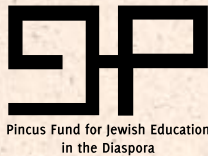


# **Paideia Project-Incubator**

Project Catalogue 2010



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## **The Online Museum for Contemporary Jewish Visual Artists**

Andrea Ausztrics, Hungary

The Online Museum is a platform and database that presents information about new art statements. The project provides a possibility for artists to introduce themselves and for supporters and the general audience to get to know them.

There are a large number of artists dealing with contemporary Jewish art but they do not know how to connect or how to address their needs. The general audience is interested in contemporary movements and they would like to invest their attention and support them. The connection and successful cooperation between the artists and the organizers, event planners, community leaders and curators that the Online Museum provides builds on the energy of new innovation in the international artistic field. The platform is under construction and already attracting a huge amount of interest from artists, community leaders and volunteers.

## **The Pixrael Project**

Anita Bartha, Hungary

[pixrael.hu](http://pixrael.hu)

There is an identity crisis among the 3rd generation Jewish youth. Most of them were not raised Jewish and only discovered their Jewish roots and heritage in their 20's. In addition, the main Jewish experience offered in Budapest today is of orthodox and conservative nature, often not open to young people still struggling to formulate their personal Jewish identity. Our mission is to connect young Hungarian Jews to their Jewish cultural heritage through environmentally friendly projects in the arts.

Pix.Rael's out-door exhibitions have been held for two years in public spaces in downtown Budapest, using tarpaulin as the material used to exhibit. This material has excellent tensile strength but is considered hazardous waste. Our new project, Pix.Rael Recycle invites young Jewish designers to re-think traditional Jewish art by re-using the fabric from the past exhibitions for the new one.

Handicraft workshops open to the general student population will be set up where the participants can make personal objects and can get familiar with contemporary Jewish design. By using this material we will be able to encourage environmentally friendly art in a unique Jewish context.

## **Student Programs in Jewish Studies**

Anna Shayevich, Russia • [sefer.ru/eng/programs.html](http://sefer.ru/eng/programs.html)

After being prohibited for decades, Jewish studies and education were almost totally destroyed in the countries of the Former Soviet Union. By opening up and deepening Jewish knowledge we hope to accomplish the rebirth and renewal of Jewish intellectual and cultural life.

Our project aims to expand and deepen the programs available through the Sefer Center to Jewish and non-Jewish youth aged 18-35 in the FSU, with an interest in academic Jewish studies. These programs will provide a unique chance for them to study with leading international academics and to trace the roots of the Jewry of their region. In particular, we will focus on field studies including lectures, field trips and social events, in places of historical significance. The experience of touching Jewish history will strengthen participants' Jewish identity, deepen their knowledge, enable them to find their place in the Jewish community and to create a community of interested students.

Sefer is a well-known center, which was established in 1994 as an umbrella organization that unites universities, scholars and researchers of Jewish studies in the FSU and beyond.

## **"Ktav Et"- an Academic Periodical for Young Researchers**

Aleksandra Ziolk and Magda Szwabowicz, Poland

The transition from being an aspiring academic to becoming an acknowledged scholar is a demanding process. An essential step in this development involves publishing in an academic journal. Yet Jewish studies students and beginner researchers rarely or never get the chance to publish their work, as existing academic journals are reserved for experienced and established scholars.

Ktav Et aims at bridging the gap between these two worlds and at providing pre-PhD students and researchers with opportunities to publish, evolve and ultimately contribute to the development of Jewish studies.

As passionate and aspiring Jewish studies researchers ourselves, we believe we are in the right position to understand and to address the pressing need for an academic journal designed exclusively for beginner researchers. Ktav Et is not only a multilingual, international on-line journal but also an innovative approach at promoting scholarly development at the earliest stages of the academic career.

## **Retrieval of the Local Collective Memory about the Jewish Personalities of Braila**

Adriana Elena Dumitrescu, Romania

The city of Braila, Romania, had a large Jewish community that made a significant contribution to its economic, social and cultural life and included personalities of national and international reputation. In the interwar period, the city's Jewish population numbered 20000-30000 but today, only 136 Jews remain. The city of Braila has lost some of its former brilliance and the current population is largely unaware of this rich cultural history.

The collection of testimonies and their publication in a book for students, teachers and the wider public will educate the people of Braila about the history of the Jewish community, celebrate the city's minority communities and help restore a sense of civic pride in our cultural heritage. My position as a head teacher, trained history teacher and proud resident of Braila puts me in a unique position to realize this project.

### **Midrash Lab**

Agata Nowak & Tanya Segal, Poland • [beitkrakow.pl/midrash-theatre](http://beitkrakow.pl/midrash-theatre)

#### **The Jewish Art & Culture Laboratory- Krakow, Poland**

Given its difficult history, there is a vacuum of contemporary Jewish cultural and artistic context in today's Poland. It is estimated that there are over 20,000 Jews in Poland but only around 10% identify with official Jewish communities. The rest still do not have channels to connect properly to their identities.

The Jewish Art & Cultural Laboratory's mission is to help fill this void by reviving Jewish art and culture through contemporary drama, music, filmmaking and the fine arts. The project will be initiated in Krakow, which has a large, vibrant student population and young Jews active in all of these artistic fields. With the use of the well-established educational model of the Midrash Theatre, it will educate artists as well as audiences, inspire further creation of modern Jewish culture and create a new artistic language – all aimed at revitalizing Jewish identity and life in Poland. The laboratory also presents a completely innovative approach to community building though engaging the community, the artists, the performers and the audiences in the creative educational process. In this, way the Laboratory works on multiple levels as a unique catalyst for a revival of modern Jewish life in Poland.

## **The Beit Project**

David Stoleru, France/Spain

In almost every European city, physical remnants of past Jewish life stand as testimonial to a “vanished culture”. Existing preservation projects tend to fossilize heritage, addressing only its physical component.

The Beit Project will transform Jewish Heritage sites all over Europe into urban beacons. It will permit students and citizens a deep and stimulating exploration of our cities’ meanings, where Jewish cultural experience serves to (re)think European identity. The project introduces a nomadic studying structure into heritage sites, where the site is the text. It travels from one place to another, creating interaction with the places and between them. This new presence situates Jewish culture in the open urban space, and proposes a new perspective for the preservation and development of urban heritage.

The Beit Project is a pan-European program that aims to expand society’s consciousness about the role Jewish culture currently has in the construction of contemporary European identity.

## **Inspired Jewish Leadership**

Elena Feldman & Irina Sklyankina, Russia • [Projectkesher.org](http://Projectkesher.org)

The IJL Project - creating advanced senior leadership development for women. Women’s leadership is transforming Jewish life and society in the countries of the Former Soviet Union and contributing to the creation of strong, independent Jewish communities. There is a need for continued leadership development to ensure that women activists have the skills and knowledge to lead their communities.

Our project will identify thirty experienced Project Keshet activists from fifteen cities and organize training seminars to examine communal needs and develop their skills to a more advanced level. Grounded in Jewish text study, the seminars will deepen their Jewish identity and inspire them to lead their communities towards increased volunteerism and self-sufficiency. Participants will then be given the opportunity to work together to apply their new skills through the implementation of joint social activism campaigns across different cities.

Project Keshet has over 16 years of experience in training Jewish women leaders with over 170 women’s groups operating in 6 regions across the FSU and Israel.

## Soviet Zion

Giles Howe and Katy Lipson, UK • [sovietzion.com](http://sovietzion.com)

Few people are aware that before the establishment of the State of Israel, the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan was a unique cultural attempt to create a Socialist Yiddish homeland in Siberia during Stalin's reign.

**SOVIET ZION** is an epic new musical that will entertain and enlighten audiences by bringing to life this fascinating but little-known episode of Jewish history through the stories of three very different families who settled the region. Unique for both its subject matter and distinctive musical style, the show will raise awareness of the region itself; its citizens; and how the ideologies behind the existence of this most curious Jewish territory affected their lives.

Following a unanimously well-received preview showcase last October, a full-length presentation of the show, in concert, will be mounted in London in advance of plans to tour the show; initially to Jewish communities around the UK and the world. The project is led by The A STAGE KINDLY New Musical Theatre Initiative: an organisation founded by the show's composers that has a proven track-record of bringing to life new musicals.

## Jeneration

Judith (Jude) Williams, UK • [Jeneration.org](http://Jeneration.org)

Research shows that UK Jews aged 18-30 have strong Jewish identities and are genuinely interested in exploring Jewish tradition. However, they are at a stage in life where they question the Jewish assumptions of their childhood in order to formulate a more personal Jewish identity.

Jeneration was established in 2007 to empower and equip 18-30 year-olds through connecting them to one another, providing transformative Jewish experiences and providing them with resources to create their own vision of Jewish life. For instance, through [Jeneration.org](http://Jeneration.org) with a popular and comprehensive What's On section; heritage and social action travel experiences and textual learning programmes; through microgrants to create their own Jewish experiences; and a student Rep programme.

Led by professional Jewish educators, Jeneration is unique in focusing on individual needs and giving Jews transformative educational moments. Ultimately, Jeneration seeks to enable Jews to be the author of their own Jewish journey.

## **Jewish 'Shuk' in Vilna**

Liana Jagniatinsky, Lithuania

Before World War II, Vilnius was known as a spiritual and cultural Jewish center – the Jerusalem of the North. The community and culture were lost during Holocaust and communist regime and has reawakened only in the last 20 years - and Lithuanian Jews still face serious challenges in the form of anti-Semitism and assimilation. There is both a lack of knowledge about Jewish culture among Lithuanians and of interesting educational programs for young Jewish professionals.

"Jewish Shuk" (market) wishes to restore the atmosphere of vibrant Jewish life locked within Vilnius' past. The program will engage and educate young Jewish adults through multigenerational cultural activities that will allow elderly Jews to share their experiences. Through a combination of Jewish music, art and gastronomy, it allows people to experience Vilnius' Jewish cultural heritage.

"Jewish Shuk" will also make Jewish culture visible to the wider public and make Lithuanians understand and appreciate Jewish culture and traditions.

Our long experience in event management (such as Limmud, Litvak congress, Yiddish institute) and work with Jewish Adults groups in the community allows us to take responsibility for these changes.

## **EICOP - European Israeli cooperation platform**

Liat Margalit, Israel • [Eicop.org](http://Eicop.org)

In Israel today there is a need for young people to find a platform to engage in European Union-Israel relations. As the EU becomes an essential actor in the Middle Eastern reality, a basic understanding between the parties is needed in order to strengthen their relations. Young professionals in Israel have gained new experiences and have been exposed to the wider world. There is a need for an organization that can bring all these young professionals together in order to strengthen their voices and increase their influence in political decisions.

This need can be addressed by the annual activities conducted by the forum. The organization's programs promote pragmatic vision-led and action-oriented dialogue, yielding creative policy directions and their implementation. The YIFC offers a direct connection to EU-based young professionals, as well as the opportunity to meet with decision-makers in Europe and Israel, in order to positively influence and improve Israel-EU relations.

## **JewFish**

Natalia Yakimchuk, Russia and Iulia Tucinskaya, Moldova

There is still a lack both of awareness and of relevant activities in Jewish culture for people age 20-35 in today's FSU. Our goal is to make Jewish culture more accessible and interesting for this young generation in the FSU countries.

During the first year of the project, we will bring 6 events of innovative programming to young people in 3 FSU cities, using traditional methods of Jewish study such as Beit-Midrash and Hevruta, to introduce both contemporary culture such as movies, literature, theatre etc. and traditional content (Torah, Talmud, Midrash). We will inspire them to take an active interest in Jewish topics and help create and sustain lifelong connections between them.

As young Paideia Fellowship Alumni with academic and practical experience in informal Jewish education, we are uniquely able to create the bridge between Jewish culture and the young people interested in it.

## **"Keshet Hadash" - Repairing the World through the Proactive Study of Torah**

Olena Pysina & Vlada Bystrova, Ukraine

In the increasingly consumer-driven FSU, young Jews exhibit a low level of civic engagement and volunteerism. Young women who aspire towards leadership in the Jewish community face particular barriers as society in the FSU is still dominated by men and women remain heavily under-represented in Jewish communal leadership

The project will educate 25 young women ages 20-30 in a leadership program designed to develop a strong network of young women and to empower them to work with young adults in Jewish communities. It will help young women in 14 groups in cities in Russia and Ukraine to understand how they can live according to Jewish values as Jewish professionals and volunteers or by using professional skills to advance the Jewish community and society as a whole. "Keshet Hadash" provides experience in reducing domestic violence, stopping sex trafficking, educating about HIV/AIDS and building a tolerant society. Graduates of the program will take on leadership roles in Jewish life through Project Keshet or local Jewish institutions and involve more young adults in Jewish life. They continue to build a grassroots commitment to Jewish life, pluralism and social activism in their communities.

## **Moderne Jüdisches Kochbuch - Modern Jewish Cookbook**

Sabrina Small, Germany

The rich, centuries long tradition of Jewish-German cooking is virtually non-existent in Germany today. If these recipes are not recaptured and made accessible to modern German society, then this cultural treasure--which belongs to Germans as much as it does to Jews--will be lost forever. An updated, sophisticated cookbook inspired by the history of Jewish-German cuisine will encourage the large audience of German home-cooks to bring this culinary culture back to their kitchens.

As an accomplished food writer and professional cook who has worked in both Jewish and German kitchens, I am uniquely qualified to write this book. Cooking is a magical, intimate tool to communicate the shared heritage of Jewish and German culture. The story of how Jewish cuisine vanished from Germany cannot be rewritten but the reintroduction of that cuisine is a story that is waiting to be told.

## **Shalom Chaverim!**

Petr Beneš, Czech Republic

Twenty years after the Velvet revolution, the number of affiliated Jews in Prague is shrinking and the community is aging rapidly. Only 10% of the estimated 15,000 Jews in Prague are formal members of a Jewish community and we are losing people due to passivity and exclusivity.

We want to see a vital and flourishing community, and have set up an outreach programme called Shalom Chaverim! This is an open and diverse project that offers multiple programmes to bring Prague's Jews closer to their roots and attract them to the existing Jewish communities.

We aim to provide something for everyone who wants to explore their Jewish origins, from a 'Read Hebrew Crash Course', to 'Services for Beginners', to 'Introduction to Judaism' sessions or Jewish cuisine tutorials. These small group courses will be affordable, welcoming, entertaining and, above all, friendly.

The project is the first of its kind in Prague and will be carried out by a young and motivated team from the local Jewish Liberal Union.

## **ידיש לעבט (Yiddish Lebt)**

Piotr Widlaszewski, Poland • [Jidysz.net](http://Jidysz.net)

Yiddish, for centuries a basis for a flourishing culture is nowadays listed as an endangered language. Although there is a growing interest in Yiddish heritage, the language is struggling to survive.

The Yiddish Lebt project was established to popularise the use of Yiddish language in multiple domains of human life and to spread the knowledge about Yiddish heritage to a large audience. Yiddish Lebt's mission is to provide open access to Yiddish language resources, tools and products, committed under open licenses, such as GPL, for non-profit distribution. We realise our mission through new media activities, artistic creation and public event arrangements. Yiddish Lebt is already a recognizable brand in many circles of Yiddish interest. Its products and technical solutions, such as an online Yiddish-Polish dictionary with more than 8000 entries and Yiddish radio broadcasts have gained considerable popularity among the international community of Yiddish-enthusiasts and are contributing to the mission of maintaining the continuity of Yiddish heritage.

## **Live and Learn in Jewish Venice**

Shaul Bassi, Italy • [Venicejewishstudies.org](http://Venicejewishstudies.org)

Venice was for centuries a reference point for Jewish life and culture. Its famous Ghetto, founded as a place of segregation 500 years ago, became - against all odds - a crossroads of different Jewish communities and a space of dialogue between Jews and non-Jews. Today, it risks becoming just a tourist attraction, with a glorious past but no future.

Our goal is to bring people from all around the world to engage in educational, artistic and community projects while sharing the unique experience of living in Venice for periods of different lengths. At the Venice Center for International Jewish Studies, we are partnering with leading Jewish scholars, artists and institutions to promote, facilitate and host a variety of programs that will create a new kind of Jewish community - international, plural and vibrant. The interaction with local Jews will guarantee a meaningful and continuing Jewish presence in a city whose beauty is second to none, celebrating the triumph of Jewish imagination and creativity over exclusion and prejudice.

## **Derech - The Way**

Tamas Paszternak, Slovakia • Menhaz.sk

Most Jews in the Komárno region have had very little connection to Jewish life in the last 65 years. DERECH (The way) is the first complex plan of activities for the renewal of the Jewish life in the area. Without our project, in a few years the Jewish community will disappear from the region.

The vision of the project is to have dynamic Jewish life in the cross-border region in the south of Slovakia and west of Hungary. The centre of this life will be in Komárno.

During the next two years, DERECH will host one event - either cultural, educational or religious - in the Menhaz Jewish cultural and community centre as well as in non - Jewish venues. Target groups include anyone interested in Jewish life, regardless of their personal background. All activities will be bilingual in Slovak and Hungarian. We are projecting involvement of at least 35-40 adult participants and 5 children. The community they form will be the basis of the future of the Jewish life in the area.

## **"Fishing Rod" –the Jewish Handicraft College**

Taras Prakapenka, Belarus

Over 500 Jewish individuals between 17 and 25 have turned to the Community in Gomel for help at least once. Most of them are in financial desperation and have neither the time nor the opportunity to develop their Jewish identity nor their historical and cultural knowledge.

Our goal is to connect Jewish youngsters from less fortunate families to become active members of the community, as well as gain employment to provide for their families. Starting with a group of 10 boys, this pilot project will provide full scholarships, room and board for one year. The 'live and learn' program will combine Jewish education and vocational training, specifically as jewellers and cutters of precious stones. Participants will also volunteer in the Jewish community and be responsible for different social activities.

Over the past 3 years, the Gomel Jewish Community Beit Yakov successfully has run numerous educational projects connected with Jewish Youth education and social work. This project has the support of the community and has already attracted a team of highly educated teachers and committed local sponsors.

Paideia would like to extend a deep and heartfelt thank-you to the following individuals, and to their organizations, for helping to realize the Project-Incubator 2010. They have been with us this summer as staff, partners and as advisors to the participants. They have shared with us and with the participants of their passion, insight and wisdom. Thanks



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**Judy Rosenblatt**

**Gary Rosenblatt**



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