



EUROPEAN  
JEWISH  
FUND



ACTIVITY SUMMARY  
2013



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**Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor,**  
Chairman of the European Jewish Fund

## About the Fund

The European Jewish Fund was founded in February 2006 on the initiative of Viatcheslav Moshe Kantor. The Fund was established with the specific goal of reinforcing Jewish life in Europe.

To achieve this goal, the Fund focuses on young people's connection to Judaism and their communities by supporting programs aimed at building Jewish identity and Jewish pride, especially by reconnecting young people with their rich Jewish past. Consequently, the Fund supports programs to educate young people about Jewish achievements in all aspects of life, including culture, science and medicine, presenting these achievements as a source of pride and self-respect. One such initiative is the Jewish Positioning System, or JPS, a program focused on researching and publicizing the achievements and contributions of Jews around Europe in all the above-mentioned fields.

The Fund is also committed to addressing assimilation, anti-Semitism and racism as serious threats to Jewish life in Europe.

Without a doubt, assimilation is a growing existential threat to European Jewry. The threat must be addressed in a serious manner with programs aimed at reconnecting people with Jewish life.

Anti-Semitism is once again a critical problem for Jews in Europe. In several countries the mounting danger of anti-Semitism is causing fear that that Europe's future may repeat its tragic past. The Fund is especially committed to counteracting this threat by strengthening Holocaust remembrance and education. The educational programmes supported by the Fund go beyond teaching historical facts to emphasize the lessons that must be learned from the darkest time in European history. A major program supported by the Fund in this regard is the "Let My People Live" international forum. These forums are used as a key tool for addressing anti-Semitism and the loss of historical memory.

The Fund also seeks to address contemporary challenges to European Jewry such as the Iranian nuclear programme. Because Jews are aware that the Iranian threat poses a danger to the entire world, the Fund has initiated an expert conference to present world leaders with a practical roadmap on handling the dangerous situation.

The Fund is a unique platform that enables sponsors and community leaders to come together and analyze the needs, problems and threats facing European Jewry, and to suggest programs to address those issues.

The Fund is divided into two chambers, the Chamber of Community Leaders, or Executive Council, and the Chamber of Sponsors, or Board of Governors.

Openness is a fundamental principle of the Fund's operations, and its roundtable is a place where all members can speak openly and participate as equals.

The Fund supports communal projects, regional and pan-European programs, and also initiates programs of its own in an effort to address its priorities or other subjects concerning a specific community or European Jewry as a whole.

## EJF SPECIAL PROJECT Leadel FLY Berlin 2013



### Innovation and Inspiration: The Startup Nation Meets Europe in Berlin

The Leadel FLY Berlin Conference was the **first** of its kind, intended to connect leading young Jewish professionals across Israel and Europe with the Jewish world. This year's audience included more than 250 Jewish professionals from Israel, Germany, France, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Britain, Switzerland, and the United States. Politicians, musicians, artists, startup and other entrepreneurs, academics, and business professionals alike joined together for three engaging days to explore new uses of innovation in all spheres of life.



Speakers included exceptional leaders from many fields of expertise.

- **From the technological world:** **Jeff Pulver** (American Internet entrepreneur, known for his work as founder and CEO of pulver.com and co-founder of Vonage); **Yanki Margalit** (Chairman, SpaceIL)
- **From the business world:** **Mick Davis** (Former CEO, Xstrata); **Yoram Tietz**, (Managing Partner, Ernst & Young Israel); **Avner Stepak** (Meitav Dash Investment House)
- **From the Jewish world:** **Lea Landman** (Co-founder & Chairwoman, Women in International Security); **Dr. Meir Ben Shahar** (Jewish History, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem); **Jeremie Berrebi** (Editor, ZDNet France)
- **From the creative world:** **Ivri Lider** (Singer, Co-Founder of TYP); **Eitan Chitayat** (Executive Creative Director, Natie); **Tal Alon** (Founder and Editor-in-Chief, Spitz Magazine)
- **From the non-profit world:** **Dr. Nir Tsuk** (Managing Director, Ashoka Israel); **Tzameret Fuerst** (Co-Founder, PrePex); **Jude Williams** (Chief Executive, Tzedek); **Anat Gold** (Head of Planning Department, KKL-JNF); **Roy Keidar** (Chief Executive Officer, Reut Institute)
- **From the academic world:** **Professor Israel Borovich** (Dean, School of Management and Economics, Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa); **Dr. Gil Pereg** (CEO, Darca Schools)
- **From the political world:** **Knesset Member Ronen Hoffman** (Yesh Atid); **Michael Biton** (Mayor of Yeruham); **Michael Vole** (Founder and Director, Young Adults Unit, Tel Aviv-Jaffa); **Avner Warner** (Director, Economic Development, Tel Aviv Global City Administration); **Roni Flamer** (CEO, OR Movement)

This three-day event began with an opening gala cocktail and dinner at The Jewish Museum of Berlin on October 23. During the event, a special, live one-time exhibit of The Shenkar College of Engineering, Design & Art was presented. This unique installation was the final project of twenty-nine graduates from five different artistic departments. On October 24, the FLY conference itself was held at a vibrant venue in the center of Berlin. A series of engaging speakers and panels addressed topics including: A Smarter World - Trends in a Changing Global Environment, Cracking the Innovation Code, Judaism & Innovation, Tel Aviv as a Startup City, and Innovation in all Fields of Life. Throughout the day, selected startup entrepreneurs were given the stage to pitch their concepts before a full audience. The day concluded with a concert performance by Israeli pop star Ivri Lider and the TYP Band. Throughout the event, a variety of tours were provided for participants, including panoramic city tours, private tours of The Jewish Museum of Berlin, and Berlin startup tours.

## Centropa Professional Development Seminar in Berlin

### Austria

Following the success of Centropa’s Summer Academy, supported by the EJF in 2012, another seminar for teachers from European Jewish schools took place in Berlin in February 2013.

As in Centropa’s Summer Academy, the main aim of this program is to create a European-wide network of history and English teachers from Jewish schools. Centropa seminars serve as professional development courses and are intended to provide teachers with a platform from which they can share best practices and learn from one another how to use new technologies, digital storytelling, English, and Holocaust education—all in a single course.

The seminar in Berlin successfully developed a common network between the teachers and provided them with films, posters, and a video guidebook. Last summer, the EJF-sponsored teachers conducted work sessions and guided their fellow teachers through Centropa’s programs. They developed a sense of confidence about using new technologies and Centropa’s myriad of projects, films, exhibitions, and databases. The seminar also provided them with a website where they can find useful lesson plans and video lectures by historians that will help upgrade their knowledge base, strengthen their students’ understanding of twentieth-century Jewish history, and assist them in building a stronger sense of Jewish identity.



## The 7th International Children’s Art Forum Jewish Shtetl Revival 2013

### Belarus

The International Children’s Art Forum ‘Jewish Shtetl Revival’ in Belarus is taking place in 2013 for the seventh time with the support of the European Jewish Fund.

Creative young people from European Jewish communities gather and travel together, studying the history of Jewish culture and art. Inspired by historical Jewish venues, they produce works in various fields of the arts: painting, drawing, crafts, photography, and fashion.

The project supports the young generation of European Jewish communities in taking the first step toward the study of Jewish art, and to developing and improving their abilities. The goal of the project is to establish contact between the young people of the European Jewish communities, to encourage interest in Jewish art, and to develop participants’ creative thinking.

The program includes a children’s artistic *en plein air*, an exhibition of works of the participants, and the publication of a booklet with their works of art. During the children’s Art Forum, the participants will visit several Belarusian towns famous for their Jewish history and culture, including Minsk, Gorodeia, and Vitebsk. The Art Forum participants will have the opportunity to become acquainted with the history of the *shtetls* and be inspired by the Jewish atmosphere to make sketches of their future works. The Art Forum participants will exchange knowledge of and experience with the Jewish culture and arts of their countries and participate in workshops and master classes of renowned Belarusian Jewish artists.



## The Beit Project in Barcelona

### Spain

The strategic objective of the Beit Project is to transform Jewish Heritage sites into meaningful places for local communities by using the most central activity in Jewish culture and education. This year, the project took place in Barcelona and lasted for eight weeks, with the participation of more than 120 pupils and 15 teachers from Barcelona and across Europe.



The project's specific objectives were to connect local communities to their local heritage and resituate Jewish culture as part of urban identity in order to increase the local social value of Jewish heritage sites, to create meaningful collaborations between Jewish and non-Jewish local schools, and to develop a European Jewish approach to the preservation and use of heritage sites.

The main educational needs which The Beit Project addresses involve the perception of Jewish and non-Jewish youth in Europe, documented through many interviews in schools around European cities, that Jewish culture has no local roots in Europe and is therefore a “foreign” culture. This situation creates a strong dichotomy in young people between their identities as citizens of the place and their Jewish culture.

Jewish heritage is perceived as inert, disconnected from the community life and the social or cultural activity of the city. Preservation politics often tends to fossilize heritage, missing the chance to create any real and meaningful interaction with the places that represent that heritage and the local society.

Project activities bring together, for intensive on-site workshops, 16 pupils (13-15 years old) from two different schools, eight from Jewish schools in France and other European countries and eight from a local non-Jewish school. The former bring with them an intimate relationship with Jewish culture, while the latter bring an intimate relationship with the place.

Participating students build their nomadic school in the heritage site, whether it is a street, a place, or even a building, and work during four workshops of half a day each. The project ends with a large public presentation of the work. The activities begin with the on-site construction by pupils of a nomadic “house of study” where activities take place, temporarily transforming the urban space and informing its inhabitants about the project's development.

The project's pedagogy is based on traditional hevruta model, in which the study process consists of dialogue between two learners and the differences between their interpretations. As in the Talmud, where technical or halachic issues lead to universal questions, the thoughtful study of the site's multiple layers will lead to universal questions related to our city and society.

# Summer Camp of the Jewish Community of Thessaloniki

## Greece

The Jewish community of Thessaloniki founded the Summer Camp Program in the years following the Holocaust, when it was struggling to re-establish Jewish life in the city and community institutions that had been devastated by the war. Within this framework, the first summer camp was organized in 1948 in Agia Triada. Apart from the recreational and humanitarian purpose of the summer camp, one of its most important goals was to develop and sustain the Jewish identity of children, maintaining a chain of Jewish tradition in Greece and strengthening ties between Jews in Greece and participants from other countries.

The summer camp of the Jewish community of Thessaloniki has become one of the most important institutions for Greek Jewry, a unique event that brings together almost 300 children from all over Greece, the Balkan region, and Israel each year.



The Jewish summer camp is located in the northeastern part of the country, in a resort area near the sea, at the foot of Mount Olympus. The campers' ages range from seven to fifteen, and they are divided into three age groups. Camp activities are run by youth leaders from 15 to 18 years old and by madrichim (counselors) eighteen years old and over.

Every year, a central theme for the educational and outdoor activities of the camp is chosen. "Jerusalem 3000," "50 Years of Israel," "Great Jewish Personalities," "For a Better World," "Think Jewish, Act Green," and "Jewish Values" are only some examples of themes that have been chosen in the past. This year, camp activities focused on "Jewish Artists" in particular Marc Chagall. The children were introduced to Chagall's art and all the workshops focused on this subject.

All the activities at the camp are based on the principles of informal education. General knowledge of the Jewish religion, history, current affairs in Israel, and Jewish identity in the Diaspora are stressed in all the activities, adjusted according to the age and the preferences of the children. During the summer camp, Jewish youth from different countries come together and discover, through their similarities and differences, the richness of Jewish religion and tradition.



## Mini-Limmud

### The Jewish Community of Lithuania

The Jewish Community of Lithuania is an umbrella organization of all the Jewish institutions in Lithuania. It provides social welfare to needy Jewish people, serves as a tool to create stronger Jewish identity through education, culture, religion, and other means, and also acts as a political body that represents the Jews

of Lithuania. The community attempts to preserve the heritage of Lithuanian Jews by investing in the spiritual and educational reconstruction of Jewish life in the country.

Mini-Limmud is an event for 350 people of all ages from Lithuania that aims to revitalize and re-energize Jewish life in this former center of Jewish innovation, culture, and scholarship. The aim of Mini-Limmud is to create a unique and dynamic environment in which to engage the growing number of Jews in Lithuania who are eager to learn about their culture and history. This successful outreach program targets Jews of all ages, families and singles, professionals and lay leaders, and has something for everyone. Offerings include lectures on a broad range of diverse Jewish and Israel-related topics presented by esteemed scholars and lecturers from abroad as well as by the participants themselves.

In addition, the program conducts diverse activities that range from instruction on how to read from the Torah and lead communal prayer to Jewish cooking and Israeli dance workshops. Shabbat celebration is one of the central activities of the program. The program aims to reach unaffiliated middle-generation, middle-class Jews who have the potential to constitute the backbone of a sustainable Jewish community.

This project aims to strengthen Jewish knowledge and practice in Lithuania by providing opportunities for all members of the community to partake in high-quality learning experiences, to attract hard-to-reach unaffiliated Jews through relevant and responsive programming, to increase indigenous leadership capacity through opportunities for professional and personal growth, and to provide all members of the community with the opportunity to contribute to communal life through teaching and learning.

## Chibur

### The Mosaiske Trossamfund (Mosaic Community), Norway

There are two active Jewish communities in Norway, located in Oslo and Trondheim, but only 40% percent of the country's Jews are members of these communities. The factors of assimilation, a diverse, hard-to-travel terrain, and a small population scattered over a large territory with dispersed community centers in small towns all complicate strong community-building and the maintenance of traditions and cultural life. The Chibur project seeks to change this situation. The program aims to reach out to as many Jews in Norway as possible in order to offer them a Jewish context in their everyday life and to give them the opportunity to feel a part of the Jewish people. The Chibur project was established to help Jews in Norway find their way to the Jewish community, connect them to each other, and fulfill their cultural and traditional needs. With the support of the European Jewish Fund, the project has been running successfully for three years.



The project makes it easier to contact Jews who live far from Jewish community centers, inform them about Jewish community activities, map the needs people may have concerning their Jewish lives, and create various programs that will be appropriate for as many community members as possible. The Chibur project also holds gatherings and celebrations around the country outside established community centers, organizing seminars, Bnei Akiva meetings and a summer camp, sponsoring the high cost of travel and offering hostelling solutions for those who wish to join in Jewish activities in other cities, and providing special programs for Israeli members of the community, such as Israeli cultural events and gatherings.

The Chibur project has established an Internet Cheder program, which gives distant members of the Jewish community a convenient way to participate in Jewish studies.

#### Range of Activities

- Covering cultural needs (Israeli movies, music, books, and sports)
- Holding Hebrew classes for the non-Israeli spouses
- *Shlichut* from Bnei Akiva
- Israeli club and parties, celebration of Jewish and Israeli holidays
- Extra hours in Hebrew school in Hebrew for Israeli children



## Jewish Education and Youth

### The Jewish Community of Lisbon, Portugal

The Jewish Community of Lisbon (CIL) is heir to the legacy of one of Europe's oldest and most significant Sephardic Jewish communities. It was founded during the Middle Ages, abolished by the Inquisition in the 15th century, and reestablished in the early 1800s. Since then, it has been a very small, struggling

community, only enlarged during World War II due to the influx of European Jews on their way to other countries throughout the world.

The aim of this project is to provide Jewish education with an emphasis on young people, in order to build and develop their Jewish identities and prevent further assimilation. The Informal Education Project (initiated in 2002) was founded, organized, and supervised by the Executive Director of CIL.

Target group: Children and adolescents from 3 to 16 years old

Objective: The organized youth movement (Dor Chadash) is based on a system and classical model used in many countries, of educational self-governing, the principle of education through peers and personal example, thus guaranteeing continuity and stimulating new generations through systematic, informal educational activities.

The contents of the activities are focused on subjects such as Judaism and Jewish identity, including contemporary Judaism, Jewish religion and culture, Zionism, socializing in community life, recreation, and entertainment.

Approximately 30 to 40 activities are held annually, and about 75 participants are registered. Weekly activities are held on Sundays, and on average, some 40 to 45 young people participate each week. Activities include:

- Celebration of all major Jewish holidays, as well as Yom Hashoah and Yom Haatzmaut
- Occasional kabbalat Shabbat with the participation of the whole family.
- Summer Camp (Machané) organized for children above 7 years of age, with average participation of 40 children each year (9 summer camps were held in the last 7 years)
- Annual courses in leadership for Dor Chadash members above 16 years old
- Outings, conventions, and exchange programs with youngsters from other European Jewish communities (mainly Madrid)

## Jewish Education in the Jewish Communities of Spain

### Federation of Jewish Communities of Spain

The main objective of the program is to maintain the continuity of educational and social activities for Jewish children and teenagers in Spain. The FCJE unites Spanish Jewish communities from all over the country and provides religious, cultural, and educational services.

All of the communities united under the FCJE have educational structures such as Sunday schools, Talmud Torahs and informal education (hadracha). The FCJE has initiated programs to assist in the development of Jewish education in Jewish communities at two levels:

- National activities, such as seminars on various matters, winter and summer camps, and trips to Israel
- Local religious and educational programs for small communities

The Jewish communities of Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga, and Melilla have regular Hadracha Colleges and have created, jointly with the FCJE, the National Hadracha College, an initiative in which all Spanish Jewish communities participate. The goal of the National Hadracha College is to provide training for youth on various issues, such as history, religion, culture, and educational resources, so that they may become volunteers in their communities. Twice a year the National Hadracha College organizes seminars for future leaders. At these seminars, participants attend lecturers on different topics: religion, history, Sephardic culture, Israel and Zionism, educational resources, the Middle East conflict, and communication skills. Since its creation in 1994, this project has achieved successful results. More than a 100 madrichim (counselors) have received this training and most of them have become volunteers and have continued to develop youth programs in their own communities.

Since 2003, the FCJE has been particularly involved in the development of small communities, providing assistance in areas such as education and religion, important factors in the continuity of Jewish life.



# Perseverance of the Jewish Community of Serbia (PGUD Project)

## The Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia

The PGUD project represents the sum of intertwining and inseparable efforts and activities of the FJC of Serbia, aimed at four essential and equally important segments of Jewish life in Serbia:

- Jewish religious and national identity preservation (through the continual practice of tradition and observance of commandments) – **PERSEVERANCE**
- Community social life for the purpose of nurturing the unity of the community and social care of the membership –**GATHERING and CARE**
- Continuous education of Jewish community membership, specially focused on the education and raising of new leaders among the young members of our community –**UPBRINGING**
- Permanent struggle against the rise of anti-Semitism, hatred, and xenophobia – **DIALOGUE**



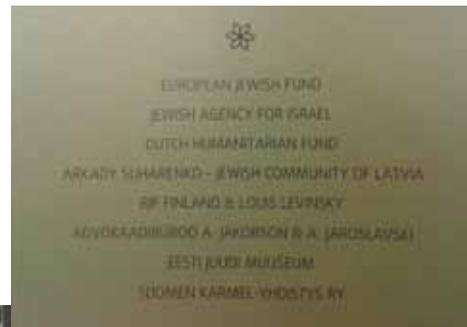
This program addresses issues of religion, youth, society, education, culture, and anti-Semitism. It provides a comprehensive layout of community activities with procedures for resolving current difficulties. Each of the project segments is aimed to develop, promote, and preserve Jewish life in Serbia, to raise, educate, and offer guidance to the young generation so that the best among them, in the future, are able to take over the responsibility of leading the community. A special emphasis has been placed on transparency and openness toward the non-Jewish Serbian environment, other religions, and national minorities. This project represents an attempt to secure the existence of the Jewish community of Serbia, its unity and Jewish awareness, in the struggle with the crisis, diverse and acute obstacles, and the present difficulties in Serbian society.

## Establishment of the “Aviv” Jewish Kindergarten

### Jewish Community of Estonia

The Jewish community of Estonia decided to pursue the creation of a private community kindergarten for up to 60 pre-school children. This kindergarten will provide a framework that offers a superior level of education with a feeling of togetherness in a warm and friendly Jewish environment.

The “Aviv” Jewish Kindergarten was officially opened on September 8, and the event was organized as a Rosh Hashana party that hosted 300 members of the community and guests. The kindergarten has welcomed 28 children in various groups and will accept additional pupils from January 2014.



## Holocaust Remembrance Program in Moldova: “Lest Be Forgotten”

### The Jewish Community of the Republic of Moldova

The purpose of the program is to combat anti-Semitism, fascism and xenophobia, and to promote Holocaust remembrance in Moldova. Moldova has a rich Jewish history that must be studied. Important lessons should be learned from the tragic history of the Holocaust in Moldova to avoid the repetition of such tragic events. In this regard, the Jewish community of the Republic of Moldova has launched a program that aims to do the following:



- Offer educational activities and hold commemorative days for victims of the Holocaust and anti-Semitism. Such meetings were held in 2013 to perpetuate the memory of innocent victims and remember the acts of bravery of those who survived, fought, and stopped the horror.
- Run functional and informative web pages to disseminate, present, and share information with the larger community and other representatives of civil society in Moldova and abroad
- Activate young members of the community who are aware of the tragedies of the past and believe in and work for a strong Jewish community
- Raise awareness of and combat anti-Semitism, xenophobia and any other manifestations of intolerance in young people, effectively addressing the issues of general human rights and the values of diversity

# The Shoah Academy



## The Jewish Community of Zagreb, Croatia

The Shoah Academy is a project that focuses on ensuring the remembrance, honoring, and respect of the victims of the Holocaust and promotes education on human rights. The aim of the project is to provide knowledge and to encourage proper education on historical events. The project is based on events related to Holocaust and the experiences of Holocaust survivors.

One of the goals of the project is to use the Holocaust to raise consciousness regarding occurrences of various forms of violence, intolerance, and civil and human rights violations in contemporary society in order to prevent them. The project deals with memory, the victims, and the breach of basic human values. Its goal is to transmit knowledge on two different levels: to the youngsters directly while there are still witnesses and survivors who are able to confront them with the truth, and to the people who will teach the next generations. Unfortunately some societies are still immature and some countries are not ready or willing to face their pasts and learn from history in order to develop true democracy. Even in official programs related to the Holocaust and remembrance, state authorities intentionally conceal facts or focus on foreign



history in order not to reveal their own histories. The most powerful tools for fighting such behaviour are knowledge and raised awareness. A thorough education is the path to better understanding and the prevention of any kind of intolerance toward minority groups, regardless of their nature. This project offers an opportunity to learn about an ethnic and religious minority, its contribution to society and the state, and the horrible atrocities committed against it. It also offers a chance to learn about society as a whole and the social conditions that lead to into Unlike any other similar project conducted until now in Croatia, this one pays particular attention to historical events, particularly in Croatia, and to the people of Croatia. It addresses historical facts and the environment, which are responsible for allowing any kind of atrocity. Therefore, this project addresses the Holocaust from the perspectives of history, society, psychology, media, culture, and more. A special team of eminent professors and experts in the field is gathered for this purpose. The project is intended for high school and university students, teachers, lecturers, and public and private school officials.

The program consists of lectures, films, discussions, workshops, and the testimonials of Holocaust survivors. The participants will be exposed to the living history of the Jewish community, with its artifacts, people, historic contributions, and faith. Guest lecturers from Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum are also expected to take part. In addition, the seminar for teachers will include Betzavta workshops (based on a conflict-solving method developed in Israel).

# Strengthening Jewish Identity through the History of the Holocaust in the Former Soviet Union

## Yad Vashem

### Goals and Objectives

During the many years of the Soviet regime, the history of the Holocaust was absolutely ignored. Thus, it was virtually unknown to those who emigrated from the Soviet Union and is still relatively unfamiliar to those currently residing in the FSU.

Since April 2010, the Yad Vashem project has been supported by the European Jewish Fund. The Yad Vashem project aims to extensively disseminate knowledge of the Holocaust in the Russian language within the framework of formal and informal educational and cultural programs and activities. The Yad Vashem Archive, its Research Institute and Publications Division, the unique International School for Holocaust Studies, the Museum, and the Righteous among the Nations Department all play an integral role in this project.



## 2012–2013 Main Yad Vashem Activities

### Special Project for the Acquisition of Archival Materials in the CIS

The goal of the project in this year of operations was to continue and expand the broad-ranging activities that commenced during the first, second, and third years in the field of archival acquisitions pertaining to name search. An impressive 468,316 pages of unique documents were acquired this year from the state archives of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia. Over the course of the year, 229,894 names were recorded in the database.

### Activities of the Center for the Research of the History of Soviet Jewry during the Holocaust

The Center is the global headquarters of research on every aspect of Jewish history in the USSR during the period of the Holocaust. The online Bibliography on the Holocaust and the War in the Soviet Union was upgraded and currently contains approximately 8,750 titles in Hebrew, Russian, and English.

### Educational Activities of the International School for Holocaust Studies

This year of operations was characterized by integration between continuing program activities that have been identified as having the greatest potential for achieving significant educational results over the past several years and launching new programs that address additional audiences for whom the project embodies a meaningful channel for dealing with the questions of Jewish identity and Israeli Jewish self-awareness.

### Travelling Exhibitions

An original mobile exhibition marking 70 years since the infamous Barbarossa Military Operation was exhibited in five venues in the FSU. The exhibition is a useful teaching aid and an important tool for educators at the International School for Holocaust Studies. During the war, some 500,000 Jewish soldiers and officers served in the Red (Soviet) Army out of a Jewish population that totaled about 5 million at the time. The exhibition follows four Jewish soldiers whose stories will shed light upon their unique identities.

## The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia

### Paideia II – The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden

The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia provides participants with the knowledge and tools they need to become driving forces in strengthening Jewish communities throughout Europe. It focuses on leadership fellowships during the One-Year Program, centered on community development, and on creating activism for the European Jewish communities through the Paideia Project-Incubator. Through the most intensive Jewish studies program and the most established program for project development in Europe, participants are equipped with a deep understanding of Jewish culture, analytical skills acquired through hevruta study, and leadership and project management skills gained through seminars, project activities, and internships. In this way, they are empowered as agents for renewal in the European Jewish landscape.

The European Jewish Fund Leadership Program at Paideia targets activists and future leaders among the thousands of young people in Europe and the FSU who are seeking to rebuild and strengthen communities where lack of knowledge and suppressed identities have often been dominant for decades. At Paideia, they unite in forging a strong identity based upon intelligent and informed understanding of Jewish civilization. Paideia provides in-depth Jewish learning and leadership training to students from countries where studies of this type are often scant or non-existent, and activates them so they can disseminate their new-found knowledge, in line with Paideia’s goal of bringing substance to the renewal of European Jewish community life.

The first part of the EJF Leadership Program provides eight fellowships for Paideia students of the One-Year Jewish Studies Program, focusing on community development alongside the most intensive Jewish studies program in Europe. The fellows in the program receive training in community development, paired with short internships connected to the Stockholm Jewish Community. The combination of training and experience provides the fellows with the tools they need to become strong activists in the field of community development.

An intensive one-week course of 30 hours on how to build a vital and viable Jewish community in today’s Europe outlines the challenges European Jewry is facing and creates a platform for developing strategies for community work. The training sessions are led by experienced professionals who work in the field and have first-hand experience



in community building. The sessions are also open to community workers in the Stockholm JC and coordinators of projects funded by the EJF.

Throughout the study year, the EJF fellows will have several shorter internships in Stockholm-based organizations and be part of organizing events that deal with Jewish community development (such as Limmud Stockholm, the European Day of Jewish Culture, the Jewish Film Festival, the Jewish Museum Night, the Yiddish Culture Festival, the Jewish Students’ Winter Feast, and the Global Day of Jewish Learning). The Stockholm Jewish Community is unique in its structure as an Einheitsgemeinde and has a strongly organized cultural and religious Jewish life, making it an excellent case study for community development. The variety of internships gives the fellows hands-on experience in community work and prepares them for implementing similar programs and projects in their home communities.

The second part of the program is **the Paideia Project-Incubator**, Jewish Europe’s leading program for social innovation. It is a ten-day interactive workshop where activists develop and concretize projects within the realms of education, culture, community life, and the arts. The intensive program consists of textual studies, project development workshops, interaction with foundation representatives, personal tutoring, and networking.

## College Hadracha

### Turkey

The goal of the Turkish Jewish community and College Hadracha is to create an initiative through which the community's youth will be able to explore and develop its identity while absorbing Judaism in its various facets, such as history, religion, culture, literature, poetry, and philosophy. This program aims to create a master program through which young people will become volunteers in the community. In addition, it provides fundamental tools in marketing, fundraising, and strategic communication.

In order to realize this vision, Hadracha seminars were organized twice a year with up to 120 participants, out of which the Hadracha group was selected. Lecturers from different fields, including presidents of various associations of the Turkish community, journalists, and specialists on the Middle East conflict participated in the seminars, stressing the issues of Israel-Arab relations, human rights, communication skills, and public relations. The other main goal of this project is to remind participants that Jewish identity is a whole entity that includes religious education, music, literature, intellectuals, obscure periods, and philosophy.

The project achieved successful results in the famous professionals in their field and organize roundtable meetings. The Turkish Jewish community is also planning to add personal improvement programs which will bring to light young people's leadership qualities.



## Development of the Official Website of the Jewish Community of Poland

### Poland

This year, the European Jewish Fund helped to develop the network infrastructure and data security of the official website of the Jewish Community of Poland. Since its reconstruction in 2010, the portal has become the largest Jewish media site on the Polish Internet, informing its visitors about important community events and festivals and teaching the history and culture of the Jewish community of Poland. Following the new development effort, the portal has added 517 new articles and has had thousands of visitors every day.





## Israel Up Close Reporting on European Jewry

IBA News of the Israel Broadcasting Authority (IBA) &

The ongoing partnership between the **IBA News and the European Jewish Fund (EJF)** continues to showcase events affecting Jews in Europe for viewers around the world, and at the same time to help strengthen the European Jewish Communities and their ties to Israel.

This year, “Israel Up Close Reporting on European Jewry”, focused on three major projects sponsored by the EJF, the LEADEL “Fly” conference in Berlin, an anti-Semitism and Hate Speech conference in Hungary, and a Limmud Jewish weekend in Lithuania.

The **LEADEL “Fly Berlin” Conference** is an elite forum which brought 260 highly qualified young Jewish professionals from all over Europe and from Israel to the German capital to connect and inspire one another. The conference examined the principles and practices which produced Israeli’s remarkable accomplishments as a “Start-Up Nation,” while exploring their application to each participant’s personal and professional endeavors. Organizers believe that the event will help participants connect to their Jewishness, and to Israel, through innovation and success.

The two day International Anti-Semitism and Hate Speech Conference called **“Enemies of Freedom”** took place at the British Embassy in Budapest Hungary. One focus of the conference was the use of digital new media to spread hate of the “other”. On the agenda were topics such as “Scapegoating Ideologies”, “Anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories”, and “Counter Narratives”; as well as the issue of combating intolerance while promoting free speech.

Another project sponsored by the European Jewish Fund and covered by IBA News was the **2013 Limmud Conference in Lithuania** which took place in the southern spa town of Druskininkai. Some 3000 Jews remain in Lithuania today living in the shadow of the once thriving and prosperous pre Holocaust Jewish population which was almost entirely exterminated. Jewish leaders say that events such as Limmud are vital today, to keep the tiny community alive and cohesive.

While in Lithuania IBA News produced an item on the subject of “Double Genocide”. IBA special reporters **Leah Zinder and Dennis Zinn** interviewed members of the Lithuanian Government and leaders of the Jewish community on this matter. Leah also took a personal look at the history of the Jews of Lithuania in the piece she edited on the Shtetl of Plunge, the birthplace of her late mother.

THE EJF-IBA partnership also covered the 2 “International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe” conferences that took place during 2013. One was held in Switzerland in May, and the other in Poland in December.

Israel Up Close Reporting on European Jewry produced a news item on the **MAGMA Exhibition** at the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts in Moscow called “My Homeland is Within My Soul”. The exhibition showcased one hundred works by some of Europe’s most celebrated 20th century artists such as Chagall, Modigliani, Soutine, Rothko and Freud. The **MAGMA Collection** which is the largest collection of Russian Jewish Artists was put together by European Jewish Congress President and Philanthropist Moshe Kantor.

The film “The Olive Tree in the Forest”, a documentary focusing on issues of anti-Semitism in Europe which was produced by IBA News and the EJF, was broadcast in Hebrew in January 2013 on Israel Television’s celebrated “Mabat Sheni” program, to coincide with International Holocaust Remembrance Day. An English version was broadcast on IBA News. The film will premiere in Europe in May 2014 in Zagreb at the Film Festival of Tolerance.

IBA English News on Israel Television has over a hundred thousand viewers in Israel and is seen by millions worldwide via various television stations, cable companies, satellite networks and on the internet. In the USA alone IBA News is carried by 31 cable distributors and reaches over 50 million homes IBA News is also available to millions of viewers in Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

## The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry

The Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry, inaugurated in May 2010 at the Tel Aviv University, provides an academic framework for the inter-disciplinary research of European Jewry - a dynamic and fascinating phenomenon - from the end of the Second World War until the present day.

The Center includes the Moshe Kantor Program for the Study of Contemporary anti-Semitism and Racism and cooperates with the Ze'ev Vered Unit for the Study of Tolerance and Intolerance in the Middle East.

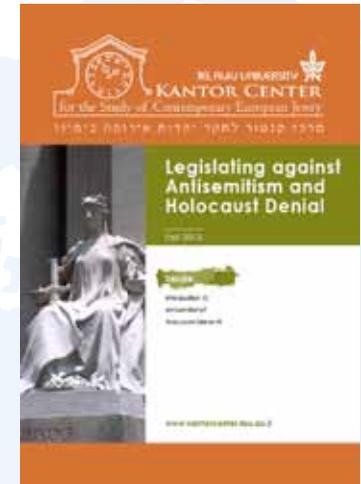
The Center offers a platform for the diverse needs of researchers, students, governmental and civil service personnel, professionals, activists and the public at large, both in Israel and abroad, and cooperates with European Jewish communities and their leaders.

The Center initiates, encourages and coordinates research projects, conferences, seminars, publications and public events in the following areas: demographic



processes and their ramifications; legislation against racism, hate crimes and hate speech, and anti-Semitism (particularly Holocaust Denial); mutual contacts between Jewish communities and their leaders and the local societies and other minorities; preserving the national memory and communal legacy, and its implications on the present-day; monitoring, analysis and study of contemporary anti-Semitism and racism worldwide.

The Center's staff has participated in local and international conferences (EU, ICCA, UNESCO), organized study sessions on Jewish communities (Hungary, Holland), an 8 meetings research seminar on Jewish identities in Europe, presented the annual anti-Semitism worldwide report together with Dr. Kantor at a press conference, and appeared in radio, TV and press representing the Kantor Center.



### Selected activities for 2013:

- **A three-day international conference** on “Contemporary German Jewry and Other Minorities - Between New Nationalism, Social Changes and European Values,” February 2012. The proceedings are being published as a book by de Gruyter Publishers, Munich, Germany. This conference and the book are initiated with cooperation with the Moshe Mendelsshon Center in Potsdam University.
- **Research project** – “Jewish-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Europe: Identity, Integration and Coexistence.” The research is conducted by Dr. Mikael Shainkman, Postdoc research fellow at the Kantor Center.
- **Publication** of “Legislating for Equality – a Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms, Volume II: Americas, edited by Talia Naamat, Nina Osin and Dina Porat, published by Brill Publishers and endorsed by UNESCO, July 2013.
- The Center prepared a booklet on “Legislating against Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial”, as a gift for Dr. Moshe Kantor’s 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration in Rome in October 2013.

## Enemies of Freedom: Scapegoating Ideologies, Anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories, and Counter-Narratives

### Hungary

In December 2013, the Political Capital Institute in Hungary organized a two-day conference called “Enemies of Freedom: Scapegoating Ideologies, Anti-Semitic Conspiracy Theories, and Counter-narratives,” which was hosted by the Embassy of the United Kingdom in Budapest.

The aim of the conference was to create and strengthen the commitment to fight the ideologies of hate and the players who articulate them in Europe in general and in Hungary in particular. The conference included various panels on issues of anti-Semitism and hatred, political and legal responses to hate crimes and extremism, the importance of education for tolerance, and the use of social media as a weapon to challenge conspiracy theories. The conference was attended by approximately 200 participants, including 40 high-level speakers, among them Jewish leaders, diplomats, politicians from both the left and right wings of the political spectrum, journalists, and cultural figures.

The event garnered much attention and had significant impact in Hungary. It was broadly covered by the local and international media and attended by correspondents from the leading Hungarian newspapers, Reuters, AP, The Jewish Chronicle, and IBA



News. Following the conference, representatives of the Hungarian government made clear statements against extremism. Socialist MP Pál Steiner stated that Holocaust denial is a crude manifestation of anti-Semitism that “goes beyond all boundaries” and “deeply injures all sober-minded people.” Gergely Gulyás, Deputy Faction Leader (Fidesz) and Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights, Minorities, Civic and Religious Affairs of the Hungarian Parliament addressed the conference and declared that the relativization of any murderous dictatorial rule is unacceptable, both left- and right-wing dictatorships should be condemned, and “Hungary’s political elite should be united in saying that there is no room for hate speech in public life.”





**INTERNATIONAL  
LUXEMBOURG FORUM  
ON PREVENTING  
NUCLEAR  
CATASTROPHE**  
www.luxembourgforum.org

## The International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe

On May 21, 2013, a two-day conference billed as Secure Tolerance Criteria for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regimes organized by the International Luxembourg Forum on Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe, opened in Montreux, Switzerland. The world's leading experts on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation from the Luxembourg Forum and other international organizations attended the Conference and discussed critical issues of international security. The Conference is held jointly with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy.



The agenda included technical aspects of creating nuclear weapons, nuclear munitions and their delivery vehicles, the development and deployment of nuclear forces, and scientific, technical and industrial potential as a precondition for the development of nuclear weapons. Unlike previous events, this year's Forum Conference focus marked the initial stage of research aimed at identifying those conditions and features that prove that a state's nuclear technologies are approaching the so-called "red line" which, when crossed, strongly suggests their intention to develop nuclear weapons. Urgent solutions and appropriate measures are required to prevent such developments.

Based on the Conference outcome, the experts intend to aggressively continue their research to provide grounds for acceptable limits of "nuclear tolerance," the point at which non-nuclear states that have the right to create a complete nuclear fuel cycle for the benefit of the nuclear power industry under the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but start to show signs of abusing this right in order to illegally develop weapon technologies. The Forum's experts are confident that suppression of such activity must be implemented in tougher resolutions than the existing resolutions of the UN Security Council, which, as experience shows, may be inefficient, specifically as concerns prohibitions against Iran's enrichment of uranium. The token nature of such prohibitions is demonstrated by the position of the Six Nations held in negotiations with Iran, which allows for compromise agreements limiting nuclear enrichment to a mere 20% and allowing enrichment to fuel grade. This essentially undermines the authority of the UN Security Council. In these circumstances, the Forum experts strive to elaborate clear criteria for nuclear tolerance.

In his opening address to the Conference the Luxembourg Forum President Viatcheslav Kantor emphasized that "the theme of tolerance is widely used in public practice, despite the fact that it does not meet the challenges of the 21st century. That is why we need to enhance the idea of tolerance with the concept of security. The 'limit of tolerance,' defining of the conditions in which tolerance becomes dangerous for society, is an innovative feature of the concept of secure tolerance. Crossing this limit requires strict and legitimate measures to restore secure and civilized compromise. The initial application of this approach may prevent nuclear technologies from progressing to the military level."

Based on the event outcome, its participants will draft the traditional final document with their recommendations and specific proposals. The Luxembourg Forum experts issue similar documents on a regular basis after every event and valued by the global political leaders and heads of major international organizations who receive them.



## The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation

In 2013, the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation continued its efforts to promote tolerance and combat all forms of intolerance in Europe. Several key projects have been developed and are being prepared in the 2013-2014 period thanks to the generous contributions of the European Jewish Fund.

### **Promotion of the European Statute on Promoting Tolerance in Europe**

In 2012-2013, the ECTR Group of Eminent Legal Experts participated in discussions and a final seminar co-organized by the ECTR and the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the OSCE in Warsaw. The main purpose of the seminar was to consult on the ECTR proposal for the Framework for the National Statute on the Promotion of Tolerance. The seminar was attended by Prof. Yoram Dinstein, Prof. Rein Mullerson, Prof. Daniel Thurer, J. Ugo Genesio, Ryszard Kalisz, Chairman of the Human Rights Committee of the Polish Parliament, Prof. Adam Bodnar, Member of the Board of the Helsinki Human Rights Foundation, and representatives of the ODIHR/OSCE and the Council of Europe.

In September 2013, representatives of the ECTR officially presented the European Statute on Promoting Tolerance in Europe to the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament. A discussion among the members of the European Parliament followed the presentation.

In 2013, preparations were initiated for the presentation of the Framework Statute in the national parliaments of EU countries, including Hungary, Romania, Croatia, Estonia, and Poland. The first hearings will take place in 2013 in Budapest and Bucharest.

### **International Conference on Tolerance in Prague**

The ECTR has recently been engaged in preparing a large international conference titled Beyond Multiculturalism, Tolerance

and Social Stability: Challenges for Europe, which is scheduled for Spring 2014 in Prague, the Czech Republic, in partnership with the Czech Parliament.

Thanks to the support of the EJF, a new ECTR web page ([www.ectr.eu](http://www.ectr.eu)) has been launched. It now serves all internet users who seek information about the ECTR or wish to contact the organization.

### **European Medal of Tolerance**

During 2013, nominations were accepted for the 2014 European Medal of Tolerance, bestowed by the ECTR on distinguished European personalities. The EJF supports this bi-annual project, which in the past has awarded the Medal of Tolerance to such distinguished individuals as Juan Carlos I, King of Spain and the presidents of Croatia (Ivo Josipovic) and Serbia (Boris Tadic).





## EUROPEAN JEWISH FUND Fund's Activists



**Dr. Moshe Viatcheslav Kantor**  
*Chairman of the Fund*  
*Member Governor*



**Adv. Arie Zuckerman**  
*Secretary General*



**Vladimir Kantor**  
*Treasurer*

## EJF Executive Council Members



The Shalom Organization of Jews in Bulgaria  
**Maxim Benvenisti**  
*President*



Jewish Congress of Moldova  
**Alexander Bilinkis**  
*President*



Jewish Confederation of Ukraine  
**Rabbi Yaakov Dov Bleich**  
*Chief Rabbi*



The Jewish Community of Slovenia  
**Boris Caran**  
*Management Board Member*



Jewish Community of Lisbon  
**Jose Oulman Carp**  
*President*



Federation of Jewish Communities  
in Czech Republic  
**Petr Papoušek**  
*President*



La Benevolencija Sarajevo Jewish Community  
**Jakob Finci**  
*President*



Jewish Community of Tyrol and Vorarlberg  
**Dr. Esther Fritch**  
*President*



Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia  
**Dr. Ruben Fuks**  
*President*



The Jewish Community of Turkey  
**Ishak Ibrahimzadeh**  
*President*



Union of Jewish Communities in Poland  
**Piotr Kadlcik**  
*President*



Jewish Community of Norway  
**Ervin Kohn**  
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The Official Council  
of Jewish Communities in Sweden  
**Lena Posner-Korosi**  
*President*



Coordinating Committee of the Jewish  
Communities in the Republic of Croatia  
**Ognjen Kraus**  
*President*



Federation of Jewish Communities  
in Czech Republic

**Tomáš Kraus**  
*Secretary*



Jewish Community of Lithuania

**Faina Kukliansky**  
*Chairman*



Organization of Belarusian Jewish Organizations  
and Communities of Belarus

**Leonid Levin**  
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Federation of Jewish Communities in Slovakia

**Igor Rintel**  
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The Jewish Community of Luxembourg

**François Moyse**  
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Riga Jewish Community

**Alex Rutman (z"l)**  
*Vice President*



Macedonia  
**Berta Romano-Nikolij**  
*President*



Det Mosaiske Troessamfund The Jewish  
Community of Denmark

**Finn Schwarz**  
*President*



Coordinating Committee  
of Belgian Jewish Organizations

**Maurice Sosnowski**  
*President*



Riga Jewish Community, Latvia

**Arkady Suharenko**  
*President*



Federation of Jewish Communities of Romania

**Aurel Vainer**  
*President*



Jewish Community of Estonia

**Alla Yakobson**  
*Chairman*



Cyprus Jewish Community

**Ami Yeshurun**  
*President*



The Jewish Community of United Kingdom

**Vivian Wineman**  
*President*



Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities

**Herbert Winter**  
*President*

## *The Washington Post* Israeli Researchers See Surge in Anti-Semitic Incidents Worldwide in 2012 after 2-Year Decline

April 7, 2013

Israeli researchers warned Sunday of a sudden upsurge in anti-Semitic attacks, topped by a deadly school shooting in France, noting a link to the rise of extremist parties in Europe.

The warnings emerge from an annual report on anti-Semitism in the world, released on the eve of Israel's Memorial Day for the 6 million Jews killed by German Nazis and their collaborators in World War II.

The report noted a 30 percent jump in anti-Semitic violence and vandalism last year, after a two-year decline. It was issued at Tel Aviv University, in cooperation with the **European Jewish Congress**, an umbrella group representing Jewish communities across Europe.

The report recorded 686 attacks in 34 countries, ranging from physical violence to vandalism of synagogues and cemeteries, compared to 526 in 2011. It said 273 of the attacks last year, or 40 percent, involved violence against people.

The report linked the March, 2012 shooting at a Jewish school in Toulouse, where an extremist Muslim gunman killed four people, to a series of attacks that followed - particularly in France, where physical assaults on Jews almost doubled.

The report by the university's Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry found little correlation between the increase of anti-Semitic attacks and Israel's military operation in Gaza in November. While there was a spike in incidents at the time, it was much smaller in number and intensity than the one that followed the Toulouse school attack, said Roni Stauber, the chief researcher on the project.

"This shows that the desire to harm Jews is deeply rooted among extremist Muslims and right-wingers, regardless of events in the Middle East," he said. An Israeli offensive in Gaza four years earlier led to a significant spike in attacks against Jews in Europe.

This year, researchers pointed to a correlation between the strengthening of extreme right-wing parties in some European countries and high levels of anti-Semitic incidents, as well as attacks on other minorities and immigrants.

They said Europe's economic crisis was fueling the rise of extremist parties like Jobbik in Hungary, Golden Dawn in Greece and Svoboda in Ukraine.

Moshe Kantor, president of the **European Jewish Congress**, called for strong action by the European Union, charging that governments - particularly in Hungary - were not doing enough to curb these parties' activities and protect minorities.

"Neo-Nazis have been once again legalized in Europe. They are openly sitting in parliaments," Kantor complained.

Kantor, a Russian-Swiss businessman, said the EU should even consider expelling Hungary and Greece. "If they do not protect their own population against neo-Nazism, with all the lessons Europe had already, maybe there is no place for them in the European Union," he told The Associated Press after the presentation of the report.

First, he said, his group has asked the European Parliament to hold a special hearing on Hungary. The parliament is planning the hearings, said parliament spokesman Jaume Duch.

The president of the parliament, Martin Schulz, has been openly critical of anti-Semitism in Europe.

There was no immediate reaction from European officials, but the chances of punishing any country for the results of a democratic election are slim. The EU has never suspended a member state, much less tried to expel one.

Golden Dawn swept into Greece's parliament for the first time in June on an anti-immigrant platform. The party rejects the neo-Nazi label but is fond of Nazi literature and references. In Hungary, a Jobbik lawmaker has called for Jews to be screened as potential security risks. The leader of Ukraine's Svoboda denies his party is anti-Semitic but has repeatedly used derogatory terms to refer to Jews.

Legislation that criminalizes intolerance is liable to achieve the opposite outcome – a popular outcry in defense of the most abhorrent views.

This week in Athens, the European Jewish Congress's executive body awarded Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras a medal "in recognition of his courageous leadership in protecting tolerance and human rights."

The EJC representatives were acknowledging Samaras's crackdown on Golden Dawn, a political party that uses neo-Nazi rhetoric and whose members have brutally attacked migrants from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Egypt.

Golden Dawn's unprecedented success in the June 2012 parliamentary election, in which it received 7 percent of the vote, complicated efforts to investigate and prosecute members of the party, since several of its leaders became lawmakers and enjoyed



Golden Dawn supporters in Athens [file photo] Photo: Yorgos Karahalls / Reuters

parliamentary immunity. But when a Golden Dawn member stabbed to death Pavlos Fyssas, a 34-year-old anti-fascist rapper and ethnic Greek, in the port city of Piraeus, Samaras launched a broad criminal investigation of the political party and indicted several of its lawmakers, despite opposition from some of his advisers who feared doing so would hurt New Democracy, the center-right party Samaras heads.

With Samaras slated to become president of the Council of the European Union in January, the EJC, headed by businessman, philanthropist and Jewish activist Moshe Kantor, would like to see him expand the crackdown on Golden Dawn to additional extremist groups across Europe. **The European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation, an organization Kantor established in 2008 composed of former heads of European states and Nobel Peace Prize laureates, has drafted the Model Law for Promotion of Tolerance with help from legal experts including Yoram Dinstein, professor emeritus of international law and human rights at Tel Aviv University.**

**The legislation is meant to define, in binding legal terms, principles of tolerance. The EJC, the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation and other organizations are pushing to get all 28 EU member states to adopt the measure. While members of the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation such as Josë Maria Aznar, former prime minister of Spain, have good intentions, enforcing tolerance via legislation is problematic.**

First, drafting legislation designed to target specific political groups is liable to be perceived as a witch-hunt, particularly by groups susceptible to conspiracy theories. The example of Golden Dawn is instructive. Greece did not need to draft any new laws to indict members of the party.

And the charges brought against them were criminal allegations, not more nebulous, difficult to define claims of “intolerance” or “anti-Semitism.” Nevertheless, opinion polls held in recent weeks report that support for Golden Dawn has grown, in part due to perceptions that the party has been unfairly singled out. And if the indictments end in acquittals, Golden Dawn’s popularity is sure to grow even more. If political parties, movements or individuals begin to be indicted for their opinions, there will surely be a backlash of backing for precisely the sorts of extremist views the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation seeks to eliminate.

Second, if the European Parliament adopts the legislation in its current form, freedom of speech and expression are liable to be compromised in the name of tolerance.

Section 2 (d), for instance, states that the purpose of the statute is to “condemn all manifestations of intolerance based on bias, bigotry and prejudice.” And an explanatory note to Section 2 states that “religious intolerance is understood to cover Islamophobia.” But since Islamophobia is left undefined, all critical scrutiny of Islam, including of attempts to implement Shari’a law, could be defined as Islamophobia.

And even if the EU courts in the end do not deem legitimate criticism of Islam as Islamophobia and therefore punishable by law, there is a real fear that individuals and groups will censor themselves and refrain from expressing opinions or moral views in order to avoid lengthy court battles. **We share with the EJC and the European Council on Tolerance and Reconciliation a desire to eradicate all forms of bigotry – including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.**

But these terms are notoriously difficult to define.

And legislation that criminalizes intolerance is liable to achieve the opposite outcome – a popular outcry in defense of the most abhorrent views.



## Berlin conference challenges Jewish entrepreneurs

October 24, 2013 8:49am

BERLIN (JTA) – Israel can become the third nation ever to land on the moon, Israeli entrepreneur Yanki Margalit said at a conference in Berlin for Jewish entrepreneurs.

An unmanned Israeli spaceship will land there by 2016, predicted Margalit, a businessman and chair of SpaceIL, a nonprofit space technology organization that is participating in the Google Lunar X Prize challenge.

“You will open up your TV and it will make big news,” he said Thursday in an address titled “The Future of the Future.”

His talk about dreaming big was part of the two-day “Fly Berlin” conference on innovation and inspiration that brought together some 260 business leaders and young professionals from Germany, the United Kingdom, France and Switzerland. Many Israelis living in Berlin also took part, organizers said.

The event, which featured numerous workshops and networking opportunities, **was sponsored by Leadel, a European Jewish Congress project sponsored by the European Jewish Fund.** The Israeli Ministry of Diaspora Affairs also supported the Berlin event.

Tamar Shchory, executive director of Leadel, said the event aimed to “inspire the participants through hearing about success stories of Jewish innovators and entrepreneurs.”

Margalit, who started Aladdin Knowledge Systems, told JTA he wanted to inspire Jewish youth to study science. He said he was inspired by three young Israeli engineers who started the spaceship project.

Other speakers included Israeli Knesset Member Ronen Hoffman, Israeli singer Ivri Lider and Jeff Pulver, an American Internet entrepreneur.

Topics included “Tel Aviv as a Start-Up City,” “Global and Israeli Social Innovation” and “Innovation and Judaism.”

“This was the ‘Start-Up Nation’ meeting Europe,” said Moshe Kantor, head of the European Jewish Congress and the European Jewish Fund, referring to the 2009 book on the Israeli economy.

Kantor said he hoped the event would help participants “connect to being Jewish through business innovation and success.”

## Tolerance crucial for all civilized societies, says British ambassador

November 25th, 2013

Hungary's political elite should be united in saying that there is no room for hate speech in public life, lawmaker of ruling Fidesz Gergely Gulyas said in Budapest on Monday.

Addressing a conference organised by Political Capital Institute (PCI) and Szombat Jewish Political and Cultural Magazine, he said that no relativisation of any murderous dictatorial rule is acceptable, and both left and right-wing dictatorships should be condemned.

He said that Hungary's new civil code opens up the chance for people insulted due to of their affiliation to a community to sue and claim damages from the perpetrator.

Co-leader of the green opposition LMP party, Andras Schiffer, said the police had let slip plenty of chances to crack down on hate mongers over the past few years. He argued that unsuccessful government was a breeding ground for racist speech.

He added that the radical nationalist Jobbik party should only be banned if an institutional link can be proven between the party and violent groups.

MP Pal Steiner of the Socialists said that Holocaust denial is a crude manifestation of anti-Semitism that "goes beyond all boundaries" and "deeply injures all sober-minded people".

Tolerance is crucial for all civilised societies and it is also the basis of British values, British Ambassador Jonathan Knott said on Monday.

The ambassador said that the British government is dedicated to tolerance and is ready to help other countries protect tolerance.

The ambassador said Britain supported human rights organisations, and Roma and Jewish civil organisations, while also helping Roma farmers and supporting a book exhibition on Jewish themes. They helped organise human rights film days and related educational programmes, summer camps, and will take part in the series of events organised to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust next year.

Slomo Koves, Chief Rabbi of the Unified Hungarian Israelite Religious Community, said it was most important for the Jewish community to not only experience their identities in connection with anti-Semitism. He said when Jewish people are faced with symbolic or physical violence, the rule of law must build up the options to allow them to defend themselves, he said.

Gabor Szanto, editor-in-chief of Szombat periodical, said that many scapegoated others for their problems, and this is how a common image of an enemy emerges.

PCI head Peter Kreko said the institute was committed to creating a free and tolerant society where the principles of human rights are observed.

The conference entitled "Enemies of freedom – Scapegoating ideologies, anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and counter-narratives" is hosted by the British Embassy in Budapest.

## Tel Aviv University collating all laws of the world against racism

Two out of four volumes have been published to help jurists, legislators and diplomats understand countries' laws on racism and discrimination.

By Ofer Aderet | 17:39 15.12.13 | 4

Much has changed since the 2001 Durban Conference in South Africa turned into a platform for anti-Semitism. European countries have enacted ambitious anti-discrimination legislation, as well as laws governing incitement to racism, xenophobia, Holocaust denial, anti-Semitism and genocide.

Israelis have now taken the effort forward: Tel Aviv University's Kantor Center for the Study of



Contemporary European Jewry has published two of four volumes collecting the world's laws against discrimination and racism. The effort began in 2010.

Last week the university marked the publication of the first two volumes of "Legislating for Equality: A Multinational Collection of Non-Discrimination Norms." Dutch company Martinus Nijhoff is the publisher. The volumes on Europe and the Americas have come out, and the Kantor Center expects to complete the parts on Africa, Asia and Australia next year.

To collect the vast amount of material, five senior Kantor Center researchers and two law students examined reports by governments and human rights groups in multiple languages, as well as computerized databases of government authorities. There was also information released by embassies and research institutions, along with interviews with experts.

The result can assist jurists, legislators and diplomats around the world understand different countries' laws on racism and discrimination. The books, for example, tell the story of the rise of nationalism in Hungary, which in 2011 passed laws limiting civil rights and freedom of speech.

By contrast, Germany and France have used legal tools to cope with the difficulty in enforcing bans on hate speech on the Internet. In central and eastern Europe, the law considers Nazi crimes on par with Communist crimes, something the Israeli researchers see as relativizing the Holocaust and diminishing its importance.

France, Belgium and the Netherlands have all passed laws banning women from wearing the burka in public, and Switzerland has banned the construction of minarets. The tensions between European countries and the Muslims who have immigrated to them appear to have increased in recent years.

"We're certainly witnessing the beginning of an anti-Muslim trend led by Christians, including the desecration of mosques," said Israeli historian Dina Porat, who heads the Kantor Center and is chief historian at the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum. "For the first time in 20 years a report on anti-Muslim activity has landed on my desk."

Talia Naamat, a lawyer who coordinated the Kantor Center project and is editing the books with Porat and Nina Osin, also a lawyer, said Germany was the country most focused on passing laws against racism. "The prohibitions there are very strict," she said.

“A very low threshold is needed for an action to be considered incitement to racism. That’s not a consistent thing on the rest of the continent.”

For instance, Germany’s 16 states have initiated a plan to make the neo-Nazi NPD party illegal. The states addressed the issue in a petition to the constitutional court; they criticized the party for encouraging racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and anti-democratic ideology. In the country’s September election, the NPD won 1.3 percent of the vote, too little to win representation in the Bundestag. But some party members belong to local parliaments across the country.

### The cruelty-to-animals issue

An interesting case of alleged incitement in Germany reached the European Court of Human Rights last year. It began in 2004, when People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals launched a campaign equating the Holocaust to the murder of animals. Campaign ads showed prisoners in death camps standing next to caged animals, below the words “Holocaust on your plate.”

The Jewish community in Germany asked the courts to ban the campaign. Their request was accepted; the constitutional court ruled that PETA’s efforts were insulting to Holocaust survivors and must be stopped, even though this limited the animal rights activists’ freedom of speech.

The judges ruled that mentioning the Holocaust in an ad campaign “means deflating the importance of the Holocaust and turning the cries of Holocaust survivors into something routine, as well as impinging on the honor of Jews who survived the Holocaust and live in Germany.”

The European court, which was pulled into the matter, upheld the German ban and addressed a similar case in Austria. There too, the Jewish community had asked the courts to stop the campaign, but the Austrian courts refused, saying animal rights and free

speech were important values. The European court did not compel Austria to overturn its ruling.

“This is an example of an identical situation in two countries that led to opposite results,” said Naamat. “Despite Europe’s attempt to create harmony and set uniform standards on the matter, there are nuances between the countries, in keeping with their historic past.”

The United States and Canada have a totally different approach to hate speech because their history is different from the aggressors’ of World War II, “so their attitude to legislation on the matter is totally different,” said Porat. While in Europe the trend is to act against racist comments, not just racist actions, North American law sanctifies freedom of speech. “Holocaust denial is not outlawed there,” said Porat. “There is a whole empire of denial.”

Porat said the law does not always reflect the reality in any given country. “The constitution can have these wonderful words,” she said. “The nicest constitutions are those of Libya and the worst countries in terms of their attitude toward human rights .... If you examine Iran’s constitution you’ll feel like you’re in heaven. But in practical terms, the day to day, the situation is reversed. The constitution is wonderful, but the day-to-day life – I wouldn’t wish it on anyone.”

**The series’ final volume**, on Asia, will include a chapter on Israel. “Israel’s legal system is similar to the one in Europe – it has laws banning discrimination in the civil realm, like access to services or public places, and has a law banning incitement to racism,” said Naamat. Her team will soon be taking a deeper look at anti-discrimination legislation in Israel.

Porat recalled that it wasn’t until 1986 that the Knesset passed a law banning incitement and racism. “Before then, they didn’t think such a law was needed,” she said.

So what prompted the change? It was Meir Kahane, the ultra-nationalist leader of the Kach party who joined the Knesset in 1984, not long before his party was banned under the new law.



## On the Way to the Creative Work

Jewish News Agency | By Olga Zagadskaya, December 31, 2013

Minsk, December 31, 2013 (Jewish News Agency) - In Minsk the 7<sup>th</sup> International Children Art Forum 'The Revival of the Jewish Shtetl' took place that gathered nineteen participants at the age from fourteen to nineteen from six countries – Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Serbia, Croatia and Estonia.

During the seven years more than two hundred participants have taken part in the Project. And each of the participants has become a special history in the memory of an Art Forum for the organizers.

The peculiarity of the Art Forum is that the participants visit Jewish shtetls which were destroyed during World War II and have not been restored.

For the participants the minutes like that become voices of the Jewish people that find an echo in everyone's soul.

'The Project is very good as it gives a possibility for teenagers to show themselves from a new side, and we just help them to achieve that and watch the impulses of their souls with a great interest', says the organizer of the Project Galina Levina, an architect.

But the most important thing in the judgment of the participants is that they have a possibility of a real lively communication, to be together, to meet new people, to find new objects and to get new knowledge. The chief thing is that it gives a chance for the inspiration to the further creative work.

The distinctions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Art Forum are that a great number of master-classes and meetings with creative people have taken place.

A special attention this year the organizers paid to the documentary. The participants saw some films and met their makers. Those were the films 'Shoes', 'Shtetl. Local Atlantis' and 'Meetings in Belarus. Roots and Crown.'

'This time during the film 'Shoes' I was sitting half incline to the screen and was watching

their startling eyes, faces and every movement of their silhouettes. Later on the teenagers told me that they had never seen anything more emotional than that', Galina Levina shared her impressions.

This year the teenagers have one more interesting meeting. That was a meeting with Josef Shagal, the ambassador of the State of Israel to the Republic of Belarus, as well as with the representatives of the diplomatic missions.

After the visit of the Historic Workshop, an excursion of the Minsk Ghetto and the visit of an architect Leonid Levin's studio the emotions and feelings of the teenagers immediately were reflected in their drawings.

The visit of the Historic Workshop had become for the participants a peculiar lesson of a creative comprehension of the tragedy of the Ghetto.

And what is more, an active intercourse took place during which everyone could inform about the life of a Jewish community today and some of the participants shared the recollections of the stories of the war years of their families.

"It is necessary to note, that the teenagers every day used to observe the details of the Jewish life and were taught to love the Jewish traditions and culture by crumbs. They traverse the path with small steps that occasionally becomes an important base to great works.", G.Levina said.

"I have a profound respect both creative and human for those teenagers who do all their best to come to Belarus. I am grateful to them for their way of how they reflect their philosophy.", G.Levina summarized.

In conclusion of the Art Forum an exhibition of the participants' works made during the Project took place in the Museum of the History of the City of Minsk. The participants were presented with diplomas and medals.

In the framework of the Art Forum there was also an exhibition of thirteen illustrations to the book 'Fiddler on the Roof' by Noa Geras (Croatia).

The Jewish Community of Belarus could unite some of the communities of Europe by such a unique creative project thanks to its organizers Galina Levina, an architect and the Union of the Belarusian Jewish Public Associations and Communities with the permanent support of the **European Jewish Fund**.



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