

Support for digital projects in Jewish education

In response to the rapid changes in online delivery of Jewish education and changes in ritual life as a response to COVID-19, the Foundation is interested in supporting initiatives that are able to adapt and respond efficiently and effectively.

We welcome projects that can address one, or more, of the following:

- 1. Online Jewish Education Portal in European Languages** – a digital platform to support the work of professional and volunteer Jewish educators. This can include a repository for shared Jewish education materials in the local European languages, links to similar platforms in English, consultant support for educators.
- 2. Blended communities** – Online community events have engaged new audiences with Jewish life and learning. Families and individuals have joined from home in Kabbalat Shabbat and Havdalah celebrations, funerals, weddings and shivas and communities created on-line programmes to celebrate Jewish holidays. Communities are invited to build on these experiences to develop online offerings that complement their local community activities.
- 3. Ed-Tech training for Jewish educators** – An unexpected outcome of the pandemic has been that most communities and educators in Europe have had a crash course on delivering online Jewish education and community engagement programmes. Some communities and educators were relatively successful in making the shift needed in their pedagogical approach to work in this environment, while others found it more challenging. In the long term, we are likely to see more blended (face to face and virtual) learning and engagement. It is clear that just sharing hundreds of resource links isn't effective. We welcome projects to help community organisers deploy advanced Ed-Tech tools in curriculum, create content, support and train educators and coordinate peer exchange.
- 4. Virtual collaboration between Jewish heritage institutions and the local Jewish communities** – Jewish museums and other heritage sites depend heavily on international tourism, and visits from diverse school groups. Projects that consider new avenues of engagement with the local Jewish communities are welcome.
- 5. Blended professional development programmes** – Travelling for training seminars for volunteers and professional educators in Europe is likely to be limited for many months. Organisations will have to redesign their programmes in blended formats that combine in person and digital training. Projects designed to address this issue are welcome.
- 6. Not just the summer: online engagement with campers during the year** – The lockdown forced European communities and youth movements to develop online programming as an emergency measure to keep in touch with their campers. This opened the opportunity to connect geographically distant children and maintain a sense of community. Projects from camps to facilitate a version of this online Jewish programming during the year are welcome.