

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE



THE CENTRE

The European Jewish Community Centre, located at 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.

To **create bridges between communities** by bringing together people of different cultures and create dialogue.





**EU
AFFAIRS**
P. 2



**JEWISH
LIFE**
P. 4



EDUCATION
P. 6



CULTURE
P. 13



**DIALOGUE &
DIVERSITY**
P. 15



EU AFFAIRS

The EJCC aims to raise awareness of Jewish culture in the European Institutions. 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

Filmscreening in the EP: "White Right - Meeting the Enemy"

Marching together for Respect & Unity

Jewish New Years Celebration at EP

Conference at the EP; EPP Intercultural Dialogue Group

EuroChanukah at the European Commission: Portrait

5 EVENTS

1100 PARTICIPANTS





European Jewish
Community Centre





JEWISH LIFE

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

Tu B'shvat - Talk with Genie Milgrom

Purim - Let's drum it! 1 & 2

Pesach Dinner - Seder 1 & 2

Prayer services for San Diego

Shabbat, Kiddush & Talk

Shavuot - Photo Expo, Lunch & Talk

Rosh Hashana LeChayim & Dinner
Yom Kippur Break the Fast cocktail

Fete de Souccot

Dance with the Torah

Simchat Torah Children's workshop

Mega Challah Bake

Eurochanukah on R.P Schuman

Shabbat project

Chanukahland

4

18 EVENTS

2450 PARTICIPANTS







EDUCATION

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

Lunch & Learn

Women's Lunch Meet Up

EUIpan

Weekly Parasha class

Cteen

BatMitzva Club

Bar Mitzva Preparations

Talmud class

6

83
STUDENTS

287
LESSONS





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.



42

LESSONS

8

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.

10

LESSONS

12

STUDENTS



7

8

LESSONS

12

STUDENTS



TALMUD CLASS



Talmud is the mainstay of Jewish tradition. It has been recognized as an extraordinary scholarly achievement and a model of unparalleled critical analysis. Explore this important area of Jewish scholarship with our in depth-lectures. It will give you a glimpse into the methods and workings of the Talmud. Classic topics will be learned in the traditional Yeshivah style. You will have the opportunity to examine various opinions of Talmudic sages, analysing a case study of disputed ownership and the Talmud's thoughtful approach to resolving it.



EULPAN

The only Hebrew learning course in the European Quarter.
This programme consists of weekly lessons given by a professional language teacher to students from beginners and advanced level groups.

120
LESSONS

17
STUDENTS



3

LESSONS

12

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. This way, teenagers can connect with their own Jewish roots while making new friends.

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



9

EUROPEAN JEWISH SUNDAY SCHOOL



This program consists of a class taking place every other Sunday from September to June for children from ages 3 to 11. Our goal is to provide the most positive and productive Hebrew School experience for Jewish children, regardless of prior knowledge and background, affiliations, or level of observance. We bring the joys, values and traditions of Judaism to life through art, song, dance, games, trips, cooking, baking, collaborative learning exercises, and extra-curricular activities. Our curriculum covers all areas of Hebrew language, Jewish culture, traditions, and history, in an environment of joy, warmth, and friendship.

16

LESSONS

9

STUDENTS



WEEKLY PARASHA CLASS

A weekly course for women on the weekly Torah portion. Our holistic approach to Jewish learning considers the impact of Jewish values on personal and interpersonal growth. Drawing on research-based, our innovative presentation of traditional Judaism is designed to be both intellectually rigorous and highly accessible.

32

LESSONS

8

STUDENTS





MEANINGFUL HOLIDAYS SERIES

High Holidays

Chanukah

Tu B'Shvat

Purim

Pesach

Shavuot

90
PARTICIPANTS

Meaningful Holidays Series

An inspiring Lunch Talk on upcoming Jewish Celebrations

with Efraim Kahn



High Holidays - 23.09



Chanukah - 16.12



Tu B'Shvat - 10.02



Purim 09.03



Pesach - 06.04



Shavuot - 25.05

Mondays, 13:00 - 14:00





JEWISH MUSEUM OF BELGIUM & EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

INVITE YOU TO

Discover Jewish holidays

At jewish museum: rue des minimes 21 minimenstraat B-1000



Coktail & Visit of the Mandelbaum's exhibition

ROSH HASHANA

Wednesday 18/09

18-20h



Workshop kids & exhibition visit

HANNUKA

Sunday 15/12

15-17h

Kids & Family

Cooking demo Bio & Casher

TU BISHVAT

Monday 10/2

18-20h



Matza Bakery

PESSAH

Sunday 29/3

15-17h

Kids & Family



Shavuot Conference

SHAVUOT

Tuesday 26/5

18-20h

DISCOVER JEWISH HOLIDAYS

cocktail & visit of the Mandelbaum's exhibition

Workshop kids & exhibition visit

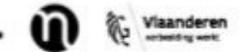
BIO cooking show

Matza Bakery

Shavuot conference

360

PARTICIPANTS





CULTURE

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 book signings..

EVENTS

Memories of Sephardim - Genie Milgrom

Shabbat with Michael Chabon

Book presentation "The BuDo-Way"

Conf. Europe's - Iran Dilemma

Conf. The Story of storytelling

Conf. post elections Israeliennes

Simple steps to Freedom - Lunch & Talk

Talk: Spanish-Hebrew poetry

Photo expo & Lunch talk

Conf. Post Israeli elections

Commemorating Kristallnacht with eyes on the future

Conf. Education in the 21st century

12 EVENTS

770 PARTICIPANTS







DIALOGUE & DIVERSITY

D&D is a Jewish initiative of intercultural dialogue.

On an educational level, D&D brings together Jews, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and non-confessionals around one same project: to promote the understanding and acceptance of our differences in order to reduce stereotypes and prejudices and consolidate a more inclusive society.

On an institutional level, D&D raises public awareness on the importance of respect and exchange between religious and cultural communities and on the importance to celebrate our diversity.

EVENTS

Filmscreening EP; "White Right: Meeting the Enemy"

Women in Dialogue #me&you

Women in Dialogue #let'sfightdiscrimination

Shabbat Iftar for students

Expo, Atelier & Lunch

Run4Peace

Women in Dialogue #Me&You

Women in Dialogue #MeetingEachOther

Student visit from catholic seminar

workshop on diversity with Jacqman students

Visit of Master students from the Faculty of Protestant theology

Intercultural Entrepreneurs Dinner

visit of Bavarian Youth council

Shabbat-Iftar Dinner

Israeli Biking team

15 EVENTS

675 PARTICIPANTS





D&D PARTICIPATED AT

XXII ANNUAL EPP GROUP INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE WITH CHURCHES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS “Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together”

COMECE - Meeting with New Secretary General Fr. Manuel Barrios

Hope Network - creation of Network of organisation working on dialogue

Breakfast EPP in the EP

Meeting with New Responsible for Art. 17 Mr. Philippe Perchoz

Meeting with Chapel for Europe for Partnerships

Meeting with Almouwatin for future Partnerships

Participation Saint Egidio breakfast on dialogue

Conference Humanist contribution to Europe Art. 17

Meeting with MEP Holveyntje - EPP Intercultural Dialogue Partnership

Elise Geolgem - Planning of conference on UAE

Diwan Awards Ceremony

Meeting Rep. of Hinduism in Europe for Joint conference on Climate & Environment - May 2020

Conference with Radio Almouwatin

Debate on Tolerance with President of the UAE Parliament Mrs. Amal A Qubaisi





EMBRACING MY DIVERSITY

Workshops for Schools - Embracing My Diversity

D&D welcomes schools located in Brussels, private and public for an introduction to Jewish culture and a workshop on Diversity. Our aim is to create a “safe-space” for students coming from different cultural backgrounds to discuss the topic of diversity. With this get-together, young people will get a chance to learn about the diverse identities each one has within themselves and will rediscover what makes up the identity of their classmates.

EVENTS

Ecole Internationale Montgomery - 11th Grade

British Junior Academy Brussels - 5th Grade

Institut Saint Andre d'Ixelles - 4th Grade

Institut Saint Andre d'Ixelles - 5th Grade

4 SCHOOLS

77 STUDENTS





RESSOURCES

The EJCC made Jewish life more meaningful this past year by distributing a wide range of resources:

- 1000 Yearly Calendars which included all our programs, Jewish and Public holidays, as well as EU Plenary sessions.
- 300 Shmura Matzot- Handmade Matzot for Pesach
- 700 Chanukiot - Chanukah candelabras with candles
- 500 Mishloach Moanot - Purim packages
- 100 Share the Light kits with Shabbat candles

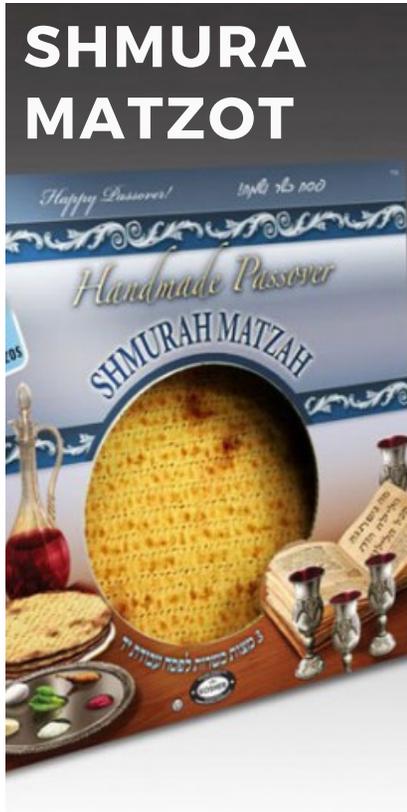
1000

300

500

700

100





61
TOTAL
EVENTS

5528
TOTAL

PARTICIPANTS

END NOTE

The European Jewish Community Centre is proud to have successfully completed its goals for 2019.

Indeed, we arranged over **60 events** including events in the European institutions.

In addition, the EJCC coordinated eight educational programmes which included a total of **287 lessons** which were given on a weekly or monthly basis.

5528 people participated in our events this past year, including 21 MEPs, representatives of foreign governments, heads of international organizations and 15 Ambassadors to the European Union and to Belgium.

We look forward to expanding our work in 2020 and anticipate your continued partnership for a better tomorrow for Jewish Communities and for the world.

EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

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