

Appendix: Management Report 2024

Mission

Our mission is to enhance Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe.
We fulfill this mission through the following objectives:

1. Promoting formal and informal education and talent development within Jewish Communities;
2. Promote dissemination of knowledge within and amongst Jewish communities;
3. Promote community-building activities by Jewish communities;
4. Promote Jewish culture;
5. Promote mutual understanding and dialogue between Jewish and non-Jewish people to decrease antisemitism.

Applications

The application procedure remained unchanged from previous years. Ukrainian organizations could submit their regular and humanitarian project applications throughout the year, as was the case in 2022 and 2023 due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, starting in 2025, all regular project applications must adhere the July 1st deadline and will no longer be accepted on a rolling basis.

AAA Status List

The JHF categorizes organizations on the triple-A status list. These organizations are considered with high quality and have previously met specific requirements.

The requirements for an organization to be on the AAA list, organizations must demonstrate, among other factors:

- Reliability
- Professionalism
- Financial stability
- Local impact
- Regional support

In 2024, ten organizations were approved for the AAA status. Due to the war in Ukraine, the JHF has decided to exclude organizations in Ukraine, Russia, and Belarus from this list.

Criteria humanitarian aid Ukraine

Criteria for eligibility for humanitarian aid in Ukraine include:

1. We have a longstanding relationship with the applying organization;
2. The organization is trustworthy based on JHF's own assessment and knowledge or on the recommendation from our Board member, Tanya Smotkin;
3. A well-documented application with adequate information;
4. A clear focus on providing humanitarian aid to individuals in Ukraine or Ukrainian refugees outside Ukraine;

Expenditures in Ukraine 2022-2024

| | EXPENDITURES IN EURO | | |
|-------------|----------------------|---|----------------|
| | Regular projects | Humanitarian Aid for Ukrainians ^{*1} | Combined |
| 2022 | 71,275 | 514,368 | 585,643 |
| 2023 | 90.899 | 154,578 | 245,477 |
| 2024 | 127,835 | 138,673 | 266,508 |

^{*1} includes aid provided to Ukrainian refugees outside Ukraine

Humanitarian aid in Israel

Following the events after October 7th, the board decided to allocate humanitarian aid to Israel. It was determined that any remaining surplus from 2023 could be used for this purpose in 2024.

The €46,000 surplus from 2023 was distributed as follows: € 23,000 to each of two Israeli organizations for psychosocial support following October 7th, 2023.

Besides that, in collaboration with Kerk in Actie, we supported the organization Assaf in Israel for an amount of € 25,000. Assaf works to promote the rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Israel to a life of dignity, security, belonging, and equality.

Financial Overview

As detailed on page 8 of the financial annual report, the following breakdown reflects the actual expenses, budget, and surplus for 2024 in euro:

| | Actual expenses | Budget | Surplus |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|
| Operational costs | 212.877 | 223.750 | 10.873 |
| Ronny Naftaniel Lecture | 11.061 | 10.000 | -1.061 |
| Humanitarian projects | 184.673 | 250.000 | 65.327 |
| Regular projects | 594.048 | 456.278 | -137.770 |
| Total | 1.002.659 | 940.028 | -62.631 |

Note: At the end of 2024, we received several regular projects for Ukraine (either awaiting approval or rejection) in December 2024, which are reported in this financial annual report. However, decisions and payments were taking place in 2025. The executive committee has decided to defer these project applications (totaling € 63,806) to 2025. As a result, this amount will be subtracted from the total funds earmarked for the projects to be awarded in 2025, specifically from the pool of regular project applications submitted before the July 1st deadline.

By shifting these projects from 2024 to 2025, the financial impact moves to the next year. This helps balance the 2024 deficit by reducing the funds available for 2025 projects, effectively adjusting the 2024 shortfall through a budget shift in 2025.

Additional positions of Board members

André Betting

- Treasurer of the Cultural Foundation of the city of Leiden
- Member of supervisory board of the Netherlands Investment Bank for Developing Countries NIO (100% owned by the Dutch Government)
- Member of advisory board of Fondaco SGA (Italian Asset Manager originating from the Charitable Foundation (and major shareholder) of Banco Intesa San Paolo) in Torino
- Member of the board of Stichting Tahames (a foundation established to support several private cultural, scientific, and educational activities in Turkey)
- Treasurer of the KIT Fund (foundation established to support the Koninklijk Instituut voor de Tropen in Amsterdam)

Michael Hess

- Global Director of Habonim Dror Youth Movement
- Director World Zionist Youth Council

Sharon Kornmehl

- Global Executive Recruitment Director at Philips

Eddy Sajet

- Founding-partner at the tax law firm “STP Tax”, a firm with 30+ professionals working from Amsterdam
- Member of the foundation at Katanox Payments, a part of the start-up company Katanox that developed a direct booking API that allows Buyers and Suppliers in the hotel/travel business to establish partnerships effortlessly in a B2B marketplace

Natasha Schmidt

- Acting President Federation of Jewish Organizations and Communities-Vaad
- Chair Zionist Federation of Russia

Tanya Smotkin-Abovich

- Hillel CASE regional staff

Siep Wijsenbeek

- Director of FIN, the Association of Charitable Funds in The Netherlands
- Chairman Cleveringa Lecture Committee Rotterdam
- Treasurer Friends of the Van Stolk Atlas Foundation

Advisory Board members

Jonathan Boyd

Itay Garmy

Marcell Kenesei

Karen van Stegeren (Chair)

Sonja Viličić

Key Events

Changes in the board

Two board members, who were also members of the executive committee, have stepped down:

- Doortje van Unen
- Ophir Pines Paz

Additionally, Michael Hess and Sharon Kornmehl have been appointed to the general board for a four-year term.

Board Meetings

Three board meetings were held: in April, June (online), and November.

Collaboration

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), The Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe (RFHE) and the JHF share a common interest in enhancing their impact on Jewish communities in Europe. The three organizations are exploring strategic collaboration to support and strengthen Jewish communities through combined resources and coordination. We are discussing the potential of supporting Jewish camping initiatives in Europe. We held four online meetings, with Siep, Muriel and Michael representing our side.

Participation

- Muriel attended the Westbury Group gathering (Amsterdam, May 2024).
Siep moderated a session at the same gathering.
- Muriel participated at the European Jewish Camping Retreat 2024 (Bad Sobernheim Campsite, Germany, December 2024).

Ronny Naftaniel Lecture

The JHF organized the Ronny Naftaniel lecture (November 2024) with keynote speaker Assita Kanko.

Revised strategy and policy changes

At the November 2024 board meeting, the following strategic decisions were made:

1. The JHF will focus on education and leadership initiatives;
2. Core funding will be introduced for organizations on the triple A list;
3. The maximum approved grant will be increase from €10,000 to €15,000;
4. Organizations submitting repetitive projects for four consecutive years must complete a narrative questionnaire and may receive approval for a four-year period.

Implementation and Evaluation:

- A transition phase will begin in 2025;
- The changes will be evaluated after three years;
- A full policy review will take place after five years, to assess long-term impact.

Acknowledgments

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