

## Restoration of Ludza Great Synagogue is going on

At the height of summer, restoration at Ludza Synagogue is in progress; the works are being done within the EEA and Norway grants mechanism financed project “Restoration of Ludza Great Synagogue and Revival of Jews Spiritual Heritage”. By the end of June, new basement was built and heat insulated, the basement was reinforced and concreted, the rot of the front logs was taken off and the separating walls were cleaned. The workers did conservation works of ends of the separating cantilever beams, reinforced the construction of the dome of the Holy place and built the roof construction. The sheet iron roof of the synagogue building was cleaned from rust, grounded and painted.



For ensuring operation of the building additional works are done: construction of the water supply and sewage system, electric installation, fire alarm and lightning conductor. For water collection from the nearby territory and rain water drainage it is necessary to build the external drainage system along the basement of the building and to connect it to the working pipes. All the works are being done by “Warss+, Ltd”, technical supervision is ensured by “Jurēvičs un Partneri, Ltd”, “Konvents, Ltd” under the leadership of architect Pēteris Blūms is responsible for author supervision.

From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, four craftsmen from Ludza municipality (LATVIA) visited Norway to take part in one of the project activities – in Workshop no. 2. The Workshop was organised and conducted by experts – employees of the Museum Centre in Hordaland (NORWAY). Our craftsmen examined the wooden architecture of the old Bergen, i.e. Bryggen – a UNESCO World Heritage site. They also studied the Western Norwegian traditions and ways of ancient wooden house construction and restoration at ecological farms, and visited the Oselvar Boatyard – a small enterprise keeping ancient traditions of building the oselvar. The oselvar is a small wooden rowing boat traditionally built and used along the west coast of Norway.



During the workshop at the Museum of *Osterøy* the craftsmen took part in practical activities learning how Norwegians used to prepare wooden logs for house construction and their way of log joining.

The project “Restoration of Ludza Great Synagogue and Revival of Jews Spiritual Heritage” (ERZLV04/GSKMS/2013/09) is being implemented with help of 201,875.00 EUR large financing of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – Donor States.



The overall objective of the Financial Mechanism of EEA and Norway grants is to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities within the EEA and to strengthen bilateral relations between the Donor States and the beneficiary states in Europe. All three states are closely cooperating with the EC based on agreements. EEA and Norway Financial Instrument financing foreseen for 2009 – 2014 amounts to

1.79 milliard EUR. Norway provides about 97% of the total financing. Grants are available for NGOs, research and academic institutions, as well as public and private sectors in 12 newest EU member states, and in Greece, Portugal and Spain.

The cooperation with institutions of the Donor States can vary and it is possible to implement common activities till 2016. Main spheres of support are environment protection, climate change, research and scholarship, health and children, equal rights for men and women, justice and cultural heritage.

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