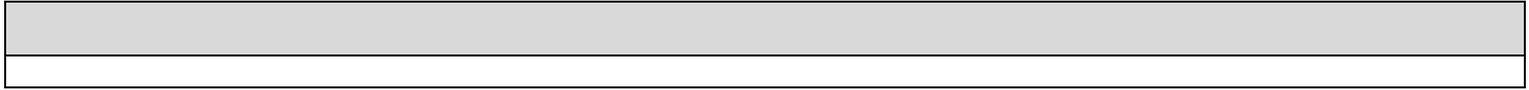


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**Applicable to the Strand 2 – Measure 2.2 "*Networks of Towns*"**

**Measure 2.3 "*Civil Society Projects*"**

**Strand 1 – "*European Remembrance*"**

## **11 events have been carried out within this project:**

### **Event 1 Kaunas**

**Participation:** The event involved 70 citizens, including 35 participants from the city of Kaunas, Lithuania, 35 participants from the city of Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Kaunas, Lithuania on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get a deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Kaunas before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. History teachers from Kaunas shared their experience with the students in 8 Kaunas schools. Media representatives (Kaunodiena) were present and informed about the event their readers. The event started in Kaunas synagogue with an introduction to Jewish culture and religion. Then an extensive tour of Kaunas ghetto – Slobodka - was held with a Jewish guide meeting local people who unfortunately were not aware of the history of this place. After the excursion a concert of a Jewish song and dance group was held in a former Jewish gymnasium followed by a dance lesson and an authentic Jewish lunch. After this experience participants were taken to the IXth fort – mass murder site and a memorial to visit the site and put flowers on a field where tens of thousands of Jews were killed. On the way back to Kaunas homemade Jewish sweets and some Kosher wine were offered to the participants.

### **Event 2 Kaunas**

**Participation:** The event involved 65 citizens, including 35 participants from the city of Kaunas, Lithuania, 30 participants from the city of Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Kaunas, Lithuania on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get a deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Kaunas before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. History teachers from Kaunas shared their experience with the students in 5 Kaunas schools. The event was photographed and recorded on the video, the material was placed on internet [www.beingajew.com](http://www.beingajew.com) and sent to schools that have participated in this and the previous event in Kaunas. The event started in Kaunas synagogue with an introduction to Jewish culture and religion. Then an extensive tour of Kaunas ghetto was held with a Jewish guide. After the excursion a concert of a Jewish song and dance group was held in a former Jewish gymnasium and followed by a dance lesson and an authentic Jewish lunch. After this experience participants were taken to the IXth fort – mass murder site and a memorial to visit the site and put flowers on a field where thousands of Jews were killed. On the way back to Kaunas Jewish homemade sweets and Kosher wine were offered to the participants.

### **Event 3 Krakow**

**Participation:** The event involved 30 participants from the region city of Katowice and Kraków, Poland, 1 participant from Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Location/ Dates:** / The event took place in Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Krakow before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. The event was photographed and recorded on the video, the material was both put on internet [www.gaudete.katowice.opoka.org.pl](http://www.gaudete.katowice.opoka.org.pl) / project. The event started in Auschwitz - Birkenau with an introduction Museum of Auschwitz. Participants visited the site with a guide. After the excursion in Bzezinka-Birkenau Museum participants laid flowers, commemorating the victims of the Nazi death camp on railroad tracks to the crematorium. Next point of the excursion was an extensive tour of Kazimierz district in Krakow - center of Jewish culture and religion. Participants visited the Remuh Synagogue, Szeroka Street and the Jewish Cemetery. After the excursion a concert of a Jewish song and dance group was held and followed by a dance lesson and a Jewish lunch.

**Location,/Dates:** The event took place in Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland, on February 1<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### **Event 4. Krakow.**

**Participation:** The event involved 40 participants from the region city of Katowice and Kraków, Poland

**Location/Dates:** The event took place in Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland, on February 1<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Cracow before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust by visiting Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. The event took place during 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Liberation activities which began 27.01.2015. The event was photographed and recorded on the video, the material was put on internet [www.gaudete.katowice.opoka.org.pl](http://www.gaudete.katowice.opoka.org.pl) /. The day there started by travelling to Auschwitz-Birkenau memorial and museum. The main facts about this place there presented - between June 1941 and January 1945 about one million men, women and children perished in the three Auschwitz concentration camps. At its peak the whole complex of the Auschwitz death camp was a deadly prison to some 150,000 inmates that were being either murdered outright or starved and worked to death. After couple of hours spent at the site a Remembrance ceremony was organized to honor people who have been killed there. Next stop – Kazimierz district in Krakow Ghetto territory. The group has visited Remuh Synagogue and learned about Judaism and Jewish culture and traditions. At the end of the day “Being a Jew” participants visited Krakow Jewish community center where traditional Jewish songs and dances were presented. Participants were also learning to dance and sing together with Jewish artists. The day ended with a typical Jewish lunch.

#### **Event 5. Alba Iulia**

**Participation:** The event involved 37 participants from the city of Alba Iulia and Cluj (Romania)

**Location,/Dates:** The event took place in Alba Iulia, Romania, on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Alba Iulia before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. The event was organized as follows: The day of Being a Jew started with an extensive lecture on Jewish history in Romania, religion and culture in the Synagogue. After that participants were taken to one of the largest and oldest Jewish cemeteries where they spent two hours with historians from the University of Cluj. Jewish lunch was organized before the second part of the event: introduction to Jewish culture in the Arts center of Alba Iulia. Participants watched a theatre presentation on the theme of the Holocaust as well as a 90 minutes concert of the Jewish Klezmer ensemble. The day ended by watching a documentary on Jewish history and life in Romania.

#### **Event 6. Alba Iulia**

**Participation:** The event involved 40 participants from the city of Alba Iulia and Cluj (Romania) and 2 participants from the city of Vilnius, Lithuania.

**Location/Dates:** The event took place in Alba Iulia, Romania, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Alba Iulia before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. The event was organized as follows: The day of Being a Jew started with an extensive lecture on Jewish history in Romania, religion and culture in the Synagogue. After that participants were taken to one of the largest and oldest Jewish cemeteries where they spent two hours with historians from the University of Cluj. Jewish lunch was organized before the second part of the event: introduction to Jewish culture in an Arts center of Alba Iulia. Participants watched theatre presentation on the theme of the Holocaust as well as a 90 minutes concert of the Jewish

Klezmerensamble. The day ended by watching a documentary on Jewish history and life in Romania. The event was photographed and filmed. Local press representatives were present.

### **Event 7, Gdansk**

**Participation:** The project involved 46 citizens from the city of Gdańsk (Poland)

**Location/ Dates:** The event took place in Gdańsk, Poland, on 15/03/2015

**Short description:** The “Being a Jew” event was dedicated to Jewish culture and history. The programme covered a large scope of events among which everybody could find something for themselves. The festival of the Jewish music was a great pleasure for all music lovers. The songs performed during it were at the same time an unusual way to learn the Yiddish language. Meanwhile, the theatre group „Teatr Zielony Wiatrak” prepared something for all amateurs of retro-related themes. Their music and cabaret performance were based on pre-war hits of Julian Tuwim, Emanuel Schlechter and Henryk Wars. There was something for cuisine lovers as well: everybody ready to taste something new could have had a taste of some kosher food. Moreover, the Sunday event was enlivened by a short introduction to the Jewish culture and religion, as well as by screening of the film: "In shadow of the Great Synagogue" ("W cieniu Wielkiej Synagogi"). During the meeting there was also a discussion on difficult yet important subjects, such as the co-existence of the Jews and Poles in Gdańsk prior to 2nd World War. The Jewish Culture Day – event “Being a Jew” was ended by visiting the Stutthof Museum in Sztutowo, where the participants saw an exhibition together with Dr. Danuta Drywa. They also honoured the victims of the Holocaust by putting flowers and lighting a candle by the monument raised in the spot of the former Jewish Camp.

### **Event 8, Kosice**

**Participation:** The event involved 40 participants from the city of Košice (Slovakia).

**Location,/Dates:** The event took place in Košice, Slovakia, on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 .

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Košice before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. The event started by tour in old Jewish cemetery and former Jewish ghetto where the participants were informed about the history and significance of the Jewish community for the city of Košice before WWII. After that the event continued with the introduction to Jewish traditions, the lecture was held by a member of Košice Jewish community. Traditional Jewish lunch and a concert of Jewish songs followed. The afternoon program started by a lecture and a discussion with a survivor of the Ravensbruck concentration camp and continued by a visit of the Cultural Centre of Ludovit Feld – a genius artist who survived and documented the Košice Jewish deportations and the Auschwitz concentration camp in his drawings. In the end the whole group visited the synagogue on Puškinovastreet – where Jews were imprisoned before being transported to Auschwitz. The participants lighted candles on a symbolic “Shoa Menorah” and commemorated the victims of the Holocaust.

### **Event 9, Kosice**

**Participation:** The event involved 41 participant from the city of Kosice (Slovakia) and 2 participants from the city of Rožňava (Slovakia).

**Location/Dates:** The event took place in Kosice, Slovakia, on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 .

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to allow participants to get deeper understanding of the history and culture of the Jewish community in Košice before the Holocaust, cultural diversity of Europe as well as the scale of the tragedy of the Holocaust. The event started by tour in old Jewish cemetery and former Jewish ghetto where the participants were informed about the history and significance of the Jewish community for the city of Košice before WWII. After that the event continued with the introduction to Jewish traditions, the lecture was held by a member of Košice Jewish community. Traditional Jewish lunch and a concert of Jewish songs followed. The afternoon program started by a lecture and a discussion with a survivor of the Ravensbruck concentration camp and continued by a visit of the Cultural Centre of Ludovit

Feld – a genius artist who survived and documented the Košice Jewish deportations and the Auschwitz concentration camp in his drawings. In the end the whole group visited the synagogue on Puškinovastreet – where Jews were imprisoned before being transported to Auschwitz. The participants lighted candles on a symbolic “Shoa Menorah” and commemorated the victims of the Holocaust. Representatives from the regional newspaper “Košice:dnes” were present on the event and they informed the readers about the project “Being a Jew” in a big reportage.

#### **Event 10, VilniusFinal event of the project. Star of Remembrance and March of the Living in Ponar**

**Participation:** The event involved 800 participants from the city of Vilnius, Alytus, Kaunas, Lithuania, 2 participants from UK, 2 participants from Romania, 2 participants from Poland, 1 participant from Belgium.

**Location/Dates:** The event took place in Vilnius, Lithuania on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Short description:** The aim of the event was to commemorate International Day of Holocaust Remembrance (YomHashoah) on a very large scale, attract attention of the media and to start a new tradition in Lithuania. For the first time in the history of Lithuania 700 children from 15 Vilnius schools participated in the unique event in the main square of Old Vilnius – former ghetto square by forming a live David Star and singing a Jewish psalm in Hebrew. Each participant of the Star of Remembrance was wearing a special badge with a Jewish name (name was selected by participants themselves from the list of Vilnius Jews killed during the Holocaust). After this ceremony 700 children got into a special train to Ponar where they joined the traditional March of the Living. For most of the participants to this event this was the first time they visited the killing site in Ponar. The event was photographed, filmed and covered by media extensively.

#### **Event 11. VilniusFinal event of the project. International conference on Holocaust education**

**Participation:** The event involved 100 participants from the city of Vilnius, Kaunas, Alytus, Lithuania, Vilnius, Alytus, Kaunas, Lithuania, 2 participants from UK, 2 participants from Romania, 2 participants from Poland, 1 from Germany, 1 from Belgium.

**Location/Dates:** The event took place in Vilnius, on April 17th, 2015

**Short description:** International conference on Holocaust education had speakers from the United States, Poland, Romania, Israel and Lithuania, including recognized and esteemed Holocaust historians and Holocaust education specialists, among them professors Tomas Venclova, Saulius Sužiedėlis, also Dovid Katz, Šarūnas Liekis. Pre-recorded address was given by a chief Nazi Hunter Dr. Efraim Zuroff. Representative of the European Commission's European Remembrance program Pavel Tychtľ, Lithuanian Jewish Community chair Faina Kukliansky, Vilnius mayor Artūras Zuokas. Holocaust education experts from Poland and Lithuania spoke as well. Organizers of conference have adopted an appeal to the ministers of education of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, expressing concern over the state of Holocaust education in these countries. A Jewish lunch and short artistic presentation by Vilnius school children was organized for participants. All presentations of the conference have been published on the website [www.beingajew.com](http://www.beingajew.com), some of them – in the biggest news portal Delfi – Lithuanian and English versions. A TV discussion on a National TV channel Lrytas.tv was organized following the conference. Further cooperation on the subject of Holocaust education is being planned with the partners of the project “Being a Jew” as well as with conference speakers and participants.