

# *MATANEL FOUNDATION*

## *ACTIVITY REPORT*

**Program:**  
**Year:2015-2016**

Please present your activity report according to the following lines. The whole rapport will not exceed 2 or 3 pages (as word document).

Name of the Program: [European Conference of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem - Berlin](#)

Year of activity: [2016](#)

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Give the actually state of the program (where the program stands at the date of the activity report, no more than ten lines):

The Matanel Foundation committed to be partner of the European Conference for 3 conferences.

1- Venice from November 3 to 6, 2011 on the topic “Sacred Love, Secular Love, The Song of Songs – From Jerusalem to Venice”.90 participants from all over Europe attended this event.

2- Lisbon from October 10 to 13, 2013 on the topic “The Explorers of Knowledge: Discoveries, Perspectives, Influences”.

80 European Friends of the Hebrew University attended this event.

3- Berlin from April 14 to 17, 2016 on the topic “Explorers of knowledge for the benefit of Humanity. 182 participants from Europe and Israel attended the event.

The event is completed (April 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2016). As a biannual event, the next edition is scheduled to take place by 2018. We would be delighted to pursue this partnership.

The main achievements during the last year of activity (main achievements, number of events, number of participants, etc.):

- Great varieties of topics were presented: Religion and Science, Human Rights, Innovation and Technology, Healing the World, Peace and Justice, Albert Einstein, Feeding the World.
- Speakers from Israel and Europe invited to present their collaborative work
- Fair increase of the number of participants
- The dinners and smaller group events allowed participants to mingle and get to know one another, discuss the subjects of the conference together. These

smaller events also allowed the speakers to interact with the participants in an informal manner.

The evaluation (methodology, results, comparisons with the precedent year, conclusions for the future...):

### **1. Registration**

Clearer guidelines and options regarding partial participation should be set in place to participants in the country where the European Conference is taking place. Each country delegate should lead the efforts of registration, but in parallel the European office should offer guidance and direction and assistance to country delegates. This combined effort lead to an increase in the number of participants in the Conference in Berlin and can be further strengthened in future.

### **2. Dinner seating - « Getting together »**

As per last conference conclusion this year the participants were divided into tables for 2 out of 3 evening to facilitate the mingling among guests who come from different countries and to allow participants to interact with different speakers. The last dinner was free seating. This did help to an extent but in future speakers should be briefed to help make sure the table guests indeed interact between them. Additional spaces for participants sharing and speaking will need to be incorporated in the next conferences.

### **3. Program Format**

Over the years conferences adjustments have been made to the program to allow for proper Q&A time and to generate interest among diverse participants. This year's content although more diverse than in previous years, attracting a larger audience, and although still with a common thread of cooperation between Hebrew University and colleagues across Europe on subjects that could be beneficial to humanity as a whole, perhaps didn't allow participants to delve deep enough into the subjects they were hearing (especially in the plenaries). In future, a better balance will have to be rethought.

### **4. Moderators' briefing**

Based on last conference's remarks, this year moderators were introduced to speakers and to the subjects in advance allowing them to be more familiar with the subjects and stronger as moderators. This was very helpful to them in their roles.

### **5. Translation**

This year in Berlin, full simultaneous translation was provided in French / English for all sessions and in German for plenaries. This was important it allowed participants to choose the subjects they were interested in rather than according to the languages offered. This was a pricy solution though and in future a balance between no translation and full translation will have to be found.

## 6. Youth Participation

Although not the main aim, an attempt was made in the Conference in Berlin to strengthen participation of younger generations and strengthen their involvement. This attempt was not fruitful and will require a rethought in future conferences. It may be that the format of the conference is not suitable to the younger busier generations and another format may be needed.

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Our hope is that the Matanel Foundation will continue to partner with us in coming European Conferences as the European office of the Hebrew University continues to hold these conferences to expose subjects of interest relating to Israel and to Europe, to discuss current as well as substantial issues that are relevant and important to our communities and further the dialogue between a multicultural and diverse group of friends.

Our aim in the 2018 conference will be to continue to reach this level of participation and to strengthen the relationships and links between participants. We are very grateful to Matanel for their guidance and leadership in this common project.

A summary table – as **PDF document** – specifying the progress in the program since the beginning of the encouragement by the Matanel Foundation according to the main parameters and objectives such as:

Number of events: 3

Number of participants: 352 participants in total

Number of beneficiaries: not relevant

Other...

Please join the Evaluation Report, the Financial Report and the list of the participants to the program (as **PDF documents**)

Please join photos – as **photos** – and any link or any other document connected to the program which will seem to you relevant – as **PDF document**.

Please follow the links below to view the pictures of the event:

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> - Opening gala at the AXICA

<https://s.joomeo.com/5743074080f51>

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – Jewish life tour in Berlin

<https://s.joomeo.com/57430755a6350>

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> - Opening sessions at the Waldorf Astoria

<https://s.joomeo.com/5743072483e2d>

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – Cabaret night with Ute Lemper at Bar Jeder Vernunft

<https://s.joomeo.com/5743076f4cdb3>

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - Closing sessions at the Waldorf Astoria

<https://s.joomeo.com/574307820d063>