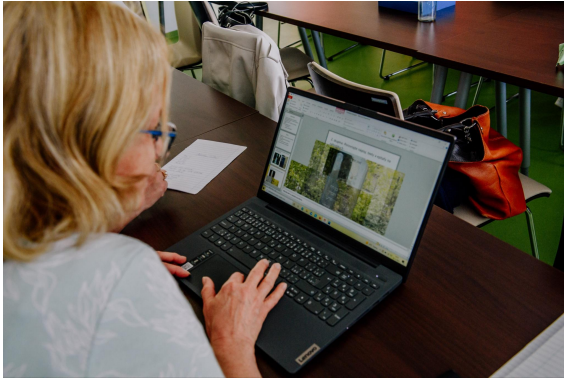


“Preserving Jewish Heritage: Teaching Jewish heritage in your class and using Jewish cemeteries in education”

Training seminar for Slovak teachers in Banska Bystrica, May 15-16, 2022



Organized by



within the consortium project “Preserving Jewish cemeteries”
with **ESJF and Foundation for Jewish Heritage**
More information: <https://www.jewishcemeteries.eu/>



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

In cooperation with the **Banska Bystrica Region and the Educational Center of the
Museum of Slovak National Uprising**

Executive Summary

For this professional development seminar, almost 100 educators from all over Slovakia were contacted using the Educational Centre of the Slovak National Uprising (SNP) Museum database. Despite the fact that at that time a large number of different educational events were offered to teachers in Slovakia (related to the release of post-pandemic measures), we were able to recruit 29 participants for the seminar. We consider it a great honor that the Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic; Jaroslav Nad', the Mayor of Banská Bystrica; Ján Nosko and the Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic; Branislav Gröhling, assumed patronage of our educational training event.

The seminar was held in the Educational Centre of the SNP Museum, on the premises of the Jewish cemetery in Sopot and Banská Bystrica. Guests and participants were accommodated in the National House Hotel, in which a welcome dinner was also held. On the first day of the seminar, Lenka Uličná, from Palacký University in Olomouc gave a keynote lecture on Jewish cemeteries, explaining the significance and meaning of symbols on gravestones, to participants. This was followed by an introduction to the Banská Bystrica Jewish cemetery. Participants learned about the customs and rules for visiting Jewish cemeteries. We were accompanied by Mr. Jaromír Wolt, the chairman of the Jewish Religious Community in Banská Bystrica for the visit to the local Jewish cemetery. At the cemetery, educators were assigned tasks and took photographs of Jewish tombstones.

The second day of the teacher's seminar started with a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Zvolen, during which Rachel Hermannová gave a brief introduction of the history of the cemetery. Mrs. Hermanová works closely with the Jewish community in Zvolen. After returning to the Education Center, teachers worked on group assignments regarding how to decipher Jewish epitaphs and use them in classroom settings with students. This was followed by the presentation of a good practice example by Mrs. Judita Nagyová, who was involved in a volunteer project with her pupils to revitalize the Jewish cemetery in the village of Vinodol (Nitra District). The seminar was promoted on Facebook and the SNP Museum website.

More photos from the seminar

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1dAK7wb3WZK7kG-525iIPbNYufd_JyPpa

Seminar program



Pre-seminar assignment for participants:

- Look up whether a Jewish cemetery existed in your area. What can you find out about it?

Sunday, 15.5.2022

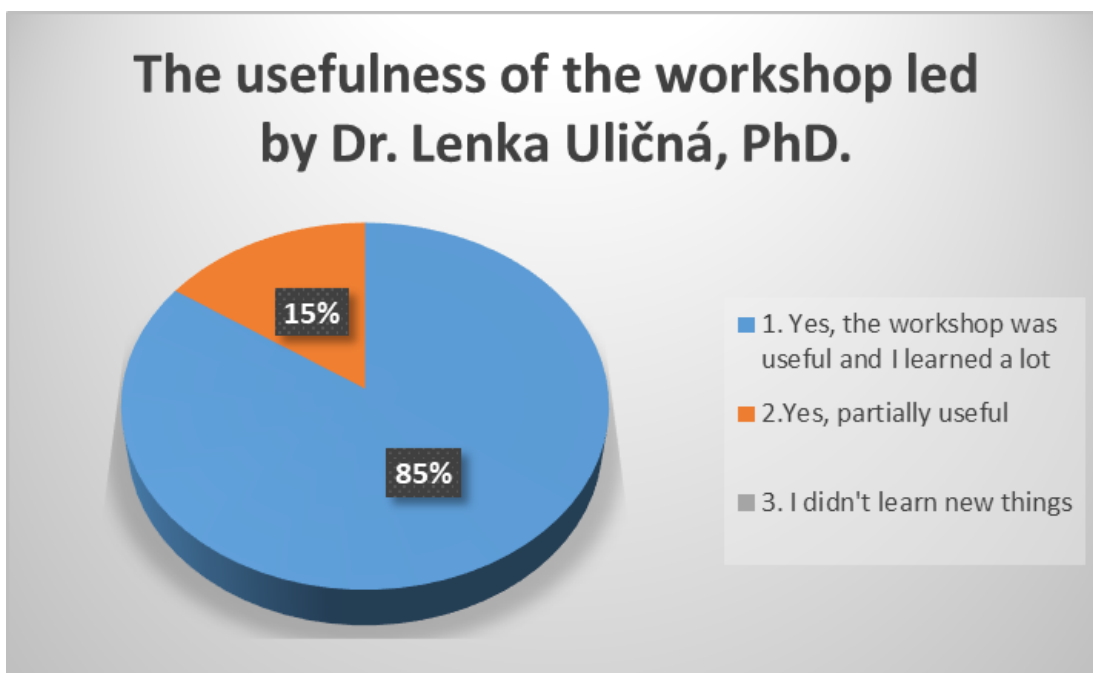
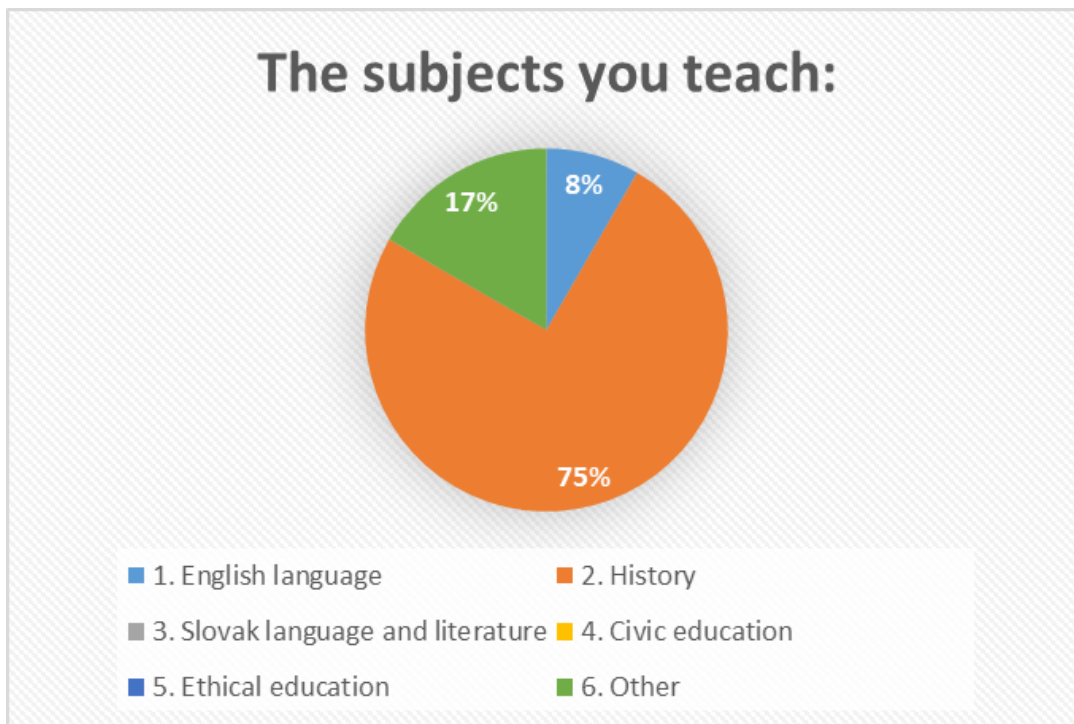
	Day 1
12:30	Registration at Education Center
13:00	Introductory remarks by Dr. Jana Odrobiňáková (Museum of Slovak National Uprising), Magdaléna Farnesi (Centropa), and local representatives
13:20	Icebreaker (Magdaléna Farnesi)
13:40	Screening of the film: ESJF and the Mission to Save Jewish Cemeteries 2019
14:00	Epitaph & tombstone symbols workshop (Dr. Lenka Uličná, Ph.D., Univerzita Palackého Olomouc)
15:30	Coffee break at Education Center
16:00	Short introduction to seminar tasks
16:15	Participants leave by local transport to the Jewish Cemetery
17:00	Visit to the local Jewish cemetery in Banská Bystrica with Jaromir Wolt
18:00	Participants travel back to the education center
18:30	How to use Centropa's database to research Jewish heritage (Magdalena Farnesi), Centropa film screening with discussion (Magdalena Farnesi)
19:00	Participants leave the education center and check in at the hotel

20:00	Welcome dinner
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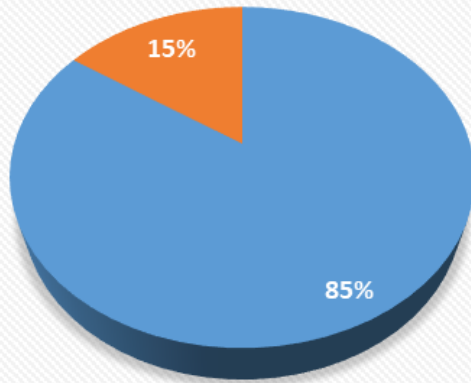
Monday, 16.5.2022

	Day 2
08:15	Check out of hotel
08:30	Bus leaves for the Zvolen cemetery
09:00	Visit Jewish cemetery (guided by Mr. Klement); 1) Participants receive tasks (search and take photos); 2) Guided tour 3) Group photo
10:30	Bus leaves for the education center
11:00	Coffee break
11:30	Work in groups of 5: Making a school project on Jewish cemeteries - PART I
12:30	Lunch
13:30	Work in groups of 5: Making a school project on Jewish cemeteries - PART II
15:00	Presentation of project ideas
15:20	Introduction of Youth Competition and other project activities (Magda Farnesi)
15:40	Best practice presentation - Judita Nagyová
16:00	Participants receive certificates
16:15	End of seminar

In a survey following the seminar, participants were asked for statistical information and feedback pertaining to its events. They answered as follows:

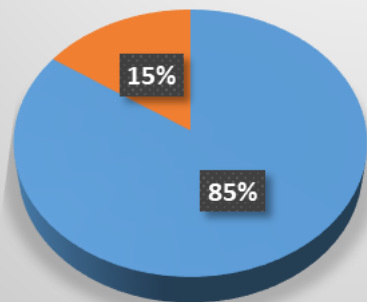


Was the visit to the Jewish cemetery and the activities at the cemetery useful for you?



- 1. Yes, I learned a lot
- 2. Yes, this activity was partially useful for me
- 3. I didn't learn anything new

Presentation of the Centropa database, screening of the film (Magdalena Farnesi). Was the information about the Centropa database and the presented films useful to you?

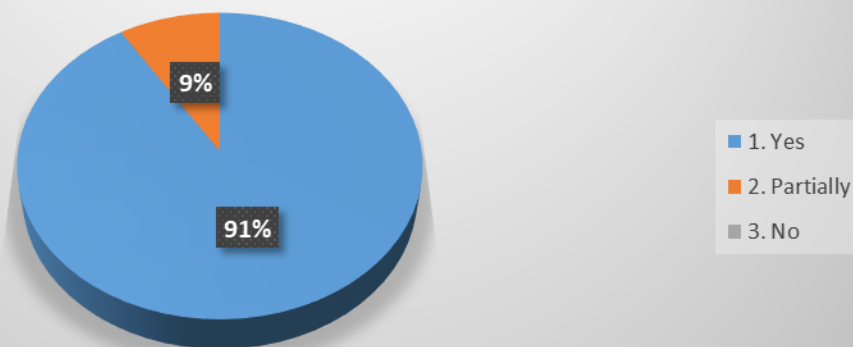


- 1. Yes, the activity was useful and I learned a lot
- 2. This activity was partially useful for me
- 3. I didn't learn anything new

**Tour of the Jewish cemetery in Zvolen
(accompanied by Dr. Rachel Herrmannova).
Dos and Don'ts in a Jewish Cemetery.
Instructions, photography. Was the visit to
the cemetery and the activities at the...**



**Work in groups: Creating a school project
with use
themes of the Jewish cemetery. Was this
activity useful for you?**



Quotes from teachers participating in the seminar:

Judita Nagyová, Elementary school Vráble:

Before the seminar, I participated in the revitalization of the Jewish cemetery in Vinodol. I also had a presentation about this activity at the seminar. I stated in the post that my next goal is the revitalization of the Veľký Cetin Jewish cemetery. We started the revitalization of the cemetery in October 2022. I received funds for the revitalization from the ZSE Foundation. Under the banner of my school, I responded to their call - the project *Exceptional schools - exceptional teachers*. My project was successful and I received a grant of €1,500. Students of my school, my colleagues, parents of students and other friends of the school are participating in the revitalization. The project ends in June 2023. Even after this date, we will continue to work, because it is a cemetery with an area of 700 square meters. Among other things, the work at the cemetery is mainly dependent on the weather, so I assume that the work will last for about another year. We removed the garbage from the cemetery and then started cleaning it, as it was completely overgrown with bushes and impassable. After cleaning, we would like to devote ourselves to research and search for tombstones, since they are absent in the cemetery. According to living testimonies, the stones were taken away and used in the foundations of houses and other buildings. So far, we have only found remains of pedestals and parts of tombstones. We can state that the tombstones were written in three languages: Hungarian, German and Hebrew. After the complete revitalization of the cemetery, I plan to create a club in the school whose task would be to maintain the cemetery.

Zuzana Krupová, Elementary school Banská Bystrica:

The Centropa seminar was so inspiring for me that I joined the Deep Dive project with my students. This project did not focus on the Jewish cemetery in Radvan only from a historical point of view, but also noticed it as an ecological biotope - a place where various natural communities grow and various small animals and insects live. At the same time, students from the Department of Biology were involved in the project, who worked with our students directly in the field, guiding, explaining, providing support in obtaining information and compiling worksheets. It was an excellent example of peer learning. In addition to newly acquired knowledge from the biology and history of the Radvan Jewish community, the students were also surprised to learn that even a "small, forgotten cemetery" can hold "great history". Hebrew inscriptions and symbols refer to the ancient history of the Jewish people, the monarchist period is represented by inscriptions in German and Hungarian, the tragic period of World War II and the Slovak National Uprising are commemorated by the gravestones of the victims from the burned Kališŕ, the massacre in Kremnička, or the symbolic grave of the victims of the extermination camps. Although the cemetery no longer fulfills its primary role, it is a memory of the community that once enhanced the vibrancy of old Radvane. For the rest of us, it should be a warning so that times of violence and lawlessness never repeat themselves.

Ráchel Herrmannová, Greifswald, STRAZE:

I like that you address the topic in a school setting. I would like to improve the systematic nature of working with data.

Miroslava Košťálová, Elementary school Nitra:

I find all the trainings I have completed with Centropa to be extremely useful, very well structured and I am looking forward to more.

Monika Koncošová, Secondary vocational school Tisovec:

We did a new project using peer learning about the cemetery in Tisovec and renewed an older activity: comparing the funeral rites of the Evangelical and Jewish churches.

Ján Flimel, Elementary school Lazany:

During the lesson, I used, for example, the differences in behavior in Jewish and Christian cemeteries.

Danica Fuzesiová, Evangelical high school Kočice:

Yes, I used the information about tombstones (matzeva) and the symbolism on them - in the class dedicated to world religions

Veronika Páleníková, Elementary school Hrnčiarska, Zvolen

We have been engaged in activities about Jewish cemeteries for a long time. This seminar inspired me so much that we decided to join the project - *Model School*, which my students and I successfully completed this school year.