



Cultural route  
of the Council of Europe  
Itinéraire culturel  
du Conseil de l'Europe



“**Family**” in European Jewish culture is a theme with a range of dimensions and depth. It encompasses the enduring influence of tradition, from biblical narratives of patriarchs and matriarchs to the timeless commandment to “**Honour thy father and mother.**” These traditions continue to shape contemporary family life and family, roles and models, connecting the past to the present.

In today’s world, Jewish families face the delicate balance of **preserving heritage while adapting** to the demands of modern life, the challenging issues of diverse family structures like interfaith marriages, LGBTIQ+ and family dynamics. Moreover, the evolving **role of women within Jewish families**, transitioning from traditional to more inclusive positions, adds a fascinating dimension to the discussion.

Beyond blood relations, the concept of a “chosen family” and close-knit communities as **extended families** are vital aspects of European Jewish culture. This dimension also provides an opportunity to reflect on **historical events** that have profoundly shaped the understanding of family within European Jewish communities, such as the Holocaust and the Jewish diaspora.

Europe’s tapestry of Jewish communities, each with its **unique traditions and customs**, further enriches our exploration of family. The diversity in family rituals and values serves as a testament to the richness of Jewish culture in the region. Understanding **generational shifts** in how family is perceived and how cultural values are transmitted is essential. How do **younger generations** interpret and carry forward the traditions of their ancestors while adapting to the contemporary world, how our oldest family members are supported and are part of an educational path for their grandchildren who take on the heritage of the Jewish experience, complex, challenging and fascinating, but often marked by a dramatic recent history.

Looking ahead, we contemplate how the concept of family may evolve within the European Jewish context, addressing **emerging dynamics** and challenges to ensure the continued **strength and relevance of Jewish family life in Europe**. This multifaceted theme offers a comprehensive perspective on the significance of “Family” in European Jewish culture, bridging the traditions of the past with the dynamism of the present and future.

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The fundamental objective of this European-wide event, which has been organised since 1999, is to **highlight the diversity and richness of Judaism and its local, regional and national historical importance**, with the firm intention of promoting dialogue, recognition and exchange through conferences, concerts, performances, guided tours and other activities, which take place simultaneously throughout the continent.

The **European Days of Jewish Culture** festival is held every year around a central theme that serves as inspiration for all the activities that take place in a decentralised, pluralistic and open way from the **first Sunday in September**. The AEPJ has coordinated this event at European level since its beginnings, giving **cohesion, visibility and relevance** to the activities organised. In addition, the AEPJ offers **training, resources and support** to any organisation, institution or individual who wishes to organise an activity that allows Jewish culture to be shared with **the whole of society**.

This project has been extensively reinforced by the **collaboration with the [National Library of Israel](#)**, which has acted as a means to develop all kinds of exhibition and educational materials, which have given an important added value to the festival while facilitating its celebration throughout the continent.

The national coordinator of the EDJC project in Slovenia is the **[Center of Jewish Cultural Heritage Synagogue Maribor](#)**.

**SLOVAKIA**

CENTER OF JEWISH CULTURAL  
HERITAGE SYNAGOGUE MARIBOR