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# DEEP DIVE REPORT

TESTING PROGRAMMING CONCEPTS IN JEWISH  
CEMETERIES IN EASTERN EUROPE 2022–2023

A REPORT BY DR RACHEL LICHTENSTEIN, PROJECT OFFICER FOR THE FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH HERITAGE







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## FOREWORD

The Deep Dive programme that Dr Rachel Lichtenstein has expertly coordinated is part of an unprecedented initiative by the European Union to preserve and promote awareness of the hundreds of Jewish cemeteries across seven countries in Eastern Europe being implemented by three consortium partners – the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, and Centropa.

These Jewish cemetery sites primarily represent ‘orphaned’ heritage. The communities that they once served were mostly extinguished during the Holocaust. In many places, the Jewish cemetery stands as the last physical evidence of once thriving Jewish life, and the vast majority are today in a parlous state having suffered years of neglect and in instances complete destruction.

Indeed, the very existence of these Jewish communities has become largely marginalised and forgotten, which is why this EU project is of such critical importance. Not only does it address the preservation of cemeteries but it is preservation with a special purpose, to ensure that the Jewish life in towns and cities across Eastern Europe is recalled, understood, commemorated and celebrated.

Rachel’s brief was to work with local partners to develop innovative educational/cultural programmes in one significant cemetery in each of the seven countries. The idea behind this is that they could operate as models, demonstrating how Jewish cemeteries could serve contemporary purposes, drawing attention to local Jewish history in a creative way, and demonstrating how Jewish cemeteries can play a part in today’s society as living cultural heritage.

The Jewish experience inevitably touches upon what is now considered fundamental European values – of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Finding ways to engage with the Jewish legacy in Europe has a special importance for today.

**Dame Helen Hyde DBE**  
Chair, Foundation for Jewish Heritage

**Michael Mail**  
Chief Executive, Foundation for Jewish Heritage

June 2023

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Dr Rachel Lichtenstein, I am a British author, academic and Jewish Heritage professional who has been on the International Advisory Board of the Foundation for Jewish Heritage for some years. From June 2022 until June 2023 I worked as the Project Officer for this British based organisation, along with partners Centropa, and the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative (ESJF), on the third round of a major EU-funded project to promote innovative promotional and educational work on Jewish cemeteries in Europe.

This vital work started in 2018–2021 with two pilot projects, which mapped 1,700 cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe, created public outreach programmes and seminars on the life and contributions of former Jewish communities in these places, and resulted in the production of multiple publications and handbooks, exploring ‘best practices’ of cemetery preservation and sustainable heritage tourism, as well as guides on how to use Jewish cemeteries in the classroom. The third round of this project has involved numerous outcomes including reports, education programmes, international face-to-face seminars, and online webinars alongside the Deep Dive programme (June 2022 to June 2023).

My role in this project has been to steer a range of different creative and educational activities at seven significant Jewish cemeteries across Europe for the Deep Dive programme. The selection of these burial sites was arrived at in close consultation with Michael Mail (the CEO of the Foundation for Jewish Heritage), Fabian Ruhle (European Education Director of Centropa) and the project’s seven locally based country co-ordinators who have a range of different skill sets, experience, and local knowledge. Collectively we identified a range of different Jewish burial sites, which for the most part were based in the places where these country co-ordinators were already located. The purpose was to explore a variety of cemeteries in the context of pilot projects that test out educational and touristic activities at these sites to encourage visitors from local communities and from abroad, and school groups, to visit and learn more about these places in engaging new ways. Some of these sites are well known large historic Jewish cemeteries, based in major capital cities. Others are satellite burial grounds, chosen for various reasons, including their ecological or historic value, or due to the partnerships with local teachers or communities already developed in those places.

**“If these keep silent, the stones will cry out.”**

unknown Biblical source

**The seven cemeteries explored during the Deep Dive programme are:**

- Tblisi Jewish cemetery (Georgia)
- Szombathely Jewish cemetery (Hungary)
- Sudervės Jewish cemetery (Lithuania)
- Chişinău (Kishinev) Jewish cemetery (Moldova)
- Remah Cemetery, also known as The Old Jewish Cemetery of Krakow (Poland), as well as the New Jewish Cemetery in Krakow
- The Jewish Orthodox cemetery (Radvani, Banská Bystrica, Slovakia)
- Zbarazh Jewish cemetery (Ukraine)



Some of these historic burial grounds date back to the sixteenth century, others remain as poignant memorials to those who perished in the Holocaust, as well as tangible remnants of the now largely disappeared Jewish communities who had occupied these cities for centuries. A few of these cemeteries are already frequently visited by religious pilgrims who pray and pay their respects at the graves of revered rabbis and other important figures in the Jewish world buried there. Others are regularly visited by local school groups engaged in clean-up activities as well as tourists, and descendants of those buried there who visit from abroad. Others are semi-abandoned or so called ‘orphaned cemeteries’ having lost their communities of users and not part of any touristic trails. Some are wild and ruinous, overgrown with trees, with dark histories, including being the site of mass graves of victims murdered during the Shoah or nineteenth century pogroms. All of them are filled with thousands of stories about Jewish European settlement and life, and we can all learn a great deal by engaging with them.

**“The primary aim of this project was to develop an innovative range of creative and educational projects demonstrating how visitors can engage with these cemetery sites.”**

Project Officer, Dr Rachel Lichtenstein

The aim of the Deep Dive programme has been to demonstrate how these Jewish cemeteries can be used as cultural, tourist and heritage sites, as well as places of significance for educational purposes, whilst also promoting European values of cross-cultural understanding and inclusion, and honouring and remembering the Jewish communities who once lived in these places. This pilot project has showcased different models and ways of exploring and using these sites. We have developed and tested a range of different initiatives that could serve as case studies for the future. Exploring the potential of such sites for interpretation, local community engagement, developing heritage skills, and for general educational, cultural, artistic, and touristic purposes, including potential inclusion in municipal development strategies, benefiting from what has already been achieved in other major cities, and trialling the application of new types of activity including the use of digital technologies.

Throughout this project each burial ground was treated with the utmost respect and reverence, in recognition of both the departed that rest there and the sanctity of these places. Any activities we organised conformed, as far as possible, with religious customs and requirements when visiting Jewish cemeteries. For example, there was no eating or drinking in the cemeteries as this is forbidden in Jewish law. We ensured all visits happened outside of Jewish holidays, the Sabbath or during the intermediary days of Sukkot and Passover. And we made sure participants dressed appropriately and did not stand directly on the graves.

In the Jewish tradition it is extremely important to remember, honour and visit the gravesides of those who have passed and one of the cemetery customs is to leave a stone on a grave, as a marker of that visit. Therefore, when time was spent focusing on the grave of individuals, we encouraged groups participating in these workshops to place a stone on that grave – as a symbolic gesture of remembrance. By adhering to these customs and traditions, participants and school groups learned about Jewish culture and life, whilst ensuring they did not offend any local Jewish community members (where there were any left) and/or other Jewish visitors or stakeholders of the cemetery.

It has been my great pleasure to work on this project, with our partners Centropa and the country co-ordinators, who know these places intimately. Together we have developed a rich variety of programmes for all sorts of different community groups and visitors. The activities

range from digital audio guides, heritage trails and artistic interventions, which have all be developed in partnership with local people, organisations, and institutions, whilst remaining appropriate to, and most critically, respectful of both these sites, their complex histories and religious functions, and the participants involved.

Cemeteries by their very nature are full of stories, of individuals and communities, past and sometimes present. As a Jewish historian, creative nonfiction writer and co-director of the Centre for Place Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University, I strongly believe our relationships to places are enriched and deepened when we engage with them directly. We need to have our feet on the ground, and explore places for ourselves, then learn about the layers of stories that exist there, particularly of those who came before us. I cannot think of a more important and urgent project than the exploration of Jewish burial grounds in these locales, which are so resonant with the stories of Jewish communities now largely absent from these sites. These cemeteries are precious and utterly irreplaceable, both to the wider Jewish diaspora and the communities who live alongside them today. My aim is for this project to demonstrate this fact in new, exciting, and respectful ways, which will encourage others to visit and learn about these Jewish cemeteries for themselves.

In the following pages you will find a report that outlines the range of activities developed for the Deep Dive programme for each of the seven countries. The Foundation for Jewish Heritage and I would like to thank our partners ESJF and Centropa for their tremendous support with this project and the many individuals and organisations across the seven countries who contributed to the Deep Dive programme who are all named in the individual country reports.



**Dr Rachel Lichtenstein**

Project Officer, Foundation For Jewish Heritage

[www.foundationforjewishheritage.com](http://www.foundationforjewishheritage.com)

Deep Dive programme: [www.jewishcemeteries.eu/deep-dives/](http://www.jewishcemeteries.eu/deep-dives/)





## LOCATIONS

Each project has been developed to test a range of initiatives that serve as case studies that could be replicated in the future. Further information on the Deep Dive programme can be freely downloaded from: <https://www.jewishcemeteries.eu/deep-dives/>.

- ① **Tblisi, Georgia**  
A historically informed teachers' pack allows teachers and school children to explore and learn more about Jewish cemeteries in Georgia which are different to other Jewish burial grounds across Europe.
- ② **Szombathely, Hungary**  
A documentary film tells the story of the Szombathely Jewish cemetery and the Jewish community of that city past and present, and includes interviews with historical experts, the Chair of the Jewish community today, the Mayor and local schoolchildren.
- ③ **Vilnius, Lithuania**  
A writer-in-residence worked with a local historian to explore the history of a local Jewish cemetery then developed creative writing workshops for local school children resulting in a booklet of their work, which was launched at the Samuel Bak Centre in Vilnius.
- ④ **Chişinău, Moldova**  
An audiowalk tells the story of the Chişinău Jewish cemetery revealing the stories of individuals buried there as well as historical information, and a guide to symbols on the graves enabling visitors to explore the site in an immersive way.
- ⑤ **Krakow, Poland**  
A photographic project explored the history and beauty of the historic Remah Cemetery and the New Jewish Cemetery in Kazimierz undertaken by Jewish Studies students from the Jagellonian University in Krakow in partnership with the Galicia Museum, with a resulting exhibition at the High Synagogue.
- ⑥ **Banská Bystrica, Slovakia**  
A project that explored the history, biodiversity, and ecology of a Jewish cemetery by producing a pack for primary school children with activities, quizzes, and other information for field work on site.
- ⑦ **Zbarazh, Ukraine**  
The Jewish cemetery in the town of Zbarazh has been digitally mapped and the stories of various personalities buried there have been explored in depth and made available to international audiences.





2.1



# DEEP DIVE GEORGIA





## 2.1 DEEP DIVE GEORGIA: EDUCATION PACK FOR SCHOOLS

### Introduction

The idea for the Deep Dive in Georgia was to develop a teachers' pack that explores Georgian Jewish history and Jewish cemeteries in the country, which are uniquely different to other burial grounds across Europe. For example, the twentieth century Soviet-era Jewish tombstones are similar in style to Georgian gravestones and often include pictures of the deceased, and the inscriptions on the graves are in both Hebrew and Georgian. The Deep Dive programme offered a unique opportunity to develop this project in collaboration with history experts, designers, educators, and the Jewish community.

**“Teachers in Georgia have demonstrated a great interest in having ‘something in their hands’ to help them interpret Jewish cemeteries when they visit with school groups. There is nothing like this freely available for teachers and this resource is much anticipated.”**

Teo Dalakishvili, Country Co-ordinator for Georgia, 2023

### Aim

This project developed out of an urgent need, as there is currently a gap in available material for secondary schools on Jewish cemeteries in Georgia and most schoolteachers have limited knowledge of Jewish history. The development of this education pack aimed to bridge this gap by creating freely available resources for school children of secondary school age in Georgia, enabling both pupils and teachers to explore and learn about Jewish cemeteries, and in turn Jewish culture and life, through activities and information in the packs that both ask and answer questions around these histories. The pack can also be printed to enable schoolteachers to take school groups on field trips to Jewish cemeteries and engage in a range of onsite learning activities that increase their understanding of Jewish cemeteries and history.

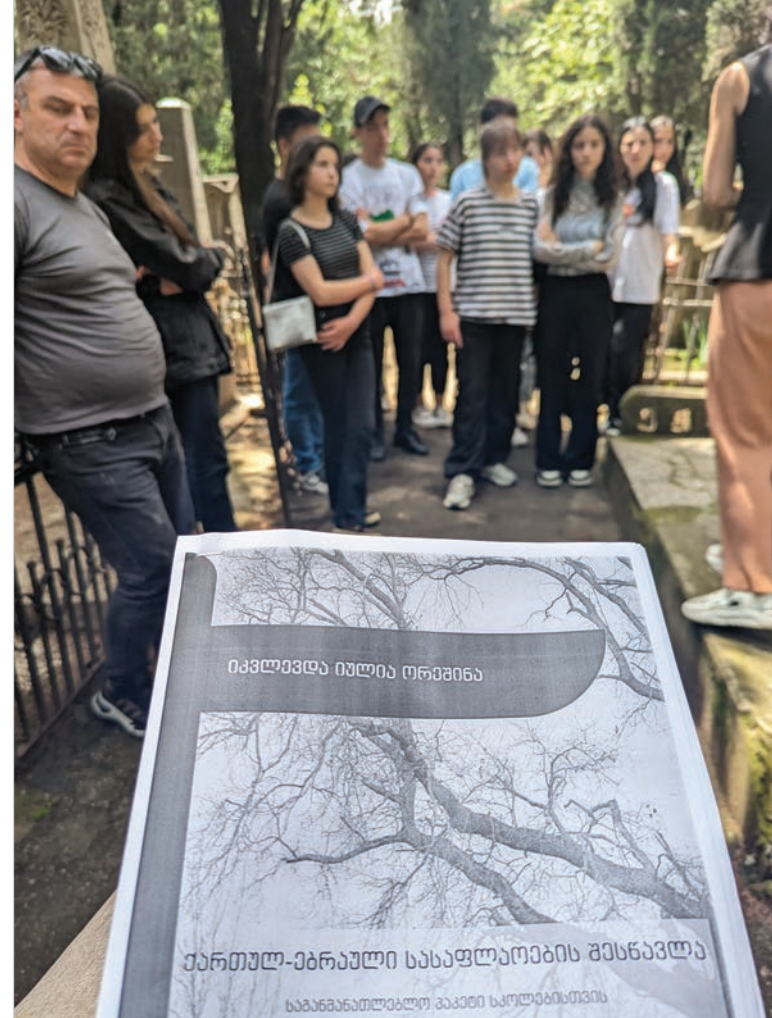
**“During the seminars and events we have held in Georgia it is clear teachers are engaged in Jewish history and eager to do something on cemeteries, this teachers’ pack will give them the tools to help them teach their pupils about Jewish life and culture.”**

Centropa Line Manager Ninja Stehr, 2023

### Process

The idea for the Deep Dive in Georgia was developed in conversation with the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, Line Manager Ninja Stehr (Centropa) and Country Co-ordinator Teo Dalakishvili (who is also the local co-ordinator at ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, partners with Centropa in projects funded by the German foreign office, and is well-connected to the Georgian Jewish community).

We worked with Yulia Oreshina, Associate Professor at the Georgian American University in Tbilisi, to develop the content for the pack. Yulia is an expert in Georgian Jewish cultural heritage with a background in history and cultural anthropology, who teaches courses connected to cultural memory studies, urban studies, and the social meaning of the Holocaust. Her main research interest is the history of the 20th century, memory and city, memory and museum, and Jewish life in Soviet Georgia. Yulia Oreshina was commissioned to write the texts for the education pack, which included an introduction to Jewish cemeteries in Georgia, historical information on Jewish heritage and its preservation, and customs and traditions of Jewish death and burial. She also researched personal stories of Georgian Jewish figures, wrote a glossary, and developed





a quiz for the school children based on this research alongside other activities. She also included things to look out for at the cemetery and included photographs from her own collection and visuals for the pack. The Georgian text was then translated into English by Ana Tizliarishvili before being sent to designer Ketevan Javakhishvili.

The effectiveness of the pack was tested before finalising production, with secondary school groups visiting both the historic Dampalo cemetery in Tblisi and another satellite historical burial ground in Surami (situated about 20 minutes outside of Tblisi).

**“This project is the first of its kind, unique for Georgia, a really important project that has created so much new material for schools.”**

Georgian schoolteacher, 2023

**Outcome**

The pack is now freely available in both Georgian and English, in a PDF format, from both the ‘Preserving Jewish Cemeteries’ project and Centropa websites. Furthermore, it has been printed out and sent to many schools in Georgia who have expressed an interest in receiving the pack, and has also been distributed to libraries. It can be downloaded and printed out before visiting these cemeteries and is easy to view on tablets or smartphones. The content expands on existing material in the ESJF ‘Jewish Cemeteries in the Classroom’ guide, such as the ‘reading an Epitaph’ and ‘Practical Activities’ sections but has been adapted specifically to the uniqueness of Georgian Jewish cemeteries. The pack is approximately thirty A4 pages long and is richly illustrated with relevant photographs and drawings. It includes: an introduction to Jewish cemeteries in Georgia; historical information on Jewish heritage and its preservation; activities including drawing the symbols from a Jewish tombstone and interpreting epitaphs in Georgian Jewish cemeteries; customs and traditions of Jewish death and burial; things to look out for when visiting Jewish cemeteries in Georgia; some personal stories of Georgian Jewish figures; a quiz for students to test their knowledge; with additional activities such as finding the oldest tombstone; as well as further reading, useful links and a glossary.

**“By discovering Jewish heritage in your region, you enrich your knowledge of local history and of your own area, as well as playing a role in preserving Georgia’s unique Jewish heritage.”**

Associate Professor Yulia Oreshina of the Georgian American University in Tbilisi, 2023



**“Passerby, do not tread on my grave. Remember you are a guest here, and I am at home.”**

Inscription on a tombstone in Kutaisi’s Jewish Cemetery



2.2

DEEP DIVE  
HUNGARY

Porból vagyunk; porrá leszünk.

"We are from dust; and we shall be dust."



## 2.2 DEEP DIVE HUNGARY: DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE SZOMBATHELY JEWISH CEMETERY

### Introduction

The idea for Hungary was to develop a project that cemented already established local Jewish and non-Jewish partners in Szombathely (the tenth largest city in Hungary situated close to the Austrian border) who have been actively engaged in preserving Jewish memory there. This project was developed in close discussion with Line Manager Maria Lieberman (Centropa) and Country Co-ordinator Sara Szilagyi. We decided to capture the tremendous work already taking place in the country on film, and Szombathely was chosen for this project because of its rich Jewish history, still active community, and successful Jewish heritage projects which were conducted by an extremely active non-Jewish schoolteacher who has been taking local schoolchildren to the Jewish cemetery (situated opposite her school) and researching the history of the Jewish community of that city.

**“The pupils do clean-up work in the cemetery on a voluntary basis and I am very proud of them for doing this, it is a really worthwhile activity. We have learnt a lot whilst here about the history of Szombathely’s Jewish community.”**

Local schoolteacher Beáta Balogh Várnainé from Zrínyi Ilona Primary School in Szombathely

### Aim

The aim was to produce a short, lively, documentary film of around 15 minutes that explores both the past and the present story of Jewish life in Szombathely, focusing on the Jewish cemetery there, which was established in the late 1820s. The film aimed to capture some of the stories of many important personalities buried there who played a decisive role in the life of the city, such as Jakab Kovács, the builder of a large hotel, and industrialist Lajos Geist and how the graves of famous Szombathely Jewish people, including rabbis and heroes of the First World War, have been restored with funds from grants and donations. The film also aimed to reveal more about the origins of the Jewish community in Szombathely and how the care of the graves today is an important task for both the Jewish community who remain and local schoolchildren. One of the main objectives of this project was to share this film as an example of both the history of a Jewish community in Hungary as well as acts of resistance, and provide support to non-Jewish residents living there today who are developing different ways of telling and sharing the stories of their former Jewish neighbours with the next generation.

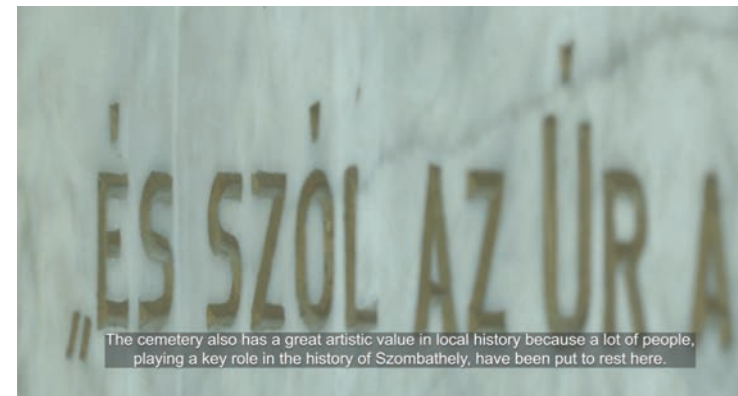
**“As well as being a sacred place for the Jewish community, the cemetery has cultural and artistic value, and is also important for the history of the city.”**

Tibor Spiegler, local historian

### Process

The film was produced by a team from Szombathely Television to ensure broadcast quality and directed by the President of the Jewish community Judit Sugár. The film features some extraordinary drone footage of the town and cemetery; extensive archive material on the history of the community and the cemetery and interviews with the Mayor of Szombathely Dr. András Nemény who talks about the importance of this film project, of sharing these stories and preserving both the remnants of Jewish life and culture in the municipality; footage of the Chair of the Jewish community of Szombathely Judit Sugár talking about the history and deportation of the Szom-

## STILLS FROM THE DOCUMENTARY FILM “SZOMBATHELY’S JEWISH CEMETERY”





bathely's Jewish community during WWII; an interview with local schoolteacher Beáta Balogh Várnainé from Zrínyi Ilona Primary School and her students, and historians and tour guides Laszlo Mayer and Tibor Spiegler bringing some of the stories of the individual people who are buried in the cemetery vividly to life whilst standing next to the graves.

**“The local Jews who passed away are buried in this cemetery and the very few who survived since WWII have since died, so there is no-one left to look after the graves, so we come and look after them.”**

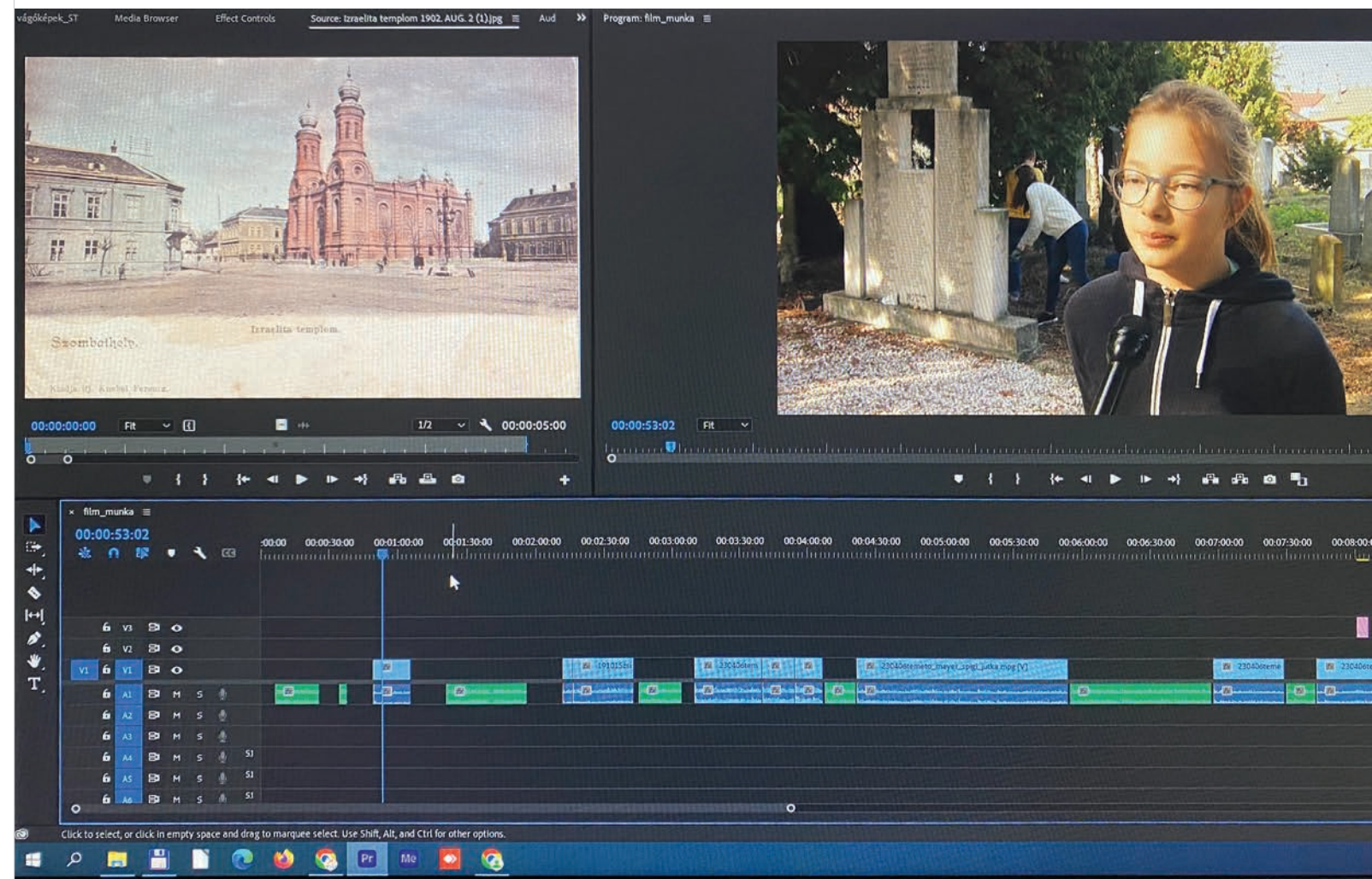
Pupil from Zrínyi Ilona Primary School in Szombathely

#### Outcome

This project both consolidates and builds on previous work in this city and successfully presents the story of the Jewish community of Szombathely past and present. Due to Judit's extensive connections in the city and previous research conducted, it was possible to produce a high-quality outcome for this project. The nearly 15-minute documentary is in Hungarian but subtitled in English and has been produced by the staff of Szombathely Television in collaboration with the Foundation for Jewish Heritage. This film will be shared widely in Hungary (on Szombathely Television and other places) and will also be hosted on Centropa's and the 'Preserving Jewish Cemeteries' website for EU3. The film explores the fate of Hungarian and Central European Jewry through the history of just one town.

**“It is a great honour for our community to be able to participate in the Deep Dive programme. This is an international project that spans seven countries, and what makes it special for us is that we are the only Hungarian cemetery participating.”**

Judit Sugár – President, Jewish Community of Szombathely





2.3

DEEP DIVE  
LITHUANIA





### 2.3 LITHUANIA DEEP DIVE: WRITER IN RESIDENCE PROGRAMME AND EXHIBITION

#### Introduction

For Lithuania, we wanted to explore the idea of working in collaboration with a local institution, a Jewish historian, and a writer or poet to encourage school children to develop their creative writing skills based on their visits to a Jewish cemetery. We originally selected the 500-year-old Vilna Jewish cemetery, often called the ‘old’ Jewish cemetery, in the capital city of Vilnius but decided on the smaller but equally fascinating ‘Sudervės žydų kapinės’ (Sudervės Jewish cemetery), which is located 6 km outside of the old town. This cemetery is now the resting place to many important and famous Jewish personalities including the mausoleum of the Gaon of Vilna. Many of these graves were moved from other Jewish cemeteries in the city. The Sudervės Jewish cemetery brings together the stories of all the Jewish cemeteries in Vilnius and tells the rich history of the Jewish people in that city.

**“This activity allowed us to free our creativity, practice creative writing and express our ideas. We enjoyed this experience. It let us create our own character. Thank you!!”**

Marija Gabrielaitytė, pupil from Vilnius Solomo Aleichemo ORT Jewish school, Vilnius

#### Aim

This project aimed to work with local school children to bring to life the stories of some of the individuals buried in this Vilnius Jewish cemetery through visits with historic guides with this knowledge. This learning experience would be followed by creative writing workshops with a professional writer who would encourage the students to create new stories and poems inspired by these visits. The objective was to learn about the history of the Jewish cemetery and the community, and then develop creative responses in the form of stories and poems resulting in the publication of the students’ work.

**“This type of creative work is important to link our shared Jewish cultural heritage and educating us on the importance of creativity and the creative process for retaining culture. I thank you for this opportunity.”**

Jokūbas Davidavičius, pupil from Vilnius Solomo Aleichemo ORT Jewish school, Vilnius

#### Process

This project was developed in consultation with Line Manager Katja Grosse-Sommer and Country Co-ordinator Gintare Liorancaite in partnership with the Samuel Bak Museum (former Tolerance Centre), a branch of the Vilna Gaon Museum of Jewish History in Vilnius. We worked closely with Dr Simonas Strelcovas, the Director of the Samuel Bak Centre, who generously gave us space to run the workshops in the Museum and put us in direct touch with the perfect writer for this project, the multilingual Lithuanian novelist and playwright Aneta Anra. She is the author of the documentary novel “Jehudit: The world could be so beautiful” (2021) which was awarded the Grigory Kanovich Republican Prize and is currently being translated into English, Polish and French. She is also a curator at the Vilna Gaon State Museum. Students of the Vilnius Solomo Aleichemo ORT Jewish school (aged 17–18 years), who were studying Jewish history and literature were selected to take part in the project. They visited the Sudervės Jewish cemetery where they met with local guide and historian Marius Galadauskas who told the groups about the history of Jewish life in Vilna and some of the stories of the people buried there. During these site visits, the pupils also gained information about the symbols on the gravestones and were encouraged to take notes, photographs and make drawings. These visits were documented by photographer Gabriel Khiterer. Following the trips to the cemetery, these groups came to the Samuel Bak Museum for creative





writing workshops with Aneta who encouraged them to develop their learning and experiences into poems and short stories. She followed up with another visit to the school meeting the groups.

**“I was delighted to take part in the Deep Dive programme for Lithuania. The pupils were so creative, attentive and curious. For the workshops at the museum they created ‘One Day in the Life’ stories of invented characters based on their visits to the cemetery and in the museum their creative writing projects were enhanced by selecting an emotion or colour from the paintings to add to their stories. Some of them also conducted historical research. Their stories included one of two famous individuals buried at the cemetery – the Gaon of Vilnius and Doctor Cemach Shabad. It was a great experience for me as a writer to see how they imaginatively created poems and stories during this project.”**

Aneta Anra, Lithuanian writer and curator

**“The workshops with Aneta helped us develop our imagination and creativity instead of being immersed in technology. She encouraged us to produce images in our mind, based on stories from our visit to the Jewish cemetery and the museum.”**

Konstantinas Krivulinas, pupil from Vilnius Solomo Aleichemo ORT Jewish school, Vilnius

#### Outcome

Following workshops with the writer, the pupils developed their ideas into poems and pieces of creative writing in many forms (flash fiction, nonfiction, short stories) based on their visits, under the instruction and support of the writer. This work has been developed in collaboration with the students and the writer into a small publication, which includes photographs of the workshops and cemetery visits, as well as drawings by the students. This book was launched at a special public event at the Museum in June 2023, where the pupils and the writer read their work to an invited audience including local dignitaries, members of the Jewish community and parents and pupils.

**“It has been wonderful to see local pupils engaging with the stories and history of the Jewish cemetery in Vilnius to develop such a rich range of creative writing projects under the guidance of award winning writer Aneta Anra.”**

Dr Rachel Lichtenstein, Project Officer Foundation for Jewish Heritage

**“The Lithuanian Deep Dive offered a creative approach for young people to engage with Jewish history in Vilnius. Its positive resonance with students shows that innovative ways of learning should continue to have a place in Lithuania and beyond.”**

Katja Grosse-Sommer, Centropa Line Manager Lithuania

**“This project enabled students to see the cemetery from a different angle, by combining history and literature.”**

Gintare Liorancaite, Country Co-ordinator Deep Dive Lithuania

**“It is very important for the museum to involve young people in its activities...this project provides an opportunity for students to understand which personalities and their works determined the course of our common history.”**

Dr. Simonas Strelcovas, Director of the Vilna Gaon Jewish History Museum in Vilnius





2.4

DEEP DIVE  
MOLDOVA





## 2.4 DEEP DIVE MOLDOVA: AUDIOWALK ON THE CHIȘINĂU JEWISH CEMETERY

### Introduction

The Jewish Cemetery in Moldova's capital city of Chișinău is located just outside the city centre and contains over 25,000 graves making this huge site both incredibly rich, and also problematic for visitors to explore. The renovation of the long-neglected cemetery began in late 2018 but entire areas are still badly damaged or barely accessible. Graves and paths are covered by thick vegetation, and visitors can see many broken or fallen tombstones. This project builds on the TransHistory Audiowalk on Jewish life of Chișinău developed by Centropa and Maghid (Jewish Heritage and Education Centre in Moldova) to create a more immersive visitor experience for those wishing to explore this extraordinary cemetery site, directing them to places of interest which are accessible.

**“The EU3 ‘Preserving Jewish Cemeteries Programme’ brings together different kinds of stakeholders, Jewish and non-Jewish, among them educators of all fields, students, politicians, and Jewish community representatives. They all work not only to preserve the Jewish cemeteries in their region, but also to educate the public about the meaning of the cemetery and what it can tell us about the history of the local Jewish community there. Expanding this knowledge is relevant for all European societies and countries.”**

Centropa

### Aim

The aim is to produce a standalone AudioWalk of 10–12 minutes, available in Romanian, English and Russian, that specifically explores the history of and stories about individuals buried in the Chișinău (Kishinev) Jewish Cemetery in Moldova. The objective has been to create a deeper and more immersive experience for visitors to the Chișinău Jewish Cemetery, that can be listened to both onsite and from anywhere around the world. This pilot project aims to demonstrate how such an audio guide can encourage visitors, tourists, school groups etc. to explore and experience a Jewish cemetery and how making such a digital tool freely available in three different languages might expand the tourist and visitor footfall.

**“The Deep Dive program within the ‘EU3: Preserving Jewish Cemeteries’ project gave us the opportunity to expand our existing Chișinău AudioWalk through more personal stories of people buried at the cemetery, people whose stories would have otherwise been forgotten, and to make them accessible on our website for the general public.”**

Johanna Blender, Centropa

### Process

Working in consultation with Line manager Johanna Blender (Centropa) and Country Co-ordinator Ion Ungureanu (from Moldovan NGO Ecovision) we developed the idea for this AudioWalk. We were delighted when Dr Irina Shikhova of Maghid, a highly regarded expert on the Jewish history of Moldova (and recently appointed director of The Jewish Museum of Chișinău) agreed to research and produce new content for the project. This includes brief information on the cemetery (size, number of graves, current state, the wall made of abandoned tombstones and the derelict Beit Tahara), historical events such as the 1903 pogrom, and some lively new anecdotes on individuals buried in the cemetery which include the stories of: Shraibman, a well-known Yiddish writer; Tsirelson, a Chief Rabbi of Kishinev and Bessarabia; Voliovich, a director of Yiddishist theater





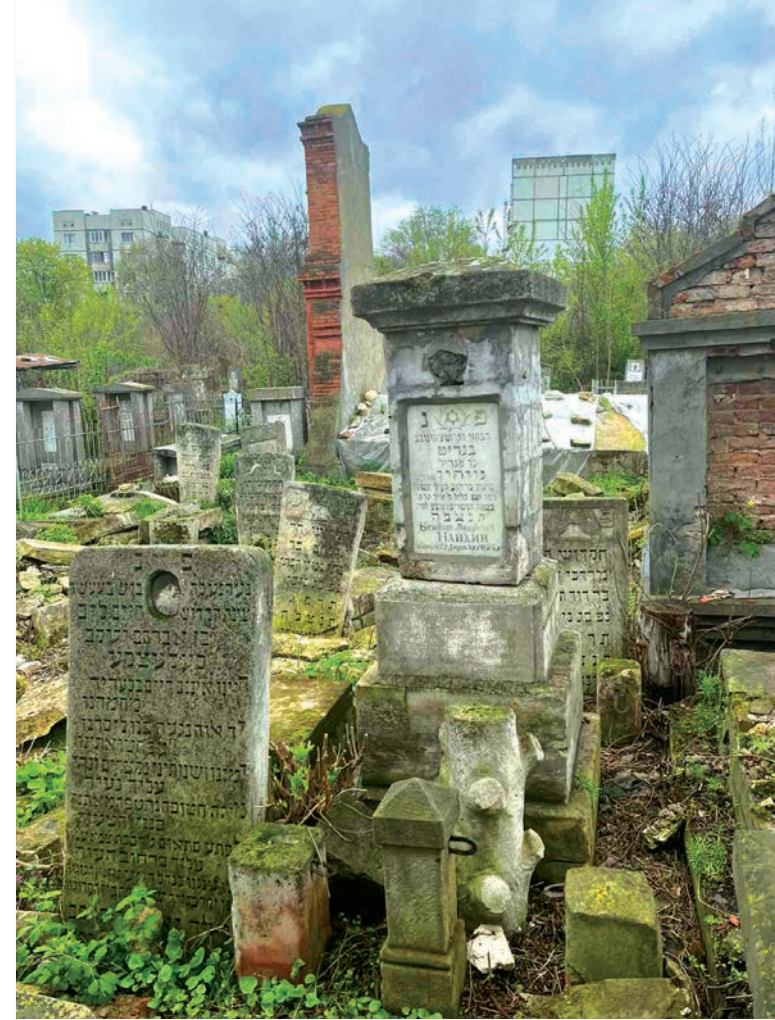
in Kishinev in the Soviet period; and Levin, a vivid life story of an ordinary individual. Furthermore, additional content was developed by Irina on Jewish epitaph and tombstone symbols including audio instructions on which graves to visit. All this new content was then translated into Russian, English, and Romanian, then copy-edited and proofread before being professionally recorded in the local radio station EcoFm in Kishinev to broadcast quality standards. Some of the stories were narrated by professional actors, others were narrated by students from the Liceul Teatral school of performing arts in Chişinău. Following editorial changes, the new material was interwoven with the previous Centropa AudioWalk to make one continuous MP3 file of 10–12 minutes long. The AudioWalk was then tested by school groups in the cemetery.

**“Not walls but people’s actions preserve Jewish cemeteries and the Deep Dive programme has enabled us to create another such action by developing this fantastic audio walk which allows visitors to explore and understand the remains of the Jewish Heritage in Moldova.”**

Ion Ungureanu, Country Co-ordinator, Moldova

#### Outcome

This AudioWalk has been produced to an extremely high quality and is freely downloadable in a compressed MP3 format from both the ‘Preserving Jewish Cemeteries’ and Centropa websites for EU3 enabling visitors from many countries to freely explore and learn about The Chişinău (Kishinev) Jewish Cemetery.





2.5

DEEP DIVE  
POLAND





## 2.5 DEEP DIVE POLAND: PHOTOGRAPHIC PROJECT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE GALICIA MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION AT THE HIGH SYNAGOGUE IN KRAKOW

### Introduction

For the Deep Dive programme in Poland, we developed an innovative and collaborative photographic and history programme based in Krakow. We focused on two Jewish cemeteries for this project, both based in the former Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, the Remah Cemetery, a historic necropolis with tombstones dating back to the sixteenth century and the New Jewish Cemetery. The Remah, also known as the Old Jewish Cemetery of Krakow, is one of the oldest existing Jewish cemeteries in Poland, located in the heart of the popular tourist district of Kazimierz next to the sixteenth century Remah Synagogue. Because of this central location, its historic significance, and the many notable graves inside of famous rabbis, it is one of the most well visited Jewish cemeteries in Europe, which is one of the reasons it was chosen for this project. The lesser-known New Jewish Cemetery is a wilder site, located on the other side of the old town inside gated walls. This burial ground stretches over acres of ground, and is a quiet wild space shaded by a thick canopy of trees chosen because of its stark difference to the other site.

**“Inside the gated walls the burial ground of the New Cemetery stretched over acres of ground, a quiet wild space shaded by a thick canopy of trees. The air was filled with the sound of birdsong and the smell of wild garlic. Many of the graves were concealed beneath a thick covering of ivy, which gave the place an otherworldly feel.”**

Dr Rachel Lichtenstein, Foundation for Jewish Heritage Project Officer

### Aim

One of the purposes of the Polish Deep Dive project was to try and encourage new ways of engaging and looking at these burial sites, and the method chosen for this purpose was photography. The innovative part of this idea was to work on an interdisciplinary project involving local university students from the Institute of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University who were then trained in photographic and artistic techniques and encouraged to develop artistic rather than academic outcomes after visiting these cemetery sites – to look at familiar places and explore well known histories in new ways. This project builds on and refers to previous photographic projects conducted at these famous cemeteries, particularly the publications by Prof. Leszek Hońdo on both the Remah Cemetery and the New Jewish Cemetery as well as a previous exhibition held at the Galicia Jewish Museum in 2017 of photographs of the Remah Cemetery by Andrzej Grzybowski.

**“The project Deep Dive was important for the Galicia Jewish Museum, and we were honoured and pleased to be invited. It gave us the opportunity to work with young people, share knowledge and hear their reactions to material Jewish heritage in Krakow. The workshops and visit to the Jewish cemeteries were inspiring events. Young people had a chance to work on their photographs and create their own exhibition.”**

Dr Katarzyna Suszkiewicz, Head of Education Department, Galicia Museum

### Process

The idea for the Deep Dive in Poland was developed in conversation with the Foundation for Jewish Heritage, Line Manager Katja Grosse-Sommer (Centropa) and Country Co-ordinator





Ewa Arendarczyk (who is also Education Assistant at the Galicia Jewish Museum) and the Head of the Education Department at the Museum Katarzyna Suszkiewicz. The Museum has been instrumental in the development and production of this project and we are extremely grateful for their co-operation and assistance, which included hosting the workshops. Before we could begin, we had to receive permission to take students to the cemeteries which are both under the jurisdiction of the Jewish community in Krakow. Letters were written to the municipality which contained information about the project, its time frame and what we wanted to accomplish. Once this permission was secured, the Galicia Jewish Museum contacted the Jewish Studies Department at the Jagiellonian University via Dr. Edith Gawron, who is an expert on the history of Jews in the 20th century and the contemporary history of the Jewish community in Poland. She arranged for some of her students to take part in the project.

In April 2023, a full day workshop was arranged at the museum where the students received training in artistic and photographic techniques before visiting both cemeteries to take photographs. The day began with a presentation I gave the students on my own creative practice as an artist, and how this had been inspired by field trips to synagogues and cemetery sites in Poland, which is where my own family came from. Following this presentation, the students were given further instruction from local photographer Piotr Banasik. Alongside teaching them basic photographic methods, such as depth of field etc., he encouraged the students to look in new ways at familiar and well documented places. He proposed that they focus on small details of the unique gravestones and tombs in these burial sites, alongside elements of the carved iconography over these centuries, old headstones and other elements of the tangible Jewish heritage that remains in and around these cemeteries. In the afternoon, we all visited both sites where the students took photographs. These images were further developed and edited, captions and reflections were added in the form of text panels which were then printed in preparation to be exhibited.

**“The language of our Jewish neighbours no longer resounds in the street. It is our duty to save these remains, these traces of the presence of the Jewish community, so that the next generation do not forget about their culture and presence in our neighbourhood. This project helps keep these histories alive.”**

Włodzimierz Jedrzejewski, student from Jewish Studies Dept, Jagiellonian University

#### Outcome

A collaborative and interdisciplinary photographic exhibition, that examined the history and beauty of these historic Jewish cemeteries, with historical captions and information written and produced by the students. The exhibition was held at the High Synagogue in 2023 and these images have also been uploaded onto both the EU3 project and Centropa websites.

**“The Deep Dive project for Poland explored the rich heritage of Krakow, allowing Jewish history students to learn photographic techniques and examine a subject in a new way. The exhibition at the High Synagogue will enable their work to be seen by a large international audience as it coincides with the Jewish Festival.”**

Katja Gross-Summer, Line Manager for Polish Deep Dive (Centropa)





2.6

DEEP DIVE  
SLOVAKIA





## 2.6 DEEP DIVE SLOVAKIA: AN ECOLOGY AND HISTORY PROJECT IN BANSKÁ BYSTRICA

### Introduction

For Slovakia, the idea was to develop an outcome that explored the history, biodiversity, and ecology of a Jewish cemetery. We chose the city of Banská Bystrica, which is in the centre of Slovakia on the Hron River for this pilot. Banská Bystrica is the sixth most populous city in the country and a popular tourist destination due to the surrounding stunning countryside. The cemetery we have focused on is marked on the map as the Jewish Orthodox cemetery Starý (zabudnutý) židovský cintorín, located on Bočná street, outside of the city centre. The cemetery is not maintained, there is extensive greenery, the graves are overgrown and many of the grave-stones are fallen. This site is historically rich and has a great range of plants, bird and insect life making it perfect for this project. The city was also selected because country co-ordinator, historian, and teacher Dr Jana Odrobiňáková is located there. Her extensive knowledge, historical expertise, and considerable contacts have made this ambitious and innovative project possible. We originally discussed the idea of producing a digital app, although time and budget constraints meant this was not possible, so we adapted the project and the content produced was developed into a freely downloadable teachers' pack instead, which has been designed and partly researched and produced by masters students from the Department of Biology and Ecology at the local Matej Bel University.

**“It was an amazing experience for me to see how students and teachers took ownership of this project creating collaborative outcomes and producing a fantastic toolkit, which I believe will be widely used in the future.”**

Jana Turanska, Centropa Line Manager, Slovakia

### Aim

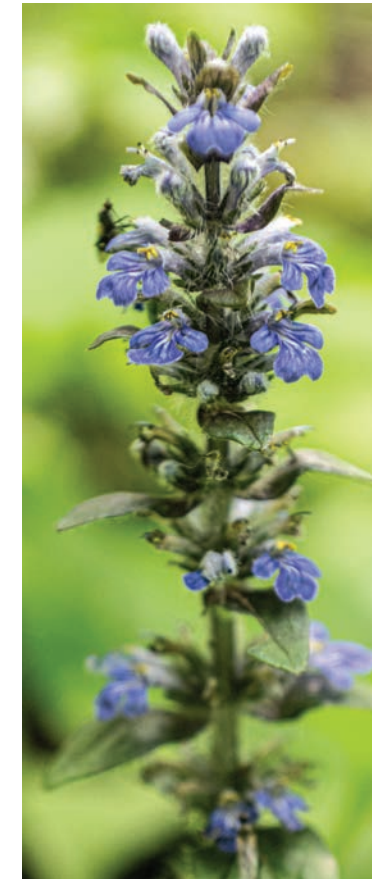
The aim is to develop a unique educational project for primary school pupils in the region, which focuses on both the history, ecology, and biodiversity of a Jewish cemetery in Slovakia. This project intends to demonstrate how visits to Jewish cemeteries can provide an insight into both the historical past and the ecological and current concerns of communities today as neglected rural sites such as cemeteries often become places of rich biodiversity, home to a range of plants, grasslands, wildlife, bugs, beetles, and birds that live in these places alongside being the site of Jewish burial and memory. The focus of the project was around ideas of caring for our past and our future, and to combat the negative effects of climate change by protecting historic and ecologically important sites.

**“Participating in the project brought a lot of new experience to all involved including students and future teachers.”**

Dr Adamcová, deputy head of Department of Biology and Ecology,  
Matej Bela University Banská Bystrica

### Process

In consultation with Line Manager Jana Turanska (Centropa) and Country Co-ordinator Dr Jana Odrobiňáková, we collaboratively developed the concept for this project. The main content providers of the pack were Dr Adamcová and Dr Gáperová from the Department of Biology and Ecology at the local Matej Bel University who provided the relevant information on the ecology





and biodiversity of the cemetery with Dr Jana Odrobiňáková who is a Jewish historian, collating the historical information. Together they researched and produced the didactic material for the project, which included a brief history of the Jewish community and the Jewish cemetery in the city of Banská Bystrica alongside a herbarium in digital form, and information and activities. Photographs of the graves and of wildlife, and flora and fauna in the cemetery were taken by Zuzana Martinková and have also been included in the pack. When all the content was completed, translations into English were carried out by master's students of the Department of Biology and Ecology, who are training to be teachers. They also developed methodological material at the same time, assisted by a teacher from the department Dr Valerián Franc, who is a renowned expert on bugs and insects and developed the design of the pack. The worksheets were then tested in the cemetery.

**“In the past, my work focused on the history of the Jewish community, including the Holocaust in Slovakia. It never occurred to me that such a rare place as the Jewish cemetery could have so many different dimensions in the education of young people; that its history can be equally complemented by the environment in which it is located. I am extremely proud to have been a part of this innovative project that connects the social and natural sciences in the field of education in the 21st century.”**

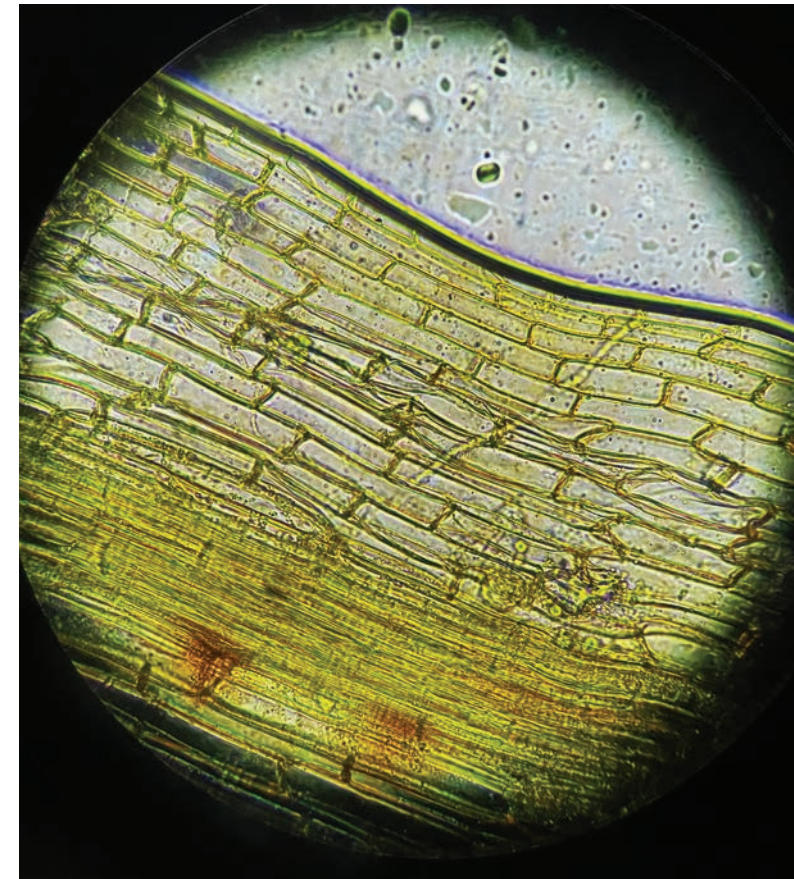
Dr Jana Odrobiňáková, Director of the School Office of City Banská Bystrica, formerly historian, educator, and director of the Educational Center of the SNP Museum

#### Outcome

A freely downloadable PDF format education pack has been produced which has been specifically designed to appeal to primary school children (with bright graphics and plenty of activities) by Master's students training to be teachers. The pack explores both the biodiversity and history of the Jewish Orthodox cemetery in Banská Bystrica and includes photos, activities and other details about the plants, grasslands, wildlife, bugs, beetles, and birds that live in these places alongside information on the history of the Jewish community buried there. The pack focuses on the Jewish Orthodox cemetery in Banská Bystrica which is cared for by the Jewish religious community, headed by Mr. Wolt who has kindly given permission for an information board about the project to be erected at the front of the cemetery with a QR code linking to the pack for visitors.

**“This has been such an innovative project in so many ways. Firstly, exploring the biodiversity and history of a Jewish cemetery site is a unique way of allowing pupils and other visitors to engage with this historic burial ground. The fact that Master's students from the local university who are training to be teachers have developed the content and designed the pack for primary school children adds another layer of learning and professional development to this exciting project.”**

Dr Rachel Lichtenstein, Foundation for Jewish Heritage Project Officer





2.7

# DEEP DIVE UKRAINE





## 2.7 DEEP DIVE UKRAINE: ONLINE MAPPING PROJECT *LIVING STORIES*

### Introduction

Due to the ongoing war in Ukraine, an online outcome for this Deep Dive project was collectively decided to be the best option as we were unable to conduct activities on the ground. The idea was sparked by reading an article by country co-ordinator Andrii Koshelnyk about the work of historian Tetiana Fedoriv of the town of Zbarazh in the ESJF 'Catalogue of Best Practices for Jewish Cemetery Preservation'. In this article Tetiana reveals how she learnt Hebrew to understand the epitaphs in her local Jewish cemetery, then conducted research about the individuals buried there, eventually creating an archive of 175 individual *matzevot*. Furthermore, she expressed her ambition 'to create a map of the cemetery to make it easier to navigate.' Before WWII, Zbarazh was home to approximately 3,000 Jewish people, one third of the town's entire population. As of today, no Jews reside in Zbarazh. The primary tangible remnant of the former Jewish presence in Zbarazh is the town's "new" Jewish cemetery.

**"The purpose of this work is to reveal unknown histories of the Jewish community in Zbarazh for the town's current residents and international visitors to this website.**

**The "new" Jewish cemetery, architectural monuments, and intangible culture are shared heritage that we must explore, preserve, and share."**

Tetiana Fedoriv

### Aim

This project aims to create an interactive digital 'memory map' of a cemetery in western Ukraine, once home to a thriving Jewish community, which brings the stories of individuals buried there vividly to life through a combination of historical research and photographic images. The objective was to use the digital platform 'Memory Mapper' (developed by British researchers including Dr Duncan Hay of University College London and Dr Rachel Lichtenstein of Manchester Metropolitan University in 2020) to geolocate Tetiana's research and make it widely available to international scholars and those unable to visit the site.

**"Memory mapping project in Ukraine uses painstaking research by local historian: UK-based researchers are creating a digital 'memory' of a town in western Ukraine once home to a thriving Jewish community."**

Jewish News, 2023

### Process

Tetiana works in local tourism in the city council of Zbarazh and was delighted when she was approached by Country Co-ordinator Andrii Koshelnyk to develop this project. Both Andrii and Line Manager Anna Domnich (Centropa) have provided tremendous support throughout with translation and many other issues, which have of course been complicated due to the ongoing war. Given the limitations of budget and time, we decided to focus on the Living Stories of 15 individuals buried in this cemetery. Tetiana developed these stories from examining the tombstone inscriptions, researching, and exploring birth and death registers, and by looking at various other written sources. She then edited this information and worked with photographer Taras Kovalchuk to document the chosen gravestones to upload onto the map. On completion, these stories were sent to translator Natalia Valevska who sent the English versions to project officer Rachel Lichtenstein for further editing. When all the content for the site was completed and ready





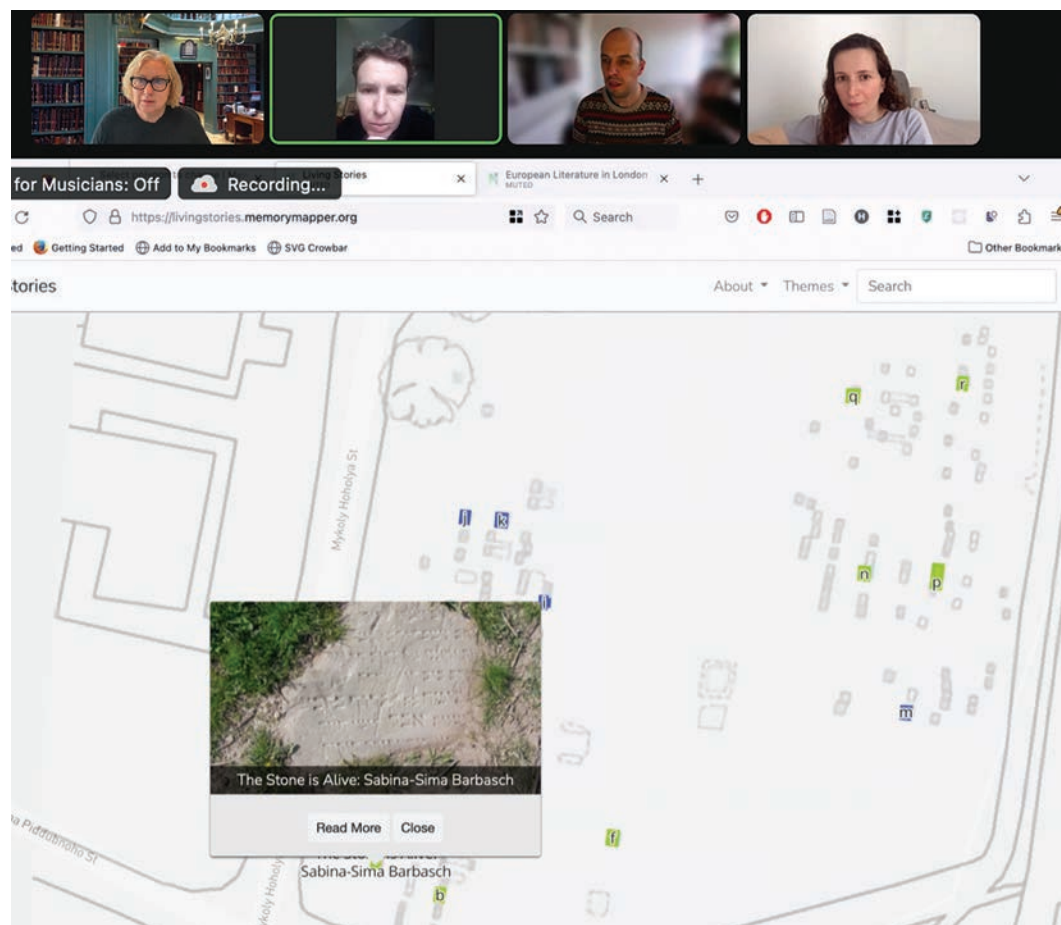
to upload, the developer Dr Duncan Hay completed the GIS work and georeferenced the map and a Memory Mapper in preparation to upload the content. This was completed during a training session via zoom with Tetiana (enabled by translators), meaning that she will be able to continue to upload new information onto the back end of the site after the completion of this project. The digital base map used for this project was produced by Oleksandr Harlan.

**“The idea has been to use this digital platform, which was developed in the UK, to geolocate Tetiana’s tremendous research on the Jewish cemetery in her hometown of Zbarazh making this accessible to scholars around the world.”**

Dr Rachel Lichtenstein, Foundation for Jewish Heritage Project Officer

### Outcome

A digital memory map of the Jewish cemetery in the town of Zbarazh has been produced that builds on the work of Ukrainian historian Tetiana Fedoriv. Because of previous work conducted by the content provider and the developer Dr Duncan Hay, we were able to complete the project on time and to budget with tremendous results. On this map you will find historical information about the Jewish community of Zbarazh and the local Jewish cemetery there, alongside archival research, photographs, and stories of 15 individuals who are buried there. To explore the site, click on one of the coloured shapes and information will automatically pop up about that grave in both English and Ukrainian. Tetiana hopes to add further information to the map in the future. The Foundation for Jewish Heritage would like to express particular thanks to both Tetiana and Andrii who have been working on this project in extremely difficult circumstances during this past year in Ukraine.



### Замість вступу

Даний історико-краєзнавчий нарис – це перша спроба систематизувати та ввести до широкого обігу авторські дослідження по єврейській історії Збараж. Умовно книжку об'єднано у дві частини. Перша частина вміщує статті автора єврейської тематики. А друга – це каталог «Нового» єврейського цвинтаря нашого містечка.

Стан збереження єврейської спадщини у Збаражі, та й, зрештою, у інших містах нашої країни, залишає бажати кращого. В більшій мірі це зумовлено воєнними подіями II Світової війни, а також роками забуття та занедбання єврейського аспекту історії нашого містечка.

Однак, завдяки праці місцевого краєзнавця світлої пам'яті Олега Євгеновича Мандрика єврейська історія Збаража потроху повертається із забуття.

На території нашого міста збереглося ще чимало пам'яток, котрі пов'язані із проживанням тут єврейської громади. Це, зокрема: синагога, будівля кагалу, приватні будинки, колишня парова лазня, пральня та шинок, а також інші споруди.

Безсумнівно, ключовою пам'яткою – однією з останніх, котра засвідчує про проживання у Збаражі євреїв є «Новий» єврейський цвинтар. Зараз на ньому проведені роботи з благоустрою, здійснена інвентаризація та опис мацев. Восени 2018 року Неприбутковим товариством із збереження і захисту єврейських кладовищ в Європі (ESDF) за сприяння Федеративної Республіки Німеччина, в пам'ять про загиблих у роки Шоа єврейську громаду міста Збаража була встановлена нова огорожа єврейського кладовища.

Видання адресоване усім, хто цікавиться історією рідного краю.





## RACHEL LICHTENSTEIN BIOGRAPHY

Dr Rachel Lichtenstein is a British artist, writer and curator who is internationally known for her books, multi-media projects and artworks that examine place, memory, and Jewish identity. She currently combines writing and research with a post as Associate Professor in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University in the U.K., where she also co-directs the Centre for Place Writing. She holds a position as Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Manchester's Centre for Jewish Studies and is a member of the International Advisory Panel for the Foundation of Jewish Heritage and the Collections Advisory Network at London's Jewish Museum. Lichtenstein was awarded the first Creative Research Fellowship at London's British Library.

Recent projects include project managing an archive collection in London's oldest Ashkenazi Synagogue, co-creating digital 'Memory Maps' of Jewish London and Manchester, and a multi-disciplinary research project on Jewish settlement on the Caribbean Island of Barbados working with archaeologists, academics, and local people. She has published widely both in the U.K. and internationally. Recent articles include: 'Beattie: The Battle of Cable Street' *Jewish Multiculturalism* (Royal Literary Fund, 2022); 'Memory Map of the Jewish East End' (*History Workshop Journal*, 2021); 'Vanished Streets: Unseen Photographs of Lost Jewish London' (*National Library of Israel*, 2020) and 'The Search for the Lost Synagogue of Speightstown' (*Journal of Barbados Museum & Historical Society*, 2018).

Her publications include *Estuary: Out from London to the Sea*, (Penguin, 2016), longlisted for the Gordon Burn Prize, *Diamond Street* (Penguin, 2012), *On Brick Lane* (Penguin, 2008), which was shortlisted for the Ondaatje Prize. *Keeping Pace: Older Women of the East End* (Women's Library, 2003), *A Little Dust Whispered* (2002) and the cult classic *Rodinsky's Room* (Granta, 1999, co-authored with Iain Sinclair) which was described by the Guardian as 'an elegy to the lost world of the Jewish East End.' This book has now been translated into five languages, with a launch in 2019 of the French translation at the Jewish Museum in Paris.

Her work has received extensive coverage in the national print and broadcast media including all major broadsheets, BBC London News, BBC Radio 4, and the BBC programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* exploring the actor Daniel Radcliffe's Jewish heritage. She has also contributed to anthologies and other publications and regularly speaks at events, literary festivals, conferences, and other institutions internationally.

Lichtenstein trained as a sculptor and her artwork has been widely exhibited. Venues include the Whitechapel Gallery, British Library, Barbican Art Gallery (U.K.), Wood Street Galleries (Pittsburgh) & the Jerusalem Theatre (Israel). Her oral history collections can be found in archives in Israel, Barbados, and the U.K. She has been a tour guide of London's Jewish East End for over thirty years.

**THE FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH HERITAGE** works internationally to ensure that important Jewish architectural sites, monuments and places of cultural significance in danger are preserved and re-imagined for a sustainable future.

**THE EUROPEAN JEWISH CEMETERIES INITIATIVE (ESJF)** provides practical solutions on how to physically protect the Jewish cemeteries of Europe. The initiative's preservation work aims to construct walls with locking gates around vulnerable cemeteries and look after the cemeteries' general upkeep. By doing this, the ESJF Project hopes to preserve Jewish memory, especially in so-called 'priority areas' such as the former Soviet-bloc and South-Eastern Europe.

**CENTROPA** is a non-profit, Jewish historical institute dedicated to preserving 20th century Jewish family stories and photos from Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans, and disseminating these stories and photos through films, books and exhibitions. Centropa's main office is in Vienna, but it also has offices in Budapest, Hamburg and Washington DC.



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## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Deep Dive programme

project website: [www.jewishcemeteries.eu/deep-dives/](http://www.jewishcemeteries.eu/deep-dives/)

### Preserving Jewish Cemeteries

project website: [www.jewishcemeteries.eu](http://www.jewishcemeteries.eu)

### Foundation for Jewish Heritage

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[www.foundationforjewishheritage.com](http://www.foundationforjewishheritage.com)

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**PRESERVING JEWISH CEMETERIES** is an EU-funded pilot project set up with the aim of preserving Jewish cemeteries in Central and Eastern Europe.

It is a joint effort by three leading Jewish heritage NGOs (Foundation for Jewish Heritage, ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative, and Centropa), taking place across seven European countries: Georgia, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Building on the success of work carried out during two previous EU pilot projects, the consortium aims to raise awareness of Jewish cemeteries in local communities; spearhead educational projects with the goal of incorporating Jewish cemeteries into school curricula; and help empower local actors to preserve their Jewish cemeteries.

Based on intensive research and teaching in these seven European countries, we aim to create the broadest possible educational work on Jewish cemeteries in Europe. The project consists of a series of activities such as seminars, webinars, youth and art university competitions, and various forms of engagement with local institutions & NGOs.

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