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# Kisufim, The Jerusalem Conference of Jewish Writers and Poets-2015

## **Name of program**

Kisufim, The Jerusalem Conference of Jewish Writers and Poets

## **Year of activity**

2015

## **Name of the report's writer**

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## **Function of the report's writer**

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## **Status of program**

The Conference ended, it took place Nov. 24-27, 2015.

## **Main achievements during the last year of activity**

The conference gave a unique opportunity for an international meeting of over 90 participants, 13 of whom came from abroad. Jewish writers, poets and intellectuals joined together for a meeting to examine Jewish-Israeli and multi-lingual, cross-cultural international Jewish Literature. The theme of the conference was "Identity and Otherness".

Daytime sessions during the four-day conference included nearly 30 events including poetry and prose readings, public conversations and roundtable discussions among poets and

writers in different languages - English, French, Hebrew, Russian, Yiddish and others - as well as more intimate encounters between writers and poets who write in the same language.

Two events sponsored by the Euro-Mediterranean Institute for Dialog between Civilizations took place during the Conference. The first on Euro-Mediterranean Literature with Almog Behar, Erez Bitton, Ami Bouganim, Yossi Sucary, Michael Wolpe and Prof. Haviva Pedaya. The second called Scent of Rain in the Balkans with Almog Behar, Michel Echhard Elial (France), Tar?k Günersel (Turkey). Prof. Haviva Pedaya and Mehmet Yasin (Cyprus).

Audiences of over 1,000 people filled to overflowing, the auditorium and seminar rooms of Mishkenot Sha'ananim and Beit Avi Chai. The conference received tremendous exposure and great interest from the various media channels.

The second Matanel Award for Young Promising writer award was awarded to Yaakov Biton (Israel) and to Galina Zelenina (Russia).

A comprehensive and impressive Conference book was published by the Euro-Mediterranean Institute for Dialog between Civilizations publishing in which participant's biographies, poems and texts appeared in their original language. These books were distributed among participants, public figures, supporters and the audience.

Conference participants included: Jennifer Barber (USA), Yvonne Green (Britain), Tar?k Günersel (Turkey), Michel Eckhard Elial (France), Marcia Falk (USA), Dov-Ber Kerler (USA), Kari Klemelä (Finland), Myriam Moscona (Mexico), Tomislav Osmanli (Macedonia), Gilles Rozier (France), Mehmet Yashin (Cyprus), Liudmila Ulitskaya (Russia) and Galina Zelenina (Russia).

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

1. Audience - one could observe a diverse crowd of students and general public from all over the country.
2. The involvement of Conference participants - both as active participants and as audience was high. Comments from the participants were enthusiastic and excited.
3. Connections made for further discussion, translation, cultural initiatives and book production – will be found out in the near future.

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