



International Conference for Teacher Trainers
“Integrating Jewish Heritage Into the Educational System”



In cooperation with



February 26th -27th, 2023
Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow

Funded by



The Nash Family Foundation

The
Kronhill Pletka
Foundation



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Introduction

Preserving Jewish Cemeteries (jewishcemeteries.eu) is a two-year EU-funded pilot project set up with the aim of preserving Jewish cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe, running until mid-2023.

It is a joint effort by three leading Jewish heritage NGOs (ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, Centropa, and the Foundation for Jewish Heritage), taking place across seven European countries: Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Building on the successful work carried out during two previous EU pilot projects, the consortium aims to raise awareness of Jewish cemeteries in local communities; spearhead educational projects with the goal of incorporating Jewish cemeteries into school curricula; and help empower local actors to preserve their Jewish cemeteries in the seven project countries and beyond.



The project consists of numerous activities such as seminars, webinars, youth and art university competitions, and various forms of engagement with local institutions and NGOs. One of these proposed activities is a seminar to bring together teacher trainers, curriculum designers, NGO representatives and educators working in administrative positions to collectively discuss approaches to Jewish heritage teaching and preservation. This seminar, held on February 26th - 27th, 2023, at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland, brought together 31 participants to

explore and discuss how Jewish heritage can be integrated into educational curricula across Europe.

This report gives an overview of the activities of the seminar, integrating statistics and feedback gathered from the post-seminar survey all participants were encouraged to complete.

The seminar was made possible with the financial support of the Taube Foundation, the Kronhill-Pletka Foundation, and the Nash Foundation, and was co-funded by the European Union.

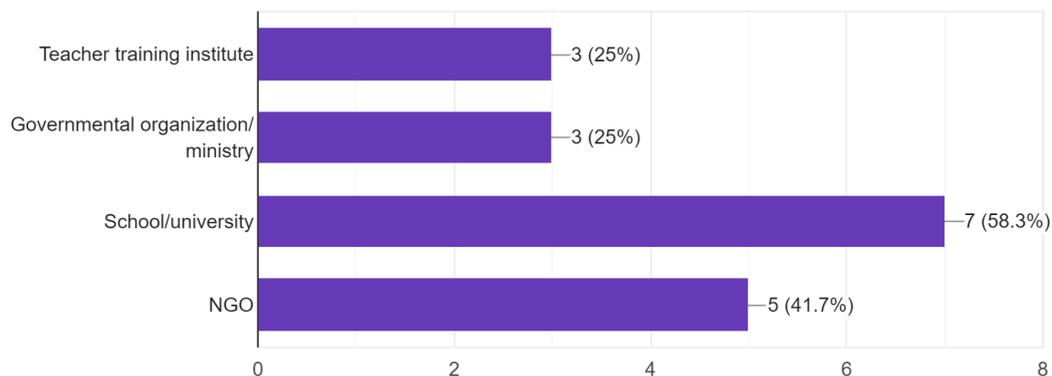
The teacher training seminar

The seminar brought together 31 participants from the following countries: Slovakia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Georgia, Moldova, Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine, joined by organizers and speakers from Germany, Poland, and the UK. Short-term cancellations due to Covid meant that other participants from Greece and Croatia were unable to attend.

Participants are active in a variety of institutions, both directly and indirectly involved in education and policymaking.

Where do you work?

12 responses

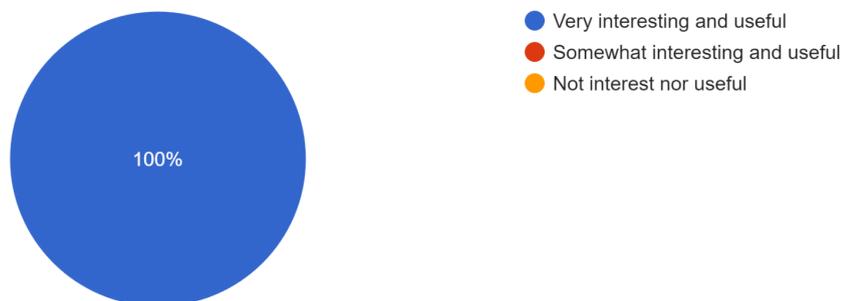


The conference began with a presentation of the project “Preserving Jewish Cemeteries” by representatives from attending partner organizations, as well as an introduction to the project website jewishcemeteries.eu and the resources it provides.



In order for attendees to draw inspiration from and become familiar with educational approaches to preserving Jewish heritage, in particular cemeteries, Teona Dalakashvili (Georgia) and Dariusz Popiela (Poland) were invited to present their organizations' successful projects - presentations that were overwhelmingly positively received by participants.

We offered two country case studies on Jewish cemeteries: Teona Dakalishvili from Tbilisi presented a case study from Georgia, and Dariusz ... Poland. How would you rate these presentations?
12 responses



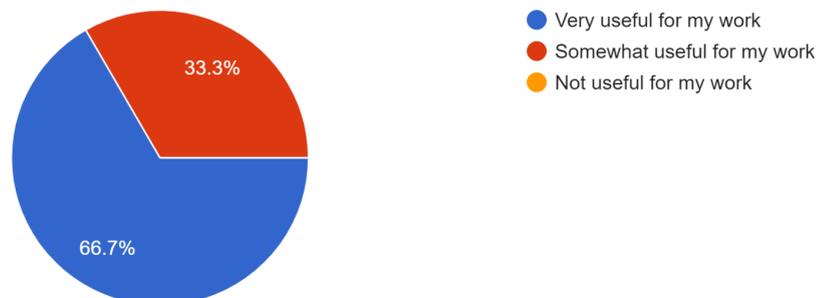
The conference keynote presentation was held by Prof. Joanna Michlic (University College London). She presented her research titled “Jewish Cemeteries in High School Education about Jewish Heritage and the Holocaust: Achievements, Opportunities, Challenges and Limitations”, which had been conducted as part of the Protecting Jewish Cemeteries Project.



The presentation, which gave an overview of the state of integration of Jewish cemeteries into high school curricula within the project countries, was rated positively by participants.

Our keynote speaker Prof. Joanna Michlic presented a 7-country report on how Jewish cemeteries are integrated in educational curricula. How would you evaluate this presentation?

12 responses



A workshop with Esther Zyskina (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) on reading and interpreting epigraphs and Jewish tombstone symbols provided participants with useful and practical tools.



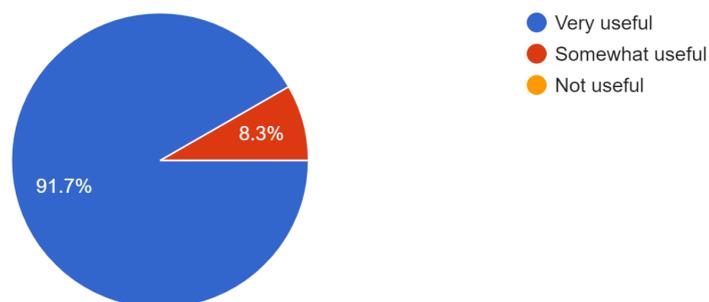
The conference location of the Galicia Jewish Museum meant that participants were able to explore the Centropa-GJM exhibition “10 Polish Cities. 10 Jewish Stories”, as well as the “Traces” exhibition at the museum.

During a walking tour facilitated by Bartek Wencel, participants were guided by the walking tour available on the Centropa app. Visiting the main sites of Jewish Krakow, including the factory of Oskar Schindler, participants listened to the story of Tosia Silberring, a Centropa interviewee also featured in the “10 Polish Cities. 10 Jewish Stories” exhibition. The walking tour, highly rated by the participants in the post-seminar survey, showed that biographies are a low-threshold, well-received approach to imparting historical knowledge.



A second excursion to the Jewish cemetery on Miodowa street allowed participants to learn about the specificities of Polish Jewish burial sites. They compared practices to their own countries, and applied their knowledge on reading epitaphs.

We offered two activities on Jewish cemeteries: 1) a guided tour of the Jewish Cemetery on Miodowa street by Bartek Wencel , followed by some... epitaphs. How would you rate these activities?
12 responses



A historical lecture by Prof. Edyta Gawron on “How to teach Jewish heritage and raise awareness” gave an overview of the situation in Poland, as well as valuable

insights into the situation of Jewish people in the country before, during and after the Holocaust.



However, the most important parts of the seminar were sessions in which participants worked together in groups, exchanging their experiences and connecting with each other. These networks, reaching across different administrative levels and national borders, allow participants to share their expertise and learn from each other. Discussing tools and approaches on how Jewish cemeteries can better be integrated into school curricula, attendees were able to gain inspiration and new impulses on how further work in this direction can be shaped.

The concluding discussion with a panel of experts, including Prof. Michlic, Dame Helen Hyde and Michael Mail from the Foundation of Jewish Heritage, gathered and commented on the insights from groups. Participants were able to take away new insights from the two-day conference, returning to their home countries with new impulses on how to integrate teaching about Jewish heritage, in particular Jewish cemeteries, into the educational program and further cementing education on Jewish heritage, culture and history into schools across Europe.



Quotes from seminar participants (anonymous survey)

“I have learned about new methods and means of teaching Jewish heritage and really understood how cemeteries are important in the teaching process and in the endeavor to recover the memory of Jewish people. I have also obtained new information, knowledge of various kinds and the new ways of structuring and using it (especially, during the cemetery excursion and Edyta Gawron's lecture).”

“Attending the seminar was very useful, allowing me to meet many interesting people I would like to work together with in the future on collaborative Jewish heritage projects.”

“The seminar truly inspired me as an educator to include tombstones as primary sources in my future textbooks and to emphasize out-of-class studies at the cemeteries we have in my city.”

“I liked that the ideas shared are very realistic and doable. The stories inspire me to teach history through various sources and talk about not very comfortable pages with respect and understanding.”

