

European Conference
Cities and Urban Spaces: Chances for Cultural and Citizenship Education

29 September - 1 October 2010
 Trieste, Italy

Project Fact Sheet

Workshop I City and the Past: Cultural and Citizenship Education at the Interface of Remembrance Policy

	Section	Indications of content
1	Title of the project	Sefer – stories about the Jews from Poland
2	Location	Various cities/Poland
3	Main topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polish towns with discontinued history – discovering their multi-national and multi-cultural heritage; • Young Poles as facilitators in the process of rebuilding common memory of their towns ; • Bringing student projects out of their school; • Problems and dilemmas in reviving multicultural heritage by young people – “ghosts of history” and real problems.
4	Practice-related keywords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolic “act of adoption”; • Student projects; • Discovering multicultural historical identity; • Documentation, interviews, multimedia; • Promoting recovered local history.
5	Brief description of the project	<p>“Sefer” project was aimed at students and teachers in middle schools and high schools ready to discover the Jewish history and culture of their towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main goal was to discover places and stories, forgotten, discarded or hidden by the generation of their parents and grand-parents; • Student teams were documenting such objects, recording interviews with the people; • In some cases young people established contacts with former inhabitants of the towns or their children (grandchildren); • They organised educational and promotional events, encouraging the local communities and authorities to play a more active role in this process; • The methodology of “Sefer” was built on a symbolic adoption and reconstruction of the places and events connected with it; • “Traces of the past” programme.

6	Objectives of the project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about history and culture of the Jews living in the town before the war; • Collecting and documenting the “small stories” of the town inhabitants; • Taking proper care of neglected places of Jewish heritage; • Engaging local authorities in these activities; • Incorporating rediscovered places and stories effects of the project as part of the town's historical identity.
7	Impact/ Chances for cultural and citizenship education in the context of the development of cities and urban spaces	Help to break the seal of silence over the “non-Polish” history and identity of Polish towns and cities. It might also influence the real reconstruction of the places connected with this heritage.
8	Target groups	Students; teachers; inhabitants of cities; local authorities and media
9	Project methods/ project format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student educational project; • Workshops for teachers and students; • E-coaching courses for teachers; • Website and paper publications; • All Polish presentation of projects in Warsaw Synagogue.
10	Project planning schedule	The project was implemented in 2009/2010. This school year we implement second edition of the programme. .
11	Project initiator	Center for Citizenship Education (CCE) is a non-governmental educational foundation, which promotes civic knowledge and practical skills.
12	Resources involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial resources: Grant from Rothschild Foundation Europe; • Human resources: Coordinator of the programme, moderators of workshops and e-coaching course for teachers (10 educators); • Other resources: Expert from the Jewish community of Warsaw.
13	Evaluation of the project/ materials/ presentation format	<p>The project will be evaluated in September 2010.</p> <p>Methods: Analysis of the questionnaires from the workshops; telephone interviews with teachers and students; evaluation of the students “products”; monitoring of the e-coaching course activities of the teachers</p>
14	Range and sustainability of the project	Local (individual towns) and national (projects from all-over Poland)
15	Project results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 28 Polish towns the Jewish heritage place/object was recognized and taken care of (at least partially);. • Young people participating in “Sefer” became conscious of the hidden history of their towns; • The history of the Jewish community became part of the local history.
16	Project funding	The Rothschild Foundation Europe
17	Space for your own comments	The project can serve as one of the models of civic and urban education for other Central and Eastern European towns with “broken history” and “troubles with common memory”.
18	Contact information	Center for Citizenship Education Foundation Iga Kazimierczyk Website: www.ceo.org.pl Email: iga.kazimierczyk@ceo.org.pl