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למדעי היהדות (ע"ר)

World Union
of Jewish Studies

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ד"ר שרה ינובסקי
Dr. Sara Yanovsky

MATANEL FOUNDATION
ACTIVITY REPORT

22.07.2019

Program: The Matanel Prize for Jewish Thought
Year:2019

Name of the Program: Matanel Prize for Jewish Thought 2019

Year of activity: 2019

Name of the report's writer: Dr Sara Yanovsky

Function of the report's writer: Executive Director, World Union of Jewish Studies

Mail: sara.yanovsky@jewish-studies.org

Phones: 02-5325841, 0544979670

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

The 3rd Matanel Prize for Jewish Thought 2018-2019 was awarded during the International Congress of Hispanic Studies, on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

The academic committee of four experts (Prof. Moshe Idel, Prof. Hannah Kasher, Prof. Caterina Rigo Albert, Prof. Zeev Harvey) awarded the prize to two scholars:

Ronit Meroz: The Spiritual Biography of Rabbi Simeon bar Yochay
An Analysis of the Zohar's Textual Components

Avishai Bar-Asher: Journeys of the Soul
Concepts and Imageries of Paradise in Medieval Kabbalah

The academic committee submitted a confidential shortlist, then discussed the finalists, and chose the awardees based on academic quality and accessibility to a wide audience.

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

The Matanel Prize is becoming more widely known, considering the number of candidates and international guests at the award ceremony. The academic committee was formed of well known scholars in the diverse fields of Jewish Thought.

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

In comparison to the first Matanel Prize for Jewish Thought in the year 2014 and the second in 2017, the Call for Applications focused on a more specific subject: Spanish Jewish philosophy and its impact. As last time, the award ceremony was organized during a major international conference, this time the International Conference of Hispanists, following a session on Hispanic Jewry. The organization of the ceremony at a major international conference enhances its publicity and the awareness of the prize among scholars from various fields and places.

Provisional guidelines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

In order to organize the next Matanel prize for Jewish Thought, the World Union of Jewish Studies will be in contact with the Matanel Foundation in order to discuss the timelines and conditions of the prize. Considering the success of the award, the World Union of Jewish Studies hopes to continue within the same or similar framework.

Evaluation Report, Summary Table, Financial Report, list of the participants, photos, other documents:

See attached.

Dr Sara Yanovsky
Executive Director

World Union of Jewish Studies

The Hebrew University, The Rabin World Center for Jewish Studies
Mt. Scopus, Jerusalem, Israel

Tel: +972-2-5325-841 Fax: +972-2-5325-910

www.jewish-studies.org | jewishst@vms.huji.ac.il

האיגוד העולמי למדעי היהדות (ע"ר)
האוניברסיטה העברית, המרכז העולמי למדעי היהדות ע"ש רבין
הר הצופים, ירושלים, ישראל
טל': +972-2-5325-841 פקס: +972-2-5325-910
jewishst@vms.huji.ac.il | www.jewish-studies.org