

Restoration works at Ludza Synagogue have commenced

March 23, 2015

Within the framework of the project “Restoration of Ludza Great Synagogue and Revival of Jews Spiritual Heritage”, restoration works at Ludza Synagogue (Latvia) have started. The construction company is “Warss+, Ltd”, engineering supervision is done by “Jurēvičs un Partneri, Ltd”. The author of the technical project is experienced architect Pēteris Blūms, who will also supervise the works as the author.

Ludza Great Synagogue is a state cultural monument as it is a unique wooden building. The restoration works will help to preserve authenticity of the building. Specific attention will be paid to conservation and restoration of wooden details. After the project, in Ludza Great Synagogue there

will be a branch of Ludza Museum with four expositions about history of Ludza Jews.



On the second week of March, 2015, samples of timber were extracted from the walls of the synagogue building, which will give the possibility to define the age of wooden logs the synagogue is made of.

During a creative workshop, which was organised in Ludza, 2 digital stories about famous people – photographer Wolf Frank and cinema specialist Hertz Frank – were made. The stories were made by teams composed by employees of Ludza Museum and Ludza Library. The films can become the basis for multimedia expositions to be made in the synagogue building.

All these activities were realised in cooperation with partners from the Museum Centre in Hordaland, Norway. The workshop about digital stories was conducted by Mariela Norheim; the research into the synagogue timber was done by Arild Sætre and Solveig Jordal.

You can see the digital stories made at the workshops here:

[Ludza is my beginning and my happiness H.Frank](#)
[Ludza in Wolf Frank's camera objective](#)

About the project

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.