

FIFTH MEETING OF PRESIDENTS

MILAN-ITALY
NOVEMBER 21st - 23rd 2014



European
Council
of Jewish
Communities

The American Jewish
Joint Distribution
Committee



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This meeting, organised by the **European Council of Jewish Communities**, representing the interests of the Jewish communities in Europe in the fields of Social Welfare, Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sports and **JDC -the Joint**, acting as a catalyst for community development and Jewish renewal in Europe is the largest working meeting of European Jewish leadership in the continent.

This Meeting of Presidents, aims to create a platform for the different communities and organisations where to exchange the best practices today and where to share successful experiences amongst peers. In this crucial moment, we believe that today more than ever it is important to share our common experiences and define a common ground.

We are proud in being able to offer to the European leadership a weekend of challenge and opportunity; networking and socialising; debates on key leadership issues; awareness building of European initiatives and the chance to share and define our communities priorities' in these difficult times.

Your participation is the key element for all this to happen,

Thanks for joining us,

The organisers

5th Meeting of Presidents of European Jewish Communities and Organisations

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Conference Venue

N-How Milano
Via Tortona, 35
20144 Milano
Italy
Tel. +39 02 489 8861

Hospitality Desk

For your convenience, our hospitality desk will operate in the foyer of the **N-How Milano - First Floor**

Friday November 21st	11.00 - 18.00
Saturday November 22nd	9.00 - 19.15
Sunday November 23rd	8.00 - 13.30

Language

Conference sessions will be conducted in English.

Security

YOU ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO WEAR YOUR BADGE THE WHOLE TIME. THOSE NOT WEARING BADGES WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO SESSIONS, MEALS AND EVENTS.

In case of emergency

During the hours that the hospitality desk is open at the **N-How Milano** Hotel, please ask any member of the staff for assistance.

Conference Hotel

nhow
elevate your stay

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Via Tortona, 35
20144 Milano
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Conference Program

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Friday, November 21st

13.00

Registration Opens

Hotel N-How Milano - Foyer 1st Floor
Via Tortona 35

14.30

Welcoming session – Miami Room

General presentation of the Conference

5th Meeting of Presidents of European Jewish Communities and Organisations

Simone Mortara, Executive Committee Member ECJC & Jewish Community of Milan

Mario Izcovich, Director Pan European Programs JDC

Mariano Schlimovich, Director ECJC

15.30

Official Opening - Miami Room

5th Meeting of Presidents of European Jewish Communities and Organisations

Benjamin Albalas, President ECJC

Diego Ornique, Director JDC Europe

Renzo Gattegna, President UCEI, Federation of Jewish Communities in Italy

16.45

Parallel Working sessions

Some great options for you to choose

Dubai Room

Small Communities – Does Size Matter?

Minos Moissis, President Jewish Community Athens, Greece

Igor Rintel, President Federation of the Jewish Communities of Slovakia

Ognen Kraus, President Coordinating Committee of Jewish Communities in Croatia

Moderator: Faina Kukliansky, President Jewish Community of Lithuania

Different experiences and realities shed light on the present state and trends of small communities today: the challenges and opportunities. What is the impact of keeping structures? How can we cater for our members the services they require? Is there any viable option to achieve a sustainable future in terms of financial resources, infrastructure and continuity?

Parigi Room

Social Welfare and Wellbeing of our communities

Gabrielle Rosenstein, Chairman VSJF, Switzerland

Michael Blake, Joint Treasurer & Trustee of Jewish Care, UK

Jean Francois Guthmann, President Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants - OSE, France

Rudi Mahlo, European Representative Claims Conference, Germany

Chaired by **Mario Izcovich**, JDC Director of Pan European Programmes, Spain

New trends and challenges in the field of Social Welfare for the coming years: Active ageing, new models of institutions, lack of resources, decreasing number of Nazi Victims.

How to guarantee that our organisations are well equipped to answer to the needs of our communities?

Capetown Room

Jewish Culture and Heritage

Ruth Ellen Gruber, Director Jewish Heritage Europe

Daniele Cohen, Jewish & The City, Milan, Italy

Chaired by **Arturo Tedeschi**, ECJC, Turin, Italy

“...Jewish places do not have an existence in and of themselves. They only come into existence in the moment that someone engages with them, and incorporates them into a Jewish story – be it their own, or one that someone is telling them. Thus one object or one place, be it a restored synagogue, a shtetl, a city street, or a country road, represents an infinite number of potential Jewish places, waiting to emerge” *Dr. Karen Underhill*

Come and hear some extremely successful resources and stories, and how your community can benefit from it.

Hong Kong Room

Young Leaders Track - Transition in our communities

Simone Mortara, Board Member Jewish Community of Milan & ECJC

Rifat Rasier, Board Member Jewish Community Istanbul

Petr Papousek, President Federation of Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic

Alek Oscar, President Shalom Bulgaria & Vice President ECJC

Chaired by **Lela Sadikario**, Director JDC Regions, Italy

From one generation of leaders to a new younger one.

Inertia, desire of continuity or change?

Turning our Visions into Reality.

18.30

Shabbat Services in Hotel - Capetown Room

For other synagogues in the area, please consult maps and walking directions from the hospitality desk

20.15

Shabbat Dinner

T35 Hall - Hotel NHow Milano

Is this the end of the Jewish People?

Michael Wolffsohn, Writer & Intellectual, Germany

Presented by **Evan Z. Lazar**, ECJC Honorary President and Chair of the ECJC General Assembly

Saturday, November 22nd

9.00

Study & Discussion Session - Parigi Room

Some Biblical stories on leaders, conflicts and resolutions.

Mariano Schlimovich, Director ECJC, UK

If you ever thought that you have hard time with conflicts as community leaders, just have a look in some hard decisions others had to deal with, and you should immediately feel much better!. Many biblical texts articulate surprising perspectives around community issues. Let's discuss some examples of on conflictive situations that have particular resonance for today's communal leaders.

10.00

Meetings- *By Invitation only*

Pan European Organizations - Hong Kong Room

Benjamin Albalas

ECJC JDC Social Welfare Committee -Parigi Room

Gabrielle Rosenstein & Mario Izcovich

Do Good Missions - Dubai Room

Alek Oscar and Mariano Schlimovich

13.15

Shabbat Lunch- *only prebooked* - Room T35

Restaurant T35

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15.30

Parallel sessions

Some great options for you to choose

Hong Kong Room

Young Leaders

Transition in our personal lives

Implications from the personal side of being a Young Leader in a Jewish Community

Chaired by

Simone Mortara, Board Member Jewish Community of Milan & Exec. Member ECJC

Alek Oscar, President Shalom Bulgaria and Vice President ECJC

Parigi Room

Implications and Responsibilities towards Shoah Survivors in the communities

Rudi Mahlo, Representative Claims Conference in Germany

Chaired by **Michael Blake**, ECJC & Jewishcare, UK

Capetown Room

Jewish Culture and Heritage - Brainstorming session

Maximising the benefits for your community

Annie Sacerdoti, ECJC Board Member, Milan, Italy

Ruth Ellen Gruber, Director, Jewish Heritage Europe

Hans Vuijsje – JONET, a Dutch Online Initiative

Moderated by **Arturo Tedeschi**, ECJC Treasurer, Turin, Italy

Can Jewish Tourism become a useful tool to outreach? The richness and abundance of Jewish Heritage sites all over Europe is unquestionable and clearly seen in some places, but only a few communities managed to create a reality where these sites are visited and run efficiently by their own local community. What converts these places in a “need to visit” spot for tourists? Some of these tourists can easily become part of the living local Jewish community.

16.45

Shabbat discussions: the Presidents debates - Miami Room

A lively, provocative approach to a number of key subjects, with an opportunity for open comments and questions by participants. Invited speakers will present in a dynamic way their positions, inviting the public to participate.

16.45-17.45 - Debate 1

How to create sustainable models within our communities?

Simon Morris, Chief Executive, Jewishcare UK

Hans Vuijsje, Managing Director Stichting Joods Maatschappelijk Werk, Netherlands

Leonid Kolton, Hesed – SW Russia

Chaired by **Gabrielle Rosenstein**, President VSJF, Switzerland

Jewish life in Europe is facing constant challenges. Financial ones, Migrations, changes in local demography. How do we think our organisations today? Are we still repeating and opening “new” old structures?

Are we ready to debate and think about the right model our community needs **Today**, and that can be also useful **Tomorrow**?

Is sustainability a leader’s responsibility?

18.10-19.10 - Debate 2

Are grassroots organisations the Communities of the XXI century? What can we learn from these innovative models?

Kevin Sefton, Chair Limmud , UK

Adam Schonberger, Marom Hungary

Chaired by **Mario Izcovich**, JDC Europe Director of Pan European Programmes

Some Jewish grassroots organisations became extremely visible in the last years. Some of them, even hold amongst their achievements successful stories of being replicated in different countries. Undoubtedly, grassroots are tightly linked with “activism” and “volunteerism”.

Are we ready to bring those values into our organisations?

Is becoming a mainstream organisation the death of the Grassroots initiative?

How can we import the models without being lost in translation?

19.20 -20.20 - Debate 3

**Membership crisis, lack of resources, less participation.
Is the model of the Community in crisis?
What should be improved?**

Jonathan Arkush, Vice President Board of Deputies of British Jews, UK
Alek Oscar , Vice President ECJC and President Shalom Bulgaria
Zsuzsanna Toronyi, Mazsihisz Member & Director of the Hungarian Jewish Museum
Chaired by Michael Blake

21.15

Bus Departure from Hotel

Reception & Cocktail

Sinagoga Centrale Hechal David u-Mordechai
Via della Guastalla, 19 - 20122 Milano

2014 ECJC VISION AWARDS CEREMONY

The ECJC Vision Awards celebrate the excellent achievements of professionals and lay leaders in Jewish organizations in Europe, giving them recognition for their dedication and hard work.

The recipients of the awards will be honoured at a ceremony showcasing their outstanding devotion to enhancing the quality of Jewish life in their own communities; thus embracing the fact of becoming inspiration to the wider Community.

Sunday November 23rd

8.00 **Post Breakfast Working Meeting** - Parigi Room

Implications and Responsibilities towards Shoah Survivors in the communities

Working group - By Invitation only

09.30 Plenary & Discussion - Miami Room

Presentation of the European Migrants Survey –Done by JDC ICCD

Presentation by **Marcelo Dimentstein**, Operations Director Europe JDC-ICCD

Discussion with **Simone Mortara**, ECJC Exec. Member & Jewish Community of Milan

Chaired by **Marguerite Zauberman**, ECJC Vice President and Board Member FSJU

The European Migrants Survey is a very committed attempt to explore a host of issues related to the motivations and circumstances which move Young people 18-30 years old to move to other cities. This phenomenon, is clearly creating an interesting complex of communities inside communities, parallel Jewish organisations and changing local Jewish culture by bringing new traditions. Are we as Jewish organisations able to recognise the impact of these “temporary” members which can be a new wave of associated members to our communities?

10.30 Coffee Break

ECJC - 2 years of activities in 7 minutes

Presentation by **Mariano Schlimovich** , Director ECJC

11.00 Plenary - Miami Room

Anti-Semitism - Israel - Social welfare & Wellbeing

Ageing community - Reaching out the unaffiliated

Youth - Jewish education - Inclusion and diversity.

Integrating Israelis into our Communities

What should be the agenda of the European Jewish leader?

Daniel Elalouf, Board Member & Treasurer, FSJU-France

Jonathan Arkush, Board Member Board of Deputies of British Jews, UK

Zvi Berkerman, Director, Melton Centre for Jewish Education, Israel

Roberto Jarach - UCEI Italy

Diego Ornique, Director JDC Europe, Spain

Chaired by **Coby Benatoff**, Honorary President ECJC, Milan, Italy

12.30 **Closure of the Conference**

Benjamin Albalas, President ECJC

Simone Mortara, Executive Committee Member ECJC & Jewish Community of Milan

Mario Izcovich, JDC Europe, Director Pan European Programmes

13.00 **End of Conference**

13.10 **ECJC Members & Board Meeting** – *By invitation only*

The organisers want to thank for their support



ק"ק מילאנו
COMUNITA' EBRAICA di MILANO



Meeting Organising Committee

Gabrielle Rosenstein, Switzerland

Benjamin Albalas, Greece

Michael Blake, UK

Simone Mortara, Italy

Alek Oscar, Bulgaria

Mario Izcovich, Spain

Mariano Schlimovich UK

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“Do not separate yourself from the community.” *Pirkei Avot 2: 4.*