

Report 2023

aepj
jewishheritage

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



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1. Welcome from the President

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends of the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ),

As we reflect on the past year's achievements and challenges, it fills me with pride to present the annual report of our esteemed association. Over the course of 2023, AEPJ has continued its steadfast commitment to preserving and celebrating the rich tapestry of Jewish culture and heritage across Europe. Through a multitude of events, initiatives, and collaborations, we have upheld our mission to honor the past, engage with the present, and shape a more inclusive future.

One of the defining moments of the year was the grand inauguration of the 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC). Hosted from the iconic Great Synagogue of Europe in Brussels on September 3rd, 2023, the ceremony heralded the beginning of a festival dedicated to the theme of "Memory." This theme, deeply embedded in Jewish history and culture, provided a poignant backdrop for exploring the collective recollections and personal narratives that shape our understanding of the past and guide our aspirations for the future.

The Opening Ceremony of the EDJC was a testament to the power of memory and the enduring legacy of Jewish heritage. Distinguished speakers from European institutions, including the European Commission, UNESCO, and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, emphasized the festival's role in promoting cultural diversity, combating prejudice, and fostering dialogue across the continent. The presence of notable figures such as Ms. Claude A. Bloch, the festival's esteemed founder and our honorary president, added a sense of reverence and gratitude for her pioneering contributions to the preservation of Jewish heritage.

Furthermore, our engagement with the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes program has been instrumental in amplifying the social and creative dimensions of cultural heritage. As we participated in forums, meetings, and seminars, we reaffirmed our commitment to fostering dialogue, cooperation, and innovation within the realm of cultural preservation. In addition, we are proud to announce the renewal of the certification of the European Route of Jewish Heritage by the Council of Europe, recognizing our ongoing efforts in preserving and promoting Jewish heritage across the continent.

Our endeavors have extended beyond borders, as evidenced by our participation in international conferences, such as the UNESCO panel on Jewish heritage and the "Heritage, a Shared Responsibility" conference in Santiago de Compostela. These platforms provided invaluable opportunities to showcase our work, exchange best practices, and forge new partnerships in the global arena.

As we embark on the next chapter of our journey, let us draw inspiration from the achievements of the past year and rededicate ourselves to the noble cause of preserving and promoting Jewish culture and heritage. Together, we will continue to honor the legacy of our ancestors, celebrate the diversity of our communities, and build a future rooted in mutual respect, dialogue, and cooperation. We are facing a complicated scenario, we are living in turbulent times. Since 7 October, we have witnessed a new wave of anti-Semitism in Europe. Today more than ever, we firmly believe in the role of Jewish culture and heritage as an antidote to hate speech and in building plural, open and inclusive societies, capable of celebrating their diversity.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to the mission of AEPJ. Together, we will chart a course towards a brighter and more inclusive future for European Jewish culture and heritage.

Warm regards,

**François Moysse,
AEPJ President**



2. Director's introduction

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we reflect on the past year's endeavors, it becomes increasingly evident that cultural dialogue and understanding are paramount in today's multicultural Europe. These principles not only foster awareness of cultural diversity but also serve to strengthen citizens' cultural identities. When cultures intersect and inspire one another, remarkable achievements unfold, embodying the fundamental European values of human rights, cultural diversity, and intercultural dialogue.

At the heart of our mission lies the aspiration to bring Jewish heritage closer to all European citizens. Through active involvement in the production, circulation, and conservation of Jewish culture and heritage, we aim to initiate an open process of interpretation. We believe that such a process not only enriches individuals' understanding of history but also catalyzes the co-construction of a common democratic perception—a perception rooted in inclusivity and mutual respect.

In our unwavering commitment to combat discrimination, including anti-Semitism, we recognize that ignorance often underpins such prejudices. By fostering cultural exchange

and understanding, we strive to dismantle barriers and cultivate a society where diversity is celebrated and cherished.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the Bureau, Board and representatives of the member Associations of the AEPJ for their unwavering support and trust in our team. Together, with institutional representatives and members of the scientific committee, we embark on a journey of continuous learning and growth. Amidst shared ideas, projects, dreams, and occasional challenges, we have forged bonds that transcend mere collaboration—we have become a community driven by a shared vision.

As we look to the future, our commitment remains resolute. In the year ahead, we pledge to redouble our efforts to ensure that the AEPJ transcends its role as a mere network. Together, let us strive to make meaningful contributions towards a more inclusive and vibrant European cultural landscape.

**Victor Sorensen,
AEPJ Director**



3. About the AEPJ

The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), an NGO created in 2004, is a network of European institutions, including public bodies, private foundations, federations of Jewish communities and NGO's, that serves as a platform to develop cultural initiatives and educational programs to European Jewish sites. The AEPJ network acts as a channel for intercultural dialogue and promoting better knowledge and understanding of European history, creating awareness of cultural diversity and strengthening European citizens' cultural identity.

The AEPJ serves as an organisational umbrella to welcome, promote, train and help develop unique Jewish cultural and heritage projects of excellence around Europe. A community, a network and a meeting point of professionals working in the field of Jewish Heritage. The AEPJ helps organisations develop their programs, offers training in the field of Jewish cultural tourism and exchange of good practices and promotes the development of transnational programs.

With a heritage approach in line with the Council of Europe, with its integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to cultural heritage and diversity, the AEPJ promotes fundamental European values of human rights, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue seeking to bring the Jewish heritage closer to all European citizens, involving them in the production, circulation and conservation of Jewish culture and heritage.

The AEPJ is integrated by 30 members:

Members

The AEPJ is formed by the following member organizations:



Bnai Brith Europe

B'nai B'rith Europe is a Jewish association that is present in 28 countries. B'nai B'rith means "Son of the Alliance" - the concept of alliance is a key concept in the Bible and in Judaism - and it has non-governmental organisational status. Its role is to fight racism, xenophobia and anti-semitism; to support the State of Israel; to help the needy; to promote Jewish identity; to strengthen the knowledge about the Jewish presence in Europe through culture and heritage; to encourage and train young Jewish adults for leadership in the Jewish communities.



Patronat Call de Girona

The Patronat is responsible for the physical and cultural restoration of the Jewish heritage in Girona, including the renovation, revitalization and promotion of the historic Jewish Quarter, named Call. The Museum of Jewish History and the Nahmanides Institute for Jewish Studies are the two main bodies.



Diputació de Lleida

The Diputació de Lleida is a county council institution that has its reason for being in the town councils of the Region of Lleida, Catalonia. Presided over since 2011 by Joan Reñé, the corporation jointly with the L'Institut d'Estudis Ilerdencs, and the Tourism Board, create a project under the moto "Perseguits i Salvats". This project recovers and indicates the four itineraries used around 80,000 refugees to escape the Nazis in the World War II, it is estimated that about 20,000 were Jewish. This initiative coincides with the recovery of the Chemin de la Liberté (liberty road), route of evasion that joined the French Department of Ariège with the region of Pallars Sobirà, The routes are about 150 km. distributed around different regions in France and Spain Pyrenees.



Supporting Cultural, Art & Educational Projects

Kiryaty Foundation International

The Mordechai Kiryaty Foundation is a philanthropic non-profit N.G.O., that has encouraged and supported humanitarians educational and cultural institutions. The Foundation has initiated two major ventures and supports them: The Peace Academy which focuses on teaching peace studies in Israel, and the Izmir Project which focuses on preservation of the historic synagogues in Izmir-Turkey, and establishing a Jewish Museum.



Israeli House

The Israeli House NET (NGO) was established in 2013 in Tbilisi and works to achieve solidarity by public diplomacy and enhance the cooperation between Israel and friendly states among them Georgia. One of the important goals is to promote the Jewish Heritage, and present it a bridge between Georgia, Israel and the World Jewry, and also to promote the remembrance of the Holocaust. At the Israeli House NET, lectures on topics related to Israel and Jewish Culture and Heritage are conducted regularly. Also, meetings, exhibitions, presentations and seminars are organized in the cultural, economic, business, technological or political spheres. The organization's Advisory Board includes international representatives: diplomats, leading businessmen, heads of the international organizations, academic staff and public figures. The initiator of the organization is Itsik Moshe, the president of the Israel-Georgia Chamber of Business.



Azerbaijan Tourism Board

Azerbaijan Tourism Board is in charge of regulation of the activities, development of tourism, and the promotion of Azerbaijan as a destination. Core tasks of ATB include managing Azerbaijan's destination brand, innovative marketing in the most internationally promising markets, and transferring our knowledge of guests and markets to the domestic tourism industry. Since 2016 joined the AEPJ and they work in a specific itinerary through Jewish local sites.



Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft - Research Society Burgenland (BFG)

The Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft - Research Society Burgenland (BFG) was founded in 1987 as a regional research and educational institution at the interface between science and adult education. Its goal is the advancement of education, science and research in a structurally weak, rural and peripheral border region. Research and educational work in regional context are therefore constitutive elements of what the BFG does.

As a regional research institute, the BFG supports institutions and decision-makers in Burgenland in analyzing, developing and preparing current topics in the areas of education, culture and society and acts as an important interface to national and European educational policy discussion and research. The research results are published in the form of publications, studies or project reports and communicated to experts, politicians, multipliers and the media through symposia, conferences, workshops or websites.

In the field of contemporary history and civic education, the BFG's expertise lies in the history of Judaism in Burgenland. In this context and next to other projects, the BFG has organized and coordinated the European Days of Jewish Culture in Burgenland since 2014.



CoopCulture

CoopCulture is a cooperative operating in the heritage and cultural activities sector in Italy. CoopCulture is a qualified partner positioned to offer answers and solutions to the increasingly complex needs of a continuously evolving sector, from the perspective of integration between cultural heritage and territory and between culture, tourism and local economy. With the intention of bringing diverse audiences closer to art, it has developed user paths differentiated by language and method, taking advantage of the potentials offered by new technologies and paying special attention to local communities in all of their aspects, families, young people, children, the elderly and immigrant communities.



Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

The Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic (FJC) is an umbrella organisation representing 10 Czech Jewish Communities and other independent Jewish institutions across the Czech Republic.

FJC coordinates the activities of the Jewish communities' especially in religious, social, educational and cultural aspects. FJC works with Czech government institutions, state administration, local authorities, or other Czech institutions. FJC also functions and cooperates with foreign institutions and organisations.

FJC actively monitors the environment against all manifestations of anti-Semitism, racism, xenophobia, fascism or any other discrimination. Federation protects the memory of Shoah victims. FJC preserves and maintains the Jewish monuments in the Czech Republic, promotes the Jewish culture and heritage, educates the young people and provides care for the elderly, funds Jewish needs and supports Israel.



Global Partnership Hannover e.V.

Global Partnership Hannover was founded on the occasion of Expo 2000 in Hannover.

The aim of the association is to promote sustainable development, international understanding, international cultural exchange as well as environmental and climate protection by means of its own projects and through cooperation with corresponding networks.

The current focus is on sustainable tourism, sustainable social models and remembrance culture. Here, the anchoring of the "European Route of Jewish Cultural Heritage in Germany" plays a special role. To illustrate Jewish life in the past and today, we have developed various attractive modules, for example:

Click&Walk photo workshops to make traces of Jewish life visible

A composition competition combined with a concert series to make Jewish awareness of life sound

A poetry slamWW competition to bring Jewish thinking to mind



Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre- Shtetl Routes

The idea of the Shtetl Routes arose from the documentary, artistic and educational work connected to the Jewish heritage of Lublin as part of the work of "Grodzka Gate - NN Theatre" Centre (Ośrodek "Brama Grodzka - Teatr NN"), Lublin-based municipal cultural institution dealing with education and cultural heritage since 1992. The Centre's work draws on the symbolic and historical significance of the building where it is located - the Grodzka Gate, which was once a passage way between the Christian and Jewish quarters, as well on Lublin's position as the meeting point of various cultures, traditions, and religions.



Haggadah Association

Haggadah Association is a non-profit organisation for preserving and promoting Jewish culture and tradition in Balkan and Bosnia and Herzegovina was established to preserve and promote Jewish culture and tradition. Haggadah is dedicated to promote and preserve this heritage and to disseminate information about Balkan-Bosnian Jewish culture and heritage.

Our duty is to educate tourist guides to be able to lead the Tour «Jewish Sarajevo», Jewish Mostar and Jewish Balkan tour.

Haggadah offer new destination to preserve good memories on Bosnian's Jews: Visit original manuscript Sarajevo's Haggadah, Pilgrimage to Stolac on the TZADIK grave Rabbi Moshe Danon, Old Jewish cemetery -with specific tombstones, Bosnian Sephardic cuisine. HAGGADAH tries to preserve Sarajevo's reputation as The European Jerusalem.



Heritage Springs

Heritage Springs is a non-profit organization based in the United States, Israel and Ukraine. The vision of the organization is primarily the preservation of Jewish herita-

ge, beginning in the Zakarpattia oblast with the restoration of the former synagogue in Vilkhivtsi. In addition to this flagship project, Heritage Springs has also been active with other Jewish preservation projects including the restoration of multiple Jewish cemeteries including in Vilkhivtsi as well Sokyrnytsia in Ukraine. The organization is also currently developing a route of Jewish Heritage spanning the “Maramorosh” region of Western Ukraine, an area previously occupied by Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Romania.



Jewish Community of Athens

The Jewish Community of Athens, the largest Jewish community in Greece, is a vibrant and dynamic community consisting of over 3.500 members.

Its main purposes are philanthropic, cultural and educational.

Our community operates two Synagogues – a Sephardic and a Romaniote one, a cultural center, a Jewish cemetery and the Lauder School of the Jewish Community of Athens.

of our primary goals is to preserve the historical course of our Community, to cultivate and enrich the Jewish identity of our members with an emphasis on education and strengthen the impact of our community. Additionally, we are hosting touristic and educational tours to various target groups (touristic, educational and donor groups) from Greece and abroad through which we aim not only at educating but also at fighting growing antisemitism.



Jewish Mosaics of Moldova

Agudath Israel in Moldova is one of the veteran and leading Jewish organizations in the republic that operates since 1991 in Chisinau, Balti, Tiraspol, etc. attracting over 1,000 active participants.

The spectrum of programs run by Agudath Israel includes a wide variety of activities for children, teens, and adults: Shabbats and holidays, learning

Torah and Jewish traditions, kosher meals cooking and distribution, afterschool and Sunday programs, summer camps, welfare programs for the needy community members, etc.

In 2021, Agudath Israel in Moldova entered the Agency of Interethnic Relations of Moldova and AEPJ (The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage). In the frames of these structures, it initiated and launched several innovative for Moldova projects on the Jewish Heritage like European Routes and Jewish Tours, European days of Jewish Culture, as well as the joint programs and events with the government of Moldova, Embassies of Germany, Italy, USA, Sweden, Ukraine, municipality of Chisinau.



Journées Européennes de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juifs - France

The association “Journées Européennes de la Culture et du Patrimoine Juifs – France” (JECJPJ-France) is dedicated to promote and preserve this heritage and to disseminate information about French Jewish culture. For 15 years,

JECJPJ-France has contribute to the European Day of Jewish Culture in various French Regions (Alsace, Centre, Lorraine, Nord-Pas de Calais, Paris, Provence-Côte d’Azur, Sud-Ouest), welcoming each year thousands of visitors from all backgrounds and beliefs. JECJPJ-France is also part of the European program developing the “Jewish Heritage Routes”



Lithuanian Jewish Community

Lithuanian Jewish Community is an association of seven regional/local communities and twenty other Lithuanian Jewish active organizations. The aim of LJC are to bring together all the Lithuanian Jews, to defend and look out for their interests in Lithuania and abroad, preserve and celebrate Jewish traditions, cultural and historical heritage, to keep the memory of the Holocaust victims alive, to promote tolerance and fight anti-Semitism and to build and nurture various relations and connections with Jewish and Litvak organizations and individuals all over the world.



Makom Sefarad

Makom Sefarad is a cultural project dedicated to facilitating spaces of dialog and coexistence through activities and programs connected to the history and legacy of Jewish Spain.

Our activities and programs delve into the history of coexistence of the Spanish Jews alongside other peoples, and in the rich Sephardic tradition that resulted from their encounter with diversity, with the objective of identifying aspects of that tradition that might guide us as we face the challenges of life in a plural society today.

Makom Sefarad is an invitation to see opportunities for growth in encounters with difference, both as individuals and as a society.

Our Mission: To be a Point of Encounter

Makom means “place” in Hebrew. Makom Sefarad, therefore, signifies a place in Sefarad (Spain) to meet with the other, who may live, think, or be different from oneself.

In Makom, we facilitate encounters between:

People of different beliefs and cultural identities.

Jewish visitors and Jews living in Spain.

Diverse communities of Jewish Spaniards.



Project 2025 – Arche Musica

The Project 2025 – Arche Musica is an innovative German-Israeli research and education project Project of musical remembrance. It is run on a voluntary basis.

Project partners are the “Music Department and National Sound Archive of the National Library of Israel” in Jerusalem and the “Music Department of the Tel Aviv School of Arts”. The scientific project team processes, digitizes and transliterates the works collected in the “Arche Musica”

and transfers them into the regular and barrier-free musical notation. Because of its special significance, Dr. Felix Klein, the Federal Government Commissioner for Jewish Life and the Fight against Anti-Semitism, has assumed patronage.



Red de Juderías de España - Caminos de Sefarad

Red de Juderías de España (Network of Spanish Jewish Cities) is a non-profit public association created in 1999 with the goal of protecting the urban, architectural, historical, artistic and cultural Sephardic heritage in Spain. It is a cultural and tourist network that brings together 24 member town (Ávila, Barcelona, Cáceres, Calahorra, Córdoba, Estella-Lizarra, Hervás, Jaén, León, Lucena, Monforte de Lemos, Oviedo, Palma, Plasencia, Ribadavia, Segovia, Tarazona, Toledo and Tudela). Each of these towns has highlighted its ancient Jewish heritage and manages a programme of events, tours, and training.



Routes du Judaïsme Rhénan

The European Route of Judaism on the Rhineland is a non-profit public association based in Strasbourg (France). It aims to explore, revitalize and promote the history and tangible and intangible heritage of Jewish communities and to create competitive cultural and touristic offers - with the possibility of including them in transnational networks through synergistic tools and services jointly presented and accessible to a wide audience with the aim of openness and transmission..

The Route is carried out in the Upper Rhine area with the participation of cities and regions, associations and museums: as Strasbourg, Colmar and Mulhouse and other sites in Alsace (France), Bade Wurtemberg with the Südlicher Oberrhein sites, ShUM cities as Mainz, Worms and Speyer in Rhineland-Palatinate (Germany), and Basel Jewish Museum (Switzerland) and Hohenems Jewish museum (Austria) which are already or in the future our partners in the project.

This tangible and intangible Jewish heritage of the Upper Rhine Valley, the cradle of Ashkenazi Judaism in the Middle Ages finds its natural place on the European Route of Jewish Heritage of the Council of Europe.



SERVICE FOR THE PROTECTION OF HISTORICAL ENVIRONMENT
AND CULTURAL MUSEUM RESERVATIONS
NON-COMMERCIAL STATE ORGANIZATION

Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations

The “Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations” NCSO is a nonprofit, educational, scientific-informational organization, which implements the protection and development of the state historical – cultural immovable monuments, complexes of monuments, natural and historical environments, historical-cultural lands and surrounding landscapes.

One of the major goals of the organization is the management and development of the 17 state museum-reserves, which are a remarkable part of the cultural heritage of Armenia and landmark touristic attractions. The “Service for the Protection of Historical Environment and Cultural Museum-Reservations” NCSO is engaged in diverse educational and development programs and activities locally and internationally, which foster further advancement and international outreach of the rich Armenian cultural heritage.



Tarbut Sighet Foundation

Fundatia Tarbut Sighet Culture si Educatia Iudaica was Established in 2014 following the 70th Anniversary to the Jewish May 1944 deportations. A yearly Gathering for Sighet – Maramorish Region descendants from all over the world, took place in 2014 and 2015, providing a commemoration and celebration event.

Tarbut Sighet Foundation has put forth two major missions since its establishment: To provide information to all Maramures Jewish generations about the history of the Jews pre- and post-Holocaust. And, producing and staging cultural Jewish programs teaching about the Jewish Heritage and history of the Jews in Maramures pre- and post-Holocaust, at regional high schools, libraries, community centers, theatres and at Jewish synagogues. This will result in a better understanding of the past in order to have a better relationship with the local and the World Jewry. One of the main goals of FTS is to promote Jewish Heritage in Maramures Region (Northern Transylvania), taking place at high schools, libraries, community centers, and theatres as well as at local city halls etc.



TAUBE
CENTER
FOR JEWISH
LIFE & LEARNING

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning is dedicated to enriching Jewish life in Poland and to connecting Jews from around the world with their East European heritage. Through heritage tours, educational, and cultural programs in Poland, supporting Jewish studies, publishing, the arts and media, it strengthens Polish Jewish literacy and cultivates global knowledge of a living Polish Jewish heritage drawing on its complex and historically rich legacy. The Center is partnered with organizations in Poland, Israel, Europe, and the United States.



IZMIR
JEWISH
HERITAGE

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF IZMIR

The Jewish Community Foundation of Izmir

Izmir in Turkey is the only city in which an unusual cluster of Synagogues bearing a typical architectural style dating from the 16th century are preserved. These Synagogues built by decedents of Jews who were deported from Spain & Portugal are an historical architectural complex which is unique in the world.

The aim of the Izmir Project is to turn the compound of these ancient Synagogues into a Jewish Heritage Museum, which will tell the story of Sephardic Jews expelled from Spain and arrived in the Ottoman Empire. This future museum will expose the mutual influence of Jewish and Muslim cultures and the intercultural dialogue between them.

This hopefully restored complex of Synagogues was confirmed in Izmir city-plan, as the future Jewish Museum of Izmir, and we at the Kiriaty foundation are working closely with Izmir Municipality and the local Jewish community to realise, and promote it.



The Jewish Heritage Foundation - Menorah

The Jewish Heritage Foundation – Menorah researches Slovak Jewish heritage, synagogue architecture and cemeteries, other built heritage, and other artifacts of Jewish material culture in Slovakia. The Foundation was esta-

published in 2000 and engages in heritage preservation through documentation, research, exhibition, publication and educational activities. We are a strategic partner of the Jewish Community Museum. We cooperate with the Jewish Community of Bratislava and the Jewish Cultural Institute. The Slovak Jewish Heritage Route is a project of the Jewish Heritage Foundation – Menorah in Bratislava



The Together Plan

The Together Plan is a UK charity dedicated to the rehabilitation, repair and revival of Jewish communities coming out of collective trauma in the former Soviet Union and

Eastern Europe, enabling, rather than providing, through a self-help approach.

In spite of the traumatic past, there are many who yearn to reconnect with their lost identity. It is the mission of The Together Plan charity, to help those Jews still living in the region learn how to rebuild their communities, and also to reconnect those in the diaspora to their ancestry and the homes they left behind. The Together Plan is playing a vital and much needed role in the repair and renewal process for a better connected and meaningful Jewish future for Jews everywhere.



Unione delle Comunità Ebraiche Italiane

The UCEI is a non-profit organisation representing 21 Jewish communities in Italy, whose millennia presence in the country have contributed to enriching its cultural, artistic and social heritage. The main purpose of the UCEI is to promote the unity of the Italian Jewish community ensuring its development in religious, spiritual, cultural and social areas. UCEI represents the Jewish community before the State, the Government and other authorities, as well as the general public in all matters regarding Jewish interests. The UCEI recognises that the State of Israel plays a central role in contemporary Jewish

identity, and therefore also works to strengthen relations with Israel, and represents Italian Judaism within international organisations.



WADDESDON MANOR

Waddesdon Manor

In 1874 Ferdinand de Rothschild bought the Waddesdon estate and commissioned French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur, to build a country house to entertain friends and family. The project was immense; the hill-top on which the house stands was levelled, drives and terraces were cut and the grounds landscaped and planted with mature trees. Ferdinand, like other members of his family,

was an avid collector. Waddesdon is renowned for its superb collections in what became known as ‘the Rothschild style’ – English 18th-century painting combined with French decorative arts. Today, still managed by the family on behalf of the National Trust, it is a vibrant expression of Rothschild spirit, with thriving programmes of events and activities, changing exhibitions and growing collections of contemporary art and architecture.



World Jewish Travel

The World Jewish Travel, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 2011. The WJT mission is to preserve Jewish heritage worldwide and promote tourism to a variety of sites and cultural events around the world that are of great importance to the Jewish heritage continuity. WJT stand

up for our heritage, giving it back its long-lost voice, in honor of past generations, and in favor of those to come. To do so, WJT have developed an integrated ecosystem, bringing together heritage, travel and technology, via an innovative, first-of-its-kind platform, reframing the concept of Jewish heritage and adjusting it to the 21st century.

The general assembly 2021 approved four new candidacies, already fully operational in 2021, as follows:

4. The AEPJ Board of Directors 2023

The AEPJ Board is comprised of 14 dedicated individuals who work tirelessly to ensure the success of the European Days of Jewish Culture. Their commitment to promoting Jewish heritage and culture is evident in the way they approach their work, and their efforts have undoubtedly played a significant role in the continued growth and success of the festival.

Each member of the board brings a unique perspective and set of skills to the table, and their collective expertise has helped to shape the festival into the dynamic and engaging event that it is today. From developing and implementing innovative programming to fostering relationships with key stakeholders, the AEPJ Board members are instrumental in making the European Days of Jewish Culture a reality each year.

Their hard work and dedication are truly appreciated, and we are grateful for all that they do to support and advance the festival. Without their tireless efforts, it would not be possible to celebrate and explore the rich cultural heritage of Jewish communities across Europe in such a meaningful way.



François Moysse

Chairman, representative of
B'nai Brith Europe

Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Currently, the President of AEPJ and is one of the founders of the European Days of Jewish Culture. Has worked on the project since the beginning. Has been formerly chairperson of the European Union of Jewish Students, Director of B'nai Brith Europe and President of the Jewish community of Luxembourg.



Claude Bloch

Honorary President
Strasbourg, France

Claude Bloch is one of the founders of the AEPJ, and is presently its Honorary President. She has dedicated many years of her life to the promotion of Jewish culture in Europe. She was particularly engaged in developing the Jewish Heritage in Alsace and setting up the European Day of Jewish Culture. Likewise, Claude played a crucial role in fostering lasting relations with the Council of Europe and establishing fruitful cooperation with this Institution.



Lluç Salellas

Vice-Chairman, Patronat Call de
Girona

Girona, Spain

Lluç Salellas Vilar (Girona, 31 December 1984) is a journalist and political scientist, mayor of the city of Girona since 2023. Since 2016 he has also been a member of the national secretariat of the CUP, re-elected as an independent in February 2018



Assumpció Hosta

General Secretary
Girona, Spain

Since 1987 working for the restoration of the Jewish neighbourhood of Girona in Spain. Director of the Patronat Call de Girona since 1992, founder member of the Red de Juderías de España in 1995, having the responsibility of Secretary-General until 2016. Founder member on the AEPJ association and current Secretary-General.



Patrick Bikard
Treasurer
Brussels, Belgium

Patrick Bikard, Treasurer based in Brussels, Belgium, retired from Vesuvius plc in 2022 after serving on the Executive Committee since 2008. His last role at Vesuvius was President, Operations & Technology. Prior to that, he held executive positions at Faurecia and Alstom, accumulating extensive experience in operations and technology. With a background at Renault and education from Ecole Polytechnique, Ecole des Mines de Paris, and Cedep (INSEAD), Patrick, a French citizen, brings a wealth of expertise. At 67, he resides in Brussels with his large family.



Noemi Di Segni
Italian UCEI President
Roma, Italy

Since July 2016 the president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities has been Noemi Di Segni. Born in Jerusalem but Roman by adoption, married with three children, former Councillor for the Budget of the UCEI Council, Di Segni is in charge of the International Activities Office of the National Council of Accountants.



Annie Sacerdoti
Representative of UCEI
Milan, Italy

Annie Sacerdoti, journalist, author of the first “Guide to Jewish Italy” and a series of regional Italian Jewish Itineraries and Italian Jewish Museums. Member of the Board of AEPJ from the beginning, she was in the team of the first European Day of Jewish Culture. She is Vice President of Fondazione Beni Culturali ebraici in Italia (UCEI).



Thierry Koch
Chairperson of JECPJ-France
Strasbourg, France

Member of the Board since 2018. Representative of JECPJ-France as Chairman of this French association. JECPJ-France coordinates all involved cities and Jewish cultural associations in their participation in the EDJC and also aims at networking the French regional routes of Jewish heritage now being developed in France. Also an active member of the steering committee in charge of organizing the EDJC in Alsace, a French region with an outstanding Jewish heritage.



Claudia De Benedetti
Director of the Jewish Museums
of Casale Monferrato

Claudia De Benedetti is a distinguished leader in the Jewish community in Italy and Israel. She holds several high-profile positions, including CEO of Società Immobiliare Agricola Settentrionale in Torino and Executive Director of the Jewish Museum and Synagogue of Casale Monferrato. Claudia is also a member of the World Zionist Organization and the Scientific Committee of MEIS - Museum of the Italian Jewry and Shoah in Ferrara.



Itsik Moshe
Chairman of Israeli House

Itsik Moshe is a highly accomplished Jewish leader and member of the AEPJ board of administration. He has held numerous leadership positions, including as the first representative of the Jewish Agency in the Soviet Union, and today serves as the President of the Israel-Georgia Chamber of Business. Itsik has also received multiple international awards and recognition for his contributions to the Jewish community.



Peninah Zilberman
CEO of the Tarbut Sighet

Foundation

Peninah Zilberman is a respected Jewish leader and CEO of the Tarbut Sighet Foundation, dedicated to promoting Jewish culture and education. With over 40 years of service to the Toronto Jewish Community, she has initiated commemorative events and established the “Fundatia Tarbut Sighet” to assist All Generations with genealogy research and provide cultural programs across Romania.



Judith Kiriaty Matalon
President of the Kiriaty

Foundation

President and chairperson since 1982 of the MORDECHAI KIRIATY FOUNDATION, a non-profit organization supporting humanitarian, educational, and cultural institutions. The foundation is behind two major ventures: the PEACE ACADEMY, teaching peace studies in Israel, and the IZMIR PROJECT, preserving historic synagogues in Izmir, Turkey, and establishing a Jewish museum.



Juli Alegre
Responsible of the Patronat Intercomarcal de Turisme “Terres de Lleida”

Alegre has been a civil servant of the Patronat de la Diputació de Lleida for more than 25 years, where he has been responsible for Promotion and Marketing. Fully knowledgeable of the sector and the dynamics of tourism internationalization, Juli Alegre has extensive professional experience in the campaigns and promotional activities of Ara Lleida.



Gravestones in Kobersdorf - The Jewish Heritage Route in Burgenland © Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft

5. Institutional Agenda

5.1. Meeting of Directors of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

February 2023.

A meeting in Paris, France, convened managers of Council of Europe-certified cultural routes, focusing on cooperation, visibility, and sustainability. Victor Sorensen, AEPJ Director, represented the European Route of Jewish Heritage, emphasizing cooperation's significance. Discussions centered on initiatives to shape the Training Academy's agenda, fostering collaboration among cultural routes. The AEPJ's active participation underscores its commitment to cultural network engagement and long-term partnerships, facilitated by European funding projects.



5.2. EDJC Organisers and Coordinators Meeting 2023

February 2023.

Hosted in Paris, France, the European Days of Jewish Culture's (EDJC) meeting explored the theme of memory.

Attendees engaged in workshops, coordination meetings, and networking sessions, amplifying their understanding of Jewish culture and heritage. Keynote speeches from experts enriched discussions on memorialization and cultural preservation. AEPJ partners contributed to panels, fostering dialogue on memory's role in cultural heritage. The meeting's conclusion at UNESCO highlighted discussions on safeguarding Jewish cultural heritage, reinforcing the EDJC's impact.

5.3. Youth4Culture Training in Kalamata, Greece

March 2023.

The AEPJ participated in a training meeting in Kalamata, Greece, focusing on youth engagement and cultural heritage preservation. Discussions emphasized young people's role in safeguarding intangible heritage and enhancing civic participation. Training sessions explored innovative educational approaches and best practices for involving youth in cultural initiatives. Fieldwork activities showcased local traditions' preservation efforts, enriching participants' understanding of cultural heritage's significance. AEPJ representatives contributed expertise to the training, reinforcing the organization's commitment to youth empowerment and cultural preservation.



5.4. Meeting of Managers of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Spain

March 2023.

Organized in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, the meeting facilitated knowledge exchange among cultural route coordinators. AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen addressed the challenges and opportunities in promoting Jewish heritage awareness. Roundtable discussions focused on route development criteria, including cultural tourism and youth engagement. The meeting aimed to enhance cooperation and visibility of certified routes in Spain, fostering broader public engagement with European cultural heritage.

5.5. WalKEUR Final Event Highlights Successful Partnerships in Promoting European Cultural Heritage

March 2023.

Held in Barcelona, Spain, the WalKEUR project's final event showcased the collaboration's impact on promoting European cultural heritage. Institutional speeches and

expert debates underscored the significance of Cultural Routes in heritage preservation. Networking opportunities strengthened partnerships within the cultural heritage sector. AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen emphasized the pivotal role of Cultural Routes in promoting European heritage. The event celebrated successful collaboration and highlighted the Cultural Routes' importance in preserving and promoting Europe's diverse cultural heritage.



5.6. AEPJ President François Moise Explores Jewish Heritage in Italy

April 2023.

AEPJ President François Moise embarked on a journey to Turin, Italy, during Pesach holidays, accompanied by AEPJ board members. Their visit to Piedmont's synagogues, which open to the public annually during the European Days of Jewish Heritage, offered insights into the region's rich Jewish history. Each synagogue tour provided historical context, highlighting the community's significance. Moise expressed admiration for the architectural beauty of these sacred sites, underscoring their importance in preserving Jewish heritage. Special thanks to Claudia De Benedetti for facilitating this enriching exploration.

5.7. Mid-Term Incubator of the European Routes of Jewish Heritage

April 2023.

AEPJ hosted the Mid-Term Incubator, a pivotal stage in the European Routes of Jewish Heritage (ERJH) project's development. Twenty-seven ERJH professionals engaged in discussions to align project goals and values with Council of Europe criteria. Workshops addressed heritage preservation, research, accessibility, and sustainability, fostering a community of practice. Strategic partners presented EU-funded projects aimed at enhancing ERJH network development. Participants collaboratively outlined ERJH's focus areas for 2023, building on previous discussions in Izmir. The session's success reflects collective efforts towards ERJH's growth and impact.

5.8. The Slovak Jewish Heritage Route joins the European Route of Jewish Heritage of the Council of Europe

May 2023.

The incorporation of the Slovak Jewish Heritage Route into the European Route of Jewish Heritage marks a significant milestone. AEPJ President François Moise and Director Victor Sorensen highlighted the project's importance in preserving and promoting European Jewish heritage. The ceremony, attended by esteemed guests, underscored cooperative efforts in heritage preservation. The event concluded with the unveiling of a plaque at the Museum of Jewish Culture, symbolizing the route's integration. This collaboration signifies a commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive Europe through cultural heritage preservation.

5.9. The EDJC Presented as a Best Practice in the Fight Against Antisemitism

May 2023.

The Regional Seminar "Echoes of Reflexivity" in Barcelona highlighted the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) as a best practice in combating antisemitism. AEPJ's Federico Szarfer showcased the festival's role in promoting Jewish life and fostering dialogue. Panel discussions emphasized critical self-awareness and collaborative efforts in fighting antisemitism. Representatives from various sectors discussed strategies for promoting inclusivity and combating discrimination. The seminar emphasized the importance of initiatives like the EDJC in fostering understanding and promoting tolerance.



5.10. The 10th Council of Europe Cultural Routes Training Academy

May 2023.

The 10th Training Academy in France concluded with fruitful discussions on enhancing visibility, cooperation,

and sustainability within the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes program. Representatives from 34 routes shared experiences and proposed strategies to elevate the program's profile. AEPJ's Victor Sorensen led discussions on cooperation, facilitating knowledge exchange and best practice sharing. Participants also explored prehistoric rock art trails, enriching their understanding of cultural heritage. The event's success underscores the commitment to preserving and promoting Europe's diverse cultural heritage.



5.11. AEPJ Receives its Official Recertification as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe"

June 2023.

The European Route of Jewish Heritage, a flagship project of the AEPJ, has been recertified as a "Cultural Route of the Council of Europe" following a regular evaluation. This achievement reflects AEPJ's commitment to promoting European values through its projects and initiatives in Jewish heritage and culture. The renewal process involved thorough evaluation and preparation, with external evaluator Maria Laura Gasparini offering valuable recommendations. AEPJ representatives presented the project's

achievements and future plans at a hearing in Luxembourg, emphasizing the route's significance in representing Jewish heritage in Europe.

5.12. AEPJ Members Participated in the NOA European Conference

June 2023.

AEPJ members participated in the NOA Project's European Conference, focused on evaluating EU Member States' policies to combat antisemitism. Representatives from civil society organizations and public authorities discussed strategies, lessons learned, and best practices. AEPJ President François Moysse and Board Member Peninah Zilberman contributed to panel discussions and workshops, highlighting the role of Jewish culture and heritage in combating antisemitism. The conference facilitated knowledge exchange and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, fostering a collective effort to address antisemitism effectively.

5.13. President François Moysse Attends Inauguration of the Fountain Offered by Morocco to the Council of Europe

June 2023.

AEPJ President François Moysse attended the inauguration of a fountain gifted by Morocco to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. The fountain, featuring Jewish-Andalusian art, symbolizes cultural exchange and cooperation. AEPJ's contribution to the project was acknowledged during the ceremony, reflecting its commitment to promoting intercultural dialogue. Moysse also participated in a reception hosted by Luxembourg's permanent representation to

the Council of Europe, fostering diplomatic relations and collaboration.

5.14. AEPJ General Assembly

June 2023.

The AEPJ held its General Assembly meeting online, where members discussed previous projects and initiatives and proposed new ones. President François Moysse led the meeting, highlighting the organization's growth and future plans. AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen outlined upcoming projects, including the development of the European Days of Jewish Culture and the European Route of Jewish Heritage. Patrick Bikard was appointed as the new AEPJ Treasurer. The assembly reaffirmed AEPJ's commitment to promoting Jewish heritage and culture through collaborative initiatives.

5.15. UNESCO Grants its Patronage to the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023

August 2023.

UNESCO has granted its prestigious patronage to the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023, recognizing its significance in promoting cultural diversity and historical memory. The grant underscores the festival's alignment with UNESCO's mission to safeguard cultural heritage and foster cross-cultural dialogue. The decision follows a series of events, including an EDJC Organizers & Coordinators Meeting in Paris, which deepened participants' understanding of UNESCO's objectives. The patronage highlights the festival's role in honoring Jewish heritage and promoting intercultural understanding.



5.16. The Opening Ceremony to the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 – A Celebration of Memory

September 3, 2023

The AEPJ inaugurated the 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) in Brussels, dedicated to the theme of “Memory.” The ceremony featured musical performances, speeches from prominent figures representing European institutions, and reflections on the significance of Jewish heritage and culture. Key speakers included representatives from the European Commission, UNESCO, and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The ceremony honored the festival’s founder, Ms. Claude A. Bloch, for her dedication to preserving Jewish heritage.

5.17. XII Annual Forum of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

September 2023

The XII Annual Forum of Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, held in Lodz, Poland, focused on the social

and creative dimensions of cultural heritage in a post-industrial context. Participants discussed the role of cultural heritage in building peaceful and democratic societies, addressing contemporary challenges such as conflicts, natural disasters, and climate change. AEPJ presented the work of the cooperation group dedicated to promoting cultural tourism.



5.18. AEPJ President François Moysse Visits Former Synagogue of Ettelbrück

October 24, 2023

AEPJ President François Moysse visited the former synagogue of Ettelbrück, Luxembourg, which is undergoing refurbishment. The building, listed as protected by the government, is being fully restored with support from the municipality. Moysse also attended the inauguration of an exhibition on Jewish life in Metz, France, highlighting the increasing activities related to Jewish heritage and culture in Europe.



5.19. Panel on Jewish Heritage at UNESCO

October 24, 2023

A panel on the promotion and preservation of Jewish heritage was held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, organized by the Delegation of Spain to UNESCO, UNESCO, the World Jewish Congress, and CRIF. AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen participated as a speaker, discussing best practices and the role of Jewish heritage in combating antisemitism in Europe.

5.20. AEPJ participates at the “Heritage, a shared responsibility” conference

November 9-11, 2023

AEPJ Secretary General Assumpció Hosta participated in a panel discussion at the international congress “Heritage, a shared responsibility” in Santiago de Compostela, Spain. The panel focused on European cultural routes as sources of cultural and economic development, exploring their im-

pact on civil society and their link with similar programs in Ibero-America.



5.21. Kick off meeting of the NEXT Routes project in Salzburg

November 2023

The NEXT Routes project commenced in Salzburg, aiming to enhance Cultural Routes' digital presence. AEPJ, partnering with European Mozart Ways and others, seeks innovative tools' development for route promotion and staff training. Over two years, the project aims to equip staff with digital skills and provide engaging promotional tools. Members of European Routes of Jewish Heritage will actively participate. Stay updated on social media: Youtube, Instagram, and Facebook.

5.22. European Cultural Projects; Heritage at the service of citizenship

November 2023

The Spanish Ministry of Culture hosted the "European Cultural Projects; Heritage at the service of citizenship" conference in Alicante, Spain. Victor Sorensen, AEPJ Director, highlighted cultural routes' role in combating anti-semitism. The event showcased AEPJ's work as a cultural dialogue facilitator and a beacon against hate speech. It fostered collaboration among European cultural bodies



5.23. European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism 2023

December 2023

The 2023 European Mayors Summit Against Antisemitism in Dortmund, Germany, brought together leaders from 60 cities and 20 countries. AEPJ, a first-time partner, contributed to discussions on rising antisemitism in Europe. The summit emphasized cultural diversity and honored Borussia Dortmund for combating hate in sports. AEPJ organized a workshop on leveraging Jewish heritage for community cohesion, empowering dialogue and inclusivity.

5.24. Izmir Jewish Heritage Project Seminar

December 2023

In Izmir, Türkiye, the European-funded seminar presented the Izmir Jewish Heritage Project's achievements. AEPJ Director Victor Sorensen highlighted its role within the European Jewish Heritage Route. The project strengthened community networks, fostered collaboration, and contributed to local development. It showcased Izmir's multicultural history and promoted intercultural dialogue at regional and national levels. The project envisages broader collaboration and synergy among European Jewish heritage routes.

5.25. Paideia's Mifgash Program Joins Forces with AEPJ for the EDJC 2024

December 2023

Paideia's Mifgash program partners with AEPJ for the European Days of Jewish Culture 2024. Their collaboration explores the theme of "Family" across Europe's Jewish communities. Through Mifgash events, participants engage in cultural dialogue and leadership roles, fostering community ties. This collaboration amplifies Jewish culture's presence, enriching European heritage and promoting inclusivity.



Grey Drawing Room, Waddesdon Manor. © Waddesdon Image Library, Mike Fear

6. The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory



6.1. The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory

The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 achieved remarkable success, underscoring our ongoing dedication to safeguarding and advancing Jewish culture and heritage throughout Europe. As an annual initiative led by the AEPJ, this year's festival united individuals of diverse ages and backgrounds from across the continent.

Themed “Memory,” the 2023 edition offered an opportunity to reflect on the imperative of commemorating and cherishing the past, particularly amidst contemporary challenges. Against the backdrop of escalating antisemitism and the perpetual need for education and remembrance, the EDJC 2023 served as a potent platform for fostering dialogue, empathy, and solidarity.

A significant highlight of this year's festival was the invaluable support received from the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program of the European Commission. This project empowered us and our partners to extend the festival's reach and impact, engaging with a broader audience and establishing meaningful alliances with local organizations and communities.

In addition, the festival was enriched by the insights and connections forged during the Coordinators Meeting held at the Memorial de la Shoah in Paris. This gathering provided a vital forum for sharing best practices, aligning strategies, and strengthening collaborations among EDJC coordinators and stakeholders. We are honored to have received the patronage of UNESCO for the EDJC 2023, underscoring the festival's significance in promoting cultural heritage and fostering intercultural dialogue.

Across Europe, hundreds of events and activities unfolded throughout the festival, encompassing exhibitions, concerts, guided tours, workshops, and more. This diverse array of offerings delved into the theme of Memory from myriad perspectives, fostering immersive experiences enriched by values-based education and personal narratives. The convergence of traditional and contemporary artistic expressions, coupled with the interplay of fiction and reality, offered attendees profound encounters with Jewish culture. Amidst this diversity, tradition and innovation intertwined, ensuring the cultural evolution while honoring ancient roots.

The success of the EDJC 2023 owes much to the unwavering commitment and diligence of our volunteers, organizers, and coordinators. Their tireless dedication ensured the

seamless execution of each event, fostering a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere for all participants. The AEPJ extends heartfelt appreciation to our partners and stakeholders for their steadfast support and collaboration. Together, we have underscored the enduring relevance and importance of Jewish culture and heritage in Europe, reaffirming our pledge to preserve and promote it for generations to come.

The EDJC 2023 was not merely a celebration of Jewish culture and memory; it was also a testament to the resilience and vitality of our community. Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission to nurture dialogue, understanding, and mutual respect across Europe and beyond.



6.2. Activities of the European Days of Jewish Culture 2023: Memory

In the 2023 edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture, the theme of “Memory” took center stage, inviting participants to reflect on the profound significance of memory in shaping our understanding of the past and its impact on the present and future. Held in a year free from the challenges of a pandemic, we are delighted to report a significant increase in both the number of activities and participants compared to the previous year. The festival was celebrated in 28 countries, with a remarkable total of 1,118 activities organized in 397 cities and an impressive turnout of 220,000 attendees.

However, it’s important to note that the events unfolding in Israel from October 7 onwards, coupled with the rising tide of antisemitism in Europe, posed security concerns for some activities in certain countries. Despite experiencing a slight reduction in territorial reach, and with some activities having to be canceled or postponed due to security reasons, the number of activities and participants this year was still remarkable.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Countries	28	30	25	29	29	28
Activities	1.009	1.211	954	987	860	1.118
Participants	183.183	220.054	140.075	152.325	146.866	219.993

This year’s festival served as a poignant exploration of memory, offering a diverse array of activities that engaged participants in reflecting on the collective and personal memories that shape our identities and narratives. From thought-provoking exhibitions to immersive performances, interactive workshops, and educational lectures, the festival provided a dynamic platform for dialogue, remembrance, and commemoration.

The significant increase in participation reflects the enduring significance of memory within Jewish culture and its broader resonance across Europe. New institutions and participants joined the festival, enriching the diversity of activities and perspectives and fostering greater understanding and appreciation of Jewish heritage.



6.3. Opening Ceremony of The European Days of Jewish Culture 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.

The AEPJ proudly inaugurated the 24th edition of the European Days of Jewish Culture EDJC on 3rd of September, from the Great Synagogue of Europe in Brussels. This year's festival, dedicated to the theme of "Memory," delved into the profound exploration of the past that shapes our present and guides our future.

The ceremony commenced with a moving performance in Hebrew of Se'u Sheorim by the synagogue choir, setting the tone for an inspiring event. Baron Julien Klener, Honorary President of the Consistoire central israélite de Belgique, provided a heartfelt introduction to the ceremony, emphasizing the significance of memory in Jewish culture.

Key speakers from prominent European institutions, including the European Commission, UNESCO, and the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, underscored the festival's importance in promoting Jewish culture and safeguarding Jewish heritage. Ms. Katharina von Schnurbein, European Commission Coordinator on combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, highlighted initiatives to ensure the flourishing of Jewish life across Europe.

For the first time, UNESCO provided its patronage to the festival, recognizing the AEPJ's efforts in promoting culture and heritage. Ms. Louise Haxthausen, Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels, reiterated UNESCO's commitment to preserving cultural heritage and commended the festival's focus on memory.

The Opening Ceremony featured captivating performances, including a musical journey through European Jewish history and traditional Jewish hymns performed by the synagogue choir. The event also honored the festival's esteemed founder, Ms. Claude A. Bloch, in a touching tribute attended by all participants.





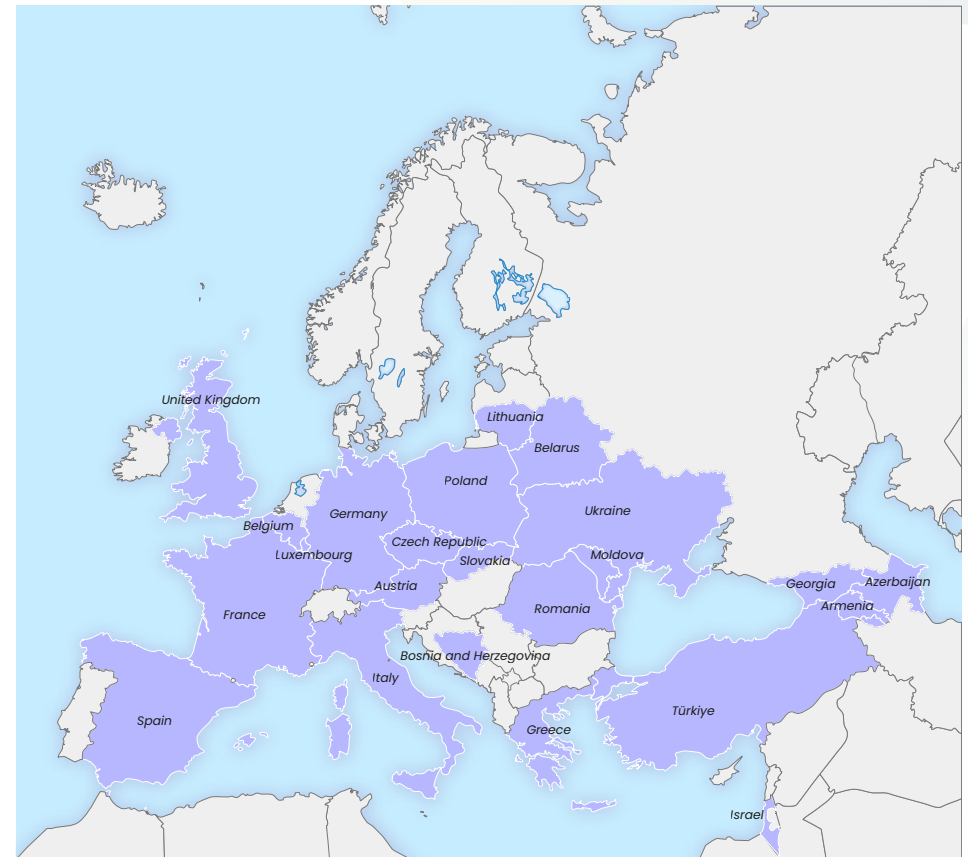
7. European Routes of Jewish Heritage

The most relevant news for the 2023 have probably been welcoming new members at the AEPJ network who are willing to develop their cultural Routes, such are the Jewish Mosaics of Moldova, The Jewish Community of Athens (Greece), the Menorah Foundation (Slovakia), and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Republic of Armenia, through its Department of Cultural Heritage and Folk Crafts. That doesn't only mean the AEPJ network is growing but also the diversity of the narratives we are building up, having a wider area involved in the ERJH and therefore including more locations that offer new singularities to the Routes network.

We may consider 2023 has been a year that, following up the 2022 tendency, brought the tourism stats in many locations up to its peak numbers prior to the Corona pandemic, despite that was not the same for all members of the ERJH. The Cultural Routes are not unaware of the current geopolitical instability, and the Jewish heritage practitioners and managers working under the umbrella of the European Routes of Jewish Heritage have been dealing with the difficulties brought by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, first, and the Hamas attack to Israel and the following conflict secondly.

Both wars are not only changing the touristic tendencies but putting more barriers on the transnational development of the Routes, such are the cases for the Shtetl Routes, the Jewish Heritage Route through Belarus and the Ukrainian Route of Jewish Heritage itself. On the other hand, we noticed how hate speech and therefore antisemitic messages are finding an opportunity to make themselves more visible in these contexts having some locations in the ERJH such as Izmir (Türkiye) and Besalú (Spain) which suffered vandalization of their Jewish heritage sites.

As it has been announced in the previous report 2022, the lack of capacity to build cooperation frameworks for the AEPJ members to contribute to the development of the Routes was an issue to be addressed, so we spent a relevant effort on the application to new projects, highlighting the MiDorLeDor Europe, through which we applied to the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) program of the European Commission, being by the end of 2023 informed about being granted for the project to be developed from March 2024 to February 2026. This application involved six AEPJ members, three AEPJ's strategic partners and the AEPJ office itself. This experience, added to the success of the EJDC 2023 memory, which obtained funding from the same CERV programme in 2022, encourages us to continue and reinforce this line of work.



This year 2023 has been also a moment where the structure for decision-making regarding priorities, actions and needs of the ERJH at the technical level has been structured through, on the one hand, consensus building among route managers (specifically in the frame of the Incubator) and, on the other hand, technical advice in the form of a task force that is meeting every two months, which includes representatives of the scientific committee, the board of the AEPJ, two Routes members of the ERJH and the technical office.

Mid-term Incubator

On Friday, April 21st, the first edition of the Mid-Term Incubator was held online, gathering 27 professionals from the Cultural Routes of the ERJH, who actively participated in the meeting, as agents involved on the decision-making process regarding different topics related to ERJH project development.

Under the title The ERJH, a Community of Practice, five discussion groups were organized around the following topics: heritage, preservation & restoration, research & documentation, value proposal, accessibility, and sustainability; entailed to bring the community of practitioners to some common quality criteria that any member of the ERJH should follow as part of the standards of quality for a Cultural Route.

The event closed with a last workshop that consisted of three discussion groups on the topics that the European Routes of Jewish Heritage may focus on in terms of its development, based on the needs, preferences, and visions of each member, and following with the contents that have been developed in the frame of the previous meeting this past year in Izmir. A discussion led by Helise Lieberman, Director of the Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning, Yoel Mansfeld, Gordon College, and Jeremy Leigh, Hebrew Union College Jerusalem.

On the other hand, strategic partners who are cooperating with the AEPJ presented to the members the European Union funded projects that the AEPJ is joining within the year 2023, along with the expected outputs. These are cooperation projects that may contribute to the development of the Cultural Routes of the ERJH network through tools like gamification, virtual reality, training on educational methodologies, artistic residencies, and development of Jewish heritage policies.

ERJH Incubator 2023: Lublin & Warsaw

The annual in-situ meeting of the European Routes of Jewish Heritage (ERJH) Route Managers took place from the 16th to 19th October in Warsaw and Lublin, Poland, hosted by Taube Center for Jewish Life & Education and Brama Grodzka TNN. The programme, created and developed cooperatively between AEPJ, its scientific committee and our partners in Poland was mainly focused in this edition on the narratives and the educational perspective of the European Jewish Heritage Route, combining lectures and workshops with site seeing visits with the analysis of the narratives of each location and its interconnection under the concept of a Route.

Some of the activities that would worth to highlight would be the opening key note by Jeremy Leigh (Hebrew Union College Jerusalem), member of the scientific committee, who navigated us through the different controversies, challenges and connections present in the work of developing Jewish heritage routes, such as the definition of the vision of our narratives, their inclusivity and capacity to be built up as an awareness rising tool or the opposite.

On the other hand, a workshop on the European Jewish Heritage Route connection with the Sustainable Development Goals was held, letting the participants to establish the priorities in terms of developing the connections between the Routes and the stakeholders in their framework, but also to contribute on establishing a list of criteria that may let them to evolve into a more sustainable impact of their work. Another workshop focused on the development of the membership criteria that may let the community of Route managers to have a common vision and framework regarding the mark of excellence in the field of Jewish heritage that the ERJH would be.

Visiting the area let us find out about the work done by Taube Center and Brama Grodzka on the development of their narratives, in places such as the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery, Kazimierz Dolny, the exhibition “Memory of the Place”, the House of Words and Yeshiva Chochmei Lublin, as well as the Death Camp in Sobibor.



Creation of new frescoes in Lhuître and Ramerupt, Aube - Medieval Route of Rashi in Champagne © CulturitiQ and Passeurs de Fresques

8. European Projects

Below we present different projects, both with European and Foundation funding, which have allowed the AEPJ and its network of members to develop initiatives that explore Jewish heritage in some of its variants, or which have reinforced the flagship projects of our network, such as the European Days of Jewish Culture and the European Route of Jewish Heritage, certified by the Council of Europe.

8.1. Jewish History Tours



J-STORY | Jewish History Tours Powered by JHN

Programme: CEF Telecom- Europeana

Project: Jewish History Tours

Start and finish date: 2021-2023

Amount granted: 79.916€

Partners: Pangeanic, Stichting Jewish Heritage Network (JHN), AEPJ, Clio Muse Tours (CLIO), Stiftung Moses Mendelssohn Akademie (MMA), CEC- Zentrum zur Erforschung und Dokumentation jüdischen Lebens in Ost- und Mitteleuropa (CEC), Ośrodek “Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN (BGT), Stichting Europeana (EF) - established in Netherlands

AEPJ members participating in the project:

Patronat Call de Girona

Izmir Jewish Heritage Project

Israeli House

The Together Plan

Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN

Azerbaijan Tourism Board

Jewish Heritage Lithuania

Travel2Live

Agudath Israel in Moldova

Routes du Judaïsme Rhénan



Jewish History Tours is a project that leverages the power of location-based storytelling to create engaging, high-quality tours on pan-European topics, such as multiculturalism, persecution and migration.

The tours are produced by local partners, building on their knowledge of local Jewish history and the sites telling those stories. The tours include items from digitised collections made available by the project on Europeana, the European digital library. The tours are enhanced using a powerful suite of AI-powered tools: translation into European languages and an AI-generated voiceover is added.

Strengthening the connection between heritage and tourism is a strategic priority of the project. Jewish History Tours addresses this priority by establishing a strategic cooperation between Europeana and the European Routes of Jewish Heritage, a powerful network of more than 20 members, collectively representing several heritage destinations and sites.

All the tours are published on open platforms like Clio Muse Tours, and izi.Travel; local platforms such as Azerbaijan Travel and platforms dedicated to Jewish heritage tourism like World Jewish Travel. Europeana is a strategic partner in this project, publishing a wealth of new materials about Jewish life in Europe and enjoying its innovative technology for location-based enrichment of digitised collections.

Synagogue in Brandys nad Labem - 10 Stars Synagogues, The Czech Jewish Heritage Route © FJC in Czech Rep

8.2. NOA



European Commission: Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC)

Project: Networks Overcoming Antisemitism (NOA)

Start and finish date: 2020-2023

Total amount granted: 943,000€

AEPJ grant: 136.853€ (EU Contribution: 109.482€/ AEPJ Contribution: 27.371€)

Project website: <https://www.noa-project.eu/>

AEPJ members participating in the project:

Patronat Call de Girona

UCEI

CoopCulture

Red de Juderías de España - Caminos de Sefarad

Federation of Jewish communities in Czech Republic

Makom Sefarad

Haggadah Sarajevo Association



NOA (Networks Overcoming Antisemitism) offers a groundbreaking approach to address the growing issue of antisemitism in Europe. Through its collaborative partnership with prominent Jewish networks, the project evaluates the policies of EU Member States across various domains, including education, culture, and security. It supports these states in developing comprehensive national action plans to combat and prevent antisemitism.

Over the past decade, European Jews have faced a surge in antisemitic violence. To create a positive and systemic impact in European societies, the NOA project brings together major European Jewish partners to develop educational tools and training for communities, sports clubs, schools, and public authorities. It also engages in social media campaigns, cultural events, and provides “Report Cards” to Member States, assisting them in their efforts to combat antisemitism.

In direct response to the European Council’s call for Member States to adopt holistic strategies to combat antisemitism, the NOA project serves as a mechanism to support the development and implementation of national action plans. Additionally, it offers a wealth of socio-cultural and educational resources that can effectively address and reverse antisemitic attitudes. By combining policy and practice, security and education, as well as transnational and national actions, the project aims to achieve positive results in reducing the prevalence and impact of antisemitism in Europe.

The Hebrew word ‘noa’ means ‘in motion,’ reflecting the project’s vision for a society where Jewish life can thrive and antisemitism can be curbed. The partnership comprises 756 national affiliates, working together to create a comprehensive online hub of best practices and resources to support Member States in implementing their action plans. The project’s outputs will be further disseminated through the partnership and their networks via a range of social, cultural, and educational activities across the European Union.

8.3. Youth4Culture



European Commission: Erasmus+

Project: Youth4Culture

Start and finish date: 2022-2023

Total amount granted: 60.000€

AEPJ grant: € 15.200€

Project website: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087840213249>

**AEPJ members participating in the project:
UCEI**

Taube Center for Jewish Life and Learning

The Youth4Culture project aims to explore new strategies and working methods to encourage youth civic participation in the promotion and valorization of European cultural heritage as a sustainable resource for entrepreneurship and sustainable development. In this field, the project will implement several activities to promote the exchange of best practices, the ideas generation, the training of youth workers skills and working methods and their professional development that will allow them to define new initiatives related to youth participation, promotion of European cultural heritage and youth social inclusion.

Moreover, the project will work on generate ideas to be adapted and implemented in each target territory. It will work also on the exchange of good practices and teach how valorize them and adapt them to their contexts. I will work also on providing tools for youth workers about how to cooperate together on social issues affecting young people today, all taking into account the principles of civic participation and governance that are so important to promote social development in a democratic and sustainable way.

8.4. WalkEur



Creative Europe Programme

Project: WalkEur

Start and finish date: 2020-2023

Total amount granted: 279.990€

AEPJ grant: 73.606€ (EU Contribution: 44.163 €/ AEPJ Contribution: 29.443€)

Partners: European Routes of Charles V, European Route ATRIUM, European Routes of Ceramics

AEPJ members participating in the project:

Patronat Call de Girona

UCEI

CoopCulture

Izmir Jewish Heritage Project

Israeli House

Heritage Springs

The Together Plan

Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN

Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft - Research Society Burgenland (BFG)

Taube Center for Jewish Life & Learning

Azerbaijan Tourism Board

The aim of the WalkEUR project is to strengthen European Cultural Routes through the development of joint strategies based on four main pillars: Sources, Citizens involvement, Cultural management and Cultural marketing and storytelling.

The four cultural routes certified by the Council of Europe (ATRIUM, the Ceramics Route, Charles V and the Jewish Heritage Route), which participate in this Creative Europe program project, join forces to carry out seminars, training and workshops on the aforementioned pillars.

8.5. EDJC 2023

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

Project: EDJC 2023

Start and finish date: 2023-2024

Total amount granted: 486.760,00€

AEPJ grant: 95.000,00€

Partners: Memorial De La Shoah, Stichting Liberation Route Europe, B'nai B'rith Europe, Taube Center For Jewish Life & Learning, Tarbut Sighet Foundation, Patronat Call De Girona, Lietuvos Zydu (Litvaku) Bendruomene, Journees Europeennes De La Culture Et Dupatrimoine Juifs France, Burgenlandische Forschungsgesellschaft, Musée D'art Et D'histoire Du Judaïsme De Paris.

AEPJ members participating in the project:

- B'nai B'rith Europe
- Taube Center For Jewish Life & Learning
- Tarbut Sighet Foundation
- Patronat Call De Girona
- Lietuvos Zydu (Litvaku) Bendruomene
- Journees Europeennes De La Culture Et Dupatrimoine Juifs France
- Burgenlandische Forschungsgesellschaft



The European Days of Jewish Culture festival, organized annually by the AEPJ since 1999, celebrates the diversity and richness of Judaism across Europe through various activities including conferences, concerts, performances, guided tours, and more. This pan-European festival serves as a platform for dialogue, recognition, and exchange, promoting understanding and appreciation of Jewish heritage.

The 2023 edition of the festival is supported by the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values program of the European Union, with the AEPJ leading the project. The consortium, comprising national coordinators and AEPJ members across the European Community, has been awarded €486,760.00 to develop this edition. The festival will feature a series of events, including a face-to-face EDJC Organisers and Coordinators meeting in Paris, online training on Memory, a Remembrance seminar in the Netherlands, a photographic European exhibition in Paris, an online exhibition on International Holocaust Remembrance Day, and more. Key partners such as the Memorial de la Shoah, Liberation Route Europe, and MahJ are actively involved in the consortium.

8.6. NEXT Routes

Erasmus+ KA220 VET

Project: NEXT Routes

Start and finish date: 2023-2025

Total amount granted: 400.000,00€

AEPJ grant: 51.111,00€

Partners: La Rotta dei Fenici, Associazione ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the XX Century in Europe's Urban Memory, Cultural Foundation Routes of The Olive Tree, Udruga Staza željeznog doba Podunavlja – Iron Age in the Danube Route, Europäische Mozart Wege – Mozart Ways, Breda University of Applied Sciences, Mobile Idea SL.

AEPJ members participating in the project: Not defined in 2023.

The project addresses the key challenges for the future of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe by focusing on the development of digital gamification tools for the Routes and providing the training of its operators in order to ensure its scalability. Throughout two years we are going to work on the following main objectives:

To train the staff of the Cultural Routes by equipping them with digital and creative skills to better promote and enhance the routes and their heritage.

To design an innovative and needs-oriented training methodology on digital and creative skills and gamification for members of the Cultural Routes.

To provide Cultural Routes with a dedicated and engaging tool to better promote their heritage and a user-friendly manual to guide target groups and stakeholders in its implementation.

To promote the Cultural Routes and their heritage locally, nationally and transnationally, making them known to a wider audience.

aepj
jewishheritage

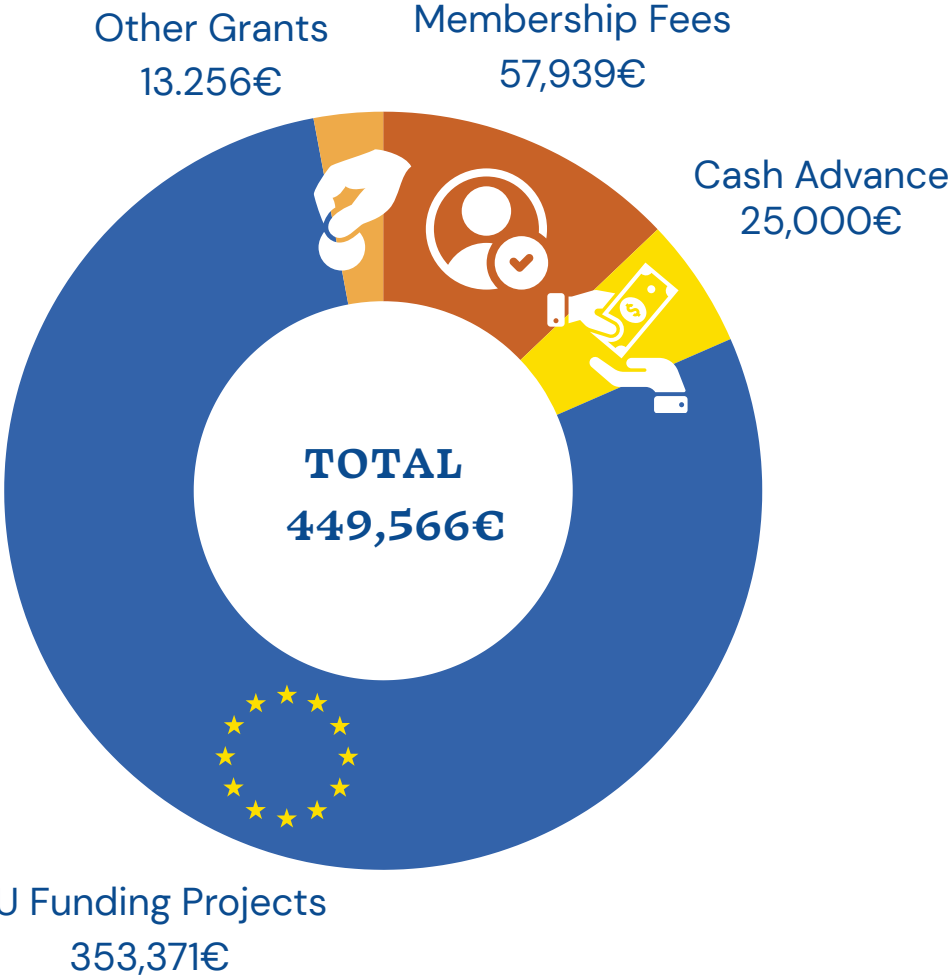
Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe



Trinity Suburb in Minsk - Jewish Heritage Route through Belarus © The Together Plan

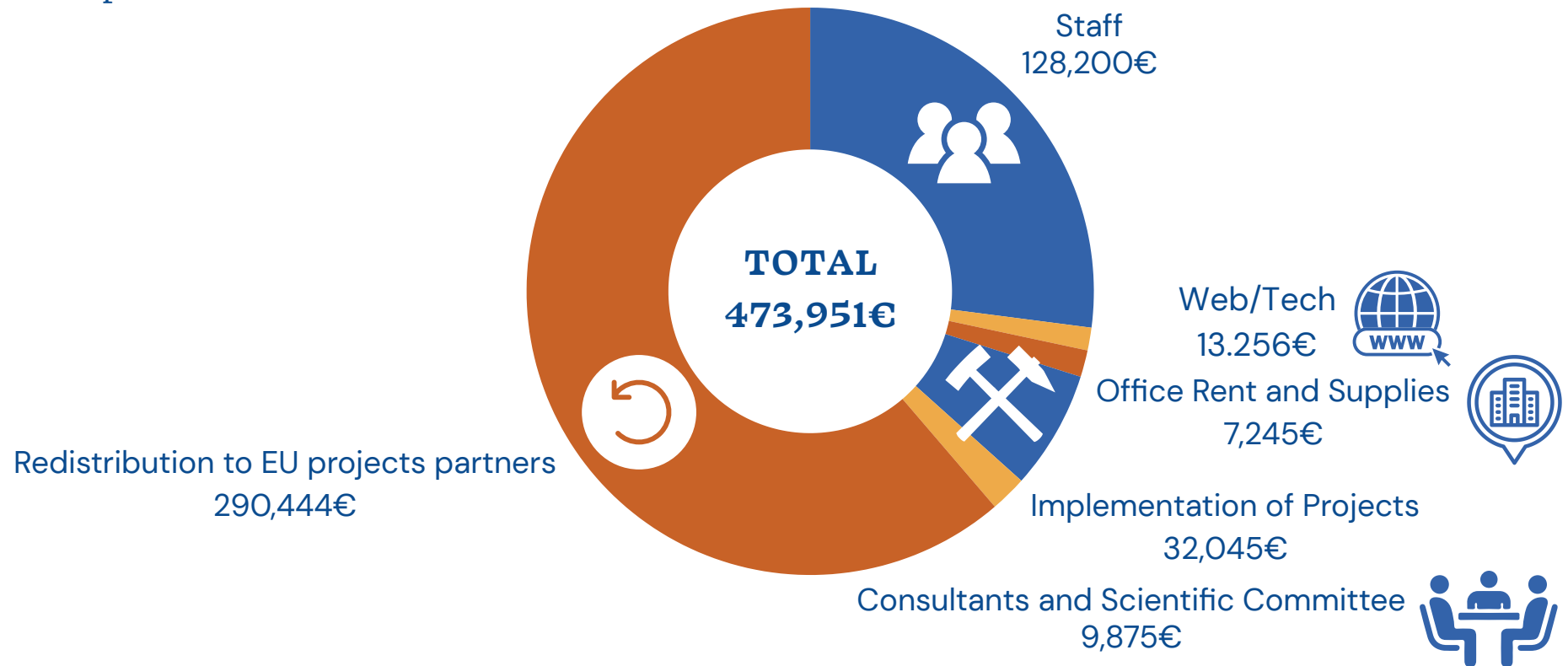
9. Actual Budget for 2023

2023 ACTUAL
Incomes



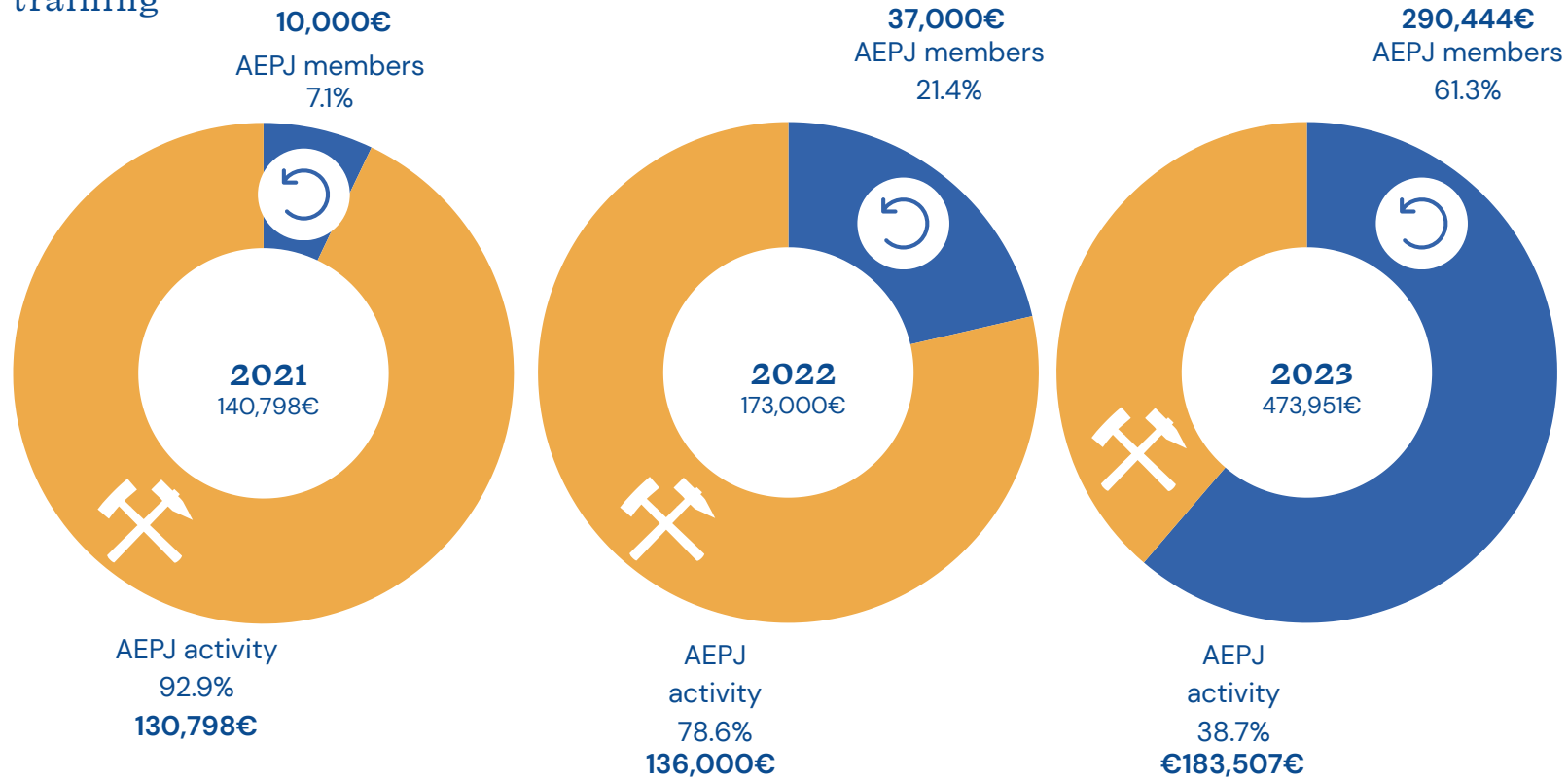
2023 ACTUAL

Expenses



REDISTRIBUTION TO THE AEPJ MEMBERS

for implementation of projects
and training



Report 2023



Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
du Conseil de l'Europe

