

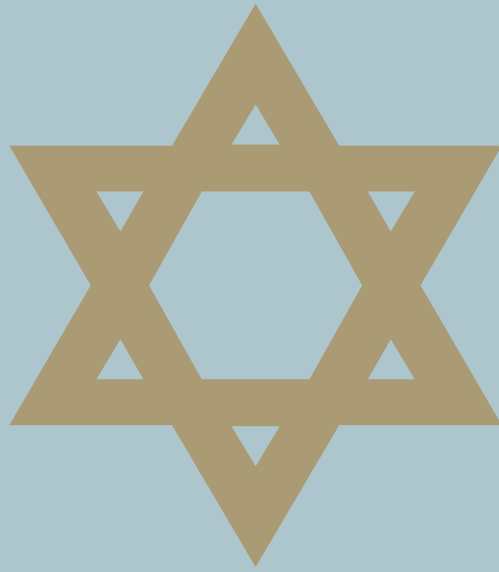


FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM

**and reviving
Jewish cultural heritage
in Europe**



Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



SHARED HISTORY **SHARED HERITAGE**

For centuries, Jewish communities have contributed enormously to culture and art, philosophy, science, law, religion and economics in Europe. Yet antisemitism continues to be a reality, and many Jews experience insults, harassment and violence.



NEARLY HALF OF EUROPEAN JEWS WORRY ABOUT BEING HARASSED IN PUBLIC*

*EU'S FUNDEMENTAL RIGHTS AGENCY SURVEY (2013)

Antisemitism is an age-old phenomenon that has been lying dormant in society for decades. Today, it is again on the rise. It targets people for who they are and not for what they do, and is contrary to the values at the heart of Europe. It cannot be allowed to continue unchecked.

Norway has supported and continue to support several initiatives to combat antisemitism in Northern, Central and Southern Europe through the EEA and Norway Grants.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AND DIVERSITY

Remembrance is crucial in order to keep our shared values alive. Raising awareness of Jewish influence on European history and heritage helps to promote tolerance and multicultural understanding.

Norway has focused on reviving Jewish cultural heritage in seven countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal and Slovakia.

Several former synagogues are being renovated for the sake of remembrance, but also they can be used for religious purposes and as creative spaces for artists, for education and as multicultural community centres.

TOLERANCE AND DIALOGUE

Tolerance is only possible in a society where citizens are active and involved. Living together in a community is not just a matter of existing alongside one another. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a key role in mobilising citizens and promoting human rights and combating discrimination.

Our NGO programmes in 16 European countries actively address extremism and intolerance, such as antisemitism, for example by supporting projects combatting hate speech. Through our NGO programmes, we are also involved in the pan-European No Hate Speech Movement.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Governments, international organisations and civil society need to work together to counter intolerance and discrimination.

are engaged in a partnership with the Council of Europe (CoE), and take part in its No Hate Speech Movement, developing toolkits for schools, and providing good practice databases and workshops for young bloggers.

also cooperate with the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights. These strategic partnerships bring added expertise and improve the results.



Exhibition on the history of the Jewish communities in Oslo and Wroclaw

Restoration of the White Stork Synagogue, Wroclaw

Digitalisation of documents from the Jewish Religious Community in Prague

Restoration of the synagogue in Brno

Restoration of the Jewish cemetery and Jewish quarters in Segovia



Rezekne Green synagogue

Restoration of the Red Synagogue

Restoration of the Great Synagogue of Ludza

Restoration of the White Synagogue

Pakruojis synagogue

The School of Dialogue

Antisemitism campagin

Gustav Meztger /
The Retrospective

Reviving Jiddish

POLIN Museum of History of Polish Jews

Krasnystaw – the lost shtetl

Reconstruction of the Synagogue in Turnov

Mezuzah

Restoration of the Renaissance Synagogue of Zamosc

Shtetl in Nowy Sącz:
Youth Tolerance Ambassadors

Synagogue in Žilina

The Jewish Suburbia of Bardejov

Sered Testimonies

The Golem is coming

My Town's Jewish history

Jewish local history walks

Revitalisation of the Oltenia minorities' cultural heritage

Platform of Political Theater

The Remembrance of the Jewish Communities

EEA AND NORWAY GRANTS

PROJECT EXAMPLES

COOPERATION WITH NORWEGIAN PARTNERS

Jewish history in Poland has connections with Norway, and the Museum in Warsaw has teamed up with several Norwegian partners under the educational programme. The Norwegian Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities (HL Centre) is the lead partner, and is coordinating the involvement of a number of other Norwegian organisations: the Oslo Jewish Museum, the Falstad Centre, the European Wergeland Centre, and the Jewish Museum in Trondheim. The aim is to document the shared Jewish history of the two countries and to present this to a broad audience. The project also has a contemporary focus, looking at how we can learn to live and thrive together in a diverse and pluralist society.

POLAND

BRINGING JEWISH CULTURAL HERITAGE ALIVE

For many people, the history of Polish Jews is mainly associated with the Holocaust. Nonetheless, the Jewish community in Poland has a long and rich history. The Museum is an innovative centre of research, teaching and culture, and seeks to provide a platform for social change and new ways of looking at and passing on history.

Norway funds the Museum's educational programme reaching out to youth, families and the general public. Activities include free programmes for students and teachers, theatre and music workshops, panel discussions, virtual museum tours and nationwide travelling exhibitions.

Project promoter:

POLIN - Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Grant contribution:

€2 566 497





POLAND

REVIVING YIDDISH

Yiddish was spoken by more than 10 million people in Europe before the Second World War. The Yiddish for All project aims to reverse the sharp decline in the language as a result of the Holocaust, emigration and assimilation. The project has been developed in partnership with the Oslo Jewish Museum, Franzisca Aarflot Productions, the Centre for Studies of the Holocaust and Religious Minorities, and the Jewish Culture Festival in Trondheim, Norway.

Project promoter:

Bente Kahan Foundation

Grant contribution:

€277 932

PORTUGAL

WALKING THE SEPHARDIC ROUTE

The Portuguese Network of Jewish Quarters will restore and connect 13 Jewish Sephardic cultural heritage sites across Portugal. It is estimated that 100 000 people will visit these sites to gain a unique glimpse of a rediscovered Jewish past. This will in turn boost tourism, and promote local job creation and economic development.

Project promoter:

Portuguese Network of Jewish Quarters

Grant contribution:

€3 642 249





SLOVAKIA

RESTORING THE SYNAGOGUE IN ŽILINA

The New Synagogue in the historical centre of Žilina is regarded as one of the most beautiful and architecturally important 20th century buildings in Slovakia. It has been used as a concert hall, a university lecture hall, and – from 1990 to 2010 – as a cinema. Our funding is an important contribution to the project, which is currently restoring the synagogue and transforming it into a cultural centre. The project is being developed in close cooperation with the Stavanger based Tou Scene, one of Norway’s leading arts centres.

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Project promoter:

Truc Sphérique

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Grant contribution:

€328 222

LATVIA

RESTORATION OF THE REZEKNE GREEN SYNAGOGUE

Rezekne is home to one of the oldest wooden synagogues in the Baltic region, and this is also the last of the city’s 11 synagogues that remains. It has been closed for decades, but is now being restored by Latvian and Norwegian vocational students. When the restoration is completed, the Green Synagogue will be a centre for conservation of wooden buildings and a tourist information centre. It will also be possible to use it for religious purposes.

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Project promoter:

Rezekne City Council

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Grant contribution:

€545 760





LITHUANIA

RESTORATION OF PAKRUOJIS SYNAGOGUE

Lithuania is one of the few countries in Europe that still has wooden synagogues. Our funding is helping to restore the Pakruojis synagogue, dating from 1801, and recreate its wall paintings. The renovated building will serve the whole community. The children’s literature section of the municipal library is to be housed in the premises, which will also host exhibitions on Jewish culture and history, educational events, discussions with writers and book launches.

Project promoter:
Pakruojis District Municipality

Grant contribution:
€668 703

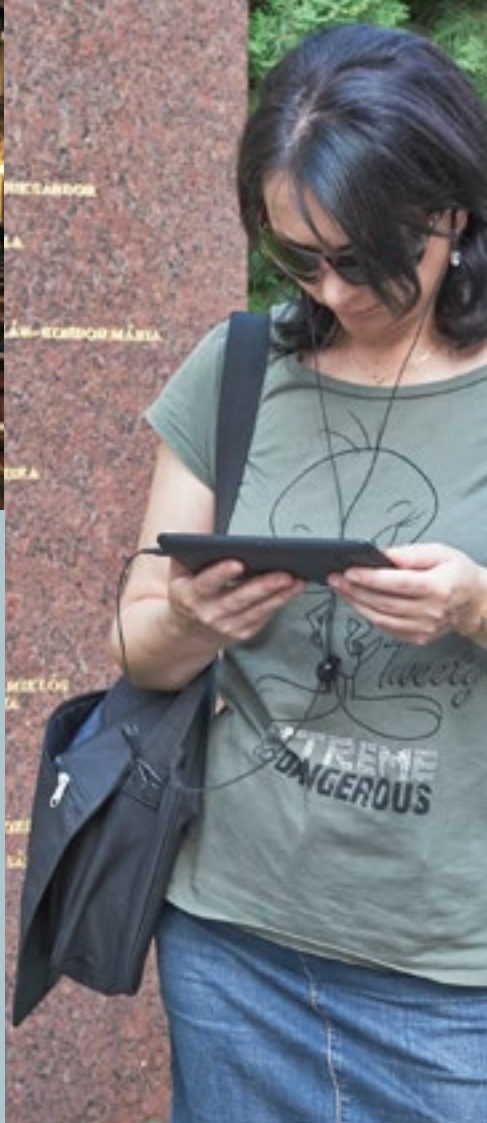
ANTISEMITISM CAMPAIGN

The Lithuanian Jewish Community, an NGO, in collaboration with the Jewish Community of Oslo, is running a campaign to promote tolerance towards minorities. The project improves systems for hate crime data collection, monitors the development of antisemitism and xenophobia, and raise public awareness of these issues. A community centre, the Bagel Shop, has been established as a social venue for various events and inter-cultural activities.

Project promoter:
Lithuanian Jewish Community

Grant contribution:
€81 478





HUNGARY

JEWISH LOCAL HISTORY WALKS

The Jewish community in Hungary is the largest in Central Europe. The Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance is organising Jewish history walking tours in Budapest. A mobile audio guide application has been developed to present the vibrant history and culture of Hungarian Jewish communities, and includes interviews with survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust. Of Hungary's wartime Jewish population of some 800 000, fewer than 200 000 survived.

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Project promoter:

Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance

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Grant contribution:

€9 786

CZECH REPUBLIC

RESTORATION OF THE SYNAGOGUE IN BRNO

The synagogue was used as a warehouse during the Second World War. It has since been re-consecrated, but has nevertheless fallen into disrepair. The interior of the synagogue will be returned to its original condition. When the work is completed, the building will be used for both religious purposes and cultural events. The goal is to increase awareness of Jewish traditions in the development of the region. Through cooperation with the Jewish Museum in Oslo, the history and lives of members of the Jewish community in Brno who escaped to Norway will be mapped and studied.

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Project promoter:

The Jewish community in Brno

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Grant contribution:

€204 410



EEA and Norway Grants represent Norway's contribution to reducing social and economic disparities and strengthening bilateral relation with 16 countries in Northern, Central and Southern Europe. Since 1994, the funding provided has amounted to EUR 3 272.5 million.

Read more: www.mfa.no/eeanorwaygrants

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