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Teaching Jewish heritage in class: Using Jewish cemeteries in education



A two-day international teacher training seminar for 30 educators from Moldova
(with participants joining from Romania and Ukraine)
July 27-28 in Chişinău, Moldova

A project by



Partners and Supporters

Funded by the European Commission and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.



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In partnership with EcoVisio Training Center



With special thanks to Irina Şihova for sharing her extensive knowledge about the Jewish history of Chisinau, the interpreters Inna Grinco and Anastasia Kulikovskaia, Sergiu Musteata for conducting a methodological workshop as well as Ion Ungureanu for taking care of the logistical organization.

Imprint

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Take away quotes from our participants

“By participating in this seminar I have acquired a new conceptual-terminological inventory about Jewish cemeteries, I have strengthened skills aimed at teaching-teaching-evaluating, how to use Jewish cemeteries when teaching about Jewish heritage, what to do and what not to do when visiting a Jewish cemetery. Jewish cultural heritage needs to be valued and enhanced!”

Mihaela Catalina Tarcaoanu, Piatra Neamț, Romania - Romanian and Russian Literature Teacher

“I enjoyed working in a group. We listened to each other, respected each other, took each other's opinion into account. I liked the interaction, the professionalism, the passion of the educators and the sharing of best practice examples.”

Natalia Balan, Orhei – Civic Education Teacher

“The field trip, workshop and lectures made me understand how important it is to remember about the role of some representatives of national minorities in the development of the city, about the unknown symbols that I can now interpret when I go on a trip with my students to a cemetery where there are Jewish graves.”

Lucia Argint, Chisinau - Civic Education Teacher

“At the seminar, I learned how to teach the history of national minorities, including Jews, in the context of national history. I enjoyed a great way of approaching cemeteries as a source of Oral History. The seminar inspired me to plan a cooperative lesson with other teachers from my school on the evolution and place of national minority history in the context of local history.”

Grigore Cojocaru, Chisinau - History Teacher

Executive summary

With the help of the European Commission and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Centropa and its partner in Moldova, EcoVisio, have held several training seminars Chisinau and Riscova, as well as online workshops during the Covid19 pandemic.

On July 27-28, 2022, we organized a training program in the capital of Moldova, Chisinau, at the art and cultural center Artcor. Together with our Moldovan partner NGO EcoVisio, we invited 30 educators involved in formal and non-formal education from Moldova (with individual participants joining us from Eastern Romania and Ukrainian refugees currently living in Moldova) to share best practices on integrating Jewish cemeteries into education on Jewish history.

Seminar highlights included:

- Tour of Chisinau by Irina Shikova (Maghid. Jewish Heritage Moldova) on both hidden and visible Jewish heritage within Moldova's capital and on its outskirts, using the Chisinau AudioWalk produced by Centropa
- Introduction to Centropa's Moldovan biographies by Centropa staff and partners
- Introductory lecture by Irina Shikhova on epitaph and headstone symbols on Jewish gravestones
- Tour of Chisinau Jewish Cemetery by Irina Shikhova
- Interactive online workshop with Sergiu Musteata, with interactive group work to develop lesson plans based on Centropa material on Jewish cemeteries
- Presentation of Centropa's exhibition 'Fleeing the Holocaust: Jewish Refugees in the Caucasus and Central Asia' with an introduction from Irina Shikhova, co-curator

The seminar was attended by 28 Moldovan participants from Moldova (2 of them originally Ukrainian) and 2 Romanian participants. The seminar was led and organized by Johanna Blender and Katja Grosse-Sommer from Centropa, together with our local coordinator Ion Ungureanu from Ecovisio.

Highlights

After our seminar in Riscova we asked all participants to fill out our online feedback survey. Here are the most important findings:

- 95% of respondents found the seminar useful or partly for their work
- 100% of respondents found the visit and on-site workshop at Chisinau Jewish cemetery useful for their work
- 94.4% of respondents said the materials and activities from the seminar will help them in teaching Jewish history, human rights, and the Holocaust.
- 100% of respondents found the lecture by Irina Shikhova on the situation of Jewish cemeteries in Moldova useful for their work
- 100% of respondents found the workshop with Sergiu Musteata on methodology in teaching about Jewish heritage and history using Jewish cemeteries useful for their work

Thank you for reading this report.

JOHANNA BLENDER

Project coordinator, Centropa Hamburg

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Photos of the activities



Irina Shikhova with Aliona Grossu and Peter Cherry from the Jewish Community of Chisinau

The seminar was visited by Aliona Grossu, director of the Chisinau Jewish Community, and project coordinator Peter Cherry. Aliona Grossu welcomed the group in the beginning of the seminar, stressing the importance of improving and enhancing educational approaches on Jewish history and heritage and Moldova by including educators in the development of it.



Natalia Corobca, representative of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Moldova, welcoming the seminar participants



Ion Ungureanu and Johanna Blender presenting Centropa materials



Tour through Jewish Chisinau led by Irina Shikhova

Introductions into the Jewish history of Moldova



Irina Shikhova during her lecture on Jewish cemeteries in Moldova



Irina Shikhova guiding the group on Chisinau Jewish Cemetery

Irina Shikhova, PhD, is a scholar and informal educator in the field of the Jewish ethnology, culture and history, she invigorated the seminar participants with her expert knowledge on the Jewish history of Chisinau and Moldova more broadly. She combines her work as a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Education, Culture and Research) with being a Founding Director of the Maghid NGO (est. in 2018), as well as managing the permanent project; Jewish Heritage Moldova. She has a broad range of experience in university and non-formal education, museum curation and guiding tours. She is the author of *The Cultural Heritage of Jews in Moldova* (Chişinău, 2010) and *We Will Survive: Jewish History of Moldova in Images* (Chişinău, 2015), as well as numerous other scientific papers.



Tour of the cemetery



Tour of the cemetery

Exhibition: 'Fleeing the Holocaust: Jewish Refugees in the Caucasus and Central Asia'

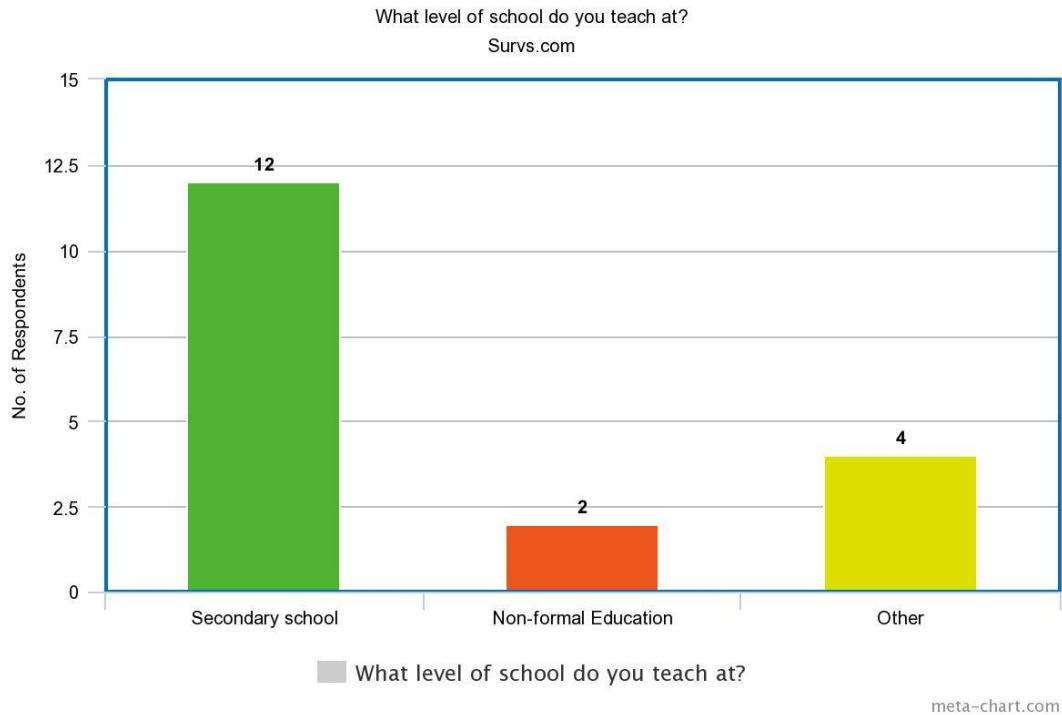


Participants visiting Centropa's new exhibition 'Fleeing the Holocaust: Jewish Refugees in the Caucasus and Central Asia'

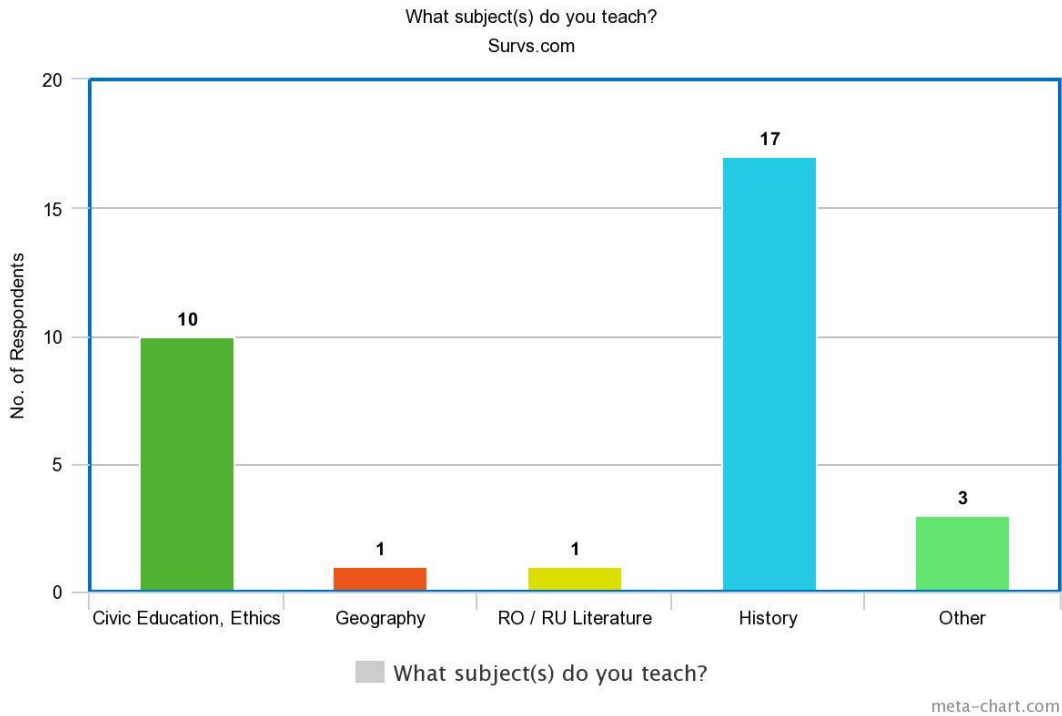
This exhibition was created by Centropa and funded by the Eastern Partnership Program (OPR) of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany and the Israeli Embassy in Georgia. The bilingual (Russian/Romanian) Centropa exhibition highlights several personal stories and shows archival documents related to the World War II evacuation from the Western areas of the former Soviet Union to Georgia, as well as through Georgia to Central Asia. It is based predominantly on the Centropa archive, using other documents from the National Archives of Georgia, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and Yad Vashem.

Survey Results

What level of school do you teach at?



Which subject(s) do you teach?



Seminar Program

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27th

11:30 – 12:30 Registration at Jolly Alon Hotel

12:30 Lunch break

13:30 Welcome remarks by Johanna Blender (Centropa), Natalia Corobca (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung), Aliona Grossu (Jewish Community Moldova), and Katya Tarus (EcoVisio)

14:00 Lecture by Irina Shikhova, "The role of Jewish cemeteries for Jewish heritage in Moldova"

15:00 Visit of exhibition on Jewish refugees to the Caucasus and Central Asia

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 City tour of Jewish Chişinău

19:00 Dinner at Jolly Alon Hotel

ZIUA 1

MIERCURI, 27 IULIE

11:30 – 12:30 Înregistrare la Hotel Jolly Alon

12:30 Pauza de masa

13:30 Cuvânt de bun venit de Johanna Blender (Centropa), Natalia Corobca, (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung), Aliona Grossu (Jewish Community Moldova), si Katya Tarus (EcoVisio)

14:00 Prelegere susţinută de Irina Shikhova, «Rolul cimitirelor evreieşti pentru patrimoniul evreiesc în Moldova»

15:00 Vizita expoziţiei despre refugiaţii evrei în Caucaz şi Asia Centrală

16:30 Pauza de cafea

17:00 Tur al oraşului Chişinăul evreiesc

19:00 Cina la Hotel Jolly Alon

ДЕНЬ 2

ЧЕТВЕРГ, 28 ИЮЛЯ

09:00 Вводный мастер-класс Ирины Шиховой «Еврейская эпитафия и надгробные символы»

09:45 «Что можно и чего нельзя делать при посещении еврейского кладбища»

10:00 Выезд на кишиневское еврейское кладбище .

10:30 Экскурсия по кишиневскому еврейскому кладбищу.

12:30 Отъезд обратно в отель Jolly Alon.

13:00 Обед

14:00 Методический семинар Серджиу Мустьяцэ «Как можно использовать еврейские кладбища в обучении еврейскому наследию?»

15:30 Презентация студенческих проектов о еврейских кладбищах и материалов Центропа о еврейском наследии в Молдове

16:15 Представление молодежного конкурса EU3

16:30 Перерыв на кофе

17:00 Вручение сертификатов

17:30 Официальное завершение семинара

19:00 Ужин в отеле Jolly Alon



1 ДЕНЬ СРЕДА, 27 ИЮЛЯ

11:30–12:30 Регистрация в отеле Jolly Alon

12:30 Перерыв на обед

13:30 Приветственное слово Джоанны Блендер (Centropa), Наталья Коробка (Конрад Аденауер штафтунг), Алена Гроссу (Еврейская Община Молдовы) и Катя Тарус (ЕкоВисио)

14:00 Лекция Ирины Шиховой «Роль еврейских кладбищ для еврейского наследия в Молдове»

DAY 2 THURSDAY, JULY 28th

09:00 Introductory workshop by Irina Shikhova, "Jewish epitaph and tombstone symbols"

09:45 "Do's and Don'ts when visiting a Jewish cemetery"

10:00 Leave for Chişinău Jewish cemetery

10:30 Guided visit of Chişinău Jewish cemetery

12:30 Departure back to Jolly Alon Hotel

13:00 Lunch

14:00 Methodological workshop by Sergiu Musteata, "How can Jewish cemeteries be used in teaching about Jewish heritage?"

15:30 Presentation of student projects on Jewish cemeteries and Centropa materials on Jewish heritage in Moldova

16:15 Introduction of EU3 youth competition

16:30 Coffee break

17:00 Handout of certificates

17:30 Official end of seminar

19:00 Dinner at Jolly Alon Hotel

15:00 Посещение выставки о еврейских беженцах в Кавказе и в Средней Азии

16:30 Перерыв на кофе

17:00 Обзорная экскурсия по еврейскому Кишиневу

19:00 Ужин в отеле Jolly Alon.

ZIUA 2 JOI, 28 IULIE

09:00 Atelier introductiv susţinut de Irina Shikhova, «Epitaful evreiesc și simbolurile pietrelor funerare»

09:45 «Ce să faci și ce să nu faci atunci când vizitezi un cimitir evreiesc»

10:00 Plecare spre cimitirul evreiesc din Chişinău

10:30 Vizită ghidată a cimitirului evreiesc din Chişinău

12:30 Plecare înapoi la Hotel Jolly Alon

13:00 Prânz

14:00 Atelier metodologic susţinut de Sergiu Musteață, «Cum pot fi folosite cimitirele evreiești în predarea despre patrimoniul evreiesc?»

15:30 Prezentarea proiectelor studențești privind cimitirele evreiești și a materialelor Centropa despre patrimoniul evreiesc în Moldova

16:15 Introducerea competiției pentru tineret EU3

16:30 Pauza de cafea

17:00 Înmânarea certificatelor

17:30 Sfârșitul oficial al seminarului

19:00 Cina la Hotel Jolly Alon



Participant list

| Nr | Name | Country | Institution | City | Occupation | Approximate population |
|----|----------------------|---------|---|--------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Galina Gumen | MD | Liceul Teoretic nr.1 Briceni | Orasul Briceni | Teacher | 7,314 |
| 2 | Viorica Vulpe | MD | L.T. „A. AGAPIE” | Pepeni | Teacher | 5,594 |
| 3 | Olga Zuza | MD | Instituția Publica Liceul Teoretic "Ginta Latină " | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 4 | Alexandru Seu | MD | Liceul Teoretic „MihaiEminescu” din municipiul Edineț | satul Fetești, raionul Edineț | Teacher | 30,217 |
| 5 | Lucia Argint-Căldare | MD | IPLT LIVIU REBREANU | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 6 | Grigore Cojocar | MD | Liceul Teoretic„ Excelsis”, mun. Chișinău | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 7 | Eugenia Petica | MD | LT „Evrca” | Râbnița | Teacher | 53,648 |
| 8 | Raisa Andronache | MD | IP L.T. "ONISIFOR GHIBU" | Orhei | Teacher | 21,065 |
| 9 | Natalia Balan | MD | LT M.Eliade„Nisporeni | Or.Nisporeni | Teacher | 10,063 |
| 10 | Ludmila Țurcanu | MD | IP Colegiul „Vasile Lupu, din Orhei | s.Susleni, r. Orhei | Teacher | 4,128 |
| 11 | Marina Creciu | MD | Bălți | Bălți | NGO | 102,457 |
| 12 | Viorica Codreanu | MD | Liceul Teoretic Ruseștii Noi | Pelinia, Drochia | Teacher | |
| 13 | Rodica Antocica | MD | Liceul Teoretic Mălăiești | Bălți | Teacher | 102,457 |
| 14 | Olga Arama | MD | IP Gimnaziul Gribova | R. Ialoveni, c. Ruseștii Noi | Teacher | 12,515 |
| 15 | Ludmila Gurscaia | MD | IP LT Lev Tolstoi Glodeni | Glodeni | Teacher | 8,676 |
| 16 | Evgenij Brik | MD | NGO Institute of Judaica | satul Gribova, raionul Drochia | NGO | 2,175 |
| 17 | Margareta Tonu | MD | Liceul Teoretic Ruseștii Noi/Liceul | Glodeni | Teacher | 8,676 |

| | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----|--|------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| | | | Teoretic Aurel David din s.Bardar | | | |
| 18 | Eugenia Ciutac | MD | IP Liceul Teoretic "Gaudeamus" | Măgdăcești, raionul Criuleni | Teacher | 5,212 |
| 19 | Ina Veverița | MD | La.T."B.P.Hasdeu" | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 20 | Olesea Capcelea | MD | IPLT "Gheorghe Asachi" | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 21 | Elena Khitshiuk | MD | Gymnasium, Children's Creativity Center | Ceadâr-Lunga | Teacher/NGO | 16,605 |
| 22 | Denis Angelchev | MD | Boris Yanakohglo Theoretical Lyceum | Kopchak | Teacher | 9,138 |
| 23 | Victoria Pila | MD | Liceul de Creativitate și Inventică "Prometeu-Prim" | Chișinău | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 24 | Mirela Clopoțel | MD | Școala Profesională Specială, comuna Ștefan cel Mare | Piatra-Neamț | Teacher | 85,055 |
| 25 | Mihaela-Catalina Tarcaoanu | RO | Colegiul Național „Calistrat Hogaș”, Piatra-Neamț | Piatra-Neamț | Teacher | 85,055 |
| 26 | Alexei Slivca | MD | I.P.Liceul Teoretic Ion Luca Caragiale, Orhei | Orhei | Teacher | 21,065 |
| 27 | Gavrilita Nicolai | MD | Liceul Socola | Socola, Soldanesti | Teacher | 505 |
| 28 | Tatiana Volkovskaia | UKR | Odessa Gymnasium | Odessa | Teacher | 993,120 |
| 29 | Nicolina Colisnic | RO | Theoretical Lyceum "Gheorghe Asachi" | Chisinau | Teacher | 532,513 |
| 30 | Bolduma Viorel | MD | IP Centrul de Excelență în Construcții | Chisinau | Teacher | 532,513 |

Staff

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| Grosse-Sommer, Katja | Centropa Hamburg, Germany |