

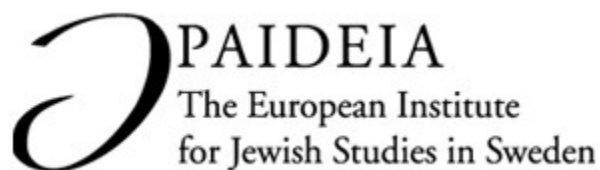
**2011** Project-  
Incubator

# PROJECT CATALOGUE

  
**2011** Summer  
of Change

# 2011 Project-Incubator

The 2011 Project-Incubator is a cooperation between:



# 2011 Project- Incubator

## 2011 Projects

Agata Kaplon

Ani Gharabaghtsyan

Anna Litovskaya

Chana Karmann-Lente

Diana Gün Sadacca

Klaudia Klimek

Michael Ansellem

Noemi Schlosser

Ohad Sternberg

Olga Savchuk

Orly Schwartzman

Torkel S. Wächter

Yana Brook

Yulia Kelman

Jews Go Green

Step by Step towards Jewish Studies

Shituf Peula

Machon Aviv - Jüdisches Lernen

Sephardic Revival Project

LiveNet - Your Source for Central European Jewish Life

Beit Morasha

“Cities – Jewish Cabaret”

3060

Green Leaves of Torah

ProMensch

32 Postkarten

Jewish International Dance Puzzle

J-Cities





**Name: Agata Kaplon**

**Project: Jews Go Green**

While the ecological discussion in Germany is very present in the public discussion and civil action, it is almost absent in the Jewish youth centers, schools and synagogues. The majority of the Jewish community in Germany has migration background from the Ex-USSR, where ecology and sustainability were not of concern. Through “Jews Go Green”, The Central Council of Jews in Germany wants to show that Judaism - rich in the reflection on nature and lifestyle ethics - has got a lot to offer in this field, for Jews and for the non-Jewish audience getting to know the respective sources. This will provide a fascinating source of knowledge for insights regarding the modernity and relevance of the ecological concepts provided by Jewish thought.

The tool to achieve these goals is to launch an internet page as a source of texts and tips and action samples workshop outlines, based on Jewish and environmental ethics. The website will be followed and complemented/supported by a series of seminars, which will teach youth organization leaders to become agents of change within their respective organizations, as well as to create and support a Facebook network of Jewish activists.

The Central Council of Jews in Germany is an institution at the national level and will be supporting the green change with means, networks, project management, and seminars in order to make the German community venue a modern, attractive and ecologically sustainable space.





**Name: Ani Gharabaghtsyan**

**Project: Step by Step towards Jewish Studies**

Fewer students enroll in Semitic Studies at Yerevan State University each year. One of the main reasons is that they do not have opportunities to learn about Jewish culture, history and religion, which is vital to understanding the Hebrew language. *Step by step towards Jewish studies* will enrich Jewish studies in Armenia by providing Semitic Studies and International Relations students with the knowledge they need about Jewish culture, history and religion to be better trained graduates. It will provide formal seminars, lectures, discussions, as well as informal exhibitions, traditional food parties, and cultural evenings. *Step by step* will also be open to youth in Armenia's small Jewish community, offering them learning opportunities and building cultural bridges. As a graduate in the department with a broad network of connections, I have access to the needed resources to respond to the growing interest among Armenian academic circle and interested audience about Jewish culture, history and religion.



# 2011 Project- Incubator

**Name: Anna Litovskaya**

**Project: Shituf Peula**

Small and medium-sized communities in Ukraine are mostly sponsored by external funds, while many young members remain inactive. Shituf Peula creates and trains a core of volunteers who serve these communities, each according to their needs.

Within two years, 70 volunteers will be trained during two seminars, providing a new skilled workforce to Jewish communities across Ukraine. The volunteers will help four communities through work in summer camps. In two years, there will be a gathering for all the volunteers.

The specific content of each camp will be determined through surveys of the needs of each community, while all camps will include basic motivational training and leadership development. Monetary and in-kind support will be raised from beneficiary communities to provide accommodations, food and materials for the participants.

The first camp, implemented in the Bila Tserkva Jewish community in May 2011, received positive feedback from participants. The success was the result of the project leaders' communication and leadership skills, their expertise in networking and building organizations as well as their specific knowledge in volunteering and project development and implementation.





**Name: Chana Karmann-Lente**

**Project: Machon Aviv - Jüdisches Lernen**

Most of the approximately 6000 Jews in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein did not benefit from a Jewish upbringing. Many of them would like to learn about their heritage, but despite the diversity of existing Jewish congregations (orthodox, liberal, conservative, Chabad), there is no opportunity for inclusive Jewish study.

Machon Aviv facilitates Jewish learning. It is open to all Jews, regardless of affiliation or religious background. With methods including traditional *chevruta* (one-on-one) learning, as well as lectures, classes and seminars on Jewish themes, Machon Aviv empowers people to strengthen their Jewish identity. Inspired by their positive experience at Machon Aviv and empowered by their increased Jewish literacy, they will contribute to the development of quality Jewish life in Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein.

The Machon Aviv core team is providing a rich initial offering of Jewish learning. The leadership includes Chana Karmann-Lente, who holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg / Hebrew University Jerusalem), as well as a professional Jewish educator, and a passionate Jewish teacher. We are continuing to attract additional outside lecturers and facilitators.





**Name: Diana Gün Sadacca**

**Project: Sephardic Revival Project**

Sephardic culture worldwide is dying out because most young people no longer understand the Ladino language. The new generations face the demands of modern life and pressures and have not learned from their families. They are not engaged with Sephardic traditions and links between Sephardic international communities have disappeared.

Turkey's Jewish community is still strongly united but has changed significantly over the years. It has lost its culinary and musical traditions and the Ladino language. Attempts to revive this culture have failed. My mission is to encourage the appreciation and understanding of Sephardic heritage, language and experience and preserve it for future generations, before it is lost forever.

The Sephardic Revival Project will be held in Istanbul and last 4-5 days. Participants from countries including Spain, France, Holland, England, Greece and Israel will join interactive seminars, concerts, workshops, live theatre and trips around Istanbul. The activities will promote an image of a modern Sephardic Jew and Sephardic culture to make youths more aware of their roots.

With our assistance participants will initiate similar programs within their own home communities. Our success will bring a strong awareness of the importance of Sephardic culture all over Europe and Israel. Tuna Alkan, the founder and director of the project is a Sephardic Jew living in Istanbul and has been initiating several projects for the Turkish Jewish community. She is actively strengthening links between the Jewish communities in Europe and in Israel.





**Name: Klaudia Klimek**

**Project: LiveNet: Your Source for Central European Jewish Life**

Jews visiting Central & Eastern Europe frequently come with stereotypes and prejudices about the region. In particular, group heritage and education tours for young Jews frequently depend on outdated materials that present inaccurate and negative views of contemporary Central & Eastern European Jewish life.

*LiveNet: Your Source for Central European Jewish Life* is a multimedia info-activism platform that will train young Central & Eastern European Jewish citizen journalists to report on and promote the life and work of their Jewish communities. *LiveNet* offers Jewish educational institutions, tour groups, and Jewish websites up-to-date reporting (both video and print) about European Jewish life, alongside curricula and classroom guides. Subscription fees from affiliate distributors will cover basic production costs.

As an experienced activist and tour manager in the Kraków Jewish community, Klaudia Klímek knows first hand the damage that misinformation can do. Her expertise in the sociology of communication and media, along with her extensive network of talented young leaders across Central & Eastern Europe, ensures a high standard of quality that will engage and inspire Jews worldwide.



# 2011 Project- Incubator

**Name: Michael Ansellem**

**Project: Beit Morasha**

Beit Morasha is a Jewish Educational Institution that operates the Jewish conversion program within the IDF and the Jewish educational program for IDF officers. It has been operating for the the last 20 years.

Beit Morasha plans to launch a new program in Europe: a Jewish International School of Leadership Academy to support the State of Israel and the Jewish People as a whole. The program includes Jewish Philosophy, History, Bible and Sociology through ancient, modern and contemporary sources and will revolve around the concept of Jewish civilization.

Today, the program is structured between New York and Jerusalem, with major partners like Academic institutions, Educational authorities, Government, the Jewish Agency, Jewish Federations, IDF, and outstanding personalities.

Presuming that every culture brings unique values and that we learn not only from faculty, but also from alumni and the environment, we would like to add an European chapter to that the program, like Europe includes a strong history and culture. This element will enrich the targeted student with European culture into their curricula, which would be a strong added value

Adding Europe to the US and Israel basis of this program will enlarge the participants's spectrum of culture, knowledge and sensitivity and enable a better and larger interaction with the world around them.

Paris, with one of the biggest and most vivid jewish communities, will be the basis for the european component, and from there the participants will be able to discover the many facets of the continent.



# 2011 Project- Incubator

**Name: Noemi Schlosser**

**Project: "Cities – Jewish Cabaret"**

"Willkommen and Bienvenue, Welcome...Fremde, Etranger, Stranger.."

Cabaret!

This rich, cultural, and very often Jewish heritage virtually disappeared from Europe overnight, suffering an unnatural death: Shot by the Political censure of the thirties. Just as 20 years ago, Klezmer music emerged from oblivion and has since attracted Jews and non-Jews alike - we believe Cabaret might be the NEXT new resurrection!

Our project is made up of three main elements: research, performance and workshop: Through research and retrieving material from archives across Europe we will create a brand new show, not only recreating what was, but adapting it to 21st century audiences. In addition, we will offer ala carte workshops, master-classes and after-show discussions where participants will learn about Jewish Cabaret history and discover the cabaretier in themselves.

With years of experience and Yiddishkeit in abundance - Rebecca Joy Fletcher (cantor) and Noemi Schlosser (theater actress) will join hands, voices and passion to bring life back into the Jewish Cabaret!



# 2011 Project- Incubator

**Name: Ohad Sternberg**

**Project: 3060**

Moldova's shrinking population and declining Jewish engagement lacks the involvement of all age groups. While JCC KEDEM and its affiliate organizations serve much of Moldova's Jewish community, 30-60 year-olds do not have adequate opportunities to integrate into the community. A recent needs assessment documents their desire for affordable fitness options, dance classes and a place to socialize.

'3060' is KEDEM's pioneering new initiative: tailored health & social programs through a subscription-based fitness center and new bar and lounge installed on the premises. Profits from the programs will be reinvested in facilities & services.

'3060' combines existing resources with innovative programming and motivated personnel to leverage and extend the JCC's reach and impact. As a Peace Corps volunteer consulting KEDEM, I bring years of experience in community development and a broad support network from the Former Soviet Union, Israel and the United States. '3060' is the right solution at the right time.





**Name: Olga Savchuk**

**Project: Green Leaves of Torah**

As Ukrainian society becomes more aware of ecological issues, both businesses and individuals are starting to promote social and environmental justice. Although many young Jewish adults are involved in this broader movement, the Ukrainian Jewish community has not yet adopted environmental initiatives and responsibility.

Green Leaves of Torah is a year-long course for young Jewish adults. Following the biblical theme of the seven days of creation, the program will connect Jewish texts and traditions with contemporary ecological challenges. Learning Jewish principles and perspectives on environment, the participants will implement them in their daily lives, as well as set an example for their local communities. The culmination of the project will be a community wide event – such as a Family Tu-bi-Shvat celebration – demonstrating issues related to ecological and environmental ideas and practices.

Green Leaves of Torah founder Olga Savchuk has national and international experience in environmental issues, as both student and activist. Hillel Kiev and Moishe House Kiev are supporting the initiative.





**Name: Orly Schwartzman**

**Project: ProMensch**

Small Jewish communities in economically prosperous areas often are unable to sustain their cultural Jewish life independently. Some apparent solutions, such as paying for professionals to come from abroad, are not affordable due to the community's narrow financial base, or may not be suited to local needs.

ProMensch enables small Jewish communities to manage their educational and social activities independently. Leveraging the power of European Jewish human capital, it provides relocation incentives to young adults in exchange for Jewish community service. ProMensch works with employers, educational institutions, and Jewish organizations to create jobs, internships, scholarships, and volunteer positions in the target community. ProMensch recruits candidates from countries with limited entry level job opportunities through international Jewish student network.

As a young Israeli idealist committed to tikkun olam, I feel a moral responsibility to support Jewish life in the Diaspora. My previous experience serving as a human resources officer in the Israeli Air Force and working in small Jewish communities around the world has prepared me for their unique challenges and opportunities.



# 2011 Project- Incubator

**Name: Torkel S. Wächter**

**Project: 32 Postkarten**

The great challenge of our era is learning to deal with issues regarding integration of ethnical and religious minorities into the majority society while maintaining our individuality. As a novelist and artist I am interested in how we construct our identities and I passionately believe that literature and art are powerful tools for social change.

My father was a German Jew. When he died, he left behind some packaging cases filled with diaries, letters, articles and his unfinished memoirs. In one of the boxes was a plastic bag containing the last postcards my grandparents sent to their son (my father) before they were deported in 1941. It is now possible to read these authentic postcards on the internet site [32postcards.com](http://32postcards.com). The first postcard was published on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2010, seventy years to the day since it was written. The following 31 postcards are published in “simulated real time” – on the date they were written, but 70 years later. After December 4<sup>th</sup> 2011, when the last postcard has been published on the internet, a book will be published. The bilingual project (German and English) has been received with great enthusiasm. At the moment it is followed by more than 8 000 persons, it has been featured in national and regional radio shows, magazines and newspapers.

The second project in this series of three internet based literature and art projects will deal with the crucial year 1933, using other material found in the boxes my father left behind, and documents retrieved from various archives – e.g. the well documented case made against my grandfather in order to oust him from his position as a senior civil servant working for the Hamburg Tax Authority. This second project will be highly interactive and opens on the internet on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2013, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hitler’s rise to power. The intention is to reflect upon our own time, to investigate memory and to be part of an exciting, vibrant and multifaceted future.





**Name: Yana Brook**

**Project: Jewish International Dance Puzzle**

Emerging Jewish adults want to network - to learn, work, communicate, and have fun together. They also want to express their Jewish Identity outside of the established Jewish community while building new relationships. 'Jewish International Dance Puzzle' addresses both those needs through a unique program of informal education and dance.

'Puzzle' offers Jews aged 20-25 the chance to take part in a pan-European creative experience and process - bigger than is possible in their local communities. 'Puzzle' consists of two seminars. The first (three days) is for dance teachers from each community, who learn the educational curriculum and choreography. The second (ten days) - for all the participants - will be hosted each year by a different Jewish community, and concludes the program. During this seminar, participants learn, rehearse, and perform together. Between the seminars, the teachers work in their communities, assisted and supervised by the project organizers.

For me there's nothing more exciting than connecting to other young Jews in Europe to do something Jewish and creative. That's what 'Puzzle' is all about. As an experienced choreographer and Jewish informal educator I want to share this with others.





**Name: Yulia Kelman**

**Project: J-Cities**

Jewish communities around the world today face assimilation, isolation and fragility. Modern opportunities of communication might help contribute to Jewish life, especially among the younger generation - the future of these communities.

J-Cities aims to develop personal and organizational contacts between young Jews living in different places, involve them into community life and strengthen their leadership and Jewish identity. J-Cities started in 2011 by creating an exchange program between Moscow and St. Petersburg groups (ages 18-30, affiliated and not, all potential leaders), who hosted each other in seminars they planned and realized on their own. The seminars included tours to sites related to Jewish local life, meetings with active local organizations, celebration of Shabbat and some volunteer work. Based on the program's success, J-Cities plans to multiply the model between St. Petersburg/Kazan and Moscow/ Yekaterinburg communities. Over the next two years, 3 more similar cooperations will be developed – both within Russia and internationally. New groups joining will develop their own independent and sustainable networking, based on a written manual explaining the model and supported through an internet-based platform, with the assistance of J-Cities. J-Cities is associated to Hillel, the largest international Jewish youth organization. Yulia Kelman, the founder of J-Cities, is an experienced and enthusiastic Moscow community leader. She has learned social project management, informal education, geography as well as Jewish studies.



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