Nani Vazana and Kontrakvartet, a beloved children's puppet show *Vampirček gre v šolo*, and a creative culinary programme featuring "Slovenian hummus." Guided tours of the Jewish Museum, Cultural Center, and Jewish Ljubljana drew strong interest, including participation from the German and British embassies. Lectures and performances exploring Jewish heritage and family stories deeply resonated with audiences. "The EDJC 2025 confirmed its role as the central platform for Jewish cultural expression in Slovenia, offering artistic excellence, historical depth, and community engagement. Its successful realization underlines how essential it is to protect cultural diversity," Dejan Tešovič, Department of Culture, City of Ljubljana.



# Maribor, Slovenia



The Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor is a public institution dedicated to researching, preserving, interpreting, and promoting Jewish history, culture, and heritage. As part of its ongoing cultural and educational program, and within the framework of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2025 and the Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage initiative, the Center began preparations for an exhibition on Jewish books, presenting key works from the Jewish literary tradition in several thematic sections. As an introduction to the upcoming exhibition, Boris Hajdinjak, co-author of the exhibition, delivered a lecture entitled “The Sarajevo Haggadah. Habent sua fata libelli (Books Have Their Own Destiny)”. The lecture focused on the Sarajevo Haggadah as one of the most significant Jewish books, addressing its content, artistic value, and remarkable historical journey. The event was accompanied by a short promotional video, which will be made publicly available on the Synagogue Maribor YouTube channel.

# L'isle-Sur-La-Sorgue, France

**ÉT AUSSI ...**

**TOUR D'ARGENT – HÔTEL DE BRANCAS – CINÉ SUR LA SORGUE – CHAPELLE DES PENITENTS BLEUS – GRENIER PUBLIC – NANOCHAPELLE**  
 Samedi 20 septembre : 10H > 19H  
 et dimanche 21 septembre : 10H > 18H  
 Sites ouverts dans le cadre de l'exposition « L'Art en Grand » Festival Partage des Arts - Entrée libre - [www.partagedesarts.com](http://www.partagedesarts.com)

**CONFRÉRIE DES PESCAÏRE LIEN**  
 Samedi 20 septembre : 9H > 13H  
 Visite commentée du bastidon des Pescaïre lien et de son patrimoine lié à la Sorgue et ses « cabanons » utilisés par les pêcheurs des siècles derniers à L'Isle - Entrée gratuite  
 ☝ Partage des eaux

**LA FILAVENTURE BRUN DE VIAN-TIRAN**  
 Musée de la Manufacture Brun de Vian Tiran  
 Samedi 20 septembre : 10H > 12H30 / 14H30 > 19H  
 dimanche 21 septembre : 12H > 19H  
 ☝ Avenue de la Libération  
 Entrée gratuite - [www.laflaventure.com](http://www.laflaventure.com)

**FONDATION VILLA DATRIS POUR LA SCULPTURE CONTEMPORAINE**  
 Exposition « Engagées »  
 Samedi 20 septembre  
 11H > 13H / 14H > 18H : visite libre de l'exposition  
 11 H : visite guidée des jardins  
 16H : visite guidée tout public  
 21H : visite guidée nocturne  
 Journée portes ouvertes en partenariat avec le Planning familial de Vaucluse :  
 14H : atelier arpentage (méthode de lecture collective d'un livre engagé)  
 16H : table ronde, présentation du planning familial et de ses actions  
 Dimanche 21 septembre  
 11H > 18H : visite libre de l'exposition  
 11H : visite guidée tout public  
 14H : atelier créatif  
 ☝ 7 avenue des Quatre Otages  
 Entrée libre - Visites et ateliers sur réservation  
[www.fondationvilladatriss.fr](http://www.fondationvilladatriss.fr)

**PLAN**

- 1 Collégiale Notre-Dame des Anges
- 2 Nanochapelle
- 3 Tour d'argent
- 4 Brancas / Ciné sur la Sorgue
- 5 Chapelle des Penitents bleus
- 6 Grenier public
- 7 Place de la Juiverie
- 8 Ancienne Charité
- 9 Campredon art & image
- 10 Filaventure Brun de Vian-Tiran
- 11 Fondation Villa Datriis

**PROGRAMME**

ANIMATIONS GRATUITES - DÉCOUVERTES  
 VISITES COMMENTÉES - RENCONTRES  
 CONFÉRENCES - EXPOSITIONS - CONCERT  
 VISITE EN MUSIQUE - VISITE TACTILE

The Heritage Department of L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, in partnership with the JECPJ Association, organised several events as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture. These included a guided tour of the Jewish cemetery; a guided visit to the former Jewish quarter, featuring a presentation of the ongoing restoration work on the staircase of the 18th-century Beaucaire building—a rare vestige of Judeo-Comtadin housing from the time of the “Pope’s Jews”; and a concert of Jewish music performed by the Pioche Quintet.

Participants had the opportunity to discover the remains of the old synagogue, unearthed during archaeological excavations between 2020 and 2022, stroll through the Beaucaire building, and preview the restoration works before attending the concert. The afternoon concluded with an aperitif, allowing guests to continue their exchanges and bringing this rainy yet unanimously appreciated gathering to a warm and friendly close.



# Cavaillon, France

**MANCHE 26 OCTOBRE**  
(à l'occasion des Journées Européennes de la Culture et de Patrimoine juif 2023)

**MAÇONNERIE ET FRANC-MAÇONNERIE CHEZ LES JUIFS DU PAPE\***  
L'ANCIENNE SYNAGOGUE. EXPOSITION

**INFÉRENCES**  
horaires et interventions  
nuit à venir

ANGES DÉMONS  
ENCHANTEMENTS  
VS LES APPLAÛTES  
BRANQUES DU MUSÉE DE  
CAVAILLON

Esma ABATE historienne,  
richeur scientifique pour  
ST-CNRS et maître de  
séances à l'Université de  
Lyon.

LES FRÈRES BÉDARRIDES  
LE RITE MORAUM

Grigore HUGOT,  
le au Musée de la Franc-  
maçonnerie de Paris, spécialiste  
présentant des rituels  
secrets : Margite-Miriam.

**ATELIER ENFANT  
AUTOUR DU GOLEM**

Les enfants ne seront pas  
oubliés lors de cette journée.  
En s'inspirant de la légende du  
Golem contée par la médiatrice  
culturelle de la Ville, ils auront  
l'opportunité de créer leur  
propre protecteur magique en  
argile !

\* Rite 2<sup>e</sup> étage de la salle  
du Moulin

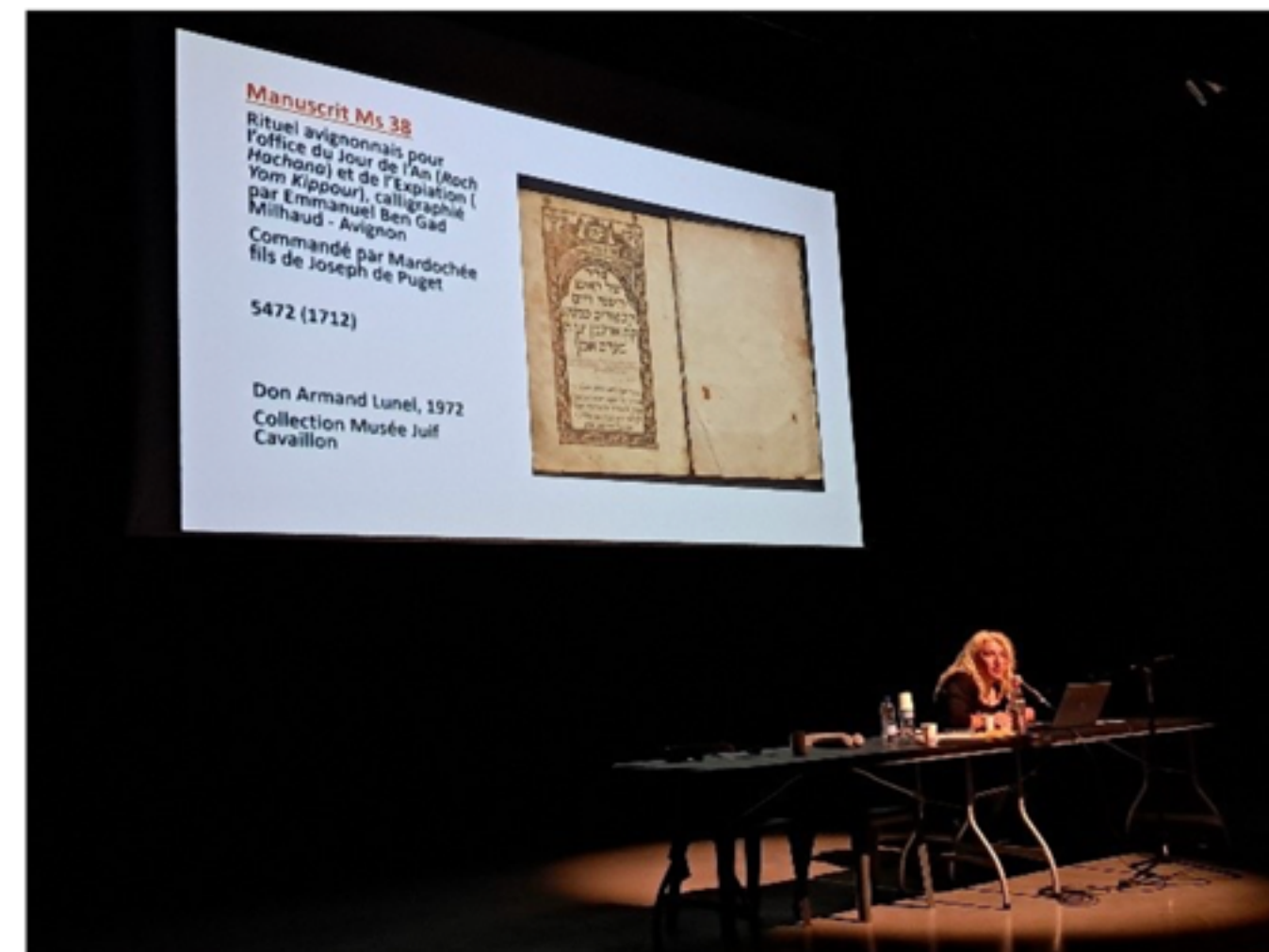
Manifestation organisée par le Conseil de l'Europe, JEPJ, le CAM, les JEPJ-France.

aejp



The event "Magic, Kabbalah, and Freemasonry among the Pope's Jews" brought together over 200 participants for four scholarly lectures exploring the spiritual, cultural, and intellectual life of the Pope's Jews. Speakers highlighted their unique Avignon rite; their familiarity with Kabbalistic texts found in the synagogue's hidden genizah, and examples such as an 18th-century Kabbalistic amulet commissioned by Rebecca, daughter of Deborah. The event also examined how this tradition of learning may have influenced the presence of Jewish Freemasons in 19th century Cavaillon. An accompanying exhibition of Kabbalistic books and Freemasonic garments at the synagogue attracted around fifty visitors. The day concluded with a children's workshop on creating clay golems while parents attended the lectures.

The European Days of Jewish Culture event was organised by the Heritage and Museums Department of the City of Cavaillon in partnership with Collectivité de Cavaillon, Association of the Friends of the Synagogue, Association of the Pope's Jews, JEPJ France, UNESCO and more.



# Biatorbágy, Hungary

**A BIA-TORBÁGYI ZSIDÓSÁG NYOMÁBAN**  
HELYTÖRTÉNETI SÉTA

Office on the web Frame  
2025. SZEPTEMBER 27. 14 óra

**Gyülekező** a séta első állomásán,  
az Aranykereszt Gyógyszertár  
előtt - Szabadság út 14.

**Vezeti:**  
Bihari Zoltán szociológus  
Tótpál Judit DLA építész

**A séta útvonala:**  
Szabadság út (József Attila utca saroktól) → Szentháromság tér → Emlékhely  
a Gólyafészek Bölcsődénél előtti tér → Nagy utca → Óvoda köz → Nagy utca →  
Kálvin tér → Csokonai köz → Dobó köz → Régi zsidó temető

**A séta hossza:** 2,5 km **Ideje:** 3 óra  
Az állomások érintik az egykori zsidó lakosság otthonait, üzleteit, imaházát,  
temetőjét *A bia-torbágyi zsidóság nyomában* leporelló alapján. Nyolc kiemelt  
helyszín bemutatása mellett számos egyéb érdekességről is szó esik.

Az esemény a CAM és az AEPJ által támogatott „A zsidó örökséget ápoló utasok” kezdeményezés része.

**aepj** Jewish Heritage  
Cultural Institute  
of the Council of Europe  
Institut Culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe

**COLLEGE OF EUROPE**

**COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT**



Municipality of Biatorbágy in partnership with Biatorbágy Committee of Local Values, Biatorbágy Nature Conservation Association, and local library, organized for the first time a Jewish tour. A local history walk was held in Biatorbágy to explore the town's Jewish heritage, attracting around fifty participants from Biatorbágy, nearby towns, and Budapest. The event, widely promoted through online platforms, posters, and local media, featured descendants of local Jewish families, including György Sági and Judit Kugler, as well as representatives of civic institutions and the city council. Guided by sociologist Zoltán Bihari and architect Judit Tótpál, the 2.5 km, four-hour walk highlighted former Jewish homes, shops, and the prayer house, while sharing stories of local families and notable figures like painter Simon Hantai. Participants received the publication "In the Footsteps of the Jews of Biatorbágy", and the event was covered by local television. The walk received very positive feedback and strengthened public awareness of Biatorbágy's forgotten Jewish heritage.

# Miskolc, Hungary

The Municipality of Miskolc, in partnership with ÉMIH (Unified Hungarian Jewish Congregation, Northern Hungary Region) and Kazinczy Street Synagogue Foundation, organised the European Days of Jewish Culture offering the event titled Insight to the Culture of the People of the Book. The event featured speeches by Mayor József Tóth-Szántai, Chief Rabbi Zsolt Markovics, and Rabbi Avraham Braun, highlighting the city's cultural diversity and commitment to coexistence. The program's centerpiece was a concert by an Israeli cantor choir. Between performances, Rabbi Jonatán Megyeri explained the traditions of Rosh haShana and the autumn holidays, offering wishes for a sweet and harmonious year. Around 200 participants attended, with children's activities provided, and the evening ended with kosher refreshments, creating a warm atmosphere of community and celebration.



# Vilnius, Lithuania



The Vilnius Municipality, in partnership with the Vilnius Cultural Center and the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, joined the European Days of Jewish Culture through its annual event Vilnius Days Festival. The event gathers representatives of various ethnic communities and attracts over 330,000 visitors. As part of this year's Vilnius Days, the band Rakija Klezmer Orkestar was invited to perform. The ensemble is widely recognized for its unique musical style, which draws inspiration from Jewish musical traditions and klezmer heritage. Their performance not only entertained the audience but also served as a vibrant expression of Jewish cultural identity, contributing to the broader celebration of diversity at the festival. The event was highly successful and brought together a large and diverse audience, fostering a strong sense of community and celebration. The participation of Rakija Klezmer Orkestar was met with great enthusiasm and positive feedback from festival-goers, confirming the importance of representing minority cultures on major public stages.



# Kragujevac, Serbia

Logo: aepj jewish heritage, Cultural route of the Council of Europe, Bojstava cultural du Conseil de l'Europe, COUNCIL OF EUROPE, EUROPEAN UNION

Са задовољством вас позивамо на Дане јеврејске културе у Крагујевцу, манифестацију посвећену богатој историји, традицији и доприносу јеврејске заједнице нашем граду.

Период одржавања:  
од 15. 09. 2025. године до 19. 09. 2025. године

Почетак манифестације:  
15. 09. 2025. године у 13.00 часова

Локација:  
"Галерија Буре Јанковића"

Ваше присуство је за нас част и подршка очувању културне разноликости и међународног дијалога.

Добродошли!

Више информација о догађају путем линка:

Догађај је део иницијативе „Градови који прихватају јеврејско наслеђе“ коју подржавају САМ и АЕПЈ.

COMBAT ANTISEMITISM MOVEMENT, CITIES EMBRACING JEWISH HERITAGE

The European Days of Jewish Culture in Kragujevac was organised by the Municipality of Kragujevac in partnership with the Serbian-Israeli Friendship Association "Ahava", Historical Archive of Šumadija Kragujevac, Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments in Kragujevac and Memorial Park "Kragujevački oktobar". During five days, visitors had the opportunity to enjoy a diverse programme that included exhibitions, lectures, film screenings, and workshops. Each part of the programme was designed to bring closer the history, tradition, and contemporary artistic expression of the Jewish people, while also creating space for dialogue and exchange of experiences. The events gathered around 1,000 participants.



# Leczna, Poland

The Municipality of Leczna in partnership with Zbignie Wherbert Municipal Library organised workshop titled “Breads of Being Present” in the historic Great Synagogue in Łęczna. Painter and educator Hanna Kossowska led a workshop, which offered participants an engaging introduction to Jewish symbolism and tradition through a multimedia presentation and a creative art session. Attendees included local officials among them Mayor Leszek Włodarski, Deputy Mayor Bartłomiej Zwolakiewicz, and City Council representatives along with students, seniors from the “Active Senior” Club, and guests such as Piotr Puchta, former Director of the Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland. The workshop provided a meaningful space for learning, artistic expression, and intergenerational connection. The event gathered around 40 participants.



# Białystok, Poland

The Białystok Cultural Centre “The Ludwik Zamenhof Centre”, in partnership with the MI POLIN Mezuzah Center of Jewish Museum, organised the event “Traces of Mezuzot” as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture. The programme included an exhibition accompanied by a public lecture, as well as a Hebrew calligraphy workshop. The exhibition opening and lecture took place at the Ludwik Zamenhof Centre in Białystok and were attended by 45 participants. The lecture was delivered by Aleksander Prugar and Helena Czernek, founders of the MI POLIN Foundation and the Mezuzah Museum, who presented their work documenting traces of mezuzot in Poland and beyond. A Hebrew calligraphy workshop led by Helena Czernek was attended by 15 participants. Participants learned the techniques of Hebrew letter writing and created their own works. In total, the exhibition “In the Footsteps of Mezuzot” was visited by 315 people.



# Plonsk, Poland

**EUROPEJSKIE DNI KULTURY ŻYDOWSKIEJ 2025**  
W DOMU PAMIĘCI W PŁOŃSKU

**EUROPEAN DAYS OF JEWISH CULTURE 2025**  
IN THE PŁOŃSK MEMORIAL HOUSE

**Warsztaty dla grup szkolnych i przedszkolnych**  
- W PŁOŃSKIEJ SYNAGODZIE  
- JÓZEF BUDKO - ARTYSTA Z PŁOŃSKA  
9-30 września 2025, Dom Pamięci w Płońsku, ul. Warszawska 2  
Na warsztaty obowiązują zapisy:  
dompamieci@mckplonsk.pl +48 882 872 837  
Warsztaty bezpłatne, liczba miejsc ograniczona!  
Termin i godzina warsztatów do ustalenia z opiekunem grupy

Workshops for school and kindergarten groups  
- AT THE PŁOŃSK SYNAGOGUE  
- JÓZEF BUDKO - ARTIST FROM PŁOŃSK  
September 9-30, 2025, Płonsk Memorial House, 2 Warszawska Street  
Registration is required for the workshops (conducted in Polish):  
dompamieci@mckplonsk.pl +48 882 872 837  
Workshops free of charge, number of places is limited!  
Workshop date and time to be arranged with the group's teacher

Municipal Cultural Center “The Płonsk Memorial House” in partnership with the Municipality of Plonsk organized eight workshops for children from local schools as part of the European Days of Jewish Culture. The four educational workshops titled “In the Płonsk Synagogue” and four art workshops “Józef Budko – Artist from Płonsk” gathered 234 participants. The educational workshops introduced participants to the synagogue space and key elements of Jewish religious life, combined with a creative activity in which children decorated canvas bags with the Hebrew letter aleph. The art workshops focused on the life and work of Józef Budko, allowing participants to create their own artworks inspired by his paintings and graphic works. All workshops included guided visits to the Memorial House’s permanent exhibition. Through creative and interactive learning, participants gained insight into the history and culture of the Jewish community of Płonsk. Plans are in place to continue the workshops next year and expand participation to include people with disabilities.



# Glasgow, UK

The European Days of Jewish Culture in Glasgow were organised by the Lord Provost and Glasgow City Council, in partnership with Garnethill Hebrew Congregation, the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, the Jewish Council of Scotland, Jewish Care Scotland, the Council of Christians and Jews, and the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre. The celebration featured a series of cultural and educational events highlighting Scotland's Jewish heritage. These included an exhibition of Hannah Frank's artwork, accompanied by a discussion with her niece, Fiona Frank, at Jewish Care; guided tours of the Scottish Jewish Heritage Centre for 40 participants; and a refugee walk exploring early Jewish life in Scotland. The "West End Jews" group (ages 20–40) also met to discuss Jewish history, heritage, and contributions. The programme culminated in a celebration of Glasgow's 850th anniversary at the historic Garnethill Synagogue, attended by 250 people. The event featured musical performances by Dr. Lev Atlas and pianist Michael Barnett, presentations by civic, political, and Jewish leaders, the launch of a commemorative booklet, and the consecration of the refurbished 147-year-old Harmonia.



# Grosswarasdorf, Austria

**Europäische Tage der jüdischen Kultur 2025**

**Einladung**  
zweisprachiger Vortrag und Ausstellung

Abseits der großen jüdischen Gemeinden:  
Jüdinnen und Juden in den kroatischen  
Ortschaften des Bezirks Oberpullendorf

Musik: Chor Složnost  
9.11.2025, Schloss Nebersdorf 15:00  
Schloßgasse 1, 7304 Nebersdorf

Um Anmeldung bis 7. 11. 2025 wird gebeten  
michael.schreiber@forschungsgesellschaft.at

**Europski dani židovske kulture 2025**

**pozivnica**  
dvojezično predavanje i izložba

Izvan područja židovske općine:  
Židovi u gradišćanskohrvatski seli  
Gornjo puljanskoga kotara

muzika: zbor Složnost  
9.11.2025, kaštel Šuševo 15:00  
Schloßgasse 1, 7304 Šuševo

Prosim najavite se do 7. 11. 2025  
michael.schreiber@forschungsgesellschaft.at

Großgemeinde  
**Großwarasdorf**  
velika zajednica  
**Veliki Borištof**

BURGENLÄNDISCHE  
FORSCHUNGSGESELLSCHAFT  
aerj  
politische bildung

As part of this year's European Days of Jewish Culture, a special event was held in the municipality of Großwarasdorf focusing on the impact of the 1938 "Anschluss" on Jews living outside major Jewish centers. Michael Schreiber presented a deeply researched lecture tracing the lives of these Jews before the Anschluss, their expulsion, and the suffering that followed, using Großwarasdorf and neighboring communities as key case studies. The event also included an open discussion with visitors, enriching the historical exploration with community engagement. As an accompanying program, an exhibition provided by the Research Society Burgenland was showcased and made accessible to the public. The local choir performed Jewish songs, adding a warm, commemorative tone to the gathering. The evening concluded with kosher wine and food served in honor of the occasion. The event was organised by the municipality of Grosswarasdorf, in partnership with the Research Society Burgenland, the Cultural Center of Grosswarasdorf, and the choir Chori Uniti. Event gathered around 40 participants.



# Lackenbach, Austria



Marktgemeinde Lackenbach

Im Rahmen der Europäischen Tage der jüdischen Kultur im Burgenland laden wir herzlich ein:

## „Treten's ein nur herein“

Eine Hommage an den unvergessenen  
Klavierhumoristen und Kabarettisten **Hermann Leopoldi**

**Monika Hana**  
**Peter Hana**  
Gesang & Moderation

**Bernd Leichtfried**  
Klavier



Gemeindezentrum Lackenbach  
20. September 2025, 18.00 Uhr  
Eintritt frei – Spenden erbeten

Um Anmeldungen wird gebeten bis 19. September 2025 unter:  
[michael.schreiber@forschungsgesellschaft.at](mailto:michael.schreiber@forschungsgesellschaft.at) oder [www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/edjc](http://www.forschungsgesellschaft.at/edjc)

Wir freuen uns auf Ihr Kommen!



Official website  
of the Council of Europe  
Mediterranean Cultural  
Institute of Strasbourg



COMBAT  
ANTISEMITISM  
MOVEMENT

As part of European Days of Jewish Culture the Town of Lackenbach organised a special cultural evening at the community center in Lackenbach, dedicated to Hermann Leopoldi, under the title “Hommage to Hermann Leopoldi: ‘Treten’s ein, nur herein”. The programme was conceived as a tribute to Leopoldi, often referred to as the Austrian “Fats Waller,” who enjoyed widespread popularity well beyond Vienna into the 1950s. The evening presented a carefully curated selection of both his well-known and lesser-known musical works. Through a combination of music and a framing narrative, the programme highlighted Leopoldi’s distinctive style, characterized by engaging melodies and witty, cabaret-inspired lyrics. The event offered audiences an accessible and engaging introduction to his artistic legacy and created a warm, memorable atmosphere for visitors of all generations. The event gathered 50 participants.



# Lviv, Ukraine

The Regional Development Agency of the Lviv Region, in partnership with Lviv Regional State Administration, Lviv Regional Council, NGO "Lemberik", and Hesed-Arieh Welfare Foundation organised the European Days of Jewish Culture with a Heritage Tour "By the Jewish Literature Traces." The initiative aimed to promote awareness of Jewish literary and cultural heritage in Western Ukraine and its connection to the broader European cultural landscape. A one-day bus tour brought together forty-five participants, teachers, students, cultural researchers, tour guides, and community activists for a journey beginning in Lviv, where sites linked to Jewish intellectual life and stories of rescue, including Kurt Lewin's Journey Through an Illusion, were introduced. The group continued to Zhovkva, once a major center of Jewish printing and education, exploring Rynok Square, the remains of the Renaissance synagogue, and traces of mezuzahs on old houses. They also learned about Janina Hescheles, a young diarist of the Lviv ghetto, and women writers such as Clara Schwartz, Debora Vogel, and Salcia Landmann. In Zhovkva, historian Mykhailo Skrypka presented insights from his book *The Multicultural World of the Royal City*. The tour concluded in Drohobych, the hometown of Bruno Schulz, with a museum visit highlighting Schulz's artistic world shaped by the city's multicultural past. A walk along Taras Shevchenko Street led to the recently restored Great Synagogue of Drohobych, where Leonid Golberg guided the group through its significance as a landmark of cultural memory and Jewish heritage revival in the region.





Cities Embracing Jewish Heritage\2025\3. Reports\_municipalities\22. Lviv\_Concert\Pictures\022.jpg On 16 November, the First Theatre on Hnatiuka Street in Lviv located in the historic building of Ber Gimpel's former Jewish Theatre hosted the culminating event of this year's European Days of Jewish Culture: the concert "Sholem!" ("peace" in Yiddish). The programme explored peace as dignity, freedom from oppression, cultural identity, and the right to choose one's own path. The evening's leitmotif was "Der Yokh" ("The Yoke"), a Catalan resistance song later embraced by Poland's Solidarity movement and translated into Yiddish by renowned performer and Harvard lecturer Yuriy Vedenyapin, the concert's honorary guest. Performed at both the opening and closing of the concert, the piece created a powerful emotional arc. The programme featured the dance ensemble European Miniatures (Hesed-Arye Foundation), Shtrudl-Band (Teiva Center), and the vocal ensemble Sheyne Meydelekh. Songs were performed in Yiddish, Polish, and Ukrainian, symbolising unity and cultural dialogue. Ukrainian classics newly translated into Yiddish, alongside Yiddish songs performed in Ukrainian, highlighted the deep interconnection between the two cultures. The concert concluded with a joint performance of "Sholem," reinforcing a message of solidarity and just peace. In challenging times, the event stood as a powerful affirmation of Yiddish culture as an integral part of Ukraine's contemporary cultural landscape. The event was organised by the Lviv Culture Fund of Lviv City in partnership with NGO "Lemberyk"; the Hesed-Arye Welfare Foundation; the Teiva Jewish Community Center; the NGO Zut "Hillel" and it reached 300 participants.

# Tarazona, Spain

Tarazona Town Hall in partnership with the Jewish Network of Spain (Red de Juderias de Espana) and Disputacion Provincial de Zaragoza organised a public event titled "Hidenisi Klezmer Experiment", a concert by the ensemble Hidesini, known for its masterful fusion of klezmer music with diverse cultural influences. Blending tradition with innovation, Hidesini takes audiences on a vibrant musical journey through Eastern Europe and beyond, celebrating the richness of heritage and the unifying power of art. The event gathered around 100 participants.



# Lucena, Spain

As part of its participation in the European Day of Jewish Culture, the city of Lucena joined a national network dedicated to Jewish heritage and implemented a dedicated cultural programme aimed at raising awareness of its Sephardic past. The programme offered a range of educational and experiential activities designed for diverse audiences, including residents, families, and visitors. Activities included guided heritage walks focusing on key historical layers of the city's Jewish presence, with particular attention given to archaeological remains, urban spaces, and material traces of communal life. An interactive, family-friendly activity was organised in the form of an urban discovery game, encouraging participants to actively engage with history through problem-solving and teamwork. By navigating designated points across the city and completing tasks, participants deepened their understanding of Sephardic heritage in an accessible and engaging way. The programme also incorporated a narrative-based guided experience, in which participants were led through the city's streets through a storytelling approach inspired by historical memory. This format highlighted the legacy of learning, scholarship, and cultural exchange, evoking the city's role as a former center of Jewish intellectual life. The events gathered around 80 participants.



# Fermo, Italy

Municipality of Fermo in partnership with Associazione R&V Territorio – Fermo (Province of Fermo), Italy organized an event titled Immanuel Romano: A Jewish Poet in Medieval Fermo. The event was structured around four complementary activities. The programme included the screening of a documentary exploring Immanuel Romano's life and his years in Fermo, the presentation of a dedicated publication, and a lecture on the poet's literary background, influences, and cultural significance within medieval Italy. The event concluded with a guided tour of Fermo's historic Jewish quarter, enhanced by interpretive materials and performative readings. Approximately 100 people participated in the initiative, which contributed to greater awareness of the city's Jewish cultural heritage.



# Bonn, Germany

Office for Integration and Diversity, City of Bonn in partnership with Jewish Community of Bonn and Haus der Geschichte, Bonn organised the European Days of Jewish Culture. A series of educational and dialogue-based activities created a shared space for reflection on antisemitism, remembrance, and contemporary responsibility. Through guided exhibition visits, a literary discussion, and expert exchange, participants from diverse cultural, religious, and social backgrounds engaged with both historical and present-day forms of antisemitism. A central element of the programme was engagement with the exhibition "After Hitler," which examines how German society has confronted the legacy of Adolf Hitler and National Socialism across four post-war generations. The exhibition illustrated how remembrance culture evolves over time, shaped by shifting perspectives between guilt, historical processing, and moral responsibility. The generational comparison made clear that remembrance is not only historical, but also a living political and ethical concern. The programme also included a public reading and discussion of the book "The Legacy: October 7, 2023 in the Context of 2,000 Years of Antisemitism," linking recent events to the long history of antisemitism in Europe. The discussion encouraged open exchange on trauma, continuity, and the challenges Jewish communities face today.



# Magdeburg, Germany

For the first time, a concert was held in the New Synagogue of Magdeburg where children's concert marked the European Days of Jewish Culture. About 85 guests attended the event and experienced an afternoon filled with emotion and hope. Young musicians, accompanied by pianist and artistic director Khalida Fradkin and violinist Vera Kagan, performed a diverse programme of traditional Jewish melodies, European compositions, and pieces prepared together with the Wolmirstedt–Haldensleben Music School. The concert also marked the first use of the Blüthner grand piano donated by the Friends' Association of the New Synagogue, giving the venue its musical opening. Event was organised by the Municipality and Capital City of the State of Saxony–Anhalt (Sachsen–Anhalt) in partnership with Team for Protocol and City Partnerships – Office of the Lord Mayor, State Association of Jewish Communities of Saxony–Anhalt, Synagogue Community of Magdeburg, City of Magdeburg and Wolmirstedt–Haldensleben School of Music.



**Thank you  
all for staying  
close!**

Ending the 2025 European Days of Jewish Culture, we are reminded that culture is not only preserved in museums or written in books — it lives in voices, in shared stories, in music carried across borders, and in the quiet courage of remembrance.

From city squares to synagogues, from exhibitions to conversations, we have opened doors not only to history, but to one another. We have rediscovered that Jewish culture is not a fragment of Europe's past — it is a vibrant thread woven into its present and future.

May the melodies heard, the knowledge shared, and the encounters experienced continue to resonate beyond these days. May they inspire dialogue over silence, understanding over division, and curiosity over indifference.

And as we close this chapter, we do so not with an ending, but with a promise — that memory will remain alive, that heritage will be cherished, and that the light of culture will continue to shine across Europe, connecting us all.

Curated by

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