

# Paideia Project-Incubator

## Stockholm 2008

Project Catalogue



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***The Jewish Evening Educational Center “REVIVAL” in Bielefeld (JEEC)***  
**Anna Petrowskaja and Nina Chugunova – Germany (originally FSU)**

Most of the Bielefeld Jewish Community’s 250 members are immigrants from the former Soviet Union, where communist ideology reduced Jewish identity to nationality and excluded shared history, values, behaviors, and cultural distinctness. Although the Bielefeld Jewish community has begun to provide religious education once a week as part of the public school curriculum, more time and effort needs to be invested in order to effectively promote Jewish identity and improve cultural identification among children and youth. Furthermore, the adults in the community have no adequate framework of study, or a place for social interaction.

In order to make the Jewish studies program attractive to young members of the community, who may find it hard to associate only with a program offering Jewish studies only, we propose to offer additional courses in Maths, Science and Languages, which are high in demand. We also believe that through shared classes in general topics we will help strengthen the social contacts among the Jewish members of the community. The already operating evening school in the Bielefeld Jewish Community will be used as venue.

***“From Fez’s” Musical Shuk (market)***

**Ami Yares – Israel**

Most European Jewish music projects are performance-based, memorializing and preserving tradition. Interactive music projects engaging the community distinctly lack in Europe, and European Jewish identity would profit from a musical experience welcoming communal involvement. Music plays a meaningful role in Jewish communities and a program providing an exciting and meaningful experience would inspire European Jewish communities greatly.

“From Fez” is a musical duo with extensive experience in Jewish education. Yoni Avital (Holland) and Ami Yares (Israel) work extensively with Taglit’s North American and Eastern European Programs, Camp Ramah’s summer camps in the United States and Israel, as well as with many American communities and schools. With the assistance of a local NGO, “From Fez’s” Musical Shuk travels to European Jewish communities to celebrate and inspire Jewish musical interactions. “From Fez” teaches old and new repertoire, ensemble and songwriting classes, culminating the day or weekend (shabbaton) with a community performance celebrating Jewish music and European Jewish identity. “From Fez” is accessible online at [fromfez.com](http://fromfez.com).

***An Exhibition: The Influence of Hebrew and Yiddish on the German language***  
**Eitan Levi - Israel**

The direct influence of Hebrew and Yiddish on the German language is much broader and more comprehensive than one would assume at first sight. This phenomenon, which began more than two millennia ago, was significant during the past centuries. The influence is not only semantic, but also symbolizes the cultural and social impact of Jews in general. Despite this influence, Jewish culture is largely unknown and alien to the majority of the current German population. It is therefore necessary, especially in the context of the painful German Jewish history, to expose the German as well as the German Jewish public to that connecting part of their cultures.

Creating a modern, artistic exhibition about this influence, supported by multi-media and modern visual art, will expose the general public to this phenomenon. The aim is not only to raise the interest in Jewish culture and history among German speakers, but also to strengthen the feeling of belonging among the Jews currently living in Germany. As for the Israeli population, such a project can decrease the aversion and hostility they may have towards Germany and its connotations.

## ***Educating Educators for Holocaust and Genocide Education***

### **Dan Grosu - Romania**

In Romania, there is still no Holocaust educational framework, nor is there an understanding of how it could be used to tackle the rising levels of anti-Semitism, racism, and exclusion in present Romanian society. On an international level, studies indicate a more general failure of Holocaust education in terms of impact, ignoring learners' needs and the educational potential of modern communication technologies.

Educating Educators for Holocaust and Genocide Education is a joint effort between the *Laboratory for Information Technologies in Education*, with more than ten years of experience in creating support systems for educators working with groups who are victims of various forms of discrimination and exclusion and the "*Elie Wiesel*" *National Institute for Holocaust Studies in Romania*, an organization whose mission prioritizes implementing Holocaust educational programs targeting a Romanian audience. The project will develop and implement an educational model for Holocaust education, preceded by an awareness campaign.

### ***The Nachman Tales:***

#### ***The Animated Stories from Brestlav***

### **Gyora Gal Glupczynski - Belgium**

Young people need stories to guide them in new environments. Although some such stories exist in book form, Jewish tales are seldom available on modern media such as animation films. In Europe, Jewish educators often complain about not having enough attractive tales with which to explore Jewish Heritage. The scarcity of such resources limits the educators' choices to topics such as Jewish holidays, the Shoah and Israel.

The tales of Nachman from Bratzlav, which are of religious origin, appeal to children of all faiths and backgrounds. This project, conducted by an award-winning filmmaker, aims to adapt selected tales to animation and make them available for theme-based screenings and discussion by educators. The stories will be available on DVD with accompanying educational material and an interactive project website. The DVDs will be distributed through European Jewish schools, Jewish institutions and commercial distribution channels, with the ultimate aim of reviving Jewish folktales that inspire and speak to different cultures.

### ***Proceedings of the Tortosa Dispute; the Old Spanish, Latin and Hebrew versions***

### **Carlos del Valle Rodriguez - Spain**

The Proceedings of the Tortosa dispute (XVth cent.) in old Spanish, Latin and double Hebrew version constitutes an important corpus of documents for the history of the Spanish Jews and for the understanding of Jewish-Christian relations, a document that highlights the human value of the Jewish kernel that remained faithful to the mosaic faith. The edition and study of the Proceedings is a scientific must. The complexity and sheer volume of the work (about two thousand pages) requires the participation of five scholars, working with the following objectives:

- A. The synoptical edition of the hitherto unpublished Spanish version and the Latin version of the Proceedings; the Latin in a critical edition with a new, impartial introduction
- B. The edition and translation of the two Hebrew versions
- C. An evaluation of the Christian and Jewish attitudes and the consequences for the history of the Jews in Spain and in Europe.
- D. An English translation of the Proceedings of the Dispute and of the Introduction

Achieving the goals would also necessitate studying *Sefer ha-piqqurim* and the Treaty of Jerónimo de Santa Fe, which were sent to the Jewish communities for preparing the dispute.

### ***Exchange Program for Jewish Youth in Belarus and Sweden***

#### **Hanna Baranouskaya - Belarus**

Although Belarus is a new democracy, the notion of freedom of religion is still not fully realized among its Jewish youth. The possibilities of living and exercising their Jewishness are yet limited. By encountering a model from a more experienced community and exchanging ideas, the Belarus Jewish youth could use the example and develop their own independent modes to practice their identity. In return, the Belarus community offers Western Europeans a rich Jewish heritage and history and an insight to what it means to be a Jew in a different setting.

The proposed project is an exchange program during the summer of 2009 between 15 Jewish youth of Minsk and 15 youth from the Stockholm Jewish community. The program consists of mutual visits, each one-week long, during which young people will visit the Jewish Community, historical Jewish places and participate in interactive workshops and discussions. Organization of the proposed project will be done through the Minsk Beit Hillel, in cooperation with a local Swedish Jewish organization.

### ***Bibliyoga®***

#### **Marcus J Freed - UK**

There is a huge lack of opportunity to experience Jewish spirituality through the body. Many Jewish people consider themselves to be 'spiritual', but few attend a synagogue on a regular basis or find spiritual expression through Judaism. The majority of practicing Jews consider exercise as completely separate from religion. The search for spirituality can be enhanced through movement, and Bibliyoga aims to identify a 'lost' system of physical meditation hinted at throughout classic Jewish texts. There are almost no opportunities for connecting physicality with the tradition.

Bibliyoga is a system for experiencing spirituality through the body, combining Bible, Talmud, Kabbalah and Rabbinic writings with dynamic yoga. Participants leave Bibliyoga workshops feeling re-energised, enlightened and more spiritually connected. The project includes clients such as the JDC (for seminars in Austria, Germany, Macedonia and Greece), EUJS and Limmud (UK/NY/LA). More than 1000 people are regularly receiving Bibliyoga email workshops to practice at home.

### ***Trans(H)istory: Jewish Poland? Don't Trust the Green Grass!***

#### **Itay Lotem - Germany/Israel**

For a great number of Israelis, Poland represents the greatest Jewish cemetery in the world; a symbol for the extermination of European Jewry during the Holocaust. At the same time, the thousand-year long Jewish existence and its long-lasting impacts on modern Polish culture are often ignored. There is a dire need for an understanding of the millennium-long relationship which still affects everyday life and identities in both countries.

Trans(h)istory is a bi-national project administered by people from both Israel and Poland. Its aim is to organise group trips of young Israelis to Poland, in which subjects such as coexistence, inner conflicts, memory and absence are to be stressed together with extensive learning about the different facets of Polish Jewry during and after WWII. At the same time, meeting contemporary Poles will be another pillar of the experience. The trip is not to be seen as a replacement for important ventures such as the March of Living, but rather a complementary trip.

### ***Paideia Project-Incubator Documentary***

#### **Marcus Moron - Poland**

The field of Jewish documentary films is replete with films presenting contemporary Israel or referring to the European pre-war reality. They often use stereotypical, pre-Holocaust images of European Jewry, making it appear to general public that there is nearly no contemporary Jewish life in Europe.

The Paideia's Incubator Documentary will try to capture the shared energy and shared values of Jews and people working in the field of Jewish culture from all over Europe that gather for 10 days in Stockholm to study Jewish texts and develop their local projects during the Paideia Project-Incubator. It will also follow some of them on their way during the implementation of their projects in their home countries throughout the following year. The diversity of participants in terms of age, education and behaviour, their vitality and devotion to Jewish culture will constitute the core topic of the captured material.

### ***Paideia Online***

#### **The Paideia Alumni Association – Pan-European**

Paideia - The European Institute for Jewish Studies in Sweden has been making an impact in the revival of Jewish culture in Europe since 2001. Through its One-year Jewish Studies Program, community activists, academicians, and artists approach fluency in Jewish text. Paideia alumni number 150 individuals in 30 countries and their number and impact increase yearly. These alumni have an expressed need and desire for continued peer support and advancement in Jewish studies and community development in order to maximize their potential.

The Paideia Alumni Association seeks to promote the interests of former students of Paideia. In order to overcome the obstacles of geographical dispersion and diversity, the Alumni Association is developing a virtual platform equipped to offer a range of customized internet based solutions: distance education, networking opportunities, a newsletter, and an updated resource center customized by alumni to meet changing demands.

### ***New Generation***

#### **Olga Osmolovskaya - Azerbaijan**

At present, many young Jewish people in Baku are leaving the community and refraining from taking part in Jewish events, holidays and traditions. Partly to blame is the lack of interesting and innovative educational programs. It is crucial for the community to educate young Jewish leaders with strong Jewish identities, and with knowledge of Jewish history and tradition who will work with youth and children.

The Jewish Agency is currently operating a program for young leaders based on seminars. The goal of the *New Generation* initiative is to develop this youth program to the next level in terms of content and incorporate it into a more comprehensive leadership training program, making Baku Jewish youth even more engaged in the Jewish future of Azerbaijan.

***The Virtual Jewish Graveyard in Rijeka –  
Memories of a Graveyard***  
**Filip Kohn - Croatia**

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Jewish community of Rijeka in Croatia, which was created in 1781, numbered 2500 people. Currently there are only 200 active members in the community. Our past is represented by the graveyard, which holds 550 graves. The graveyard, which is the community's property, tells our heritage, which we believe should be preserved.

A physical restoration of the graveyard is not up to our current abilities, why we propose to create a web-based database to hold all relevant information and research about the community's heritage. The project will be carried out by the Jewish Community of Rijeka, which has already proven its capability of carrying out both local and national projects in the past, such as a restoration of the orthodox synagogue in the scope of 300,000 Euro.

The Croatian language contains an idiom that indicates the importance of this project: "A nation without a history will not have a future".

***The European Association for Jewish Culture***  
**Jean-Jacques Wahl - France**

The European Association for Jewish Culture is an independent body established in 2000 with offices in Paris and in London. The creation of the EACJ was driven by the belief that Jewish creativity can provide a key to Jewish future. Although European Jewry was nearly destroyed in the Shoah, European Judaism is again proving to be a living heritage with immense creative potential. The mission of the EAJC is to enhance Jewish life by supporting artistic creativity and achievement, and encouraging access to Jewish culture across Europe.

The EAJC has the following aims:

- To support work and activities that address the contemporary Jewish experience
- To foster a better understanding and appreciation of Jewish culture among Jews and non-Jews across Europe
- To promote the mobility of exhibitions, performances and artists in Europe
- To help realize the potential of new media and technologies to facilitate greater access to Jewish culture.

***More than Meets the Eye***  
**Galina Liouban - Russia**

Most Jewish Revival programs are based on the traditional "orthodox" model, learning about rituals and Jewish holidays. There is a need to find an effective way to introduce Judaism to a new generation of young Jewish professionals. The project with the umbrella title *More than Meets the Eye* offers a unique method of art education: Looking at the museums' masterpieces through the lens of a Jewish historian and art connoisseur.

The project will feature booklets, seminars and guided tours. The objective is to publish three brochures, numbering 1000 items each and to organize 15 seminars, among them 5 training events for educators. The project's products will be developed with digital support and as a web site available to the public. The expected audience will be up to 700 people annually and the time of completion is estimated at two years.

## ***Preparatory Course for Paideia and other Jewish Educational Institutions in Europe and the USA***

### **Margarita Reyko and Olena Skorobogatova - Ukraine**

Young members of today's Jewish communities in the FSU have a deep interest in acquiring Jewish education. However, Jewish educational opportunities are often sorely lacking and students who want to continue their education in Europe and the USA urgently need preliminary preparation in order to gain knowledge more effectively.

The suggested course uniquely combines secular Jewish education with traditional Jewish methods of studying (i.e. Havruta) and provides the students with both educational and psychological tools such as Jewish Tradition, philosophy and history, English vocabulary used in the sources and psychological training.

The teachers will be alumni of Paideia's intensive One-year Jewish Studies Program, equipped with the ideal tools to carry the program through and pass the method to people in their communities who are willing to study and perform volunteer work using new approaches. The course will make people familiar with traditional Jewish education as well as give them the possibility of applying for different Jewish institutions both in Europe and the USA.

### ***Promised Land***

#### **Olivia Secara - Austria**

For Viennese Jewish families, the only way to maintain and develop a Jewish identity is through the existing orthodox framework, providing a religious education only, which is often deterring for the less religious members of the community. As a result, the Viennese Jewish families often look toward non-Jewish organizations to educate their children.

The private organization "Promised Land" provides after-school care, primary schooling and kindergarten for children of all ethnicities and denominations in Vienna, and is run by educators coming from different backgrounds. The organization teaches 27 children ages 3 to 10, with 6 Jewish children ages 5 to 8. "Promised Land" gives these children a solid education based on biblical values without imposing any specific religious practice. "Promised Land" helps each child to develop his or her own religious culture and values in a free and open environment.

### ***Silences***

#### **Kyra Munk Matustik – Slovakia**

In Slovakia, many Shoa survivors suffer from unresolved psychological traumas, which are exacerbated by ignorance and denial in society. The problem has three dimensions, with three distinct but interlinked solutions: The political, the cultural and the individual.

Politically, a public awareness campaign will be carried out to influence the welfare authorities and government. Culturally, a 10 part series of workshops in the Jewish community will result in exhibitions, multimedia productions and lectures about the Shoa in high schools. Finally, at the individual level, there will be monthly parlor meetings on human rights in the communities, prompting participants to action.

The Martin Simecka Foundation has been working with issues concerning the Shoa for the last 20 years. Our joint successes include changing the law regarding punishments for family violence and operating counseling centers for victims of family violence around Israel and the PA.. Other partners in this project include the municipal authorities, the Ministries of Culture and Education in Slovakia the local schools.

### ***Women's Health from a Jewish Perspective.***

#### **Yelena Krasilshchik - Russia**

Judaism, dealing with all aspects of human life, offers a unique opportunity to discuss any vital problem and relate it to contemporary reality. Issues of physical, psychological and social well-being have always been of special importance for women. The profound study of Jewish sources can teach Jewish women to value and respect their body and inspire them to discuss medical and physical issues such as age, maternity etc. Thus, Jewish tradition can induce women to better health care practicing.

Founded in 1989, the International Women's Jewish Organization "Project Keshet" is one of the fastest growing organizations in the Commonwealth of Independent States, with a grassroots movement of 150 Jewish women's groups. Our programs are based on Jewish values and aim at social changes leading to the improvement of women's status. Through its educational programs, Project Keshet is helping Jews to find their voices, reclaim their heritage and to discover the power of individual and community activism.

### ***Community Activist Program for Taglit-Birthright Alumni***

#### **Fanni Fehér - Hungary**

The Taglit program sends thousands of young people to Israel every year. However, without follow-up programs, the efforts of the Taglit trips – bringing the participants close to Israel, getting to know their roots and realizing their Jewish identity – would fail to be a true success.

Therefore, the Jewish Agency offers follow-up programs for Taglit Alumni in Hungary, in order to involve them in the Jewish Community through volunteer work and activism. This coming year, the aim is to organize a second trip to Israel, with previously unaffiliated Taglit Alumni in charge of organizing the trip throughout the year with the help and guidance of JAFI Hungary and Israeli organizations. The Alumni are uniquely positioned to create networks with the Israeli Hungarians, to volunteer for Hungarian elderly people and to visit Hungarian communities in Israel, while simultaneously being given an incentive to become involved in Jewish life in Hungary.

### ***Kavana Stockholm Concert***

#### **Justyna Fruzinska and Marciusz Moron - Poland**

The popularity of Jewish culture has been growing in Europe over the last years. However, one of the shortcomings is that it frequently is reduced to stereotypical images. Jewish music is too often identified with Klezmer only, representing a European nostalgia for the pre-war vision of Jewishness.

Contrary to most Klezmer bands in Poland, Kavana performs vivid and up-to-date Jewish music that can appeal personally to people today. Kavana plays all kinds of Jewish music, in Hebrew, Ladino and Yiddish, ranging from traditional music, through religious songs up to contemporary Israeli pop. So far, Kavana has given six concerts for Jewish and non-Jewish audiences in Poland, attracting up to 150 people each time.