



# Annual Report 2015

## **THE CENTRE**

The European Jewish Community Centre, located at the European Jewish Building in the heart of the European Quarter in Brussels, is a focal point for Jewish events, services and resources at the European Union. The EJCC is a people oriented, community-driven organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of Jewish life through educational and cultural events. The centre is multi-lingual, serving the needs of government officials, diplomats, journalists and consultants to the EU.

## **OUR MISSION**

To promote Jewish culture in the European Union and its institutions by creating a dynamic centre for anyone interested in Jewish Culture, nourishing a community in all its diversity.

To strengthen Jewish identity, nurturing a meaningful Jewish life with an eye on progress, and consistent with today's world.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**EU  
AFFAIRS**  
**02**



**EDUCATION**  
**10**



**JEWISH  
LIFE**  
**06**



**CULTURE**  
**16**

## EU AFFAIRS

10  
EVENTS

990  
PARTICIPANTS

The EJCC aims to strengthen ties and create bridges between the EU Institutions and Jewish values. Through diverse events, seminars and meetings in the premises of the EU institutions, officials and civil servants can discover the wealth of Judaism, as a comprehensive and inclusive role player in European culture, and the universality of its values.

Throughout the years, High ranking personalities and decision makers have been attending and supported EJCC projects and events.

### EVENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Seminar on Welfare of Holocaust survivors, European Parliament                         | • Round-table: Terrorist threat on European soil, European Parliament    |
| • Eurochanukah: Unite to Ignite, European Commission                                     | • International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Economic and Social Committee |
| • Meetings with MEPs and heads of political groups, European Parliament                  | • Memorial for victims of Paris attacks, European Jewish Building        |
| • Intervention in various working groups on Intercultural Dialogues, European Parliament | • Memorial for victims of attack in Denmark, European Jewish Building    |
| • Promotion of Inclusion projects, “Share the Light Prize 2015”, European Commission     | • Exhibition: Living with dignity, European Parliament                   |



Round-table: Terrorist threats on European soil



Exhibition at the European Parliament



Seminar on Welfare of Holocaust survivors





**International Holocaust Remembrance Day at the Economic and Social Committee**



**Vice-President of the EP Antonio Tajani**



**Holocaust survivor and writer: Gartin Gray**



**Memorial for Paris victims**



**Memorial for victims of attack in Denmark**



**Prize for Tolerance with Commissioner Margrethe Vestager**



**Commissioner Pierre Moscovici**



**Commissioner Vera Jourova**





Eurochanukah at the Berlaymont European Commission



Share the Light Prize 2015



US Ambassador to the EU Anthony Gardner



## JEWISH LIFE

14  
EVENTS

1800  
PARTICIPANTS

The best way to enrich your life with true meaning and make new friends is by joining our exciting Jewish life events. EJCC facilitates networking among its members through social gatherings around the cycle of Jewish life linked to our holiday celebrations. Every occasion is an inspiring celebration!

### EVENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • EuroPurim Party                       | • Yom Kippur Break the fast cocktail      |
| • Purim Brunch                          | • Sukkot Lunch & Learn under the Sukkah   |
| • Pesach Seder 1                        | • Sukkot Yom Tov dinner under the Sukkah  |
| • Pesach Seder 2                        | • Shabbat project dinner                  |
| • Shavuot Torah reading and diary lunch | • Mega Challah Bake                       |
| • Rosh Hashanah Dinner                  | • ChanukahLand                            |
| • L'Chayim Cocktail                     | • Chanukah Lighting on Rond Point Schuman |





EuroPurim



EuroPesach





Shbbat at the EJCC



Shabbat Project - Challa bake





EuroChanukah at RP Schuman



Belgium Minister of interior: Jan Jambon





# EDUCATION

## 8 PROGRAMMES

## 154 LESSONS

We promote tolerance through education and understanding. What better way to a more peaceful world! We offer a template of mostly interesting learning courses on Judaism and Hebrew language, for children and adults alike.

The following educational programmes are offered by the EJCC



### PROGRAMMES

- |                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • European Jewish Sunday School | • European Jewish Women's Club |
| • Lunch & Learn                 | • Cteen                        |
| • Women's Lunch Meet Up         | • BatMitzva Club               |
| • EUlpan                        | • Bar Mitzva Preparations      |





## LUNCH & LEARN

A weekly class on array of popular topics. Discover each week how the Torah portion can bring insight into our lives today with knowledge from our great Jewish heritage and philosophers.

**35**

**LESSONS**

**10**

**STUDENTS**



## WOMEN'S LUNCH MEET UP

Is a once a month "ladies only" gathering at lunch time to chat and learn about the upcoming Jewish Holidays. In the menu: inspiring talk and a healthy lunch.

**9**

**LESSONS**

**15**

**STUDENTS**







## CTEEN

is an international monthly program for teenagers between 14 and 18 years old which provides a nurturing environment where teens can learn about themselves through giving to others, identify with individuals who share the same faith, and be part of a group that focuses on building positive core values. It is a Jewish teen discussion group who wants to connect with their own Jewish roots while seeing beyond their national boundaries.

**8**  
**LESSONS**

**8**  
**STUDENTS**







## BAT MITZVAH CLUB

is a program that prepares girls between 11 and 13 years old for their Bat Mitzva. This program consists of 16 gatherings in which we will cross the milestones on Jewish History while discovering important female figures in our history. We will also celebrate the Jewish holidays while focusing more extensively on Jewish thoughts and values with a first initiation to spirituality, duality between body and soul, and our personal relationship with G-d .

**16**  
**LESSONS**

**5**  
**STUDENTS**





# CULTURE

# 8

# EVENTS

# 550

# PARTICIPANTS

Culture is a predominant part of the promotion of tolerance and enhances communication and understanding between people of all creed. Explore the great joys of Jewish culture with our extensive programmes of cinema, concerts, art gallery visits, exhibitions, and a monthly book club.

## EVENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Encounter Nobel prize winner 2013, Pr. Englert   | • Salon des écrivains with Moise Rahmani and the European Jewish Library             |
| • Conference on News and Actuality by writer Isaac Franco                                | • New Year's cocktail under the Patronage of the Luxembourg Presidency               |
| • Conference on Israel policy with Deputy Chief of Mission Shuli Davidovitch             | • Exhibition: "Legacy of Jewish Culture in Hungary, From ancient to modern times"    |
| • Screening of the film Shekinah- The intimate life of Hasidic women, with Mrs Carlebach | • Humanitarian: Visits of the refugee camps and donations of school supplies by EJCC |



Conference Israeli Policy



Israeli Deputy Ambassador to the EU: Shuli Davidovitch



Encounter with Nobel Prize Pr. Englert







Movie screening: Shekinah



Salon des Ecrivains





Jewish New Year's Cocktail



With the presence of H.E. Zoltan Nagy, Hungarian Ambassador to Belgium and H.E. Georges Friden, Luxembourg Deputy Ambassador to the EU



Exhibition: "Legacy of Jewish Culture in Hungary, From ancient to modern times"







Humanitarian action- Visits of the refugee camps



Donations of school supplies by EJCC





We choose to be happy!



**With education and fun, we will invent a bright future!**





## END NOTE

The European Jewish Community Centre is proud to have successfully completed its goals for 2015.

Indeed, we arranged over **40 events** including events at the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Economic and Social Committee.

In addition, the EJCC coordinated seven educational programmes which included a total of **154 lessons** which were given on a weekly or monthly basis.

**5145 people** participated in our events this past year, including **5 EU Commissioners, 25 MEP's** and over **30 Ambassadors** to the European Union and to Belgium.

We look forward to expanding our work in 2016 and anticipate your continued partnership for a better tomorrow for Jewish Communities and for the world.



## **COPYRIGHT**

**Design and layout:**

Sarah Nisilevitz - [www.saracrea.com](http://www.saracrea.com)

**Pictures in publication:**

Doron Chmiel

Yoan Dehon

Jean-Christophe Guillaume

Emile Tonnelier

Claudio Volponi

**European Jewish Community Center**

events@ejcc.eu | www.ejcc.eu

109, Rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels