

LUDZA GRAND SYNAGOGUE WILL BE RESTORED

On September 10, 2014, Ludza Municipality, Latvia, and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia signed the agreement on implementation of the project “Restoration of Ludza Grand Synagogue and revitalization of the Jewish cultural heritage” (no. ERZLV04/GSKMS/2013/09).

Ludza Grand Synagogue is a state protected cultural (architectural) monument and it is the oldest synagogue in Latvia and the Baltic States. The Synagogue is located in the area of another state protected monument – the monument of urban development “Ludza Historical Centre”; the synagogue is considered to be a unique Jewish cultural monument in the north-eastern part of Europe. Cultural evidence of similar type has been lost in other parts of Europe in the 20th century. The State Archives of Latvia confirm that the synagogue building was built in 1800 and since that time it has been repaired several times. In order to conserve the wooden log building the facade was bricked in the 1980s. Taking into account the fact that the synagogue has not been used or repaired for a long time, the building’s existence and conservation is being endangered. The technical condition of the building is very poor, its interior elements are destroyed, a part of the building is at the breaking point and the synagogue urgently needs restoration.

In order to preserve the cultural and historical heritage and to ensure qualitative accessibility of cultural services for the community, the synagogue building will be restored and creation of expositions will start within the framework of the project. The building exterior and interior will be restored conserving its authenticity, giving particular attention to preservation and restoration of the wooden details. A branch of Ludza History Museum will be established in Ludza Grand Synagogue and gradually four expositions will be developed: “Ludza ghetto”, the Multi-media exposition of the photographer Wolf Frank’s and the documentary film director Herz Frank’s works, the Audio-visual exposition of the Jewish people history in Ludza and, the Exposition on the Jewish people’s life and faith.



The project is realised in cooperation with the **Museum Centre of Hordaland** (Norway) and, six visits of the Museum Centre’s experts will be organised, when workshops for local craftsmen – restorers will be held.

The total project budget is 250,000.00 EUR. The financial support of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism “Conservation and Revitalization of Cultural and Natural Heritage” makes 95% of the eligible costs; the support consists of the European Economic Area financing – 201,875.00 (85%) and the state financing – 35,625.00 (15%). Ludza Municipality’s contribution is 12,500.00 EUR, i.e. 5% of the project eligible costs. The implementation period is September 10, 2014 – March 31, 2016.

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